

Re: Hooey aka BS

Dear XXX, my email friend,

Really good seeing you last night. Assuming the board agrees, I would like to speak about Mike Masaoka, someone unjustly savaged by people who just hate JACL. Unknown to most, Mike had a major role in redress, including figuring out a way to get a born-again, conservative Republican from Georgia to vote for Japanese American redress in Barney's House subcommittee. Barney said he wouldn't move our bill without Republican cover, and Mike was the only guy on the planet who could figure out a way to provide that cover in the person of Congressman Pat Swindall.

But before you invite me to speak, I want to provide the board with full disclosure. See below in my email to YYY, in which I say that some of the commonly accepted stories of how redress came to be a reality are without factual basis. Most of the BS has to do with Norm Mineta, but also with John Tateishi, Rose Ochi, and Aiko Herzig. The latter three have absolutely no idea how 442 and S. 1053 got through Congress and signed by Reagan. John was fired in March of 1986. And Rose can't name a single member of the Reagan Administration with whom she spoke until the very day of the signing when Norm got a PR person to insert her name into Reagan's remarks.

Aiko had notable impact on *coram nobis*, but can't name a single hakujin member of the 100th Congress who has ever heard of her or her "smoking gun." We didn't need one. The Commission established what it knew going in -- the why's of the outrage, and Congress was full of lawyers who had studied Korematsu in first year con law.

Let me know if you'd still like me to speak after more disclosure that follows.

Regards,

Grant

Re: Hooey aka BS

Dear YYY, another email friend,

Great talking to you last night at BBB's party. I was an ABT in American history long ago, but I think you're better at it than I am. You have a natural feel for what people feel, think and do, which requires of course a respect for factual evidence and ordinary common sense.

If you're interested in Japanese American redress, I have a site about my experiences while part of the effort. Google: grant ujifusa and click on the second link that comes up, called "Scenes From Behind the Scenes." Some of the links on the site take on the commonly accepted, but factually empty stories about what happened.

For example, a link in the middle section, "Spark Matsunaga: No Cub Scout, No Boy Scout," will show you that Senate passage was **all Sparky** with no Boy Scout help from Alan Simpson, someone who cannot name a single senator he persuaded to vote for S.1053. Not one.

But Simpson did vote for an amendment to strip individual payments out of our bill, saying "the money sticks in my craw." And back in 1943, Milward Simpson, Alan's father, was one of a number of prominent Wyomingites who complained to the WRA that the Heart Mountain internees were "being coddled," that they were getting larger sugar and meat rations than patriotic white Americans on the outside.

That was what Milward said to the reporters. Was he saying something else to his young Boy Scout son around the kitchen table?

That Cub Scout Norm Mineta and Boy Scout Alan Simpson got our bill through the Senate has no factual basis. As Dan Inouye put it, Senate passage was "10 parts Sparky and 1 part" the other senator from Hawaii. That leaves no parts for Simpson and Mineta.

So should we let the two claim the legacy that properly belongs to Sparky? We should not. Because that great and gentle Japanese American

man spent three intense years inside the Senate making redress a reality for Japanese American victims of white American abuse.

Sparky would lobby anyone who would listen to him, telling our story to the youngest summer interns of Senators already firmly committed to his bill. I asked him why he did this. He said: You can never be too sure.

You'll see two links at the bottom of the site about Sparky that speak to Mineta ordering the planes out of the sky on 9/11. The links, also found below, tell us that Mineta did no such thing. He showed up at the White House 20 minutes after Ben Sliney, a middle level bureaucrat following routine protocol, said bring them down. It was Sliney's first day on the job.

The planes started to land at 9:45 am just after the Pentagon was hit. Norm told the 9/11 Commission in 2002 that he arrived at the White House at 9:20, ready to take the heroic action that was soon to become his responsibility, but the White House logs show that Mineta didn't get there until 10:06, long after many of the planes were already on the ground.

The 9/11 Commissioners found the Norm's testimony "untruthful" and refused to include it in its *Final Report*. But Norm, as the sitting Secretary of Transportation, did become the poster boy for the "truthers," conspiracy nuts who believe that Bush and Cheney were behind the 9/11 attacks. See the links to the "truther" sites on Norm's first and second Google pages.

Bottom line: Among knowledgeable Washington people, Norm is a dead man walking for trying to make himself the hero he wasn't – in short, for making stuff up – before a deadly serious presidential commission charged with investigating a horrific terrorist attack in order to prevent another from happening.

The first five links in the middle section will tell you why Toyo Tire has backed away from its expensive video on redress. The video tried to extend the Boy Scout-Cub Scout story to explain not only what happened in the Senate, but to the White House as well. *Right of Passage* also chose to accept the hooey coming out of the JA Museum's naive understanding of what made redress happen: we did street rallies, we wrote letters, and we won.

But NCRR's street rallies and letter writing campaign didn't do much to help us – in fact, the first hurt us and the results of the second went into the round file.

That simply can't be right, you say. Sadly it is. As for the rallies, Senator S.I. Hayakawa was saying to his pal Attorney General Ed Meese, Ronald Reagan's most trusted aide, that the street rallies on TV showed redress was for and about campus radicals like those S.I. famously shut down at San Francisco State -- people who would never, ever vote for any Republican. For God's sake, don't anything for the radicals, but stand hard against them. Which is exactly what the Attorney General of the United States did.

So Sam, as he was called by both Meese and Reagan, was behind the Justice Department's, and hence the Reagan Administration's, longstanding position against Japanese American redress. With Sam doing more to help out in congressional testimony, insisting that the camps were all about "protective custody."

At which point the JACL-LEC entered the picture and said, no, wrong: the 442 vets and ordinary middle class Japanese Americans are also behind the bill. Republican Governor Tom Kean of New Jersey then privately lobbied Reagan face to face twice in late October of 1987. Kean confirmed JACL's backing for the bill, and sent him a letter from Kaz Masuda's sister June on November 19, 1987.

The happy and astonishing news in the end -- Reagan reversed his oldest political friend and most trusted aide Ed Meese in favor of the memory, going back to 1945, the President carried of 442 hero, Kaz Masuda.

On February 14, 1988, Ken Duberstein, White House Chief of Staff, told me in his office that his boss had changed his mind and was going to sign HR 442. The next day, the President himself called Governor Kean to say he was signing.

In short: no 442, no Kaz, no JACL, no Tom Kean, no redress.

As for the letter writing campaign, I have to say something to my NCRR friends that they may still not know; namely, that nearly all of the thousands of letters they sent to the Congressmen from Kankakee

and Oshkosh, to the other 433 Representatives, and to 98 non-home state Senators were not read.

Why not? Because letters postmarked coming from an address outside a Member's constituency are not even opened, let alone read. That's what interns are instructed to do and that's what they did to all the earnest pleas coming out of Los Angeles, San Mateo, and locales along the Pacific Coast nowhere near Kankakee.

But why aren't they at least opened? Because a Member is only interested in mail coming from people who can vote for or against him in the next election.

The millions of letters coming into the Reagan Administration on all manner of issues were opened, counted as for or against, but not read. The mail ran 6 to 1 against HR 442.

All in all, I thought some people might like to get a sense of my understanding of how redress was achieved. I set up my site because after I left redress behind in 1998, I discovered to my innocent astonishment that by 2008 my role as JACL-LEC strategy chair had been erased from the redress story.

But the problem for those who had no direct contact with the people in Washington who made HR 442 the law of the land is that they can't speak to the specifics of the who, what, when, where, why, and how our bill became law. I can. And so I feel whatever I may have contributed to an important chapter in the history of our Constitution is on the record, subject to the skepticism and the careful scrutiny of future historians.

I owe much of my coming back into the redress story to my friends George Wajiki and Mas Hashimoto.

Regards,

Grant

What Sparky and Ben did:

**[SPARK MATSUNAGA: NO CUB SCOUT, NO BOY SCOUT](#)**

Ben Sliney ordered the planes down on 9/11:  
[Real Heroes, Fake Stories - The New York Times](#)

Scroll down to the Conclusions:  
[Norman Mineta - 911 myths](#)

The 9/11 Commissioners determined that Norm's testimony about ordering the planes down "untruthful" and refused to include it in the Commission's *Final Report*.

The Toyo Tire video:

[Right of Passage: No 442 In HR 442](#)

[Janice and Tom](#)