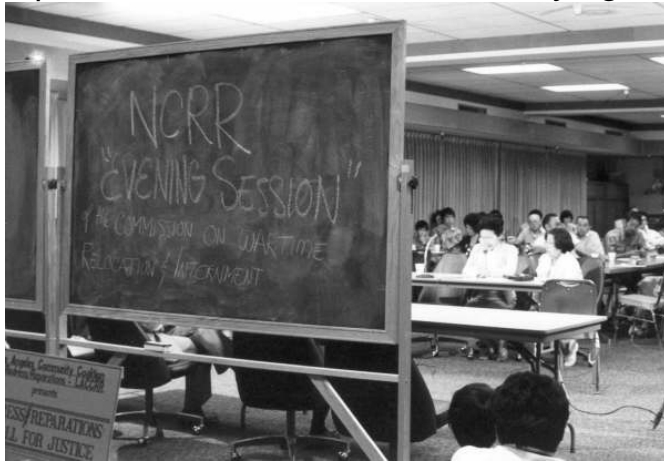


THE HEARINGS

I'm really proud of what we did! Since the hearing room was small, we convinced them to get another room at the State Building to which we could pipe in the sound. We fought to have things like simultaneous translations and headphones. We even managed to get one hearing held in Little Tokyo in the evening so that working people could at least attend. We went out and recruited people to do testimonies and we offered sessions where they could practice on us! We got people to help type up their testimonies and duplicate them. We got buses to bring people from San Diego and Santa Barbara. We organized people during the lunch hours and even had obento lunches and sodas available. For people who couldn't fit it in, we held a press conference every evening so that we could give a breakdown of what happened. We billed the Commission for a lot of this, but we made the hearings happen in the way that they were supposed to happen!

The hearings had a major impact on the community! It was a unifying experience. If someone was testifying and crying, everybody was crying!



We cheered people and when Hayakawa made those stupid statements that camps were like a picnic, we booed him! It was just really incredible! For me, it was a defining moment! It made me feel so proud that I was a Japanese American...that these people were

[Evening session in Little Tokyo](#)

standing up to the Government, putting aside the fears that they had hidden so long!

The one thing I really regret is that I didn't get a chance to testify or that I didn't get my mom or dad to! There was so much work to be done. I was one of the people that worked with the media and bugged the Commission a lot. I was helping a lot with outreach and, you know, just logistical types of things. I was doing my radio program too so I tried to get taped excerpts and run some of the more powerful testimonies over the air. I also interviewed people from NCCR and put them on my program. These were really heady times for everyone!

Miya Iwataki (Oral History Project, June 2, 2002)