

FIRST MEETING OF THE GREATER VANCOUVER J. C. C. A. REDRESS COMMITTEE

Opening Remarks by the J.C.C.A. President

It is less than one year since I have become involved with the Redress Issue, Nove. 19, 1983, to be exact. Also it is only five months that I have been involved with the Japanese Canadian Community in any capacity and that has been as the President of the J.C.C.A.. What originally inspired me was the Redress Seminar put on by the J.C.C.P. at the Steveston Buddhist Church which I attended in November last year. Since 1950 when I arrived in Vancouver, I have been almost totally uninvolved and uncommitted to the Japanese Canadian Community.

But the seminar made me realize for the first time, that I had been somewhat complacent and negligent of my responsibilities to the community and and also as a Canadian Citizen. It also made me aware of how ignorant I was as to the true facts and issues regarding Redress.

So I am very much aware of some of the anxieties and apprehensions of those who have only recently become involved in the matter of Redress. The J.C.C.P. admittedly have some high profile individuals who have worked on Redress for seven years and are therefore, very knowledgeable on all of the historical facts and legal aspects of it. But let me say that controversy and criticism, so long as it remains objective, is the only way that the whole community can arrive at a consensus. Through the process of input and output, the Redress Committee will serve its intended purpose.

However, there is one precious ingredient which we must have, and that is the spirit of compromise which is all too often lacking. Compromise does not mean losing, or totally giving up ones posture. It means meeting the other party halfway. We must acquire a degree of "magnanimity", a big word meaning a big heart. According to the dictionary it means - " Generous in overlooking insult or injury " or, " Rising above pettiness and meanness ".

So be it.

*Chas. Kadota*