

American Legion criticized

To the American Legion:

I was astonished and disappointed to see in the July 1989 issue of the American Legion magazine the Legion's position on American Japanese. On page 59, I found that the Legion opposes appropriations for reparation payments to Japanese internees during World War II.

I know many American Japanese who were taken away from their businesses and homes and relocated to concentration camps during World War II. In my view, that was the most outrageous act our nation has ever taken against people who were and are full-fledged American citizens.

Many of the sons of these people went to war on our behalf and gave their lives for all Americans in the

European Theater. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii, is one notable exception of a person who showed bravery and valor under fire.

He was also severely wounded during his service to our country. He still serves in the Congress with distinction even though our country engaged in cruel and unusual acts against people of Japanese descent.

I am not of Japanese descent but I believe that the American government is responsible for reparations for Americans of Japanese ancestry who were interned and who had their property taken away from them. I do not believe that American people of European descent who were our enemies during World War II were treated in

(Continued on Page Three)

• *American Legion position*

(Continued from Page Two)

the same manner.

I object to the position of the American Legion regarding opposition to reparation appropriations for American Japanese internees during World War II.

I feel so strongly about this that I am requesting that you take my name from your Legion roles and refund my

dues for 1989.

I cannot belong to an organization that will not support the rights of all Americans, especially those Americans who lived in our country and committed no hostile acts against our country.

Very sincerely,
Nels A. Anderson Jr.
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