Reagan's Words, Asahi Shimbun, September 28, 2015

As time passed from the end of World War II, voices began to arise from the Japanese American community to ask for "redress for unjust internment". The US government created a commission in 1980 to study the issue, and after 3 years in a report concluded that the government "should apologize and pay reparations."

However, for redress to happen it would mean that the US had to admit its past mistakes. Budget allocations would also be necessary. With Congress not moving on the issue, Grant Ujifusa, who as editor of the Almanac of American Politics knew many people in Washington, was recruited to persuade them.

When first asked to help, Ujifusa thought "it's going to be impossible, so please no". But he says "I changed my mind after watching Nisei men crying while talking about the internment at public hearings", and began participating in the lobbying. With Congressman Barney Frank pushing the bill strongly, it looked like it would pass Congress.

However, there was a high obstacle left. President Ronald Reagan, who had veto power, was against any new spending, and one of his close advisors was of the viewpoint that "internment was necessary". Something had to be done to overturn that.

Wasn't there any connection with Japanese Americans that would move Reagan's heart? As Ujifusa dug around, one idea came to mind.

The 442nd Regiment, composed of Japanese American soldiers, suffered many casualties in Europe, and one of them was Kazuo Masuda, who lost his life in Italy at the age of 25. After the war, when Masuda's sister tried to return from an internment camp to California, she was threatened by local white men that "her safety wasn't guaranteed."

The US military, which wanted to tamper down prejudice against Japanese Americans organized a ceremony in December 1945 where high ranking officials went to California and presented a medal to Masuda's family. And to the gathering after the ceremony, Reagan, who was a movie actor and also belonged to the US Army, was also invited.

According to newspaper accounts at the time, at the ceremony Reagan said "blood that has soaked into the sands of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world, the only country not founded on race, but on a way", and had spoken thanks to Masuda and his family.

Ujifusa decided. "When you want somebody to make a decision, it is important to make the question a binary. We should present the question to the President as 'do you want to veto the memory of Kazuo Masuda?'

Japanese American Redress, Asahi Shimbun, September 29, 2015

To make redress to Japanese Americans for their internment actually happen, it was vital for President Ronald Reagan, who had veto power, to agree. The one leverage was the episode that more than 40 years ago he had spoken words of thanks to the former US soldier Kazuo Masuda, who was killed in action in Europe. But it was necessary for him to recall that.

Grant Ujifusa, who worked as a volunteer lobbyist for the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) in the 1980s, depended on Governor Tom Kean, who he was familiar with. Kean, who once taught history in high school, recalled at a talk two years ago that "internment was a shameful thing that that great Americans, such as President Roosevelt were involved with. That is the reason that it should be taught to later generations."

Kean gave the President, who was visiting New Jersey for a speech, a letter that he had been given by Ujifusa. The writer of the letter was Masuda's sister, who thanked the President for his remarks in 1945, and wrote "many times I have been asked to speak at the Kazuo Masuda middle school and quote your words to the students", and continued to ask his support for redress. According to Kean, a few days later he received a call from Reagan saying "I remember Masuda. I think redress is something I want to do."

The redress bill was called HR 442 in honor of the 442nd regiment, composed of Japanese Americans, and to which Masuda belonged. In August 1988, Reagan signed it into law, causing the US government to apologize to the Japanese Americans who had gone through internment, and paying 20,000 dollars per person. Masuda's sister was also there for the signing ceremony.

Ujifusa still emphasizes "the soldiers who came out of the camps and gave their lives for America moved American politics. In this nation made of immigrants, the Japanese Americans have a story that doesn't lose to any other immigrant group."

Against the late Mike Masaoka, who led the JACL at the time, and who also advised the formation of the 442nd regiment, there is presently criticism that "he didn't resist internment, and cooperated with the US government". Ujifusa says "It was wartime. Would it have been possible to resist soldiers with guns?"

At its national convention this year, the JACL passed a resolution commemorating 100 years since Masaoka's birth, and his achievements.

朝日新聞

11レーガンの言葉 終戦から時間がたち、日系人の間から 「不当な強制収容に補償を」と求める声が 上がるようになった。米政府は1980年 に検討のための委員会を立ち上げ、3年後 に出た報告書は「謝罪と補償をすべきだ」 と結論づけた。 だが、補償すれば米国の過ちを認めるこ とにもなる。予算も必要だ。なかなか動か ない議会を説得するため、「米マ ・ラント・ウジュ 戦 後

補償を実現させる運動に協力を求められ、ウジフサは最初は「絶対に無理だから、やめてくれ」と思った。「だが公聴会で、泣きながら強制収容について話す2世たちを見て、考えが変わった」。ウジフサはロビー活動に加わる。下院議員のバーニー・フランクが法案を強く推したこともあり、議会通過のめどはたった。 ただ、高い壁が残っていた。拒否権を持っ大統領のロナルド・レーガンは支出増に反対で、側近も「強制収容は必要があった。 との立場。何とか覆す必要があった。 かりがないか。ウジフサが聞いて回ると、がりがないか。ウジフサが聞いて回ると、がりがないか。ウジフサが聞いて回ると、がりがないか。ウジフサが聞いて回ると、 to Consider to Mice.

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ロナルド・レーガンが1945年にカズオ マスダに贈った感謝の言葉を刻んだ

一つの案が浮かんだ。 日系人で構成された米軍第442連隊は、欧州戦線で多数の死者を出し、その中には25歳でイタリアで命を落としたカズオ・マスダがいた。戦後、マスダの姉が強制収容所から地元カリフォルニア州に帰ろうとすると、「安全は保証しない」と地元の白人男性から脅された。 戦後も残る日系人への差別を抑え込みた 戦後も残る日系人への差別を抑え込みた

Pいかけにしよう」 (ニューョ (ニューョ

-ヨーク=中井大助) ――敬称略

碑=米カリフォルニア州サンタアナ

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朝日新聞

に 三年前の講演で「強制 高校で歴史を教えた 高校で歴史を教えた

州知事の

、きだと考えた」、

完向けたロビー 来日系市民協会

動を

民協会

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賞に否せっ 実現させるには、 実現させるには、 日系米国 人の70年 12 補償の実現

の言葉を紹介しています」とつ「兄の名前がつけられた地元とのために発言したころが兄のために発言したこの言葉を紹介しています」との問題も生徒に話し、そのたびの言葉を紹介しています」とう

第442連隊所属の記録が刻まれた、 カズオ・マスダの墓石=米カリフォ ルニア州ウェストミンスター

ではると、数日後にレーガンな が成したいと思う」と伝えてきた が関したいと思う」と伝えてきた が関係となると、数日後にレーガンな が関係した、数日後にレーガンな がであると、数日後にレーガンな がであると、数日をなると、 がであると、 がでなると、 がでなると、 がでなると、 がでなると、 がでなると、 がでなると、 がでなると、 がでなると、 がでなると、 がでなると、

公法案」

と名付けられ

兵士に抵抗することが可能だっフサは言う。「当時は戦争中。 政府が強制収容を経験 ンの署名で (= 1 ルを支 で補償法が成立。米名付けられた。88年 した日系 \exists 外も参加した。 銃を持った でサオカの