

Steve Westly *California State Controller*



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CONTROLLER STEVE WESTLY CONDEMNS ANTI-JAPANESE REMARKS

SAYS CALIFORNIA MUST LEAD THE WAY IN PROMOTING TOLERANCE

Sacramento, February 27, 2003 – State Controller Steve Westly today condemned the recent remarks of North Carolina congressman Howard Coble condoning the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II.

Controller Westly said:

“The internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II is a black mark on our country’s history. To suggest otherwise is offensive to all Americans.

“If we don’t learn from this tragic mistake, we cannot guarantee that it won’t be repeated. America, the leading democracy in the world, can ill afford a repeat of such acts of violence against our own citizens.

“America is a nation of immigrants. California is the home of many diverse groups of immigrants who have contributed immensely to the dynamic growth and development of our great state. Californians should and must lead the country in condemning acts and words of intolerance and hatred.”

Congressman Coble recently said “We were at war. They (Japanese- Americans) were an endangered species. For many of these Japanese- Americans, it wasn’t safe for them to be on the street.”

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