

-----Original Message-----

From: Ghirose <george.hirose@gmail.com>

To: Grant Ujifusa <captain129@aol.com>

Sent: Thu, Aug 30, 2018 1:09 am

Subject: Re: Hi Grant, Request from JACL-NY (Redress event)

Dear Grant,

Thank you for your sincere response. I understand fully the necessity for you needing to take the stance that you did at the time to effectively argue for redress. It worked. Thank you again for your continual support.

Best wishes, George

PS: I am greatly enjoying Steven's book!

On Fri, Aug 24, 2018 at 10:07 AM Grant Ujifusa <captain129@aol.com> wrote:

Dear George,

Thank you for your good email and for your continuing and passionate commitment to our community and to equal rights for all Americans.

I am afraid that I would be a the wrong person to moderate any discussion of reparations for other groups that have suffered discrimination and worse in our country's history. The reason goes to the way I presented our case inside the Reagan White House, where people argued that "if we do it for you, the precedent is set for blacks, Native Americans, and others to bankrupt the country." I said, "There's no precedent, because if you read the bill, you'll see that reparations will be given only to people who were direct, living victims of the discrimination practiced by the federal government." So I successfully argued that no precedent would be set.

So I am not one able to present myself as any kind of advocate for black and Native American reparations. To advance Japanese American redress, I said what we were doing was confined to Japanese Americans.

I also feel badly that I didn't make a case for Japanese Peruvian redress. I wanted clean, easily understood culpability to be affixed to the American federal government, even though I knew that our government was complicit in the Peruvian removal of Japanese Peruvians. In short, my strategy was to get 7/8th of a loaf when our chances of getting anything at all was very much in question.

Thank you again, George, for thinking of me,

Grant

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From: Ghirose <george.hirose@gmail.com>
To: Grant Ujifusa <captain129@aol.com>
Cc: George Hirose <GHirose@pratt.edu>
Sent: Thu, Aug 23, 2018 6:28 pm
Subject: Hi Grant, Request from JACL-NY (Redress event)

Dear Grant-

I hope that you have had a good summer! I was sorry to have missed you at the JACL National Convention. I needed to tend to my elderly parents ill health, but I heard that the Redress plenary went very well.

Also, I just received and started reading your son's book. I'm only 3 chapters in but it is quite a remarkable and compelling story. I promise to send in a review soon!

The reason I'm contacting you is to see if you might be interested in moderating an event commorating the 30th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

JACL-NY is collaborating with Facing History, the Schomburg Center, BAJI (Black Alliance for Justice Immigration) and other organizations to organize a panel discussion to address the parallels between the JA Incarceration, and current U.S. Government policies and civil rights injustices (Muslim bans, ICE, child detention, etc). We are especially interested in the current initiatives to eventually secure Native American and African American Redress and the precedent created by the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

We are also interested in investigating the parallels between the history of Latin Americans in the United States and Japanese in the Americas, as well as how fragile legal status can be in the United States if you are seen as an "undesirable". Also, we would like to address how Central and South Americans are seen now (DACA, and efforts to find ways to revoke the citizenship and legal status of immigrants or refugees, etc.).

We are currently still looking to secure the proper space to host the event, and are mainly thinking of A/P/A Institute at NYU, with JAA as a back up. We are looking to hold the event as early as the 3rd week in Sept and were thinking tentatively of Sunday, Sept 26th as a possibility. We may move it back depending on the availability of the panelists and the venue.

Here is a brief synopsis which we will be expanding on.

In 1988, the Japanese American community achieved a monumental victory with the passing of the Civil Liberties Act, a law which acknowledged the grave injustices committed against Japanese Americans due to "racism, hysteria, and a lack of political leadership", as well as grant restitutions for those who incarcerated. Now, 30 years

later, we have continued to see state-sponsored violence and incarceration that is eerily similar to what the Civil Liberties Act claimed to discourage and prevent. With this commemorative occasion, we wish to look at the legacy of Japanese American Redress and the Civil Liberties Act by joining with other similarly-affected communities in a panel discussion to reflect on the continued injustices and denied civil liberties that plague our nation due to “racism, hysteria, and a lack of political leadership.”

Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions. Many thanks once again for your support of the Korematsu Day in NYC initiative. We are currently working towards a statewide observance!

Best,

George