

SEGMENT SIX: *Seeking Simple Justice* for Teachers (17 minutes)

1. Attorney John Kirtland talks about the “nature of injustice.” Explain Kirtland’s view of “injustice” in your own words.

Possible Answers:

- Individual rights are the cornerstone of our democracy
- Wrongs against individuals are at the heart of injustice
- It does not matter whether the rights are violated of one person or a thousand people, it is important to right the wrong

2. The federal Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians was established with what two, principle responsibilities? What did the commission conclude?

Possible Answers:

- Consider the claims of Japanese Americans
- Consider the claims of Aleut Americans
- The commission concluded the United States had failed its citizens
- The government’s failure to care was directly responsible for the Aleuts suffering including disease and death, loss of community and personal property, and individual dignity
- The government had, as a simple convenience, treated the Aleut “as a herd of animals”
- The commission recommended Congress approve restitution for both Japanese and Aleut Americans confined to camps

3. What did Congress do in response to the CWRIC recommendations?

Possible Answers:

- Seven different redress measures were introduced in Congress between 1983 and 1988
- Aleut Americans were awarded restitution in the amount of
 - ⇒ A \$5 million trust fund
 - ⇒ Individual payments of \$12,000 for Aleut survivors of the camps
 - ⇒ A payment of \$15 million for the loss of Attu

4. Why is the story of Aleut Americans’ experience during World War II important to remember?

Possible Answers

- Individual rights are a core value of our democracy
- Individual liberties may be at risk during times of great, national struggle, therefore democracy is at risk
- When civil rights are ignored, people may be harmed or entire cultures damaged or lost
- A special commission concluded that the federal government violated the rights of the Aleut during World War II and that what happened to them should never happen again