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v. II

CALIFORNIA STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

to the

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Los Angeles Asian American and
Pacific Peoples Public Hearing

November 30 and December 1, 1973

VOLUME II

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Meet.
305
v.2

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1 MORNING SESSION

2 December 1, 1973

3
4 THE CHAIRMAN: The California State Advisory Committee
5 is now in session in its hearings on the Los Angeles Asian
6 American and Pacific Peoples Public Hearing. Held this day
7 on December 1, 1973, commencing at 9:25.

8 Let me state, for those that will be testifying this
9 morning, that the Committee finds itself in a difficult posi-
10 tion in this sense, that we know that all of you have im-
11 portant testimony to give to the Committee, and at the same
12 time we do have a time schedule which we must adhere to,
13 because some of the Committee members will have to be taking
14 planes.

15 The Committee met till 10:30 last night and if you'll
16 look at the schedule we were supposed to close out at 6:30,
17 so I'm going to exercise a little bit more discretion on
18 the part of the Chair in asking you, I may attempt to be
19 asking you to shorten your testimony so we can just get to
20 the pertinent facts.

21 Although I recognize that there is this -- there is
22 a lot of material that you have.

23 And so, therefore, I would ask if you are not able
24 to give the oral testimony to us completely, that you submit
25 it to us in written form, it will be attached to the record.

1 It will be read by the Committee and Staff.

2 Our first panel, are we going to take these all at
3 one time, the entire panel?

4 First panel, then, I would ask Mr. Peter Woo, Ms. May
5 Chen, Ms. Georgiana Lee and Ms. Angelina Yu to step forward,
6 please.

7 Also, for the record, I should state that panelists
8 this morning is Nadine Hata from Gardena and Mr. Gordon Lau
9 from San Francisco.

10 It's my understanding that we will have these inter-
11 preters for this presentation. I would ask, for the purpose
12 of time, that the interpreters, rather than give a verbatim
13 translation, if you will make a summary it will be helpful
14 to us, thank you.

15 All right, we may have the first presentation.

16

17

18 MS. MAY CHEN

19

20 A (By Ms. Chen.) Okay, we prepared rather brief state-
21 ments.

22 My name is May Chen, and we'll be giving a brief
23 statement each, and then we'll be open to questions.

24 This panel will be discussing some issues in the area
25 of education in the Chinese Community in Los Angeles.

1 We feel that it is significant that all the speakers
2 here are residents of the Chinatown community in Los Angeles
3 and two, Ms. Lee and Ms. Yu are immigrant mothers with con-
4 cerns about the education of their children. They will be
5 giving their testimony in Cantonese and Mr. Woo will trans-
6 late for the record.

7 As for Mr. Woo and myself, we are both teachers.
8 I have worked in research in teaching at the Asian American Studies
9 Center at U.C.L.A. And am presently teaching in the Pasadena
10 Unified School District.

11 I've been asked to give a brief introduction and
12 overview on the educational problems facing our community
13 and to touch on some themes which will be picked up in more
14 detail by other panel members.

15 Historically, the experience of Chinese in the American
16 schools has not been a happy one. Anti-Chinese sentiment
17 and exclusionary laws forbade Chinese children to attend
18 White American schools until around World War II, so, early
19 denied of our right to equal opportunity in education, we
20 were forced to set up our own separate schools.

21 In many ways, the Chinese Community, particularly
22 its immigrants, remains isolated and alienated from partici-
23 pation in our schools. Even though deep and genuine concerns
24 about the education of our children exists very strongly.

25 On another level, school textbooks and curricular

1 materials in the past and present, show not only a tendency
2 to ignore or overlook the Chinese American, but actually in
3 many ways, serve to downgrade, distort and humiliate us.

4 For example, consider this remark from a current,
5 state-adopted social studies text: "Immigration laws change
6 often. In 1882, not only were Chinese excluded, but also
7 criminals, paupers, and the insane". Are we to be classed
8 with the outcasts of American society?

9 Imagine the impact of such a statement not only on
10 the Chinese-American child, but also on the wide school
11 population who will learn and believe what they read in school.

12 Such textbooks are only a reflection of a total edu-
13 cational system biased towards an Anglo, middle class culture
14 and experience which is different from ours, and which
15 schools have upheld a model to us.

16 We have seen studies showing that much of the school
17 curriculum, especially standardized tests, have strong racial
18 and class biases, obstacles which Chinese, along with other
19 minority groups, have had to contend with.

20 I see the ethnic studies movements on college and
21 university campuses as critical in minority education.
22 Through ethnic studies programs, and EOP, many minority
23 community members have been able to create a new and stronger
24 voice for ourselves and to speak for changes in our communities.
25 Support for Asian American studies and other ethnic programs

1 must be continued, and directed towards problem-solving in
2 some key areas of need.

3 The wider community needs to be educated and re-edu-
4 cated about the cultures and experiences of Chinese in America
5 through courses and programs at all levels, from preschool
6 and elementary to college and professional schools.

7 In-service training must be supported to offer
8 teachers new insights and new materials. And finally, new
9 and more sensitive educational materials must be written,
10 both to serve Chinese students and their need for educational
11 opportunity and self-dignity, and to serve the broad community
12 of which the Chinese form one part.

13 Some people say it's unfair to dig up the past and
14 dwell on unfortunate events in history, but what I find so
15 appalling and unfortunate are the still living examples of
16 the racist mentality and overt violation of Chinese civil
17 rights that still exist today.

18 The July, 1973 report from California Attorney General
19 Younger's office, is an example. In a brief seven pages, all
20 of those menacing images are revived, the paper reports, "The
21 Chinese's primary interests in coming to the United States
22 is to make money and improve their lot. Some feel that an
23 easy method is involvement in the drug market. Drugs are a
24 way of life in the Orient."

25 And further on, "These new immigrants are poor and

1 not educated. The only way they know to make a living is to
2 continue to pursue the same occupations here as they did in
3 the streets of Hong Kong. This means trafficking in drugs,
4 gambling, extortion, prostitution, and of course, TONG
5 membership".

6 The publication of this kind of report shows the clear
7 need for Chinese to continue an active struggle for civil
8 rights in America, and for more factual, careful and fair
9 representation in education.

10 Now let me turn to an outline of the basic and concrete
11 areas in which we see a need for change and support. The
12 panel will touch on three themes which reflect key areas of
13 need in our communities.

14 The first area is bilingual education. Why is bi-
15 lingual education important to us? For new immigrants who
16 recognize the serious need for learning English as quickly
17 and effectively as possible, this is the bread and butter
18 issue for us and also reflects our desire to be productive
19 and active residents of this country. Yet, because we come
20 from different cultural and educational systems, we need
21 bilingual help to accelerate our progress in school in English
22 and other subject areas.

23 We feel that bilingual teachers, counselors and vo-
24 cational trainers can help us bridge the cultural gap between
25 Asia and American more effectively. Bilingual education can

1 also facilitate the integration of ESL, English as a second
2 language, with our other needs.

3 We can not be taught English in isolation from our
4 other concerns, such as finding work, functioning on a day-to-
5 day basis in a new country, handling possible emergency
6 situations, etcetera.

7 Aside from Castelar and the adult school which have
8 received federal support for such programs, other school
9 administrators in Los Angeles appear to adopt a policy which
10 in effect opposes bilingual opportunities for Chinese-speaking
11 students. A statement from Nightingale Junior High says,
12 "Since our main objective is to help the students develop the
13 ability to function in English, ESL teachers have to be
14 aware of the native languages of their students and their
15 cultures. But the courses must be conducted in English, the
16 native language of the pupils don't have to be used at all."

17 Both Belmont High School and Nightingale Junior High
18 School, with significant Chinese immigrant populations, do
19 not offer bilingual ESL classes for its Chinese students at
20 this date. However, teachers we have polled at many levels
21 of education support the need for bilingual education.

22 ESL classes are overcrowded, which leaves the Chinese
23 student even further behind. One Nightingale teacher reports,
24 "I feel most teachers are ignorant of Asial cultures and
25 therefore do not understand their Asian student as well."

1 well as they should".

2 This brings me to the second theme of our panel,
3 which is the need for more federal and state assistance to
4 educational programs serving our community. There is not
5 enough money in our schools for special programs, we need
6 money for bilingual teachers and aides, we need support for
7 teacher in-service training on the topic of the Chinese
8 student needs.

9 We want new and better bilingual curricular materials
10 from preschool on up. We need more quality child care pro-
11 grams to serve our young children and help our large popu-
12 lation of working mothers. We want support for continued
13 ethnic studies programs at all levels, to sensitize school
14 populations to our history, culture and needs. We want
15 support in protest of stereotypes and discrimination.

16 The final theme to be brought out is the need for
17 continued Chinese input on review commissions and other
18 watchdog committees, for lack of a better name, to assure us
19 of our rights.

20 We are particularly concerned about stopping the
21 type of racism evidenced in the documents and proclamations
22 such as Evelle Younger's recent report and we would like to
23 take this opportunity to ask the Commission for support in
24 protest of this clear violation of our civil rights.

25 We hope that through our participation in these hearings,

1 and in future committees, our needs and recommendations can
2 be brought to the appropriate agencies for action, specifically
3 we call on the Commission to support and bring our recommenda-
4 tions on educational matters to the attention of our school
5 superintendent.

6 In addition to our testimony today, we are preparing
7 a packet of data and supplemental materials to submit for
8 your consideration.

9 Our next speaker will be Ms. Georgiana Lee, speaking
10 on the issue of child care in Chinatown, followed by Ms.
11 Angelina Yu, on the topic of elementary education, and Peter
12 Woo on adult and continuing education.

13

14

15

MS. GEORGIANA LEE

16

17 A (By Ms. Lee.) My name is Georgiana Lee, I would like
18 to talk about my family situation.

19

20

21

22

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25

I have been married for more than four years. I have
three children, they are three and a half, two and a half,
one and a half. I always want to put my children in a day
care children's center so that I can find a job to help
support the family. In fact, a lot of mothers need to find
employment to help reduce the family expenses. Therefore,
a child care center is essential to the children as well as

1 to them. I live with my parents-in-law, so with my
2 children in the child care center I will have more time to
3 take care of the duties of the family.

4 I feel a child care center would be beneficial to the
5 children. It can help children to learn how to cooperate with
6 each other in learning, playing and working. It will help
7 pave the way for children to adapt themselves to the environ-
8 ment of school.

9 The children's center will help the parents to find
10 out and learn whether they are too strict or too lax to
11 their children. The center also can teach the children
12 English so when they start school, they will be equal to
13 all the others.

14 I can ask my parents-in-law to help look after my
15 children, but both of them are about their 70's now --
16 excuse me, about their 70's now, so I don't like to ask them
17 to do that. I also can't afford to hire a babysitter be-
18 cause it costs me \$6.00 each day.

19 I also try to place my children into Castelar's
20 Children Center, but I find out that there are 180 to 200
21 children that are on the waiting list. Therefore I feel
22 that Chinatown is in desperate need for a child care center
23 for the children as well as for their parents.

24 That is not only my need, it's also the needs of my
25 friends, neighbors and my relatives.

1 MS. ANGELINA YU

2
3 A (By Ms. Yu.) My name is Angelina Yu. I am the
4 parent of one of the students from Castelar Elementary
5 School. I'm glad that I have the chance to come to express
6 some of the needs of this school, since the relaxation of
7 the immigration law five years ago a great number of Chinese
8 have come to the U.S. from China and Southeast Asia.

9 The majority of these immigrants reside in Chinatown.
10 The children of the new immigrants become the students of
11 Castelar. There are about six Chinese and about 200 English-
12 speaking children at Castelar. Of this number, around 56%
13 speaks a primary language other than English. The same per-
14 centage were born in a foreign country.

15 State achievement tests given to all children reflect
16 the students' deficits due to their language handicap.

17 In May, 1973, the first grade pupils scored in the
18 16 percentile, the second and third grade pupils at the 32
19 percentile and the sixth grade at the 26 percentile. Some
20 of the problems are lack of physical facilities due to
21 current rebuilding, lack of sufficient curriculum materials
22 in the Chinese bilingual and ESL program, lack of university
23 training for Chinese bilingual and ESL teachers.

24 In order to alleviate the deficiencies of the students,
25 we really need a lot more Chinese bilingual teachers, more

1 classrooms, more appropriate curriculum materials and a
2 university training center for Chinese bilingual and ESL
3 teachers.

4

5

6

MR. PETER WOO

7

8 A (By Mr. Woo.) My name is Peter Woo, I have taught
9 at the ESL in Chinatown community for the last two and a half
10 years. As I see it, the major problem of the ESL program
11 in Chinatown is its lack of a job skill oriented curriculum.
12 The existing program is heavily academic in its substance,
13 it 's not geared for students who have to worry how to make
14 both ends meet daily.

15 It is a program with an intended purpose to prepare
16 those who are going to complete their high school diploma
17 or college. This inadequacy can be demonstrated by a number
18 of Chinese students in the various levels of adult ESL. In
19 levels one and two, there are 80% Chinese. From levels
20 three to five, about 20% to 30% of the students are Chinese.
21 And from level six to eight, less than 10% of the students
22 are Chinese. Moreover, a lot of Chinese students drop out
23 after one semester.

24 Another major problem is the lack of Chinese bilingual
25 teachers in adult ESL. Meeting this need will help greatly in

1 the teaching of English to Chinese adults. In order to make
2 adult ESOL more interesting and responsive, its curriculum
3 must be oriented towards subjects that would enhance their
4 employment and alleviate their underemployment.

5 The curriculum should center around subjects such as
6 rights of an individual, fair labor practices, rights of
7 tenants, how to file complaints about consumer products and
8 against any unfair governmental acts or abuse of governmental
9 authorities.

10 MS. CHEN: That concludes our panel.

11
12 (Applause.)

13
14 THE CHAIRMAN: Before we get to the questions, I'd
15 like to advise the audience that we have a very special
16 guest with us this morning, who is dropping in on the hearings,
17 the Commissioner, Manuel Ruiz, who is one of the five commis-
18 sioners that serves on the U.S. Civil Rights Commission and
19 he's very quietly sitting in the back, listening, and we
20 certainly welcome him here he's the type of commissioner that
21 we have who are interested in what is going on.

22 And although he will be receiving a report, ultimately,
23 he came here first-hand. I'd like him to stand.

24 All right, questions from the panel? Ramona?

25 Q (By Ms. Hata.) I think Ms. Chen mentioned the EOP

1 program. Do you feel the EOP provides adequately to serve
2 the needs of the Chinese students or meeting needs? How
3 many Chinese American students, for example, are in the
4 program?

5 A (By Ms. Chen.) Okay, their EOP programs at Cal. State
6 L.A., and at UCLA, and as far as I know, the UCLA program has
7 been cut back considerably in the last couple of years and
8 I think that as it is cut back, becomes further and further
9 removed from meeting those needs in the community.

10 Q Could you get us some statistics in regard to how
11 many people have applied and how many people have become
12 students?

13 A I don't have statistics with me, we can submit those
14 in writing.

15 Q I think Ms. Yu talked about the fact there are 100 or
16 180 children at Castelar, does this reflect the needs of the
17 children in Chinatown? Are there more children who are not
18 on the waiting list who need services and if there are more,
19 how many more, we need that for the record, also.

20 A (By Ms. Lee.) I believe that there's more than 180
21 or more than 200 people who are waiting for the waiting list
22 and I also believe that some of them, when they know about
23 that, that they -- that's why they hesitate to go, but a lot
24 of them would like to put their children on the waiting list.

25 A (By Ms. Chen.) I'd like to say something in response

1 to that.

2 The Castelar Center, the waiting list is a cutoff
3 point of 200, so they don't add any more names, but also,
4 I think according to census figures you'll find that the
5 population in Chinatown now shows that, a concentration of
6 young families with children, and that the lower grade levels
7 will be filling up very rapidly and so I think that if you
8 look at population statistics you will find that in the pre-
9 school age group there are a large number of children who
10 need to be served by child care.

11 Q Would it be possible to get us those statistics also?

12 A Okay.

13 Q One final question. Mr. Woo talked about his program
14 for young adults, could you give us some specific reasons
15 as why people --

16 A (By Mr. Woo.) Well, most specific is because they
17 find out, the thing that we teach them is not practical,
18 and they would like to know what is the minimum wage per
19 hour rather than to know what a garage means or what a
20 projector means, because most of the teaching materials are
21 academic oriented and they don't have the time to learn that
22 kind of vocabulary yet. They would, besides the survival
23 English vocabulary, they still need more, about how to deal
24 with their jobs daily, like how to complain to their foreman,
25 in a sewing factory, or in, say a restaurant.

1 Q Has anyone done any followup on these dropouts,
2 whathappens to them after they leave?

3 A So far I have done just a bit, but I don't know how
4 well, we did ask the department in ESL, or whether there's
5 anything concretely done by the Board of Education at this
6 point.

7 Q If you do get such information, will you submit it to
8 the Commission?

9 A Yes.

10 MS. HATA: Thank you.

11 Q (By Mr. Lau.) Yes, does the Chinese Community have
12 any access to the Board of Education here?

13 A (By Ms. Chen.) There is an Asian-American Education
14 Committee.

15 Q What is their role?

16 A Their role is advisory to the board. There are
17 commissions for all of the different minorities.

18 Q And how many members are on this?

19 A I think it's 24 and they have a paid executive commis-
20 sioner.

21 Q And have you brought your concerns about bilingual and
22 ESL classes to this commission?

23 A Yes, we have, and I think that in the supplementary
24 materials we will be including the letter from the commission
25 to this group.

1 Q And have you gotten a response from the school board?

2 A No.

3 Q Can you tell us why the school board has not responded?

4 A I don't know.

5 Q Mr. Woo, would you hazard a guess as to why they
6 haven't responded?

7 A (By Mr. Woo.) Well, I don't know, myself. I -- well,
8 I guess -- I'd rather not guess. But if you would like to
9 know more we will find out why they are not as responsive
10 as they ought to be, we can submit that evidence later.

11 Q Has the Chinese Community expressed a preference for
12 bilingual programs rather than ESL programs?

13 A Yes, because since they come from a foreign country,
14 they are very -- they speak the primary language rather than
15 English, so therefore, if you have bilingual teachers there
16 it will just help to facilitate much more faster and more
17 interesting.

18 Q And has there been any response to this request by the
19 Chinese Community?

20 A (By Ms. Chen.) Well, the response usually given is
21 that there's no money and that the Chinese do not form a
22 significant enough population in the schools to set up a
23 special program.

24 Q Are there any schools where Chinese students are a
25 significant minority or majority of the student body?

1 A Yes, in Castelar there have been programs set up,
2 there are bilingual programs set up with federal funding.
3 In the junior and senior high schools, Nightingale has about
4 15% population, which is a rise of about 5% in the last
5 five years.

6 Q (By the Chairman.) Excuse me, how much of that is
7 Chinese?

8 A Okay, in their ESL program they say that about 50 out
9 of 300 students are Chinese-speaking students. So, to me
10 that seems to be basis enough for at least setting up one
11 class, but I don't know, you know, I don't know --

12 Q (By Mr. Lau.) When a Chinese student comes to Los
13 Angeles and enters the school district, enters the school,
14 is there a method of testing or selection wherein the student
15 is placed in an ESL or bilingual class?

16 A There are standardized tests that they'll take when
17 they enter school, but in the junior and senior high levels
18 there are no bilingual Cantonese-English-speaking counselors
19 to work with the kids in their own language and so there is
20 not that bilingual opportunity for them, so they will just
21 take a standardized ESL test and be placed in a mixed class-
22 room that is bacially taught just in English.

23 Q Are there any children who are sitting in class not
24 understanding what's going on because they're not in a bi-
25 lingual or ESL class?

1 A Yes, definitely there are.

2 Q What percentage of students would you think this is?

3 A We polled a number of teachers at Nightingale, I
4 don't think that we talked to that many teachers at Belmont,
5 but at Nightingale, out of the 41 teachers we polled, three
6 of the teachers felt that all of their Chinese students
7 in their ESL class would be better served by bilingual classes
8 and the fourth teacher felt that three out of her ten Chinese
9 students would be better served by a Chinese bilingual class

10 Q Are there any students who can't understand the
11 language who are neither in bilingual nor ESL classes?

12 A Oh, I don't think so, I think they will be placed in
13 ESL if they don't understand the language at all.

14 Q There was a mention that there was a lack of bilingual
15 teachers, is this lack because of a shortage of teachers in
16 the Chinese Community or is it a lack caused by a lack of
17 drive on the part of the school district in recruiting
18 Chinese-speaking teachers?

19 A I feel it's the lack of -- because I personally know
20 that there are a number of teachers who would be willing to
21 teach in the schools if they were given an opportunity.

22 Q What active recruiting methods are used by the school
23 district for the Chinese Communities?

24 A (By Mr. Woo.) Well, I don't know about what kind of
25 method they use, but usually they will depend on those that

1 are hired already and ask them whether they know someone who
2 is qualified to teach and that's how they get contacts.

3 Q Is there an affirmative hiring policy in Los Angeles
4 in regard to hiring minority school teachers?

5 A (By Ms. Chen.) I don't know.

6 Q There supposedly is one in San Francisco, is there
7 one here?

8 A (By Mr. Woo.) I don't know.

9 Q Are they trying to hire Chinese teachers?

10 A (By Ms. Chen.) I think that recently at Belmont and
11 Nightingale they are, but to this date, as far as I know,
12 they haven't hired bilingual people.

13 Q Are the majority of the teachers in the schools which
14 serve Chinatown non-Chinese and non-Chinese-speaking?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Have the parents and community people in Chinatown
17 brought this to the attention of the school board?

18 A Probably not as loud or as formally as they should.

19 Q Does the school board ever send its representatives
20 down to the Chinatown Community to discuss your problems
21 with you?

22 A No.

23 Q Have you expressed this need to them?

24 A I don't think so, not formally. We have expressed it
25 I think to the commission, through the Asian American Commission.

1 Q Are they insensitive to the problems of Chinatown
2 and other Asian American communities?

3 A Who, the school board?

4 Q Yes.

5 A I feel they are.

6 Q Are there many adults in the Chinatown Community who
7 are in need of language skills in order to seek proper
8 employment?

9 A (By Mr. Woo.) Yes. We need a lot of ESL programs
10 that are job oriented in order to alleviate the underemploy-
11 ment because more than 50% of my students, they are skilled,
12 they are tailors, they are mechanics, auto mechanics, just
13 because -- because they lack the vocabulary that they need
14 to be an auto mechanic in this country. And I have a few
15 students who are registered nurses in Hong Kong, because
16 their English is not good enough for them to practice in
17 this country.

18 Q How many adults are we talking about?

19 A Well, I'm talking about around at least 15 to 20, in
20 my class.

21 Q How many adults in the Chinatown Community do you
22 feel need English language skills, who are not presently
23 getting training?

24 A I feel that there are a lot, at least about, say more
25 than 200 people.

1 Q And how many families and family people would these
2 200 people affect?

3 A It would be about, around 100 families.

4 Q Now, you mentioned that this ESL training is not
5 geared for employment, are there any employment-gearred pro-
6 grams in the Chinatown area other than your program?

7 A Yes, they have employment run by HRD or other agencies
8 that pay them while they go through school, but then the
9 requirement is they have to have a certain minimum standard
10 of English before they are allowed to enroll in there and
11 then, since most of my students have to worry about how to
12 support their families every day, they don't have that much
13 time to worry about how to get in this program.

14 Q Now, what would have to be done to change your cur-
15 rriculum?

16 A I think that we would, as I suggested in there, that
17 we have to have a curriculum that must be job skill-oriented,
18 say we have to teach them vocabulary, how to do the job of
19 tailor, auto mechanic or even a waiter.

20 Q Who would we have to deal with in order to effect
21 this change?

22 A I feel that the Asian project is doing a very good job
23 except that they are limited with personnel and funds. That's
24 why they can not cover the fields as extensively as they
25 ought to be.

1 Q Do you accept the fact that their supposed lack of
2 funding and whatnot is reason enough for the Chinese Community
3 to accept this lack of services?

4 A I would think so.

5 Q Do you think they have a good excuse for not affording
6 or giving you the services they need because they say they
7 don't have the funds and they don't have the teachers?

8 A Well, that usually is the excuse and then, like this
9 year they cut back a lot of other classes because they said
10 their federal fund is cut off.

11 See, this year we have only two night classes instead
12 of five in comparison to last year.

13 Q Now, is there a high dropout rate among the junior
14 high and high school students here in Los Angeles?

15 A (By Ms. Chen.) Well, this is an area that upsets me,
16 every time I've gone to the schools to find out about drop-
17 outs or to discuss the dropout problem, the schools don't
18 seem to have, at least a public record-keeping system that
19 really can give us information, you know, concrete informa-
20 tion or data in this area.

21 I've done some work for the Chinatown Teenpost and
22 I know that there are a lot of kids who if they haven't
23 already dropped out they're ditching school a lot. But these
24 are problems that the schools, I found, have been reluctant
25 about facing or about talking about.

1 Q What is the primary reason for youngsters dropping
2 out of school?

3 A I think it goes back to the lack of relevant education
4 which -- and mainly these kids are Chinese-speaking kids who
5 find the ESL programs just don't meet their needs, they
6 can't understand what's going on. And they say that they're
7 not learning anything.

8 Q (By the Chairman.) I just have one question, Mr. Woo.
9 What do you have in class to deal with the specific problem
10 that you raised about, say, your students wanting to know,
11 how to talk to their foreman or -- do you have the latitude
12 in your class to deal with that, I mean to educate them on
13 that?

14 A (By Mr. Woo.) Yes, I used to encourage them to tell
15 what they need to know. [For example, what they need to say
16 tomorrow if they want to say something to their boss or
17 foreman, and at first they were reluctant to do that because
18 they don't know how much they should open to you but once
19 you get their -- once you get to know them, then they will
20 start to open up and ask you all kinds of questions that they
21 have to deal the following day in their job.

22 Q Now, is your class the only, you know, are you the
23 only teacher that is conducting an adult class of Chinese
24 people?

25 A No, in last year we have five teachers who were also

1 bilingual to deal with all ESL students.

2 This year we have only, they have only two. I think
3 that the approach to classes depends on what the teacher
4 thinks is important for the students. So I can only speak
5 from my personal experience in the classroom.

6 A. (By Ms. Chen.) Let me say one thing for Mr. Woo,
7 though, he's not currently teaching because he taught last
8 year in a program which allowed funds for five bilingual
9 adult classes. And this year there are only two classes and
10 he was not rehired this year.

11 Q. What I was wondering was, if there was any way that
12 the school system could take advantage of your experiences
13 so that some type of manual or documentation is given to the
14 present teachers so that they will be aware that these are
15 the type of things that their students are really concerned
16 about, versus, you know, what time Columbus arrived at
17 the United States?

18 A. (By Mr. Woo.) Yes, in fact, I make myself available
19 for such a chance. I just talked to Mr. Rui (Phonetic), who
20 is my supervisor in adult ESL, about two days ago, I'm asking
21 him whether I have a chance to get back on the program next
22 semester or next year. Or is there any other job that is open
23 for which I can be used or can be hired.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Unfortunately our time is,
25 we're running late again, as usual, but I do want to thank you

1 for being here. If there is any additional information or
2 additional thoughts that you have, that you've not expressed
3 this morning, please do not hesitate to give that to us in
4 written form, we'll be glad to --

5 MR. LAU: Mr. Chairman, I would like the figures on
6 the numbers of Chinese teachers in the school district and
7 the numbers of principals and vice principals, if you have
8 any.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

10
11 (Applause.)

12
13 THE CHAIRMAN: Our next panel is from the Korean
14 Community, and I would ask Mr. Kong Lee, Dr. Pak, Ms. Punja
15 Yhu, Mr. Y. Gill Kook, Dr. Chin Choi, Dr. Man Sou Kim.

16 I wonder if you would place on the record, Mr. Court
17 Reporter, that there is a -- in the audience there are now
18 persons carrying pickets or poster placards, some saying we
19 love American, be fair. Others saying--I can't read them
20 all, but I'd say there are approximately 15 to 20 placards
21 being carried by various persons whom I'm assuming are
22 members of the Korean Community here in Los Angeles, or
23 California.

24 Some of these placards are in a language which I assume
25 is Korean, which I'm unable to read.

1 "America helped Koreans, Korea helped America, help
2 us now."

3 There's a banner being set up which says, "We are willing
4 to apply for L.A. Board exam, Korean Pharmacists Association
5 of California." There is one placard that says, "Kind,
6 Obedient, Reasonable, Efficient and Adventurous". Those
7 first letters on those words come out, Korea.

8 I think I've described the situation as best we can.

9

10 (Applause.)

11

12 THE CHAIRMAN: It's been a long time since this
13 Committee has had placards, we welcome them.

14 Would the panel introduce themselves and -- let me
15 ask on the interpretation again, and I see a familiar face
16 here, if you will summarize the interpretation because we
17 are running problems with time but I do want to get all the
18 information to us.

19 All right, if you will proceed, then, in the order
20 that you want to present your testimony, state your name and
21 then proceed.

22 Mr. Kong Lee.

23

24

25

1 MR. KONG LEE

2
3 A. (By Mr. Lee.) My name is Kong Lee. I'm the Vice
4 President of the Korean Pharmacist Association in California.

5 I really appreciate you to give us the chance to
6 represent this about the situation of Korean pharmacists.

7 This is my great prevailing need and honor to speak
8 before you today. On behalf of the Korean Pharmacist
9 Association of California. Our association represents about
10 300 Korean pharmacists currently residing within the
11 territorial confines of the great State of California.

12 For the time being, most of us find ourselves landed
13 in a job which is inconsistent with our qualifications and
14 experience. We are suffering from starvation wages. We
15 have to work such jobs for which we are not well adapted.
16 None of us anticipated the day that we'd have to work in
17 factories for meager salaries to support our families. The
18 pharmacists who wanted to immigrate to the United States were
19 priority preferences in view of our high professional back-
20 grounds.

21 This is the most important claim where I want to empha-
22 size in relation to our situation at present. When we immi-
23 grated to the United States, we made form, the determination
24 that we would make contribution in our professional field in
25 this land. Contrary to our expectations, we had strived to

1 find even a job which we are in now. We never expected to
2 be lose our professional job at the same time as we immi-
3 grated to this huge, beautiful and wealthy country.

4

5 (Applause.)

6

7 A Is this the original intention of the United States
8 Immigration policy for the Korean pharmacist? I don't be-
9 lieve it is.

10

11 (Applause.)

12

13 A Do we have to endure the unfair and unjust treatment
14 we are getting from the government to the fully licensed
15 pharmacy? I don't believe that we have to.

16

17 (Applause.)

18

19 A I do not imply, however, that we are being particularly
20 discriminated, but as you know, pharmacists are the only
21 members of medical profession which has not yet been given the
22 fair treatment by the law so far.

23

In other words, California State Government has not
24 made an application to improve our situation.

25

With the best of my knowledge, the qualification to be

1 able to immigrate to the United States is given only to the
2 licensed pharmacist whose practical experience of over three
3 years as a pharmacist. Unless stipulated otherwise by the
4 California Pharmaceutical law.

5 We are content that the pharmacist work in our country
6 are not only determined, but also similar to those work of
7 this country.

8 Please don't waste our professional manpower as suf-
9 ficiently trained pharmacists who are willing to devote
10 ourselves for the betterment of medical treatment of Cali-
11 fornia State.

12 We are aware of these extents of a new deal for the
13 pharmacist who has been promoted all of this year, only
14 barrier to us is that the state has not been implemented.
15 We would like to owe to the state government to give us the
16 privilege to apply for comparative pharmacist board examina-
17 tion in California.

18 This is all we want to be improved for the time being.

19 Thank you very much.

20
21 (Applause.)

22
23 INTERPRETER: Mr. Chairman, in view of the responses
24 of the audience, I do not believe it is necessary to translate.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, I would concur with

1 that.

2 The next speaker is Dr. Pak.

3

4

5

HAKTO PAK, M.D.

6

7 A. (By Dr. Pak.) Yes, my name is Hakto Pak, I'm the
8 General Secretary of the Korean Medical Association of
9 Southern California. I would like to speak on behalf of the
10 medical profession from Korea as well as members of profes-
11 sion, of which Mr., Dr. Kook is present on the panel at this
12 time.

13

Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the United
14 States Commission on Civil Rights, California State Advisory
15 Committee, concerned officials and fellow citizens.

16

On behalf of the members of the Korean Committee in
17 Southern California, and especially of the professional
18 group with the background in medical profession, I'm most
19 delighted to extend our heartiest greetings to the members
20 of the State Advisory Committee of the United States Commission
21 on Civil Rights, and most pleased to have this opportunity
22 to express some of the viewpoints on the pending issues of
23 most importance to the welfare of both the members of the
24 community and American society as a whole. Which those
25 people have chosen their second home.

1 In this supersonic jet age, national boundaries, either
2 natural or artificial, are utterly meaningless from the
3 health point of view. Today, even the farthest apart two
4 points can be closely correlated on health issues within a
5 matter of a few hours or few days, at most.

6 It is on this assumption that extensive interchanges
7 in knowledge and personnel have taken place in medicine and
8 related fields of professions between countries such as
9 between the United States and Korea. A number of doctors
10 originally educated and trained in Korea who are currently
11 living and serving in the American society most probably
12 exceeds that of similar professional groups from other countries
13 excepting those from the Philippines and India.

14 We can classify the doctors from Korea into two major
15 categories, one is a group who are properly licensed to
16 practice in the United States, and the others, the unlicensed
17 doctors who came to this country somewhat at a later stage
18 of their professional career so that forced to confront
19 extremely stiff restrictions in obtaining the license to
20 practice in the United States, particularly in California.

21 Here we shall confine our interest to the latter group
22 of which I am a member. Their professional background while in
23 Korea may vary more or less individually. There are, however,
24 a few factors and points common to all of them. First, they
25 are mostly past middle age when they arrive in this country.

1 Second, most of them held high positions in society
2 in their specific fields in Korea. Among them are former
3 deans, professors, high-ranking government officials, promin-
4 ent scholars, community leaders, career military surgeons, to
5 name just a few.

6 Most important of all, these professional people have
7 a solid and working knowledge of the needs in health matters
8 of the members of the Korean Community, wherever it may be.

9 Korean Community in southern California has grown from
10 a tiny pocket within the area with less than 5,000 in number
11 only less than a decade ago to an ambitious and fast-growing
12 minority community of more than 50,000 today, and it's still
13 growing ever faster.

14 The community's also highly business-oriented, they
15 are -- today there are more than 1,000 business premises with-
16 in the community. These premises ranging from hairgood
17 dealers, grocery stores, gas stations to exclusive restaurants
18 and supermarkets are mostly owned and operated by recent
19 immigrants from Korea.

20 They are quite industrious, innovative and intelligent,
21 and motivated in their determination to get ahead in the new
22 environment that is highly competitive and sometimes quite
23 unsympathetic to their points.

24 There are, however, a number of difficulties and prob-
25 lems facing these hardworking people, some small and some

1 large in scale as well as in implications. Among them are
2 such matters as the language barrier, unemployment and under-
3 employment, a lack of understanding of the legal system,
4 education for their youth and last, but not least, the prob-
5 lems relating to health.

6 Due to the limitation of time allocated, I shall go
7 over the health problems briefly and categorically.

8 One, recent immigrants are generally not familiar with
9 the health care and hospital systems in America. They are
10 usually confused as to what should be the procedures to take
11 when they get sick, especially at an emergency. Most of them
12 will not know who or how to contact for assistance. So, due
13 to the language barrier, more often than not, the doctors
14 examining Korean-speaking patients fail to reach accurate
15 diagnosis so that to prescribe proper treatment.

16 Three, health care expenses are considerably higher
17 in America than in Korea in consideration of the income of
18 the people. Besides, most of the health insurance protections
19 which we carry are not sufficient to protect them in case
20 of catastrophic diseases. Many carry no insurance at all.

21 Four, due to the language barrier and lack of informa-
22 tion service to them, they have far less access to such
23 services provided by the government and other organizations
24 such as public service, family planning, maternal and child
25 health care, health education, free medical care clinic

1 services, etcetera.

2 Residents of Korean communities are not benefited
3 by the provisions of Medicare and ~~Medi-Cal~~ mostly due to the
4 extremely complex procedures to obtain them and also due to
5 a total lack of knowledge of even the existence of such
6 benefits.

7 Now, I would like to go to the status of professional.
8 There are roughly 30 doctors residing in southern California
9 who are from Korea and who are not yet licensed to practice
10 in the State of California. They are mostly admitted as permanent
11 residents for their high professional standings and experience.
12 Nevertheless, they are denied the opportunities to serve the
13 community due to, primarily to the following difficulties
14 and restrictions:

15 One, the examinations imposed on them to obtain the
16 license to practice in California are unfairly complicated
17 and particularly in consideration of their lack of proficiency
18 in the English language. For the reason many Americans fail
19 even if they are well prepared and well informed to answer
20 the questions if asked in Korean.

21 Two, since they are not allowed to engage in any
22 activities related to medicine until and unless they are
23 licensed, they are totally denied the access to the oppor-
24 tunities to reenforce and increase their knowledge and technique
25 essential in the preparation for the licensure examinations.

1 Three, consequently, these doctors are forced into
2 a difficult situation financially, thus many of them are
3 either totally unemployed or severely underemployed.

4 Four, there are some instances where the difficult
5 propositions of the controlling agencies in determining
6 eligibilities of the applicants for the license that made it
7 virtually impossible for the applicants to even qualify.

8 To cite some examples, many of us are unable to
9 provide the transcripts, certificates to prove educational
10 background and other documents required because of the fact
11 that these were lost or destroyed during the confusion of
12 the invasion of Korea, and also the Korean War of 1950.

13 The authorities refuse to accept substitute or
14 alternate evidence in these occasions.

15 One. One or more medical centers to serve the members
16 of the Korean communities in southern California should be
17 established. They may be manned by both licensed doctors
18 of Korean descent as well as those not licensed but fully
19 qualified to serve.

20 Two. The hospitals or other medical facilities where
21 the services for the members of the Korean communities are
22 available should have some bilingual employees to assist them
23 in getting proper medical attention and care.

24 Some of the more used forms and brochures with
25 essential information should be printed in Korean.

1 Three, those Korean doctors who have not obtained
2 their license yet in California and residing in the area
3 where our concentration of Korean-speaking residents is
4 better, should be given some type of license or permit to
5 practice to serve the community on a limited basis, under
6 the supervision of licensed doctors.

7 In this way, the effects are two-fold. Serving the
8 community and providing the doctors with opportunity to pre-
9 pare for the examination better.

10 Four. There must be adopted provisions to qualify
11 the applicants for the license in accordance with applicant's
12 ability to pass the examinations on individual subjects
13 instead of disqualifying him entirely for failing in a
14 single subject as is the practice today at the State Board
15 of Medical Examinations. This way, applicants will have
16 better chance of passing the examinations, that is, of course,
17 within a designated time limitation, such as two years or so.

18 Five. The prospective doctors for licensure may be
19 greatly benefited if there are facilities where they can
20 receive some education training in such institutions as
21 county hospitals, major universities or others. There may
22 be some type of educational loans for them while they are
23 being trained to be reimbursed at later date.

24 I would like to mention two points on behalf of dentists
25 of Korean training. Dentists are allowed, at this time, to

1 take examinations subject by subject, according to new
2 legislation passed about a year or so ago. According to the
3 new regulations there are to be four examinations per year,
4 but the number of examinations are decreased to two, uni-
5 laterally to the dental professions.

6 The dentists are also suffering from severe under-
7 employment. Similar to medical professionals. And I have
8 one occasion here, a prominent dentist from Korea who has
9 passed the required examinations for a job, an employed job,
10 when he applied to take an examination at the dental, College
11 of Los Angeles for a certain job, with the understanding
12 that he is still eligible and able to apply, he has received
13 a notice saying that -- they regret that they are not able
14 to let him take examination for the reason that the appli-
15 cation was received after the close of the time period.

16 He has sent similar requests a number of times to
17 other agencies, but usually the results are similar to this
18 one.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Now, you say he's licensed?

20 A. Yes, he has taken a certain examination for a certain
21 job title and he has passed the examination, so in accordance
22 with the job, he has applied for a job at an agency with the
23 understanding that there is still time, I mean he is -- to
24 submit the application, but he has received, contrary to the
25 -- his understanding, he was told that his application was

1 turned down because the time period was over.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Does that end your presentation?

3 A Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

5 Ms. Punja Yhu?

6 DR. PAK: Ms. Yhu would like to speak in Korean,
7 phrase by phrase, and I'll summarize it for the Committee.

8

9

10 MS. PUNJA YHU, R.N.

11

12 A (By Ms. Yhu.) My name is Ms. Yhu, and I'm an R.N.
13 in California. There are about 600 nurses in Los Angeles
14 area; in California, among them there are 200 registered
15 nurses.

16 In Korea, we also have the immigration statute, anyone
17 who wants to be eligible for nurse, she has to attend three
18 or four years of college and that, she also has to pass
19 national board examinations. And also have a bachelor of
20 science degree.

21 Most of the nurses here in California are not able to
22 pass -- have not been licensed yet so that they have to work
23 at institutions such as nursing homes with the pay of \$1.85.

24 As I said, most of these nurses, even though they
25 are nurse's aides, are actually performing tasks usually given

1 regular nurses with these meager salaries.

2 In the past, there were provisions that these nurses
3 are given the title of graduate nurse and paid as much as
4 \$500.00 to \$600.00 a month. This is the benefits in other
5 states.

6 We are not basically opposed to the examination
7 standards provided by American Nurses Association and we are
8 now trying very hard to prepare for the examinations.

9 There will be, as I mentioned, by the state board,
10 coming February 5th and 6th, about 40 nurses are receiving
11 special training courses for these examinations.

12 I'm quite confident that these nurses will eventually
13 pass the examinations if given proper chances. All we are
14 demanding at this time is to reinstate the graduate nurses'
15 program so that we can subsist while we are preparing for
16 the registered nurses' examination.

17 The purpose of our coming to the United States are
18 quite clear. One, we wanted to come to here to this great
19 nation with our skills. And we sought better life. Our
20 frustrations are that the increasing inflation and the
21 language barrier are causing us very severe hardship.
22 Sometimes we even despise the existence.

23 In July this year I went back to Korea on business.
24 And I was asked to present some speech about the life in the
25 United States for those who want to come to the United States.

1 I lived in Texas for a year and a half and I lived
2 in California four and a half years. When I was asked to
3 talk, I told them not to come to the State of California.

4
5 (Applause.)

6
7 This State of California has beautiful climate and
8 there are many fellow Koreans are living here, and yet
9 professionally this state imposes very severe restrictions
10 to the professionals such as our Nurses' Association members.

11 In other states, when a nurse arrives she is given
12 only a temporary license. We are not particularly demanding
13 that, as I say, we are trying hard to pass the examination
14 given by the state board. Only we demand that we be given proper tutor-
15 ing such as wages for our services until we pass the examination. Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 In conclusion, we would like to be treated fairly,
18 at least be given \$4.00 an hour wages for our services.

19 Thank you.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

21
22 (Applause.)

23
24 MR. KOOK: Mr. Chairman, at this time, I'd like to
25 move on the procedures. May I do that?

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly.

2 DR. KOOK: After here, some of the people represented
3 to explain their personal experiences supporting the general
4 statement by relative fields, and those people are not
5 given opportunity yet. And before my making any statement,
6 in a capacity of a summary, if it is possible that, would you
7 let them have opportunity to speak first?

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Are you referring to people here on
9 the panel?

10 DR. KOOK: Right, today.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: That are here on the panel now?

12 DR. KOOK: Right.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Just a minute now, you are -- let's
14 see --

15 DR. KOOK: Dr. Kook, a Ph.D. in the medical field.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: And you are --

17 DR. CHANG: Ik Koon Chang, representing the Korean Pharmacists
18 Association in California; Dr. Kin in the field of dentists.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Let me just see what my
20 schedule here -- I've found that what we might do is this:
21 To save time and yet get to the information and personal
22 experiences, why don't we -- I have here, Mr. Kook, Dr. Chin
23 Choi and Dr. Kim to make a presentation. And you had addi-
24 tional people here, what I'd like to do is to, upon the com-
25 pletion of these three parties' presentations, is to then
allow the panel to question and possibly in our questioning

1 there might be a situation then, where the other persons you
2 mentioned will be able to supplement by way of answers.

3 Then, if that does not come about, then I would ask
4 that they submit a written statement indicating what it is
5 specifically they want, in terms of recommendations and in
6 terms of their complaint.

7 The reason I will do it this way is merely because
8 we have two other panels that we must hear from before 12:00
9 o'clock and I want to give them the opportunity to present
10 their positions, so why don't we do it that way, let the
11 three others that we have listed make their presentation and
12 then we'll open up for questions from the panel and hopefully
13 we'll be able to get some of the material that they have.

14 But if not, please submit it to us because this is
15 an area that is of great interest to this panel in terms of
16 this whole question of licensing within the -- well, in the
17 dental profession and medical profession.

18 MR. KOOK: Well, actually, they're right here, the
19 persons they represent right here prepared their statements
20 and as I understand them, their statements are very brief.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Do they have a statement in writing?

22 MR. KOOK: No.

23 My capacity at this time is to make a summary, summary
24 of whatever has been spoken at this meeting.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: All right, I wonder if we maybe, then,

1 might do this, would you forego your summary, we would then
2 hear the specific ones. If you'll forego your summary we'll
3 get right to the questions, because your summary is merely
4 kind of a reiteration of what has been said, we can go by
5 with that, is that right?

6 MR. KOOK: Okay, that's fine with me.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Who do we have next?

8 Will you state your name for the record, please?

9

10

11

CHIN HAN CHOI, M.D.

12

13 A. (By Dr. Choi.) Mr. Chairman, distinguished Gentlemen
14 and Ladies, my name is Chin Han Choi, I feel honor to appear
15 before this body of hearings sponsored by the United States
16 Commission on Civil Rights.

17 While Dr. Pak has been responsible for the presenta-
18 tion of the issues which we, as men of Korean licensed pro-
19 fession of medicine, are currently facing within the community
20 of Korean residents, I will address myself specifically to
21 my personal matter in support of our general assertion.

22 I graduated from the School of Medicine, Seoul National
23 University. Although the name of the school may not mean
24 much to you, a panel of gentlemen, I assure you this school
25 is the best school of medicine in Korea.

1 Following graduation, I had to go through six years
2 of training which is equivalent to the internship and resi-
3 dency in America's present medical system.

4 In 1947 I joined Korean Military Service with the rank
5 of captain. Soon after then I served at the U.S. Army Hospital
6 located in Tokyo, Japan. While I was serving in Japan, the
7 eruption of the infamous Korean War brought me back to Korea
8 and let me work as a shoulder to shoulder, together with the
9 U.S. Army. At the conclusion of the Korean War, I became the
10 first chief surgeon as the Korean Field Army was organized
11 for the first time.

12 I was decorated in 1952, U.S. Bronze Star, presented
13 by the President of the United States in recognition of my
14 contributions which I made in close cooperation with the
15 U.S. 10th Army Corps.

16 Later pursuit of my academic venture was successful
17 in receiving a Ph.D. at Kyoto University in Japan. I re-
18 tired as a full colonel from the Korean Army.

19 In 1968 I was dispatched as the leader of the Korean
20 Medical Aid Team, to Lesotho Kingdom in southern Africa. I
21 served in this capacity for five years.

22 I immigrated to the United States in September, 1972.

23 I trust that I have sufficient qualifications and
24 experience. Despite the qualification and experiences, what
25 is the current state of my living?

1 Contrary to my expectations, my knowledge that the
2 United States is the land of opportunity, is being refuted
3 by the fact of life.

4 The immediate problems I have to encounter is now how
5 to support our families.. Without appropriate job, I fail
6 to carry out my responsibility as the man of the household
7 to provide my family even with the basic necessitites of life.

8 The situation is intolerable mental, emotional strain
9 on my part. Only way we can come out of these deep difficulties
10 is the matter of not what I can do, but what the government
11 can do for us.

12 I believe the government can do for us these things.
13 First, to organize Korean Community Health Service Center.
14 The government may organize several Korean Community Service
15 Centers where Korean licensed medical doctors may work,
16 probably under the supervision of one or two qualified medical
17 doctors of the United States.

18 Second, to provide training program for Korean medical
19 doctor. The government may provide certain period of training
20 in order for the Korean licensed medical doctors to learn more
21 extensively the American technology and skill. Then the
22 government may permit those who have acquired these trainings
23 to apply for the California State medical license to practice
24 medicine.

25 According to a reliable source of information, such

1 case is in existence at a certain medical school in Miami,
2 Florida.

3 Subsidizing such a program by a type of long-term
4 loan may be recommended.

5 Third, even if the above mentioned programs may be
6 adopted by the interested authorities, our immediate problems
7 of supporting our families still remain. In order to solve
8 our immediate difficulties of providing our families, let us
9 give appropriate opportunity to work within the existing
10 medical system on a temporary basis.

11 Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

13 All right, who do we have?

14 Dr. Kim?

15 DR. PAK: I have a substitute for him, Dr. Oh is
16 sitting in case some of the questions --

17 THE CHAIRMAN: I see, all right, all right.

18 Now then, are you one of the two presentations that
19 you wanted to make?

20

21

22

MR. IK HOON CHANG

23

24

25

A. (By Mr. Chang.) Well, we are kind of wondering last
few months, I believe majority of the pharmacists from Korea

1 came over and immigration office of the United States, of the
2 United States Government, issued immigrant visas for the
3 pharmacists. Those who came over here last few months is
4 much more than last, I believe about five, ten years. And
5 then, when they planned to come over this country, they
6 never know what they going to do except they will work in the
7 pharmacy or their professional field.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Let me ask you this, Mr. Chang, at
9 the time you were in Korea, are there any statements made
10 to you as pharmacists that, upon arrival to the United
11 States you will be allowed to practice as a pharmacists?

12 A No.

13 Q (By the Chairman.) That is not being told to you, I
14 mean there's no offer of that to you when you come from
15 Korea?

16 A That wasn't offered. But as I said, they expected
17 with working in their field and then, when they came over,
18 as mentioned out of Mr. Lee, our field like medical field,
19 nurses' field, they did have opportunity to go in their
20 field. But we don't. We are not qualified to take the state
21 boards. So --

22 Q Let me understand this, you mean you are not given
23 the opportunity to take --

24 A Take examination.

25 Q -- take the exam at all?

1 A. That's all we want, we'd like to have opportunity to
2 take examination.

3 Q. What is the reason given for not allowing you to take
4 the exam?

5 A. As far as I know, there is some difference between
6 college of pharmacy in this country and Korea.

7 Q. Is it based on --

8 A. Based on the state of our school system.

9 Q. -- on the school system?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Are we dealing at all in terms of number of years,
12 in other words, does the pharmacist in the United States
13 take, go to school more years than the pharmacist in Korea?

14 A. Right.

15 Q. How many years difference?

16 A. Oh, in this country when you go pharmacy, college of
17 pharmacy, you have a preschool for the pharmacy but we do,
18 we have four years, when you go into the college you go into
19 the college of pharmacy. Concentrate on just pharmacy field.
20 So there is some few, I believe credits they may need. But
21 as far as we are concerned, we are educated enough for
22 pharmacists within the four years.

23 Q. Now, do you know whether the American pharmacist that
24 goes to Korea is allowed to practice?

25 A. No, not that I know. I don't know.

1 Q You don't know off-hand?

2 A I don't know.

3 Q All right, fine.

4 A But this is just to my idea, I think I'm not so sure
5 about this statement, but a foreign country's licensed
6 pharmacists, they have opportunity to take board examination.

7 Q So you're --

8 A But not us.

9 Q You're at the position now that you just want the
10 opportunity to take the exam.

11 A That's all we need.

12 Q And at the present time they're not even allowing
13 you to do that?

14 A That's right.

15 Q All right, thank you.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Why don't we, because unfortunately I
17 am running, I am running late and I'm continually doing that,
18 it might be my Mexican culture that's getting in here, but
19 I would like to now open up if we can to questions by the
20 panel.

21 MR. KOOK: May I make a final statement as it is so
22 scheduled and then we proceed?

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Is it a summary of what we have heard
24 at this point?

25 MR. KOOK: No, not necessarily a summary, probably you

1 are well educated by now of what are the customs of the
2 grievances that are submitted to you and I don't necessarily
3 summarize all of those, but I will point out some of the
4 profound, important factors which was presented here, and
5 reaffirm to action --

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Let me ask you if you can do it for me
7 in five minutes?

8
9
10 MR. YUNG GILL KOOK

11
12 A (By Mr. Kook.) My name is Yung Gill Kook, spelled
13 Y-u-n-g, middle name G-i-l-l, last name is K-o-o-k. I am a
14 vice president of a Korean American Political Association
15 of Southern California.

16 As you may understand, I came here in a capacity not
17 pertaining to our functions of our organization. I came
18 here in preparation and coordination and the request of the
19 people related, such persons as Mr. Michael Ishikawa.

20 My function here is originally to summarize whatever
21 has been talked about at this time, but I feel that due to
22 the limit of time and the considerations, I just would like
23 to emphasize only a few points.

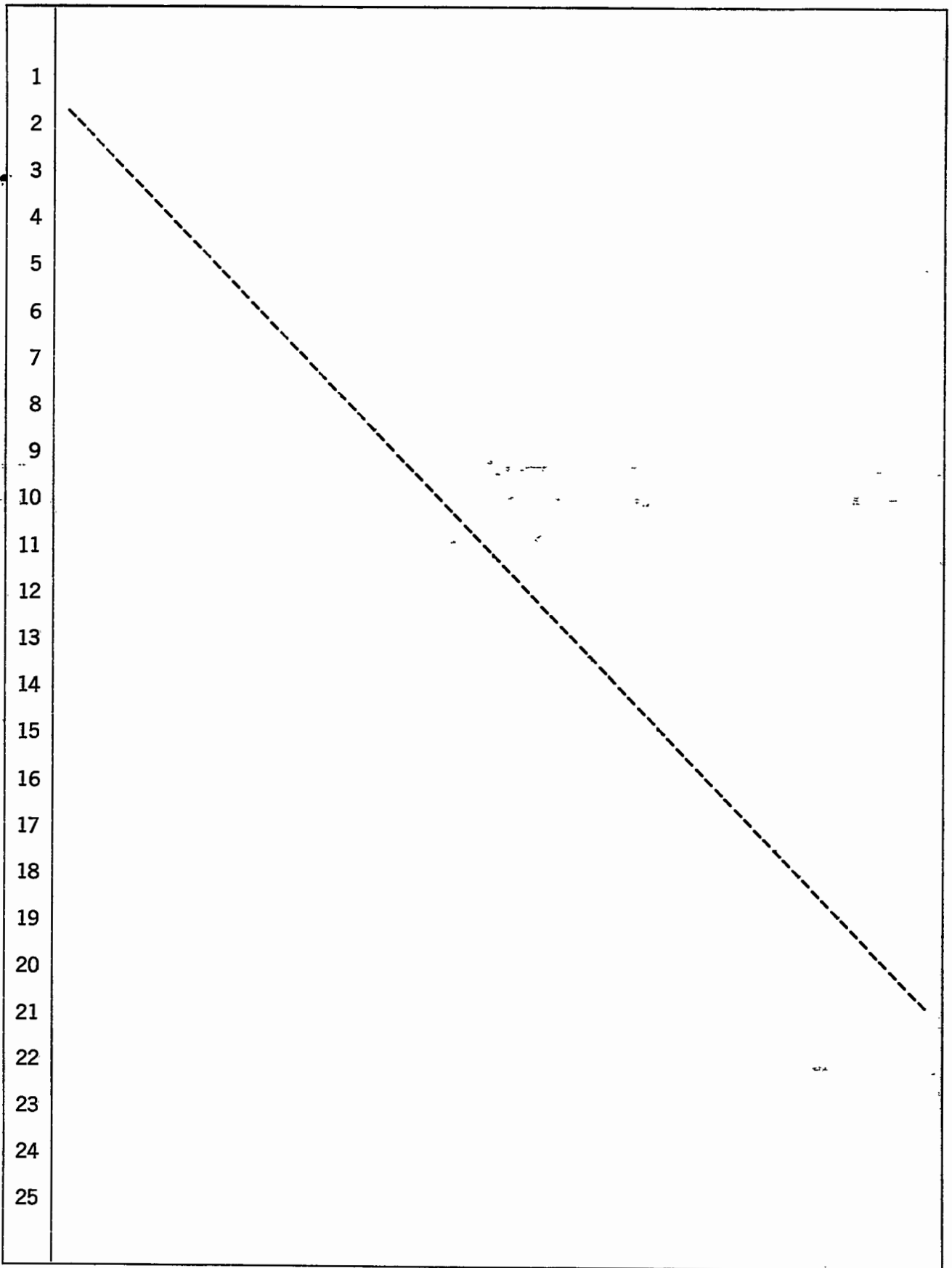
24 Well, as far as the medical field is concerned, I'm
25 quite sure that Dr. Pak has amply expounded, and you are well

1 aware of the predicament they are in right now. And for
2 the nurses, the president of the Nurses Association emphasized
3 that while there are about 600 nurses, 600 Korean licensed
4 nurses in southern California, and out of which 200 are
5 registered nurses, and 400 are in a state of menial job en-
6 gagement.

7 But what they want right now is type of jobs conducive
8 and equivalent to their education and training, and experience.

9 At this -- on this occasion I would like to take
10 this opportunity to emphasize most of all for the Korean
11 Pharmacist Association of California, what I believe is that
12 this fundamental right of human right for equal employment
13 is grossly deprived. These people are not asking what is
14 entitled to any other person, they're not asking above and
15 beyond what other people are already enjoying, they are asking
16 exactly what other people have already right to exercise.

17 What they are asking is that the only opportunity to
18 take tests for the California examinations in order to obtain
19 California pharmacist's license. I believe it is very
20 reasonable, and I believe it isn't anything that they are
21 asking that is more prerogative or privilege or favor beyond
22 and above other people's, why medical doctors and dentists,
23 as well as nurses, has the opportunity to take test, as long
24 as they have equivalent education and experiences in their
25 homeland where they came from.



1 I also believe that these pharmacists is entitled
2 to have that opportunity while they have their equivalent
3 education and experience in their home countries. This is
4 a matter of basic rights, this is a matter of right, basic
5 right of equal employment. This basic right of the American
6 concept of equality and fairness and justice that no person
7 shall be discriminated against on account of race, color and
8 of national origin. While they have this inherent right,
9 you and I enjoy and certainly you don't expect that you work
10 under the circumstances below the level of your qualifications
11 in the United States.

12 Could you expect to these people work under -- under
13 such circumstances as such job as menial as gardener's helper,
14 janitorial services, and otherwise? And I think it is a dis-
15 grace and a gross injustice.

16
17 (Applause.)

18
19 A Thank you, my supporters.

20 And this, I believe, is gross injustice, committed
21 against a specific group of people, of specific group of
22 profession. They have professional trade to offer, for the
23 -- to make contribution for the welfare and well being
24 of the United States. And they have that skill to offer.

25 At this time I would like to ask the medical authority

1 to give them that opportunity so that they can have at least
2 the opportunity to take tests.

3

4 (Applause.)

5

6 A To be qualified. Just as any other medical field and
7 any other field of occupation and job opportunity in the
8 United States.

9 Thank you.

10

11 (Applause.)

12

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

14 Let me just say that unfortunately we are running
15 behind, and so we will forego the questions. But let me
16 state this to this panel: It is becoming **obvious** to the
17 Committee, not only from this hearing but from other hearings
18 we've had, dealing with other cultures, that the question
19 of testing is one that is an area that has to be reevaluated.
20 Particularly when you are attempting to obtain the skills or
21 the measurement of skills of a person without taking into
22 consideration his culture.

23 So that this whole area of examination is one that
24 we are very interested in. Unfortunately, because of the
25 time, I can not go into it any further, but let me say to

1 you that I, personally, and this Committee, I'm sure, will
2 pursue this. It may not be a situation that will end without
3 having to go to courts, but that if that is the ultimate
4 solution, then I, for one, would be willing to pursue that.

5 I want to thank you for your time and presentation
6 here this morning, I do have other communities that we must
7 hear from, and -- our staff, the Commission staff, will be
8 in touch with you. We will pursue this.

9 Thank you again.

10
11 (Applause.)

12
13 THE CHAIRMAN: I would want the other panelists coming
14 up, I would only ask that, for the record, in an interview
15 with the California State Board of Pharmacy, the following
16 statement was made to us which I think is evidence of some
17 of the problems and the statement was that a foreign pharmacist
18 in California would be lost out of his element, a dangerous
19 man. Canadian pharmaceutical standards come closest to the
20 United States standard. I would -- I read this in the
21 record because I think it's important to educate the type of
22 attitude that we are facing.

23 MS. HATA: Mr. Chairman, I would also like to request
24 that the staff write the statement up and ask for specific
25 examples for the nature of this response and I would like to

1 know exactly why the matter has come up with that kind of
2 a statement, we have supporting evidence, what the nature
3 of the supporting evidence is.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: All right, we will so do that.

5 DR. PAK: Mr. Chairman, I have a request or two to
6 translate into Korean the final statement made by Mr. Chang.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, yes, all right. Fine.

8 MR. ISHIKAWA: Mr. Chairman, the Korean Pharmacist
9 Association of California would like to submit a petition
10 to the Commission, to the California State Board of Pharmacy,
11 and under cover of the Commission --

12 THE CHAIRMAN: All right, fine.

13 All right, our next panel I'd ask the participants
14 to come forward, Dr. Jenny Batongmalaque, Mr. Leon Barinaga,
15 Mr. Robert Lermea.

16 All right, I guess we're ready to go, Doctor, you
17 want to start off for us this morning?

18

19

20

JENNY BATONGMALAQUE, M.D.

21

22 A (By Dr. Batongmalaque.) Thank you, and good morning,

23 Ladies and Gentlemen.

24

25 As I came in this morning I had just been told that
yesterday's presentation was full of historical background

1 on the immigration and waves of Filipinos in the United
2 States. It would be remiss on my part if I did not touch
3 on some of the highlights of those historical backgrounds
4 because it's very important in the present day Filipino
5 Community.

6 The community, therefore, that is brought before us
7 today is what composes the Filipino Community of Los Angeles.
8 They can be simply categorized in the following: The first
9 onewould be the Filipino pioneers, the second one would be
10 the second generation Filipino Americans. -The third one
11 would be the newcomers.

12 The Filipino pioneers who are presently in their
13 60's and 70's were the ones who arrived in the 1920's.
14 They were recruited as young men, semi-literate, and presently
15 they are in that status still, semi, still, and added to
16 that is the burden of being a senior citizen, which compounds
17 their problem.

18 Many are resigned to their fate, being less, having
19 less, facing the discriminatory laws when they first arrived,
20 the exclusion laws, and many of them are condemned to be
21 isolated men who could not find a mate because there were
22 very few Filipino women at that time.

23 But I would like to mention here a very celebrated case
24 in our community of very-much-alive senior citizen who is
25 taken by a civic-minded corporal. He is 77 years old, up

1 to this day we still do not know how he got imprisoned 50
2 years ago, but the story goes that he was thrown to jail
3 because of attempted manslaughter.

4 He could not speak good English then. Nor even now,
5 he can not -- he can only speak his Ilocano (Phonetic)
6 dialect, but being as it is his mind's so addled, he can not
7 even be understood by his own provincemates.

8 He is like a child, only worse, because he suffers
9 the infirmities of old age. Was he provoked into a fight
10 in the 20's, because of some flimsy reason? Was he driven
11 to despair to have acted irrationally? Who knows?

12 And yet his psychiatric records are voluminous. How
13 can this be possible if one can not even communicate or com-
14 prehend the language or cultural values? And yet it is easy
15 to understand that it is possible to have a psychiatric case
16 on your hands under those circumstances.

17 Stranger still, he was released only after someone
18 was tipped in our community that an insane person was in jail
19 and he was released without much ado.

20 I shudder at the thought of it.

21 Fortunately, not too many of the present day Filipino
22 senior citizens have the fate of this man, but they are no
23 better than he. Every time a situation of a language or
24 cultural barrier exists, even in dialogue, one feels im-
25 prisoned and isolated by it. When one can not effectively

1 communicate, one just goes away, turns away.

2 Now, the second generation Filipino Americans. They
3 are born of Filipino parents who have tried to imbue in
4 them the culture and language of the old culture and yet
5 being raised in public schools in America, this individual
6 assimilates the American culture much more; to belong to
7 the mainstream.

8 As he grows older, he flinches at the double standard
9 the Anglos give him. They are subdued, there are subdued,
10 covered, undermining discriminatory practices that he becomes
11 victim of in smaller or large degree.

12 Now, it is not just the language, it is not just the
13 culture, since he can talk and he can speak like any Anglo
14 boy, but is it the color of his skin, the slant of his eyes,
15 the broad nose or the mere fact that he admits that he was
16 born of Filipino parents. This boy tries now to search his
17 identity in his own community.

18 When he goes there he gets his biggest disappointment
19 in life, the Filipino first generation rejects him because
20 he talks different, he acts different.

21 The recent arrivals are just as bad. The moment they
22 converse, they know they are in split worlds apart, because
23 of cultural and language differences. This individual goes
24 back and forth, ping-pong style, in search of his identity.
25 He becomes bitter, disillusioned and goes away.

1 When I asked one of them, who happens to be a uni-
2 versity student, the other day, she said, the communication
3 with our senior citizen is very bad that I say to myself,
4 why don't they die first, then I can get involved in the
5 community? And then, again I know this is a big copout on
6 my part. But today I just skip away from it.

7 What of that young man who jumped from the Golden
8 Gate Bridge recently? He was a second generation Filipino
9 American.

10 Now, the newcomers or the professionals. They have
11 all kinds of professions, and their biggest dreams of coming
12 to this land of milk and honey, until a month or two after
13 they arrive, they realize that they are here, without any
14 job at all if they do not pass those licensure examinations.
15 And if they have to survive they take any jobs.

16 Many of them invariably start as clerks, cashiers,
17 gas attendants, busboys, orderlies, aides. To think these
18 are doctors, dentists, engineers, architects, accountants,
19 teachers and nurses. If they only knew that they would end
20 up like this here, why they would not have ventured to come
21 here, but that is just where it's at.

22 To come here they sold their land, their water buffaloes
23 or carribous, as we call them, their properties and they
24 placed themselves to come to these United States to do or to
25 die. For a Filipino, quote, unquote, shame of not having

1 made it is worse than death.

2 The vicious cycle continues. When the newcomer,
3 despite difficulties here, write home that this is indeed
4 a land of milk and honey and they are doing just fine, to
5 prove it he will even send some money home. Maybe \$50.00
6 this time, next month, he will send more.

7 One engineer, some time ago, just couldn't make it.
8 While his wife, nurse, was working on her second job in one
9 of those Chicago hospitals, he bundled up his two girls
10 and drowned themselves in the Chicago River.

11 Two years ago, when we did our first major health fair
12 in the community, we ran a random sample of survey questionnaires,
13 and there were 1,000 ~~respondents~~ coming from around a radius
14 of ten miles from the target area. The Alverado-Temple
15 area, which is traditionally the heart of the Filipino
16 Community in Los Angeles. The survey identified the who,
17 what, where, of the Filipino and his life style. Not content
18 with these findings, we ran the second survey in the summer
19 of 1972, utilizing the same questionnaire; this time giving
20 specific boundaries on a door-to-door basis, the respondents
21 being limited only to Filipino families.

22 There were 359 respondents in this survey. Surprisingly,
23 the findings were invariably the same, this will soon be
24 published and the only thing I can add to what I've already
25 mentioned earlier, is that there are felt needs in the present

1 day Filipino constituent, no matter what station in life
2 he is.

3 When one sees a stark paradox of the man who states
4 openly, he has no problems, and yet has four children, lives
5 in a two-bedroom house in an area that is depressed, and low
6 income, has an annual income of \$10,000.00, newly arrived,
7 has no knowledge of health insurance, takes the bus for
8 work, there are problems.

9 We call these felt needs because for a Filipino to
10 admit they are his problems, he will die first before admitting
11 it. He will not accept charity. Neither will he admit he
12 does not know where to get help, because of the shame of
13 being called stupid. Health is a factor, so easily abused.

14 Immigrants from the Philippines bring with them health
15 problems of the country where there is limited health problems
16 for people. Immunization and well-baby clinics is overlooked.
17 The avoidance of public health services, assistance, because
18 of cultural taboos, inadequate diets, substandard housing
19 and lack of orientation, where services are available, all
20 these are common occurrences in the new immigrant.

21 I, therefore, presented to you a problem community
22 very diverse in language and culture and socioeconomic strata.
23 There is no cohesiveness one would like to see because of the
24 stated differences. It is no one's fault. But I firmly
25 believe something can be done about it. Knowing the barriers

1 and the exposures of the constituents, one must, if one
2 wants to help him out, go out to them and this is what
3 outreach is all about.

4 Somehow a lot is still to be desired when a situation
5 such as the following, occurs: An old, non-English-speaking
6 woman complains of some malady in her private parts. Where
7 could she go? If she went to a structure that provides health
8 care, how could she express herself? What would she find
9 behind those doors, policemen? Immigration officers? Or
10 some important establishment figure who might want to deport
11 her for some reason or another?

12 If this initial reaction in getting to the door is over-
13 come, how, then, could she explain herself to be truly under-
14 stood? The feeling of confusion and frustration is greatly
15 aggravated when she is examined by a young Caucasian male
16 doctor, as is commonly the case in a general hospital where
17 young interns are the primary physicians. These young
18 doctors are very efficient and they're doing very well,
19 but to the patient, it results in her humiliation, especially
20 if she has to point to her private parts, if she is to be
21 understood.

22 If such a patient reaches the examination table, there
23 is virtually no communication between the doctor and the
24 patient, history of the malady would be flimsy if at all, it
25 would be chalked up as, "Poor history because of language barrier".

1 Any rapport between the doctor and the patient is
2 simply nil in this situation. Once that situation can be
3 as varied as there are people. No matter how sophisticated
4 the technology and expertise. If the cultural, language and
5 social barriers are not overcome, it will always pose a
6 problem.

7 As a sequel to this situation, if the patient were
8 relieved of her symptoms, would she come back for a followup?
9 I will safely say, and even bet with my last cent, she might
10 not. She will probably say to herself, I am well, I don't
11 have to go back and bother anybody with my ailment, and to
12 be subjected again in humiliation, I will die first.

13 One sees the futility in the faces of these people, it
14 may even seem that they are a pathetic, it is the futility
15 of frustration when you hear them say, what for do I go
16 anywhere to bother people? Nobody understands and nobody
17 cares. They just die.

18 Not with a bam, but with a whimper.

19 I therefore strongly recommend the concept of estab-
20 lishing a liason between the community and the establishment,
21 with the following recommendations: Number one, community
22 consultants. These would be respected and well known people
23 from each target area, known by the community to provide a
24 profile of the community they represent. They would know the
25 needs of their own community and would be able to express

1 them objectively.

2 In return, they will be made aware of public health
3 facilities and ordinances, to be able to relate them closely
4 to their communities. The consultants will be asked to sit
5 in health planning sessions to carry on dialogue with writers
6 of services.

7 The mobile clinic. The concept of the mobile free
8 clinic is to seek people in remote and hard to reach areas,
9 both geographically and cultural. The mobile unit would
10 provide medical and dental services to be rendered by licensed
11 M.D's and dentists. The mobile health team would be composed
12 of social workers, public health nurses, community resource
13 representatives, and volunteers from their respective areas.

14 The target areas to be chosen would fall under the
15 following criteria: Low income level, lack of transportation
16 far from the primary care facilities, the old, the crippled
17 and handicapped and where the cultural and language barriers
18 abound.

19 A mobile clinic such as this would need the innovative
20 approaches of the community so as to afford continuing care
21 with the existing facilities through community cooperation,
22 consumers and residents with health teams in planning the mobile
23 clinic with consideration for the life style and other cul-
24 tural characteristics of the people. Once the people under-
25 stand and realize the motives of such a concept and once they

1 feel secure in the sense that there are helping hands to
2 lead and guide them, it will be an easy matter to show them
3 the very structures they once feared and are there to help
4 them out in their health problems.

5 The Department of Public Social Services is always
6 ready to help people, but if the people do not go to their
7 establishment because they do not want -- know what it is
8 all about, it is a great waste of money and human effort to
9 keep it going.

10 The mobile clinic, with its team of experts as pro-
11 viders of services, consultants and volunteers, would be
12 able to breach that gap which is sorely needed to bring to-
13 gether the people and the services meant for them.

14 My second and last recommendation. Assistance to
15 unlicensed foreign medical graduates while undertaking their
16 licensure examination.

17 In Florida a foreign medical graduate is invited to
18 undergo a nine-month review course to be able to pass the
19 examination for licensure while being employed in a hospital
20 or health facility on the condition that if the foreign
21 medical graduate should pass the examination, he is asked
22 to pay back the nine months to the community that has phys-
23 ician shortage. In Los Angeles, there are several hundreds
24 of unlicensed physicians with very low income salaries,
25 working in jobs that are totally unrelated to their knowledge

1 and expertise. Some are even jobless. They have no oppor-
2 tunities to review or to attend review classes because they
3 can not afford to pay for the tuition and they have no time
4 because they have to earn a living to feed themselves and
5 their families.

6 In the meantime, they are losing their self confidence
7 and their knowledge as physicians, so much medical power is
8 wasted.

9 I strongly recommend a plan or a program to help the
10 foreign medical graduates to be made useful and to prepare
11 them so they may successfully pass those examinations for
12 licensure. While waiting for the new crop to finish their
13 medical education and to graduate as full-fledged physicians,
14 we could be benefited with the help that these unlicensed
15 doctors could give us.

16 Thank you.

17

18 (Applause.)

19

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Leon Barinaga?

21

22

23

LEON BARINAGA, JR.

24

25

A. (By Mr. Barinaga.) Before I proceed, Mr. Chairman,

1 could I ask a question?

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.

3 A. I'd like to know, is there a Filipino who's a member
4 of the State Advisory Committee, of the Civil Rights Com-
5 mission?

6 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry, I didn't hear the question.

7 A. Do you have a Filipino, a member of the State Advisory
8 Committee?

9 THE CHAIRMAN: At the present time we do not, but
10 there is a nomination for a person who hopefully will be
11 appointed in the immediate future to the State Advisory
12 Committee.

13 A. Thank you.

14 My name is Leon Barinaga, Jr., I'm a Filipino social
15 worker at the Oriental Service Center. As such, I attend
16 to the needs and problems of the Filipinos.

17 The problems brought to my attention are multifarious,
18 and 55% of these concern employment. Of this percentage,
19 about 95% are professionals. In as much as the medical and
20 paramedical professions are already covered by the previous
21 speaker I'll just speak about three other professions.

22 I'll go direct to the issues involved.

23 First, in regards to the teachers, these professionals
24 completed their BSE, bachelor of science in education degree,
25 their BS in elementary education or an MA degree. Yet they

1 are not accepted as such. To be employed in public schools
2 they must have to apply for credentials. This is where the
3 hassle begins.

4 First, an application is made, attaching a transcript
5 of records and all the documentation, to Sacramento, where
6 it is deliberated for several months. And then the word
7 comes back and they started to go to school -- you know,
8 go over this whole thing again.

9 At this point, the applicant can not really afford
10 to go to school. Because she has no money. In the first
11 place, that is precisely why she's applying for credentials,
12 so she will have a money job and that way she get to live.
13 So going to school, then, and spending that much time is out
14 of the question.

15 In order not to starve, this Filipino teacher, the
16 professional is afforded by circumstances to get any job.
17 Thus, you might find her working in a convalescent hospital
18 as a nurse's aide or attendant taking orders.

19 Or you might find her working in a -- with the private
20 home as a live-in, wearing a maid's uniform. This is be-
21 cause, this is due to the strict licensing procedures that
22 these people will have to go through just to survive.

23 Others may be lucky enough to get a government job, like
24 clerical, but then they never seem to rise above the clerical
25 level. And some how, most of them feel that they're not given

1 fair treatment at all.

2 I -- one individual who came to me and complained that
3 she just was fired from her job because after the immigration
4 she found that she had lost the records which would bar
5 or prevent her from considered for promotion. Now, the re-
6 marks of the office, she contacted her supervisor as to
7 this rating, she was told that, well, you are slow in com-
8 prehending. She said, you don't understand orders very
9 well, or that you can not relate very well, speak good
10 English, and things like that.

11 Now, you have to consider this employee has an MA
12 degree, has a good number of years' experience teaching in
13 the Philippines and has been a supervisor in the department
14 of public schools in the Philippines.

15 Now, consider that, and the supervisor, she has nothing
16 else.

17 I get a feeling that her upward mobility is braked.
18 So, in order to avoid frustration, let us follow the path of
19 this circumstance and resigned, quit.

20 At this point, I'd like to mention the Peace Corps.
21 The United States is sending Peace Corps throughout the world
22 and the Philippines included. Most of these people are --
23 well, the program is good and most of them are either recent
24 graduates or undergraduates who are teaching and at the same
25 time learning. Now, of course, they're paid by the U.S. Govern-

1 ment, but that's not the issue. In the first place, or in
2 the counties where they are send their talents are **accepted**
3 as it is. But when the professionals in the Philippines
4 come to this country, the talents, their training and their
5 expertise are not accepted as this.

6 Why? Why? Because they are subjected to such a
7 strict licensing procedure it's impossible for them to
8 make a --

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Let me just interrupt you. Do you
10 view the licensing restrictions as a **discriminatory barrier**,
11 a racial discriminatory barrier?

12 A Yes.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: All right.

14 A Here again, not particular one group.

15 So then, I'll talk about the second group of pro-
16 fessionals coming here from the Philippines. This group
17 is one of the worst in terms of employment. When they
18 apply for a non-legal job they are usually told that they are
19 overqualified or that they have a heavy accent or that they
20 have no local experience. Of course, these reasons are
21 also applied to all other professionals.

22 Since he can not practice law without first passing
23 the State Bar examination, and in order to earn a living, he
24 has to take any job also, so he avoids mentioning his degree.
25 And therefore, just takes any job. It is not surprising to

1 find a Filipino lawyer working as a hospital orderly or a
2 gasoline station attendant.

3 Another question, can he take the state bar? Yes,
4 he can take the state bar, and there are two categories in
5 which he can operate as, first can apply as a general appli-
6 cant, that means he has to take a three-day examination.
7 Or he might qualify under the attorney's exam, which only one
8 day examination. But then, there are other requirements, if
9 we can take the second one, that is first he must at least
10 have four years practice in his own home country, actively
11 and substantially and lawfully engaged in the practice of
12 law. However, what constitutes practice of law in the
13 Philippines may not be so here, for lack of better under-
14 standing of the act involved in the practice.

15 For instance, in the Philippines, a notario, has
16 a legal practice. Why? Because one of the requisites to
17 be commissioned as a notary public is to be a member of the
18 Filipino Bar. In other words, a notary public in the Philip-
19 pines is not the same as a notary public here because here
20 it is not. In the Philippines, a notary public are charged
21 with much greater responsibility.

22 Due to the nature of the normal transactions in in-
23 terpreting, let's say if he practice, we don't have any
24 pro forma forms. Each contract, each part is different, but
25 see, the custom there is after the vendor sells the product

1 to the vendee, the vendee, in turn, mortgages it to the
2 vendor to secure the balance. Here we have finance company
3 will take it but there it's not customary.

4 So then, you need to have a person that is responsible
5 enough to draw up the contract and you can not get it if you're
6 a layman, so when you ready to take the state bar, one of
7 those years, if I was actively and substantially and locally
8 engaged in a practice, like.

9 So now, I don't blame, because they don't respect
10 the responsibility of the notary in a place other than
11 California.

12 Second, there are positions also in the Philippines
13 which by the law creating them constitute legal practice.
14 Again, it's because first, the requirement for the applicant
15 must be a member of the Filipino Bar.

16 I am talking about the position of municipal election
17 registrar. The applicant, aside from being required to be
18 a member of the Bar, he is also, the duties are also such
19 that it is even quasi-judicial, conducting hearings, accepting
20 evidence and determining whether a person is qualified to
21 vote and whathaveyou. He has to call witnesses --

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Let me just interrupt you here. Am I
23 correct that you were an attorney in the Philippine Islands?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q And what type of law did they

1 have there, do they have the code law or the common law?

2 A The basis of the legal organization in the Philippines
3 is the civil law.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Civil laws? So that -- and the United
5 States being a common law, so there would be a difference
6 there in terms of, say just the philosophy of the law.

7 Now, you indicate that you could come and take the
8 exam based upon the fact that you practiced law in the
9 Philippine Islands, but obviously, because of civil code
10 being involved in the Philippine Islands, you would not --
11 chances of you passing that exam would be slim, I would
12 imagine.

13 A It would be very slim, right.

14 Q (By the Chairman.) Now, what would your recommendations
15 be to eliminate that situation, would you go through a,
16 should one of the recommendations be that we provide a, maybe
17 some kind of a catchup course for the attorney from the
18 Philippine Islands, maybe a crash course for six months to
19 familiarize him with the laws here, is it your recommendation
20 that he be automatically accepted to the California Bar?

21 What recommendation would you have for us?

22 A Well, I would recommend not only a lawyer but pro-
23 fessionals who passed already their respective examinations
24 back home to be automatically accepted in practice here in
25 the United States. I can give you one reason for that, when

1 we apply, most of the professionals, when they apply for visas,
2 they were granted a visa under the preference, a preference
3 for being professionals. We are accepted as professionals
4 because we look at the professionals and they're in the United
5 States by that profession. When you come here and you're
6 not allowing to practice that profession, you're under
7 strict licensing procedures, which is very prohibitory.
8 That's an inconsistency there.

9 Q All right. I can understand the philosophy behind
10 the policy behind that.

11 From, say this government. But I am trying to see
12 what kind of solution you come up with because on the one
13 hand, I'm sure you've heard this argument, on the one hand
14 the professions say we must protect the public. Now, I think
15 the arguments are weak in terms of say the medical pro-
16 fession.

17 But in terms of perhaps the legal profession, their
18 argument is that your education is based on different concept
19 of laws than is accepted here, and to give you an automatic
20 license would really mean that the laws that you are
21 familiar with would be, one, based on civic code.

22 Is it your position, though, that there should be
23 an automatic or is there, would it be unreasonable to say to
24 give you a preferential treatment of a, a period of six months
25 or whathaveyou?

1 A. When I say automatic, it's just per se, I mean they
2 should be, if consideration is past experiences, but their
3 situation should be gauged on his performance in the state
4 where he practiced last and not here.

5 As to protecting the public, we have that, I can
6 understand. Lawyers in business who are allowed to practice
7 without taking the bar, see, because they were, even though
8 -- on the automatics, on their own performances and they
9 were accepting the public welfare, same thing would apply
10 here.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: All right, I'm going to have to get --
12 again I'm pressed for time, so let me just now, at this
13 point, go to questions from the panel, I'm going to ask
14 the panels to finish up our questions by 12:00 o'clock.

15 Q. (By Ms. Hata.) I wanted to ask Dr. Batongmalaque, to
16 give you an opportunity to respond to a statement made by
17 someone from the State Board of Medical Examiners.

18 The statement is, the majority of our foreign appli-
19 cants are from the Philippines. Filipinos have no real
20 problems meeting our requirements. And this is a statement,
21 a direct quote from the State Board of Medical Examiners.

22 Do you agree or disagree and do you have statistics
23 that support?

24 A. (By Dr. Batongmalaque.) If it is referring to the re-
25 quirements to qualify for the examination, like for instance

1 a medical license, you know, having completed all the number
2 of hours, you know, the required subjects, yes, that is
3 true, because the system of education of medical schools in
4 the Philippines is patterned according to American standard.
5 We use American books, in fact, we are taught by American-
6 trained physicians. But -- but that is only limiting to
7 that question, right? I agree that we are prepared in coming
8 here.

9 Q I think the Chairman will probably give you a couple
10 of minutes to go on with your but.

11 A All right. But, the problem here lies in the examina-
12 tion itself, the method of examination in the Philippines
13 is very unlike the one that is given here, wherein over
14 there you are given essay type of examination, in other
15 words, your comprehension of what you have learned in school
16 in the books, you would express it in your own style out there.

17 And the grading system is definitely, there is a sub-
18 jective way of grading students. Now, here we find the match-
19 ing examinations or the Moore's examination, the Moore's type
20 of examination wherein the comprehension is much more beyond
21 the -- what you see per se.

22 For instance, they would give statements and after
23 that statement you have several answers to choose from.

24 A may be correct, B may be correct, C may be correct, A and
25 B may be correct and then B and C may be correct, something

1 like that. So, here it requires a much more deeper compre-
2 hension.

3 English is not a problem, per se, because that is the
4 medium of language that we are taught there, it is compre-
5 hension of the examination. This has yet to be explored,
6 and from what we read, that the percentage of foreign gra-
7 duates, especially Filipinos passing this examination, is
8 kind of low. It is low.

9 Q Do you have the data on that?

10 A Well, the last one I read was published in one of the
11 journals wherein, comparatively speaking, for instance,
12 India would have 40% foreign medical graduates passed the
13 latest examination, whereas Philippines was 23%.

14 Q Twenty-three percent of those who take the test?

15 A Who took the test. Now, the number of applicants is
16 such that India at that time had 4,000, plus or minus, and
17 the Philippines had more than 5,000 applicants, and Malaya,
18 for example, during that examination, had 89 applicants
19 and 89 passed. So, they have a 100%, you know, who passed
20 the examination.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: I want to thank both of you for taking
22 the time in presenting the information, if there is any
23 additional information or statements that you wish to make,
24 feel free to submit that to us to our staff, and the Committee
25 will review it as we will review the entire transcript, and

1 make it part of our record. Thank you very much.

2 A Mr. Chairman, for my information, what is the followup
3 of this hearing?

4 THE CHAIRMAN: What will occur next, is that the
5 gentleman that is taking down every word we're saying is
6 going to transform this into a transcript which will be,
7 I'm sure, very voluminous. We will then review the trans-
8 cript, from the transcript we will pull out facts that we
9 feel have been established and issue a report based upon -
10 those facts along with recommendations to various committees
11 including the Commission.

12 The report and recommendations will be made public,
13 to all the communities and to the public in general. And
14 then the Commission staff will be able to work with the
15 communities to see if these recommendations are being carried
16 out. That's the ultimate package, so to speak?

17 A And who is the point of reference, will you be the
18 man, sir?

19 THE CHAIRMAN: The point of reference will be the
20 staff here, which is headed by Mr. Phil Montez. The gentle-
21 man in the brown suit there, and Mr. Tom Pilla, who is right
22 here, and Ms. Sally James and attorney Ramona Godoy and
23 Mr. Erickson over here and Mr. Mike Ishikawa.

24 Their office is located at 312 North Spring Street,
25 room 1015, and they are the group that you will be -- that will

1 be the focal point.

2 Thank you again for coming.

3 All right, we have one last panel.

4 Ms. Ratanavongse and Mr. Lou Faamaligi.

5 Okay, if you will state your name, for the record?

6

7

8

MR. LOU FAAMALIGI

9

10 A (By Mr. Faamaligi.) Mr. Chairman, Members of the
11 California State Advisory Committee to the United States
12 Commission of Civil Rights, Ladies and Gentlemen. My name
13 is Faamaligi, I am a member of the Samoan American Community
14 Council and serve as secretary for the special financial
15 committee and I'm a member of the advisory board of Asian
16 American Community Mental Training Center.

17 I was born in American Samoa and I'm a naturalized
18 citizen in the City of San Francisco, November 11, 1964,
19 District of San Francisco.

20 My assignment is the issue of licensing of foreign
21 born professionals. There are 48 Samoans in the United
22 States, in the State of California alone are 35 Samoan,
23 35,000 Samoans. With 8,000 in northern California and 27,000
24 in southern California, of which 17,000 are clustered in the
25 vicinity of Compton, Carson and the South Bay area of Los

1 Angeles. Our population boom on the west coast since 1951
2 when the Navy Department pulled out of the island and
3 brought all personnel and their families to California
4 and even Hawaii.

5 Today, these Samoan pioneers are old and aged, more
6 and more Samoans of all ages, both male and female, followed
7 them. Now we have a brand new community in a brand new environ-
8 ment. Experiencing new problems.

9 Here are the problems in my area of assignment.
10 Licensing of foreign-trained professionals. First, medical
11 practitioners, they are experienced in their field but
12 are unable to practice due to legal and technical require-
13 ments set up by the United States and California boards.

14 You will find that the medical practitioners or pro-
15 fessionals here in Los Angeles working as salesmen, social
16 workers, volunteer workers without pay, and even custodians.

17 Second, registered nurses. They are experienced in
18 their field, but are unable to practice due to legal and
19 technical requirements and are demoted to nurse's aides or
20 even housekeepers.

21 C, third, teachers, they are experienced in their
22 field but just the same as above, they can't perform their
23 duties diligently in two languages, English and Samoan.
24 Plus their culture that enables them to instill in the
25 hearts of our youth the way of living by love, respect,

1 honesty, etcetera.

2 These are the three categories I have chosen for my
3 assignment, and I feel that it is the responsibility of
4 the United States Government to maintain equal standard
5 in the field of education service and recognition of our
6 Samoan professionals.

7 Samoa is under the protection of the United States
8 of America, why, then, are we subjected to this type of
9 treatment if we are under the protection of the United States.
10 Kindly recognize the language barrier of our professionals.
11 And adjustment be made for their studies.

12 I highly recommend that something be done for our
13 people in licensing, recognition and job training for the
14 unskilled. Samoans have been put down and put out for so
15 long, that it is time for the federal, state and local
16 agency to start changing their views towards our plight.

17 We are constantly being bombarded by rising costs of
18 food, meat, doctor bills, and etcetera. Almost every head
19 of family within the 17,000 residing in Los Angeles County
20 are suffering because of poor job availability.

21 We need jobs to meet the high cost of living. We
22 are willing to work. But you are not letting us to work,
23 for example, when I was in the field with other members of
24 our council during my job-hunting, the interviewer said, okay,
25 I have your name here, don't worry, we will get in touch with

1 you soon. Don't call us, we'll call you. What kind of
2 treatment is this?

3 Up to the present time, I have never received any
4 call, and I believe most of my fellow Asian Americans have
5 had this same treatment. True eloquence from the heart to
6 the heart, not from the mouth to the ear, that is a well-
7 known comment from one of the great orators, William Jennings
8 Bryant.

9 Now I will conclude my remarks by reciting the Holy
10 Scripture as a moral or a testimony from our Samoan Com-
11 munity to all. The prophetic words of testament for our
12 group.

13 Wither thou goest, I will go. Wither thou lodgest,
14 I will lodge. Wither thou diest, I will die. Your people
15 shall be my people. Your God, my God.

16 This is an example of loyalty and love of Samoan
17 people to the United States Government. It is a special
18 request to the Committee of the Commission on Civil Rights
19 that our hearts and love and sustaining of all is necessary,
20 may God bless America, your Humble Servant, the Samoan
21 Community.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

23

24 (Applause.)

25

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Next speaker, if you'll identify
2 yourself for the record, please?

3 MR. FAAMALIGI: The translator will summarize in brief,
4 the remarks.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you very much.
6 Any questions?

7 I want to thank you for your presentation this after-
8 noon, and for taking the time representing your community,
9 thank you very much.

10 MR. FAAMALIGI: One question, Chairman.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

12 MR. FAAMALIGI: Is there any chance for a Samoan in
13 the Advisory Board Committee on the Commission on Civil
14 Rights?

15 THE CHAIRMAN: I think you will see that that will
16 be one of the recommendations that the Committee will be
17 coming forth with, and we'll look for that very shortly.

18 MR. FAAMALIGI: We would like to thank the Committee
19 and board members for your kind effort and untiring effort
20 and all the sustaining of these Asian American groups, es-
21 specially our Samoans, for your kind consideration, thank
22 you very much.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, you're very kind.

24 Our next scheduled witness is Mr. Frank Reynolds,
25 Chief Deputy Director of the State Department of Consumer

1 Affairs. Is he present?

2 Mr. Reynolds present or anyone representing the
3 State Department of Consumer Affairs?

4 All right, then I would like to read, then, the
5 following statement for the record.

6 MR. KOOK: Mr. Chairman?

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

8 MR. KOOK: I'd like to express my opinion at this
9 time that the absence of related personnel from the State
10 Consumer Affairs division is very unjustifiable, and very
11 unreasonable conduct on the part of the consumers. In such
12 a grand hearing which is held today, representing such a
13 large minority groups including entire Asian American Com-
14 munities, I think it is grossly unjust.

15 And at this time we would like to file our strong
16 opinion in protest for such conduct to the Committee.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: All right, I will accept that.

18

19 (Applause.)

20

21 THE CHAIRMAN: I will accept that, I would like to
22 read into the record, the following statement.

23 "The Western Regional Staff interviewed officials with
24 the State Board of Nursing Education and Nurse Registration,
25 the State Board of Medical Examiners, the State Board of

1 Dental Examiners and the State Board of Pharmacy as well
2 as Frank Reynolds, Chief Deputy Director of the California
3 State Department of Consumer Affairs. The agency which
4 oversees these boards.

5 "We invited Mr. Reynolds and department director, John
6 T. ^{Kebel} ~~Ketico~~ (Phonetic) and those board officials whose expertise
7 they felt were essential for us to gain the full knowledge
8 of the issues to appear before this Committee.

9 "Mr. Reynolds responded orally a month ago, that the
10 department would be represented, his response to our written
11 formal invitation of November 19th was also affirmative.

12 "Regional staff persons spoke with him two days ago
13 and again he reaffirmed that he and/or his representatives
14 would be in attendance here and prepared to respond to this
15 Committee's questions.

16 "Yesterday Mr. Reynolds had a representative telephone
17 the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, Western Regional Office,
18 with the message that the department would submit a four-
19 page written response to the outlined concerns and that he
20 did not deem it necessary to send a representative to respond
21 in person."

22 We have heard some strong testimony this morning,
23 testimony which obviously deserves a full response from the
24 State of California. Those professional persons from Korea
25 and the Philippines, Thailand and Samoa who addressed us,

1 obviously have skills which we in California should be
2 grateful to receive because they are indeed needed.

3 I personally do not have the words to apologize for
4 the insult which the State Department of Consumer Affairs
5 has heaped upon these persons as individuals and on the
6 communities they represent. But I would like to assure
7 those who testified and those of you in attendance here
8 that this Committee will make every effort to determine
9 whether their sudden decision not to appear was because they
10 were afraid to be publicly confronted with the issues or
11 whether it was merely bad manners.

12 Whichever the answer, the failure of the department
13 to appear as promised, certainly gives great credibility to
14 the complaint we have heard repeatedly this morning that
15 the department is insensitive to the Asian American and
16 Pacific Peoples of California.

17 The tragedy is that their failure to appear only pro-
18 longs the ultimate solutions to the problems presented,
19 and a continual loss to us as a nation of the talents of
20 the communities we have heard from, yesterday and today.

21 With this statement, I would close the hearings now
22 and we will reconvene at 1:30.

23 Thank you.

24
25 (Applause.)

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AFTERNOON SESSION

December 1, 1973

1:30 p.m.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, the California State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission is now back in session at 1:37 on December 1, 1973.

Conducting an open hearing on the Los Angeles Asian American and Pacific Peoples Public Hearing and also on these communities from San Diego.

Before we get to our panel this afternoon, let me indicate that, for the record, we have received a statement from Dulzuran, D-u-l-z-u-r-a-n, Villa Flor, V-i-l-l-a, F-l-o-r, regarding the Filipino American Community of Los Angeles, four-page statement which will now be accepted and received as part of our record.

All right, our first panel this afternoon is Mr. Craig Shimabukuro and Ms. Helen Kawagoe.

I'm glad to have you with us and I hope I did justice to our name and if I didn't, my apologies.

And would you state your name for the records?

MR. SHIMABUKURO: I'm Craig Shimabukuro, representing the Japanese American Citizens League.

MS. KAWAGOE: My name is Helen Kawagoe, also with the Japanese American Citizens League, as a volunteer.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. I understand you have a
2 statement for us this afternoon?

3 MS. KAWAGOE: We'll start with Craig.

4

5

6

MR. SHIMABUKURO

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8 A. (By Mr. Shimabukuro.) Before I get into my, I guess
9 formal testimony, what I would like to do as a representative
10 for the Japanese American Citizens League, support the
11 protest that the Korean Community raised this morning before
12 the lunch break. I, personally, feel that this is, again,
13 an affront to the Asian American Community, that the people
14 from the State of California, Mr. Reynolds in particular,
15 did not find it important enough for them to come to this
16 hearing, so again, I would like to support that protest.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: All right, that will be noted in the
18 record, thank you.

19 A. All right. The Japanese American Citizens League
20 is a nonprofit organization with a membership of approxi-
21 mately 30,000 people. Most of the membership and program
22 emphasis is within the Japanese American Community, the
23 organization also contains many members of other racial and
24 ethnic origins.

25 Our organization is committed to the concepts and

1 practices of civil rights and equal justice under the law.
2 This is expressed in Article II, Section 3 of the JACL
3 National Constitution which reads, and I quote, "The primary
4 and continuing concern of this organization shall be the
5 welfare of Americans of Japanese ancestry. In its programs
6 and activities, however, it shall strive to secure and
7 uphold full civil rights and equal justice under the law for
8 all Americans, regardless of race, creed, color and national
9 origin."

10 The major question that we're talking about today,
11 again, is progress with problems in the community and I'm
12 going to put this in the context of some of the activities
13 that the JACL has involved itself in.

14 First of all, I guess on a national scale, one
15 noticeable achievement that the JACL was involved in in the
16 past few years was the drive for the repeal of Title II
17 of the Internal Securities Act.

18 This act also known as the Immigration Act, made it
19 possible for government to detain and intern individuals as
20 it did during the Second World War to the Japanese American
21 Community, at which time there were 110,000 people were in-
22 terned.

23 Locally, the JACL also is one of the prime supporters
24 of Dr. Thomas Naguchi (Phonetic), who'd been fired as the
25 county coroner and it was the feeling of the community, and

1 it was justified through hearings that Mr. Naguchi's firing
2 was done without due cause, he was retired.

3 Also a local JACL chapters have been very active in
4 communitywide affairs, an excellent example of JACL coopera-
5 tion with other American Japanese will be demonstrated in
6 this hearing room today as some of the members of the San
7 Diego delegation are representatives of the San Diego JACL.

8 Our office and the JACL has also handled a number of
9 complaints and discrimination cases and we're currently
10 working on two cases which involve teachers and some of the
11 problems that they're having within the L.A. City School
12 System, but again, at this point, we see one of the major
13 problems in our communities is discrimination and generally
14 this discrimination comes, or basically three forms.

15 First we have the phenomenon with a lot of people
16 we call the verb racism and lot of ways this was really
17 exemplified by the remark which Attorney John J. Wilson
18 made concerning Senator Inouye, and I think this also exem-
19 plified the fact that the racism toward Japanese Americans
20 still permeates the highest, most influential strata of our
21 society.

22 The second area is general racial insensitivity or
23 ignorance and this we see every day. Such comments as,
24 my, don't you speak good English? Or some of my best friends
25 are Japanese, or all of you are so very neat, clean and

1 studious, etcetera.

2 Also, many times the uses of the word Japs comes under
3 this category, an example of this was found in a newspaper
4 headline which used the word Jap where another could have
5 been used with equal quality. They later printed an apology
6 after we wrote to them about this, but the fact is that it
7 still happened and again this is another case of the media
8 not understanding or realizing the needs of the Asian American
9 Community.

10 Third category of discrimination is institutional
11 and/or bureaucratic racism. For instance, I wrote a letter
12 asking the State Department of Social Welfare to inquire
13 into what was being done about those non-English-speaking
14 peoples affected by the implementation of HR-1.

15 Part of the reply was, and I quote, "Anyone who does
16 not understand a notice which he receives should contact the
17 local county welfare department for assistance."

18 The question we have, is that how can a person who does
19 not read English, respond to a letter which is in English?
20 How can he go to anyone for support, how can he ask questions,
21 when he can not even understand the communication that he
22 has received?

23 Again we see this as another example or instance of
24 bureaucratic insensitivity. Also, the refusal of school
25 systems to incorporate Asian American curriculum, both materials,

1 departments of credential programs are also examples of
2 institutional racism.

3 Another area is the treatment of Asian Americans in
4 the mass media. The mass media, many radio and television
5 is very good at distorting historical situations and
6 figures, as an example, Kung Fu, a popular TV series, is
7 twisted history in an attempt to justify the use of a Cau-
8 casian in a lead role. The main character is supposed to be a Eurasian.
9 this is virtually impossible, as the Shalon (P) Order during that
10 period of the late 19th century was an elite nation. Anyone
11 else, especially one not pure-born, would never have been
12 allowed in.

13 Another area is job discrimination and this is one
14 of the community's greatest problems and one of JACL major
15 concerns.

16 Japanese life of the minority are victims of such
17 policies as, last hired and first fired. Also, many find the
18 middle management and/or lower administrative positions are
19 the highest levels open to them. There are very few policy
20 makers in institutions and/or corporations.

21 Many Asians are also simply passed over or never hired
22 and promoted into more responsible positions. This passing
23 over, however, is not limited to the management level alone.
24 Many Asians in other areas are told that they are not eligible
25 for certain programs, positions and the answer is always be-

1 cause of something. Also, one of the greatest problems that
2 we are facing in our community today, this is particularly
3 the Japanese Community, is the fact that because of its
4 deterioration of United States-Japan relations, our community
5 now faces a situation similar to that prior to World War II
6 and the problem we have here is that a vast majority of the
7 people in the society do not separate Japanese from Japanese
8 Americans. And again this goes back to the period, say prior
9 to the war where a Jap is a Jap, it doesn't matter where
10 he's born. Or, the only good Jap is a dead Jap.

11 These, again, are examples where people in society
12 generally do not make distinctions in terms of Asian
13 American groups and with that, I'll close it, keep it short.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

15 Why don't we have your statement?
16
17

18 MS. HELEN KAWAGOE
19

20 A. (By Ms. Kawagoe.) I would just like to briefly touch
21 on a few things, and I think that Craig covered many of the
22 areas very well. However, I would like to point out to the
23 Commission that I serve on a planning commission of a city,
24 and this particular city, City of Carson, a fellow commis-
25 sioner charged was guilty for supporting a Jap. I took offense

1 to the remark, because the applicant before admission hap-
2 pened to be an Asian American, Japanese American, however
3 the offense that I felt was that he was really doubting my
4 credibility as a commissioner to look at and take into con-
5 sideration, all aspects of the exception case and then to
6 rule accordingly.

7 But he immediately, when I made a supportive statement
8 for the applicant, that I was supporting another Jap. My
9 commission chairman, at that time, failed to ask the fellow
10 commissioner for an apology and have it reflected in the
11 official minutes.

12 They almost all, even city staff, that it had never
13 happened. This really concerned me very much, because I
14 felt that here at this level, certainly the sensitivity should
15 be such that no one would display that type of insensitivity
16 and have a little bit more decorum. But obviously the legal
17 counsel for the city also looked like he wished that it had
18 never happened.

19 So, I did take action on that, after the meeting
20 closed, the next day, and filed a complaint with the city
21 council and brought it to the mayor's attention. That com-
22 missioner was not reappointed, his term is coming to a close
23 within the month, but he was not reappointed, so I think the
24 point was well taken.

25 But what I would like to say is I've had occasions

1 where I've gone to many banquets and these are people from
2 corporations, and large accounting firms, and always I've
3 run across the instance where they'll say, well, yes, you
4 speak very good English, how long have you been here? Or
5 when did you come to America? I'm wondering when society,
6 the general public is going to accept Asian Americans as all
7 American citizens? And we can never change the looks of our
8 faces, we can never change our names, and yet we are never
9 considered first-class citizens.

10 I have also run across an instance where an editor
11 of a newspaper said, well, gosh sakes, I wonder when we're
12 going to fight for American Americans' rights?

13 Now, how do you define American Americans? Aren't we
14 all American Americans? And so he never once thought that,
15 you know, American Americans could be Black Americans, Brown
16 Americans, Yellow Americans, or whatever, but he always
17 thought American Americans were White. So I also took him
18 to task.

19 Now, I even had an occasion where I was at a function
20 and a five-star general of the United States, his wife said
21 to me, well, I can't allow your group to take a picture with
22 the general unless I get a clearance from the war department,
23 but she says, I love you and your country. Now, I said, well,
24 my country happens to be the United States of America, but
25 that didn't suffice, so then she just, I said, well, thank you

1 and we walked away.

2 But here again is, we're talking about people who
3 are leaders of the country, and yet they are not sensitive
4 to the fact that there are Americans of other colors. And
5 so I'm wondering when the general public will ever consider
6 Asian Americans as full-blood Americans and that we have just
7 as much right to be here?

8 When or where do we start to prove that if we were born
9 here do we have to carry a birth certificate and you know,
10 present it for identification purposes at any function to --
11 before someone would ask, well, when did you come or how
12 long have you been here? And I think this is a sad part of
13 society, is, I think, the education system itself is not
14 started early enough in the lower grades that all the young
15 people know that America is made up of all colors and each
16 of us have our rights to be here.

17 That we should not be second-class citizens.

18 I feel that.

19 I even had an occasion to go to a Good Neighbors
20 conference, and I was really appalled because they were pro-
21 moting an integrated society, and yet it was for only Blacks
22 and Whites.

23 I happened to be there and yet they all looked at me,
24 I was the only Asian and they said, well, so you're the odd
25 duck in the pond? Well, you know, you've gone to check in

1 and register and you're representing your city. Well, I
2 really didn't understand the full implication of that remark
3 until later on, and I understood it more thoroughly when I
4 asked to see the bylaws, but clearly it defined that you had
5 to either be Black or White to attend that conference and
6 yet is this going to be only a Black and White society?

7 This is what we're going to recognize? I think that
8 there are other people here who belong in an integrated
9 society, so a national neighbors program purported to promote
10 integrated society to me did not satisfy myself. So then
11 I went to the president of the association, he said, well,
12 we can take care of it. I says, no, you have to have a
13 resolution on the floor, I think that the bylaws of the
14 organization must be changed to provide for other people to
15 attend the conferences every year and to have full going.

16 You can not stipulate that yes we're promoting an
17 integrated society, but you have to be Black or White.

18 Here again, I think some of the delegates, in fact,
19 let me point out that there were two Chicanos there and when
20 I brought this to their attention that they were there as
21 delegates, yes, registered and yet they did not have full
22 voting rights, so what they did instead of staying to see if
23 we could correct it and get the other delegates to understand
24 our point of view, they left the conference abruptly.

25 And so they weren't even able to give any input.

1 Well, the thing that really concerned me about that
2 conference was when I asked to have the floor, someone said,
3 well, no, you're not a delegate, you're only an observer, so
4 I said, then, well, I will have a delegate yield the floor
5 to me, then I can be heard.

6 Well then, the chairman of the resolutions committee
7 immediately stepped up and said that they would take care of
8 the proper remedial changes to allow all peoples to attend
9 the conference, and I would like to be at the conference in
10 Denver next year to see if they have made these changes.
11 Otherwise, I told my city that they certainly shouldn't
12 support such an organization.

13 They are trying to get municipal support in the way
14 of financing, and yet municipalities can not send anyone but
15 Black or White, as it stands right now.

16 Also, I think that in my business I meet a lot of
17 salesmen and these salesmen are selling marketing items and
18 they also ask, well, your company is in Little Tokyo, so
19 you know they automatically would **think** that we are a
20 Japan corporation, which is wrong, and I think that here
21 again, it's the lack of education on the part of the general
22 public to really recognize the fact that Asian Americans
23 are here, we eat hot dogs, we eat hamburgers, we eat anything
24 anybody else does. Of course, we have added things that we
25 do understand and can enjoy, the foods from Japan more than

1 anybody else, but I don't think that other than our color
2 and our names that we're any different and I would like to
3 see the day when people accept us as human beings.

4 Yes, we do have a right, we don't have to prove our
5 citizenship and that regardless of what you are, that you
6 are an American citizen, and I think this is really an area
7 that has to be expanded.

8 I would like to see it really promoted in the educa-
9 tional system.

10 And other than that, I think even Asian women have
11 a harder time than anything, because here again they are
12 women, they have to prove their rights as women or prove
13 their worth first and then, later on, well, they're Asian
14 and if they are possibly in a White corporation they may have
15 to have a token representation because of the federal
16 guideline, and I think this is wrong. I think that they
17 really should be clearly looked at, let's forget about the
18 color, let's look at them as individuals and accept them.

19 Other than that, I don't have too much more to say,
20 thank you very much.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

22 Panel, we have five minutes for questions.

23 Q (By Ms. Hata.) First, Mr. Shimabukuro, you gave us
24 some generalizations regarding some of the things your
25 organization does and I'd like some examples, for one thing,

1 you mentioned that there was, the term Jap used in some
2 headlines.

3 For the record, for those who don't understand why
4 Jap is offensive, I'd like you to tell us why you were up
5 tight about the word Jap and an example of the headlines
6 that you spoke of?

7 A. (By Mr. Shimabukuro.) Well, first of all, and I'd
8 like to submit this, I have here a copy of the headline
9 and this concerned the highjacking of a 747 liner, which was,
10 by the way, a Japan Airline, which is three letters, which
11 is JAL, but rather than put JAL 747 highjacking, they have
12 Jap highjacking. Again the word, Jap, like Chink, Jew,
13 Nigger, Wetback or whatever, is offensive. And again, you
14 know this is another example of insensitivity. That people
15 do not understand that these terms are not acceptable to our
16 community.

17 Again, I should state that they did retract and did
18 print an apology in the paper, which is also included, but
19 again, I would like to reenforce the fact that they did not
20 do this until we responded to them, and I would like to
21 submit this as evidence.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: All right, fine, we'll accept that as
23 part of the record.

24 Q. (By Ms. Hata.) You also talked about a case of job
25 discrimination, would you give us an example of that?

1 A. All right, I would also like to submit this, this
2 concerns a case, and this, by the way, was at a county
3 hospital which is under an affirmative action agreement.

4 This Japanese woman was part of a program at this
5 county hospital, she was on the program as a volunteer, the
6 reason that she was a volunteer was the hospital had a
7 certain number of paid positions and a certain number of
8 volunteer positions.

9 One of the people in the program, one of the paid
10 positions in the program was filled by a Black male. He
11 left the program, and so this woman went in and, you know,
12 inquired about her chances of getting a job at that point,
13 because she passed the qualifications and she was volun-
14 teering and getting the same training anyway.

15 She was told that because she was Japanese, she was
16 a non-minority and according to the affirmative action
17 agreement as one of the program administrators understood it,
18 that to be qualified for affirmative action you either had
19 to be Black or Mexican American. She also, again, stated
20 that this was a county policy and it wasn't until myself
21 and Roy Konomoro from County Human Relations went in and
22 spoke to the people in the hospital that she did receive a
23 paid position, but again, this is another instance of
24 bureaucratic insensitivity and also racial discrimination.

25 Q. And some school teachers and their problems with the

1 L.A. School District, I only have two minutes left, do you
2 have the cases documented?

3 A. Okay, at this point I have a signed statement by Mr.
4 Fred Kawano, who at this point we are negotiating with the
5 L.A. School System with, and this case Mr. Kawano had been
6 teaching in the L.A. City School System for 18 years.

7 Out of those 18 years around ten of them were in a
8 Black school. He was removed from that school during a time
9 when the L.A. School System publicly states that they're
10 crying for good teachers who relate to the Black Community
11 to teach in Black schools, but yet this man was transferred
12 out of Carver Junior High School to Westchester High School,
13 which is predominantly a White school.

14 The reason that he was transferred is that, number
15 one, he was very supportive of Black student Union on the
16 campus. Also, many of the teachers complained about the
17 head administrator of that school and actually signed a
18 petition and with support of the teachers and the community
19 they had that head administrator fired.

20 The L.A. City School District felt that Mr. Kawano
21 was the primary reason for that and as such, tried to remove
22 him from the school at that time. What happened was that
23 the students and the parents in that Black Community told the
24 L.A. City School System that if this teacher would be removed
25 that they would go on strike and picket the place if they

1 had to, so at that point he was retained at Carver.

2 However, two years later he was transferred without
3 notice to Westchester. Since he has been at Westchester,
4 he is -- he has faced a great deal of harassment.

5 I'll just read a couple of things --

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Let me interrupt here, I'm concerned
7 about the time, we have a group all the way from San Diego.

8 A. Very well, then I'll just submit this as part of the
9 record.

10 Q (By Ms. Hata.) I've one quick question for Ms. Kawagoe.
11 Up in San Francisco, statements were made by JACL position
12 regarding hearing and Asian American rights, I'm sure you
13 have seen a copy of that statement, most people have, be-
14 cause it was published in the Pacific Citizen.

15 Do you feel that this statement was representative of
16 the feelings of your organization?

17 A. (By Ms. Kawagoe.) All I read, I think, was his one
18 remark that would be put on the shelves to correct this, I
19 have never seen that full statement, I'm sorry.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: All right, I'll have to end this part
21 of the program, but I want to thank you for your presentation,
22 if there is any additional factors, if this, there is in-
23 formation that you have that you want to submit, feel free
24 to do so at the original office, it will be filed with
25 the panel at the time we do the transcript.

1 Thank you very much.

2 It's my understanding now we have a panel from the
3 City of San Diego that is here. And my understanding that
4 there will be nine participants in the panel.

5 So, I would ask them to come forward, sit here,
6 we'll need two more chairs.

7 The next panel is the San Diego panel and we've
8 allotted a one-hour presentation, would you identify yourselves
9 in the order of your presentation and begin?

10
11
12 MR. VERNON T. YOSHIOKA

13
14 A (By Mr. Yoshioka.) My name is Vernon Yoshioka, I'm
15 the Chairman of the Union of Pan-Asian Communities for San
16 Diego. UPAC, and also the President of the San Diego Chapter
17 of the Japanese American Citizens League.

18 It's my privilege to introduce the representatives of
19 this Pan-Asian Community of San Diego who have come today to
20 testify on behalf of their people.

21 With me today at the table, and speaking, will be
22 Ms. Grace Blaszkowski, seated immediately to my right, Mr.
23 Sattar Chhipa and across from me, Mr. Tetsuyo Kashima, Mr.
24 Robert Ito, Mr. Glenn Barroga, and Mr. Forrest Hong.

25 We had expected a few more people to join with us today,

1 but it unfortunately didn't materialize.

2 I would just like, at this time, to introduce the
3 delegates from San Diego that accompanied us here today
4 and are seated out in the audience, I wonder if they could
5 stand up?

6
7 (Applause.)

8
9 A. Thank you.

10 UPAC is composed of the organization from the Chinese,
11 Guamanian, Japanese, Korean and Filipino Communities. With
12 our group today are also members of the Indian Community.
13 We had originally hoped to have Samoans participating with
14 us but they were not, unfortunately, were not able to attend.

15 The goal of UPAC is to provide communication and rep-
16 resentation for the Pan-Asian Communities in all areas, thus
17 UPAC is the organization which has been requested to present
18 the concerns of San Diego.

19 A limited number of speakers from San Diego are
20 present today to summarize our specific concerns and problems.
21 We would very much like to have the opportunity to expand
22 on the issues at a future hearing in San Diego.

23 The topic which I've been elected to present is that
24 of Asian American manpower and employment. In San Diego
25 County. Needless to say, the old stereotype of Asians not

1 having any problems have been exposed in previous testimony.

2 In particular, I wish to address the problems of un-
3 employment, underemployment, affirmative action and the lack
4 of training programs for the Pan-Asians.

5 These areas of concern have been lightly dealt with
6 in the past as is evidenced by the lack of statistical data.

7 The majority of the research for this presentation is
8 documented in enclosed papers, reference A, which hopefully

9 -- I hoped to have had in your hands by this time, but I

10 was told by the staff assistant that the mail came through

11 again and something that was special delivered, didn't get

12 up here. It will be forthcoming, though, and everybody will

13 have a chance to look at it.

14 The reference is entitled, A Comparative Study of

15 Education, Income and Employment Characteristics of the

16 Japanese, Chinese and Filipinos in the United States by Ms.

17 Beverly C. Yip, dated November, 1973. And this was prepared

18 for UPAC specifically for this presentation and also some

19 work she's doing on school social work at the University of

20 California.

21 Additional comment has been obtained from the soon-to-

22 be-published report by Robert Peers of the San Diego Urban

23 Observatory on manpower.

24 Again, the report by Beverly, which I was more or less

25 hoping would have been here for the record, is based on a

1 1970 census and therefore I'll be quoting a lot of statistics
2 from that report.

3 The unemployment problem for Asian Americans in
4 San Diego can not be fully defined because of a lack of sta-
5 tistical data for all of the communities. A representative
6 picture, however, is indicated by Table 9 of Reference A.
7 That being the total employment for San Diego County. Unem-
8 ployment for San Diego County went down from 6.5% in 1960
9 to 6.4% in 1970. In the same period, the Japanese American
10 unemployment went from 3.2% to 5.1%. Which happens to be
11 almost double that of the Japanese American unemployment in
12 the state, 2.7% in 1970.

13 The Filipino statistics also show an increase from
14 6.8% to 7.2%. Which is well above the overall county average
15 of 6.4%. These results can be contrasted with the fact
16 that the Japanese Americans and Filipinos had a comparable
17 median education level to that of the total population.
18 That, again, is shown in Table 3 of Reference A.

19 The statistics on unemployment may be depressing but
20 the fact of underemployment is even worse. The measure of
21 this is in the income levels of the available statistics.

22 From Table 18A, of Reference A, again the annual
23 incomes for the lowest 40% of the Japanese and Filipino families
24 was way below that of the county. Again this was a breakdown
25 of statistics by Kwintoya (Phonetic), of the general population.

1 In looking at the lowest 20% of the population, for
2 San Diego County in general, averaged, or excuse me, ranged
3 from \$5,372.00 or less, for the Japanese Community it was
4 \$2,886.00 or less, and for the Filipino Community it was
5 \$3,338.00 or less.

6 And then we take the next 20% category, that ranged
7 in the general county, from \$5,318.00 to \$11,684.00 was,
8 for the Japanese it was \$2,887.00 to \$7,714.00 and for the
9 Filipinos from \$3,339.00 to \$5,698.00.

10 Now, these show that in the lowest 40%, both the
11 Japanese and Filipino Communities were well below that of
12 San Diego County in general.

13 And these again are representative, we believe, of
14 the total Asian American situation in San Diego, they are
15 the only two figures which are available from the 1970
16 U.S. Census and upon which this paper was based.

17 It is interesting to note that although the median
18 family income for the Japanese is above that for the average
19 in a national and state levels, it is below that in San
20 Diego County. And again Table number 14 is called out.

21 The income levels take on added meaning when the data
22 is compiled with reference -- excuse me, with regard to
23 poverty level.

24 In Table 23 of Reference A again, the statistics are
25 shocking in that 21.6% of the Japanese and 22.2% of the

1 Filipino families exist below this level of income in San
2 Diego. These percentages are roughly double those of the
3 Japanese and Filipino statewide and nationally.

4 They are also two and a half times that number below
5 the poverty level for the county, which is 8.6%. It is
6 obvious that these results can be generalized to include
7 all of the Pan-Asian in San Diego County and that there is
8 a very serious problem.

9 In turning from the problem of unemployment and under-
10 employment for the Pan-Asian Communities in San Diego County
11 we must look at what programs are available to remedy this
12 situation. Manpower training programs are abundant in San
13 Diego, as are affirmative action plans. But these do not --
14 but do not and have not addressed the Pan-Asian problem.

15 There is not a single Manpower program federally or
16 locally funded to meet the Pan-Asian needs. I can personally
17 testify to this fact as I was recently elected to the Manpower
18 Area Planning Council in San Diego, San Diego County, city
19 and county, under the chairmanship of Mayor Pete Wilson.

20 An excerpt from the comprehensive Manpower Plan,
21 fiscal 1974, submitted to the Department of Labor on August
22 15, 1973, is enclosed as Reference B.

23 The final footnote states, "It is the intent of the
24 MAPC to encourage and work with contracting agencies in
25 developing Manpower Programs and to solicit application

1 to focus on overall ethnic distribution, with special
2 emphasis on the Asian American Community."

3 This empty promise can not produce results when there
4 isn't any funding allocated. My presence on the MAPC
5 elicited the written statement, but the lack of data pre-
6 vented a funded program.

7 It might be noted, also from the same reference,
8 that the minorities have a universal need priority of only
9 2.9% out of a 100% of the funding allocation, which is in
10 footnote number 5 of the Reference B.

11 However, the Urban League meets the Black needs and
12 Operation SER does the same for the Spanish-speaking Chicanos.

13 The Native Americans were allocated \$69,000.00 in this
14 budget as a new item, but again nothing for Pan-Asian
15 Communities.

16 On November 15th of this year, I was also elected
17 to become a member of the Area XII Vocational Planning Com-
18 mittee. This group, operating under the State of California
19 has the planning responsibility for San Diego and Imperial
20 Counties, which is referred to as Area XII. No special effort
21 has been exerted to address the Pan-Asian problem and it
22 appears that very few, if any, have benefited, based on
23 the statistics available.

24 Enough for the programs that haven't addressed the
25 problem, let us now consider the governmental areas that have

1 considered the Pan-Asian plight.

2 The San Diego Unified School District is a prime
3 example but that area will be covered under education.

4 The county schools have severe employment problems
5 in regard to Asians even though there are federal guidelines
6 on equal employment opportunity. The County of San Diego
7 has just begun to realize that it has a large Pan-Asian
8 population with very real needs. They have one individual
9 who is known as a Community Affairs Officer who is seated
10 beside me here today, to reach our entire community, but this
11 leaves much to be desired, specifically in personnel, Affirma-
12 tive Action and administration.

13 Recent activity by the Affirmative Action office has
14 led to the documentation of discrimination, discriminatory
15 hiring practices of the county and a civil suit by the
16 Chicanos has been filed. It was publicly acknowledged that
17 the Affirmative Action Program was way behind schedule and
18 in particular the areas of Asians and Chicanos. And this was
19 included in the written presentation as Reference C.

20 The City of San Diego is in even worse shape. In
21 Reference D a letter from the mayor's office addressed
22 personally to myself, it is publicly acknowledged that the
23 Asian employees went from 35 in number in May of 1972, to
24 27 in May of 1973, even though the Affirmative Action Plan
25 was initiated in February of '72. This occurred even though

1 the total employment went from 6,000 in '72 to 6,368 in the
2 same period. Again there are no Pan-Asians in administration,
3 personnel or Affirmative Action except for a few secretaries
4 or clerks.

5 The data are very limited and there has not been time
6 to check on other industries in San Diego, but the trend is
7 evident, especially in the aerospace and transportation in-
8 dustries. Given time and allocation of funds for survey
9 purposes, the real problem areas can be defined.

10 UPAC is presently a totally volunteer organization
11 serving to better the social and economic welfare of our
12 people.

13 In concluding this testimony, a series of recommendatio
14 is offered for your consideration. They are listed as follows:
15 One, that the Bureau of the Census provide the statistics
16 for the Chinese, Guamanian, Korean, Samoan and other popu-
17 lation groups smaller than the present limited categories
18 in light of the severity of the Pan-Asian situation in San
19 Diego; that the Bureau of Labor Statistics attempt to provide
20 similar data as item 1. Three, that the state and federal
21 government provide financial assistance to meet the employment
22 and vocational training needs of the Pan-Asian Community of
23 San Diego through the Department of Labor, Health, Education
24 and Welfare. And revenue sharing.

25 And four, that the U.S. Civil Rights Commission use

1 its staff to express the concerns of the Pan-Asian Communities
2 and to assist the agencies to implement corrective action
3 to achieve stated goals of Affirmative Action and equal
4 employment opportunity.

5 I wish to thank you for listening to our concerns for
6 the Pan-Asians of San Diego, our needs are many and our
7 resources are small, but the UPAC will do everything in its
8 power to achieve a just treatment of its people. Please
9 contact us if we can be of service.

10 Respectfully submitted.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, it's good to see
12 you again.

13 Who do we have scheduled next?

14 MR. YOSHIOKA: Ms. Grace Blaszkowski will speak next.

15

16

17

MS. GRACE BLASZKOWSKI

18

19 A (By Ms. Blaszkowski.) My name is Grace Blaszkowski,
20 I'm the Asian Affairs Officer for San Diego County. However,
21 this afternoon I'm appearing as a part of the community. And
22 do not hold, you know, me responsible for what I say. I just,
23 you know, will assume responsibility for anything I say in
24 this Committee.

25

Anyway, as Community Affairs Officer, I work with

1 many groups and individuals in our community. I work with
2 Filipinos, the Japanese Americans, the Chinese Americans, Gua-
3 ~~manians,~~ Samoans, Koreans, Indians, Malasians. I have
4 really come across about the full range of Asians in the
5 course of my work.

6 My office is new, it has been established a year and
7 a half ago. But let me tell you the problems that I have
8 found, the things that I have uncovered in the course of my
9 work, sometimes shocks me. Because contrary to the common
10 belief that we do not have any problems, that we are all well,
11 there's so many pools of discrimination that our people
12 experience.

13 I hope that, you know, I could give cases and cases
14 in detail and some other time, because this afternoon I
15 was assigned to talk about our concerns in relation to the
16 Federal Government. You see, I might, you know, I -- we
17 Asians in San Diego have many problems in relation to the
18 federal agencies. I do not know what the jurisdiction of --
19 this Commission has over federal agencies, but I would like
20 to state our difficulties anyway.

21 More specifically, I wish to discuss the lack of
22 federally funded projects in San Diego County, I would like
23 to discuss the inadequate and inadequate data collection and
24 reporting system of the Federal Government that has perpetu-
25 ated many of our problems.

1 I would like to discuss the absence of an equal
2 opportunity office in San Diego, the citizens' requirements,
3 Filipinos and Asians from federal employment.

4 And lastly I would like to discuss the problems of
5 the Filipinos in the United States Navy.

6 In relation to the absence of federally funded social
7 and economic programs, I would like to say that as of 1973,
8 as of now, we have no single funded program in education,
9 more specifically, Title I, in the bilingual education pro-
10 gram, we have no Pan-Asian funded program, we have no funded
11 economic opportunity program whether it be community, com-
12 prehensive health services, health studies, job corps,
13 opportunities and services. We have no single funded Manpower
14 program where the OADC, MDTA, job opportunities in the
15 business sector.

16 Operation Mainstream, youth opportunities and there's
17 Manpower experimental and demonstration projects. We have
18 no single funded program under the Housing and Urban Development
19 program, more specifically, the Model Cities program.

20 In brief, despite millions of dollars that have been
21 poured into San Diego by federal agencies in the past years
22 and up to this time, none has served the Pan-Asian Community
23 to a significant degree. And funded projects from these
24 sources under the sponsorship of Pan-Asian Community organiza-
25 tions or agencies is exactly zero.

1 The results have been very disastrous. For many
2 years we had no social service programs for families, youth
3 and senior citizens, we did not have a community or youth
4 center in which we can meet and come together as a people,
5 there is not a single research and demonstration program
6 to test, improve and advance methods of delivering human
7 care services.

8 It was only as recent as this November that a few
9 projects were funded under the city revenue -- City/County
10 Revenue Sharing Program. Up to this date, however, none of
11 these projects have as yet received their moneys because
12 of bureaucratic red tape.

13 Meanwhile, the Chinese Social Service Center and the
14 Filipino projects, some of them are operating precariously,
15 and with the expectation that they will receive the moneys,
16 because of very limited funds the services are housed in
17 facilities that are very impoverished, located in the run-
18 down areas of San Diego.

19 I welcome all of you in this panel to come down to
20 San Diego to take a first-hand view of what I am describing.
21 In fact, I was very disappointed that you didn't come down
22 to hear us and meet with us, because being, I guess, far from
23 civilization or the southernmost part of the state, many
24 things seem to hold here in San Francisco or in Los Angeles
25 and for many years we've been bypassed for hearings.

1 We've always been asked to come to another place or
2 to come to San Francisco or Sacramento or here, and as a
3 result, there has been no accurate data that has been col-
4 lected and documented with respect to our need in San Diego.

5 Now, going back to the federally funded projects,
6 I would like to say that the Federal Planning Agency's inability to
7 fund some of -- some programs for our communities, has re-
8 sulted in a tremendous **morale** problem among Asian minorities
9 in San Diego in the sense that now we have disadvantaged
10 groups that have, and disadvantaged groups that have not.

11 In the latter, fall the Filipinos, the Japanese Ameri-
12 cans, Chinese Americans, Guamanians, Samoans and all of us
13 Asians. The situation is calculated to separate the Asians,
14 generated not by the minority groups that have been funded,
15 but the insensitivity of the federal agencies to the needs
16 of the Pan-Asian Americans in San Diego.

17 In retrospect, it is difficult for me to perceive
18 how a large group of people who have been denied programs
19 and services in the face of detailed federal regulations
20 which compel federally funded programs to serve all people,
21 regardless of sex, race or national origin, under Title VI
22 of the Civil Rights Act.

23 The recommendation I make is not a guarantee that
24 Pan-Asian projects will be funded in the future, historically
25 local governments have been the most discriminatory of these

1 Pan-Asians.

2 Moreover, the potential for discrimination exceeds and
3 can be accomplished by the nature of finding uses as well
4 as outright discrimination in programs.

5 For example, one city in the South Bay Area in San
6 Diego, has decided to spend most of its revenue sharing
7 funds in improvement of the public works yard. Despite the
8 fact that it is one of the highest poverty -- has one of
9 the highest poverty rates in the county.

10 Many Filipinos, Samoans and Guamanians live in this
11 area but receive no benefit.

12 Furthermore, absent the revenue sharing, our detailed
13 laws in administration and forced man procedures
14 applicable under other federal civil service -- civil rights
15 laws, such as the Fair Housing and Equal Employment Oppor-
16 tunities Act.

17 The details of enforcement under revenue sharing now
18 lies the fault to the state and local governments which
19 have less enforcement mechanisms and in some cases, a lot of
20 wealth to avoid racial discrimination.

21 I am now turning my attention to inadequate data
22 collection system and in that reporting of our ethnic identities
23 by federal agencies.

24 Perhaps no other group of people have suffered so
25 deeply from a failure by the Federal Government to maintain

1 an accurate reporting system as how the Pan-Asian Americans
2 in this community. For many years, no data was collected
3 about our population by the U.S. Bureau of Census. Up till
4 1970, all of us were lumped under the broad category, other.

5 As a result, our individual ethnic identity was ob-
6 scured from the American public, and suppressed.

7 Moreover, the absence of data has hindered the planning
8 and developing of social service delivery systems to our
9 people, because there was no data available to identify
10 and describe the population.

11 In San Diego, I can still recall the difficulties I en-
12 countered in getting the first youth program for Filipinos
13 funded by the city before the census came out in 1970. And
14 mind you, this was in 1970 and we didn't have a single youth
15 program in the community.

16 My proposal was turned down several times by the city
17 for lack of supporting data. I fought back, however, and
18 stated that the lack of data was not due to me but due to
19 the failure of the city and the Bureau of Census to collect
20 the data about us.

21 This resulted in the funding of the first Filipino
22 Youth Project called Project Five Men. The 1970 census,
23 moreover, does not accurately count all the Pan-Asian
24 Americans. Not included are the Guamanians and the Samoans
25 whose populations are large, particularly in California and

1 Hawaii. Other Asians still fall under the category.

2 As a result, you never really get an accurate count
3 of our people, even if you use the U.S. Census data.

4 Furthermore, the 1970 census has undercounted
5 Asians and Pacific People.

6 Many Filipino Navy men who were at sea during the
7 census were counted in reports where the ships were stationed
8 rather than included in the San Diego data. Many immigrants
9 who live with their relatives, were not reported for fear
10 of revealing overcrowded housing conditions. Many of our
11 senior citizens who can not drive, read and write, did
12 not fill out the census cards.

13 I, just like the Black population which was under-
14 counted by 8% and the Spanish-speaking population by ten
15 million, the Pan-Asian population is severely undercounted.

16 I am sadly disturbed by the report that the United
17 States Bureau of Census has treated a community education
18 program aimed primarily at Black and Spanish-speaking neigh-
19 borhood to establish improved understanding of the importance
20 and value of the census that the areas that are hard to count.
21 Totally omitted from these outreach program, however, are
22 the Pan-Asian Americans who have been neglected by them for
23 many years.

24 Another example of inaccurate reporting that affects
25 us is the school report of racial and ethnic distribution of

1 pupils from grades ten to 12, and the compliance report of
2 institutions of higher learning which are project Windup under
3 Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1960. Under these two
4 reports, the racial, ethnic distribution reports for today's
5 tenth to 12th, Chinese, Japanese, and other peoples of Asia
6 on the one hand, are counted under the column, Oriental. On
7 the other hand, Filipinos. Aleuts or Eskimos are counted
8 under column, other, non-White.

9 Moreover, in San Diego, not all the school districts
10 use these definitions followed by the San Diego School District.
11 The National, Three Courts and South Bay School Districts use
12 other classifications.

13 As a result, you never really get an accurate picture
14 of our pupils, of our kids who are going to school. This
15 lack of uniformity has really caused tremendous problems for
16 us. Because it has been used as a device to tell us that
17 we are not enough in numbers and therefore we should have
18 less representatives, a classic example is just recently
19 happened, not too long ago where we were invited by the San
20 Diego School District to participate in the development of
21 a proposal under the Emergency School Aid program, we had to
22 fight to be counted as Asian Americans in order to get more
23 representation.

24 I will -- I want to discuss the report of the Equal
25 Employment Opportunity Commission and the report of, the com-

1 bined report of institution of higher learning, however, I
2 might not have enough time, so since I wrote them down here
3 and it's essentially the same as what I said for the other
4 reports, I will just prefer to skip this part and go to the
5 third concern that I would like to bring up today, and which
6 is the absence of an Equal Employment Opportunity office in
7 San Diego.

8 There is a desperate need for this office in our
9 county. The largest governmental employer in San Diego is
10 the United States Navy and the Federal Government. About
11 80% of our Filipinos, Guamanians and Samoans work in the
12 Navy, sometime next year the Navy expects more of our people
13 to move down because of the consolidation of bases in the San
14 Diego area.

15 Now, if you have any complaint, any grievance which
16 would fall under the Fair Employment Practices Commission
17 you have to call up Phoenix, Arizona, or go to Phoenix,
18 Arizona, but how many poor people and how many disadvantaged
19 people from our community can afford those long distance
20 calls and can afford to go to Phoenix, Arizona?

21 I hope that this is one of the things that this
22 Commission would see to it that we get in San Diego as soon
23 as possible.

24 Turning now to citizenship requirements, in the Federal
25 Government you can not be employed if you are an alien.

1 Citizenship is a must. Now let me tell you, the difficulty
2 with this is that the Federal Government does not distinguish
3 between aliens who are just here as tourists and permanent
4 residents. Particularly affected by this requirement are
5 many of the Filipino immigrant professionals who come to this
6 country, barred from citizenship for five years, it is by
7 statute that they can not become citizens, therefore I -- it
8 would seem unfair to penalize them and deprive them of their
9 right to work in the government when as a matter of fact,
10 they are allowed, by law, to become citizens.

11 But even if you become a citizen, there are certain
12 agencies in the Federal Government that do not employ Asians.
13 For example, the Filipino nurse, I had a case not too long
14 ago of a nurse who applied with the office of the United
15 Army Reserve, the U.S. Army Reserves and was denied admission
16 because he was a nurse who was graduated -- graduated from
17 the Philippines.

18 In other words, even if he possessed a California
19 State license, that wasn't good enough for the Federal Govern-
20 ment. And let me tell you, there are many such situations
21 that have happened and if you just take San Diego agencies.

22 Another thing I wish would be explored by this
23 Commission has to do with the companies that get contracts
24 from the Federal Government, I'm referring particularly to
25 the big aerospace companies, automatically they disqualify

1 people because of their citizenship. However, this has
2 resulted in difficulties for many Filipino engineers who
3 are permanent residents.

4 Lastly, I'm getting so many notes here now about the
5 time, but I still feel I want to talk about the problems
6 of the Filipinos in the United States Navy.

7 As previously stated, about 80% of our Filipino
8 Community in San Diego are employed in the United States
9 Navy. My work as Community Affairs Officer has brought me
10 in contact with many of our Navy families and men, I've had
11 a chance to visit Filipinos in brigs, advise them in their
12 hour of difficulty, participate as a lecturer at the Com-
13 munity Relations Center and I am therefore quite familiar
14 with some of the practices in this institution with respect
15 to our men.

16 In 1973, in January 2, 1973, to be exact, I had the
17 opportunity to air some of my grievances to Admiral Sunwalt
18 (Phonetic) in a letter that I wrote to him. I wrote this
19 specific of my concerns complete with cases and serial numbers.
20 Some changes have been made since then, in that race re-
21 lations specialists were appointed.

22 However, main substantial concerns remain unchanged,
23 namely, one, the lack of Filipino minority officers in its
24 Naval Command in San Diego and the dirth of Filipino Navy
25 officers. There is presently no link between Filipinos and

1 the highest levels of Naval Command despite the fact that
2 Filipinos are the second largest minority group in the United
3 States Navy. A reason for the lack of officers is to see
4 the requirement. It takes after five years to become a
5 citizen in the United States Navy, by this time a Filipino
6 is usually too old to qualify for officers training school,
7 under the Boost program or the Naval Education Science
8 program.

9 To be eligible for these schools a person must be a
10 citizen and must be 18 to 25 years of age.

11 In the foreseeable future, therefore, we do not
12 anticipate too many Filipino officers. However, there is a
13 disproportionate number of cooks and stewards in the United
14 States Navy who are Filipinos. Although Filipinos may not
15 be recruited for posts other than stewards, there's still a
16 large number of stewards listed in their statistical data
17 as on December 31, 1972. Fully 9,860 Filipinos were stewards.

18 A classic example of discrimination in this area is
19 found in the fact that during the years that Filipinos were
20 only allowed to recruit as stewards, there were no incentive
21 advancement allowed by the United States Navy. However, now
22 that the steward position is open to Whites, the Navy has
23 decided to institute an advancement incentive award.

24 In my opinion, this is -- this is just an example of
25 some of the racist policies of the agency.

1 Another thing that I would like to point out is the
2 difficulties caused by the requirement that a Filipino must
3 be on duty in the Continental United States when shipping
4 over in order to qualify for citizenship.

5 As long as a Filipino is in a U.S. base or ship or
6 carrier, he should be allowed to ship over with the benefit
7 of citizenship. Otherwise I get situations where a Filipino
8 never gets the basic when he's overseas and until he comes
9 back to Long Beach.

10 In my opinion, a U.S. base or a U.S. carrier is a
11 part of the extension of the territory of the United States
12 and if a Filipino signs in there to be shipped over, he
13 should be given the full benefits of citizenship.

14 Now, last but not least, is the lack of Filipinos
15 in agencies --

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Excuse me, could I just interrupt just
17 a moment? One of the problems I'm going to face here as
18 Chairman, is that of time. And we had allotted one hour --

19 A I'm just going to read, I'm almost done.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, but I want to make sure the others
21 get an opportunity.

22 A Okay. Well, last but not least is the lack of Filipinos
23 in agencies in the U.S. Navy that have to do with helping
24 families in distress. More specifically, there are no
25 Filipino counselors in the Navy relief, family services,

1 housing office, no Filipinos working as doctors, nurses'
2 assistants or nurses in Balboa Hospital.

3 I have other things listed down here but I guess
4 because of time limitations I will end my note with the
5 suggestion that perhaps at the next hearing we could explore
6 more, some of the things in greater detail and also have a
7 hearing to discuss the problems of women in the Asian Community.

8 Thank you.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

10
11 (Applause.)

12
13 THE CHAIRMAN: Let me just say in terms of San Diego
14 itself, we will attempt to go to San Diego for a hearing
15 there. Our difficulty has been one of budget, as you know,
16 and if the appropriations come forth, why, we will do that
17 and go down and give you great opportunity.

18 So, I thank you and appreciate you coming all the way
19 from San Diego, particularly in the weather today to present
20 your presentation.

21 Let me say this, because I just know that with the
22 remainder of you that are here to speak and the amount of
23 time that I have allocated for you, it will be very difficult
24 to get all of you in. I understand you do have typed state-
25 ments, which I hope you will submit, leave with us, which we

1 will then make a part of the record and we will then view.

2 Could I then simply ask the remainder of you to limit
3 your comments to three minutes and just a very brief summary
4 recognizing that you will be filing your statement so that
5 the panel will have an opportunity to ask some questions as
6 we like to do and I appreciate that, thank you.

7

8

9

MR. GLENN LEO BARROGA

10

11 A. (By Mr. Barroga.) My name is Glenn Barroga, I'm Presi-
12 dent of the Filipino American Professional and Businessman's
13 Society of San Diego County.

14

15 Just like any immigrant, the immigrant delegation to
16 L.A. is also being discriminated with only one hour time.
17 However, I'd like to talk about discrimination that is being
18 given to the Filipinos and the Asian Americans in San Diego
19 County.

20

21 Because of limited time, I'd like to talk about only
22 a few areas. One of them is visa classification.

23

24 When the Asian immigrant leaves his place of origin
25 he's not given a full understanding as to the classification
26 of his visa. Which means that if he has a working visa it
27 does not make him or it does not give him the right to apply
28 in the near future for citizenship.

1 Now, these people are made to believe, when they
2 leave their places of origin, that they, after the necessary
3 time period are given the right to apply for citizenship.

4 The wives of Navy personnel likewise are in the same
5 problem. They are in the same boat when it comes to a category.
6 They are allowed to work in some areas in the county, however
7 they do not have solid ground under their feet due to the
8 fact that they do not have a working visa. Their visa is
9 very vague.

10 Exchange people likewise are also plagued with similar
11 problems. It is not clear as to the fact that these people
12 could not move from one area to the other. The question is,
13 what happened to the rights of the individual? The right
14 of movement?

15 Again, the immigrants when they come to this country,
16 their social services and benefits are very limited. They
17 have rejected social services and benefits because these
18 people say, people who run social services and benefits,
19 that they were sponsored into the country. But the question
20 is, why is it that other nationals are given social services
21 and benefits? Again the question of files and communications.

22 Visas are granted to an individual, either from the
23 embassy or from the consulate. Now, a person who has re-
24 ceived his visa from the consulate in Cebu City in the
25 Philippines, does not know if his files in the central office.

1 When he applies to go back to the Philippines for a visit
2 or some sort, it appears to the personnel of this immigra-
3 tion offices do not know where he got his visa, it is not
4 his fault if he does not have the right files.

5 He is given a third degree treatment. And I guess
6 the biggest problem that immigrants get are the immigration
7 personnel. When a person with an accent walks into the
8 immigration office, it seems as if there has been a sudden
9 change in the mood of the personnel. Is it because this
10 person has a different accent and that the pigmentation of
11 his skin is of other color? Or is it because they think
12 that they are subhumans?

13 Is it not that the public services are aimed at serving
14 the general public and not just a few? What happened to the
15 positive way of dealing with people? What happened to the
16 simple respect of other human beings? Why this indifference?

17 Is it because these people from the immigration office
18 feel that they are superior? Maybe it is because of the
19 lack of understanding. In the immigration office in San
20 Diego, there is no Asian American employed in that office.
21 When an Asian American walks in, an Asian American who does
22 not speak English walks in, what happened to this Asian
23 American?

24 He is told to go all the way out to L.A. or go all
25 the way up to San Francisco. Why?

1 We therefore would suggest that an Asian American,
2 Filipino American, a Japanese American, all these Asian
3 Americans, be represented in the immigration office in San
4 Diego.

5 Let us have more understanding in these offices.

6 Thank you.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

8

9 (Applause.)

10

11

12

MR. FORREST HONG

13

14 A. (By Mr. Hong.) My name is Forrest Hong. I'll be
15 brief.

16 Today I'm talking on problems of education in the City
17 of San Diego. To begin with, I'd like to say basically to
18 all our comments is an overriding goal of providing equal
19 educational opportunities for all children. You, as Commission
20 members, are here as designated representatives of the public
21 in an advisory capacity to the U.S. Commission on Civil
22 Rights, with an expressed interest in equality for all indi-
23 viduals.

24 We are here as the public, articulating our children's
25 needs that are yet unmet, either through ignorance, design or

1 benign neglect.

2 Hopefully, our presentation can overcome the ignorance,
3 your understanding and concern can overcome the benign neglect,
4 and together we can change the design.

5 We are also here as Pan-Asians, pleading the cause of
6 our children to help them get the education that is their due,
7 and one that can make them participating members of our
8 society.

9 In recent years a trend has developed to include con-
10 tent dealing with various minority groups in the social
11 studies curriculum. This trend has taken two forms. One,
12 that of creating separate courses dealing with various ethnic
13 groups, and two, that of including content of ethnic groups
14 within established courses. Especially U.S. history. The
15 trend has generally emphasized the roles and contributions
16 of Black Americans and Mexican Americans. What is lacking
17 is content that deals with the Pan-Asians in America.

18 Since Pan-Asians in American have contributed, have
19 affected and have been influenced by every sphere of American
20 life, no study of California, the United States or world history,
21 no study of American literature and no study of the arts,
22 sciences, and languages, is complete or accurate without the
23 inclusion of Pan-Asians..

24 There are many ways to mislead, corrupt or bias the
25 study of the American heritage and resultant attitude of

1 students and the lack of inclusion of Pan-Asians has been
2 the chief, but by no means the only, method of this dis-
3 tortion of truth.

4 Therefore, Pan-Asian American studies is a thoroughly
5 legitimate and educationally mandatory subject area.

6 We are ready to work together with you in our mutual
7 goal of educational opportunities. And included in the packet
8 that will probably be coming down one of these days, you'll
9 be getting those recommendations.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Fine. Thank you very much.

11

12

13 MR. TETSUYO KASHIMA

14

15 A. (By Mr. Kashima.) My name is Tetsuyo Kashima, re-
16 siding in San Diego, I taught at the San Diego Unified School
17 District in the second grade for the past 11 years and I
18 wish to address the Members of the Committee this afternoon
19 on the educational deficiencies existing within the San
20 Diego Unified School District of the Asian Americans.

21 Before going into specifics, I would like to convey
22 to the Committee the atmosphere within which Asian Americans
23 in the county must operate. The plight of the Asian Americans
24 in San Diego is that we are yet to be recognized as a minority,
25 we are still very much invisible and do not share in the power

1 structure of the communities.

2 I have a section here which I will delete. And I
3 continue to say, for these reasons, the majority community
4 has been very slow in recognizing our needs and concerns.
5 One manifestation of this is the difficulty we face in the
6 employment area, both hiring and promotion.

7 We have had individuals become irate enough so their
8 cases were brought before personal boards and at the executive
9 level. Most of the appeals have been discouraging.

10 There are many paths to change and I hope that our
11 presentation today will enable your Committee to act as
12 catalysts and make meaningful changes for the Asian American
13 citizens of San Diego.

14 In terms of personnel the San Diego Unified School
15 District as a public agency, as an employer, is guilty of
16 perpetuating the idea of the invisibility of the Asian
17 American. The document before you, entitled Asian Crisis
18 in the San Diego Unified School District, will outline some
19 of the problems, investigation and the data are included in
20 this.

21 Now, I point out the significant finding to you.
22 Having Asian American administrators is very crucial to the
23 entire effort of breaking the cycle of non-recognition. Whether
24 in curriculum or personnel, it is administrators who make de-
25 cisions that will have impact on the Asian American youngsters

1 in our schools. Today, out of the total administrative
2 staff of 407 there is only one Asian American administrator.

3 In addition, there is no Asian American presently in
4 the district's leadership training program which corresponds
5 to the eligibility list in civil service. And I refer to
6 Figure 1 in the paper.

7 This situation is very similar in the private sector
8 where most Asian Americans do not rise above middle management
9 level.

10 Number two, Asian Americans are relatively forgotten
11 for the amount of money compared to Blacks and Mexican
12 Americans, and all of the interpretations are based on the
13 growth of each ethnic group according to the percentage
14 found in the community and the Asian Americans have been
15 accorded an unfavorable representation in the administrative
16 and classified categories.

17 There are other concerns that are listed in the paper,
18 and I would like to point out a few more. Number one, the
19 personnel division, to my knowledge, has no Asian Americans
20 on the staff, both clerical and professional, neither do they
21 have an Affirmative Action Officer, their Affirmative Action
22 program is a short document without definite objectives or
23 a timetable.

24 Number two, like any other school district, federal
25 money is part of many of these programs. The special projects

1 office, which is responsible for coordinating federal funded
2 programs including those that are aimed at minorities, has
3 no Asian American on the staff, as administrators and writers.

4 Number three, there has been little encouragement
5 given to Asian Americans to pursue an administrative career.
6 The district which is paying for the principal which has
7 been mentioned before, has no Asian Americans on its list,
8 two Asian Americans have unsuccessfully applied for the pro-
9 gram. One failed to get picked the first time, another the
10 second time.

11 After meeting minimum qualifications acceptance or
12 rejection is based primarily on one oral interview with a
13 committee. We feel that the entire procedure should be looked
14 over very carefully.

15 Number four, there is a lack of communication between
16 personnel division and the Asian American Community. Position
17 openings for teachers classified personnel and administrators
18 are not advertised in our statewide community.

19 Number five, many qualified Asian Americans are not
20 successful in their job application because of the speech
21 differences or having their educational training and ex-
22 periences outside the United States.

23 A few recommendations which are pertinent, I will not
24 read because they are listed here and will be forwarded to
25 you.

1 In the programs division, one of the main responsi-
2 bilities of the programs division is in the updating, de-
3 velopment of materials. ~~The district~~ has been very weak in
4 this area as far as the Asian American is concerned. The
5 few materials on hand are teacher guides, its production
6 motivated by the enactment of the Education Code. Because
7 of the lack of Asian Americans on the staff of the division,
8 there has been little reviewing of textbooks, reading
9 materials and other classroom aids.

10 I have here a list of deficiencies in the program
11 area which you can read at your leisure and I also point out
12 in the Human Relations Office of our district, there is no
13 Asian American representation, and they take care of the
14 Office of Compensatory Education, and generally there is no
15 Asian American both professional and clerical, and then I
16 complete my testimony with remarks on the observation of
17 identity problem of the Asian American youngsters and one of
18 the unfortunate aspects of the neglect of Asian American for
19 the city schools is the effect it has on the identity of our
20 youngsters and I go on to say, and may I end this by saying,
21 it is difficult to understand and appreciate one's culture
22 when the educational system depicts it in a negative manner
23 or exclude them totally.

24 There are very few textbooks that portray the Asian
25 American fairly. It is folly to place the guilt wholly on the

1 school, the media and the community must share in the blame.
2 However, as long as these incidents continue at school, it
3 is the task of the school to correct it.

4 Let them provide leadership by a conscious effort to
5 include Asian Americans in the school. Program. By closely
6 scrutinizing the curriculum material and by increasing the
7 number of Asian American employees,

8 Let us begin the task of making Asian American youngsters
9 just as comfortable as his non-Asian American in the classroom.

10 Thank you.

11
12 (Applause.)

13
14 THE CHAIRMAN: Very fine job covering the whole area.

15
16
17 MR. SATTAR CHHIPA

18
19 A (By Mr. Chhipa.) My name is Sattar Chhipa and I'll
20 try my best to be as brief as I can.

21 I'm President of the India Association of San Diego
22 and UPAC in San Diego.

23 My area is the media. In San Diego we checked with the
24 newspapers, radio and television stations, and employment is
25 very low. There are very few people from Asian countries

1 employed with the media. There is not a single news broad-
2 caster, I think it is very important, when we have about
3 42,000 Asians in the area there should be somebody in that
4 field. Through your agency it is requested, humbly, that
5 specific investigation be done of this matter and see that
6 Asians are employed in that field.

7 Thank you.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

9
10
11 MR. ROBERT PAUL ITO
12

13 A (By Mr. Ito.) My name is Robert Ito and I'm a board
14 member of the San Diego Chapter of the Japanese American
15 Citizens League.

16 I don't know if I'm able to be able to get through as
17 fast as Tetsuyo, but I'll try.

18 Today I'm here addressing the Chinese and Japanese out
19 of San Diego County.

20 Based on personal interviews in the Japanese American
21 Community and a pilot survey conducted by the Chinese Social
22 Service Center, it was discovered that the majority of
23 Chinese and Japanese elderly are in desperate need of trans-
24 portation facilities. Because of the language barrier they
25 are unaware of, have not been able to arrange for and also have

1 not utilized existing transportation systems such as the
2 Model Cities Transportation Project. Here we find both the
3 Chinese and Japanese ultimately experiencing difficulty in
4 getting to a grocery store that caters to their diet, points
5 of interest and social activities.

6 In the area of nutrition, the Chinese and Japanese
7 elderly are, in effect, excluded from programs planned for
8 counties, senior citizens, such as Meals on Wheels and other
9 such programs.

10 Although Chinese and Japanese elderly are not in-
11 tententionally left out, programs of this nature are geared for
12 Caucasians tastes or life styles, which are not necessarily
13 the tastes or life styles of the Chinese and Japanese seniors.

14 Apparent in the personal interviews conducted in the
15 Japanese American Community was the absence of a board and
16 care facility or a low cost housing complex catering to the
17 Japanese elderly.

18 In one facility in San Diego where a Japanese senior
19 was placed, the language barrier coupled with the diet,
20 caused difficulty in feeling comfortable in this setting.
21 Relief would come when relatives would visit, converse in
22 the Japanese language, and at the sight of food preferences.

23 A vital link in working for and in behalf of the
24 Chinese and Japanese elderly is that community effort be com-
25 plimented with financial and technical assistance from outside

1 sources. Therefore, it is recommended that the Chinese
2 and Japanese elderly of San Diego be assisted in, number one,
3 providing an extensive program geared to identifying the
4 specific need of the Chinese and Japanese elderly.

5 Two, developing a program and/or services to help
6 alleviate identified needs. A specific concern here is that
7 of developing a transportation network and a nutrition program.

8 Number three, developing the concept of the care home
9 in a low cost housing complex for Chinese and Japanese
10 seniors.

11 In closing, we further hope, to the greatest extent
12 possible, that the United States Commission on Civil Rights
13 recognize that the Chinese and Japanese elderly person has
14 a much better chance of being reached through grants aimed
15 at specific pockets rather than massive grants as counties
16 or state, for all elderly persons.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

18

19

20

MR. PEOPE BALISTA

21

22 A (By Mr. Balista.) I am Peope Balista, the Director
23 of Council of Filipino American Organization, federation of
24 17 community-based organizations dedicated to community
25 services.

1 I would like a friend of mine in the audience to come
2 and, because I want him to make to me a presentation to --
3 Mr. Roy Batista, please. Please come. I'll give you two
4 minutes out of my five-minute presentation.

5 To carry out the purposes of the Council of Filipino
6 American Organization we have embarked on a bold community
7 improvement program, so-called Project Operation Samahan,
8 which means working together.

9 This is a project with active participation and largely
10 upon the initiative of the Filipino American Communities of
11 San Diego County.

12 The project has three major components, namely
13 youth development program, senior citizens recreation and
14 nutrition program and the Operation Samahan free clinic.

15 The project is designed to support the efforts of
16 Filipino American Communities of San Diego County and their
17 desire to solve their own problems and live decently and
18 peacefully into the mainstream of American society.

19 We are working for much
20 of the understanding amongst all people, regardless of race,
21 color or creed, but on the other hand, our Anglo Americans
22 refuse to be understanding of our problems.

23 The project had utilized the manpower resources of the
24 federal public employment program, only to be phased out by
25 insensitive federal bureaucrats without the benefit of evaluation

1 of its worthwhile on-going project. Of course, the first
2 to be phased out were the Filipino Americans and Asian
3 Americans and were never given an opportunity to be absorbed
4 into a permanent job, as supposedly required by the Federal
5 Government. Whatever their reasons are, the county and the
6 City of San Diego never had any sincerity to absorb the
7 Asian Americans and Filipino American employees.

8 And adding insult to injury, they have, a token
9 implementation of their respective ~~Affirmative Action Plans~~.
10 They take for granted the Filipino and Asian American
11 passive attitude, however that passive attitude is sitting
12 on top of a volcano, ready to explode at any time, unless
13 something can be done by way of correcting the discriminatory
14 practices and unequal opportunities being felt by our people.

15
16 (Applause.)
17

18 There are -- discriminatory procedure whereby Asian
19 American Applicants who receive the education from colleges or uni-
20 versities outside of the United States must have their
21 educational records certified. If such colleges or uni-
22 versities do not appear on the list of accredited schools
23 kept by cities, counties or states, even though such educa-
24 tion had been previously accepted as a part of registration
25 and licensing requirements.

1 The delay and inconvenience caused in the treatment
2 of foreign educated applicants is discriminatory, regardless
3 of any intentions to the contrary, and effectively denies
4 equal employment opportunity.

5 The institution which publishes the list of accredited
6 schools are racially discriminatory, collaborated by the
7 states, city and counties which issues the publication.

8 B, discriminatory application of the bilingual pay to solely
9 Spanish-speaking employees, to the exclusion of other
10 employees with another linguistic background.

11 C, age, height and weight qualifications for employ-
12 ment in law enforcement agencies. A typical Asian American
13 or Filipino American certainly could not meet the certain
14 requirements.

15 Equal pay for equal work shall be the name of the
16 game, oftentimes Filipino and Asian Americans receive lesser
17 pay than their Anglo American counterparts.

18 School district administrators are only interested in
19 having their present staff undergo in-service training for
20 awareness of Filipino and Asian American cultures.

21 Sincere efforts to hire minority staff is the only
22 way to get the best results.

23 Certainly, we hope that this U.S. Civil Rights Com-
24 mission should recognize the problems that have been presented
25 here by some of our people and I'm giving you Mr. Batista,

1 from the U.S. Navy.

2

3

4

MR. ROY BATISTA

5

6 A. (By Mr. Batista.) Members of this Committee, I was
7 introduced to be a representative of the U.S. Navy; I am
8 not. I am here as an ordinary citizen, I am working in the
9 community. What I say is what I feel, what I see as an
10 observation.

11

12 First of all, it's more or less my presentations will
13 be a duplication of so many of the presentations put out
14 by the representatives of the different organizations.

15

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Let me just, again, we are on the time,
17 if you can just give us the parts that are not duplicating
18 so we can have that in the record, I am pressed for time
19 because the next panelists are going to have to come on.

20

21 A. Well, since the -- we are under time pressure, I'd
22 just like to let the Committee know that, to the observation
23 I have in the community of the Pan-Asian group, that the
24 group so-called the Pan-Asian, would like to let the Committee
25 know or the Commission on Civil Rights, that the old Pan-
Asion stereotype labeled by the community, which is the
passive stereotype, forced upon the community by the White
population, it no longer exists, we are no longer the docile,

1 complacent, religious, and self-sufficient little people from the
2 Orient, we are people and we are a part of the community.

3 I end my presentation on that.

4 Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: I want to thank you for your presen-
6 tation in coming all the way up from San Diego.

7 If at all possible, our Committee will get down to
8 San Diego to give you more adequate opportunity to present
9 your complaints and grievances.

10 Let me also state we have statements that are in
11 written form, please be sure to file them where they will
12 be a part of our record.

13 Thank you again.

14

15 (Short recess.)

16

17 THE CHAIRMAN: We are now back in session with the
18 next panel, and I have been handed the order in which they
19 will testify so I will call them in that order.

20 And ask them to make their presentation. I will
21 ask that they make their presentation as short as possible
22 with the relevant matters in providing the panel an oppor-
23 tunity to ask questions within the time allotted.

24 All right, Ms. Cynthia Chono.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. CYNTHIA CHONO

2

3 A. (By Ms. Chono.) My name is Cynthia Chono, the panel
4 before you today will address itself to the pressing issues
5 in Little Tokyo Redevelopment Project.

6 Specifically, the topics to be covered are housing,
7 small businesses, and contract compliance. However, I would
8 like to put the contents of the presentation into a proper
9 perspective.

10 Historically, redevelopment has had a dismal record.
11 Redevelopment has not fostered urban rehabilitation but
12 rather has degenerated into urban removal.

13 Redevelopment has been an experience of systematic
14 dispersonal and destruction for the local communities.
15 We've only to look a few blocks to the west to substantiate
16 our contention. Bunker Hill, at one time, was a residential
17 area of 5,000 persons. Now, after redevelopment has claimed
18 and cleared the land, a high-rise housing complex majestically
19 towers over the Civic Center, a set of three towers containing
20 over 700 units at rents ranging from \$185.00 to \$1,650.00
21 per month.

22 Clearly, these prices are beyond the economic means
23 of the original residents. Yet, where is the replacement
24 housing? What alternatives were left to the people but to
25 relocate into an alternative low income area?

1 Travel to the north San Francisco
2 is agonizing from similar destructive forces in its com-
3 munity, big business and city interests are changing the
4 character of the Himachi (Phonetic). The local residents
5 and small business persons are being priced out of the area.
6 The promised construction for replacement housing has been
7 sacrificed in favor of a luxury hotel and the Japan Trade
8 Center.

9 What was once a residential and business center for
10 12,000 persons, has become a plastic, tourist-oriented show-
11 place for Japan's capitol. What does this have to do
12 with Little Tokyo? Redevelopment here would be different,
13 it is going to save Little Tokyo from expanding Civic Center
14 and dangerous decay of old rundown buildings. This is what
15 was promised to the community.

16 The redevelopment agency was enlisted by the com-
17 munity for help in seeking the solutions to declining con-
18 ditions of Little Tokyo.

19 The redevelopment plans were drawn anticipating the
20 revitalization of a once prosperous Japanese American Com-
21 munity. Redevelopment would facilitate the community growth
22 of Little Tokyo as a hub of all Japanese Americans in
23 southern California. The present trend in events and the
24 implementation of a current plan are alarmingly beginning to
25 follow the ominous pattern which led to the destruction of

1 Bunker Hill in San Francisco, in Himachi.

2 Before I continue, I'd like to submit to the Commission
3 more detailed paper that was done by the Little Tokyo
4 Anti-eviction Task Force. For their review.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: All right, fine.

6 A Now, we'd like to continue in presenting more speci-
7 fically the situation of the small business people. For
8 the small business people in Little Tokyo, the dissemination
9 of information becomes crucial for their survival. For
10 example, they must be informed of all their legal rights
11 as part of the redevelopment project. If they are to make
12 a sound decision about their economic future.

13 Realizing the situation, the Department of Housing and
14 Urban Development has set forth guidelines for the Community
15 Redevelopment Agency to follow. According to the Uniform
16 Relocation Assistance Act of 1970, the CRA is to provide a
17 Relocation Assistance Advisory program. This program would
18 provide the following services: One, current and continuing
19 information on availability of prices and rentals, of
20 comparable commercial properties and locations.

21 Two, an assurance that within a reasonable time there
22 will be an available place,

23 Three, assist in obtaining and becoming established
24 in a suitable replacement location.

25 Four, supply information about state and federal

1 programs that offer assistance to displaced persons.

2 Currently in Little Tokyo, little information has
3 been disseminated, the average tenant has been contacted twice
4 by the CRA in four years. I have a number of exhibits I'd
5 like to also submit to substantiate this.

6 They're affidavits from some of the business people
7 stating that they have or have not been contacted and how
8 many times.

9 That hardly seems to meet the requirements of current
10 and continuing information.

11 The Japanese American tenants are not only upset at
12 the lack of information, but also by the fact that it is
13 presented by non-Japanese-speaking staff members.

14 The same exhibits also have that substantiated.

15 Another factor that is alarming to the community is
16 the demolition of parcels of land that have been left vacant
17 for as long as a year and a half that has caused a premature
18 hardship and unnecessary anxiety that preceded eviction and
19 relocation, the lack of information and insensitivity to
20 the community has caused much concern over the direction that
21 redevelopment will take.

22 Therefore, there are two questions that need to be
23 examined and answered. One, what kind of timetable is pro-
24 jected for the removal, and two, when, when they have to
25 move where will they be able to move to?

1 In speaking with small business tenants on the north
2 side of East First Street we understand that the City of
3 Los Angeles has future plans for street widening. The tenants
4 there have expressed concern and desire for further clarifi-
5 cation on the situation. What relationship does CRA have
6 with the City of Los Angeles in terms of north side relo-
7 cation right? Is the north side included in the redevelop-
8 ment plan?

9 If so, what benefits do they have? We also under-
10 stand that provisions have been made to allow the north side
11 small business tenants first opportunity to move into the
12 first action area but we find that some tenants may not be
13 able to afford the economic move. And you can refer to
14 Exhibit 3.

15 It appears that the City of Los Angeles is attempting
16 to acquire more land for their use under the guise of widening
17 the north side of East First Street. A prior presentation has
18 been established when the city took over and demolished over
19 one quarter of Little Tokyo when they constructed the
20 police center. If the city is allowed to widen the north
21 side they will have effectively destroyed over half of the
22 Little Tokyo Community.

23 In a similar manner, Japanese business corporations
24 are attempting to take over the remaining portion of Little
25 Tokyo, using the Japanese American Community as a front for

1 their activities. Through the acquisition of a small parcel
2 of land in Little Tokyo they're allowed to become partici-
3 pants in the Redevelopment Project with the huge financial
4 backing they could become the dominant economic force in
5 Little Tokyo.

6 What will happen to the Japanese American Community
7 in Little Tokyo if Japanese corporations are allowed to gain a
8 foothold here?

9 The possibility is very strong that eventual Japanese
10 business interests will take over and dominate the social,
11 cultural and economic activities within the Little Tokyo
12 Community.

13 A clear example is the experience of Japanese American
14 Community in San Francisco, the original redevelopment plan
15 was to include community participation and planning, the
16 end result was that Japanese corporations took over the
17 project and are using it for a showcase for their own products.
18 As a consequence, profits are not retained within the
19 Japanese American Community, but utilized outside of it.

20 Because of Little Tokyo's historical culture and
21 social significance to the Japanese American Community re-
22 development should reflect the need of the community, not
23 those of the CRA, Japan corporations or the City of Los
24 Angeles, it's future and direction should be -- should be
25 determined by the community. Not by outside interests.

1 Small business people have a right to stay in Little
2 Tokyo. To assure these rights, we recommend the following:
3 One, that CRA provide adequate space in Little Tokyo for
4 small business tenants at a rental fee that they can afford.

5 Two, that the CRA not evict anyone until a suitable
6 location is found for them in Little Tokyo.

7 Three, that adequate information be provided for the
8 small business tenants as to their relocation rights.

9 And four, that a bilingual person be provided to
10 facilitate relocation information.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

12 The next panelist would be Mr. Akira Kawasaki.

13

14

15

MR. AKIRA KAWASAKI

16

17 A (By Mr. Kawasaki.) Thank you, Chairman Sillas, and
18 Members of the Advisory Committee.

19 My name is Akira Kawasaki, I reside at 8661 Wonderland
20 Avenue, Los Angeles, California. My place of business is
21 at 313 East First Street, Los Angeles.

22 I wish to thank the California State Advisory Com-
23 mittee for the opportunity to testify before you in regard
24 to the Little Tokyo Redevelopment Project. I will make an
25 oral statement and submit for your examination, two pamphlets,

1 one is titled the Case Against the Widening of East First
2 Street and its effect on Little Tokyo.

3 The second is a copy of a commentary submitted in
4 regard to the draft environment of the proposed plan. I
5 was born in Los Angeles, lived most of my life here, and
6 have resided the majority of my life in Little Tokyo except
7 for some time in Wyoming.

8 I am the third generation in the business in Little
9 Tokyo, my family has mostly conducted since entering the
10 United States. Our family has borne witness to three
11 generations of patrons that has flowed through Little Tokyo
12 and our stores and our longevity is not unique in Little
13 Tokyo, there are others that have been in existence longer
14 than ours.

15 Now, when you consider that the state board of
16 equalization says that over 80% of the small businesses in
17 the United States fail within five years, and feels that
18 stores existing over five years as long-lived store, then
19 there is something to be said for the method of operation
20 of the stores in Little Tokyo have adopted.

21 The subject matter today is redevelopment in Little
22 Tokyo. Now, Little Tokyo is the largest commercial and
23 cultural ethnic community center for the Japanese Americans
24 in the Continental United States. It is an authentic com-
25 munity, having a historical base since the 1880's.

1 Prior to the Second World War, and in spite of all
2 the distortions of civil rights that existed, the Japanese
3 Community had carved a successful economic niche for itself
4 in labor, intensive, agriculture and fishing industries
5 and in light of the success, Little Tokyo boomed as a center
6 of a successful community.

7 After the Second World War, a destitute community
8 trickled back from the concentration camps. Little Tokyo
9 slowly revived again as a community, cultural center,
10 has been mentioned in the early 1950's.

11 The city demolished by eminent domain, one-fourth of
12 the vital section of Tokyo, this left an unbalanced Little
13 Tokyo. By 1963, Little Tokyo faced major problems, among
14 them the city demolishing another lot of Little Tokyo by
15 reasoning of the street widening and the civic center parking
16 means.

17 There was a danger of the rest of Little Tokyo being
18 wiped out for civic center expansion and there was a lack
19 of additional lands to which the merchants or landowners of
20 Little Tokyo could move or expand, so in 1963 everybody got
21 together and formed the Little Tokyo Redevelopment Association,
22 a non-profit corporation, the purpose was to formally iden-
23 tify Little Tokyo and help determine the future role it
24 had to play in the community and the city for their mutual
25 benefit.

1 And in attempting to promote as much as possible a
2 self-improvement program for the area, but this is very rough
3 since everybody was paying through the nose for properties
4 that had long ago seen better days.

5 On the redevelopment association until 1968, now with
6 things coming to a head, Little Tokyo Redevelopment Association,
7 with much hesitation, approached Los Angeles City Community
8 Redevelopment Agency with regard to being included in a
9 redevelopment program. What the association saw was the new
10 1968 Federal Housing Act, which introduced the immigrant
11 development program, this program envisioned an inland
12 redevelopment program with community control and participation,
13 which seemed to be eminently suitable for Little Tokyo's
14 problems.

15 So, Little Tokyo, with the support of some 14 com-
16 munity organizations, went into redevelopment in the fall
17 of 1968 as the participant in the Los Angeles Neighborhood
18 Development Program.

19 So, Little Tokyo Redevelopment Program is now in its
20 fourth to fifth year and an overview of the entire project,
21 the scale, the scope, the wholesale redevelopment and its
22 sponsor, the Japanese American Community, is falling a
23 victim and is being compromised to shrinking public moneys
24 available.

25 Today we see in the redevelopment process First Street,

1 the main jugular artery for Little Tokyo being turned over
2 to the city as a part of a highly questionable and debatable
3 need of civic center expansion, a civic center hospital
4 concept was hatched in the case when the idea of manifest
5 was peculiar to the times and so disastrous to the American
6 Indian.

7 We see First Street being widened in an area where
8 environmental protection, both natural and social, energy
9 shortages and mass transportation need are the correct
10 priorities of today's society.

11 We see new structures being predicted for demolition
12 so that new or more expensive structures can be built for
13 other new owners at necessarily higher rents.

14 We see little consideration or encouragement given to
15 restore or rehabilitate buildings which have historical
16 value to this community.

17 We see how little assistance and time for understanding
18 was given the community to properly formulate a redevelopment
19 plan suitable to the community. And we see how even with
20 the redevelopment plan it has, it is not being used to its
21 full extent possible for the better interests of the com-
22 munity at all levels.

23 We see the community advisory group being subverted
24 by nonconsultation and non-involvement. In the redevelopment
25 process.

1 We see stores being caught in an anguish dilemma of
2 being relocated out of business or having to pay a much
3 higher rental at a less desirable location, being bankrupted
4 out of business eventually.

5 There are no guarantees of higher income attached to
6 a new development at a higher overhead. We see a stalling
7 and scaling of the much heralded community and cultural
8 center by the public acquisition and predicted demolition
9 of buildings that function as the center and other affected
10 commercial properties goes on.

11 We see little opportunity for that ideal form of land
12 ownership, an owner-tenant situation is occurring and if
13 not more likely subordinated to a stockholding ownership of
14 land and development.

15 We see a drastic revision of senior citizens and low-
16 to-medium income housing being predicted and this only to
17 partially replace the housing being lost in the taking of
18 First Street by the civic center expansion project and the
19 large hotel project among others.

20 And this is not beginning to cover the housing
21 resources lost in the community in the recent past. Like
22 the Pacific Hotel, the Miake (Phonetic) Hotel, the Olympic
23 Hotel. The Micora (Phonetic) Hotel.

24 We see non-cooperation of local governments in taking
25 special exceptions to protect their special interests such

1 as not selling their parcels of land to the project, to
2 help the redevelopment program, such as skirting around their
3 land and leaving untouched, but adversely affecting private
4 land holdings on the First Street widening project.

5 So we see more and more in the redevelopment process,
6 more and more disheartening faces and disenchanted spirits,
7 and we see in the shortcomings of the redevelopment a rising
8 of higher self-righteous and self-seeking voices of the
9 original factors of the higher purposes of the redevelopment
10 program.

11 And finally, here is Little Tokyo, to the Japanese
12 American Community, our history lies there, not at Jamestown
13 or Plymouth Rock, to some it may seem too recent in history
14 to identify or admit Little Tokyo in such a context but it
15 is a valid claim.

16 In this place of history can not be and no attempt be
17 made to shift from First Street to Second Street older
18 structures, old identity to new identity, just for the short-
19 sighted and shallow expediencies or compromise redevelopment.

20 The question here is what can be done to help this
21 situation for the community, to help the owners and tenants
22 in resolving this situation?

23 As the case I represented authorities of adjustments
24 among others and must be made legally and politically in order
25 that this redevelopment may proceed successfully.

1 A rule of the environmental impact report for the
2 Little Tokyo project, this report was by the Redevelopment
3 Agency without any understanding or any input to the report
4 by the advisory committee, let alone the community. There
5 were no local public hearings or significance of its contents
6 made known publicly to any sufficient degree.

7 Revision of the civic center master plan to exclude
8 permanently the north side of First Street from their plan.

9 Major amendments in the Little Tokyo Redevelopment
10 Plan to scale the redevelopment timetable to the economic
11 capabilities and available financial resources of the land
12 owners, the tenants and the community. The role of the
13 advisory committee defined and adhered to by the city,
14 the redevelopment agencies and the community. Public acqui-
15 sition of land and improvements in the name of redevelopment
16 be made only after subsequent usings and possible ramifica-
17 tions of those acquisitions are administered and approved
18 by the advisory committee, and the general community, and a
19 matter of public knowledge and record.

20 In all public meetings held with sufficient notices
21 must be bilingual. In order to assure understanding and
22 participation. A mutual, a constant mutual program must be
23 made by the city, the Redevelopment Agency and the community,
24 to create an atmosphere in which public participation by the
25 community in all phases of the redevelopment can take place

1 freely and without any reservations, inhibitions, misunder-
2 standings, fears or suspicions.

3 And finally, it is the hope of this witness that this
4 Committee will see fit to look into this matter deeper than
5 what we will have covered today and really find out what
6 redevelopment should be, what Little Tokyo is and should be
7 and help make your Little Tokyo a better Little Tokyo for
8 everybody concerned in all aspects of our greater community.

9 Thank you.

10
11 (Applause.)

12

13 THE CHAIRMAN: The next panelist is Ms. Chiyo Maniwa

14

15

16

MS. CHIYO MANIWA

17

18 A (By Ms. Maniwa.) Okay. My name is Chiyo Maniwa and
19 I'm one of three Sansei (Phonetic) girls who started a retail
20 fabric store in Little Tokyo, called Sowa (Phonetic), Incor-
21 porated. And we chose to have our store in Little Tokyo
22 knowing full well that redevelopment would take place. Be-
23 cause we wanted to be a part of redefining our community.

24

25

And at the time that we came in, we came in with
the glowing reports of the Community Redevelopment Agency

1 about what redevelopment will do, in terms of reviving
2 Little Tokyo.

3 Stressing that it would become the center, cultural
4 community center of the Japanese American Community again.
5 Emphasizing needs of senior citizens and also needs of Asian
6 American business people in the area. But what redevelopment
7 really means to Little Tokyo is becoming very clear to us now.

8 It become clear that in -- once it's redeveloped,
9 it will serve mainly tourists and civic center employees,
10 not the Asian American or Japanese American Community. It
11 won't be serving the people that historically created it and
12 who it historically served.

13 Our store strongly opposes the direction of redevelop-
14 ment as we see it now, and we will not be able to afford
15 the rents and we will not be able to stay in Little Tokyo.
16 It seems the only factor that is determining the direction
17 of Little Tokyo now is economic expediency, and not the sur-
18 vival and development of our community.

19
20 (Applause.)

21
22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

23 Ms. Karen Hara?
24
25

1 MS. KAREN HARA

2

3 A (By Ms. Hara.) My name is Karen Hara, and I'll be
4 speaking about the residents.

5 The Community Redevelopment Agency has neglected its
6 duty by not supplying the residents with adequate informa-
7 tion. Because of this lack of information, because of this
8 lack of adequate information, residents and especially
9 senior citizens, feel secure with the knowledge that housing
10 will be provided for them, but will it?

11 The only information that I know that the senior
12 citizens have heard and understood was the fact that if
13 they wanted to be included in the senior citizens housing that
14 they would have to sign up at the local project office.

15 After that, the senior citizens assumed that everyone
16 who signed up would get into the housing once it was built.

17 In fact, some signed up twice to make sure that
18 their names were included on that list. It is necessary
19 that CRA have more than a bilingual staff to be truly
20 effective in informing the residents in the area. It is
21 necessary to establish a trust with the residents, such
22 trusts can not be gained overnight and therefore the agency
23 should recruit people who have worked in the Little Tokyo
24 area, people who understand the condition and problems faced
25 by the residents already. To send out bilingual material is

1 not enough, some senior citizens may not be able to see or
2 even read the letter, in fact, if they were able to read
3 one of the letters which I was able to get ahold of, a
4 rather ominous statement occurs in it under the heading,
5 eviction policy, number five. "Refusal to admit a member
6 of the agency staff to the premises", would lead the agency,
7 CRA, to undertake eviction proceedings if it is not corrected
8 after warnings from the agency or its representatives.

9 First, one must understand the circumstances, it is
10 very difficult to invite someone, a stranger into your bed-
11 room to talk, and if he does not speak Japanese anyway, the
12 simplest thing to do and say is, is, no speak English, and
13 close the door.

14 The CRA has also failed to fulfill its duty to replace
15 every apartment and hotel bulldozed in Little Tokyo.

16 HED Relocation Handbook 1371.1, Chapter 4, paragraph
17 3A, states, "It is HED policy that for any program, project
18 or activity involving displacement in a locality which has
19 a vacancy rate of less than 3% by appropriate unit sizes
20 and cost levels in low or moderate income rental units, size
21 and cost levels of low or moderate income persons be provided
22 on a one-for-one basis."

23 Page 21 -- that's the end of quote.

24 Page 21 of CRA's 1970-71 NDP application recognized,
25 "The current vacancy rate of housing in L.A. for low income

1 people at less than 3%."

2 Due to the severe shortage of housing, CRA must build
3 one low income housing unit for each unit bulldozed in Little
4 Tokyo, moreover, the replacement housing, in my opinion,
5 should be rebuilt within the neighborhood development project
6 area, not miles away from the Japanese store, restaurants,
7 churches and community organizations.

8 The present CRA housing plans for only 169 units of
9 senior citizens' housing, is this enough? What about the other
10 400 people? Where are they to go? Are they to disappear
11 because no class had been made for them?

12 And what about the rent subsidy? What happens after
13 four years, will they once again be forced to seek an area
14 which needs redevelopment because they lack the income not
15 to stay in the standard housing area?

16 It is very -- it seems like very poor planning for
17 the people whose lives are touched by redevelopment, it seems
18 as though more care and planning have gone into the development
19 of the hotel than the welfare of the residents.

20 Is this what redevelopment is all about? Similar
21 recommendations would be, one, to hire someone who has worked
22 in the community, someone who has established a trust with
23 the residents, in the area already.

24 Two, develop a more people-oriented program by inviting
25 residents of one hotel to one of the local churches to discuss

1 relocation payments, provide counseling and about other
2 pertinent information.

3 Three, list or explain to them the housing require-
4 ments to get into senior citizen housing or low and
5 moderate income housing.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

7
8 (Applause.)

9
10 THE CHAIRMAN: Our next panelist, Mr. Mark Masaoka.

11
12
13 MR. MARK MASAOKA

14
15 A (By Mr. Masaoka.) My name is Mark Masaoka. I am 20
16 years old, I live in Boyle Heights, Los Angeles, and I'm an
17 apprentice plumber with T and T Plumbing and Heating.

18 I want to bring up the matter of the Community Re-
19 development Agency not doing anything to meet its Affirmative
20 Action guidelines in the building trades.

21 From the Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
22 Report of the CRA for the year 1972, I read that 1.8% of con-
23 struction wages were paid to Orientals. This is not even
24 one-half of our proportion in the city, which is 3.9%.

25 Worse, in the area of apprenticeship hiring we fare

1 even lower. 0.89%.

2 Now, according to the CRA's own standards, equal
3 opportunity is, "Workmen and contract construction being
4 the same as the ethnic components of the Redevelopment
5 Project in which the work is being performed". And the
6 CRA claims to make substantial contributions to our minority
7 communities through these enlarged employment opportunities.
8 But for our people, I can not understand how honest men
9 could say such a thing.

10 But now, the Little Tokyo Redevelopment Project which
11 seems to be forever looming there in the near future, there
12 will be some 50 million dollars of construction in our com-
13 munity. And of which we rightfully claim our share of the
14 jobs. But I am wary and concerned and I add suspicious, that
15 just like the rest of the project, as far as opening up
16 employment opportunities, our people are going to be left
17 holding a bag of horse manure because even though Little
18 Tokyo is 70% Asian, you and I know that there are not auto-
19 matically going to be 70% Asians on the job site.

20 Why? There have not been many Asians who have been
21 able to get into the unions and the CRA is not doing a damned
22 thing to help us get in.

23 Now, I'm not claiming to speak for the other Asian
24 Communities, but for the Japanese Americans, we face a con-
25 tinued history of racism and exclusion from the unions.

1 Consequently, many Japanese do not even consider apply-
2 ing for union apprenticeship programs, instead, they go into
3 gardening and non-union shops. Japanese American shop that
4 I work in, for instance, is a non-union shop, just like
5 all the other Japanese plumbing shops in the city. Except
6 for one. And the union shop has only five workers whereas
7 my non-union shop has 18 workers. And even though being
8 non-union means that we work Saturdays, we have less pay,
9 less benefits and no pension, and also cut us out of new
10 construction work.

11 And union foremen have a reputation for being racists
12 and giving Asian apprentices a harder time, and in this case
13 apprentices don't have any choice in who they work for.

14 In fact, two of the people in my shop quit the unions
15 for reasons of pride and came to the shop I'm in now. I
16 went through and applied with the local union through the
17 joint apprenticeship committee, but got told that the union
18 would not be indenturing any new apprentices until mid-1974.

19 So, what this all means is that there are concrete
20 reasons why many potential workers are discouraged from and
21 do not enter union apprenticeship programs much like the
22 positions of Blacks and Chicanos, only a few years back.

23 Much of the community's attitude about construction
24 in Little Tokyo is based on the shakiness of the whole
25 project. Two years ago a dozen young men set up a preappren-

1 ticeship training class with individuals from the Oriental
2 Builders Association, but when the jobs were nowhere in
3 sight, the group fell apart. Now, the CRA's attitude is that
4 they are complying by giving contracts for the small shopping
5 mall to Asian contractors in the Oriental Builders Association,
6 and secondly, they feel that there aren't many Asians
7 interested in this line of work because we all are supposed
8 to do so well in school, we like to go on to college and
9 the rest of that jive line.

10 We called them on this when we had a community meeting
11 last summer, about these jobs, and they said, heck, you only
12 have eight or ten guys, sign up and take the apprenticeship
13 test and we'll be working together with the Oriental Builders
14 Association to help you get into some jobs.

15 But that's like offering us a little favor, that's
16 not any kind of real Affirmative Action Program that is going
17 to open up job opportunities.

18 The CRA has no second thoughts about making land deals
19 that will give outright subsidies of \$170,000.00 to foreign
20 companies, but for the local Asian American Community, there
21 is no money to help people take advantage of the opportunity
22 and get into better jobs. What we are demanding a staff or
23 a preapprenticeship training program to help people with
24 their high school equivalency tests, apprenticeship exams
25 and counseling in the different trades.

1 We believe it is our right that the CRA write into
2 the contracts with developers in the Little Tokyo Redevelop-
3 ment Project, Affirmative Action provisions that are going
4 to require Asian apprentices on the job.

5 Thank you.

6
7 (Applause.)

8
9 THE CHAIRMAN: Next panelist, Mr. Ken Izumi.

10
11
12 MR. KEN IZUMI

13
14 A. (By Mr. Izumi.) The testimonies you've heard today
15 clearly show all of us are not opposing redevelopment but
16 are concerned about its **future**. The implications are
17 staggering because behind the facade of redeveloping Little
18 Tokyo for the benefit of the community, a building, a 400-
19 unit hotel and other commercial developments, and at high
20 rents, I might add, for civic improvement. Behind all of
21 this is a sinister plan to divert approximately three billion
22 dollars in tax revenues to subsidize central city construction
23 of gigantic corporate headquarters as part of what is appro-
24 priately called the Master Plan.

25 Does the Japanese American Community realize that these

1 developments are going on to subsidize corporations like
2 Bank of America, Security Pacific, Crocker Bank, United
3 California Bank, Broadway, Bullocks, Mobil Oil, ARCO and
4 list of hotels?

5 This is bring up before you today because the CRA
6 which had been appointed to mastermind downtown redevelop-
7 ment, as well doesn't tell us that, it doesn't dare tell
8 the public about such an obviously gigantic tax ripoff
9 because the Los Angeles taxpayer would obviously not stand
10 for it.

11 So we objected to ~~this dishonesty~~ of CRA, this patronizing
12 attitude toward the Japanese American Community in telling
13 us that CRA has the best interests of our community at heart.
14 All of the smooth talking in the world, all of the public
15 assurances to the contrary wouldn't convince us of that.

16 The hotel which Kajima (Phonetic) is building is crucial
17 to the Master Plan, don't tell us anything different.

18 We're told that the hotel will be good business for
19 Little Tokyo. We don't doubt that it will but which busi-
20 nesses will it be good for?

21 If the hotel attracts mainly Japanese tourists and
22 business people, which it will because of its ownership by
23 Japan-based hotel firm, will the shops selling Japanese pro-
24 ducts or offices selling medical, dental or legal services
25 prosper?

1 We think not because visitors don't come to this
2 country to buy their own products, nor do they require pro-
3 fessional services if their stay here is temporary.

4 Logically, then, only food concessions and restaurants
5 will reap the benefits of such tourism but the few restaurants
6 in Little Tokyo which are largely owned by Japanese are so
7 overpriced the community's people surely can't afford to eat
8 there and recognizing that tourism is on the rise, specialty
9 shops selling overpriced luxuries like jewelry, expensive art
10 and Japanese sporting goods, have begun to crop up everywhere.

11 So now the community is faced with the inevitable on-
12 slaught of curiosity seekers and obnoxious tourists, exactly
13 what the original committee planners didn't want.

14 The ironic thing is that small business people will
15 need to depend on tourist business to pay for the much higher
16 rents they'll be paying just to stay in Little Tokyo. So,
17 in effect, redevelopment created the need, the dependency,
18 Is this what it was all about?

19 The Japanese American Community must object to out-
20 side investments by large American and Japanese concerns be-
21 cause the profit they make leaves our community.

22 Now we come to the crux of our complaints, what we
23 consider to be the main shortcoming of CRA at this time.
24 We've heard testimony that clearly shows that the CRA is in
25 fact not telling us really, hardly anything, not keeping it

1 informed about latest developments, tenants' rights, moving
2 schedule, specific detailed information the community
3 residents need in order to plan for the future. If not to
4 relieve them of hidden fears about what exactly is going to
5 happen to them.

6 The community has a right to know everything that
7 affects it. The community demands that it be told what is
8 going on, how redevelopment is proceeding on a day-to-day
9 basis, what is being planned, how it can expect to secure the
10 other elements of the original redevelopment plan.

11 Residential tenants have to be kept informed on a fre-
12 quent and regular basis how the housing program is proceeding,
13 even if it's simply a projection that nothing definite exists or
14 intentions if possible funding goes with the promising.

15 Business people in Little Tokyo have to be told what
16 kind of rent they're expected to pay when relocated, what
17 kinds of financial assistance is available, when they are
18 expected to move.

19 One or two notices over a period of four years is highly
20 inadequate, in fact, absurd when you consider that decisions
21 have been made on sketchy, unavailable information.

22 In summary, we make the following recommendations, in-
23 corporating all the previous testimonies: Number one, circulate
24 bilingual information to the community in the following ways:
25 A, a newsletter to be sent to every resident and business

1 tenant in Little Tokyo once a month, detailing the progress
2 of redevelopment and its elements such as housing plans,
3 small business expectations, the community cultural center,
4 plans for churches and community organizations.

5 In addition, the newsletter will make room for an open
6 forum in which dissenting views can be expressed.

7 B, frequent and regular press releases in the vernacular
8 press, concerning developments of a general nature.

9 C, letters to be sent to every resident and business
10 tenant guaranteeing them against eviction until they have a
11 place to move into, and guaranteeing that they will have a
12 place to move into at all in Little Tokyo.

13 D, personal visits be made to senior citizens who often
14 require verbal and easy to understand explanations.

15 These senior citizens frequently have poor eyesight
16 and are therefore not able to read materials easily.

17 Two, an apprenticeship program for construction and
18 other redevelopment-related jobs be implemented for Asian
19 American workers and that Affirmative Action programs be
20 part of contracts.

21 Three, that a project area committee be established
22 and budgeted.

23 Four, rental subsidies for those who choose to live
24 outside the project area be extended for more than four years.

25 Five, all public documents held by the local project

1 office be made readily available to anyone wishing to see
2 them, without having to go through project office staff.

3 Six, a bilingual staff person or persons be provided
4 to facilitate relocation information.

5 And finally, number seven, that bilingual staff be
6 composed of local residents.

7 Thank you.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

9
10 (Applause.)

11
12 THE CHAIRMAN: We'll take about five minutes for
13 questions from the panel, if anyone has any.

14 MS HATA: Five minutes?

15 THE CHAIRMAN: That's all I've got.

16 Q (By Ms. Hata.) The concern here, I think in part, is
17 the lack of material provided to you. How does CRA currently
18 provide information to you, from brochures, word of mouth,
19 how?

20 A (By Mr. Izumi.) Well, I think for the small business
21 people, there has been something like two notices, which
22 we've alluded to a little bit earlier, but otherwise,
23 occasional press releases in the vernacular press is all we
24 ever hear. I don't know if anyone else has anything else to
25 add.

1 A (By Ms. Hara.) Also, I've heard that the residents
2 have been told to attend LTC, which is the Little Tokyo
3 Advisory Committee or something like that, and the two letters
4 that I was able to get ahold of, which I also alluded to in
5 my statement, was written in English, and I'm not sure if it
6 was written in Japanese, and it went into -- into some
7 detail but not really, it's very vague. It leaves a lot
8 of questions to be answered.

9 Q Did all the people who are affected get a copy of these
10 two letters?

11 A I'm not really sure. I can't -- I don't know what
12 the CRA office, who or -- yes, who they sent it out to.

13 Q Could you submit to us, then, a copy of all the ma-
14 terials you have so far that CRA has sent out to the community
15 and indicate, if you can, what kind of people or how many
16 people have gotten the materials and how many people you
17 would estimate have not received the materials?

18 Also, about this community advisory group that you
19 have, who formed the community advisory group. At whose
20 initiative was the group formed?

21 A (By Mr. Kawasaki.) The Community Development Advisory
22 Committee was formed by citizens in the community that
23 were supposed to represent their various period of expertise,
24 like if it was a businessman, then they were supposed to re-
25 flect the concerns of other businessmen. If they were people

1 from the churches, they reflect the opinion of the insti-
2 tutions in the area.

3 Q You feel, then, that the community advisory group is
4 the group that represents the interests of all the people
5 who currently live in Little Tokyo?

6 A That was the intent when it was originally organized
7 and when the bylaws of the advisory committee was made. Now,
8 as the thing has progressed, it has not functioned to the
9 extent that it has been receiving information necessary for
10 it also, in turn, inform the community.

11 Q Have you gone out to get this information on your own?

12 A Well, actually --

13 Q You have not waited for CRA to hand you the information
14 and I assume, for the record, I'm trying to represent the
15 record you have made efforts on your own now, to seek in-
16 formation and you have not been able to get cooperation, is
17 that correct?

18 A Well, actually, see, the committee members are laymen,
19 and if they don't know what to ask, how could you ask them
20 to ask for this information?

21 A (By Mr. Izumi.) The composition of the advisory
22 committee does not include residential tenants, which is
23 a serious lack on the part of that particular committee.

24 Q How much of the property in Little Tokyo is owned by
25 the people who actually live in the buildings, work in the

1 buildings, have businesses there?

2 A (By Mr. Kawasaki.) You mean what percentages is that?
3 I think the CRA could better answer that than any one of us
4 would.

5 Q What efforts have been made on your part to save some
6 of the buildings that you've been talking about? Have you
7 for example, contacted the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage
8 Board, which has the power now to declare a moratorium as
9 far as destruction of buildings is concerned?

10 A We had contemplated that eventually if it comes to
11 that point.

12 MS. HATA: Okay.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Nadine.

14 Mr. Lau, do you have any questions?

15 MR. LAU: Yes, how many people live in this affected
16 area?

17 A (By Mr. Izumi.) Six hundred residents.

18 Q (By Mr. Lau.) And are they mostly monolingual,
19 Japanese?

20 A A large percentage of them are, yes. Exactly what
21 that percentage is, nobody knows.

22 Q Now, have you been promised an Affirmative Action
23 Program in regard to hiring on the construction work?

24 A As far as I know, nothing like that has been -- even
25 been talked about.

1 Q Is there an affirmative hiring program in general
2 when redevelopment work is done, you know, here in Los
3 Angeles?

4 A We don't know whether that's written into the con-
5 tracts or not.

6 Q Has that been true whenever redevelopment has happened
7 in other communities? Other minority communities?

8 A I don't know if we feel qualified to speak for other
9 communities like that?

10 A (By Mr. Masaoka.) Yes, it has happened in other com-
11 munities like in the community in Montevilla in East L.A.
12 It has happened where they have started a new apprenticeship
13 program.

14 Q Is this redevelopment agency working with this task
15 force? Do you have a relationship?

16 A (By Mr. Izumi.) With our task force?

17 Q Yes.

18 A No.

19 Q Have you tried to meet with them?

20 A We've had open discussions with them in other in-
21 stances with other community groups and it's not very fruitful.

22 Q Have they ever come down to your particular community
23 and discussed matters with you?

24 A I believe that some of the CRA staff has spoken with
25 individuals within our group.

1 Q And what you're implying, that they're not responsive
2 to you at all?

3 A They're not responsive to the community as a whole.

4 Q When these contracts are let out on the new construc-
5 tion, is there an affirmative program in regard to dealing
6 with the various contractors who bid on jobs? Doesn't the
7 redevelopment agency go in and say you have to hire so many
8 people from the local area? Or do they do that, do you know?

9 A (By Mr. Masaoka.) Well, the answers we've been getting
10 have been very confusing. I mean there's the fact that
11 they'll have the procedure where this will be done, however
12 they say if it isn't done you can't do anything about it,
13 so you might as well just take what we give you. And in
14 speaking with, I guess attorneys, they've mentioned that
15 this law is very vague, and enforcement is very difficult,
16 because what happens is they can pull in their team, their
17 work teams and by the time any legal action has taken place,
18 the work teams have left.

19 You know, new work teams come in, and so for those
20 reasons, the law has been completely ineffective in helping
21 us.

22 Q Have they started demolishing quite a few buildings
23 in Little Tokyo right now?

24 A See, there have been a number of buildings demolished,
25 yes, and some other buildings have been constructed, you know,

1 since the redevelopment project has begun. However, no
2 effort was made by the CRA to get, I guess, Asian workmen
3 and contractors, or I should say Asian workmen into those
4 jobs.

5 Q. And have you lodged a protest with them?

6 A. Yes, we've spoken with them.

7 Q. Have you brought this up at the mayor's office?

8 A. No, we haven't.

9 Q. (By Ms. Godoy.) I have one question. You say they have
10 signed with Asian contractors, it's just that on the job site
11 there are not Asian workmen, is that what you're saying?

12 A. They have signed, they are working on contracts
13 with some of the union Asian contractors, that's correct,
14 but in terms of attempting to get any Asian workers at the
15 jobs, that hasn't been done.

16 Q. (By Mr. Lau.) Have you ever asked them for their
17 figures on their affirmative hiring policies, you know, the
18 contractors?

19 A. Yes, I do have a copy of that.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Would you file that with the Committee?

21 A. Okay.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: I think we're going to have to cut this
23 off at this point, however, again let me state to this panel
24 that any statistics or additional information that you may
25 have, please feel free to file it with our Committee, who

1 will consider that in preparing our final report.

2 We want to thank you all for your presentation and
3 information that you've provided us this afternoon.

4 Thank you.

5

6 (Applause.)

7

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Our next panel, I would ask Mr. Colin
9 Chiu, lawyer for, Director of the Lawyers for Housing,
10 Incorporated, and Mr. Stan Price, attorney at the Western
11 Center on Law and Poverty.

12 Okay, if you'll state your name for the record and
13 then I understand you have a statement to make, is that
14 correct, and then open up for questions of the panel?

15

16

17 MESSRS. COLIN CHIU and STANTON J. PRICE

18

19 A (By Mr. Chiu.) My name is Colin Chiu, and I am the
20 Director of the Lawyers for Housing Project.

21 If we may, I think Stan and I would like to just run
22 this as a panel, if you don't mind.

23

THE CHAIRMAN: Fine.

24

25

A (By Mr. Price.) I'm Stanton J. Price and I'm the
attorney of the, housing attorney of the Western Center on

1 Law and Poverty, which is OEO-funded.

2 Q (By the Chairman.) Let me start by asking questions
3 of you and I'm assuming now you're experts in the field
4 that we've just discussed.

5 Q What is the policy pertaining to affirmative action
6 hiring of minorities in areas where there is redevelopment,
7 if there is such a policy?

8 A (By Mr. Chiu.) My own expertise, and I think Stan
9 would also prefer to specifically work in the area of housing,
10 the Affirmative Action Plan is something beyond my own pro-
11 ject's scope.

12 Q All right.

13 Do you have a question?

14 Q (By Ms. Hata.) Can you explain the redevelopment
15 legislation? Is it a federal and is it regulated by federal
16 law?

17 A (By Mr. Price.) It's an agency that's regulated by
18 both federal and state law, and both federal and state law
19 have a very strong housing component. There are various
20 places where one can find the legislative intent regarding
21 housing in redevelopment areas.

22 One is in the congressional housing goal, which comes
23 at the very beginning of the statutes setting up the re-
24 development programs and that goal is, of course, a decent
25 home and suitable living environment for every American family.

1 Further expression of the intent is found in the
2 workable program requirements, and in the demolition and re-
3 placement requirements of the redevelopment laws, but I think
4 the state which also regulates redevelopment has an even
5 more explicit statement that a fundamental purpose of re-
6 development is to expand the supply of low and moderate in-
7 come housing.

8 To expand employment opportunity for jobless, under-
9 employed and low income first and to provide an environment
10 for the social, economic and environmental well-being of
11 all citizens and this, in the Health and Safety Code of
12 California, Section 33071.

13 Q. Is the CRA regulated by these federal laws?

14 A. (By Mr. Chiu.) The CRA is really a state agency, it
15 is created pursuant to state law. It would be regulated
16 under the federal regulations provided that it had a federal
17 activity going on.

18 If it had an activity that was being worked pursuant
19 to the state laws, it would be governed by the state laws.

20 Q. Doesn't CRA receive federal funding and with that
21 kind of input would it be regulated by federal law?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Under federal regulations must CRA then provide regu-
24 lations about the proposed redevelopment plans to the com-
25 munities that are affected by these plans?

1 A. That's a very big question. Let me answer that by
2 saying that there are a lot of provisions for getting the
3 input from the community into the plan, whether they be
4 survey and planning plans or actual implementation of
5 those plans in renewal projects.

6 One of the big areas that came out at the earlier
7 presentation concerns project area committee. And there is
8 a whole raft of requirement that HUD has promulgated under
9 its regulations as to how a project area committee would
10 function.

11 A. (By Mr. Price.) To elaborate a bit on the regulations,
12 the project area committee must be furnished with sufficient
13 information about the project to enable the project area
14 committee to participate knowledgeably, and the information
15 must be furnished sufficiently in advance of the time de-
16 cisions are made in order for the project area committee to
17 be able to evaluate data and to formulate alternative programs.

18 And further, the project area committee is entitled
19 to have necessary technical assistance and this would include
20 secretarial assistance, funds to hire its own consultants,
21 office space, Xerox, funds for reproducing documents, and
22 other things connected so that they can actually get the
23 plans before they are to be made and come up with its own
24 alternatives.

25 Q. (By Ms. Godoy.) So, under the HUD regulations, if there

1 is a redevelopment in the area there should be a project
2 area committee formed, is that what you're trying to say?
3 Is that what you're saying?

4 A. (By Mr. Chiu.) The requirement for a project area
5 committee is of great concern to HUD, there are a number of
6 these involved, the end result is that a project area com-
7 mittee is either strongly urged to be formed or it is manda-
8 torily required, based upon the type of program and the date
9 that, for example, this survey and planning application
10 was approved by HUD.

11 Q. CRA does that have to have a mandatory project area
12 committee?

13 A. It depends on the project.

14 Q. (By Mr. Lau.) Have you worked on these --

15 A. (By Mr. Price.) You see, HUD, as the years have
16 gone by, has attempted to correct what they've found to be
17 some of the original defects in the Urban Renewal and Labor
18 Development Program, so every year for a number of years,
19 new requirements were added, and these requirements were
20 usually not retroactively effective.

21 And they would usually be effective for programs
22 which were begun after the effective date of the statute.

23 So, each --

24 Q. (By Ms. Godoy.) Well, let's say that there is a
25 mandatory requirement that CRA have a project hearing committee.

1 If this were the case, would this project area committee
2 have to be made up of residents that are being affected
3 by the redevelopment?

4 A. Yes, it would have to have a cross-- yes, a cross section
5 of the residents.

6 Q. (By Mr. Lau.) Have you worked on this project with
7 your offices on this Little Tokyo Project?

8 A. (By Mr. Price.) People have come to my office, and
9 I have talked to various people working, employed and other
10 people concerned with Little Tokyo from time to time, yes.

11 Q. Is this a formal project or an informal project, on
12 the part of your office?

13 A. We haven't entered into it on an attorney-client
14 relationship, we've simply been acting in an advisory capacity.

15 Q. Now, under HUD guidelines they have to have an
16 affirmative hiring program, don't they?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Now, this affects the redevelopment staff as well as
19 those contractors and people who want to construct buildings?

20 A. That's correct. Affirmative Action has to be written
21 into all contracts.

22 Q. Have they submitted these affirmative hiring plans to
23 people in the area, as far as you know?

24 A. I don't -- I can't answer that question.

25 Q. Have they promised to do this?

1 A I can't really answer that question either. I've
2 had no direct contact with CRA.

3 Q If they don't do this, are they in violation of some
4 HUD guidelines?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Could you explain a little more about the makeup of
7 this project area committee? Now, is it necessary that
8 people either live or do business within the project area?

9 A It would have to be a cross section of people who
10 live, people who work, people who own property, in other
11 words, it's to represent all of the persons who have an
12 interest, economic, residential or social in the project
13 area.

14 Q Have you talked to the local HUD office about this
15 project area committee?

16 A About the specific project area committee in Little
17 Tokyo?

18 Q Right.

19 A No, I have not discussed this project area committee
20 with the HUD office.

21 Q Is there such a project area committee in Little
22 Tokyo right now?

23 A There is not something denominated a project area
24 committee, there is a Little Tokyo Citizens Development
25 Advisory Committee, and in my opinion, it does not meet the

1 requirements of a project area committee as it has no resi-
2 dents on it.

3 Q If you were to talk with the HUD director for this
4 area, would you recommend that a project area committee
5 be set up?

6 A I most certainly would, even if it's not mandatory,
7 I think it's a matter of good planning law, it should be
8 set up.

9 Q And would you recommend to him or her that the
10 affirmative hiring programs be submitted to the various
11 community groups that are interested in the Little Tokyo
12 project?

13 A I most certainly would.

14 Q Now, in regard to affirmative hiring, is the redevelop-
15 ment agency a part of the city government or the county
16 government?

17 A Well, the redevelopment agency is part -- this re-
18 development agency is an **aspect** of -- is an independent agency,
19 it has its own powers to sue and be sued, to own property
20 and so on, however, it is run by five commissioners who
21 are appointed by the Mayor of Los Angeles. I think an
22 analogy would be to our water and power department.

23 Q And are they bound by the affirmative hiring programs
24 of the county or of the city?

25 A I think so, yes.

1 Q Here in Los Angeles, is there an affirmative hiring
2 program in regard to redevelopment projects? I mean do
3 you absolutely have to have an affirmative hiring program
4 before you can do anything?

5 A You have to have an affirmative hiring program, if
6 I'm not mistaken, any agency which receives federal funds
7 has to have an affirmative hiring program.

8 Q Is Los Angeles very careful about seeing that people
9 who do business in these projects, that they submit these
10 plans and that these plans are followed according to the way
11 that they're supposed to be followed?

12 A Because my area is housing law, I'm not in the position
13 to say, to answer your question as to the city's policies
14 on employment. As lawyers you specialize into ever-narrowing
15 areas and we don't even bother about what's happening in
16 other areas. So I can't really tell you.

17 Colin?

18 A (By Mr. Chiu.) Just on that point, HUD has a section
19 within its organization that would investigate contract
20 requirements, I can only mention that that exists when
21 you're talking about CRA.

22 Q What does HUD do, HUD looks at the proposed compliance
23 procedure to their doing work on the project?

24 When I say that I mean the sponsors or the contractors
25 who are going to work, say on this Little Tokyo area here?

1 A. There are certainly guidelines, an Affirmative Action
2 Plan has to be filed, for example, for the project, and then
3 there has to be one filed for certain implementation
4 steps.

5 Q. Now, does HUD, then, with this Los Angeles office,
6 try to work with local community groups who are interested
7 in this area to be redeveloped? Is it their policy to work
8 with local community groups as far as you know?

9 A. HUD directly?

10 Q. Their office, their district office?

11 A. No. But -- just on the very small level, if I can
12 answer it that way, there's no formal relationship between
13 HUD and the community. HUD deals with the local agencies and
14 it's the local agencies, then, that deal with the community.

15 Now, to the extent that there may be a request for a
16 guest speaker, for example, to explain what is going on, HUD
17 has complied in that past, but that's just on an informal
18 basis.

19 A. (By Mr. Price.) HUD has generally taken the position
20 of minimal interference with the activities of redevelopment
21 agencies, and has tended to let them work out their problems
22 themselves.

23 Even though there is justification for HUD taking
24 a more active role.

25 Q. Now, if you were to meet with the local community in

1 the HUD office would you suggest that they deal with the
2 local counseling committee and if the local housing coalition
3 for instance, had problems with the local redevelopment
4 agency, would you suggest that the redevelopment agency,
5 HUD and the local community, meet all three parties to-
6 gether, try to resolve some of these questions that they
7 may have?

8 A. (By Mr. Chiu.) Certainly that would appear on a
9 number of levels. One, there would be the question of the
10 effectiveness of the project area committee and whether or
11 not that project area committee was being listened to.

12 It would also appear on the level of whether or not
13 the housing that we're talking to is the federally assisted
14 housing project or not.

15 If it is, then there certainly has to be a lot of
16 citizen input, whether or not the people in the community
17 want that sort of project, who the sponsor is, if it's going
18 to be funded and operated by a non-profit group, who that
19 group is going to be.

20 Q. In your experience, when you have a redevelopment
21 area like this, is it unusual not to have a project area
22 committee?

23 A. Very unusual. As a matter of fact, the California
24 State law not too long ago was amended to include that there
25 be project area committees for state renewal projects.

1 What I'm saying is that there has been perceived a
2 need besides on the federal renewal project, for project
3 area committees.

4 Q. Are your offices funded to assist community groups
5 like this task force?

6 A. My funding comes from the American Bar Association,
7 the Ford Foundation, from HUD, and from the L.A. County Bar
8 Association, and the purpose of our project is to look into
9 some of the legal problems, legal constraints surrounding
10 the position of low and moderate income housing and if it
11 were a housing problem, yes, we would be available.

12 A. (By Mr. Price.) We have, however, -- our office has
13 some constraints in the OEO guidelines in that we could help
14 the low income people but we could not help, for instance,
15 business people, because their incomes would be over the OEO
16 guidelines.

17 Q. There was a question about relocation, and the four-
18 year limitation on benefits. Could you tell us if there
19 are some limitations on the time limits on benefits for
20 relocation?

21 A. You're referring to the fact that a tenant can get
22 up to four years, the difference between the rent he was
23 paying and the rent he has to pay in order to get a comparable
24 dwelling. Is that the four-year difference that you're
25 referring to, four-year time limit you're referring to?

1 Q Yes.

2 A Well, okay, essentially, a tenant who is paying,
3 let's say X amount of dollars presently for a standard housing
4 dwelling, and the only comparable dwelling he can find is
5 X plus \$25.00 a month, may be entitled to \$25.00 a month for
6 a four-year period.

7 There are analogous benefits for homeowners, though
8 I don't believe there are any homeowners in the Little Tokyo
9 area. I don't think those provisions are operative here,
10 I may be mistaken about that, there are not, however, com-
11 parable benefits for business people.

12 In other words, you get a one-shot relocation benefit,
13 if you're a business person and are moving your business,
14 and that's it.

15 Q I hear a lot of complaints about replacement housing
16 and the fact that demolition has taken place without replace-
17 ment housing being built. Are there some federal or HUD
18 guidelines in regard to replacement housing?

19 A There are guidelines, a variety of guidelines regarding
20 replacement housing.

21 Essentially, no one can be displaced until he has
22 been moved into comparable housing, comparable housing is
23 decent, safe and sanitary housing, functionally prevalent,
24 substantially the same size, with respect to the number of
25 rooms, living space and so on, and in an area generally not

1 less desirable in regard to public utilities and public
2 and commercial facilities and reasonably accessible to his
3 place of employment.

4 So that's the first thing, that you are entitled to
5 stay where you are until this sort of comparable housing is
6 found for you.

7 If it's not found or can't be found, then the re-
8 locating agency has an obligation under the Uniform Relo-
9 cation Systems Act, to provide comparable housing, if
10 necessary, out of its own funds.

11 In addition, I believe the requirement is that 50%
12 of the units which a community redevelopment agency builds
13 have to be units for low and moderate income housing. Is
14 that -- and 20% of it have to be for low income housing.

15 Q When does that have to be done?

16 A Well, that is a problem, in that the statutes aren't
17 set up so that things necessarily have to follow in what we
18 would regard as a natural sequence, housing built before
19 other things are built.

20 Q Are there some HUD guidelines that could more or less
21 give us some guidelines here? Does HUD have some guidelines
22 for local redevelopment projects in regard to replacement
23 housing?

24 A certain number of years or that type of thing?

25 A (By Mr. Chiu.) If I could start at the front end of

1 that question, there has to be -- you have to plan for the
2 low and moderate income housing that is going to be built
3 in that area, whether or not that is built according to some
4 set timetable is up to the redevelopment agency to create
5 and quite often, as you know, the schedules are changed
6 quite a bit.

7 Processing time, for example, is a big problem. As
8 far as a deadline for completion is concerned as to whether
9 or not the project is coming to a point where they can close
10 out the project. At the present time, HUD is encouraging
11 the early closeout with their projects. And I will say, in
12 order to achieve that, if there were some housing projects
13 that had not been built, then they would encourage the
14 building of them.

15 But then there's a little matter of funding, if it's
16 a federally subsidized housing project.

17 A (By Mr. Price.) We know that, as a practical matter,
18 of course low income housing is built last, if at all, as is
19 in the case of, say Bunker Hill or the Beacon Street project
20 or -- and the one in San Francisco, if they build low, senior
21 citizen or low income housing they build it at the very end
22 and only under often legal pressure from the courts to do so.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: I want to thank you both for being
24 here. And supplementing our report with the information, and
25 at this time we'll take a five-minute break.

1 (Short recess.)

2

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Our next witness is Mr. Richard G.
4 Mitchell, Administrator of the Community Redevelopment
5 Agency and you have with you three persons, and I would ask
6 you to introduce them, for the record.

7

8

9

MR. RICHARD G. MITCHELL

10

11 A (By Mr. Mitchell.) Mr. Chairman, Members of the
12 Commission, my name is Richard G. Mitchell. I'm the Adminis-
13 trator of the Community Redevelopment Agency and I have
14 with me from my staff today, Mr. Aaron Chemens, (Phonetic), who is
15 Assistant Director of our Community Redevelopment Agency.
16 Mr. Kango Kunitsugu, who is Project Manager of Little Tokyo
17 Project and Mr. Jaime Monroy, (Phonetic) who is our Equal
18 Opportunity Officer for our agency.

19

20 I welcome this opportunity to give you some informa-
21 tion concerning our program, I'm going to ask Mr. Monroy
22 and Mr. Kunitsugu to add to that in terms of the Affirmative
23 Action Program.

23

24

25

We are the Urban Renewal Agency for the City of Los
Angeles. I heard some discussion trying to identify what we
are, by law we are a state agency but we perform as a city

1 agency at the will of the city council. And all of our major
2 actions must have the approval of that agency.

3 It was stated that we're governed by a commission of
4 five, that is in error, we're governed by a commission of
5 seven. They're appointed by the **mayor** and confirmed by the
6 city council. They're the policy-making body for our agency.

7 We are involved in the rehabilitation effort, we have
8 some substantial rehabilitation programs going on in the
9 city, as well as the clearance programs that are a part of
10 the Urban Renewal process.

11 With specific reference to Little Tokyo, you have been
12 told of the early days of the Little Tokyo program, the con-
13 cerns that the people had there. And in the early '60's,
14 there was formed a Little Tokyo Redevelopment Association.

15 Which sought ways in which they could deal with the
16 problems of Little Tokyo.

17 Little Tokyo is largely made up of very, very sub-
18 standard buildings, many of those are very dangerous, hazardous
19 buildings, unreenforced structures in a seismic-prone area
20 such as southern California, I don't need to elaborate on
21 the hazard that represents.

22 The Little Tokyo Community is being squeezed by the
23 civic center, by the civic center expansion program and this
24 has been going on for many years. And in the, I guess late
25 '68 and way early in '69, as you have earlier been told,

1 Little Tokyo Redevelopment Association and many other groups
2 in southern California, particularly in Little Tokyo area,
3 urged that we, our agency, undertake to provide assistance
4 in the neighborhood development program.

5 We did that, we did it on the basis, as we do in all
6 projects where we work, that there will be strong citizen
7 participation and there was.

8 One of the finest examples of citizen participation
9 that this city has ever seen occurred in Little Tokyo.
10 There was not only widespread participation in the program,
11 you heard Mr. Kawasaki say earlier that the bylaws of the
12 Little Tokyo Community Development Advisory Committee called
13 for wide representation, which it did, and which was very
14 successful.

15 The city council chambers were packed with represen-
16 tatives in support of the project at the time that the plan
17 was presented to the city council.

18 You have been told that that, now, that that plan was
19 prepared hastily. I deny that, because the citizens did
20 work very hard, night after night on that, and the man who
21 was chairman of that committee, Mr. Kawasaki, is the man
22 who went before the city council and urged the city council
23 to adopt it and I find it strange here today, to hear him
24 say that he led a hasty plan effort because I don't agree
25 that that was what it was.

1 The goals in that plan were for the provision of
2 housing, for the provision of new commercial facilities,
3 and for institutional facilities, particularly a cultural
4 center.

5 During the hearing before the city council, two im-
6 portant commitments were asked of the council and of our
7 agency, by representatives of the Little Tokyo Community.
8 The first priority commitment was that there be senior
9 citizens housing and that was committed to that day and
10 has never been departed from.

11 And secondly, that there be a cultural community
12 center when it could be funded by the representatives of
13 the community.

14 Looking to the city to give assistance to the CRA and
15 the assembly of the land so that this facility could be de-
16 veloped and that too, has not been departed from.

17 Now, you've heard a great deal of talk about the
18 widening of the north side of First Street as if somehow that
19 were a part of the redevelopment project. It has been in-
20 cluded in the redevelopment area so that we could give benefit
21 to the people who might be affected by that.

22 However, the widening of the north side of First
23 Street is a fact that had been decided upon by other agencies
24 of city government long before we came on the scene, it is
25 not a move which we are in favor of, and we have spoken to that

1 point. But we have no power to stop it. We could have
2 drawn the boundary line down the south side of First Street
3 and ignored a possibility of providing relocation assistance.

4 We did not, we put the boundary line on the other
5 side of First Street, where these properties would be in-
6 cluded so that the people, both the tenants and the property
7 owners there, could have the benefit of any relocation assis-
8 tance which was at our disposal.

9 And I hope that that fact is made very clear, we have
10 made that point many times to some of the spokesmen that
11 were here today.

12 And to the representatives in the community and I
13 think it's widely understood but it keeps coming up as if
14 somehow we had a role in the widening of the north side of
15 First Street.

16 If there was no project at all, there would still be
17 a program to widen the north side of First Street.

18 We believe in citizens committees, we have fostered
19 them in every project that we have a program. We believe in
20 information offices in the projects where people can go and
21 get their information rather than having to come to the city
22 hall or some other place. And we have, I think a very
23 splendid office in Little Tokyo. Very handy for anybody who
24 wants to get information there.

25 There was this very active Little Tokyo Redevelopment

1 Association, it formed the nucleus of the larger Little
2 Tokyo Community Development Advisory Committee when this
3 program got started. In addition to that, while that has
4 been the project area committee meeting all of the criteria
5 that one would assign to that, even though Mr. Price said
6 here a few minutes ago that he didn't think it did, I
7 heard Mr. Kawasaki say correctly, that the bylaws of the
8 citizens committee for Little Tokyo group do call for the
9 representation of residents and businessmen and property
10 owners of the area.

11 And it has been that.

12 In addition to the fact that that kind of committee
13 existed and functioned beautifully, our staff, and it is a
14 bilingual staff, our staff and particularly Mr. Kunitsuga,
15 and members of his project office staff, made numerous appear-
16 ances before other interest groups all over southern Cali-
17 fornia to advise them of the work in the projects. To
18 keep them informed, to solicit their interest.

19 We have maintained an informational program. You heard
20 said earlier here, that the people have seen notices in the
21 paper. There are volumes of information in the papers
22 that have been printed about the project, in the vernacular
23 press, which has made it well-known.

24 Now, mention was made about the vacant land that
25 exists there. That we're demolishing buildings. Right after

1 the earthquake a few years ago, and I said earlier that these
2 are dangerous buildings, made -- most of them are and right
3 after the earthquake a few years ago, we were beseiged by
4 requests from people wanting us to buy their property. Be-
5 cause they were confronted with the necessity to make re-
6 pairs to them because of the dangerous condition in which
7 they were.

8 And a delegation from Little Tokyo went to Washington
9 and met with the then-secretary Romney and persuaded him
10 to increase the appropriation available to us so that we could
11 buy additional buildings because that is the condition of
12 the buildings.

13 And they have been bought where we could get the
14 money and we have removed them.

15 Even though we now have to assemble other land and
16 put together the development packages. We were accelerated
17 in that process.

18 With reference to relocation, I would like to put the
19 Commission's mind at ease on this: We have not yet relocated
20 one residential person or family from this project. We have
21 not yet relocated one single person or family from this
22 project.

23 We own one building which is a hotel. Now, other
24 people have left the project on their own, but they have not
25 been relocated by us. They have not received any of the so-

1 called eviction notices which you have heard about. We have
2 given people, both businesses and in the case of the one
3 building which -- it is a hotel building where people who
4 live, we have given them our information statement. We
5 have a bilingual staff, and the members of that staff who
6 speak Japanese have been calling upon the Japanese in the
7 project to talk to them about it.

8 And I want to be sure that those are understood.

9 Now, we have been relocating some of the commercials,
10 particularly trying to make provision for what is called the
11 First Action Area, it's a program by the Little Tokyo De-
12 velopment Corporation of which Mr. Kawasaki has been a principal
13 leader at times, designed to provide a relocation facility
14 to accomodate those merchants on the north side of First
15 Street who are threatened by the widening of the north side
16 of First Street, and will need relocation and that has been
17 a matter of urgent attention on our part.

18 Now, I said that our first priority was senior
19 citizens housing and you've been told that we have forgotten
20 the exact word, but the impression, I would think you would
21 be given, was that we have diluted our commitment to that.

22 The Nixon Administration has diluted its commitment
23 to housing programs, but we have not changed our minds. And
24 the facts need to be laid before you.

25 The Little Tokyo Towers Corporation was formed, and we

1 helped it, and they made a proposal to HUD for Section 236
2 housing. Which would serve this need. 300, I've forgotten,
3 but better than 300 units and HUD held that application
4 for some time and then the housing moratorium came along.

5 Now, if we wanted an excuse we had it at that time.
6 If we wanted to say we're helpless and we now have a way to
7 avoid a commitment, we had it then, because the one known
8 program that we could think about that was available would
9 appear to be that one.

10 We did not. We went to work with the housing authority
11 and we got the housing authority of this city to agree to
12 give us out of its, what was left of its quota of Section 236
13 housing, 169 units. And we are moving forward with the Little
14 Tokyo Towers group to build that. We have not stopped that.

15 We have continued our efforts to persuade HUD to
16 provide some relaxation of the moratorium.

17 Recently, we don't know the dimensions of this in
18 any positive terms yet, but very recently, a few weeks ago,
19 the Nixon Administration decided that some of the earlier
20 commitments which it had made in connection with projects
21 such as this, it perhaps ought to reconsider and we have
22 been in meetings with the local HUD area staff and there is
23 the possibility that we will get another quota of that of
24 housing which will go into the Little Tokyo Project and be
25 a part of this undertaking.

1 Now, I would not come before this Commission and
2 tell you that I can be sure what the Nixon Administration
3 is going to do with reference to housing at any time. If
4 you don't have a record on that, you can see what the problems
5 have been of redevelopment agencies trying to meet the com-
6 mitments which we feel we legitimately have a right to make
7 to communities, but where we have to have assistance for.

8 We do not have any resources other than as they can
9 come from something of the kind of rent supplements and
10 other facilities which the Federal Government does control
11 for the people, and they're available, they should be made
12 available.

13 But even at that point we are looking again to the
14 future. We know that the proposals in Congress call for
15 tapering off of all of the housing programs, which we made
16 in good faith and in terms of our efforts in this program,
17 because they existed and they are still on the books of this
18 country as programs which legitimately can be used.

19 But revenue sharing is a popular word, only I don't
20 know how it's going to be interpreted locally. However, we
21 are now beginning to make our case that revenue sharing
22 funds to some degree must be made available to provide for
23 housing of the sort that's provided for.

24 So, I want, most emphatically, to have this Commission
25 understand, we have not, in any way, turned our attention

1 away from this commitment to housing.

2 The other night at a meeting of some of the people
3 that are in this room, after I went through many of the
4 same points I am saying here, they said, and they volunteered
5 that they wanted to help. And I thought that was a bridging
6 of a communications gap which we have been trying to do.

7 Only I come here today and I hear them saying the
8 same things again and so now I don't know what the commitment
9 the other night meant when they said they would like to
10 join with us to be of help.

11 I heard us accused of stalling on the cultural community
12 center and I'd like to make that clear. The community said
13 that it wanted to have a cultural community center that
14 would properly house the many cultural activities that go on
15 in the Little Tokyo Project and perhaps in other parts of
16 southern California.

17 And what it would need in assistance from our agency
18 was the assembly of the land on which this could be con-
19 structed. We said then and they understood then, and we
20 have continued to say we will do that, but the responsibility
21 for them buying the land and constructing the cultural
22 community center is a responsibility of the community. And
23 however it organizes itself, and at this meeting the other
24 night, they -- a statement was made by a gentleman who's
25 worked very hard for several years trying to bring this

1 about, and he recited to some of the people in this room the
2 history of the frustrations which he has experienced in his
3 efforts to achieve this. And with no support from the
4 people who come here today and say that we are stalling.

5 And I have to say to the Commission that you have
6 heard some complaints but you have not heard from the com-
7 munity, you have heard from only a few people that I have
8 seen in this audience, perhaps yesterday or times that I've
9 not been here you've had a greater diversity of representation.

10 Now, a great deal of attention has been given to the
11 subject of equal opportunity and affirmative action. Mr.
12 Monroy is our Equal Opportunity Officer, we know what our
13 record is, and he's prepared to present it to you and I'd
14 like to give him this opportunity now.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Fine, Mr. Monroy?

16

17

18 MR. JAIME MONROY

19

20 A. (By Mr. Monroy.) Thank you.

21 With the fear that we might run out of time, I would
22 like to tender an invitation to this Commission and to proper
23 representatives of the community to visit our Equal Opportunity
24 Office to invite me to attend any kind of a community planning
25 conference, to attend any of the preconstruction conferences.

1 which we automatically hold before any construction begins.

2 I have some exhibits for the Commission, and I will
3 go through them very, very quickly. They're almost for in-
4 formation only, if questions arise at a later time relative
5 to these, I will be very happy to answer them.

6 Number 1 is Resolution Number 709, which was adopted
7 by the agency board in August 20th of 1969. This is when
8 we formalized our program so that this is not a Johnny-Come-
9 Lately program, it is now over four years old.

10 The resolution itself speaks to some of the questions
11 about which we could not answer or the previous panel could
12 not answer, and that is where does the responsibility lie?

13 I think the resolution very well points out that our
14 Affirmative Action program from Title I of the Housing Act,
15 several titles of the Civil Rights Acts, which are enumerated
16 here, as well as Title VII. We recognize the California
17 employment practices as law and the resolution even went
18 beyond the laws requiring equal opportunity when the reso-
19 lution said, be it further resolved that the governing body
20 is cognizant of the agency's role in relation to findings and
21 recommendations of the National Commission on Urban Problems,
22 the President's Commission on Urban Housing and those of
23 various local and national committees and commissions concerned
24 with the urban environment.

25 At that time, the Kerner Report was new. In other

1 words, the agency is not only responsive to the law but it
2 is also very sensitive to studies that are made regarding
3 the urban condition.

4 Then, only for the record, if you turn to the next
5 page, that is our Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action policy
6 statement, and I might explain that this is only a policy
7 statement that speaks to the various facets of equal oppor-
8 tunity, such as our own personnel hiring, contract super-
9 vision, where we deposit our funds, with whom we do business,
10 and so forth.

11 As a later time I will go over some of these results,
12 but this is a policy statement.

13 The second document that you have before you is
14 Resolution Number 759, I think the whereas's and the therefore's
15 are very significant because again they are responsive to
16 the problems.

17 Very quickly, then, this resolution adopted the state-
18 ment of policy and goals of CRA, this goes beyond the first
19 one because it speaks to equal opportunities in employment
20 and business contract in construction and in redevelopment
21 project areas.

22 We felt at the time that we didn't go far enough the
23 first time around and so with the second resolution, a program,
24 we addressed ourselves more fully to the construction industry.

25 Next, then, and it looks like this, is our 1972 Equal

1 Opportunity Annual Report. I will skip through it very,
2 very quickly, in the hope that just touching of highlights
3 it will lead to some questions on the part of the Commission
4 and then I hope also that it forms a backdrop for Mr.
5 Kunitsuga to make some remarks regarding meetings and con-
6 tacts that he has had with the community regarding the
7 Affirmative Action Program.

8 The reason for that is that as I conduct the Equal
9 Opportunity Program I see to it that it is not a one-man
10 job, we see to it that all the various facets of it are
11 administered by every single technical department and every
12 single project, by the project manager in it and the entire
13 staff.

14 For example, we work very closely with our personnel
15 department to see to it that our own personnel hiring and
16 upgrading is correct. We work with our engineering depart-
17 ment to see to it that minority contractors not only par-
18 ticipate in the bidding but also that they supervise the
19 hiring of minorities.

20 With our comptroller's department in terms of deposit
21 of funds in minority banks and so on and so on.

22 May I refer you, please, to first page which is
23 captioned, Backgrounds, in which we indicate that at a very
24 early date in 1968 we moved very quickly into Equal Oppor-
25 tunity implementation. If we compared December, 1968, with

1 December, 1969. End of the year figures.

2 As of December, '68, we had 23 minority employees
3 comprising 35% of the total staff. A year later we had
4 141 minority employees, constituting 62% of the total staff,
5 and that's what it is today. This is CRA staff.

6 In 1968, minority staff received 28% of the total
7 payroll, in 1969, minority representatives received 56% of
8 the total payroll.

9 In '68, only 2% of agency contracts were let to
10 minorities. In 1969, 29% of the agency contracts were let
11 to minorities. And I think the significant timing there
12 is the amount in terms of dollars. In '68, minority con-
13 tractors received 2.2 of our dollars which were \$36,000.00.
14 In 1969, they had a compoundment of 29.5% together with the
15 29% of the contracts, amounting to \$286,000.00.

16 This is at a time when Mr. -- at the direction of
17 Mr. Mitchell we moved our Equal Opportunity Program into
18 high gear, but this is even before we structured it and this
19 is even before we developed the policy statement which, as
20 you know, was dated late in 1969.

21 Very quickly, so as not to get into the text of the
22 report which you will check at your own leisure, please be
23 kind enough to turn to Table Number 1, which is captioned,
24 Agency Staff Analysis.

25 The ethnic groups representing agency staff are listed

1 on the left side, if you like we can just read across on the
2 Oriental, because that is the focus of interest today.

3 And you will find that six employees were in the
4 category of 650 and below, there were six employees in the
5 next category, which was 651 to 950, none in the next category
6 up, seven in the 1,400's and above per month, making a total
7 of 19 employees representing 11% of the total staff.

8 As you will recall, a similar reading from our annual
9 report indicated that the Japan --- that the Asian population
10 in Los Angeles is 3.9. Our agency hires 11%. And while
11 we are on the --

12 Q (By Ms. Hata.) Mr. Monroy, while you're on that
13 chart, I want to ask you a couple of questions, because
14 you've also given us another chart concerning minority group
15 employees.

16 On that chart you have labeled Asian Americans as
17 Asian and on your official table that we are looking at,
18 you called Asian Americans Oriental. What is going to be
19 your ultimate label for those of us who are of yellow and
20 brown skin?

21 A We tried to follow the Department of Labor designation
22 which is -- which is Negro, you see, we get -- we get reaction
23 from the Black Community.

24 Q That's fine, but then, if you do that you have also
25 labeled the Negro here on your salary schedule as Black.

1 A Yes. We have done that in reponse to what we thought
2 was the overwhelming desire of the community and I would be
3 very happy to accept the suggestion of this Commission,
4 whose expertise is in that field as to what they should be
5 called.

6 Q How do you define Oriental or Asian, what kind of
7 groups are included in the category?

8 A Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, and -- that would be
9 about it. The reason I say about it, is because we have no
10 Eastern Asian people on our staff.

11 Q You also note that in December of 1972 there are seven
12 employees who have been making \$14,000.00 and above and yet
13 in August of 1973, if the date is correct, there are six
14 employees who make \$14,000.00 and above, does that mean that
15 you lost an employee and if so, are you making any preparations
16 to hire someone who is not Japanese or Chinese but perhaps
17 someone from the Pacific Islands?

18 A Yes. I was just coming to this particular page at
19 this juncture in the annual report, and if we may take it
20 up next, I see from this report I have made some notations
21 that three are-- four are Filipino, two are Chinese and
22 the rest are Japanese.

23 And I might also point out that there are six, what's
24 your reference, Oriental?

25 Q Asian.

1 A. Okay, there were six Asians in the highest-paid
2 category and of all the minority representation that we
3 have on staff, there are more Asians at the highest-paid
4 category than in any other single minority in the agency
5 and I might also point out that of all of the Asians that
6 have been listed as being part of the agency staff, only --
7 those with the asterisks are assigned to the Little Tokyo
8 Project.

9 In other words, we did not hire only to assign to a
10 project so that they might identify with the community in
11 which they work. Most of the Asian representatives are with the
12 central office and other projects.

13 Q. And the classifications as far as you are concerned,
14 range from one to 18, as listed?

15 A. Oh, yes, thank you for calling that to my attention.

16 We Xeroxed an overlay here which you see numbered
17 1 through 18, and these job descriptions identify the people
18 whom the agent column indicating they hold positions all the
19 way from secretary 1 to deputy administrator for technical
20 services and senior city planner.

21 Q. You notice your name on the list, Mr. Monroy, what
22 would be your classification if it's not too personal a ques-
23 tion, within this 1 through 18 range?

24 A. My classification?

25 Q. Right.

1 A Me, personally?

2 Q Your name is on the list here.

3 A Oh, yes.

4 Q And you don't have a classification for you, I was
5 wondering where you fell within this 1 through 18 list
6 that you've given us?

7 A Right. Oh, I beg your pardon. This 1 through 18 is
8 only intended to identify each person in the Asian classi-
9 fication.

10 Q So there are other classifications --

11 A Oh, yes.

12 Q -- which --

13 A Oh, yes.

14 Q -- are probably pay higher?

15 A No.

16 Q No?

17 A No. No. The six to which you refer are in the
18 highest paid classification.

19 Q Which would be perhaps a number 19, if you had added?

20 A The numbers 1 through 18 are for the purpose of
21 identifying --

22 Q Right, but --

23 A -- a few people only.

24 Q -- I'm concerned about the fact that one of the problems
25 the Asian Americans have faced at least as far as the hearings

1 have been concerned, is the fact that they may hold some
2 nice high positions but they're oftentimes not in decision-
3 making positions and from the listing that you have given us
4 here, one would assume that all of the people in the column
5 to our extreme right, yours included, would fall into this
6 1 through 18 category. Of 1,540 and up --

7 A. Yes, I think Mr. Mitchell --

8 Q. At least through assumption I can assume the Asian
9 Americans participate in this wealthy category 1 through 18,
10 let us assume that the highest category is 18, that there
11 aren't any more, therefore your agency is well-staffed and
12 well-qualified with Asian Americans at all levels including
13 at top management levels.

14 A. (By Mr. Mitchell.) That is correct, I'd like to
15 speak to that point.

16 What you have, because I looked at it and this was
17 proposed as perhaps a simple guide to help the Commission
18 members understand what responsible positions are occupied
19 by Asian Americans in our organization.

20 I, as the administrator of the agency, am the highest
21 paid employee. One of my three deputies is Chinese. I hope
22 that that illustrates that there is that kind of upward
23 mobility. He was promoted to that, I think that's why you
24 saw six a while back and then wondered where are seven --

25 Q. Would you include that in your statistics?

1 A. I think what we might -- what I'd like to do, it
2 might be helpful if we took this question now and put it into
3 a report form for you, which fully illustrated our total
4 staffing and we'll make that available just as quick as it
5 can be prepared. You'll find the answers there.

6 Q. (By Mr. Lau.) I think what might help us, too, is
7 if you can give us a breakdown on the percentage of minority
8 people who are affected by these redevelopment projects be-
9 cause if you have 60% or 62% on your staff, does it follow
10 that most of the people being affected by the redevelopment
11 are also minority people?

12 We'd like to get those facts.

13 A. I'd like to see if we can develop that, but it's
14 probably true most of the people affected on our projects are
15 members of minority groups.

16 A. (By Mr. Monroy.) We do have that documentation and
17 I will submit it, we have actually a study of the ethnic
18 composition of every single project.

19 As a matter of fact, it's that ethnic composition
20 that establishes the goals for ourselves and the goals that
21 we pass onto the contractor, I heard a previous panelist
22 refer to the oft-used phrase to the greatest extent feasible,
23 that's not good enough for us, we set very hard goals for
24 the contractors as you will see when we get to actual con-
25 struction.

1 Q. (By Mr. Lau.) How do you recruit minority people
2 from the various communities?

3 A. Through people that are already on the staff, the
4 ethnic newspapers, we -- that becomes a lengthy thing,
5 but evidently we are successful in the recruitment. We use
6 -- we have, through myself and other people on staff, we
7 have very close liason with community organizations.

8 Q. Could your staff give us a list of those community
9 organizations with which you work in the Little Tokyo area,
10 and the frequency of contact that you have with these
11 groups?

12 A. We'll do that.

13 Now, on page 4 at the upper portion, we have some
14 goal and timetables, reference has been made to what the
15 requirements upon the agency are. I think I have already
16 stated that we acknowledge, it's page 4 of your report, that
17 we acknowledge the existence of certain laws and we are re-
18 sponsive to them. The upper portion of page 4 has some goals
19 and timetables in terms of percentage of minorities.

20 This is the Department of Labor requirement upon the
21 City of Los Angeles, if you will look down below, you will
22 see that the minority percent of total in construction wages
23 is -- Spanish surname is 27.8%. According to the Department
24 of Labor timetable, it should have fallen somewhere between
25 14.9% and 18.3%. So that our own performance far exceeds the

1 Department of Labor requirements.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Excuse me just a minute on that point,
3 the percentage there that you refer to from the Department
4 of Labor is that based on what the population of the given
5 ethnic group is in the total city, is that --

6 A. No, sir, it does not, because if you look at the
7 bottom where it says, minority population, City of L.A.,
8 this is from the last census, Spanish surname is 17.5%,
9 Black is 17.9%, Oriental, 3.9% and American Indian and
10 others, 1%.

11 The reason the Department of Labor timetable does
12 not reach an equivalent of the population is simply because
13 the Department of Labor was attempting to set some kind of
14 a timetable so that eventually the city would be up to a
15 point where it might match the ethnic composition of
16 the city.

17 Q (By the Chairman.) But aren't -- isn't it a fair
18 statement to make that the areas that normally you are re-
19 developing are areas where a majority, if not at high as
20 60%, 70%, of the people being affected by the development
21 area are minorities?

22 A That is true. That is true.

23 Q So that a percentage, let us say, of 15% minority
24 employees in an area that could be affecting maybe 70% of
25 that community, does that, in your mind, appear to be a fair

1 use of the labor force in the community that you're affecting?

2 A. As I have stated, the goal that we set for the con-
3 tractor is to match the percentage of minority in that pro-
4 ject area.

5 Q. In that project area?

6 A. Yes, right.

7 Q. So that if, for example, you were having a project
8 in Watts and the population of Blacks in that area, let's
9 say would run 80%, then the goal would be 80% minority
10 employment of Blacks, is that

11 A. That's right.

12 In Watts, Blacks are 89%, and Spanish surname are 9%.
13 So that's what we shoot for.

14 Q. So then, the criteria for say the Asian American
15 Community would be likewise so that in Little Tokyo if the
16 population figure of Asian American or Japanese American
17 would be in the neighborhood of 90% then that would be the
18 goal that minority contractors would have to shoot for?

19 A. That's right, I believe in Little Tokyo it's about
20 70%.

21 Q. All right. Is this a firm policy?

22 A. Yes, sir, it is.

23 Q. In other words, this is a commitment to the Little
24 Tokyo Community that if they are 70% of the population that
25 you will shoot for the 70% minimum work force?

1 A Yes. What we do in our disposition and development
2 agreement with the contractor, all of the equal opportunity
3 language is plugged into the disposition agreement. That
4 also provides for the developer to write the same equal
5 opportunity requirements into his contract with his prime
6 contractor, and all of the subsequent tiers of subcontractors
7 are obligated to live up to the same equal opportunity
8 schedules that we have set up for him.

9 Q (By the Chairman.) How do you get around or how do
10 you handle the problem of unions that do not have minorities
11 within their membership?

12 A We put the onus of responsibility on the contractor
13 and in actual practice, it works out something like this:
14 The contractor is -- submits his work force projection before
15 he starts his job. He submits monthly reports and we monitor
16 him right on the job. If he falls below what he promised
17 to perform, then we go and if he claims that the union can
18 not provide them, then we, ourselves, follow up with the
19 union, we don't have to, but this is our affirmative outreach.
20 We have had instances where they, in fact, did not have the
21 ethnic personnel on the union staff in which case we go to
22 the LEAN or the Mexican American youth apprenticeship
23 program or community organizations and we find the person,
24 and we have had many experiences where we bring the person
25 aboard on the job with the understanding, with the union, that

1 union business representatives will come in and sign him
2 into the union.

3 Q All right, let me get specific in terms of the Asian
4 American, let's take Little Tokyo. Has there been any
5 specific redevelopment there, in other words, demolishing of
6 the buildings and replacement of construction?

7 A To date, there has only been demolishing.

8 Q And in the demolition there has been contracts let out
9 from your department for that purpose?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And the contractors submitted a log or a projection
12 of the personnel they would be using for that purpose?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q And has their projection been one of reaching a 70%
15 figure in terms of minority employment?

16 A To date, in the demolition, I think not.

17 Q All right.

18 Q (By Mr. Lau.) What is the reason for that?

19 A I would like to ask Mr. Kunitsuga what is he --

20 A (By Mr. Kunitsuga.) Let me answer the question.

21 My name is Cango Kunitsuga, the Project Manager for
22 the Little Tokyo Redevelopment Project.

23 The only contract we have let out in terms of con-
24 struction or demolition is primarily the demolition, to date,
25 all of the contracts for demolition have gone to Black con-

1 tractors, and we have also normally selected Black con-
2 tractors.

3 This is also based on bids by the way, but that they
4 are, you know, basically small corporations or small demolition
5 contractors and so the workers are basically Black or Mexicans.

6 I have yet to see an Oriental working in the demoli-
7 tion field.

8 Q (By Mr. Lau.) Was there any communication with the
9 Japanese American Community about the letting out of these
10 contracts prior to demolition contracts being let out?

11 A No, sir.

12 Q How much money was involved here?

13 A Well, they range anywhere from around \$3,000.00 to
14 about, I believe the last one was about \$32,000.00.

15 Q What is the total amount of money involved?

16 A I'd have to give you a guess on that, figure out how
17 many contracts are let out. Probably about, I would say
18 pretty close to -- about 12. Pretty close to about \$75,000.00.

19 Q Now, have any buildings been constructed after this
20 demolition?

21 A No, none yet.

22 Q Have any developers contracts been let out?

23 A Yes, well, no, not developers contracts. Let me get
24 into that field here, because I can speak on the -- what
25 we're trying to do in the project itself.

1 We're not only interested in the employment area,
2 we're also interested in upgrading the general contractors
3 and the subcontractors of the local community. Therefore,
4 the Oriental Builders Association, called OBA, was organized
5 about three years ago for the purpose of getting all the
6 Oriental general and subcontractors together to see what they
7 can do in order to get some contracts.

8 Now, when we've come, not only on the redevelopment
9 project, but also on the other areas, this is the first
10 time this has happened. The idea behind this is that, at
11 least that rather than just going out to a contractor that
12 would say, an Oriental contractor and asking him to hire
13 Oriental workers, or even apprentices, we felt that we'd
14 rather put that pressure also on the local contractors.

15 Now, let me go into the first project, the first pro-
16 ject is what we call the first, in terms of the -- they will
17 probably start constructing sometime early next year, this
18 is their statement.

19 Q Let me ask you this, when you select a developer,
20 who has input into the decision-making?

21 A The selection of the developer? The selection is
22 made by the agency.

23 Q Who does the agency talk to?

24 A We talk -- well, let me go into this thing, too, be-
25 cause the first action area, the developers call the Little

1 Tokyo Development Company and it is composed of six property
2 owners who own property in the area that's going to be re-
3 developed. They're all Japanese Americans, and all six of
4 them are also merchants in the area.

5 Q. Now, these are six businessmen?

6 A. Six businessmen, yes.

7 Q. Now, besides the six businessmen, whom else did you
8 discuss this project with?

9 A. We discussed this with all the property owners within
10 the -- there were 12 of them -- within the area that was
11 supposed to be redeveloped.

12 Q. (By Ms. Hata.) How many of these property owners
13 are Japanese Americans?

14 A. Pardon?

15 Q. How many of these property owners, outside the six
16 that you mentioned, are Japanese American?

17 You said you discussed it with all 12 of them.

18 A. All 12 of them were Japanese Americans.

19 Q. Is there any other property in the area owned by
20 non-Japanese Americans?

21 A. When I say project, I'm talking about the specific
22 development.

23 Q. (By the Chairman.) The specific construction?

24 A. Yes. See, the rules and regulations of the owner
25 participation in the project, which is developed by the

1 citizens committee says, number one, first opportunity to
2 develop will go to all those property owners who own
3 property in that specific area called for redevelopment.

4 In other words, now in this particular case, this is
5 a commercial development. And there were 12 property owners
6 so we called on all 12 of them, and we encouraged them to
7 organize a company themselves, as a body, rather than as
8 individuals, so they wouldn't compete with each other. So
9 then we had a whole series of meetings, this, I guess, started
10 early 1971.

11 Q Were these meetings held in Little Tokyo?

12 A Pardon?

13 Q Were these meetings held in the communities?

14 A Yes, they were held in the project offices.

15 Q (By Ms. Hata.) Were these open meetings, open to
16 the public?

17 A No, this is just with the 12 property owners presenting
18 to them what we proposed in their specific area and how the
19 owner participation ran and whether they would like to form
20 a corporation or whether they would like to redevelop them-
21 selves and then the -- out of the 12, six agreed to organize
22 this company and the other six were given an opportunity to
23 join the same corporation at any time.

24 A (By Mr. Mitchell.) What I think needs some clari-
25 fication here is that we're talking about a specific de-

1 velopment on one piece of property, it's called a project
2 because they're thinking of it that way, it's their project,
3 it's their thing they're undertaking.

4 The owner participation rules and regulations are
5 drafted by the citizens committee, they're the ones that
6 promulgated them and our area adopted them in the Southern
7 Pacific Council as part of the plan.

8 The owner participation describes the priorities
9 which shall be followed in selecting owner participant
10 developers as they wished to exercise their option, that's
11 what Mr. Kunitsuga is talking about in the search for them,
12 and putting together a group of owner participants who
13 would be affected by the widening of the north side of
14 First Street, they, as I said, were an important priority
15 for us when I talked earlier.

16 They came together and formed a corporation and that's
17 what he's describing to you and they held their own meetings
18 to form their corporation, they used the facilities of our
19 office, they could have met anywhere they wanted to. They
20 were a private business undertaking.

21 A (By Mr. Kunitsuga.) Now, let me continue. I'm just
22 talking about this Little Tokyo Development Company, who
23 are going to construct the development.

24 Q Are they responsible for demolition as well as con-
25 struction?

1 A No, we are responsible for demolition.

2 Q (By Mr. Lau.) Now, who's responsible for the con-
3 struction?

4 A This is what I want to build up to. The developers,
5 the local developers have an agreement with what they call
6 the, I believe it's called the Oriental General Contractors,
7 this is the group of general contractors which was formed
8 out of the Oriental Builders Association.

9 Now, this is a merger of about, I believe give
10 general, local Oriental contractors. They're going to
11 build the first action area, then it is their responsibility
12 to go back to the Oriental Builders Association and try to
13 get the subcontractors in on it. All right?

14 So that, hopefully, that all cases of the construction
15 being handled by Oriental contractors.

16 Number two says that within that broad area they
17 foresee anywhere from 12 to 17 jobs for apprentices. The
18 idea here is that, and they have made a commitment to us, to
19 the task force and to the agency, that they will hire local
20 people to the job as apprentices, this is one way you can
21 get into the union, by the way.

22 Q Is this a written commitment?

23 A The commitment on the part of the developer to the
24 contractor, I don't know. But in terms of whether the commit-
25 ment as an apprenticeship program. This is a commitment made

1 by the contractors, this is a verbal commitment.

2 Q There has been an award?

3 A (By Mr. Mitchell.) No. Well, yes, sir, they said
4 the contractors can negotiate a contract. So the award is
5 there.

6 Q Somebody mentioned preconstruction contracts, now who
7 usually goes through the preconstruction contracts?

8 A (By Mr. Monroy.) I always conduct the meeting and
9 the responsible officer for the developer and/or the con-
10 tractor is always present.

11 Q Now, do you have a project area committee in this
12 Little Tokyo situation?

13 A (By Mr. Kunitsuga.) No, we don't.

14 A (By Mr. Mitchell.) Yes, we do.

15 A (By Mr. Kunitsuga.) The project was actually
16 activated prior to the statute. Now, we talked to the
17 citizens committee about this also and we called a meeting,
18 I believe it was in 1971. I don't recall the date. In
19 the church, asking all the residents to appear at this
20 meeting, we described the entire project, and I believe one
21 or two persons showed up, so we talked to many of the people
22 in the area and we found out that at that time, maybe times
23 have changed, maybe if they want to get on the PAC but at
24 that time we were told by many of the residents that, "That
25 was not their place to be at", in a sense that they felt that

1 the leaders of the community would represent them at the
2 committee.

3 Q By the leaders of the community, do you mean the
4 owners or the landlords?

5 A Not only that, we have members from the chamber of
6 commerce, the Japanese American Citizens League, the various
7 church organizations.

8 Q The employers?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And do you continue to talk to people about the pro-
11 posed project area committee?

12 A No.

13 Q Had it occurred to you that times might have changed,
14 people might have changed their minds about the feasibility
15 of the project area committee?

16 A Well, I just mentioned that times may have changed,
17 so we may have to bring it up again with the group.

18 Q Let me ask you this now, you don't have a project
19 area committee and you have a committee now that is, by your
20 own statement, staffed by people who are owners and some
21 church people, employers, you didn't mention renters or
22 people who are elderly who might live in the area.

23 A There is not a single resident member of the citizens
24 committee.

25 Q You mean no one lives in Little Tokyo who's on that

1 committee?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q What kind of committee is this supposed to be?

4 A Well --

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Quiet in the audience.

6 A -- I think that -- you know, we tried to but I think
7 also the -- you know, the responsibility, part of it falls
8 on the agency here and part of it also falls on the advisory
9 committee.

10 Q (By Mr. Lau.) Well, now, is the advisory committee
11 a voluntary group?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q And they are businessmen in the community?

14 A Some of them are, yes.

15 Q Does it seem to you that they have a legal responsi-
16 bility to include people who are not employed by them or
17 people who rent?

18 A If we are to form a project area committee, yes, sir.

19 Q If you were to make a decision and say who has more
20 responsibility, whom would you think would bear the brunt of
21 the responsibility here?

22 A I believe they all --

23 Q Would the agency or the voluntary group?

24 A Well, at this point now, I would say that we would
25 have to bear down on this thing and assume the full responsi-

1 bility to get the citizens advisory committee to organize
2 a project area committee, we would help them.

3 Q Now, the reason why I asked you about this project
4 area committee is this: When you have your preconstruction
5 conferences, is it customary here in Los Angeles to also
6 include a community group?

7 In other words, you have your contractor, you have
8 your business person, you have your office, and don't you,
9 or do you include people who are affected the most, that is
10 those people who live there and who do business there?

11 A (By Mr. Monroy.) As a matter of fact, there's a
12 preconstruction conference due at the Beacon project Monday,
13 at 1:30, and our reason for holding it there, it's about a
14 \$33,000.00 demolition job, the reason for holding it there
15 is so that the community can have its input. .

16 Incidentally, I would also invite anyone present
17 here to attend that meeting, we have one scheduled Monday.

18 Q Now, this project you're talking about affects what,
19 Japanese American people?

20 A No. Only as an illustration that we will meet where
21 there is input at the community and I would make this commit-
22 ment, as far as the Equal Opportunity Office is concerned,
23 that all preconstruction conferences relative to Little
24 Tokyo, would be held in the Little Tokyo office.

25 Q Has that been done up to now?

1 A. (By Mr. Kunitsuga.) We haven't had any meetings.
2 We haven't had any -- the construction, until the plans are
3 completed and everything's ready to go and at that point,
4 then we have a preconstruction meeting.

5 Q. In other words, this job venture by these six people
6 have not reached the stage of a construction contract?

7 A. That's right. It's still in design.

8 Q. (By the Chairman.) What's the effect of a -- you refer
9 to the commitment, now, by a contractor at this state, verbal
10 commitment, of hiring minority. What's the effect of --
11 you use this later on, in other words, he makes a commitment
12 to you to get the contract, gets the contract and you go
13 out to the project and find that there are no minorities
14 working on the project. What power do you have, what steps
15 can you take, what do you do, what would you do?

16 A. (By Mr. Monroy.) We notify the Department of Housing
17 and Urban Development because they keep a list, we notify the
18 office of Federal Contract Compliance with the Department of
19 Labor because they also keep a list. We have had instances
20 in the agency where we debar a contractor from future
21 eligibility for contracts, it just happens that this is done
22 not for equal opportunity reasons, but we would be ready to
23 debar a contractor from future participation in agency
24 contracts if he were delinquent in equal opportunity matters.

25 Q. When you say debar, that means that he can not bid on

1 a future job?

2 A He can not bid, right.

3 Q What about the job that he's performing, can you
4 cancel that one?

5 A I think that we would have to -- it would be very
6 sticky and I'm sure that the citizens would be the first
7 to object if a job was underway and we were to stop the job.
8 That would be -- that would be difficult.

9 Q (By Mr. Lau.) What would happen if you had a situ-
10 ation, for instance, like in San Francisco, where the
11 Black Community said we don't want this job to continue with
12 this company and stop the job?

13 A We look to the developer and the prime contractor and
14 we sometimes have situations where one of the contractors
15 is not performing, and we look, legally, to the developer
16 and the prime contractor to put the pressure on that con-
17 tractor.

18 Q (By the Chairman.) Are you in a position to make
19 the commitment that you referred to as a part of the contract,
20 in other words, that is a written part of the contract that
21 he's going to provide jobs for minorities in the project?

22 A Mr. Chairman, it's more than a commitment, it's a
23 it's a provision that is written into the contract, which
24 schedules the numbers and percentages.

25 Q So, what you're telling this Committee, that his

1 failure to comply is then a breach of contract?

2 A That's right.

3 Q And the remedies that would follow from a breach of
4 contract in the courts of law, would naturally follow in
5 a situation like that?

6 A That's right. That's right. As a matter of fact,
7 in our engineering contracts, before we make a progress
8 payment, we make sure that the contractor has met all of the,
9 not only the physical progress on the job, but that all of
10 his equal opportunity monthly reports are in and adequate.

11 Q When you say progressive payments, are you implying
12 then that you would withhold payments?

13 A We do.

14 Q Because he had not complied, let's say, with his
15 minority percentage?

16 A We do.

17 Q So that that could be done to a contractor until he's
18 met that requirement?

19 A That's right. As a matter of fact, on large jobs,
20 such as large construction on Bunker Hill, with developers
21 and large contractors such as C.L. Peck and Turner, we have
22 that understanding with the prime contractor, that he will
23 withhold progress payments from his subs until they get in
24 line.

25 Q Has that ever been done here in Los Angeles, if you know?

1 A. I don't think that they have ever held it up but I
2 think it has brought them in line and I think one of the
3 reasons that we were showing our statistics here is because
4 evidently there is a great amount of minority participation.

5 Q. So that the key, then, with that type of power to
6 withhold payments, the key, then, is the percentage that
7 is initially established between the contracting parties as
8 to the amount of minorities?

9 A. Yes, that would be the standard, and we try not to
10 deviate from it.

11 Incidentally, the report points out that there are
12 some trade, as you know, Mr. Chairman, such as iron workers
13 and operating engineers where the minority people are still
14 not present, when we sit down with a contractor we may
15 settle for something less, I have to qualify that. We may
16 settle for something less if in its place, they have a
17 scheduled promise for affirmative, you know, progress, a
18 demonstration of progress.

19 Q. Let me get specific in terms of Asian American Com-
20 munity and the Little Tokyo Project, where the population
21 of Japanese Americans is 70%. Is that the ultimate goal for
22 your department, would be that the minorities hired in,
23 for that project, should reach 70%?

24 What would be the figure that would be negotiated in
25 the contract, would that be 70%?

1 A It would be 70%. And we would deviate from that objec-
2 tive if we got into a trade where there were -- there were
3 absolutely no people.

4 Q Let us suppose that, this is a hypothetical, I'll
5 admit, but let's suppose that you're dealing with a trade
6 that there are no Japanese Americans, what percentage, if
7 any, do you then require there to be by that subcontractor?

8 A We would just take a reasonable approach and attempt
9 to get some people, because that would demonstrate progress,
10 and we have done that.

11 Q When you say some people, are you talking about one
12 person, two persons?

13 A It depends on the size of the job.

14 A (By Mr. Kunitsuga.) I think if there are any Orientals
15 in that trade, you know, I think the -- we would be working
16 would be the apprenticeship program with that contractor.

17 Q But one of the problems of apprentice program is
18 that after your project's completed, that the apprentice
19 would have an opportunity to go on and be turned out as a
20 journeyman.

21 A The idea here is the first project we're talking
22 about, hopefully that the contractors would all be Oriental
23 contractors.

24 Q (By Ms. Hata.) Do you require them to pay standard
25 wages?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. I'd like to ask for a definition, I think, because
3 we've been talking about minority workers, minority companies,
4 how do you define minority? Are you including foreign
5 companies and foreign Japanese workers, for example, these
6 businessmen as, "Minority", or Oriental?

7 A. In terms of the trades or are you talking about --

8 Q. Anything, you're talking about hiring minority people,
9 you're talking about using minority companies --

10 A. Right.

11 Q. When you say minority, are these Japanese American
12 companies or Japanese companies from Japan?

13 A. I don't understand the question here, regarding what
14 we call the Japanese companies, you know, we don't have any
15 Japanese contracting firms in L.A., and we're really basically
16 talking about the Japanese American contractors and Chinese
17 Americans.

18 Q. So, all these commitments that you're talking about
19 hiring 70% or 60% or whatever you're talking about, the
20 hiring of Asian American workers and using, if possible,
21 of Asian American companies in these projects?

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. Let me ask this: According to your own figures for
24 1972, out of the 15 categories for apprentices, you had only
25 four categories, that of carpenter, electrician, iron worker

1 and pipe fitters, where any work was done by an Asian American
2 in 1972, on your project.

3 A No, that's not what -- I don't think that's in our
4 project.

5 Q That's what I'm saying now, in your project areas.

6 Now, are there some areas among these 15 categories
7 where there are not Japanese Americans who are currently
8 apprentices?

9 A I believe there are probably some categories where
10 there aren't any Oriental Americans.

11 Q Well, your other, your journeymen, you seem to have
12 at least one in almost all of the categories.

13 A Yes.

14 Q Now, my question is this: If construction is going
15 to be starting soon, what contact is made with young people
16 in the Little Tokyo area alerting them to the fact that this
17 construction is going to start, and one of your stated pur-
18 poses is to provide employment. And I assume employment
19 through new apprenticeships.

20 A The Oriental Builders Association made up of the
21 contractors, myself and Mr. Monroy here, and many other
22 people, we have met with the members of the task force.
23 I think I'd like to get one thing clear again, this is that
24 an impression has been created here where we did not, you
25 know, are not in contact with the members of the task force,

1 I don't think this is true.

2 Q I didn't ask you about the task force, I asked you
3 about young, able-bodied men who are able to work in the
4 construction --

5 A We met with them and they did have a special task
6 force on that and the commitment was made at that time,
7 that they will hire these local people.

8 Q Now, has your office given the task force and other
9 young people in the community, people who work with young
10 men who are seeking employment, specific goals, in other
11 words, hiring goals in the various categories?

12 In other words, if you need an iron worker, or if you
13 don't need one, then the fellow ought not to try to become
14 an iron worker or an apprentice. Have you given them a
15 list of the possible apprenticeships lists that might be
16 open and seek out men who might want to work in this craft?

17 A No, sir, at this point, we don't know what the needs
18 are, even in terms of specific areas or numbers. In other
19 words, until a job has been completely designed, then you
20 can determine what specific areas, you know, we don't know
21 whether it's going to be constructed by steel or concrete
22 or reenforced steel or whatever, but once they get this
23 down then we will inform the committee what jobs are available.

24 Q When will they know this?

25 A When the contractors have met and when they have de-

1 terminated the need for apprenticeships to their trades.

2 Q Since we're talking about a construction project, I
3 assume something has been demolished, what has been demolished?

4 A Yes, the area has with the exception of two structures
5 which house some retail businesses, and which won't be
6 demolished until the first units been built. The -- we
7 have demolished in that area, five structures.

8 Q Structures meaning what? That means nothing to me
9 or the record, I'd like a clear definition, by structure
10 you mean an ice cream stand or hotel or what?

11 A No, there is no hotel near it. One was a warehouse,
12 and then the remainder one was a garage, the other two were
13 office buildings, and the last was a gas station.

14 Q And of these buildings you've told us that so far no
15 persons have been relocated, they have left the projects?

16 A (By Mr. Mitchell.) I said no residences, no resi-
17 dential relocation.

18 A (By Mr. Kunitsuga.) Let me speak on that subject,
19 too, no resident has been evicted or relocated except those
20 that want to relocate out voluntarily. There were no
21 residents in this specific area you're talking about. There
22 are 20 or there were 20 small businesses in the area. Out
23 of which five still remain and will remain there until
24 the new construction is constructed. They will move in, the
25 other 15, 13 of them were relocated out or into, within

1 Little Tokyo. One closed the business and one we still have
2 a problem with.

3 Q I must be wrong, but you confuse me because my notes
4 say you have given information to people that a hotel was
5 destroyed --

6 A No, there's not a hotel.

7 Q So, there are no residences, no residential people
8 that had to move.

9 A (By Mr. Mitchell.) Not at all.

10 Q What happens now, when you decide or when you let
11 people, part of the concern it seems on the part of the
12 community, is that you have not disseminated information.
13 What is your general program as far as the dissemination of
14 your policies?

15 A All right, the communications that were discussed
16 here earlier with the panel, these are hand-carried by our
17 staff. We can only contact specifically as far as relocation
18 aids, service and everything else, only those people that
19 where we have, we own the property.

20 In other words, at the present time, we only own one
21 hotel, which is the Sun Building.

22 Now, we are also working with, because of the City
23 of Los Angeles is acquiring properties on the north side of
24 First Street, that our staff has gone out there and met
25 with, I don't think we were able to meet with all of them,

1 but most of the people on the north side. These things
2 are hand-carried and at that point there's a person to person
3 talk, or they come into our offices.

4 I think reference was also made to the fact that we
5 had a White person work -- meeting with these people. That
6 White person happens to be a Mexican American person and
7 in the Sun Building which is the only hotel we own, there
8 are 48 residents, of which 43 are Mexican citizens, this
9 is why we hired her to talk to these people, they can not
10 speak English.

11 Q You only disseminate information, then, to people in
12 whose buildings you own? You do not disseminate information
13 to anyone else?

14 A Not as far as relocation information is concerned,
15 that's correct.

16 Q I know you've told us that staff went to numerous
17 groups to discuss the project, is this dissemination of in-
18 formation?

19 A I was referring in terms of the information program,
20 the citizens committee activities, to the efforts made by
21 our staff responding to both invitations from many, many
22 groups throughout southern California who were interested
23 in knowing about the project, and the efforts on the part
24 of our staff, particularly Mr. Kunitsuga, to make information
25 known. Now, where he sought opportunities to talk to interest

1 groups, that was that kind of activity going on.

2 Q So, it was not an activity whereby there was any
3 staff people out to people or living in this area immediately
4 involved?

5 A We can only give the kind of information that you're
6 talking about when we own the building and then we start
7 that kind of program. The general information that there
8 will be a variety of relocation aids and assistance has
9 been distributed throughout the community and is easily
10 available in the bilingual staff in the project office,
11 which is right there in the project and it's a small project
12 and I think --

13 Q Is it available or has it been distributed?

14 A It is available and it has been widely publicized
15 in the vernacular press.

16 Q Is this translated into Japanese? Is this a bilingual
17 information service?

18 A (By Mr. Kunitsuga.) Yes, there are some bilingual
19 information sent out too, but we also use the local news-
20 papers as a source to the local Japanese Community for
21 information as we progress into the project.

22 Q (By Mr. Lau.) Do you deal with a lot of Japanese
23 senior citizens in Little Tokyo yourself?

24 A Myself?

25 Q Yes.

1 A. Yes, sir. When they want to see me, yes, I do. The
2 Assistant Project Manager is also an Oriental, a Japanese
3 American, female, and she is in charge of the relocation
4 program and she talks to most of them.

5 Q. Do most of them read the Japanese language?

6 A. Yes, most of them do read Japanese, I don't know what
7 percentage don't, but I think most of them do. You're
8 talking about the staff, by the way --

9 Q. No, I'm talking about the residents.

10 A. Residents, yes.

11 Q. Do they understand what the program is about?

12 A. Well, we, even if they read it we meet with each
13 individual in terms of what the program is about, you know,
14 as far as relocation is concerned, we give them the first-
15 hand information, we talk to them.

16 Q. From where you sit, is there any importance in telling
17 people what's going to happen before you purchase the
18 property? In other words, if I'm sitting in the building
19 next door, do you think it would be important to me to know
20 what's going to happen when the building is purchased by
21 the agency?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Is this being done?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And how many people voluntarily leave?

1 A A very small group, I believe we had nine Mexican
2 citizens leave and there were, I believe seven Oriental
3 residents that left the area.

4 Q Did they lose any possible benefits by voluntarily
5 leaving?

6 A No, they all qualified for the same benefits.

7 Q (By Ms. Godoy.) Were they informed of this?

8 A Pardon?

9 Q Were they informed that they were qualified for the
10 same benefits?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Have any yet applied for these benefits?

13 A Well -- yes, the only question, only problem we have
14 is that if I may just make one last comment here on this
15 thing, that out of the, I believe it was seven Mexican
16 citizens that left, seven, or I don't recall the number,
17 either about five of them that we were not able to trace.

18 Q So, out of the seven, five have not applied for
19 benefits?

20 A That's correct. And we still certainly want to find
21 out where they went to.

22 Q (By Ms. Hata.) How many housing units that you've
23 applied for have been earmarked for low income residents?

24 A Right now we're planning a large amount of housing
25 units in the area than is existing right now, in Little Tokyo,

1 in other words, in Little Tokyo there's about 500 total units,
2 and the project is for a 1,000 units.

3 Out of the 1,000 units we feel that at least half
4 of them will be low, moderate income housing?

5 Q Five hundred --

6 Q (By Mr. Lau.) When you say feel, is this a commit-
7 ment that you have, a legal commitment to Little Tokyo people
8 or is this something you're going to do?

9 A Well, a 1,000 units is already recorded into the re-
10 development plan. Which is a legal document.

11 Q Now, have the residents been informed that this is
12 going to be done?

13 A Well, yes, sir.

14 Q Can you explain to us what Section 23 housing is?

15 A Section 23 housing is subsidized housing program where
16 the developer builds the structure and then the residents,
17 then, pardon me, the senior citizens, 62 years or older,
18 who earn, I believe, less than \$5,200.00 or thereabouts,
19 and then they pay 25% of their adjusted income as part of the
20 rent. It's a subsidized rental program.

21 Q (By Ms. Hata.) How many low and moderate income
22 residents live in the area, the Little Tokyo redevelopment
23 area?

24 A Well, we don't have an exact count, but I would say
25 that easily, about 80% would be considered low to moderate

1 income.

2 Q Eighty percent?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Which would mean roughly how many people?

5 A Well, there is approximately, about 420 to 450
6 residents living in Little Tokyo, which 320, roughly, are
7 Japanese. So that, you know, any further breakdown, I think,
8 when you say how many, that we can only just figure out
9 how many, you know, people are involved because you see, in
10 the survey they conducted we can only go on what the people
11 tell us.

12 Q You are confident that the moderate -- low income
13 and moderate income housing you are planning for, will meet
14 the needs of the people that live in the area?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q (By Mr. Lau.) Have they been told this is going to
17 happen now?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q (By Mr. Ishikawa.) Are single adults eligible for
20 the low cost?

21 A Right now we have this, what Mr. Mitchell, has been
22 mentioned, you know, the -- these certain units and under
23 the 221 D3 program, if the developer who happens to go to the
24 corporation, we feel that perhaps it's an opportunity here
25 where single people can qualify.

1 Q (By the Chairman.) Are there a significant amount of
2 single people in this area?

3 A Most of them are single.

4 Q (By Ms. Hata.) Are you required to submit a final
5 plan whereby citizens can halt construction, this concerns
6 the environmental controls? A final site plan, during
7 which --

8 A Final site plans for senior citizens housing --

9 Q -- appear for the Little Tokyo remodeling project.

10 A (By Mr. Mitchell.) No, if I understood the question,
11 that's not a requirement.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Let me now become the bad guy,
13 it's 6:00 o'clock, we still have two more witnesses, but
14 there are a lot of questions yet that I'm sure myself and
15 the panel have. But I would wonder if we might do this:
16 Submit the questions to you, they're informative, for in-
17 formation, and then, if you can indicate the answers to us
18 at a later date, be part of our record.

19 I think we will handle it that way. I want to thank
20 you and your staff for coming forward at this time, pro-
21 viding us with this information. We will submit the questions
22 to you, including some recommendations that have been sub-
23 mitted to us previously, by the prior panel, to get your
24 reaction to those recommendations as to whether they're
25 reasonable or not.

1 VOICE: Excuse me, before you conclude, can I also
2 interject some questions, if this is all finished?

3 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm afraid I'm -- if you will do this
4 for me, if you have questions, for the purpose of getting
5 information from -- from the panel, if you will submit them
6 to the -- our staff, we will include them as -- in our
7 questions to the panel, but unfortunately I'm just really
8 running very tight.

9 It's an immediate answer, see, once I start doing that,
10 then everyone's going to want to do it, is it an immediate
11 answer right now? Because, for the --, for the purpose of
12 the record, I would ask that you submit it in writing, but
13 for your own personal information right now, I'm sure that they
14 would be more than happy to answer after I've dismissed
15 them, as far as the panel is concerned.

16 VOICE: No, I'd like to have their response, if possible,
17 put on the public record.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Then I would ask, then I would ask that
19 you will submit it in writing, it will be made part of the
20 record.

21 A (By Mr. Mitchell.) Mr. Chairman, I heard a question
22 addressed to the previous panel, asking for information as
23 to the number of notices concerning the project which had been
24 issued, I think I understood the general sense of it, I know
25 Ms. Clemens did. The party on that panel said they didn't

1 have the information and will try to get it. We do have
2 it, and we'll supply it.

3 Q (By Ms. Hata.) Will you send us a complete copy
4 of all the information that you've sent out?

5 A Yes.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your presence
7 and I'd like now to have the next panel.

8 Mr. Yoneo Yamamoto, President of the Los Angeles
9 County Asian American Association and Mr. Stan Lau, Vice
10 President of the Los Angeles City Asian American Employees
11 Association.

12 For the record now, would you state your name and
13 position and I understand that you have a statement that
14 you've filed with us?

15
16
17 MR. YONEO YAMAMOTO

18
19 A (By Mr. Yamamoto.) Okay.

20 Mr. Chairman, and Members of the State Advisory
21 Committee, my name is Yoneo Yamamoto, I am here today, rep-
22 resenting the Los Angeles County Asian American Employees
23 Association. The association represents and includes the
24 Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Filipinos, Southeast Asians and
25 Pacific Islanders. Ours is a voluntary group whose aims are

1 to promote equal employment opportunities for Asian Americans
2 in county government and to help Asian Americans strive to
3 get their fair share of promotions and employment.

4 We have been stereotyped as an invisible minority
5 and today we have been left out of target placements for
6 Affirmative Action programs in Los Angeles County Government.

7 For example, the Los Angeles County Community Health
8 Services does not include Asian Americans in the area of
9 Affirmative Action. In fact, the Affirmative Action Committee
10 was disbanded this year when a Japanese American became
11 its chairman.

12 I'm not saying it was because he became chairman,
13 but it has been disbanded.

14 Community Health Services has approximately 2,200
15 employees. Of these, 130 are Asian Americans. There are no
16 Asian Americans heading any of the various bureaus.

17 There are 23 health districts and no Asian American
18 district health officer. The only Asian American who heads
19 a division is an M.D. in the Division of Acute Communicable
20 Disease.

21 In the proposed target for minority placement for
22 1972-76, the only item listed for Asian American is the posi-
23 tion of Public Health Investigator II.

24 Recently, an examination for senior sanitarian was
25 given. The examination consisted of a written examination

1 weighed at 40%, training and experience at 35% and the
2 appraisal of promotability at 25%. After the grades were
3 in, the Blacks and Chicanos were given an extra ten points on
4 the appraisal of promotability and the rest of the candi-
5 dates had five points subtracted from the appraisal of
6 promotability grades.

7 We have no quarrel with the Blacks and Chicanos
8 getting ten points extra, we merely want to point out the
9 fact that for being a minority within a minority, we are
10 left out.

11 The Department of Health Services employs approxi-
12 mately one-third of all Los Angeles County employees and out
13 of 285 positions in the administrative category, C, Asian
14 Americans occupy six of these positions. With the exception
15 of an Asian American who is a deputy and another who is an
16 Assistant Administrator III, there is no other Asian American
17 who is in the administrative hospital, personnel management
18 or other division at a responsible position.

19 The others are a data systems analyst, a hospital
20 training coordinator, a senior data system analyst and a
21 system and works measurement analyst.

22 The mechanical department of Los Angeles County has
23 approximately 1,800 employees. Of these, 45 are Asian
24 Americans. In the 15 different classes which have apprentice
25 training programs, there are three Asian Americans graduating

1 to journeyman level in the next four years, one millwright,
2 one plumber and one stationary engineer.

3 In the proposed promotion target for positions to
4 be filled by 1977, there is one position listed for an
5 Asian American, one head parking lot attendant.

6 In the field of nursing, the Los Angeles County
7 USC School of Nursing stated they would increase the number
8 of students from the minority community to 40%. We do not
9 think Asian Americans are included.

10 In the vocational nurse's training program, which
11 was initiated in August, 1967, although 95% of the 250 graduates
12 were of the non-White minority group, there were no Asian
13 American graduates.

14 Asian Americans, although clustered in certain job
15 classes, have not reached parity in many. This is especially
16 so at the administrative and managerial levels where
17 decisions are made.

18 We know there is under-utilization and under-repre-
19 sentation of our members. Asian Americans are represented
20 in Los Angeles County departments, listed as follows.

21 And I have 21 departments listed here, and I won't
22 bother going through them.

23 All of the data presented were published on November,
24 1972. We have tried to obtain a more current data, but this
25 was denied us by the Department of Personnel.

1 I thank the California State Advisory Committee to
2 the U.S. Commission of Civil Rights, for this opportunity
3 to express the sentiments of the Los Angeles County Asian
4 American Employees Association.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your presen-
6 tation and for the statistics, they'll be very informative.

7 A. I would like to state also, that Ms. Susan Rogers, who
8 is representing the women in government, in county government,
9 would like to present her statement for the record, which
10 will be submitted later.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Fine, we will accept that.

12 Q (By Ms. Hata.) Mr. Chairman, I'd like to request
13 that staff take a look at any of the statements, all of the
14 statements made by Mr. Yamamoto, for example, the fact that
15 the Affirmative Action Committee has disbanded, to find out
16 why; find out why Asians are not getting ten points; find
17 out why Asians have been recommended for one position,
18 parking lot attendant; and find out why no more current data
19 is available than November of 1972, and submit their findings
20 to the Board.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Fine, that will be a part of the
22 record.

23 Mr. Stan Lau?
24
25

1 MR. STAN LAU

2

3 A (By Mr. Lau.) My name is Stan Lau, I'm the Vice
4 President of the Los Angeles City Employees Asian American
5 Association.

6 I'm happy to be, as you must be, known as the last
7 speaker for the two-day session.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Last, but not least.

9 A Thank you.

10 After facing years of overt discrimination, today's
11 Asian American has made great progress towards achieving social
12 equality with the White Community. In fact, so much pro-
13 gress has been made that Asians are no longer considered a
14 minority by many Whites and by Blacks and Chicanos.

15 Today, in areas such as employment, Asians are not
16 treated as a minority but are treated, instead, as second
17 class Whites.

18 Now is the time to be honest with ourselves. Asian
19 Americans are neither White Americans nor are we natives of
20 Asia. We are unique. Our Asian heritage has been modified
21 and Americanized. In short, our color betrays us, we are
22 still a minority.

23 Asian Americans have long been stereotyped as hard
24 working, uncomplaining, reliable employees. They are
25 considered excellent technicians who are not able to properly

1 supervise other workers or to make difficult management
2 decisions. To get the better jobs, Asians have had to be
3 super-qualified; Those equally qualified as the White
4 applicants seldom get selected.

5 Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Revised
6 Order Number 4, 1971, and the Equal Employment Opportunity
7 Act of 1972, have reenforced demands of the Blacks and
8 Chicanos for equal employment opportunities. Whenever Asians
9 also ask for equal treatment under Affirmative Action pro-
10 grams, the White majority reacts by threatening Asians with
11 layoffs in job classes where Asians are over-represented.

12 The alternative of upward mobility to higher job
13 classes, having no Asians and for which Asians are qualified,
14 is ignored. Furthermore, the emphasis on Affirmative Action
15 goals for Blacks and Chicanos has resulted in discouraging
16 Asian Americans from competing with the other minorities,
17 even on an equal basis.

18 Asians have further compounded the problem by taking
19 a low profile and not speaking out for fear of losing what
20 they have already gained in the past.

21 As Asian Americans, we must take the following steps
22 to insure our equal opportunitites in all phases of employ-
23 ment.

24 One, Asian employees must change their attitudes.
25 We must learn how to speak out forcefully for job opportunities.

1 We must not be afraid to challenge covert discriminatory
2 practices and decisions.

3 Two, Asians must be motivated to take specialized
4 training to develop their full potential in area of
5 effective communication, supervision, administration, and
6 management. The Los Angeles City Employees Asian American
7 Association is currently planning such a program.

8 Three, Asians must be encouraged to move away from
9 traditional areas of employment such as engineering, drafting,
10 and clerical work. We need to move into less familiar job
11 classes such as personnel work, real estate appraising,
12 public relations, crafts, police work and fire fighting.

13 We need better job counseling in the high schools
14 and colleges.

15 Four, Asians must communicate our needs to the Blacks
16 and Chicanos. We must work with them in achieving their
17 goals, for only through such joint action can we reach our
18 goals.

19 The Affirmative Action Plan for the City of Los
20 Angeles became a reality through, and its life will depend
21 upon, the close cooperation of the Asian, Black, and Chicano
22 city employees associations.

23 Five, we must make all employers, public and private,
24 Affirmative Action-minded through joint action of Asian
25 Community organizations, through the news media, through

1 elected public officials and appropriate legislation and
2 through legal action, if we must.

3 We are not asking employers for preferential treat-
4 ment, we are asking only for a chance to show what we can do.

5 Now, in closing, I want to comment on a statement
6 made by Mayor Bradley in his appearance before you yesterday
7 morning.

8 You will recall that Mayor Bradley now expects each
9 department head to explain to him in person why number two
10 or number three were selected, if number one were not
11 selected from the eligible list for a position. In effect,
12 this makes the selection of number one mandatory. I, per-
13 sonally, do not feel that this is the way to go to achieve
14 equal employment opportunities for women and minorities.

15 For years, we have been told that jobs were available
16 for women and minorities, but that few were qualified for
17 the positions. I contend that the selection process,
18 especially the oral interview, has been used to downgrade
19 many women and minorities.

20 Only the super-qualified were ever able to make a top
21 three ratings on an eligible list. Now, I would like to
22 see the top six to ten persons on the list certified as
23 equally qualified; no numerical ranking would be indicated
24 to the hiring department for these top candidates.

25 In this manner, equally qualified women and minorities

1 would become available for consideration.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your presentation.

3 MR. MONTEZ: Mr. Chairman, just for clarification
4 of the record, the point raised by Ms. Hata on the staffing
5 of investigating the points brought up by representatives
6 of the county, since last summer the staff has been doing
7 an investigation of Affirmative Action within the City of
8 Los Angeles and the county, as to the barriers of civil
9 service for all minorities. And that report will be ready
10 for you people, back, but we will have public hearings on
11 that within the next two to three months so I just wanted to
12 make sure the record new that we were already doing the
13 points brought up.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Fine.

15 That draws to a conclusion our hearing here in Los
16 Angeles for two days. I would like to commend the staff,
17 the members of the Asian American Communities here in Los
18 Angeles and from San Diego that have participated, presented
19 to us information and data.

20 Also to the members of the panel that have been here
21 for two days, particularly Mr. Gordon Lau, from San Francisco
22 and Ms. Nadine Hata, from Los Angeles. Gardena. For the
23 numerous hours that they have put into this hearing.

24 I think I would be remiss if I were not to make a
25 statement on behalf of the Committee at this time. And with

1 your indulgence, I would like to do that.

2 Because I think it's significant in terms of what
3 we have observed in the last two days and also what we have
4 observed in recent hearings. And that is that California
5 is becoming obviously a depository of many cultures here
6 in our community. And we have heard, over the last two days,
7 witnesses from seven communities, each coming forth with
8 complaints and charges of discrimination, and insensitivity
9 on the part of government agencies.

10 We have heard of incidents of exclusions of Asian
11 Americans and Pacific Peoples for what appears to be for no
12 other reason other than that they are Asian Americans.

13 We are on the Committee -- we here on the Committee,
14 have been impressed with the sincerity of the witnesses and
15 their commitment, but perhaps what has also been impressive
16 is the constant reaffirmance by the representatives of the
17 communities of their belief in the United States, and their
18 love for this country.

19 Emotional testimony on both days constantly reminded
20 this Committee of this fact.

21 At the same time, one theme constantly running
22 through all testimony was the clear declaration, I am a
23 person. I am entitled to be heard. I am entitled to my
24 place in this society.

25 The sad part is that so far, so few, if any, governmental

1 officials have listened or heard those words.

2 I want you to know now that we have listened, we heard
3 what you said, and what we heard has had an impact. We do
4 not have the enforcement powers to help you bring about
5 immediate solutions to your problems, but we do have another
6 power, which I can promise you we will use as soon as we
7 have sifted through and weighed all the information you have
8 brought before us. And that is the power to communicate
9 with any offending agency to lean on them, to embarrass them
10 publicly if they deserve such embarrassments and to persist
11 in demanding that the wrongs be made right, until the injustices
12 which plague your communities are corrected.

13 Monday, as a step toward that, I will contact Mr. John
14 May, the Director of the State Department of Consumer Affairs
15 to tell him that I want to confer with him next week.

16 And I want to bring to that conference some of the
17 Asian American professionals who were insulted by his
18 department not being here today. To begin a series of
19 meetings which hopefully will result in positive and construc-
20 tive actions by the medical board and his jurisdictional area.

21 The state legislature must also be contacted and
22 worked where necessary so that California may make full use
23 of the professional skills which Asian American and Pacific
24 Peoples are bringing to this state every day, with increasing
25 numbers.

1 Thank you for your faith and confidence in this
2 Committee. I hope in the days ahead we can show you that
3 we are deserving of that faith.

4 Thank you, all, we're finished.

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6 (Hearing adjourned.)
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 2 COUNTY OF PIMA)

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I, JAMES E. BOULEY, do hereby certify that I am an Official Shorthand Reporter; that I was present at the hearing of the foregoing matter; that I took down in shorthand all proceedings had and testimony adduced at said hearing; that the same was thereafter transcribed under my supervision, and the foregoing 669 pages represent a complete and accurate transcription of my shorthand notes so taken.

WITNESS my hand this 19th day of December, 1973.

James E. Bouley
 Official Shorthand Reporter