

REPORT OF JANUARY
PROGRAM
(in GLA JAACL February
newsletter)



GONE by Robert Shoji
Visual Communications

“GONE” covers various locations in Little Tokyo, now and in the bygone era. There is emotion-evoking music, as well as sadness-evoking music throughout the film. You can see many old, nostalgic and historic photos from before and during the WWII’s forced illegal evacuation of Japanese and Japanese -Americans. There are images of construction activities current, recent, and historic.

There are no words in this short film called “GONE”.

What does the music and all of the photos and videos say without words? Little Tokyo’s huge, historic area near the Los Angeles Civic Center is getting smaller. It’s being replaced by large office buildings like Parker Center (former headquarters for the Los Angeles Police Department); which by the way, has been demolished. Big business chains have replaced small Little Tokyo shops. There are only few shops left from decades ago and only a handful from a century ago. The scenery is sadly looking different.

We are forced to face reality: Little Tokyo as we remember it could someday be GONE. It’s sad, but true.

Here’s a link to “GONE” from the Visual Communications Vimeo page:
<https://vimeo.com/344039029>

report by M Kadogawa

PUTTING THEM WHERE THEY COULD DO NO HARM by Steve Nagano

Former Mayor of L.A. Fletcher Bowron said such totally racist statements against Japanese Americans. There is a Square named after him adjacent to Little Tokyo.

Let us campaign to get that name taken out.

Steve Nagano’s short film quoted many of the totally racist statements:

1. “Japanese can never be Americans in the true sense.”
2. “We are worried about the problem of divided loyalty on the part of many American-born Japanese.”
3. “They are a race apart. The accident of birth should not make Japanese born on American soil of parents, who are alien in legal effect and at heart, citizens of the United States.”
4. “I advocate the securing of land by the federal government in locations removed at least several hundred miles from the coast... where they may be put to work.”
5. “When the war is over, it is hoped that we will not have again a large concentration of the Japanese population in Los Angeles. By that time, some legal methods may be worked out to deprive the native-born Japanese of (their) citizenship.”

Steve Nagano is working hard on campaign to get everyone to sign onto the Petition to get the racist Fletcher Bowron’s name taken out of the square near Little Tokyo.

Sign the petition here: [sign.moveon.org](https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/japs-should-stay-out-fletcher-bowron-los-angeles-mayor-1943)
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Please read article in PACIFIC CITIZEN: Oct. 22-Nov.4, 2021 page 6:

SAYONARA, FLETCHER BOWRON SQUARE?