

NAACP PICKETS JAPANESE EMBASSY OVER LATEST RACIAL INSULT

Protesting the latest racial insult from a high Japanese official, more than 200 persons joined a demonstration, organized by the NAACP, at the Japanese Embassy on Friday, September 28th, as the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization implemented phase one of a campaign to bring the string of insults to a halt.

The demonstrators, whose ranks included a number of college students, carried a variety of signs indicating the growing concern within the African American community over the insults. As they walked, chants of "we're fed up, we won't take it any more," were repeated constantly.

The demonstration was sparked by a comment made by Seiroki Kajiyama, the Japanese Minister of Justice, on Friday, September 21st, at a news conference in Tokyo after he had observed a nighttime raid in the Shinjuku section which has a notorious red light district.

"It's like in America when neighborhoods become mixed because blacks move in and whites are forced out," he said after witnessing police and immigration agents arrest foreign women on prostitution charges.

Prostitutes "ruin the atmosphere of neighborhoods in the same way," he added.

In a statement on the latest incident, Dr. Benjamin L. Hoods, NAACP Executive Director, said:

"Our patience has been sorely tested and abused by the continuing insulting and degrading remarks made by Japanese officials about African Americans. We are particularly incensed that at the same time Japanese firms seek African American dollars, high placed Japanese officials are making our communities the target of scorn and ridicule. We will not accept this."

The Justice Minister's comments were not the first time a high ranking Japanese official has made derogatory remarks about African Americans.

In other incidents, then Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone in 1986, commenting on the skills of Americans, said, "on the average, the United States is lower because of a considerable

number of blacks, Puerto Ricans and Mexicans."

In 1988, Michio Watanabe, the policy chief for the governing Liberal Democratic Party said American blacks had few qualms about going bankrupt and implied they walked away from their debts.

The furor over his remarks

touched off a debate in the U.S. Congress where the Congressional Black Caucus accused three Japanese companies of producing products and mannequins that showed blacks in a stereotypical and degrading light. The products included wide-eyed black dolls with red lipped grins.

In addition to Friday's demonstration, which continued on a smaller scale the following week, the NAACP has taken several additional actions.

1. Prime Minister of Japan, Toshiki Kaifu, has been asked to seek the resignation of Mr. Kajiyama, as an indication of the seriousness with which his gov-

ernment views this incident, and for an apology to the African American community.

2. President Bush has been asked to communicate to Mr. Kaifu his displeasure at the continuation of these racially offensive remarks by Japanese officials.

3. The Black Congressional

Caucus has been asked to submit a resolution to Congress deploring Mr. Kajiyama's remarks and similar ones that have been made in the past.

4. The NAACP is seeking to establish a joint African American-Japanese task force to forge a more sensitive understanding between the two.

5. The NAACP's National Board of Directors will review this entire matter at its mid-October meeting to determine the nature of any further actions.

KNOW YOUR BANK, BANKER

By H.P. Fitzgerald

Not only should you know banking and finances in our highly technical society and universe, but you should also know your banker and his staff.

In this article on your Westside Federal Credit Union, we will profile more of the office staff, and others who direct and supervise its operation.

Woodrow "Woody" Wilson, the Treasurer-Manager, has 40 years of service with the Credit Union, and Trudy Rainey has been with the organization for more than 20 years. Gayla Ross, the clerk or teller, is a graduate of Rancho High School in North Las Vegas, and completed a Computer Programming course at Clark County Community

College. Being the daughter of a career military father, Gayla traveled throughout the continental U.S.A., and was in Japan and Germany with her parents. Gayla is the mother of a six year old son.

The Board of Directors, profiled last week, Eddie Coleman, Perry Fortson, H. P. Fitzgerald, Audrey James, George Simmons and David Yancy have a total of 84 years of service with the Credit Union.

The Supervisory Board, Noah Johnson, Jamella McClen-don, Leo Johnson, "J. Q." Hall, Charles Foger, Allen Ottex and James Robinson have served the Credit Union total of 64 years.

Your credit union staff and officers are all long-time resi-

dents of the Old Westside, where the facility is located at 416 West Madison Ave. The telephone number is 648-4626. Visit your Credit Union and become a member and regular depositor. The Westside Federal Credit Union is conveniently located on Madison Avenue between North D and H Streets, the main thoroughfares running north off West Bonanza Road to West Lake Mead Boulevard.

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