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# Day of Apology and 'Sigh of Relief'

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President Reagan's signing of legislation that provides for payments and apologies to Japanese-Americans who were forcibly relocated in World War II brings to an end the "civil rights disaster" of internment, leaders of organizations who worked for the measure said here today.

They said Japanese-Americans reacted with "a collective sigh of relief" in receiving an official apology for what they felt to be 46 years of shame and pain because they had collectively been accused of disloyalty to the United States.

At a news conference held at the national headquarters of the Japanese American Citizens League, Ben Takeshita, a spokesman for the

organization, urged rapid passage of the Congressional appropriation measure that would begin payment of \$20,000 each to approximately 60,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry

who were interned and are still living. #120,000 Ordered Detained About 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were ordered detained in Government camps by President Roosevelt in 1942 after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

Mr. Takeshita said that while the money "could not begin to compensate a person for his or her lost freedom, property, livelihood or for the stigma of disloyalty," it showed that the Government's apology was "sincere."

Two local lawyers who fought to overturn the convictions of three Japanese-Americans for violation of wartime evacuation orders said that the legislation would restore the Constitution and "some of the dignity stripped from the community."

One of the attorneys, Dale Minami, said that the Justice Department under Mr. Reagan had fought the effort to overturn the original United States Supreme Court decisions upholding the legality of the internment and that the President had not supported the legislation. "The Republicans are courting minority voters," Mr. Minami said. "The President would not have signed the bill absent some political imperative." A Bittersweet Day

Fred Korematsu, whose 1942 conviction for failure to report for relocation resulted in a 1944 decision by the Supreme Court upholding the constitutionality of the evacuation program, also attended today's news conference. Mr. Korematsu, who is 68 years old and lives in a suburb of San Francisco, said he was pleased with the legislation but sorry that a friend, Minoru Yasui, did not live to witness its passage. Mr. Yasui's petition for legal redress of his conviction was still before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, in San Francisco, when he died in 1986 at the age of 70.

Mr. Korematsu's conviction was overturned in Federal district court here in November 1983. The third case, that of Gordon K. Hirabayashi, was overturned in Federal district court in Seattle in February 1986.

Donald K. Tamaki, another of Mr. Korematsu's lawyers, said the work by third-generation Japanese-Americans on the internment cases and the subsequent legislation represented "a rare opportunity to participate in their parents' own vindication."

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