

## **24 billion internment lawsuit**

Hannah Takagi Holmes was 14 years old in 1942 when, like an estimated 120,000 other Japanese Americans, she was ordered from her home by the U.S. military and herded to a resettlement [sic: concentration] camp. She was 15 1/2 when she was let out.

Yesterday, with the help of a sign-language interpreter, Holmes--who has been deaf and mute since she was 2--angrily described her experience from a podium at the Japan American Cultural and Community Center in downtown Los Angeles.

"It was painful, humiliating and terrifying. How can the deaf and blind children be seized and labeled as dangerous 'Japs'? I swore I would make my country see what they had done. But I did not know what I could do.

Now I know."

Holmes became one of 25 Japanese Americans across the nation who, along with the National Council for Japanese American Redress, yesterday filed a \$24 billion lawsuit against the United States. The suit seeks reparations on behalf of all those interned in World War II who, "solely because of their Japanese ancestry, were subjected to forcible segregation, arrest, exclusion, imprisonment and other deprivations of their most fundamental constitutional rights.

The 40-page complaint alleges 21 causes of action, among them false arrest and imprisonment, protection from involuntary servitude and violations of due process and equal protection."