

1/20

Dear Yuri and Bill:

Thank you for your New Year message full of hope. It was so uplifting until I read your personal note about your possible demise. I was crestfallen. You mustn't stop now, you can't stop now. The hearings were only the beginning. Of course, there will be burnouts and drop outs for the increasing repressiveness of this administration, but, with your leadership they will recover and regroup. Of course it's going to take ten times the effort and energy as it did to get people out to testify. It will be much rougher since it is not one shot, but an ongoing frustrating, uphill, unpopular battle. Nisei energy level having peaked, sansei will have to be depended upon heavily. But they are out there. They need you. Yuri and Bill you must keep R/R alive out there. I need you too. 1981 must not have been "one brief shining moment".

We're planning a Rememberance 40th Feb. 20. We have to have ours in the afternoon to accommodate issei. We are having a burnout here too. I thought the hearings would have set things snowballing in the community. JACL, national, nor any local chapters haven't given 2/19 a thought. The usual young activists of NCRR have initiated plans to have a joint community gathering. Through much persuasion we got commitments from about 4 local chapters, NCJAR, student and community groups. Through an incredible coincidence, American Friends is having a regional conference that day. They contacted us for a speaker for their R/R workshop that day. We in turn asked them for a speaker for our program. She's Virginia Heck who worked in the community during the evacuation. She's a close friend of the giants, Duveneks, Nicholsons, Schmoes, etc. We've asked her to speak of these people to whom we owe so much. After the program we're ~~be~~ having a live nisei-sansei combo play "camp music" while we all share udon. We hope to share that "familyhood" you write of. I wish you could all be here with us.

I feel a special desperation when I hear of nisei dropping out of this movement. I felt this acutely when I learned that I was the only one who could approach an issei to speak at our program. (all issei witnesses here were from outlying areas - for political reasons. The issei program won't take a stand on R/R a/c it is a political issue and their federal funding is at stake) Our language is

dying, a big part of us is dying. Please don't allow it by quitting.

Much love,

Kiku

The enclosed I wrote after been moved so totally at the
feather hearings. His my first ^{attempt} so its pretty mechanical.
Our local J.A. newspaper editor once wrote that the
plural of nikkei, issei, etc have no s ending. I think
he made it up.

Is Bridge magazine out yet. I'd like to know how
to get a copy if it is.