

The original documents are located in Box 10, folder “Executive Order 9066 - Repeal (1)” of the Myron B. Kuropas Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THURSTON URBAN LEAGUE COMMITTEE

P. O. BOX 2888

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON 98507



February 10, 1976

Mr. Gerald Ford
The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The totally unjustified uprooting and imprisonment during World War II of all Pacific Coast residents of Japanese ancestry is generally recognized by historians as one of the darkest chapters in American history. It is disturbing to note, that, despite the passage of over thirty years, former President Franklin D. Roosevelt's infamous Executive Order 9066 which authorized the perpetration of that outrage against innocent Japanese Americans still remains in effect as one of the laws of our nation. By any standard of common sense or reason, revocation of that Order has long been overdue.

As a part of the Bicentennial Celebration of the founding of our nation, an announcement by you rescinding that Order would help to remove some of the tarnish on the record of America's treatment of its non-white minorities. The significance of such an announcement would probably be enhanced if it could be made on February 19, 1976, on the 34th anniversary of the issuance of the Order.

Respectfully Yours,

Thurston County Urban League
Nam Chu Pearl, 1st Vice President



NP/11k

cc: Mrs. Gwen Anderson
Deputy Assistant to Counselor Hartmann
West Wing - Basement
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. Dudley Chapman
Associate Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 19, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
UPON THE SIGNING OF A PROCLAMATION
FORMALLY RECOGNIZING EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066
AS NULL AND VOID

THE CABINET ROOM

11:54 A.M. EST

February 19th is the anniversary of a very, very sad day in American history. It was on that date in 1942 that Executive Order 9066 was issued resulting in the uprooting of many, many loyal Americans. Over 100,000 persons of Japanese ancestry were removed from their homes, detained in special camps and eventually relocated.

We now know what we should have known then -- not only was that evacuation wrong, but Japanese-Americans were and are loyal Americans. On the battlefield and at home the names of Japanese-Americans have been and continue to be written in America's history for the sacrifices and the contributions they have made to the well-being and to the security of this, our common Nation.

Executive Order 9066 ceased to be effective at the end of World War II but there was no formal statement of its termination. There remains some concern among Japanese-Americans that there yet may be some life in that obsolete document. The proclamation I am signing here today should remove all doubt on that matter.

I call upon the American people to affirm with me the unhyphenated American promise that we have learned from the tragedy of that long ago experience -- forever to treasure liberty and justice for each individual American and resolve that this kind of error shall never be made again.

END (AT 11:56 A.M. EST)



FEBRUARY 19, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

AN AMERICAN PROMISE

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

In this Bicentennial Year, we are commemorating the anniversary dates of many of the great events in American history. An honest reckoning, however, must include a recognition of our national mistakes as well as our national achievements. Learning from our mistakes is not pleasant, but as a great philosopher once admonished, we must do so if we want to avoid repeating them.

February 19th is the anniversary of a sad day in American history. It was on that date in 1942, in the midst of the response to the hostilities that began on December 7, 1941, that Executive Order No. 9066 was issued, subsequently enforced by the criminal penalties of a statute enacted March 21, 1942, resulting in the uprooting of loyal Americans. Over one hundred thousand persons of Japanese ancestry were removed from their homes, detained in special camps, and eventually relocated.

The tremendous effort by the War Relocation Authority and concerned Americans for the welfare of these Japanese-Americans may add perspective to that story, but it does not erase the setback to fundamental American principles. Fortunately, the Japanese-American community in Hawaii was spared the indignities suffered by those on our mainland.

We now know what we should have known then -- not only was that evacuation wrong, but Japanese-Americans were and are loyal Americans. On the battlefield and at home, Japanese-Americans -- names like Hamada, Mitsumori, Marimoto, Noguchi, Yamasaki, Kido, Munemori and Miyamura -- have been and continue to be written in our history for the sacrifices and the contributions they have made to the well-being and security of this, our common Nation.

The Executive order that was issued on February 19, 1942, was for the sole purpose of prosecuting the war with the Axis Powers, and ceased to be effective with the end of those hostilities. Because there was no formal statement of its termination, however, there is concern among many Japanese-Americans that there may yet be some life in that obsolete document. I think it appropriate, in this our Bicentennial Year, to remove all doubt on that matter, and to make clear our commitment in the future.

more



NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim that all the authority conferred by Executive Order No. 9066 terminated upon the issuance of Proclamation No. 2714, which formally proclaimed the cessation of the hostilities of World War II on December 31, 1946.

I call upon the American people to affirm with me this American Promise -- that we have learned from the tragedy of that long-ago experience forever to treasure liberty and justice for each individual American, and resolve that this kind of action shall never again be repeated.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.

GERALD R. FORD

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Office of the White House Press Secretary

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more



NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim that all the authority conferred by Executive Order No. 9066 terminated upon the issuance of Proclamation No. 2714, which formally proclaimed the cessation of the hostilities of World War II on December 31, 1946.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.

GERALD R. FORD

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PACIFIC CITIZEN



Membership Publication: Japanese American Citizens League, 125 Weller St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90012; (213) MA 6-6936

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Exec. Order 9066 erased

Nisei civil service worker seeks retirement credit for stay in camp

OAKLAND, Calif.—A number of bills appear in Congress calling for crediting of time spent by Japanese Americans in World War II internment and detention camps under the Federal Civil Service Retirement System, according to Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.), who is author of one, HR 8823.

ent law which only provides credit to any federal employee as of July 15, 1952.

Public support is needed, Ono said, to get the measure onto the floor. Those wishing to seek additional information may write him at 3814 Randolph Ave., Oakland 94602, or with any of the legislators who have introduced bills on

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San Francisco Citizens League
1000 Island Ave.

San Francisco, D.C. 20036

Kashu Mainichi

California Daily News

346 East First St., Los Angeles 90012 MA 6-1168

THURS., FEB. 19, 1976

Pres. Ford officially kills Executive Order 9066



ENDS EVACUATION ORDER—Pres. Ford shakes hands with Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii, at the White House today after signing a proclamation terminating the executive order which led to the uprooting of more than 100,000 Japanese Americans during World War II, forcing them to live in camps during World War II. At right is Rep. Patsy T. Mink and in background are Helen Kawagoe and Atty. Gen. Edward Levi. —UPI

WASHINGTON (UPI)— President Ford signed a proclamation today terminating the executive order which led to the uprooting of more than 100,000 Japanese-Americans during WW II, forcing them to live in camps during the hostilities with Japan.

camps."

"We know now that Executive Order was wrong and the Japanese-Americans were and are loyal," he said.

Ford said that although the order ceased to be effective after WW II, there was some concern

HOKUBEI MAINICHI

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FRIDAY, FEB. 20, 1976

PRESIDENT FORD SIGNS PROCLAMATION
34 YEARS AFTER FATEFUL FEB. 19, 1942

9066 Abolished Finally

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Ford signed a proclamation Thursday terminating the executive order which led to the uprooting of more than 100,000 Japanese-Americans during WW II, forcing them to live in camps

He said that on Feb. 19, 1942, Executive Order 9066 was signed and resulted in the movement of more than 100,000 Japanese-Americans "who were removed from their homes and placed in camps."

ter WW II, there was some concern that it could be invoked again.

In this Bicentennial Year, Ford said, there must be "an honest reckoning . . . of our national mistakes as well as our

Japanese radio to a shotgun blast.

rights while at the same time the United States of a major

San Citizens League
Island Ave.

D.C. 20036

Kashu Mainichi

California Daily News



346 East First St., Los Angeles 90012 MA 6-1168

FRIDAY, FEB. 20, 1976

Nisei Legislators Applaud President



PROCLAMATION—President Ford is applauded after signing a proclamation at the White House Thursday, Feb. 19, terminating the executive order which led to the uprooting of more than 100,000 Japanese Americans. The order was signed by then Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt on Feb. 19, 1942. In above photo, l to r, are Carson City Clerk Helen Kawagoe, Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, Representatives Patsy Mink, Norman Mineta, and Spark Matsunaga, and Sen. Hiram L. Fong. —UPI Telephoto

Japanese Activists Warn Against Releasing Names . . .

The New York NICHIBEL

"Community Service Since 1945"

260 West Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10013

Thursday, February 26, 1976

Executive Order 9066 is Rescinded; President Ford Signs Proclamation

On Feb. 19, in a special ceremony held in the presence of Japanese American members of Congress, President Gerald Ford issued a proclamation entitled "An American Promise" which officially and formally rescinded Executive Order No. 9066, the document which authorized the wartime evacuation.

'Were Loyal Americans' . . .

Ford Rescinds E.O. 9066

Calling it 'Natl Mistake'

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 20 — (UPI) — Exactly 34 years after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 forcing 100,000 Japanese Americans to be relocated from their homes, President Ford revoked the order, calling the action one "of our national mistakes."

Signed Feb. 19, 1942

at a ceremony attended by leading Japanese Americans.

"We know now that the executive order was wrong and the Japanese Americans were and are loyal," Ford said.

The end for the relocation camps was actually begun late in 1944. At that time, Maj. Gen. H. Conger Pratt, the Western Defense Command

Nichi Bei Times

JAPANESE AMERICAN DAILY

3098, San Francisco, Calif. 94119 Business: 921-6820, Editorial: 921-6822

Friday, February 20, 1976

On Anniversary . . .

Ford Signs Rescission of Executive Order 9066

(Special to Nichi Bei Times)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19 — Executive Order 9066, which gave the U. S. army authority to clear the West Coast of Japanese Americans and intern them in World War II, was officially and formally rescinded Friday.

President Gerald Ford

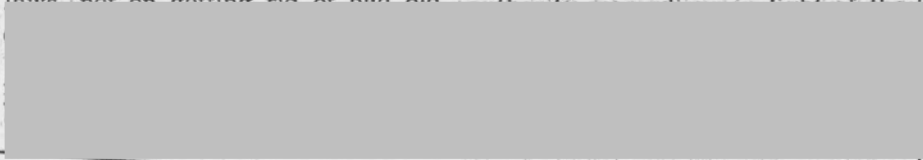
signed a proclamation in the cabinet room with more than a score of nisei in attendance.

E. O. 9066 was signed exactly 34 years ago to the day on Feb. 19, 1942. Thursday's ceremony culminated a move started last year by the Pacific Northwest JACL District Council which began to explore the possibility of

About Time

One of the fundamental problems with government is an inertia about correcting past mistakes. The emphasis is always on new rules and laws, not on getting rid of bad old

World War II order under which 112,000 Japanese-Americans were interned. Not that anyone wants to intern Japanese-Americans today but the continued existence of such



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 18, 1976

PROCLAMATION FORMALLY TERMINATING
EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066 WHICH LED TO THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF JAPANESE AMERICAN
DETENTION CAMPS DURING WORLD WAR II

Thursday, February 19, 1976

11:30 A.M. (15 minutes)

Cabinet Room

From: Myron B. Kuropas ~~sk~~
William J. Baroody, Jr. (A)

I. PURPOSE

To formally recognize Executive Order 9066 as null and void and to affirm that the injustice visited upon the Japanese American community during World War II shall never be repeated.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

A. Background: There has been considerable consternation among members of the Japanese American community that Executive Order 9066 which led to the internment of 112,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II, remains in effect to this day. In reality, Executive Order 9066 terminated with Proclamation No. 2714, which formally proclaimed the cessation of the hostilities of World War II on December 31, 1946. Nevertheless, the President, responding to Japanese American anxieties, felt it appropriate, in this our Bi-centennial year, to remove all doubt on the matter and to issue a separate proclamation which formally recognized these facts and which affirmed that such an injustice shall never be repeated.



B. Participants:

The Attorney General
Director of Immigration
& Naturalization
Japanese American Senators
& Congressmen
Representatives of Leading
Japanese American organizations
(list attached)

- C. Press Plan: Full photo and press coverage for major newspapers as well as ethnic press. Possibility of inclusion of President Ford proclamation at conclusion of "Farewell to Manzanar", NBC story depicting life in Japanese American detention camps scheduled for broadcast on March 11. WH photographer for individual photos

III. TALKING POINTS

1. Today marks the 34th anniversary of Executive Order No. 9066.
2. Some 112,000 Americans of Japanese descent were forcibly evacuated to detention camps suffering great personal loss as a result of this infamous Order.
3. As we celebrate our bicentennial, it is fitting and proper that we recognize our mistake and proclaim once and for all, without equivocation, that such a mistake should never be repeated.





EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

GENERAL COUNSEL

FEB 13 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT D. LINDER

Subject: Proposed proclamation to be issued on February 19, 1976, relating to Japanese-Americans

Enclosed is a proposed proclamation entitled "An American Promise." It was prepared in this office, in consultation with a representative of the White House Counsel's Office.

The proposed proclamation would proclaim that the authority conferred by Executive Order No. 9066 of February 19, 1942, terminated on December 31, 1946.

That Order authorized the issuance of military orders excluding any or all persons from designated military areas during World War II. It was used exclusively against persons of Japanese ancestry.

Although that Order clearly has no legal vitality today, members of the Japanese-American community are troubled by the fact that it was never formally revoked. The proposed proclamation formally responds to that concern.

Since that Order was an exercise of the President's power to prosecute World War II, it is clear that the military dangers addressed by that Order were formally terminated by Proclamation No. 2714 of December 31, 1946, which formally proclaimed the cessation of hostilities of World War II.

The proposed proclamation formally acknowledges that the authority of Executive Order No. 9066 terminated with the issuance of that proclamation (No. 2714).

COPY FOR MR. MYRON KUROPAS
WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON



It could be said that the authority of Executive Order No. 9066 terminated at some earlier time; however, the date of Proclamation No. 2714 was chosen because it was a formal Presidential act, it clearly related to the hostilities against which Executive Order No. 9066 was addressed, and it fixes a date subsequent to the abolition of the War Relocation Authority (by Executive Order No. 9742 of June 25, 1946) and subsequent to the revocation of the exclusion orders (December 1944). An earlier date would be inappropriate since it would require a difficult factual analysis of historical events; and, an earlier date would be unnecessary to achieve the objective of assuring Japanese-Americans that Executive Order No. 9066 is no longer a viable authority.

The proposed proclamation refers to Japanese surnames selected at random; however, an intentional effort was made to exclude surnames of political figures in order to preserve the proclamation as an appropriate document expressing Presidential concern for Japanese-Americans and Presidential concern for the liberty and justice for each American.

Although the Japanese surnames were not chosen to refer to particular individuals, they were taken from real persons to ensure that the names would reflect sacrifices and contributions on the battlefield and at home. Copies of the sources for the surnames are enclosed.

Time has not permitted formal clearance by the Department of Justice in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order No. 11030, as amended; however, an attorney in the Department of Justice who reviews proposed Executive orders and proclamations for form and legality has reviewed this proposed proclamation and has informally advised that there is no legal objection to its issuance.

It is our understanding that this proposed proclamation would be signed during a ceremony on February 19, 1976 - the 34th anniversary of Executive Order No. 9066. We urge that it be promptly presented for the President's consideration.



This proposed proclamation has the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(Signed) William M. Nichols
William M. Nichols
Acting General Counsel


Enclosures



AN AMERICAN PROMISE

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION



In this Bicentennial Year, we are commemorating the anniversary dates of many of the great events in American history. An honest reckoning, however, must include a recognition of our mistakes as well as our achievements. Being reminded of our mistakes is not pleasant, but as a great sage once admonished, we must do so if we want to avoid reliving them.

February 19th is the anniversary of a poignantly sad day in American history. It was on that date in 1942, in the midst of the national trauma that began on December 7, 1941, that Executive Order No. 9066 was issued, resulting in the uprooting of loyal Americans, under the threat of a criminal statute enacted March 21, 1942. Over a hundred thousand persons of Japanese ancestry were driven from their homes, detained in special camps, and eventually relocated.

The tremendous effort by the War Relocation Authority and concerned Americans for the welfare of these Japanese-Americans may add perspective to that story, but it does not diminish the blow dealt to liberty and justice. Fortunately, the Japanese-American community in Hawaii was spared the fate of those on our mainland.

We now know what we should have known then - not only was that evacuation wrong, but Japanese-Americans were and are loyal Americans. On the battlefield and at home, Japanese-Americans - names like Hamada, Mitsumori, Marimoto, Noguchi, Yamasaki, Kido, Hayakawa, Munemori and Miyamura - have been written in our history for the sacrifices and the contributions they have made to the well-being and security of this, our common Nation.

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NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim that all the authority conferred by Executive Order No. 9066 terminated upon the issuance of Proclamation No. 2714, which formally proclaimed the cessation of the hostilities of World War II on December 31, 1946.



I call upon the American people to affirm with me, an American Promise - my trust that we have learned, from the darkness of that experience, to forever treasure liberty and justice for each American, and that it shall never happen again.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this day of , in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.



PROPOSED LIST OF INVITEES FOR SIGNING OF
PROCLAMATION RELATING TO EXECUTIVE ORDER
NO. 9066, 11:30 A.M. -- OVAL OFFICE, THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 19, 1976

Governor George Ariyoshi

Hon. Paul Bannai

LEONARD JOHN CHAPMAN , USMC Ret.

STEPHEN DOI

WES DOI

HON. HIRAM L. FONG

ROSS HARANO

DR. TERRY HAYASHI

WAYNE HORIUCHI

WILLIAM HOSOKAWA

HON. DANIEL . INOUE

HELEN KAWAGOE

MITO KAWAMOTO

JACK KUSABA

WILLIAM MARUMOTO

MICHUEL MASAOKA

MARTIN MATSUDAIRA

HON. SPARK MATSUNAGA

HON. NORMAN Y. MINETA

HON. PATSY T. MINK

HARRY MIZUNO

FLOYD MORI

GERRY MUKAI

NOBORU NAKAMURA

STEVEN NAKASHIMA

JOSEPH L. RAUH, JR.

JOE SAGAMI

DALE SHIMASAKI

SHIGEKI SUGIYAMA

DAVID USHIO

SUS UYEDA

ED YAMAMOTA



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SUS UYEDA

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PROPOSED LIST OF INVITEES FOR SIGNING OF
PROCLAMATION RELATING TO EXECUTIVE ORDER
NO. 9066, 11:30 A.M. -- OVAL OFFICE, THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 19, 1976

Governor George Ariyoshi

Hon. Paul Bannai

LEONARD F. CHAPMAN , USMC Ret.
STEPHEN DOI

WES DOI

HON. HIRAM L. FONG

ROSS HARANO

DR. TERRY HAYASHI

WAYNE HORIUCHI

WILLIAM HOSOKAWA

HON. DANIEL . INOUE

HELEN KAWAGOE

MITO KAWAMOTO

JACK KUSABA

WILLIAM MARUMOTO

MICHUEL MASAOKA

MARTIN MATSUDAIRA

HON. SPARK MATSUNAGA

HON. NORMAN Y. MINETA

HON. PATSY T. MINK

HARRY MIZUNO



FLOYD MORI

GERRY MUKAI

NOBORU NAKAMURA

STEVEN NAKASHIMA

JOSEPH L. RAUH, JR.

JOE SAGAMI

DALE SHIMASAKI

SHIGEKI SUGIYAMA

DAVID USHIO

SUS UYEDA

ED YAMAMOTA



PROPOSED LIST OF INVITEES FOR RESCINDING
EXECUTIVE ORDER #9066

1. The Honorable Hiram L. Fong
2. The Honorable Daniel L. Inouye
3. The Honorable Spark Matsunaga
4. The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta - 225-2631
5. The Honorable Patsy T. Mink
6. Mr. David Ushio
National Executive Director
Japanese American Citizens League
1765 Sutter St.
San Francisco, Cal. 94115
7. Mr. Shigeki Sugiyama
National President
Japanese American Citizens League
8319 Cushing Court
Springfield, Va. 22153
8. Mr. James Murakami
National President-Elect
Japanese American Citizens League
2134 Laguna Rd.
Santa Rosa, Cal. 95401
9. Mr. Wayne Horiuchi
Washington Representative
Japanese American Citizens League
1730 Rhode Island Ave. #204 NW
Washington, D. C. 20036
10. Mr. Bill Hosokawa
Associate Editor
Denver Post
140 S. Upham Court
Denver, Colorado 80226



Vern Koen
Cong. Liaison

Nisei Vets

Additions

Buddy Iwata
1211 2nd Street
Levingston, Calif.
95334

11. Mr. Jack Kusaba
Senior Vice President
Sumitomo Bank of California
365 California St.
San Francisco, California 94104

12. Mr. William Marumoto
1025 Connecticut S-907
INTERFACE GROUP LTD.
Washington, D. C. 20036

13. Governor George Ariyoshi
The Executive Office
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

14. Mr. Joseph L. Rauh, Jr.
Counsel
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

15. Prof. Edwin O. Reischaur
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Note:

On March 11, NBC will show "Farewell to Manzanar", a story which concerns itself with the Japanese American experience during World War II. There's an outside chance NBC will agree to a closing statement indicating Executive Order #9066 was rescinded by President Gerald R. Ford on February 19th, the 34th anniversary of the Order.



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SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

DATE: February 12, 1976

FROM: Myron B. Kuropas

THRU: William J. Baroody, Jr.

VIA: William H. Nicholson

MEETING: Signing of Proclamation formally recognizing Executive Order 9066 as null and void.

DATE: Thursday, February 19, 1976 - the 34th anniversary of the original signing.

PURPOSE:

- (1) To demonstrate to the Japanese-American community and to American society in general that the treatment afforded Japanese Americans during World War II will never be repeated.
- (2) To recognize the contributions of Japanese Americans to the war effort, especially the 442nd Regimental Combat Team of Japanese Americans which became the most decorated unit of its size in the history of the war.
- (3) To underscore the many contributions of the Japanese American community to the strength and vigor of this country.

FORMAT:

- location: The East Room.
- participants: To include Japanese American Senators, Congressmen, community leaders and some 150 citizens.
- expected length of participation: Approximately 30 minutes.

CABINET PARTICIPATION: The Honorable Edward H. Levi, The Attorney General.

SPEECH MATERIAL: To be provided by Bob Orben's office.

PRESS COVERAGE: Full press, television and photo coverage. Possibility of TV videotape being attached to "Farewell to Manzanar," an NBC story depicting life in Japanese detention camps, scheduled for broadcast on March 11.

STAFF: Myron B. Kuropas



RECOMMEND: William J. Baroody, Jr.
Theodore C. Marrs
Gwen Anderson

OPPOSED: None

**PREVIOUS
PARTICIPATION:** None

BACKGROUND: In a letter dated November 14, 1975, the Japanese American Citizens' League (JACL) formally requested President Gerald R. Ford to rescind Executive Order 9066 which led to the interment of some 100,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry in American relocation camps during World War II. The JACL letter was accompanied by letters of support from:

The Honorable Hiram L. Fong
The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
The Honorable Spark Matsunaga
The Honorable Patsy T. Mink
Mr. William Hosokawa, Associate Editor of the
Denver Post
Mr. Jack Kusaba, Senior Vice President,
Sumitomo Bank of California
Numerous other Japanese-American leaders.

Earlier, some 200 Japanese Americans had written letters requesting a "rescinding" of the Executive Order.

APPROVED _____ DISAPPROVED _____



NISEI

The Quiet Americans

BY BILL HOSOKAWA



William Morrow and Company, Inc.

NEW YORK 1969



at the cost of his own life and did much to clear the path for his company's victorious advance."

The citation did not note that Munemori was a *Kibei*. He had advanced to technical sergeant when he was assigned to intelligence training at Camp Savage. There he asked for transfer to a combat unit even if it meant he had to "take a bust to buck private," and he was permitted to join the 442nd at Camp Shelby. A troop transport was named the U.S.S. *Pvt. Sadao S. Munemori* in his memory.

One other *Nisei* has won the Medal of Honor. He is Sgt. Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura, who served briefly with the 442nd. Recalled into service for the Korean War, he was a member of the 7th Infantry Division when his company was attacked near Taejon-ni the night of April 24, 1951. His citation reads: "Corporal Miyamura, a machine gun squad leader, aware of the imminent danger to his men, unhesitatingly jumped from his shelter wielding his bayonet in close, hand-to-hand combat, killing approximately 10 of the enemy. Returning to his position, he administered first aid to the wounded and directed their evacuation as another savage assault hit the line. He manned his machine gun and delivered withering fire until his ammunition was expended. He ordered the squad to withdraw, while he remained behind to render the gun inoperative. He then bayoneted his way through infiltrated enemy soldiers to a second gun emplacement and assisted in its operation. When the intensity of the attack necessitated the withdrawal of the company, Corporal Miyamura ordered his men to fall back while he remained to cover their movement. He killed more than 50 of the enemy before his ammunition was depleted and he was severely wounded. He maintained his magnificent stand despite his painful wounds, continuing to repel the attack until his position was overrun. When last seen, he was fighting ferociously against an overwhelming number of enemy soldiers."

Miyamura was captured and spent 29 months in a North Korean camp. Only after he was repatriated was it announced he had won the Medal of Honor. President Eisenhower decorated him in ceremonies at the White House in 1954. Miyamura operates a service station in Gallup, N.M.

The annals of *Nisei* military history are replete with tales of similar heroism and it would be an injustice to relate some here and

*Key Related Americans
Japanese*

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Office of Research and Analysis

THE JAPANESE-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

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2. THE NISEI IN WORLD WAR II
3. THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
- ✓ 4. SOME UNUSUAL JAPANESE-AMERICANS
5. JAPANESE-AMERICAN MISCELLANY
- ✓ 6. SOME JAPANESE-AMERICAN LEADERS

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"Americanism is a matter of mind and heart,
Americanism is not, and never was, a matter
of race or ancestry."

--Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Special Series No. L-4-59

August 24, 1959

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4. SOME UNUSUAL JAPANESE-AMERICANS

Hikoza Hamada: First Naturalized Japanese ✓

Hikoza Hamada, a 13-year-old orphan with a love of adventure, was the first Japanese to become a naturalized American citizen. Hamada signed on as a sailor aboard a Japanese junk in 1851.

In describing the adventure that followed he later wrote: "I don't suppose I even dreamt of the existence of other lands. Or if I did, it was to pity the barbarians who, I may have heard, came every year or so to trade with us."

Hamada met the "barbarians" under difficult circumstances. His junk was caught in a severe storm and was drifting helplessly when Hamada and the rest of the crew were rescued by the American bark "Auckland." Forty-four days later they went ashore at San Francisco.

Hamada was adopted by Beverly C. Sanders, Collector of the Port of San Francisco, and took the name of Joseph Hecco. He was naturalized at the age of 21. Sanders took Hamada to Washington for an interview with President Franklin Pierce, who offered the boy an appointment to West Point.

Writing of his interview with "the Supreme Governor of the Nation," Hamada said: "How could it be that the head man of a mighty nation like the United States of America should live in such a simple manner without any pomp or grandeur? Thus my thoughts ran on, since I knew not then the institutions of America and the manner of its government."

Hamada died in Japan in 1897. On June 30, 1958, a celebration was held in Tokyo to observe the 100th anniversary of the granting of American citizenship to Hamada.

Dr. Tokichi Takamine: Scientist, Champion of Cooperation

Dr. Tokichi Takamine gained international honors for his discoveries in chemistry and was one of history's most effective advocates of Japanese-American cooperation.

Dr. Takamine's greatest discovery was the isolation of adrenalin, the powerful heart stimulant, while working in the United States in 1901. He had previously introduced artificial phosphate fertilizer from the United States to Japan. He later invented and patented a process for producing diastase, a substance used as a medicine and as a fermenting agent. Leading American pharmaceutical firms produced and marketed his adrenalin and Taka-Diastase.

Attorneys and Jurists

James Mitsumori: Assistant U.S. Attorney General ✓
Judge John Aiso: Los Angeles Municipal Court
George T. Arai: Seattle attorney
David T. Yokozeki: Los Angeles attorney and movie producer

Entertainers

Yuriko Amemiya: Ballet dancer. Top ballet role, "The King and I"
Sono Osato: Ballet dancer
Pat Suzuki: Singer. Star of "Flower Drum Song"

Artists

Yasuo Kuniyoshi (1893-1953): Artist. Founder and first president,
Artists' Equity Association. Guggenheim Fellowship.
Art teacher. Represented in major U.S. museums
Isamu Noguchi: Sculptor and designer. Stage designs, furniture
designs. Exhibits in U.S., Europe, Japan
George Nakashima: Designer of modern furniture
Yoichi Okamoto: Photo-journalist and lecturer in modern photography
Jack Hirose: Advertising designer, Washington, D.C.
Carl Iwasaki: Photographer

Others

Mike M. Masaoka: Washington, D.C., representative of the Japanese-
American Citizens League
Paul C. Takeda: Manager, Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern
California
Jokichi Takamine: Director, Takamine Laboratory, Clifton, N.J.
Eben Takashi Takamine: Director, Takamine Corporation
Col. George Morimoto, Col. Hugo S. Okonogi, Col. Frank Ikuno: U.S. Army ✓
Dr. James Goto: Los Angeles City Commissioner (1955)
Takeo Momita: A director of Calpatia, California Chamber of Commerce
Kenneth Nishamura: Sacramento, California Commander (1957), 25-post
VFW District Council
Wilford C. Tsukiyama: Hawaiian political leader, Republican, and
Senator in the TH Legislature
Mitsuyuki Kido: Hawaiian political leader, Democrat, and realtor

Requested by: IBS/RC



SOME PROMINENT LIVING JAPANESE AMERICANS

Artists, Architects, Photographers, etc.

Azuma, Norio

Artist, Printmaker. Born in Mie-ken, Japan in 1928, Mr. Azuma came to the U.S. in 1955 with a scholarship to the Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles. Grants from the Ford Foundation and the Japan Society made possible further study in New York where Mr. Azuma continues to reside. His serigraphs (original silk-screen prints) are to be found in several major American Museum Collections (The Art Institute of Chicago, Brooklyn and Cleveland Museums, Library of Congress, etc.) and he has developed a new technique -- printing on canvas rather than paper -- which has proved popular with American collectors. Mr. Azuma's prints have hung in the White House.

Goto, Joseph

Sculptor. Hawaiian born Joseph Goto learned the craft of welding while repairing barges and water tanks for Army and Navy engineers during World War II. Arriving in Chicago in 1947 to study painting, he discovered an allergy to turpentine which forced him to turn to sculpture instead as an outlet for his talent. His welded metal sculpture is to be found in many important public and private collections and the eminent critic Dore Ashton has called him "one of the few mature and forceful sculptors of his generation."

Nakashima, George

Designer and furniture manufacturer. A native of Seattle, Washington, Mr. Nakashima now resides in New Hope, Pa., where he designs and makes furniture to order. Some of his designs are also manufactured by Knoll Associates. He has received many honors, among them the craftsmanship medal of the American Institute of Architects.

Noguchi, Isamu

Sculptor. Born in Los Angeles, Nov. 7, 1904. Noguchi's work may be found in the permanent collections of such distinguished institutions as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Museum of Modern Art. He is a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

Okamoto, Yoichi

Photographer. Born in Yonkers and a graduate of Colgate University, Mr. Okamoto began his career on the Syracuse Post-Standard newspaper. During World War II he served as photographic officer for General Mark Clark. In 1954 he joined the USIA Washington staff and in August of 1961 he covered a trip made by then Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson. When Mr. Johnson became President, Okamoto was assigned to the White House where he photographed and amassed the most extensive pictorial record of any administration in history.

Okamura, Arthur

Painter. Born at Long Beach, California, Feb. 24, 1932. Studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and at Yale. Okamura has had several one-man shows at major West Coast museums, among them the Legion of Honor Museum in San Francisco (1961) and the Oakland Museum of Art (1959).

Yamasaki, Minoru

Architect. Born in Seattle, Dec. 1, 1912. Yamasaki is a partner in the Detroit firm of Yamasaki, Leinweber and Associates. Since 1949, when the firm was established, he has designed many buildings, among them the widely praised McGregor Conference Center on the Wayne State University campus and the Reynolds Metals Co. Building (both included in the Agency's "Architecture USA" exhibit). Yamasaki has won numerous awards and prizes both here and abroad. He designed the U.S. Science Pavillion at the Seattle World's Fair and his New York World Trade Center is now under construction. For the Voice of America Forum Series, Mr. Yamasaki discussed "American Architecture and the Traditional Architecture of Japan."

Business and Professional Men

Ishikawa, Samuel

Public Relations Consultant. Born, Oakland, California, 1922; educated Earlham College (A.B.) and Harvard University. Mr. Ishikawa has worked for the American Friends Service Committee and the Japanese American Citizens League. He is currently the New York based partner of Masaoka-Ishikawa and Associates which handles American public relations matters for many major Japanese companies.

Takahashi, Frank Yasushi

Chicago Accountant. Born, Santa Monica, California, Dec. 28, 1918. President, Cal, Takahashi and Co., CPA's 1949 -- Director, Admiral Steel Corp., La Salle St. Investment Advisors Inc., Hyde Park Fed. Savings and Loan, etc. Auditor, Village of Alsip, Ill., 1952-58. Active in community affairs, Chicago.

Tsukahira, Toshio George

Foreign Service Officer. Born at Los Angeles, Dec. 22, 1915. Educated at UCLA and Harvard (PhD, 1951). Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Dr. Tsukahira taught history at Harvard and the University of California. From 1955 to 1960 he served as a research specialist at the State Department, and then joined the Foreign Service and was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. He has served in Japan in various capacities since that time and is currently the principal officer at Fukuoka.

Community Leaders

Enomoto, Jerry J.

National President of the Japanese-American Citizens League, 1966-70. Born in San Francisco, now lives in Sacramento, where he is Chief of Classification Services at the Central Office of the California Department of Corrections.

Kido, Saburo

Los Angeles attorney and former publisher of "Shin Nichibei." Recently awarded the Order of the Sacred Treasure 4th class by the government of Japan for service in promoting Japanese culture, economy and understanding. Mr. Kido was one of the founders of the Japanese American Citizens League.

Masaoka, Mike

Lobbyist. Born in Fresno, California, 1915; educated University of Utah (B.A., 1937). Mr. Masaoka is the author of the Japanese American Creed (Congressional Record May 9, 1941) and has headed the Washington Office of the Japanese American Citizens League since his discharge from the U.S. Army in 1945. He has been influential in achieving many of the legislative goals of that organization and he was recently awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, 3rd class, one of the highest orders the Japanese government can bestow, for "his great contribution in the field of civil rights and equal social status for Japanese in the United States and Americans of Japanese ancestry." Mr. Masaoka is a partner in the Public Relations firm of Masaoka, Ishikawa and Associates which has offices in Washington and New York City.

Miyamura, Hiroshi

Congressional Medal of Honor Winner for "indomitable heroism" demonstrated in Korea in April 1951. Miyamura spent 28 months in a North Korean prison camp, and it was only upon his release that the announcement of the award was made. He is a native of Gallup, New Mexico.

Togasaki, Kiyoshi

President of Rotary International, with headquarters in Evanston, Illinois. Mr. Togasaki has been described as a "world citizen." He was born in San Francisco, educated at the University of California, but has lived much of his adult life in Japan (due to pre-war American immigration restrictions against his Japanese-born wife). In Japan he became president and chairman of the English Language Japan Times, a director of the Japanese Newspaper Editors and Publishers Association, a trustee of Gakushuin University in Tokyo and honorary chairman of the Board of Trustees of International Christian University. In 1966 he was decorated by the Japanese government for his continuing work in furthering Japanese-American relations.

Gakushuin



13

Scholars, Educators

Goto, Y. (asuo) Baron

Educator and consultant to governments and industry. Formerly Senior Professor of Agriculture, University of Hawaii, now Vice Chancellor, the Institute of Technical Interchange of the East West Center, Honolulu. Dr. Goto was born in Japan in 1901, came to the United States in 1902, and was naturalized in 1945. He has served as Alternate U.S. Commissioner on the South Pacific Commission since 1964.

Hayakawa, S. (samuel) I. (chiye)

Acting President, San Francisco State College. Dr. Hayakawa's scholarly field is Semantics. He has been Editor of ETC: A Review of General Semantics since 1943, and is the author of many books in the field, among them Language in Action and Symbol, Status and Personality. (note: Dr. Hayakawa came to the U.S. in 1929 from Canada where he was born. He lives in San Francisco but may still retain Canadian citizenship).

Masaoka, Joe Grant

Administrator, the Japanese American Research Project, University of California at Los Angeles. (For a discussion of the project see p. 8.

Tsuneishi, Warren

Librarian, scholar. Dr. Tsuneishi, Chief of the Orientalia Division of the Library of Congress, holds advanced degrees in Japanese literature, librarianship, and political science from Columbia and Yale Universities. In his present position he has custody of the largest collection of Chinese and Japanese materials outside the Orient. Dr. Tsuneishi came to the Library of Congress from the Yale University Library where he was curator of the East Asian Collection. His book, Japanese Political Style: An Introduction to the Government and Politics of Modern Japan, was published by Harper's in 1966.

Yamagiwa, Joseph K.

University Professor. Born at Seattle, Sept. 9, 1906, Dr. Yamagiwa holds a Ph.D from the University of Michigan (1942) and has been a member of its faculty since 1937. He has served as Chairman of its Department of Far Eastern Languages and Literatures and as Director of the Linguistic Institute. He is author of many books and articles on the Japanese language. Dr. Yamagiwa was Educational Director of the Army's Japanese Language School from 1943 to 1946, and has subsequently lectured abroad and participated in various international conferences.

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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Exec. Order 9066 erased

Nisei civil service worker seeks retirement credit for stay in camp

OAKLAND, Calif.—A number of bills appear in Congress calling for crediting of time spent by Japanese Americans in World War II internment and detention camps under the Federal Civil Service Retirement System, according to Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.), who is author of one, HR 8823.

ent law which only provides credit to any federal employee as of July 15, 1952.

Public support is needed, Ono said, to get the measure onto the floor. Those wishing to seek additional information may write him at 3814 Randolph Ave., Oakland 94602, or with any of the legislators who have introduced bills on

(Special to The Pacific Citizen)
WASHINGTON — President Gerald R. Ford formally rescinded Executive Order 9066 of 1942 in a proclamation signed this past week (Feb. 19) before a group of Japanese American leaders who witnessed the signing in the Cabinet Room of the White House.

panese American Citizens League, only national organization representing Americans of Japanese ancestry. It was accepted by JACL national president Shigeki J. Sugiyama, Springfield, Va.; national executive director David E. Ushio, San Francisco; and Washington Representative Wayne K. Handberg.

In accepting the proclamation on behalf of the 30,000 JACL members, Sugiyama expressed gratitude to Mr. Ford for his understanding of the need to officially and publicly rescind Executive Order 9066 and for his recognition as the Nation's chief executive of the grave and sad mistakes which occurred through-

It Was Long Overdue, Long Overdue

By BILL HOSOKAWA

WASHINGTON—The United States is a nation governed by laws. Sometimes the law, as Mr. Bumble said in Charles Dickens' Pickwick Papers, "is a ass, a idiot."

The law known as Executive Order 9066 falls in that category.

This opinion column is by The Denver Post's associate editor.

individual American, and resolve that this kind of action shall never again be repeated."

After the signing President Ford shook hands with each of some 25 prominent Japanese Americans who had come to Washington for the ceremony.

Among them were doctors and lawyers and architects, two members of the California state legislature where historically some of the most

FEB 26 1976



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS: 1765 Sutter Street • San Francisco, California 94115 • (415) 921-5225
REGIONAL OFFICES: Washington, D.C./Chicago/San Francisco/Los Angeles/Portland/Fresno
David E. Ushio, National Executive Director

February 24, 1976

Mr. Myron Kuropas
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Myron:

On behalf of the National Japanese American Citizens League may I express our deep appreciation for the work that you did in making the repeal of Executive Order 9066 a reality and a success. I am sure that President Ford made many thousands of friends in the Japanese American and Asian American communities when he rescinded EO 9066 this past week. His comments were carried nationally both on network news and AP and UPI wires. We have received many comments and clippings from throughout the United States from friends within our organization indicating that their local newspapers and TV and radio stations played extensively this ceremony. From a public relations standpoint I think that this particular event was a smashing success.

I know that this could never have come about except for your participation and your special concern in this area. I want you to know, Myron, that we really appreciate what you did to make this all happen.

I hope that we can get copies of the various photographs that have been taken at this event and also about 500 copies of the official proclamation which we can distribute to many of the friends and supporters of the Japanese American Citizens League throughout the nation.

I would like to follow up also with you regarding a filmed greeting from the President of the United States to our National Convention in Sacramento as we discussed.

I look forward to a long and pleasant relationship with you in your efforts at the White House.

With warmest personal regards and deepest admiration.

Sincerely,

David Ushio
National Executive Director



DEU:gy

cc: Wayne Horiuchi

FEB 25 1976



WASHINGTON OFFICE

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

1730 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036
(202) 223-1240

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, JACL
DAVID E. USHIO, NATIONAL DIRECTOR
1765 POST STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94115
(415) 921-5225

WAYNE K. HORIUCHI
WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE

February 23, 1976

Dr. Myron Kuropas
Special Assistant to the President
on Ethnic Affairs
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Myron,

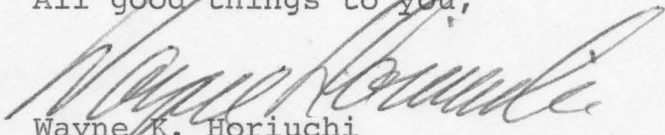
On behalf on the Japanese American Citizens League, I wanted to thank you for your highly committed effort and support which you gave to us in terminating the authority of Executive Order 9066.

You were a substantial part of that historical event which meant so much to Japanese Americans.

Only an individual who is sensitive and concerned about ethnics and minorities, such as yourself, could have done such an effective job.

Please continue the good work. JACL is proud to have such a friend.

All good things to you,


Wayne K. Horiuchi
Washington Representative



WKH/11c

PROCLAMATION 4417

An American Promise

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In this Bicentennial Year, we are commemorating the anniversary dates of many of the great events in American history. An honest reckoning, however, must include a recognition of our national mistakes as well as our national achievements. Learning from our mistakes is not pleasant, but as a great philosopher once admonished, we must do so if we want to avoid repeating them.

February 19th is the anniversary of a sad day in American history. It was on that date in 1942, in the midst of the response to the hostilities that began on December 7, 1941, that Executive Order No. 9066 was issued, subsequently enforced by the criminal penalties of a statute enacted March 21, 1942, resulting in the uprooting of loyal Americans. Over one hundred thousand persons of Japanese ancestry were removed from their homes, detained in special camps, and eventually relocated.

The tremendous effort by the War Relocation Authority and concerned Americans for the welfare of these Japanese-Americans may add perspective to that story, but it does not erase the setback to fundamental American principles. Fortunately, the Japanese-American community in Hawaii was spared the indignities suffered by those on our mainland.

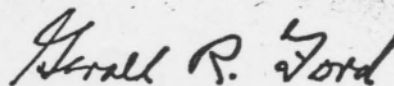
We now know what we should have known then—not only was that evacuation wrong, but Japanese-Americans were and are loyal Americans. On the battlefield and at home, Japanese-Americans—names like Hamada, Mitsumori, Marimoto, Noguchi, Yamasaki, Kido, Munemori and Miyamura—have been and continue to be written in our history for the sacrifices and the contributions they have made to the well-being and security of this, our common Nation.

The Executive order that was issued on February 19, 1942, was for the sole purpose of prosecuting the war with the Axis Powers, and ceased to be effective with the end of those hostilities. Because there was no formal statement of its termination, however, there is concern among many Japanese-Americans that there may yet be some life in that obsolete document. I think it appropriate, in this our Bicentennial Year, to remove all doubt on that matter, and to make clear our commitment in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim that all the authority conferred by Executive Order No. 9066 terminated upon the issuance of Proclamation No. 2714, which formally proclaimed the cessation of the hostilities of World War II on December 31, 1946.

I call upon the American people to affirm with me this American Promise—that we have learned from the tragedy of that long-ago experience forever to treasure liberty and justice for each individual American, and resolve that this kind of action shall never again be repeated.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of February in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.



Gerald R. Ford

[FR Doc.76-5141 Filed 2-19-76;1:27 pm]

Stories appeared on: ABC and CBS Evening News and the Today Show
on February 19 and 20, 1976

Stories also ran in most every major newspaper in the country

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1976

Ford Ends WW II Relocation Order

Pledging "that this kind of error shall never be made again," President Ford yesterday formally lifted the executive order that sent 112,000 Japanese-Americans into relocation camps during World War II.



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1976

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

About Time

One of the fundamental problems with government is an inertia about correcting past mistakes. The emphasis is always on new rules and

World War II order under which 112,000 Japanese-Americans were interned. Not that anyone wants to intern Japanese-Americans today but the continued existence of such

THE SUN

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1976



President Ford shakes hands with Senator Daniel Inouye (D., Hawaii) before signing proclamation nullifying World War II internment order. Others from left are Attorney General Edward Levi, Representative Patsy Mink (D., Hawaii) and two unidentified men. AP

Internment order is nullified

Washington (AP)—President Ford yesterday signed a proclamation that he said should have been enacted years ago nullifying the

Truman declared the end of World War II hostilities, which effectively nullified the order. But some Japanese-Americans were concerned





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WAYNE K. HORIUCHI
WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE



February 19, 1976

PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD SIGNS PROCLAMATION RESCINDING EXECUTIVE
ORDER NO. 9066

Today in special ceremonies in the Cabinet Room of the White House President Gerald R. Ford issued a proclamation entitled, "An American Promise," which officially and formally rescinded Executive Order No. 9066. President Ford presented the proclamation to the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) the only national organization representing Americans of Japanese ancestry.

The National JACL's top officials, National President Mr. Shigeki Sugiyama of Springfield, Virginia, National Executive Director David Ushio of San Francisco, and Washington Representative Wayne Horiuchi of Washington, D. C. accepted the proclamation on behalf of the JACL.

They were joined by leading members of the Japanese American community, including national, state and local Japanese American elected officials, Japanese American community and business leaders from throughout the United States.

The rescinding of Executive Order 9066 comes on the 34th anniversary of the day in 1942 when President Roosevelt initially issued this instrument which provided for the forced internment of more than 110,000 United States residents, three-fourths of whom

were American Citizens. In accepting President Ford's proclamation, Mr. Sugiyama, speaking on behalf of the 30,000 members of the Japanese American Citizens League and on behalf of more than 600,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry, expressed gratitude to President Ford for his understanding of the need to officially and publicly rescind the Executive Order and for his recognition as the Nation's chief executive of the grave and sad mistake which occurred through the issuance of this Order.

Mr. Sugiyama also indicated his deep regret that well over three decades had to have passed before the Executive Order 9066 was officially rescinded. "Nevertheless", Mr. Sugiyama said, "if we had to have waited this long for a formal statement of its termination, it is fitting that it should occur during our National Bicentennial Year. While Executive Order 9066 was a bitter tragedy for the Japanese Americans, it was also a grievous stain on the fabric of our entire National heritage. For this reason all Americans, regardless of ancestry or ethnic origin, can feel a sense of gratitude in the issuance of President Ford's proclamation."

Many of the civic leaders who gathered in the Cabinet Room to witness the signing of the proclamation were among the victims of Executive Order 9066 including Dr. Terry T. Hayashi of Berkeley, California who today at age 85 is still practicing dentistry in California. Dr. Hayashi recalled "In looking back to those early days following the outbreak of war between the United States and Japan we can see that President Roosevelt took the action he did in a time of great National trauma and in a climate of a curious hysteria. In closer examination and in reflection on our National character we can also perceive that there was a critical degree of racism in

the attitudes of the time during which President Roosevelt felt compelled to issue his Order. Some may say that today there is no need for an official rescission of the Order in that its legal authority was ended with the conclusion of the hostilities of World War II on December 31, 1946.

"However, the experience of the Japanese Americans denies this, for Executive Order 9066 was in actuality the greatest single abridgement of civil rights and human liberties to occur in this century. Japanese Americans, like all minorities have suffered the bitter sting and stigma of racism, fear and denial of opportunity. With the forced relocation of 110,000 men, women and children, American citizens of Japanese heritage suffered enormous economic loss. It is generally concluded that less than 10% of the actual value of their property was ever restored."

"Beyond this", according to Wayne Horiuchi, JACL Washington Representative, who worked closely with the White House in planning this event, "these loyal Americans endured imprisonment, physical deprivation, enormous emotional stress and the day-to-day squalor of the internment camps, many of which were located in the most inhospitable regions of this country. More than anything else, however, these Americans suffered the incalculable humiliation of being considered as traitors to their country. This, despite the fact that not a single incident of treason or sabotage on the part of a Japanese American was ever recorded throughout World War II. This, despite the fact, that more than 25,000 Japanese Americans served with great distinction in the United States Armed Forces during the War. Indeed the 442 Combat Team, an all-Japanese American fighting unit in Europe, suffered more casualties and won more citations for valor than any other unit

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Press Release

Of comparable size and length of service in the Army's history."

Japanese American Army veterans of the 442 Regimental Combat Team present at the White House ceremony included U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Congressman Spark Matsunaga, Mr. Joe Sagami, an official of the Nisei veterans organization, Mr. Paul Bannai, a California State Assemblyman, Mr. Mike Masaoka, who had the distinction of being the first person to volunteer for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in World War II.

Not all those present at the ceremony could remember the tragedy of World War II from first hand experience.

David E. Ushio, the National Executive Director of JACL was born at the conclusion of World War II in 1945. Now as the staff executive of the 100 chapter National human rights group, Ushio remarks, "Young people continually ask me how such a thing could have occurred in America. Yet American history repeatedly indicates to us how fragile our liberties and constitutional guarantees can be and continue to be for many groups in America. Because Japanese Americans have experienced a blatant disregard for our civil rights, we have even a greater obligation to protect the rights of all persons when they are threatened." Ushio continued, "Because the scars of these old wounds remain to this day, it has been of surpassing importance to every Japanese American Citizen that Executive Order 9066 be officially rescinded. Patriotism is a love of one's country, but with this love must come the responsibility to acknowledge our errors when they have occurred and to take every measure possible



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not only to correct these errors but to erradicate the very means by which they occurred. This has now been done and we can now focus on the future of our great Nation and reaffirm those values and traditions which have contributed to America's greatness. In this endeavor, as we begin America's third century, I want it to be known that every American of Japanese heritage is fully dedicated to this grand enterprise."

"30"

PROPOSED LIST OF INVITEES FOR SIGNING OF
PROCLAMATION RELATING TO EXECUTIVE ORDER
NO. 9066, 11:30 A.M. -- OVAL OFFICE, THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 19, 1976

Governor George Ariyoshi - Honolulu, Hawaii
Hon. Paul Bannai - Gardena, California
STEPHEN DOI- San Francisco, California
WES DOI- San Francisco, California
HON. HIRAM L. FONG - Honolulu, Hawaii
ROSS HARANO - Chicago, Illinois
DR. TERRY HAYASHI - Berkeley, California
WAYNE HORIUCHI - Washington, D.C.
WILLIAM HOSOKAWA - Denver, Colorado
HON. DANIEL . INOUE - Honolulu, Hawaii
HELEN KAWAGOE - Carson City, California
MITS KAWAMOTO - Omaha, Nebraska
JACK KUSABA - San Francisco, California
WILLIAM MARUMOTO - Washington, D.C.
MICHUEL MASAOKA - Washington, D.C.
MARTIN MATSUDAIRA - Seattle, Washington
HON. SPARK MATSUNAGA - Honolulu, Hawaii
HON. NORMAN Y. MINETA - San Jose, California
HON. PATSY T. MINK - Waipahu, Hawaii
HARRY MIZUNO - Chicago, Illinois



FLOYD MORI - Pleasanton, Illinois
GERRY MUKAI - Salt Lake City, Utah
NOBORU NAKAMURA - Orinda, California
STEVEN NAKASHIMA - San Jose, California
JOSEPH L. RAUH, JR. - Washington, D.C.
JOE SAGAMI - Chicago, Illinois
DALE SHIMASAKI - Haywood, California
SHIGEKI SUGIYAMA - Springfield, Virginia
DAVID USHIO - San Francisco, California
SUS UYEDA - Washington, D.C.
ED YAMAMOTA - Moses Lake, Washington

