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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SIGNING CEREMONY FOR H.R. 442, JAPANESE-AMERICAN
INTERNMENT COMPENSATION BILL

DATE: Wednesday, August 10, 1988

LOCATION: Rose Garden

TIME: 2:30 p.m. (15 minutes)

FROM: Alan M. Kranowitz *AMK*

I. PURPOSE

To provide compensation to Americans of Japanese descent relocated and interned in the United States during the Second World War.

II. BACKGROUND

The bill implements the recommendations of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians by authorizing a trust fund of \$1.2 billion for Japanese-Americans and Aleutian Island residents who were interned during World War II.

In your August 1, 1988 letter to the Leadership of the House of Representatives, you said that "the enactment of H.R. 442 will close a sad chapter in American history in a way that reaffirms America's commitment to the preservation of liberty and justice for all."

III. PARTICIPANTS

See Attachment

IV. PRESS PLAN

White House Press Corps

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Guests are escorted to the Rose Garden. The President will make brief remarks and sign the legislation.

VI. REMARKS

To be provided by the Office of Speechwriting.

Attachment: Participants List

PARTICIPANTS

The President

Congressional Participants - Senate

Senator Frank H. Murkowski, (R-AK)
Senator William V. Roth, Jr., (R-DE)
Senator Ted Stevens, (R-AK)
Senator Pete Wilson, (R-CA)
Senator John Glenn, (D-OH)
Senator Daniel K. Inouye, (D-HI)
Senator Spark M. Matsunaga, (D-HI)

Congressional Participants - House

Congressman Ben Blaz, (R-GU)
Congressman Hank Brown, (R-CO)
Congressman Hamilton Fish, Jr., (R-NY)
Congressman Newt Gingrich, (R-GA)
Congressman Wally Herger, (R-CA)
Congressman Chip Pashayan, (R-CA)
Congresswoman Patricia Saiki, (R-HI)
Congressman Don Young, (R-AK)
Congressman Daniel K. Akaka, (D-HI)
Congressman Barney Frank, (D-MA)
Congressman Robert T. Matsui, (D-CA)
Congressman Norman Y. Mineta, (D-CA)

White House Staff

Kenneth M. Duberstein, M.B. Oglesby, Alan M. Kranowitz, Frank J. Donatelli, Marlin Fitzwater, Mari Maseng, John Tuck, Rebecca G. Range

In addition, members of the Japanese-American community, and other White House staff will be in the audience.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 10, 1988

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT SIGNING CEREMONY FOR
JAPANESE INTERNMENT LEGISLATION

Room 450
Old Executive Office Building

2:33 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all very much. The members of Congress, and distinguished guests, my fellow Americans, we gather here today to right a grave wrong.

More than 40 years ago, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry living in the United States were forcibly removed from their homes and placed in makeshift internment camps. This action was taken without trial, without jury. It was based solely on race -- for these 120,000 were Americans of Japanese descent.

Yes, the nation was then at war, struggling for its survival -- and it's not for us today to pass judgment upon those who may have made mistakes while engaged in that great struggle.

Yet we must recognize that the internment of Japanese Americans was just that -- a mistake. For throughout the war, Japanese-Americans in the tens of thousands remained utterly loyal to the United States.

Indeed, scores of Japanese-Americans volunteered for our Armed Forces -- many stepping forward in the internment camps themselves. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, made up entirely of Japanese-Americans, served with immense distinction -- to defend this nation, their nation.

Yet back at home, the soldiers' families were being denied the very freedom for which so many of the soldiers themselves were laying down their lives.

Congressman Norman Mineta, with us today, was 10 years old when his family was interned. In the Congressman's words, "My own family was sent first to Santa Anita Racetrack. We showered in the horse paddocks. Some families lived in converted stables, others in hastily thrown together barracks. We were then moved to Heart Mountain, Wyoming, where our entire family lived in one small room of a rude tarpaper barrack."

Like so many tens of thousands of others, the members of the Mineta family lived in those conditions not for a matter of weeks or months, but for three long years.

The legislation that I am about to sign provides for a restitution payment to each of the 60,000 survivors, Japanese -- surviving Japanese-Americans -- of the 120,000 who were relocated or detained. Yet no payment can make up for those lost years.

So what is most important in this bill has less to do with property than with honor. For here we admit a wrong. Here we reaffirm our commitment as a nation to equal justice under the law.

MORE

I'd like to note that the bill I'm about to sign also provides funds for members of the Aleut community who were evacuated from the Alutian and Pribilof Islands after a Japanese attack in 1942. This action was taken for the Aleuts' own protection, but property was lost or damaged that has never been replaced.

And now in closing, I wonder whether you'd permit me one personal reminiscence -- one prompted by an old newspaper report sent to me by Rose Ochi, a former internee. The clipping comes from "The Pacific Citizen" and is dated December 1945.

"Arriving by plane from Washington," the article begins, "General Joseph W. Stilwell pinned the Distinguished Service Cross on Mary Masuda in a simple ceremony on the porch of her small frame shack near Talbert, Orange County. She was one of the first Americans of Japanese ancestry to return from relocation centers to California's farmlands."

"Vinegar Joe" Stilwell was there that day to honor Kazuo Masuda, Mary's brother. You see, while Mary and her parents were in an internment camp, Kazuo served as staff sergeant to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. In one action, Kazuo ordered his men back and advanced through heavy fire, hauling a mortar. For 12 hours, he engaged in a single-handed barrage of Nazi positions. Several weeks later at Cassino, Kazuo staged another lone advance. This time, it cost him his life.

The newspaper clipping notes that her two surviving brothers were with Mary and her parents on the little porch that morning. These two brothers -- like the heroic Kazuo -- had served in the United States Army. After General Stilwell made the award, the motion picture actress Louise Allbritton -- a Texas girl -- told how a Texas battalion had been saved by the 442nd. Other show business personalities paid tribute -- Robert Young, Will Rogers, Jr. and one young actor said: "Blood that has soaked into the sands of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world, the only country not founded on race, but on a way -- an ideal. Not in spite of, but because of our polyglot background, we have had all the strength in the world. That is the American way."

The name of that young actor -- I hope I pronounce this right -- was Ronald Reagan. (Applause.) And, yes, the ideal of liberty and justice for all -- that is still the American way.

Thank you and God bless you. And now, let me sign H.R. 442 -- so fittingly named in honor of the 442nd. (The bill is signed.) (Applause.)

Thank you all again, and God bless you all. I think this is a fine day. (Applause.)

END

2:40 P.M. EDT



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
FOR ECONOMICS AND GOVERNMENT

7-27-88

Alan -

Here is a draft
on Japanese intension
per your request. Did
we go overboard??

Carol.

cc: Rebecca Lange ✓

Honorable Robert Dole
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Leader:

I am writing to request your support for the conference version of H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act, which implements the recommendations of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. As you know, this legislation would make payments to persons of Japanese ancestry who were interned during World War II. There is no doubt that the relocation and internment program caused much hardship and suffering to those persons of Japanese ancestry who were deprived of their liberty.

This bill accomplishes several basic purposes: it acknowledges the fundamental injustice of the evacuation, relocation and internment of United States citizens and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry during World War II; it apologizes on behalf of the United States for this historic fact; it makes restitution in the amount of \$20,000 to each person of Japanese ancestry who was thus interned; and it provides similar restitution to residents of the Pribilof Islands and Aleutian Islands who suffered similar hardships while those islands were under United States jurisdiction during World War II.

I believe the conference version of this legislation has addressed some of the flaws of the prior bills, namely:

- (1) The conference agreement spreads the trust fund authorization of \$1.25 billion over a ten year period, with a limit on any one year of not more than \$500 million.
- (2) The conference agreement provides that acceptance of restitution under this Act constitutes a final settlement of all claims against the United States for acts covered by this legislation. This will prevent double payment to those who are engaged in private suits against the United States Government, such as those in the Hohri case.
- (3) The conference agreement authorizes the Department of Justice to seek an appropriation of "such sums as may be necessary" to locate eligible individuals if the Department of Justice does not have sufficient existing funds to carry out this provision. This will insure that important resources are not taken from other high priority Department activities, such as the War on Drugs, to carry out the Attorney General's responsibilities under this Act.

This Administration strongly supports this legislation. Clearly, a serious Government-sanctioned injustice took place during World War II when citizens of Japanese ancestry were evacuated and interned. The hardships were real and palpable. After much compromise by all parties, this legislation allows us to right a grievous mistake. This bill reverses an injustice by compensating those whose liberty was wrongfully taken and reaffirms our strong commitment to the basic principles of our Constitution. As the Congress deliberates on this bill, I urge your support of its provisions.

Sincerely yours,

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO HONORABLE ROBERT H. MICHEL

Honorable Robert H. Michel
Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Leader:

I am writing to request your support for the conference version of H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act, which implements the recommendations of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. As you know, this legislation would make payments to persons of Japanese ancestry who were interned during World War II. There is no doubt that the relocation and internment program caused much hardship and suffering to those persons of Japanese ancestry who were deprived of their liberty.

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Sincerely yours,

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO HONORABLE ROBERT DOLE

JOHN C. STENNIS, MISSISSIPPI, CHAIRMAN

ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA
WILLIAM PROXMIRE, WISCONSIN
DANIEL K. INOUE, HAWAII
ERNEST F. HOLLINGS, SOUTH CAROLINA
LAWTON CHILES, FLORIDA
J. BENNETT JOHNSTON, LOUISIANA
QUENTIN N. BURDICK, NORTH DAKOTA
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
JIM SASSER, TENNESSEE
DENNIS DeCONCINI, ARIZONA
DALE BUMPERS, ARKANSAS
FRANK R. LAUTENBERG, NEW JERSEY
TOM HARKIN, IOWA
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, MARYLAND
HARRY REID, NEVADA

MARK O. HATFIELD, OREGON
TED STEVENS, ALASKA
LOWELL P. WEICKER, Jr., CONNECTICUT
JAMES A. McCLURE, IDAHO
JAKE GARN, UTAH
THAD COCHRAN, MISSISSIPPI
ROBERT W. KASTEN, Jr., WISCONSIN
ALFONSE M. D'AMATO, NEW YORK
WARREN RUDMAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA
PETE V. DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO
CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, IOWA
DON NICKLES, OKLAHOMA

FRANCIS J. SULLIVAN, STAFF DIRECTOR
J. KEITH KENNEDY, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025

August 10, 1988

The Honorable Rebecca G. Range
Deputy Assistant to the President
and Director of Office of Public
Liaison
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear BGR:

Thanks for all your help on the World War II reparations bill. The signing ceremony was the culmination of ten long, hard years of work. Without your help, not only would there not have been a signing ceremony, but there might not have been a signing at all. I appreciate your going to bat for Alaska once again.

I can't tell you what immense pride I take in seeing you and Mary in action at the White House.

With best personal regards,

Cordially,


TED STEVENS

M e s s a g e 32-6 05-AUG-88 15:13

032 DLY GOVT WHITE HOUSE DC 5 AUG
PMS MR. GRANT UJIFUSA //DLR DONT DWR//
NENDELS UNIVERSITY PLAZA
400 NORTHEAST 45TH
SEATTLE, WA 98105
?WH?

I WANT TO EXTEND MY GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES TO THE JAPANESE AMERICAN
CITIZENS LEAGUE'S 30TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION.. IT HAS BEEN MY HONOR AS
PRESIDENT TO WORK WITH YOU TO BIND UP AND HEAL A WOUND IN THE HISTORY OF
OUR BELOVED COUNTRY.

THE ENACTMENT OF H.R. 442 WILL CLOSE A SAD CHAPTER IN AMERICAN HISTORY
IN A WAY THAT REAFFIRMS AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO THE PRESERVATION OF
LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.

I WISH YOU A PRODUCTIVE AND ENJOYABLE GATHERING.

RONALD REAGAN

August 5, 1988

Dear Mrs. Mazewski:

It was with great sadness that Nancy and I learned of your husband's death. Please accept our heartfelt sympathy.

Aloysius Mazewski was a remarkable man, deeply loving of his God, family and country. Out of that love poured a lifetime of service to others. I am but one of the many public officials fortunate enough to have been able to call upon him in service to his country. He never failed to respond.

Al's achievements were many and diverse, but it's no secret that his proud heritage made him especially devoted to all things Polish. The recipients of that devotion were Polish Americans and the people of Poland itself, his beloved ancestral homeland. I believe history will record the courageous efforts of the Polish people to achieve freedom and self-determination as a turning point in the epic 20th century struggle between the forces of liberty and those of tyranny. Al didn't wait for history, though. He helped establish communications with Solidarity Leader Lech Walesa and worked tirelessly to provide both moral support and millions of dollars of humanitarian aid to the suffering Polish people. It was noble work and, in the profoundest sense, a labor of love.

Al Mazewski leaves behind a wonderful legacy. He will be sorely missed and never forgotten. Now, I'm sure the Lord is eager to welcome him home after a life so well spent. In this time of grief, may the same Lord bless you and comfort you as only He can.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Florence Mazewski
3813 Medford Circle
Northbrook, Illinois 60062

RR/PF/KC/CV/AVH/jg (8PMN)
DO NOT MAIL. RETURN TO K. HOGAN FOR DISPATCH

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 4, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR KEN DUBERSTEIN

FROM:

JOHN C. TUCK *JCT*

SUBJECT:

Norm Mineta's Telephone Call

I returned Congressman Mineta's telephone call to you this afternoon. Congressman Mineta wishes to thank you for your efforts on behalf of H.R. 442, Japanese Internment Legislation. He also wishes to thank you for your efforts in getting the President to send a letter in support of this legislation. Lastly, he inquired about any signing ceremony that may be scheduled for this bill and requested to be able to recommend certain individuals for consideration to attend. Tuck told him that the bill had not yet been received and that no decisions had been made concerning a ceremony or its timing. He requested to be kept informed of plans as they develop, and I assured him that he would be.

cc: M.B. Oglesby
Alan Kranowitz
Rebecca Range

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 8, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR MARI MASENG

FROM: ALAN M. KRANOWITZ *Alan -*

SUBJECT: Signing Ceremony for Japanese Internment
Legislation

The Japanese Internment legislation has arrived and, at B's direction, my staff is working with Rebecca's staff to put together a "concept schedule proposal" for a ceremony on Wednesday -- either Roosevelt Room or Rose Garden depending on the size of Public Liaison's list of proposed attendees.

Speechwriters will need to move quickly on remarks for the POTUS. Carol Crawford at OMB is the key substance person on this issue.

cc: B. Oglesby
Rebecca Range

Copy



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

NORMAN Y. MINETA
13TH DISTRICT
CALIFORNIA

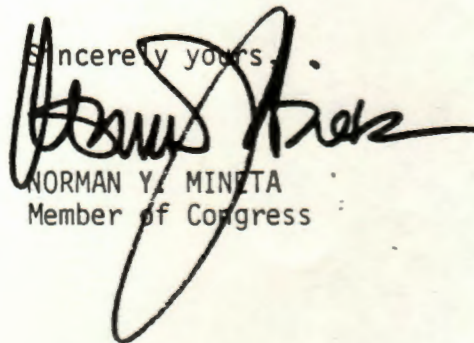
August 5, 1988

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I respectfully request that all those listed on the attached sheet be invited to the signing ceremony for the Civil Liberties Act.

Sincerely yours,



NORMAN Y. MINETA
Member of Congress

NYM/kk/w

A. FAMILY

Mr. Stuart S. Mineta
c/o Del Smith
3900 N. Hembree St.
McMinnville, Oregon 97128
(503) 472-7264

Mr. David K. Mineta
1544 Greene Drive
San Jose, CA 95129
(408) 253-5174

Ms. Mai Shimizu
1054 Brockhampton Court
San Jose, CA 95136
(408) 297-3900

Mr. and Mrs. Minoru Endo
175 Sherman Ave.
Glen Ridge, NJ 07028
(201) 429-9035

Mr. and Mrs. Mike M. Masaoka
5406 Uppingham St.
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
(202) 296-4484

Dr. and Mrs. Albert K. Mineta
1905 University Way
San Jose, CA 95126
(408) 554-1173

B. SIGNIFICANT TO REDRESS EFFORT

Vice Mayor Susan Hammer, Co-Chair of
San Jose Commission on the Internment of
Local Japanese Americans
City of San Jose
801 N. 1st St.
San Jose, CA 95110 (408) 277-5231

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Yamate
13252 Glen Brae Drive
Saratoga, CA 95070
(408) 867-1269

Ms. Judy Niizawa
834 Gary Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
(408) 733-7692

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Tanaka, Chair of
San Jose Commission of the Internment of
Local Japanese Americans
City of San Jose
801 N. 1st St.
San Jose, CA 95110
(408) 277-5231

Judge and Mrs. Wayne M. Kanemoto
15994 Camino Vista Way
San Jose, CA 95127
(408) 258-3796

Ms. Debbie Yamada
1301 S. Cleveland St., #355
Arlington, VA 22204
(703) 979-7008

Mr. and Mrs. Kenzo Ishimaru
3451 Lindenoaks Drive
San Jose, CA 95117
(408) 243-3804

Mr. Hideki Hamamoto
11801 Clara Way
Fairfax Station, VA 22034
(703) 250-5279

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Yamate
126 Robin Way
Los Gatos, CA 95032
(408) 356-9621

Ms. Carol Stroebel
Legislative Director
Office of Rep. Norman Y. Mineta
2350 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2631

Mr. Roger Kennedy
Director
National Museum of American History
12th & Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20560
(202) 357-2510

Ms. Susanne Stout Elfving
Administrative Assistant
Office of Rep. Norman Y. Mineta
2350 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2631

Mr. Glenn Roberts
Legislative Director
Office of Sen. Barbara Mikulski
320 Hart SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-4654

Ms. Helen Hayashi
Field Representative
Office of Rep. Norman Y. Mineta
1245 So. Winchester Blvd. Suite 310
San Jose, CA 95128
(408) 984-6045

Ms. Sue Tokushige
2365 Downing Avenue
San Jose, CA 95128
(408) 294-6038

Mr. I.K. Ishimatsu
10201 Yoshino Place
Cupertino, CA 95014
(408) 252-4552

Mr. Rudy Tokiwa
834 Gary Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
(408) 733-7692

Mr. and Mrs. Yosh Uchida
21054 Sara Hills Dr.
Saratoga, CA 95070
(408) 288-9850

Mr. S. Stephen Nakashima
440 S. Winchester Blvd.
San Jose, CA 95128
(408) 246-0246

Rebecca FYI

Document No. 576682

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/9/88 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00 TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR JAPANESE INTERNMENT LEGISLATION

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HOBBS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HOOLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
POWELL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KRANOWITZ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MILLER - OMB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MASENG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OGLESBY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RANGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAUER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RISQUE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRIBB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRIPPEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CULVAHOUSE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUCK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAWSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DONATELLI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DOLAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Tony Dolan's office with an info copy to my office by 4:00 TODAY Tuesday, August 9, 1988. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*ok - Tony for review please
R*

Rhett Dawson
Ext. 2702

(Robinson)
August 9, 1988
12:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR JAPANESE
INTERNMENT LEGISLATION
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1988

1988 AUG -9 PM 12:11

My fellow Americans:

We gather here today to right a grave wrong.

More than 40 years ago, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, 120,000 Americans were forcibly removed from their homes and placed in makeshift internment camps. This action was taken without trial, without jury. It was based solely on race -- for these 120,000 were Americans of Japanese descent.

Yes, the Nation was then at war, struggling for its survival -- and it is not for us today to pass judgment upon those who may have made mistakes while engaged in that great struggle.

Yet we must recognize that the internment of Japanese Americans was just that -- a mistake.

Throughout the War, no Americans of Japanese ancestry committed any acts of disloyalty, let alone treason. On the contrary, tens of Japanese-Americans volunteered for our Armed Forces -- many stepping forward in the internment camps themselves. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team -- made up almost entirely of Japanese-Americans -- served with distinction throughout the War.

To defend their Nation, their homeland, the United States of America.

Yet back at home, the soldiers' families were being denied the very freedom for which so many of the soldiers themselves were laying down their lives.

Congressman Norman Mineta, with us today, was 10 years old when his family was interned. In the Congressman's words: "My own family was sent first to Santa Anita Racetrack. We showered in the horse paddocks. Some families lived in converted stables, others in hastily thrown together barracks. We were then moved to Heart Mountain, Wyoming, where our entire family lived in one small room of a rude tarpaper barrack."

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The legislation that I am about to sign provides for a restitution payment to each of the 60,000 surviving Japanese-Americans, of the 120,000 who were relocated or detained. Yet no payment can make up for those three lost years.

So what is most important in this bill has less to do with property than with honor. For here we admit a wrong. Here we reaffirm our commitment as Nation to equal justice under the law.

I'd like to note that the bill I am about to sign also provides funds for the Aleut community of American Indians, a community of several hundred. The Aleuts were evacuated from the island of Attu after a Japanese attack in 1942. This action was taken for the Aleuts' own protection, but property was lost or damaged that has never been replaced. This bill will offer compensation.

And now in closing, I wonder whether you'd permit me one personal reminiscence -- one prompted by an old newspaper report sent to me by Rose Ochi, a former internee. The clipping comes from the Pacific Citizen and is dated December 1945.

"Arriving by plane from Washington," the article begins, "General Joseph W. Stilwell pinned the Distinguished Service Cross on...Mary Masuda...in a simple ceremony on the porch of her small frame shack near Talbert, Orange County....she was one of the first Americans of Japanese ancestry to return from relocation centers to California's farmlands."

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After General Stilwell made the award, the motion picture actress Louise Allbritton -- a Texas girl -- told how a Texas battalion had been saved by the 442nd. Other show business personalities paid tribute -- Robert Young, Will Rogers, Jr. And one young actor said this:

"Blood that has soaked into the sands of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world, the only country not founded on race, but on a way -- an ideal. Not in spite of, but because of our polyglot background, we have had all the strength in the world. That is the American way."

The name of that young actor, the newspaper records, was Ronald Reagan.

And, yes, the ideal of liberty and justice for all -- that is still the American way.

Thank you and God bless you.

And now, let me sign H.R. 442 -- so fittingly named in honor of the 442nd.



August 5, 1988

TO: Sandy Mori
FROM: Louise M. Kamikawa
RE: Civil Liberties Act-President's Signing

I called Senator Matsunaga's staff person who is working on the bill; she advised me that the Senator would have no input into the signing process. In fact, she called the White House so that they would remember to invite the Senator. She has advised the J.A.C.L. and N.C.C.R. to send their lists to the White House.

Since I have had contact with the White House, Director of Public Liaison, I decided to call her. There is a problem with the timing. The bill has not been sent over yet, it could take up to three days for the process to take place. Everyone is leaving next Thursday; the Republicans for their convention. If he does not receive it before then, there will be no public ceremony. They seem to be working to expedite the matter so that he could have a public signing, so keep your fingers crossed. Rebecca Range took Sox's name and address; she will be invited if there is one. However, they will probably not be able to give much notice; they will not be able to underwrite her costs.

Let me know if there is anything else I can do. My best.

LMK:me
Enclosure

August 5, 1988

Rebecca G. Range
Director of Public Liaison
Deputy Assistan to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500


Dear Ms. Range,

Thank you for keeping our Center apprised of the President's on-going efforts to provide more comprehensive health care such as the Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988. Such legislation will provide the necessary supports to seniors which enable them to live their later years with greater dignity and comfort.

I am pleased that I was able to speak with you regarding the President's signing of the Civil Liberties Act. I realize that the process is complex and may not get to the President before next Thursday, at which time the President and Congress will be adjourning. However, if by chance the bill reaches the White House before, I would appreciate having Ms. Tsuyako Kitashima invited to any ceremony that might take place. As I described over the telephone, she is a credit not only to the Japanese, but to all older persons. She has worked tirelessly over the years, volunteering for jobs that required much time and effort. She is seventy and being present at the ceremonies would be a commemorative event.

Thank you for your support and consideration. If I can be of any assistance to you, please call upon me.

Sincerely,

Louise M. Kamikawa 

Louise M. Kamikawa
Director

LMK:me

Hold - Japanese document bill

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

20 Oct '87

Rebecca -

The article I mentioned.

Thanks for sharing it.

Also, looks like there
may be a short conference
once the Senate passed
the legislation - perhaps next
week!

Also former Senator
Hayakawa not only doesn't
like the redress bill. He

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strongly
it.

opposes

Phyllis Guss

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Collections

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