

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. memo	Laura Efurd to Eric Liu re: Meeting with Asian Pacific American Organizations [partial] (2 pages)	03/01/2000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Eric Liu
OA/Box Number: 16238

FOLDER TITLE:

Civil Rights - Asian American Community

2013-0717-S

sb8

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Civil Rights – Asian American Community

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

10:30

March 1, 2000

BRIEFING

MEMORANDUM FOR ERIC LIU

FROM: Laura Efurd
CC: Irene Bueno
RE: Meeting with Asian Pacific American Organizations

CIVIL RIGHTS -
ASIAN AMERICAN
COMMUNITY

DATE/TIME: Thursday, March 2, 2000
10:30 am - 11:30 am

LOCATION: 211 OEOB

ATTENDEES:

You

Karen Narasaki
Executive Director
National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium

Daphne Kwok
Executive Director
Organization of Chinese Americans

Jon Melegrito
Executive Director
National Association of Filipino Federations

Dong Suh
Legislative Representative
Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Nancy Choy
Executive Director
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

PURPOSE: To meet some of the key Asian Pacific American community leaders,

discuss your work at the White House and give them an opportunity to share with you some of their key issues

BACKGROUND: The meeting was set up at the request of Karen Narasaki, Executive Director of the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium. She asked that the community have an opportunity to meet you and discuss some issues of concern to the community. It is my sense that this is more of a "get to know you" kind of meeting and the issues they raise may be in more a general, thoughtful way, rather than expecting you to have concrete responses.

Some of the issues I think they may raise are:

Los Alamos Spy Case

Bill Lann Lee

Filipino Veterans

White House AAPI Initiative

Note: See attached for background on each

Other issues that could be touched upon are:

Hate Crimes

Education (i.e. ESL/Civics Initiative, Bilingual Education)

Judicial Nominations (note we have one APA nomination, Dolly Gee from Los Angeles.)

FORMAT: Informal Discussion

ATTACHMENTS:

1) Background Paper on APA Issues

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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Asian Pacific American Issues:

Los Alamos/Racial Profiling:

The foremost issue in the Asian Pacific American community is the impact of the Chinese espionage case at Los Alamos, which has raised concerns regarding discrimination and negative stereotyping of Asian Americans, and questions regarding the loyalty and patriotism of Asian Americans at the National Laboratories and among the general population.

There are really two parts to this issue:

- 1) **Dr. Lee's Case:** There is a general belief in the community that Dr. Lee was targeted unfairly because of his race, particularly since revelations that the former CIA director's security breeches were much more extensive than originally reported. The community also feels that that the Dept. of Justice has been extraordinarily harsh on Dr. Lee, i.e. no bail, limited family visit, can't speak Chinese to visitors. The APA community including most of the participants in the meetings met with Janet Reno to express these concerns. Reno said that she would look into concerns about the treatment of Dr. Lee, but stood firm on the decision to indict him.
- 2) **Impact on Scientist at the National Laboratories:** On this issue the Administration has taken significant actions to address issues of racial profiling and discrimination within the federal government, particularly at the Laboratories. The Secretary of Energy convened a Task Force to investigate the issues and found that concerns about discrimination and a hostile working environment at the labs are legitimate. The Secretary adopted the recommendations of the Task Force, which includes the hiring of an ombudsman to improve the situation for the scientist at our National Laboratories.

Daphne Kwok, who will be at the meeting, has been one of the key community leaders working with the Department of Energy to address the concerns at the labs. As a result the Secretary appointed her to the Secretary of Energy Advisory Committee to improve the communities access to the Department and input into departmental policies.

You should know that there is very vocal part of the APA community that is now criticizing Daphne Kwok and U.S. Commissioner Yvonne Lee (who served on the Secretary's Task Force) as being apologists for the Administration.

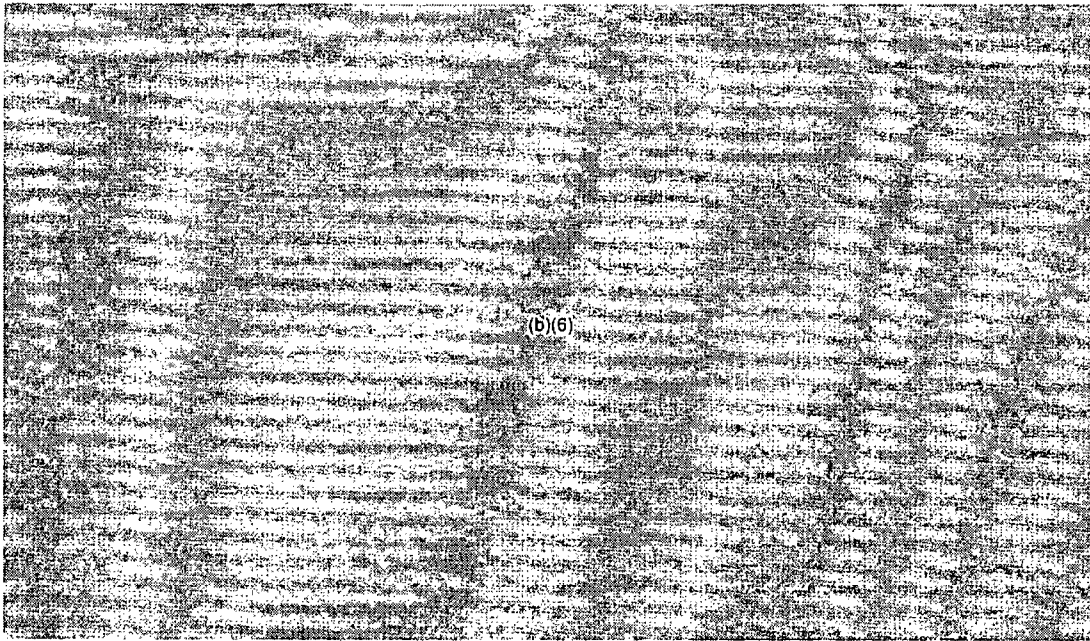
Bill Lann Lee:

Bill Lann Lee currently serves as Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. The Senate has consistently refused to confirm him. The President sent up Bill's name to the Senate as a possible recess appointment after the Fall '99 adjournment. Senator Inhofe threatened to hold all judicial nominations if Bill or several other Administration nominees were appointed during a recess. The APA community and general Civil Rights community urged the White House to appoint Bill regardless of Inhofe's threat.

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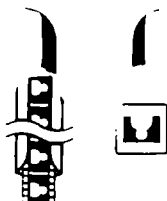
[001]

**Filipino Veterans:**

For many years Filipino Veterans who served with the U.S. military in WWII have been seeking to receive benefits similar to the benefits received by U.S. veterans. During World War II, many Philippine citizens drafted to fight with the U.S. Army. About 17,000 of these U.S.-based veterans of the New Scouts, the Philippine Commonwealth Army and recognized guerilla groups do not receive benefits equivalent to U.S. veterans. Those with service-connected disabilities receive monthly compensation at a rate of 50% of what other U.S. veterans receive. Those without service-connected disabilities receive no benefits.

In the past they have sought full benefits for Filipino Veterans (health, retirement etc...), however recently the Filipino Veterans groups have concentrated on health benefits. Current legislation sponsored by Representative Gilman and supported by Mink and Filner would provide Filipino Veterans residing in the U.S. health care benefits equal to those received by other Veterans, and provides \$500,000 for the treatment of Filipino Veterans residing in the Philippines with service-connected disabilities and non-service-connected disabilities. The total cost of the bill is estimated to be \$30.7 million annually. The bill also provides equal compensation to Filipino Veterans who have service connected disabilities (same as Administration proposal, see below).

The White House seriously considered The Administration has sought to address the issue of benefits for Filipino Veterans in the past. As a result of a review of this issue, the Administration made a decision not to pursue health care benefits for Filipino Veterans, but to provide more equitable compensation for those with service-connected disabilities. The Presidents FY99 and FY2000 budgets have proposed equitable treatment for Filipino Veterans with service-connected disabilities, so that they may receive full compensation at 100%, rather than 50%. (Note: these are not health care benefits, but compensation similar to workers comp). This Budget request has never been adopted by the Congress.



The Administration pursued this option because the compensation for service-connected disabilities comes from mandatory spending. VA health care is funded with discretionary funds. The concern is that Veterans organizations will see funding health care for Filipino Vets out of discretionary dollars as taking away funding for U.S. Veterans.

The current Administration position remains to first pursue the 100% compensation for Filipino Veterans with service-connected disabilities, but not health care benefits. However, the White House is working to facilitate a meeting between the Members of Congress interested in this issue and the Veterans Groups who have expressed concerns about the budget implications of the health care for Filipino Veterans to see if an agreement can be reached that everyone can support.

Asian Pacific American Executive Order:

Update: We are hoping that the Commission will be announced in late March. The proposed Members are going through the vetting process and we will be able to make the announcement once the process is complete. The Interagency Working Group that will be developing the federal plan had its first meeting last week.

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Organization of Chinese Americans



Fall 1999

IMAGE

A National Magazine for All Chinese Americans in the United States



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WISCONSIN**OVERSEAS CHAPTER**

HONG KONG

**ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS, INC.**

EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF CHINESE AND ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS IN THE UNITED STATES

1001 Connecticut Ave., N.W. • Suite 601 • Washington, D.C. 20036 • (202) 223-5500 • FAX (202) 296-0540

Website: www.ocanatl.org • E-mail: oca@ocanatl.org

協美
會華

January 11, 2000

Mr. Louis Freeh

Director

Federal Bureau of Investigation

935 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Freeh:

We, the Organization of Chinese Americans, a national body of Chinese Americans and others dedicated to civil rights, are concerned about recent information about the conduct of the FBI as reported on Sunday, January 9, 2000, in the Washington Post. Those reports note that the FBI, while questioning Mr. Wen Ho Lee about his activities and possible contacts with foreign agents, lied to him about the results of his polygraph test. They point out that after denying the accusations of your agents in no uncertain terms that he did not pass on classified information to any unauthorized parties, FBI agents deliberately lied to him about the results of his polygraph test--apparently in an attempt to extract a confession out of him.

While we understand that these are not unknown procedures in law enforcement, they strike us as particularly inappropriate in a situation where there is no known evidence that Mr. Lee ever transmitted classified information to a foreign agent or that he ever committed any act of espionage against the United States.

In a case as sensitive as this, we believe it is the role of the FBI to discover the truth, while at the same time treating all suspects as innocent until proven guilty. If there was evidence that Mr. Wen Ho Lee committed espionage of any kind, there might be some justification for this type of treatment by the FBI. However, where there is no such evidence, it seems to us that this attempt to use false information to extract a confession from Mr. Lee was completely inappropriate and inconsistent with the standards of ethical behavior expected of law enforcement officials in a democratic society.

We ask that you make a public apology for the conduct of these agents and that you inform all FBI agents that such behavior is unacceptable in this and similar investigations.

Yours sincerely,

George Ong
National President

Victor Hsi
Vice President, Public Affairs

Cc: Honorable Janet Reno
Honorable Robert Underwood
Honorable Bill Richardson

OCA National Convention

July 27-30, 2000 • Atlanta, Georgia

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協美
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December 31, 1999

The Honorable Janet Reno
 Attorney General
 U.S. Department of Justice
 10th Street & Constitution Ave., NW
 Washington, DC 20530

Mr. John J. Kelly
 U.S. Attorney

Dear Attorney General Reno & Mr. Kelly:

The Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), a national Chinese American civil rights organization, is deeply disturbed by the treatment of Mr. Wen Ho Lee while he has been in custody. We are very concerned that Mr. Lee's legal rights are being violated. To many of our members and others in the Chinese and Asian American community nationwide Mr. Wen Ho Lee's case has been one of presumed guilt prior to a trial. This assumption is widespread despite the acknowledgement by prosecutors that there is no specific evidence that any classified information was provided by Mr. Lee to third parties outside of the Los Alamos labs.

While we are aware of the arguments relating to national security risks that have been raised by the prosecution, we ask that based on moral grounds that Mr. Lee be released on bond pending trial. How can it be humane to keep a man, who has no criminal record, in jail for up to one year pending his trial?

We cannot understand how Mr. Lee is a "clear and present danger" to the United States or why he is a "flight risk". From everything we have read, Mr. Lee is a solid family man, well-respected among his friends and in his community. Why would such a man flee the country or take the extraordinary risk of passing on classified information from tapes—if in fact they still exist—to a foreign agent while under heavy surveillance? He has everything to lose and nothing to gain from such actions. He is not a terrorist. He is not a violent criminal. He poses no threat to the public.

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P. 2

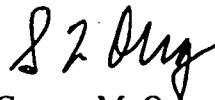
Our community also views Mr. Lee's willingness to take another polygraph test, his surrender of his passport, and his cooperation with the government over the past nine months as a positive indication of his interest in seeing that the full truth of this matter be known.

Since Mr. Lee was initially incarcerated, we are glad to hear that arrangements have been made to allow Dr. Lee to speak to his family in Chinese with a translator present. This initial requirement that no Chinese be spoken appeared to us to be unnecessary and culturally insensitive.

OCA and other Asian Pacific American organizations have been requesting a meeting with Attorney General Reno on this issue for several weeks now. We again request a meeting to convey the very serious concerns our communities have on this matter.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G M Ong", written in a cursive style.

George M. Ong
National President

cc: The Hon. Bill Richardson
The Hon. Robert Underwood



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information, contact Daphne Kwok 202-223-5500
January 19, 2000

**SECRETARY OF ENERGY RICHARDSON APPOINTS TWO OCA MEMBERS
AND RELEASES TASK FORCE REPORT**

Washington, D.C.—Today, Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson announced the appointment of two members of the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) to Department of Energy positions. Jeremy Wu, Executive Vice President of the OCA- Greater Washington, D.C. Chapter, was appointed to become the National Ombudsman for the Department of Energy, a career position. OCA Executive Director Daphne Kwok has been appointed a member of the Secretary of Energy's Advisory Board. Secretary Richardson also released his Task Force Against Racial Profiling's Final Report. The Task Force was formed in June 1999 to address the impact of the Wen Ho Lee case on the employees of the National Laboratories, especially Asian Pacific Americans. Yvonne Lee, Member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, served as a member of the Task Force.

OCA National President George M. Ong stated, "OCA is proud that Secretary Richardson has appointed two of our OCA members to assist and serve the U.S. Department of Energy. Through these two OCA individuals, we hope to be able to make a difference in the workplace for not only the Asian Pacific American employees of the Department but for all employees. We also commend Secretary Richardson for accepting and implementing the recommendations made in his Task Force Against Racial Profiling Report."

OCA National Vice President for Public Affairs Victor Hsi, commented, "We thank Secretary Richardson for taking a firm and strong stance against racial profiling and for placing at the top of his agenda, the racial profiling of his employees. OCA is pleased to have been part of this Task Force process from initially bringing the concerns of the Chinese American community to
(cont.)

P. 2

the Secretary, to having OCA Executive Director Daphne Kwok and Jeremy Wu visit two of the labs with the Task Force, to providing recommendations, many of which are in the report. We hope that now the senior management, mid-level management, the contractors and all the employees will seriously address this issue not just over the next few months but over the long run."

OCA Executive Vice President Raymond Wong stated, "A major step forward that came out of the Task Force Report was the creation of a Department of Energy Ombudsman to address the needs of the employees. OCA is especially proud with the announcement of Jeremy Wu as he has been involved with OCA since 1975 and is currently Executive Vice President of the OCA Greater Washington, D.C. chapter. Jeremy, who is also President of the Asian American Government Executives Network, visited the labs and wrote the APA Community's Report With Recommendations to the Task Force."



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PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Daphne Kwok, OCA, 202-223-5500
Nancy Choy, NAPABA, 202-974-1030

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 12, 2000

RENO MEETS WITH APA LEADERS ON WEN HO LEE CASE

Washington, DC -- Today Attorney General Janet Reno and Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder met with representatives of the Asian Pacific American community about concerns pertaining to the Wen Ho Lee case.

Nancy Choy, Executive Director of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, stated, "We imparted the extreme concern of the APA community about the treatment that Wen Ho Lee has received since incarceration. We informed the Attorney General about our concern that Mr. Lee has been denied bail, that his treatment during incarceration seems unduly harsh, and that his attorneys don't have access to the classified documents involved in the case."

The Organization of Chinese Americans' Executive Director Daphne Kwok commented, "The major point that we wanted to convey to Attorney General Reno was that the Chinese American and APA community feel that Mr. Lee has been treated as a spy when he is not being charged with espionage. We sincerely appreciate Ms. Reno's and Mr. Holder's sensitivities and interests in the concerns of the community."

"On January 10 in San Francisco, Attorney General Reno attended a community roundtable forum on justice issues. At that session, Ms. Reno heard from the grassroots about their deep interest in Mr. Lee's case. We are now preparing a list of questions to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice focused on the due process issues for the case. We know that while this case is in litigation the Department is going to be constrained to what can be said, but we feel confident that Ms. Reno will impart whatever information that she is able to," remarked, Yvonne Lee, Commissioner to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

The other APA leaders in attendance included: John Young, Executive Counsellor, Committee of 100; Kristine Minami, Washington Representative, Japanese American Citizens League; Karen Narasaki, Executive Director, and Aryani Ong, Legal Fellow, National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium; and Jon Melegrito, Executive Director, National Federation of Filipino Associations.

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December 31, 1999

The Honorable Janet Reno
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
10th Street & Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530

Mr. John J. Kelly
U.S. Attorney

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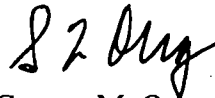
Our community also views Mr. Lee's willingness to take another polygraph test, his surrender of his passport, and his cooperation with the government over the past nine months as a positive indication of his interest in seeing that the full truth of this matter be known.

Since Mr. Lee was initially incarcerated, we are glad to hear that arrangements have been made to allow Dr. Lee to speak to his family in Chinese with a translator present. This initial requirement that no Chinese be spoken appeared to us to be unnecessary and culturally insensitive.

OCA and other Asian Pacific American organizations have been requesting a meeting with Attorney General Reno on this issue for several weeks now. We again request a meeting to convey the very serious concerns our communities have on this matter.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G M Ong", written in a cursive style.

George M. Ong
National President

cc: The Hon. Bill Richardson
The Hon. Robert Underwood