

JACL

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JACL Responds to Radio Slur

During a recent airing of the Don Wade and Roma show on WLS AM talk radio, the hosts mocked Chinese and Chinese Americans by laughing about serving dog at restaurants and transposing the letter “R” for “L” in pronouncing certain words.

In a letter to Mike Fowler, the station’s president and general manager, JACL Midwest Director Bill Yoshino wrote, “Some may view this display as mindless, juvenile behavior, however, in truth, it is racist. Mocking the culture of others and the manner in which they sincerely attempt to speak the English language is racially offensive.”

Yoshino went on to mention that these degrading mockeries have taken place for decades and they are harmful because they have the power to draw out racist and violent behavior. “A joke is not always a joke,” said Yoshino, “especially when it provokes racist sentiment. We would have thought that WLS AM radio would subscribe to a higher standard. If not, it’s time you did, and you can begin by conveying a lesson in human decency to Don and Roma.”

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The Japanese American Citizens League, established in 1929, is the oldest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States. Our mission is to secure and maintain the human and civil rights of Americans of Japanese ancestry and others victimized by injustice.