

**The original documents are located in Box 61, folder “6/11/76 - Japanese Americans Citizens League Convention” of the Paul Theis and Robert Orben Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

DATE: May 25, 1976

FROM: Myron B. Kuropas *MK*

THRU: William J. Baroody, Jr. *WJB*

VIA: William Nicholson

MEETING: Filmed message for Japanese American Citizens League.

DATE: Any day prior to June 20, 1976

PURPOSE: To address the Japanese American Citizens League National Convention stressing those activities of the Ford Administration which have benefited Japanese Americans.

FORMAT: Location: Sacramento, California  
Participants: 2500 convention delegates  
Expected length of participation: 4 minutes

CABINET PARTICIPATION: NONE NEEDED

SPEECH MATERIAL: Remarks to be prepared by Robert Orben and staff

PRESS COVERAGE: NONE NEEDED

STAFF: Myron B. Kuropas

RECOMMENDED: William J. Baroody, Jr., Myron B. Kuropas

OPPOSED: NONE KNOWN

PREVIOUS  
PARTICIPATION:

The last time the President met with JACL leadership was on February 19 when he signed a Proclamation recognizing Executive Order 9066 as null and void.

BACKGROUND:

The Japanese American Citizens League is the largest Japanese American organization with some 30,000 members. It is very active both socially and politically and tends to lean towards President Ford.

to Res  
6/10 11:00  
GAMS

to Edit  
6/10 12:28  
GAMS

REMARKS FOR FILMED MESSAGE TO JAPANESE  
AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE CONVENTION  
JUNE, 11, 1976

OK - mwb)

I AM DELIGHTED TO GREET THE DELEGATES AND GUESTS  
OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE AS YOU MEET FOR YOUR  
24th NATIONAL CONVENTION.

THIS YEAR WE MARK THE BEGINNING OF OUR THIRD  
CENTURY AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION -- AS WELL AS THE 200th  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. FOR TWO  
CENTURIES OUR NATION HAS GROWN, CHANGED AND FLOURISHED.  
A DIVERSE PEOPLE, DRAWN FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD,  
HAVE JOINED TOGETHER TO FULFILL THE PROMISE OF DEMOCRACY.

THIS NATION HAS BEEN BUILT BY THE LABOR AND  
DEDICATION OF AMERICANS WHOSE FOREBEARS CAME FROM MANY  
LANDS.

NO GROUP HAS WORKED WITH GREATER DEVOTION AND COMMITMENT  
TO ITS ADOPTED HOME THAN THE MEMBERS OF THE JAPANESE  
AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

DESPITE THE FACT THAT MANY JAPANESE AMERICANS  
WERE UNJUSTLY TREATED DURING THE WAR YEARS, YOUR  
COMMUNITY DID NOT TURN ITS BACK ON AMERICA BUT  
VOLUNTEERED TO FIGHT FOR FREEDOM IN EUROPE -- AN EFFORT  
WHICH LED TO THE FORMATION OF THE FAMED 100th INFANTRY  
BATTALION AND THE 442nd REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM.

TOGETHER THESE TWO DISTINGUISHED FIGHTING UNITS RECEIVED  
SEVEN SEPARATE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATIONS FOR OUTSTANDING  
PERFORMANCE / WHILE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THESE TWO UNITS  
WERE AWARDED A TOTAL OF ALMOST SIX THOUSAND AWARDS AND  
MEDALS FROM A GRATEFUL UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

IN THE WORDS OF PRESIDENT TRUMAN, WHO MET  
WITH THE PROUD MEMBERS OF THE 442nd REGIMENTAL AFTER THE WAR,  
"YOU FOUGHT NOT ONLY THE ENEMY, BUT YOU FOUGHT PREJUDICE --  
AND YOU HAVE WON."

TODAY THE JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CAN  
POINT WITH PRIDE TO OUTSTANDING ARCHITECTS, SCULPTORS,  
MUSICAL CONDUCTORS, UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS AND, MORE  
RECENTLY, MAYORS, STATE REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERS OF  
THE CONGRESS. "A PROUD LEGACY," THE THEME OF YOUR  
J-A-C-L CONVENTION IS INDEED A MOST APPROPRIATE DESCRIPTION  
OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF YOUR ORGANIZATION AS WELL AS YOUR  
COMMUNITY.

AS I SPEAK TO YOU THIS EVENING, I AM REMINDED OF  
THE LAST TIME I MET WITH A NUMBER OF YOUR LEADERS.

IT WAS ON FEBRUARY 19, 1976 WHEN I SIGNED A PRESIDENTIAL  
PROCLAMATION ENTITLED "AN AMERICAN PROMISE."

THE PROCLAMATION DECLARED THAT IN COMMEMORATING OUR  
BICENTENNIAL, "AN HONEST RECKONING MUST INCLUDE A  
RECOGNITION OF OUR NATIONAL MISTAKES AS WELL AS OUR  
NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS."

TONIGHT, I REAFFIRM MY PLEDGE TO CONTINUE THE  
FIGHT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION AND PREJUDICE IN AMERICA UNTIL  
ALL AMERICANS, REGARDLESS OF RACE, RELIGION, SEX OR  
NATIONAL ORIGIN ARE TREATED EQUALLY, EQUITABLY AND WITH THE  
RESPECT THAT IS OWED ALL OF OUR CITIZENS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

DATE: May 25, 1976

FROM: Myron B. Kuropas <sup>MBK</sup>

THRU: William J. Baroody, Jr. <sup>(B)</sup>

VIA: William Nicholson

MEETING: Filmed message for Japanese American Citizens League.

DATE: Any day prior to June 20, 1976

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OPPOSED: NONE KNOWN

Schedule Proposal

Page 2

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The last time the President met with JACL leadership was on February 19 when he signed a Proclamation recognizing Executive Order 9066 as null and void.

BACKGROUND:

The Japanese American Citizens League is the largest Japanese American organization with some 30,000 members. It is very active both socially and politically and tends to lean towards President Ford.

Myron B. Kuropas

PROPOSED REMARKS FOR FILMED MESSAGE TO JAACL CONVENTION

NSC  
I am delighted to have this opportunity to greet the delegates and guests of the Japanese American Citizens League 24th Biennial National Convention in Sacramento, California.

We now mark the beginning of our Third Century as an independent nation as well as the 200th Anniversary of the American Revolution. For two centuries our nation has grown, changed and flourished. A diverse people, drawn from all corners of the world, have joined together to fulfill the promise of democracy. This nation has been built by the labor and dedication of Americans whose forebearers came from many lands. No group has worked with greater devotion and commitment to its adopted homeland than the members of the Japanese American community.

Despite the fact that many Japanese Americans were unjustly forced to spend the war years in internment camps, your community did not turn its back on America but volunteered to fight for freedom in Europe, an effort which led to the formation of the famed 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Together these two distinguished fighting units received seven separate Presidential Unit Citations for outstanding tactical operations while individual members of these two units were awarded a total of ~~5,940~~ <sup>almost 6,000</sup> awards and medals from a grateful United States Government. In the words of President Truman, who ~~reviewed~~ <sup>met with</sup> the proud members of the 442nd Regimental

after the war, "you fought not only the enemy, but you fought prejudice and you have won."

Today the Japanese American community can point with pride to outstanding architects, sculptors, musical conductors, university professors and, more recently, mayors, state representatives and members of Congress. "A Proud Legacy," the theme of your JACL convention is indeed a most appropriate description of your organization as well as your community.

As I <sup>speaks to</sup> ~~address~~ you this evening, I am reminded of the last time I met with a number of your leaders. It was on February 19, 1976 <sup>when I signed</sup> ~~on the occasion of my signing~~ a Presidential Proclamation entitled "An American Promise." The Proclamation declared that in commemorating our Bicentennial, "an honest reckoning must include a recognition of our national mistakes as well as our national achievements." I called on the American people to recognize that the war time evacuation of loyal American citizens was wrong and to resolve that this kind of action shall never again be repeated.

Tonight, I reaffirm that promise and pledge to continue the fight against discrimination and prejudice in America until all Americans, regardless of race, religion, sex or national origin are treated equally,

equitably and with the respect that is owed all of our citizenry.

Thank you.

*Janke*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 7, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: ROBERT T. HARTMANN

SUBJECT: Proposed Remarks for Filmed Message to Japanese American Citizens League Convention Sacramento, Calif. 6/11/76

The President has asked me to obtain your comments on the draft attached and report them to him. Therefore, I respectfully request your priority attention and personal response on this draft (even if you simply approve it as is) by 10:00 AM 6/8/76. Please return your comments to Bob Orben in the Editorial Office in Room 115, OEOB (ext. 6573).

To expedite this process, it is not necessary to have your views on the literary style or grammatical purity of this draft. Please indicate legibly your suggestions for improving the factual accuracy and/or the substantive policy statements that are within your area of expertise and responsibility (either on the attached drafts or on a separate piece of paper if extensive revisions or substitutions are recommended).

We will either incorporate your suggestions or, in case of conflicting views, present the options to the President for his final decision.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Please check one box and sign below:

( ) I approve the draft without changes.

() Suggested revisions are noted on the draft or attached separately.

Initials: *R.T. Hartmann for B.S.*

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6/11/76

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We now mark the beginning of our Third Century as an independent Nation -- as well as the 200th Anniversary of the American Revolution.

For two centuries our Nation has grown, changed and flourished. A diverse people, drawn from all corners of the World, have joined together to fulfill the promise of democracy.

This Nation has been built by the labor and dedication of Americans whose forebears came from many lands. No group has worked with greater devotion and commitment to its adopted home than the members of the Japanese American community.

Despite the fact that many Japanese Americans were unjustly *treated during* ~~forced to spend~~ the war years ~~in internment camps~~; your community did not turn its back on America but volunteered to fight for freedom in Europe -- an

effort which led to the formation of the famed 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Together these two distinguished fighting units received seven separate Presidential Unit Citations for outstanding <sup>performance</sup> ~~tactical operations~~ while individual members of these two units were awarded a total of almost six thousand awards and medals from a grateful United States Government.

In the words of President Truman, who met with the proud members of the 442nd Regimental after the war, "you fought not only the enemy, but you fought prejudice -- and you have won."

Today the Japanese American community can point with pride to outstanding architects, sculptors, musical conductors, university professors and, more recently, mayors, state representatives and members of Congress. "A Proud Legacy," the theme of your JACL convention is indeed a most appropriate description of <sup>the achievement of</sup> your organization ~~as well as your~~ <sup>community</sup> as well as your community.

As I speak to you this evening, I am reminded of the last time

I met with a number of your leaders. It was on February 19, 1976 when I signed a Presidential Proclamation entitled "An American Promise." The Proclamation declared that in commemorating our Bicentennial, "an honest reckoning must include a recognition of our national mistakes as well as our national achievements." ~~I called on the American people to recognize that the war time evacuation of loyal American citizens was wrong and to resolve that this kind of action shall never again be repeated.~~

Tonight, I reaffirm <sup>MY</sup> ~~that promise and~~ pledge to continue the fight against discrimination and prejudice in America until all Americans, regardless of race, religion, sex or national origin are treated equally, equitably and with the respect that is owed all <sup>of citizens</sup> our citizenry.

Thank you <sup>very</sup> much.

~~and offer my congratulations and respect to the League as we join with renewed dedication in carrying forward the sacred trust of our forebears into America's third century.~~

(Kuropas)

O.C.

June 7, 1976  
FIRST DRAFT

PROPOSED REMARKS FOR FILMED MESSAGE TO JAACL CONVENTION

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Thank you.

# # #

(Kuropas)

To Edit: 6/7 4:30  
6A/pm

To Russ 6/7 3:06  
MS

Research  
J. M. [unclear] 4:30

June 7, 1976  
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Japanese in  
America  
p. 50

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*Sp. in Amer.  
P. 53*

*Kunapas*

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# # #

Proclamation  
2-19-76