

CITIZENS DEFENSE OF THE CONSTITUTION :
THE JAPANESE AMERICAN RESISTANCE TO CAMPS OF 1942
To
THE RESISTANCE OF LT. EHREN WATADA OF 2006

OMURA THE CRITIC
VS
"THE MESSIAH" MOSES MASAOKA:
THE STORY OF THE HEART MOUNTAIN FAIR PLAY COMMITTEE

PAUL TSUNEISHI

1889.. The whites realized we were here in numbers. And they were scared. We were short, had yellow skin, spoke English funny. We were different. And we were coming. Numbers of Japanese became numbers of the villains in novels like BANZAI!¹ by Theodor Weicher a patriot writing under the pseudonym Parabellum. Our numbers meant war!

PARABELLUM (FRANK CHIN)

It was of course as yet impossible to figure out in detail how the Japanese had managed to take possession of the Pacific States within twenty-four hours.

The Japanese invasion, which our politicians dismissed as possible only in the dim and distant future, was actually completed at the beginning of the year 1908.

PAUL TSUNEISHI

Wallace Irwin in his novel, SEED OF THE SUN² created a villain who dreamed of white women. And white women represent the land- farm land. The villain speaks:

WALLACE IRWIN (FRANK CHIN)
(Fake Japanese Accent)

"In America we are already inside, and we shall remain for the glory of the Emperor. . . And now it is more important still that we marry into this American stock. Prove your race equality in the blood of your children. Choose white women if you can."

PAUL TSUNEISHI

¹ BANZAI! by Parabellum (Theodor Weicher) (1881) Charles Scribner's Sons-New York

² SEEDOF THE SUN, by Wallace Irwin. G.H. Doran Co-New York

In another novel, Gene Stratton-Porter's *HER FATHER'S DAUGHTER*³ an American talks about white superiority.

STRATTON-PORTER (MOMO)

" We are head and shoulders above other nations in invention, and just as fast as possible, we are falling behind in the birth rate. The red man and the yellow man and the brown man and the black man can look at our eggbeaters and washing machines and bridges and big guns, and go home and copy them; and use them while rearing ever bigger families than they have now. If every home in Lilac Valley had at least six sturdy boys and girls growing up in it with the proper love of country and the proper realization of the white man's right to supremacy, and if the world now occupied by white men could make an equal record, where would be the talk of the yellow peril? There wouldn't be any yellow peril. You see what I mean?"

PAUL TSUNEISHI

The novels took us as a threat. And songs like *I WANT TO GO TO TOKIO* made cartoons of us:

MALE SINGER (FRANK CHIN)

I sing a high a-lee sing a-low,

That means I want to go to Tokio.⁴

PAUL TSUNEISHI

And *THAT TANGO TOK-IO*

MALE SINGER (FRANK CHIN)

Oh, oh, you sly little, sly little, sly little Japanese!

You are a fly little, fly little, fly little Japanese!

Tho' you sometimes make us mad,

If you want to make us glad,

Do that teasing Tango Tokio⁵

PAUL TSUNEISHI

1930- The Nisei, the first generation born in America, were out of college. They were doctors and lawyers. They were publishing and editing their own

³ *HER FATHER'S DAUGHTER*, by Gene Stratton-Porter. (1921) Doubleday, Page & Co. Garden City, NY

⁴ *I WANT TO GO TO TOKIO*, words by Joe McCarthy Music by Fred Fischer. Copyright MCMXIV by Leo Feist, Inc.

⁵ *THAT TANGO TOKIO*, Words by Alfred Bryan Music by Jack Wlls and Arthur Lange. Copyright MCMXIII by Jerome H. Remick & Co.

newspapers and magazines. In English. They thought they would enter a dialog between Japanese and whites about their destiny in America.

James Matsumoto Omura was a flower buyer by day and, by night, the editor publisher of CURRENT LIFE - "A Magazine for the American Born Japanese"

JAMES OMURA (YOSH)

I encouraged the literati as another method of pushing our way into the mainstream. I spotlighted talented Nisei ... I reviewed books.

"Right here, in Los Angeles, one week in 1933, I read two racist books. Peter B. Kyne's THE PRIDE OF PALOMAR. The theme of it was that Japan was going to invade California and overrun the state and take it over. They were going to rape all the white women. ...

"The other racist book I read was something by Gene Stratton-Porter, HER FATHER'S DAUGHTER. It is in one of my columns. I reviewed it. To the Nisei literati, it was probably better known than Wallace Irwin's SEED OF THE SUN.

FRANK EMI

The immigrant Issei were barred from citizenship but that didn't dampen their commitment to the country and the language of their children. Shisei Tsuneishi, the father of ten children and farmer was a lifelong poet. He wrote and translated ISSEI POEM in Los Angeles, in 1921:

PAUL TSUNEISHI

We let our laughing children totter out
 Into the sunshine warm to run about;
 And the tears my grief betray
 As I watch them at play.
 Ah, we are of despised and hated race,
 To call our own, we have no single place!

Yet, somewhere, with our minds as calm and sane.

As the stainless atmosphere after rain,
 Yet once, oh, let us sing,
 With voices cheerily ring:
 "This is our farmland, this our home,
 Forever ours: no more we roam."

FRANK EMI

Any Japanese American with an idea, a philosophy, an interpretation, a story, a poem about Japanese America published in CURRENT LIFE. The magazine was an argument for the existence of the Nikkei in America. Omura the publisher didn't agree with all that he published, what counted was, he published.

Poet Toyo Suyemoto

TOYO SUYEMOTO (MOMO)

YELLOW

The other children pointed
 fingers at me
 And cried, "Yellow, yellow in
 - side and out!"
 Because my skin was a shade
 different from theirs.
 They ringed me in a circle of
 distrust
 And mocked me with repeated
 taunts
 I held my hands fisted against
 my ears
 And shouted, "No...no...no!"
 And still the words crashed
 heavily
 And thundered in the brain:
 Yellow...yellow...inside
 and out.
 See, my skin has not changed
 color,
 But it may be that I am stain-
 ed inside.

___Toyo Suyemoto

PAUL TSUNEISHI

Then-one day in December - Ben Kuroki, a

Nebraska farm boy was just out of high school:

BEN KUROKI (FRANKCHIN)

"On December 7, we were meeting in the basement of church in North Platte--North Platte Episcopal Church--where Mike Masaoka was trying to tell us about the Japanese American Citizens League.

"About halfway through the meeting, the police came and arrested Mike, and put him in jail. In North Platte. Then of course, shortly after that, he was released, because the Governor of Utah phoned and told the police, that they shouldn't hold Mike. That was the beginning of Pearl Harbor, of course, the news was on the radio."

MOMO (chants)

Remember Pearl Harbor⁶

History in ev'ry century

records an act that lives forever more.

We'll recall as into line we fall

the thing that happened on Hawaii's shore--

Chorus

Let's REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR

As we go to meet the foe

Let's REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR

As we did the Alamo

We will always remember

how they died for Liberty

Let's REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR

⁶ REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR Words Don Reid Music by Don Reid and Sammy Kaye

And go on to victory--

PAUL TSUNEISHI

Ben Kuroki went from Nebraska to become the only Japanese American in the Army Air Corps. He was a gunner on board "The Red Ass" a B-24 on the Ploesti raid on the oil refineries in, Rumania. He flew five extra missions in Europe to prove he was a loyal American and did not bomb Pearl Harbor.

MOMO

James Omura had been publishing CURRENT LIFE for about two years, when WWII came to Japanese America. In the February 1942 issue he wrote:.

JAMES OMURA (YOSH)

The rising clamor for mass evacuation into the interior of all persons with Japanese faces is a cause for alarm. Such a movement would trespass upon fundamental precepts of our constitution and would deprive one segment of the nation's citizenry a just redress of its wrongs. ... the troubles of the Nisei are strikingly analogous to the ... people of Jewish birth.

Every Nisei should be unalterably opposed to mass evacuation. Some Nisei Americans publicly encourage voluntary evacuation as a symbol of loyalty. Voluntary evacuation by the Nisei is a false idea of loyalty and is a betrayal of their inherited rights.

PAUL TSUNEISHI

Omura was speaking of Mike Masaoka and the Japanese American Citizen's League (JACL), assumed to be a civil rights organization for Japanese Americans..

The JACL met with another Nisei civil rights group organized by Isamu Noguchi, the artist, sculptor, lantern maker.

James Omura, was at the meeting:

JAMES OMURA (YOSH).

"Masaoka urged evacuation of all persons of Japanese ancestry, without consideration of violation of constitutional guarantees. Masaoka was caught up in the hysteria. You could tell by his fears. He was caught up in the hysteria.

"Masaoka: We must keep the families together.

"Omura: It is better to break up families than to violate constitutional rights of the Nisei.

"Masaoka: They shot into a farm house in Parlier and killed an Issei couple. There will be mass killings.

"Omura: There will probably be some killings but I don't believe there will be mass killings. The authorities would not tolerate it.

"Masaoka: We should all get out.

"Omura: What about our constitutional rights?

"Masaoka: Who would want to stay under this condition?

"Omura: I would.

"He just looked at me. He was scared. He was practically shaking. But because he is scared, why should he make the rest of us scared?

"Masaoka gave us several catchy slogans such as 'Greatest good for the greatest number,' 'The End justifies the means' and '100 per cent cooperation for future considerations.' At some point cooperation translated into collaboration. The Niseis were betrayed."

PAUL TSUNEISHI

Mike Masaoka appeared before the congressional Tolan Committee, in San Francisco, on February 21, 1942, representing the JACL:

MASAOKA (FRANK CHIN)

"But I would like to make this request of you... protect us from mob violence ... I do not think that it should be voluntary evacuation for the simple reason that I am afraid of what is happening in Tulare and other counties."

PAUL TSUNEISHI

The JACL authored every press release, cleared, every piece of information having to do with Japanese Americans. The JACL edited every Japanese American paper in camp, and all but one Japanese American paper outside of camp. The Denver Rocky Shimpo. Edited by James Omura.

Omura and all of Japanese America knew the JACL passed information to the FBI, Army G-2, the Office of Naval Intelligence, and the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department. The JACL was helpless to provide the information asked for. Perhaps. What Japanese America did not know was that Mike Masaoka and the JACL staff sometime in 1942 became the first generation of official "Confidential Informants" employed by the FBI. The official enemies of civil rights. The FBI had the same relationship with the JACL as the Gestapo had with the Judenradt, the Nazi appointed defenders of Jewish rights. Mike Masaoka's publicity releases are indistinguishable from the bulletins posted by Jacob Gens, the head of Judenradt around Vilna ghetto, Lithuania:

JACOB GENS (FRANK CHIN)

When they ask me for a thousand Jews I turn them over, for

otherwise the Germans would come and help themselves, and they would take not one thousand but many thousands. By giving them a hundred Jews I save a thousand, and by giving them one thousand I save ten thousand.

You who devote yourselves to things of the mind, you aren't involved in the dirty work of the ghetto. You'll leave it clean, if you're lucky enough to leave, and you'll be able to say, 'Our consciences are immaculate.' Me Jacob Gens, if I leave, I'll be dirty and my hands will be covered with blood."

PAUL TSUNEISHI

Masaoka

MASAOKA (FRANK CHIN)

"I was damned as a Moses of the Japanese people who led my people, if you will, out of the civilization of the cities and into wilderness camps where many died. This isn't a very good stamp to be held on you. I'm here today because I remember that in certain camps they built little monuments to me then defecated and urinated on them. And that isn't a pleasant feeling even after 40 years.

"Yes, we cooperated in our removal because we were afraid of what would happen."

PAUL TSUNEISHI

Jacob Gens

JACOB GENS (FRANK)

"In the administration of the ghetto, as well as in the work commandos, it is our duty to prove that the prejudice about our unfitness for work is fundamentally false. We must prove that we are indispensable to production, and that it would be impossible to replace us under present wartime conditions."

PAUL TSUNEISHI

Masaoka

MASAOKA (FRANK)

"We are preparing our people, to move

out. We want them to go without bitterness, without rancor and with the feeling that this can be their contribution to the defense of the United States...

"We want to convince them that it will be patriotic to make this sacrifice, and a sacrifice it will be."

Why jeopardize this country or our people by trying to insist on staying, or even by pursuing our legal rights as citizens of this country to contest evacuation.

PAUL TSUNEISHI

James Omura, before the Tolan Committee

JAMES OMURA (YOSH)

I requested to be heard here due largely to the fact that I am strongly opposed to mass evacuation of American-born Japanese.

...I suppose you understand that I am in some measure opposed to what other representatives of the Japanese community have said here before this committee.

I specifically refer to the J.A.C.L. I have been consistently opposed to the Japanese American Citizens League. ... I would like to ask the committee: Has the Gestapo come to America? Have we not risen in righteous anger at Hitler's mistreatments of the Jews? Then, is it not incongruous that citizen Americans of Japanese descent should be similarly mistreated and persecuted?

... Is citizenship such a light and transient thing that that which is our inalienable right in normal times can be torn from us in times of war?

PAUL TSUNEISHI

Gordon Hirabayashi violated the Army's curfew order to test the legality of the military order in the courts, in Seattle. Min Yasui, a member of the JACL in Portland, also violated the curfew order. Masaoka left no doubt that the JACL were enemies of Japanese American civil rights, in his Bulletin #142: RE: Test Cases, dated San Francisco April 7, 1942.

MASAOKA (FRANK CHIN)

"The Min Yasui case in Portland, Oregon, is gaining considerable attention.

"At the present time, he is "out" on bail and is said to be circulating a petition among the Portland Chapter members demanding that the National Organization take some definite stand on the question of constitutional rights of the Japanese Americans.

"In regard to this particular case, as well as all other test cases of this nature...this office releases the following statement:

"The national JACL stands unalterably opposed to test cases to determine the constitutionality of the military regulations at this time. We have reached this decision unanimously after examining all the facts in light of our national policy of: 'the greatest good for the greatest number.' "

PAUL TSUNEISHI

Masaoka belittles and ridicules Hirabayashi and Yasui for defending their civil rights, against the

JACL:

MASAOKA (FRANK CHIN)

"We recognize that self-styled martyrs who are willing to be jailed in order that they might fight for the rights of citizenship, as many of them allege, capture the headlines and the imaginations of many more persons than our seemingly indifferent stand.

PAUL TSUNEISHI

Masaoka had two FBI code names "T-11", and "SLC-167." T-11 was his JACL civil rights activist disguise he used to spy on Japanese Americans. As SLC-167 he spied on the JACL.

On April 22, 1943, Masaoka wrote to the JACL Board, as the first volunteer for the 442nd. He gives the Masaoka interpretation of citizenship and rights:

MASAOKA (FRANK CHIN)

"Moreover, no group of Americans ever had their liberties handed to them on a silver platter. They had to work, to sacrifice, to suffer for them. And, because of that work, that sacrifice, that suffering, citizenship means more to them today than ever before. They know that citizenship and liberty are not matters for the bargain counter; they are for too precious and difficult to attain."

PAUL TSUNEISHI

America was founded on the belief that all men were endowed with certain rights (what Masaoka calls

liberties)...from birth. And government had no part in anyone's birth.

Masaoka promised thousands would follow him into the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, from the ten prison camps. The prisoners were given a "Leave Clearance Application Form" with two questions that struck the interned Japanese Americans as sinister. Questions 27 and 28, the "loyalty questions" to be answered "Yes" or "No"

FRANK EMI

27. Are you willing to serve in the armed forces of the United States?

28. Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of America and faithfully defend the United States from any or all attack by foreign or domestic forces, and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese emperor, or any other foreign government, power, or organization?

PAUL TSUNEISHI

Anyone not completing the form was "liable to a fine of not more than \$10,000 or 10 years' imprisonment, or both," In spite of the coercion of the form itself, and the threats of teams of army personnel and the JACL that visited the camps, **only a 805 Nisei prisoners volunteered from all the camps, compared to 10,000 free men from Hawaii**

FRANK EMI

Those who answered questions 27 and 28 "No" and "No" were dubbed "No No Boys" by the JACL. The penalties

promised by the Federal Government were never realized. The No-No Boys were never charged with breaking a law, they never went to court, and never did time in a federal penitentiary. However, they were sent to Tule Lake, another concentration camp. All the inmates of Tule Lake were stigmatized by as enemies of the JACL.

PAUL TSUNEISHI

The JACL called on the government to draft the Nisei out of camp as revenge for not volunteering. At the beginning of 1944 the government reclassified the imprisoned Nisei as eligible for the draft.

YOSH

The Japanese free men of the Territory of Hawaii welcomed the draft. Only twelve men resisted the draft from Hawaii.

PAUL TSUNEISHI

But 310 men resisted the draft from the mainland prison camps -This number was later reduced to 263, following interviews by the JACL and the FBI.

MOMO

The only organized camp resistance movement was located at Heart Mountain Concentration Camp, Wyoming.

In Laramie County jail, in Cheyenne the draft resisters sang a song written by two Heart Mountain resisters from Hawaii. The song was copied in Japanese, and kept in the wallet of a resister Mr. James Kado, till the day he died. SONG OF CHEYENNE by Mr. Yanagisaki and Mr. Sumida

FRANK EMI

Aloha Cheyenne Kago-no-naka***To to nanamey sunde -iru***

FRANK CHIN

Aloha Cheyenne, we're in the cage

Ten to seven of us live here

FRANK EMI

Hige-wa boboto haemasita***Dare-ga ichiban ngai-ko-to***

FRANK CHIN

Our beards have grown wildy

Who has the longest one?

FRANK EMI

Aloha, Waiomin, Larami Kauntie***Asa-wa hachiji-kara yoru-wa-kuji***

FRANK CHIN

Aloha, Wyoming, Laramie County

Eight in A.M. till nine in P.M.

FRANK EMI

Poker gaimu-ni bakuchi-bana***Neru-maeni-wa baka-bana-shi***

FRANK CHIN

Poker game we bet like hell

Before lights out we chat and chit chat

FRANK EMI

Aloha Harto-yama natsukashii***Itsu kaeru ka wakara-nai***

FRANK CHIN

Aloha Heart Mountain, we long for you

We don't know when we shall return

FRANK EMI

Mesu hoolu-no pooku sooseiji***Hara kudashi-nya kaka-te-yuku***

FRANK CHIN

Pork sausage in the mess hall

Gives us the diarrhetic gallopng trots

FRANK EMI

Aloha Harto-yama koi-no sora

FRANK CHIN

Aloha Heart Mountain, I miss your sky

MOMO

The FBI and the JACL combined their resources to target the only organized camp resistance. The Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee was organized by Kiyoshi Okamoto to test the constitutionality of the laws and rules that kept the Nisei enclosed by wire, a unit of the United States Army and the American desert.

Frank Emi and his brother Art wrote and sent out press releases that were suppressed by the JACL and the FBI. No newspaper, no Japanese American or metro daily, would print the releases sent by the Committee-but one. James Omura's Denver ROCKY SHIMPO.

PAUL TSUNEISHI

On March 4, 1944 Frank Emi passed out a bulletin that got the Fair Play Committee arrested:

FRANK EMI

FAIR PLAY COMMITTEE

"One For All and All For One"

Saturday

March 4, 1944

We, the Nisei, have been complacent and too inarticulate to the unconstitutional acts that we were subjected to. If ever there was a time for decisive action, IT IS NOW! We members of the FPC, are not afraid to go war--we are not afraid to risk our lives for our country. We would gladly sacrifice our lives to

protect and uphold the principles and ideals of our country as set forth in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights... But, have we been given such freedom, such liberty, such justice, such protection? No!

(w)e feel that the present program of drafting us from this concentration camp is unjust, unconstitutional, and against all principles of civilized usage, and therefore, WE MEMBERS OF THE FAIR PLAY COMMITTEE HEREBY REFUSE TO GO TO THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OR TO THE INDUCTION IF OR WHEN WE ARE CALLED IN ORDER CONTEST THE ISSUE.

MOMO

James Omura reported it and commented on the organized and unorganized draft resistance happening in the camps from California to Wyoming.

JAMES OMURA (YOSH)

FEBRUARY 28, 1944

Nisei America

Know the Facts

By Jimmie Omura

Let Us Not Be Rash

Insofar as the movement itself is concerned, the Nisei are within their rights to petition the government for a redress of grievances. Beyond that, it would be treading on unsure footing. We must not forget that we are at war. ... Those who are resisting the draft are too few, too unorganized and basically unsound in their viewpoints.

EXPATRIATION is not the answer to our eventual

redemption of democratic and constitutional rights. Unorganized draft resistance is not the proper method to pursue our grievances..

We agree that the constitution gives us certain inalienable and civil rights. We do not dispute the fact that such rights have been largely stripped ... from us. We further agree that the government should restore a large part of those rights before asking us to contribute our lives to the welfare of the nation--to sacrifice our lives on the field of battle.

... There is no reason why we should not petition for a redress of grievances, but there is every reason why we should not resist the draft in the way it is being done now.

MOMO

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

FRANK CHIN

**Editor Jap
Paper Arrested**

DENVER, July 20,--(U.P.)--

FBI agents in Denver believe they have eliminated at least one of the causes behind Japanese-American violations of draft...Among those arrested today is the so-called "English Editor" of the Rocky Shimpō, a Japanese newspaper published in Denver. The editor James Omura, is identified as the publisher of the pre-war "Current Life," a Jap-American magazine published before Pearl Harbor in San Francisco.

PAUL TSUNEISHI

When he was arrested, Omura wrote to each of the writers he had published in CURRENT LIFE, appealing for money for his defense. He got no answers, not one letter, not one dime. The writers artists and thinkers he had published, shunned him.

MOMO

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

FRANK CHIN_

Wyoming Tribune October 3,'44

Nisei War Hero Hits Japanese-Americans Who Fight the Draft

"A stab in the back" is the way Sgt. Ben Kuroki characterizes the activities of Japanese-Americans who have been convicted on charges of conspiracy to violate the national selective service act.

... He said, in interview here:

"These men are Fascists in my estimation and no good to any country. They have torn down (what) all the rest of us tried to do. I hope that these members of that Fair

Play Committee won't form the opinion of America concerning all Japanese-Americans."

This intrepid young Nisei airman is the only Japanese-American to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross. He also wears the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf clusters, and has a cluster on his D.F.C., and a presidential unit citation.

He still hopes to get duty in the Pacific, and to add another campaign ribbon to the three he now wears.

PAUL TSUNEISHI

The trial of the 63 Heart Mountain draft resisters was the largest criminal trial in Cheyenne history. They elected against a jury trial, and decided to trust the judge, a man named T. Blake Kennady.

YOSH

The trial ended on June 26, 1944. (Fujii vs. USA) Judge Kennady found them guilty and sentenced them to three years in a Federal Penitentiary. The married men were sent to Leavenworth, Kansas. The single men did their time at, McNeil Island, in Washington state.

PAUL TSUNEISHI

The case of the seven leaders of the Fair Play Committee, and James Omura went to the jury at 3:45pm, on November 2, 1944.

FRANK EMI

The verdict was delivered at 9:30pm. (Okamoto vs. USA). The journalist Omura was acquitted, but financially and professionally ruined. Kiyoshi Okamoto, Paul Nakadate, Frank Emi, Minoru Tamesa, Isamu Horino, Guntaro Kubota, and Ben Wakaye were sentenced to four years at Leavenworth.

MOMO

On December 26, 1946, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, sitting in Denver, reversed the convictions of all seven leaders, on the grounds the trial judge, Eugene Rice, failed to instruct the jury that the evacuees had a legal right to advise a refusal to comply with draft board orders.

PAUL TSUNEISHI

In March of 1947, attorney A.L. (for Abraham Lincoln) Wirin went before the President's Amnesty Board, and asked that all the 263 Nisei convicted of violating the draft from all the camps be granted a Presidential pardon.

A year and day, after the eight leaders of the Fair Play Committee, won a reversal of their conviction, 263 resisters were granted a presidential a pardon and a restoration of their rights. It was Christmas Eve of 1947. Thanks to A.L. Wirin of Los Angeles, standing

on the Constitution they'd won.

FRANK CHIN

After the War Masaoka became a successful Washington lobbyist for Japanese industry, and the campaign manager for Norman Mineta's, (San Jose) first successful run for the House, and Robert Matsui's (Sacramento) first successful run for the House. Every Japanese American politician who currently office, is a member of the JAACL.

MOMO

Masaoka wanted to be called "the Japanese Messiah." But he decided against it after reading a May 1949 Reader's Digest story that closed:

READER'S DIGEST (FRANK CHIN)

To his supporters he is known as "Messiah" Masaoka. No matter how much he protests that he cannot promise success, they scoff at him. And no wonder!

PAUL TSUNEISHI

He settled on the more humble "Moses."

In his autobiography, of 1987, THEY CALL ME MOSES MASAOKA written with Bill Hosokawa, Masaoka quotes Masaoka on Masaoka:

MASAOKA (FRANK CHIN)

"Some of my friends and some who are not my friends, also call me Moses. Moses Masaoka. They say that like the Biblical prophet, I have led my people on a long journey through the wilderness of discrimination and travail. They say that I have led

them within sight of the promised land justice for all and social and economic equality in our native America, but that we will not reach it within my lifetime."

PAUL TSUNEISHI

The JACL members of congress rather than call the JACL to account for Mike Masaoka's JACL betrayal of civil rights,. have honored him, as a "civil rights advocate."

Norman Mineta, a former member of the House, and Clinton's Secretary of Commerce, and the current Secretary of Transportation campaigned for "The Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During WWII," in Washington, D.C., to engrave a quote from Mike Masaoka's "The Japanese American Creed" in its granite:

MASAOKA (FRANK CHIN)

"I am proud that I am an American of Japanese ancestry. I believe in this nation's institutions, ideals and traditions; I glory in her heritage; I boast of her history; I trust in her future."

MOMO

As late as 1987, in his autobiography THEY CALL ME MOSES he can't resist attacking civil rights and the resisters:

MASAOKA (FRANK CHIN)

"Some historians, writing from the isolation of their ivory towers, have contended the draft resisters were the real heroes of the Japanese-American story because they had the courage to stand up for a principle. These historians are wrong! The significance is in the relatively small number of dissidents in the face of gross injustice. The heroes are the men and their families who demonstrated their faith in America."

PAUL TSUNEISHI

A few Japanese Americans are telling for the first time, the story of the division between the JACL and Japanese America.

MOMO

"CONSCIENCE AND THE CONSTITUTION" by Frank Abe, (documentary aired on PBS) Assumes an impersonal "objective" voice, but an obvious Japanese American point of view that is critical of certain acts of the JACL,

www.Resisters.com

MOMO

"RABBIT IN THE MOON", by Emiko Omori, (a documentary aired on PBS) takes its name from the dark spots of full moon that resemble a rabbit with its long ears extended behind its head. It

takes the point of view of a girl wrestling with her impressionistic childhood memories of camp.

New Day Films

22-D Hollywood Avenue
Hohokus, NJ 07432

www.newday.com

FRANK CHIN

DRAWING THE LINE, by Lawson Inada (Coffee House Press:1997) is only book of poetry -the only book of any kind- to be written by a Japanese American since John Okada's NO-NO BOY in the sixty years since camp and the resistance. Was it sixty years before the blacks to wrote about slavery and the blacks who resisted slavery? Did sixty years pass before the whites of the North or the South wrote about the Civil War? What if the Jews had taken sixty years to write about the Holocaust, the Jewish Police and the Judenradt? The gap makes us realize that when the JACL destroyed James Omura the only journalist, they also destroyed Omura the only critic, Omura the only publisher of the only magazine giving voice to the argument between Japanese American writers, poets, thinkers and the critics (Japanese and non-Japanese) of Japanese America.

Paul Tsuneishi, one of poet Shisei Tsuneishi ten children, and Frank Emi, a leader of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee, and Yosh Kuromiya , a Heart Mountain draft resister have joined actress Momo Yashima, and myself in the reading of the

background to THE ONLY ORGANIZED
RESISTANCE TO THE WW II CONCENTRATION
CAMPS FOR JAPANESE AMERICANS.

Ehren Watada a Japanese American Hawaiian graduated West Point and accepted a commission as a 2nd Lt in the Army from Congress. Three years later he refused to obey orders to deploy to Iraq. He bases his disobedience on the US Constitution and the Nuremberg Tribunals. He is currently awaiting his Court Martial.

**BOB AND ROSA WATADA SPEAK FOR THE SON
LT. EHREN WATADA**

Bob Watada is a well scrubbed well groomed man from Hawaii. He spoke honestly about his son Ehren. Bob had gone into the Peace Corps during the Vietnam War. His son didn't want to go into the Peace Corps, he wanted to offer his life to his country in the Army. He went to West Point and won his commission from Congress as a 2nd Lt in the Army. Three years later he was slated to serve in Iraq. Bob backed the war. He was prepared for his son to give his life for his country.

Bob talked of the phone conversations between Ft. Lewis and Hilo. Ehren in preparation for his deployment to Iraq "read up on Iraq" and determined that the Pres. Bush had lied about WMD, lied about Iraq having bio weapons, lied about Iraq's connection to Al Qaeda and lied about Iraq's threat to the US. He talked to soldiers returned from Iraq and was horrified at tales of American troops walking down a street indiscriminately killing any Iraqi they saw. Bob recalled one conversation in particular. Ehren had seen a tv report involving the father of a Marine who had served and was being redeployed, when he was too disturbed to be sent back into the war. The father was pleading for someone to help him save his son. Bob said, his son said, "I guess that person is me."

NCCR sponsored the event. The leader of NCCR had spoken after me at the Manzanar Pilgrimage, making excuses for the JACL and cowards of camp that gave up their families to the camps for the glory of fighting to free white men from Nazi camps. The vice president a woman named Masaoka, yes, she's related to the FBI Confidential Informant responsible for selling the JA's into camp and reaping the glory of camp, the FBI and the 442nd. She mentioned the sniveling Yasui as a JACL hero. No mention of the JACL eradication of James Omura and JA journalism that lasts to this day.

Frank Emi spoke strong and effective. Yosh too spoke eloquently. They were the only strong voices of the long afternoon. Everyone else, including a white Vietnam Vet was gently and gentle and non-controversial, you might say chickenshit.

The rabble rousers--"Shim" who opened the program with a stupid song that seemed long and was embarrassingly self-pitying and a young woman who was self-indulgent were the only clinkers, but they clicked so jarringly, I left after I saw that things were stumbling along pleasantly.

It was another example of no publicity, and no press, no event just JA's posing for themselves, no better and no worse than a CA event.

I hope the other appearances of Bob and Rosa are more professionally arranged. They're in for a long haul for their son. Lt. Watada will be Court Marti led. And his lawyers will appeal to Congress and the Supreme Court, where the real fight will take place. The separation of powers will turn on the Watada case. Get ready.

FCC

From: Paul Tsuneishi
Date: Sun Oct 8, 2006 7:23:48 AM US/Pacific
To: thinkinchicken
Subject: :

Frank:

I was most impressed by Yosh and Frank Emi..They were the two most eloquent speakers of yesterday's event...I phoned and emailed them yesterday after I got home, asking if I could have a copy of what each said, so I could include them in my file copies of their oral interviews that I did several years ago.

Paul

From: Frank Chin
Date: Sun Oct 8, 2006 9:56:10 AM US/Pacific
To: paultsun
Subject:

Paul

Yes, Frank and Yosh were the most pointed, direct and focused of the speakers. Obviously doing the shows with Momo has had some effect. They heard themselves. Practice makes perfect.

At future shows, Frank and Yosh, Mits and yourself (not Momo or Mike) should say the resisters fought for the Constitutional rights tor Americans like Ehren

Watada to express themselves.

Momo should note that the JACL and the 442nd from the camps fought to sabotage the Constitution and should not be mentioned in the same breath as the resisters. Japanese Americans are not all alike. The JACL and the 442nd hated Japanese Americans. The resisters had no problem with being Japanese Americans and fought for the Constitution. The resisters were for Constitutional rights for the Japanese Americans, that's one issue. Ehren Watada's stand against the war is another. Frank and Yosh stand on one and applaud support the other. Save her personal remarks for after the presentation.

The fuzzy thinking of NCCR linking everybody up is new death for the JA's.. Notice that they didn't mention the JACL and Masaoka's treachery, but NCCR engaged in the same self-pitying sloganeering.

The woman who took the mike from Aiko Herzig and offered a souvenir of the Lincoln Brigade that fought in the Spanish Civil War should not have happened. A reception line for Bob and Rosa should have announced, and she could have saved her remarks for them only. But the nobodies singing inappropriate whiney songs and Masaoka trying to hijack Bob and Rosa to the NCCR sniffing and the appearance of the "poem" (awful) gave the impression of a free for all. The clergymen that spoke were figures from the community and were all right.

They should have put Ehren Watada on a loop and run the tv as people gathered before the event started.

The head of the (ugh) NCCR introduces, a clergyman to speak and give an invocation, then introduces Aiko Herzig, as a redress activist, to link redress and the Constitutional issues of the Watada case. Her remarks introduce Bob and Rosa.

Then Aiko asks Bob and Rosa a few questions about Eheren's childhood in Hawaii. Aiko says there will be a reception line afterwards, but first:

Frank and Yosh representing the resisters, give the history of the JA's, the Constitution and war.

Then a lawyer-military or civilian talks about what to expect. The Army will Court Martial the good Lt. For disobeying orders. The real fight will take place in the appeal to (1) Congress- who commissioned the Lt.. and (2) the Supreme Court, where , because of Bush and the war, Watada will become a case that decides the fate of the Constitution and the separate but equal powers of the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judicial branches.

Then the Vets, Then the reception line. Run pics from Watada family album on tv while people meet the Watada's.

Frank Chin