

Speeches and messages: 1977-1979: Message - Three-ring circus

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers

Speeches, Speeches and messages, Box SP2, Folder 12

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April 2, 1977

Dear Friends:

Throughout Hawaii and in the entertainment centers of the United States, the name Ralph Tsuneto Yempuku is synonymous with "quality entertainment." For the past 25 years, Ralph Yempuku has brought to the people of Hawaii the biggest names in entertainment, in the circus world and in athletic events. He has promoted several world title boxing events and has been responsible for the successful promotion of sumo wrestling in Hawaii. Under Mr. Yempuku's leadership, Hawaii has seen the greatest sumo wrestlers of Japan. Without question, Mr. Yempuku is one of America's most successful promoters.

On a more personal note, I have always expected Ralph Yempuku to succeed in his every endeavor. At the outset of World War II, when most Nisei in Hawaii saw their futures and dreams shattered before their eyes, Ralph Yempuku stepped forward and responded to the call for leadership. He played a major role in the eventual formation of the now famous 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team. His personal combat service was one filled with valor and distinction. In 1946, he left the military service with the rank of Captain. It has been my privilege to have known and admired Ralph Yempuku since 1943. His word has been his bond, and his character and integrity have always been above reproach.

I am, therefore, especially pleased to learn that my dear friend, Ralph Tsuneto Yempuku, will be taking to Japan the Internationally famous three-ring circus. Under his guidance and promotion, this extraordinary event should be a great success in Japan. Through the medium of the three-ring circus, Mr. Yempuku will be bringing to the Japanese, a delightful and happy aspect of America's culture. I am certain it will be well received as was his sponsorship of sumo wrestling in Hawaii. Like baseball and hot dogs, the three-ring circus is part of America. I hope that through this entertainment medium we will further cement our friendly ties.

Aloha,

DANIEL K. INOUE
United States Senator

Phil -

Sissy/Barbara: Will you please call Mr. Yempuku
 (Tel. 533-3567) and get his approval on this letter.
 If it is okay, please type it for Senator's signature. He
 will sign it when he gets to Hawaii later
 this week. Thank you.
 Sharon

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 2
 March 29, 1977

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Aloha,

DANIEL K. INOUE
United States Senator