

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

4 LETTERS, 1945-1967.

SEE ALSO: TAJIRI, LORALE.

76/173
C



Japanese American Citizens League

An All American Organization of American Citizens

National Headquarters

413-415 BEASON BLDG. TELEPHONE 5-6501

SALT LAKE CITY 1, UTAH

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

228 McALLISTER STREET

SAN FRANCISCO 2, CAL. - MA. 8442

Sept. 15, 1945.

Mr. Harry L. Kingman
535 San Luis Rd.
Berkeley, Calif.

Dear Harry:

Your comments regarding our reported visit with you were indeed welcome. Nothing serves the sake of accuracy better than to have errors pointed out.

My apologies are due you if the wrong interpretation comes from a reading of the condensed item relating to our interview. My original view in writing to our National Headquarters about the present status of the FEPC was to note the impaired coverage due to the congressional slash in appropriations. We do have a vital interest in a permanent and adequate FEPC with ample funds. My intention was to convey that idea to our members so that they, in turn, could mobilize public opinion in that direction.

We have, as yet, no state FEPC under which employers in California are prohibited from discriminatory practices. As we are both aware, the national FEPC does not cover pharmacists, for example, so my thought expressed in the boiled-down sentence carried in the REPORTER, was intended to explain JACL support for the movement of the state-wide Committee for a California FEPC, especially in view of a request made to us for contributions. I am sure you will appreciate the need of keeping our members informed, specifically and generally, on worthwhile causes that pertain to Japanese Americans.

Perhaps, because no particular cases were related of Nisei who were aided by your intervention, I gained the mistaken impression conveyed in the report. In other parts of the country, I have noted a general reluctance on the part of Nisei to invoke the assistance of the FEPC. My statement was a reflection of a hope and desire that they take advantage of FEPC services to melt the barriers of discrimination.

You are correct in saying that no disparagement or discredit was intended. Please be put on notice that I consider myself politely slapped on the wrists for my inadvertencies.

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

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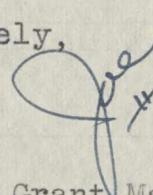
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Mr. Harry L. Kingman
Sept. 15, 1945.

I have the highest regard for you and Ruth, both personally and toward your activities. And, I do hope, Harry, that I can merit your reciprocal esteem.

My best wishes to you and Ruth.

Sincerely,



Joe Grant Masaoka.

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SALT LAKE CITY 1, UTAH

October 22, 1952

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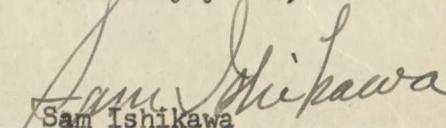
Mr. Harry L. Kingman
535 San Luis Rd.
Berkeley 4, Calif.

Dear Mr. Kingman:

Undoubtedly as you have read in the Pacific Citizen, the Larry Tajiri Testimonial was a great success and to a great extent the credit belongs to you. You will undoubtedly be very happy to learn that the Committee of 150 was able to raise not only the "purse" of \$1,500 but is able to give Larry and Guyo some extra. Enclosed is a copy of the complete report of the Tajiri fund.

For the members of the Executive Committee of Committee of 150, George Inagaki, Mike Masaoka, Saburo Kido and I wish to express our deepest appreciation for your cooperation and generosity.

Sincerely yours,



Sam Ishikawa
Secretary

Many P.C. readers respond

From all walks of life, friends and readers who have been charmed by the pen of Larry and Guyo Tajiri during the past ten years with the Pacific Citizen have warmly responded in tribute to them.

In the past fortnight, National JACL Director Mas Satow received letters of testimony from many distinguished Americans to be presented at the Salt Lake City chapter testimonial dinner in honor of the Tajiris.

As Satow revealed in the presentation of the volume of letters last Saturday, "I am sure that there are many other who would have been more than happy to add their testimonies had we made general announcement through the pages of the Pacific Citizen.

"However, knowing that your modesty would not allow such a thing," Satow continued, "I have taken it upon myself to assemble these letters through personal contacts."

The Pacific Citizen regrets being unable to extract portions of all the testimonial letters. However, here are some.

Mas Satow
JACL national Headquarters, Salt Lake City.

"... P.C. has been an indispensable medium of selling JACL and its program to our people. But more than this, it has sold the Nisei to America as well as interpreted America and its people and its principles to the Nisei.

"It is difficult to think of JACL National Headquarters without you, Larry."

Togo Tanaka
Head of Editorial Dept., American Technical Society, Chicago.

"... Through all the early days of uncertainty, the weeks, months, and years of the uphill journey, all of us ever got in the way of the DeWitt edicts in the Far West are deeply indebted to you both. The Pacific Citizen has been a faithful guide and a great source of strength."

Dillon S. Myer

"... (You) have maintained clear heads during a period when emotions were running high. You have been fearless in your attacks on bigotry and injustice, and through it all you have been understanding and forgiving, even though many injustices were foisted upon your people. We are all going to miss you."

Richard J. Walsh
President, John Day Co., Inc., Publishers, New York.

"Something that has been rather special to me will go out of my reading experience when you leave the Pacific Citizen (in which) I found more about the current progress of minority

groups that could be found anywhere else ...

"My wife, Pearl Buck, joins me in sending you both our best wishes for the future."

Annie Clo Watson
Executive Secretary, International Institute, San Francisco.

"A thorough evaluation of all that has been accomplished in a decade of your publication could take pages. I want to make mine in one sentence—that for many years I have considered my week to be incomplete unless I read the Pacific Citizen, a warm, human document which ... enabled me to have a ringside seat for viewing one of the most dramatic sociological episodes in our history, that of the Nisei coming into self-possession of their country!"

Robert Pirosh
MGM Pictures, Culver City, California.

"I have already acknowledged my debt to the Pacific Citizen as source material for the motion picture, 'Go For Broke!' Research can be, and often is, a rather dull chore; but in poring over the issues of the Pacific Citizen which came out during the war years, my interest never flagged and my efforts were rewarded by the discovery of the kind of material I had been searching for in vain up to that time ..."

Mike Masaoka
ADC, Washington, D. C.

"... Many persons high in public and private life have told me again and again of the excellence of your editorials and the exemplariness of the whole paper."

Harry L. Kingman
General Secretary, University YMCA, Berkeley, Calif.

"The exciting 'come through' performance of Americans of Japanese ancestry after their unwarranted and shameful banishment from their West Coast homes in 1942 will go down in history as an American saga. And you were the most articulate and resounding voice of the heroic people who wrote so inspiring a page in this nation's history."

Roger N. Baldwin
ACLU, New York.

"... You have brought to the editorship of the paper the best of our traditions of Americanism—not as the American Legion means it, but as we much more deeply understand it."

Edward Howden
Executive Director, Council for Civic Unity, San Francisco.

"... I am sure that not only the highest order of journalistic

talent and straight thinking on your part have made the paper what it is today, but years of almost sacrificial hard work as well."

Morton Grodzins
Univ. of Chicago Press, Chicago.

"... Whose paper can I hold up to my friends as a model of craftsmanship, intelligence, sensitivity, and guts? Whose editorials will I read to my classes and send to my congressman?"

James C. Purcell
Attorney-at-Law, San Francisco.

"... The Pacific Citizen has been an outstanding outlet to bring before the public the position, the problems and the personalities of those of Japanese ancestry residing in this country.

"... in my capacity as attorney representing many Japanese and Japanese Americans, it has been a great comfort to know that the matters which we were litigating for the purpose of promoting, preserving and protecting the rights of our fellow citizens and fellow residents could be and brought forth from the ... private and secret recesses of the court, through the medium of the Pacific Citizen by means of your and Marian's able pens, to the attention of those whose support was necessary ..."

Min Yasui
Attorney-at-Law, Denver.

"... We love you both. We think you've both advanced the welfare of the Nisei in America and in a permanent way assured some part of the future of our children in these United States ..."

Galen M. Fisher
Berkeley, Calif.

"Think what a tough assignment your successor will have trying to maintain the P.C. airplane at the stratospheric height to which you have lifted it."

Harold S. Jacoby
Chairman, Dept. of Sociology, College of the Pacific, Stockton.

"... America and the free world owe much to the Americans of Japanese ancestry, and this largely because at a critical moment in world history and at a tragic hour in the lives of the Japanese Americans, the leadership of the JACL with vision and courage, made some fundamentally sound decisions. As part of that leadership, and as persons who have continued to carry the torch of leadership in the JACL, you have every reason to feel proud of the part you have played in America's life during the past decade ..."

Michael L. Freed
Regional Director, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Denver.

"... The excellent development (the P.C.) has undergone during your ten years of guidance is a testimonial to your ability and a credit to the organization for which the Pacific Citizen speaks."

Akira Hayashi
Chairman, Eastern District JACL Council, New York.

"Back on June 12, 1952, I last wrote you two, congratulating you on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Pacific Citizen as published in Salt Lake City ... When I wrote that letter, my feelings were optimistic and buoyant, and I dared to talk about a P.C. silver anniversary under your editorship."

Bill Kajikawa
Arizona State College, Tempe, Arizona.

"... I have met many newspapermen and they all have high praise for your fine writing."

Guy C. Calden
Attorney-at-Law, San Francisco.

"... I do not hesitate to go on record that, in my judgment, the Tajiris' contribution to American journalism is outstanding."

Mary Oyama Mittwer
Los Angeles.

"... You (Larry) and Marian and the P.C. are synonymous with distinction in service, leadership, and the best traditions of journalism ... Vaya con Dios!"



MARION TAJIRI



LARRY TAJIRI

To Our Friends . . .

We are deeply grateful for the nice things said about us and for the gifts which we received from the JACL chapters and the "Committee of 150" at the testimonial dinner on Sept. 27 at the Hotel Newhouse in Salt Lake City.

We are also grateful to the Salt Lake City JACL for arranging the dinner which gave us an opportunity to meet many friends.

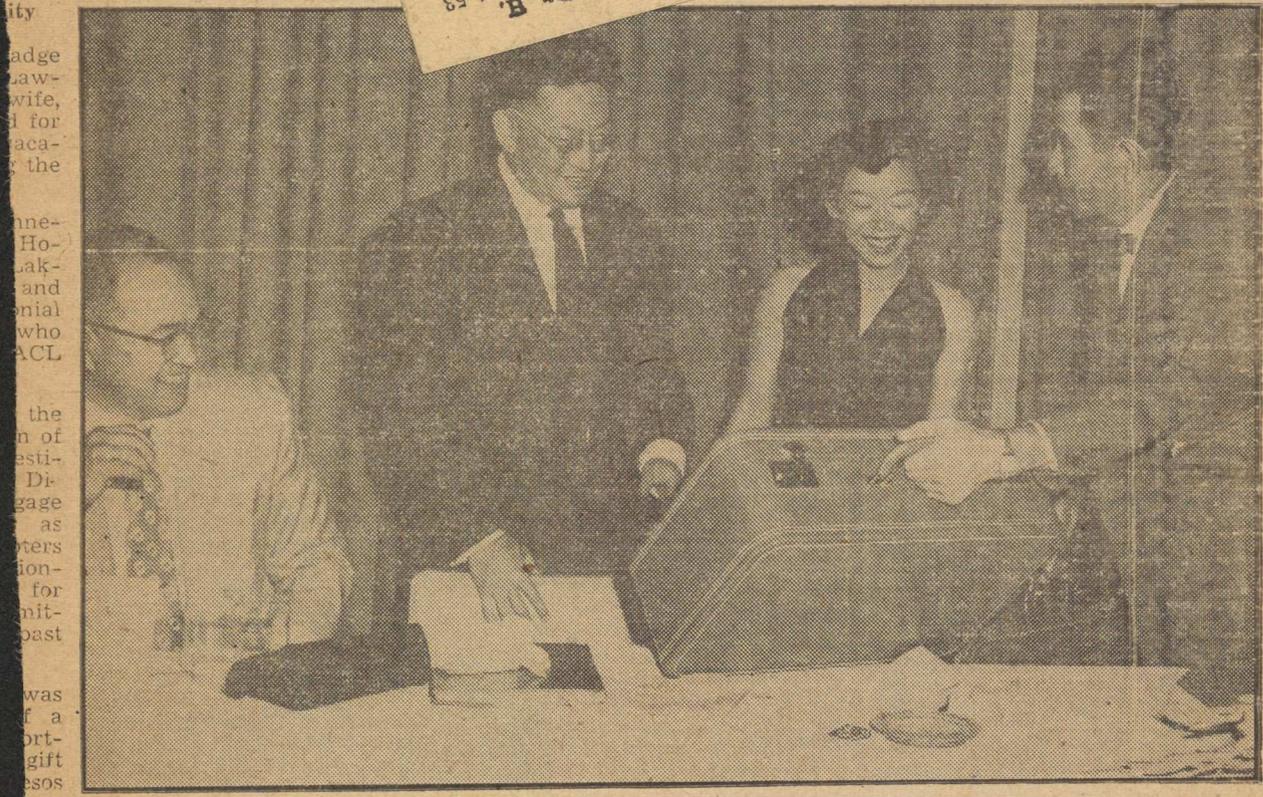
It is our hope that the new editors of the Pacific Citizen will receive the same fine cooperation which we enjoyed during the past ten years.

It has been a privilege to serve the JACL and the readers of the Pacific Citizen.

LARRY AND MARION TAJIRI



Head for varicella in Mexico



Kay Terashima presents the Tajiris with luggage as part of gift to them from the JACL chapters across the country while National JACL President George Inagaki looks on. —Ben Terashima photo.

tional president who helped to establish national headquarters in Salt Lake City ten years ago, recalled those days and the tremendous contribution made by Larry to the JACL.

Inagaki served JACL voluntarily for several years during the war years before volunteering for Army Intelligence. He remembered how he and other GIs overseas greeted the P.C. and its news of home.

Congresswoman Bosone

Utah's congresswoman, Rep. Reva Beck Bosone, extended greetings to both the Tajiris and the JACL. She was instrumental last year in obtaining the American flag which had flown over the nation's Capitol and which the JACL presented to the town of Bruyeres for their special memorial park.

David King, representing May-Turn to Page 8

Prepare for national testimonial

Long Beach

Chapters of the Pacific Southwest JACL District Council unanimously approved the program of the National Testimonial Banquet commemorating the passage of the Walter-McCarran Immigration and Naturalization Act.

Approval was made at a quarterly meeting of the District Council meeting here at the Harbor District Japanese Community Center last Sunday.

The testimonial will be held at the Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel on Saturday, Dec. 6, with a seating capacity of 700 announced for the event.

Early Reservation

Immediately, the East Los Angeles chapter sought a minimum reservation for 30 seats. The Long Beach-Harbor District chapter asked for 20.

Since reservations are expected to be divided equally between Issei and Nisei groups, a strong possibility exists of an SRO sign being posted in a short time.

Civic leaders here expect the banquet to be one of the biggest affairs to be held by Japanese in Southern California.

Honored Guests

The banquet is Southern California's tribute to members of Congress who spearheaded the drive to pass legislation which granted equality in naturalization and immigration to Japanese. Specifically, they are Sen. Ernest W. McFarland, Senate Majority leader; Sen Pat McCarran and Rep. Francis E. Walter, co-authors of the bill; and Rep. Walter H. Judd.

Dr. Roy Nishikawa, 1954 JACL National Convention chairman and JACL National Treasurer, has been appointed general chairman of the Biltmore Hotel Banquet.

Central Cal District Council

Fresno

Central California JACL District Council conference has been scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 16, at the Belmont Inn here. Hiro Mayeda of Tulare is conference chairman.

loquent phrases

of Oregon proposed a Constitutional amendment which would permit Congress to deprive American-born persons of Japanese (and German and Italian, as an afterthought) ancestry of their citizenship. Al J. Dingeman of Oxford, Calif., running for Congress, stated that he was in favor of deporting Japanese in the United States. Resolutions were passed by various American Legion chapters supporting such a move.

As the outlook for Japanese Americans got blacker with the days, one reader of the Pacific Citizen, a Nisei, protested that the P.C. was carrying too many articles and columns showing the dark side of the picture and that he was sick of reading only bad news.

Larry's reply was that a newspaper such as the Pacific Citizen must report the news accurately as it happens. Certainly much of the news was discouraging, but (and Larry pounded this point in editorial after editorial) that was no reason to cower like a whipped dog to a dark corner, trying to act as inconspicuously as possible. The power of the race-baiters neither impressed nor depressed Larry. He had faith enough in the Constitution and the democratic way of life to know that race-baiting could never prevail.

Democracy — something to fight for, defend

He was alarmed that many evacuees back in 1942 were willing to drift with the tide and not fight back for their God-given rights. While giving the race-baiters tit for tat in his editorials and in his column, "Nisei, U.S.A.," Larry reiterated that democracy was not something to accept flaccidly but was something to fight for, to work for and to defend.

There is no doubt that Larry was peculiarly suited for his role as editor of the P.C. Behind him, at the time he took over, were ten years of solid newspaper experience as editor of the English sections of the Los Angeles Kashu Mainichi, San Francisco Nichi-Bei and as American correspondent for the Tokyo Asahi.

Added to this know-how was an insatiable curiosity that de-Turn to Page 8

in Los Angeles board in charge

During the war years until last week, it was published at Century Press, Salt Lake City. Hereafter, it will be "put to bed" at the Shin Nichibei Press.

* * *

An eight-man operational board is directly responsible for the manner in which the Pacific Citizen will be published each week in Los Angeles.

The board, chaired by Saburo Kido, is composed of Fred Yamaya, Sho Iino, Elmer Yamamoto, Edison Uno, Toyo Miyatake, Dr. Tom Watanabe, Mrs. Merijane Yokoe and George Kuniyoshi.

The board approved the appointment of Harry K. Honda as editor of the Pacific Citizen.

Mrs. Kats Kunitsugu, editor of the P.C. Holiday edition, explained at length the theme of the 1952 issue as the history of JACL-ADC fight since 1946 for equality in naturalization and immigration.

Tats Kushida was appointed advertising executive and business manager. Mary Imon will aid as office assistant.

Mas Imon was appointed in charge of production.

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

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Masao W. Satow, National Director

JERRY J. ENOMOTO, National President
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REGIONAL OFFICES

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September 8, 1966

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman
535 San Luis Road
Berkeley 7, California

Dear Ruth:

Thank you for your letter of September 3, 1966, adding your endorsement of the Development Project of the Students Cooperative Association at Berkeley.

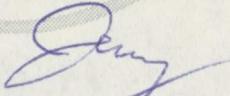
On August 22nd I wrote to the Rt. Rev. Millard, acknowledging his request for JACL support of this project, with copy to Yori, who had also written to me about this subject. I have also heard from George Yasukochi, urging JACL aid.

Although I am not yet in a position to respond to the request, the comments of good friends of JACL like yourself, will certainly help the National Board in evaluating it and making a decision. Please be assured that this worthy project will be given every consideration.

Mas has just returned from vacation and is currently reviewing Rev. Millard's letter. I am glad that you sent him a copy of your letter.

I hope that we can reach an early decision on this matter.

Sincerely,


Jerry J. Enomoto
National President

JJE:j

cc: Rev. Richard Millard
Yori Wada
Mas Satow

September 15, 1966

Mr. George Yasukochi
1414 University Avenue
Berkeley 2, California

Dear George:

Please forgive this belated acknowledgement of your letter regarding support of the USCA project. I have only the usual apology revolving around much JACL correspondence, and heavy job pressures.

Although my letter to you is tardy, please be assured that the detailed letter, asking for JACL support from Rev. Millard, was responded to without delay. As it stands now, I have asked Yone Satoda and Mas Satow to review the request for a discussion soon. You will appreciate that certain questions must be considered regarding whether this project, unquestionably worthy, can be given National JACL financial support.

Both Yori Wada and Ruth Kingman have written to me, expressing support and I have advised them along similar lines, as this letter to you.

I have just dropped Mas a line suggesting early discussion and decision on this matter.

Hope to see you at an early JACL affair and thanks again for your letter. I hope that support of the USCA project does become feasible.

Sincerely,

Jerry J. Enomoto
National President

JJE:j

cc: Mas Satow
Yori Wada
Ruth Kingman
Rev. Millard

TO

Mrs. Ruth Kingman
535 San Luis Road
Berkeley, California 94707

FROM

Wesley T. Doi, Chairman
SF JACL Appreciation Banquet
1568 Union Street
San Francisco, California
94123

↓ SUBJECT

DATE October 3, 1967

MESSAGE

Dear Mrs. Kingman:

We are pleased that you and Mr. Kingman will be able to attend our Appreciation Banquet on the evening of Friday, October 13, 1967, at the Four Seas Restaurant, 731 Grant Avenue, San Francisco.

In order to help our speaker introduce you properly, we would like a brief resume of your present positions and activities in various organizations. Also, we would like a resume of your activities during 1941 - 1945, especially dealing with Japanese Americans before, during, and immediately following the evacuation twenty-five years ago. Please list any other information which you feel would be appropriate. Please reply at your earliest convenience.

We are looking forward to seeing you and Mr. Kingman on October 13, 1967.

SIGNED

Very truly yours,

*Wesley T. Doi***REPLY** Dear Mr. Doi: I think that this will answer your questions.

February 1942 - January 1943:

- (1) Organized citizens' groups to provide emergency housing for Issei expelled from Zone I (in Alameda County) under Evacuation Order.
 - (2) Organized citizens' groups throughout California to provide relatively civil surroundings for departing evacuees.
 - (3) Organized efforts to provide safe-keeping for evacuees' personal effects.
 - (4) Secured additional school materials for Tanforan Staging Area.
 - (5) Upon invitation of WRA, produced and directed Christmas Pageant in Topaz, with over 300 Nisei and Issei of all ages participating.
- 1943-1945---See attached sheet.

SIGNED

DATE / /

TO

• Mr. Harry Kingman
YMCA 535 San Luis Road
Berkeley, California 94707

FROM

Wesley T. Doi, Chairman
SF JACL Appreciation Banquet
1568 Union Street
San Francisco, California
94123

↓ SUBJECT

DATE October 3, 1967

MESSAGE

Dear Mr. Kingman:

We are pleased that you and Mrs. Kingman will attend our Appreciation Banquet on the evening of Friday, October 13, 1967, at the Four Seas Restaurant, 731 Grant Avenue.

In order to help our speaker introduce you properly, we would like a brief resume of your present positions and activities in various organizations. Also we would like a resume of your activities during 1941 - 1945, especially dealing with Japanese Americans before, during, and immediately following the evacuation twenty-five years ago. Please list any other information which you feel would be appropriate. Please reply at your earliest convenience.

We are looking forward to seeing you and Mrs. Kingman.

SIGNED

Very truly yours,

Wesley T. Doi

REPLY

↑

SIGNED

DATE / /