

Summarized essence of the account of the late Dr. John B. Tsu by Mr. Albert Chang; the Interview was conducted at the home of Mrs. Susan Tsu on June 29, 2010.

Mr. Albert Chang stated first his account of the late Dr. John B. Tsu in which he enumerated in detail. The following is what he stated:

+ (Mr. Albert Chang); I came from Manchuria as same as the late Dr. John B. Tsu and we have developed the close relationship not only personally but also as collaborator as well as colleagues in our efforts to advance the wellbeing of Asian Americans in the United States. In my personal observation and opinion of the late Dr. Tsu, he was an amazing man with the sense of devoting himself for the wellbeing Asian Americans. He had a big picture trying to see what has to be done for the advancement of not only Asian Americans but also emphasizing the importance of having more knowledge and desire on the part of non-Asian Americans both in the public and private sector by which accurate view and understanding of heritage, culture, history, political and social value of Asian nations that represent their respective values and thoughts in their long standing history.

It should be noted that it should be not one way policy that Asian Americans should learn and understand the value of America but also non-Asian Americans (Caucasians) should do the same on Asian nations. In this way, the profound and mutually respected relationship could be in place, thus, contributing to the well-balanced society in which all Americans can live together amicably and respectably.

He was a very unique person with the strength of energy, motivation and aspiration for the advancement and empowerment of Asian Americans. He kept himself busy visiting the various regional and local areas in this county not just limiting himself to visit and stay in WDC. He tried to interact with all level of Asian Americans across the nation, so that he could build his grass roots style of developing for person to person relationship by

which he was able to hear and understandings and the concerns that Asian Americans of each ethnic and cultural background have their respective concerns and difficulties facing them in their livelihood in American society. He was the man who could develop for Asian Americans Coalition and kept it intact.

Unfortunately, on the de-fact basis, there are/were still culture of segregation exist in this country from which so-called minority Americans felt that they must find the way to advance their status in American society to be more equal with that of occasions, for which leaders of each ethnic organization aspired for the advancement of their social status by organizing social and political forces to reflect their voices in political arena in the United States. The late Dr. John B. Tsu was a man who organized successfully to unite the various ethnic background Asian Americans into a bigger social and political force. He could break the barriers existed even among Asian American communities and was able to bring them together to unite for the common cause of Asian Americans.

He was very international in his vision. One of which can be demonstrated in the establishment of East West Center which was established in 1960 and I was appointed as one of the Board of Governors by White House due to the recommendation by the late Dr. John B. Tsu. This Center played an important role for the promotion of international interactions through which deeper understandings of other country could be achieved by understanding about its historical heritages, culture, education and the current affairs that each nation is faced with. It was designed to promote and enhance the mutual understanding of the countries concerned through development of more substantiated and candid dialogues among the leaders of the nations involved. This Center contributed to the mutual understanding of the nations involved with the sense of paying their reciprocal respects.

If the next generation of Asian Americans should be able to follow what the late Dr. John B. Tsu had envisioned for, it may not be too long before we see the leader of this country who could be an Asian Americans. As I said earlier, the late Dr. Tsu was so international minded and he worked with

the leadership of foreign nations to promote common causes for the peace of the world.

As being an Asian Americans, he knew that it would be difficult for Asian Americans to become the mainstream of American politics unless they educate themselves and participates in political activities by which Asian Americans can find themselves to be playing their parts in order to shape the policy of American government. He always carried along with him” a thick book” in which the contact information such as telephone, fax numbers and who’s who information are recorded, which enabled him to be in a position to contact with the persons he wanted to reach out. It showed that he was a man of energetic action. The vision and energy with the character of “less-selfishness” that the late Dr. John B. Tsu possessed made him to be the leader for Asian Americans. We know that without his tireless devotion to advance and empower the wellbeing of Asian Americans, nothing could have been accomplished as we are now benefiting it from what he did for us.

Having said what described above, the writer asked Mr. Albert Chang a number of questions which are cited hereunder;

- (The writer); When did you first meet the late Dr. John B. Tsu ? And where?

+ (Mr. Albert Chang); since I was a member of the Republican Party, I knew him to be a very active in social and political arena not only in California but also the nation-wide. In the late 1980’s ,the former President George Bush came to San Francisco, CA, for his political campaign in the Bay area, the late Dr. Tsu asked me to join him to greet President Bush at San Francisco Airport , unfortunately we missed Air Force One

- Howe did you worked together with the late Dr. Tsu in his mission of enhancing Asian Americans in American political arena?

+ I travelled with him on many occasions to WDC and attended to the various meetings from which I observed how he was doing in terms of voicing out the desires and hope of Asian communities to be heard by the Administration and the Congress which were implemented by the government as the numerous social and business programs beneficial to

Asian Americans. He was not only an advocator but also a practical leader to get things done which is of beneficial to Asian Americans. Speaking of how he interacted with broader segment of Asian Americans with different ethnic background, the late Dr. John B. Tsu was easily be able to get along with them. He was single minded to keep them together to be an effective force to advance the cause of Asian Americans.

When the Republican Party was out of the power, he kept himself busy in interacting not only with those who are the Republicans but also the Democrats. He never took his stance to be "white or black" in terms of dealing with peoples. He was an open minded and flexible person but was a very single minded when it comes to the matter of advancing the wellbeing of Asian Americans.

- In retrospect, how do you assess his style of voicing out his thoughts to be head by his colleagues and supporters in order for him to advance further for the cause of Asian Americans?
- + He tried to be not as visible as some other politician do. He tried to be behind the scene acting as the man being a strategist rather than "main actor or main actress" which made him to be more flexible to get things going among the groups with many different ethnic, social and cultural backgrounds. It cannot deny that there was some degree of internal factions which existed in Asian Americans Coalition. For an example, there was a case of difference of opinions expressed in terms of the procedurals to be decided upon as to how each delegate from each ethnic group to elect certain members delegates to vote on the issues. To make sure each ethnic group is well represented and not by all the number of people attending the meeting. (Some of the ethnic groups have more people attending as compared with some other ethnic groups represented only by a handful people). Especially there were people did arrange a lot of their associates there, trying to influence the outcome of the meetings, such as Chairmanship. I did make the proposal at the beginning of the conference to modify meeting procedures. There were a lot of hot debates on the floor. Dr. Tsu was worried about such situation that could split the loosely assembled Asian Coalition, but through his personal negotiations, at the final vote, we reached the harmonious solution. This is a clear example to show the Dr. Tsu wanted an united Asian Coalition, but on many occasions

it was not as easy to accomplish it.

Delegates from some states with a dominant certain ethnic background insisted that the number of vote to be given to the delegates of each state should be decided based on the number of population of each state. For an example, the state of NY or California will be much more in advantageous position due to the large number of population. There were heated debates and discussions went on and it was finally decided that each state will have one vote regardless of size or population of state. I took a part in this matter and as the architect of this decision, it made easier for the late Dr. John B. Tsu was able to keep the Asian Americans Coalition intact. The issue of who is to be the leader of Asian Americans was one of the difficult subjects at this conference but all of us managed to be united to move forward for the betterment of Asian Americans. Because of the fact that the late Dr. John B. Tsu had earned the respect of the majority of the leadership of Asian Americans community, he was able to demonstrate strong and effective leadership as Chairman of Presidential Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

- How do you view of the controversial case in which the late Dr. John B. Tsu is said to have been involved with the case of the role he is said to have played in finding the way for the development of dialogues between the leaderships of mainland China and Formosa in 1994~5?

+ I think that the late Dr. John B. Tsu was very international in his vision of even how China and Formosa relationship may affect the nature of the movements of Asian American Coalition in the States. He thought of the fact that the unification of the mainland China and Formosa is logical destiny and that it will be of a great assets to the betterment of Asian Americans in the States. It cannot deny that there were some peoples in Asian Americans communities who were jealousy of the success of him to be so successful and some of them did spread the groundless rumors intentionally in order to disgrace and discredit him for what he was doing on the matter of paving the way for a possible dialogues that could be developed between the leadership of mainland China and Formosa.

The Dr. John B. Tsu had foresight in his analysis and view of international relationship, particularly, the matter of how China might become a strong

nation relatively within a short period of the time. What has happened in the recent day concerning a new historic relationship developed which is now officially in place between the mainland China and Formosa on their bilateral relationship on trade and business demonstrates and proves what the late Dr. John B. Tsu had envisioned was correct.

The late Dr. John B. Tsu was regarded by some of the higher officials of the Republican Party and some of the higher echelon of the both Bushes Administrations that he was not belonging to the school of so-called rank and file of the Republican Party. Therefore, those who are/were the members of the file and rank of the Republican Party were also jealousy of him because the late Dr. John B. Tsu had an easy access to President George Bush and President George W. H. Bush in spite him being a sort of the outsider not becoming to be the member of the leadership through the rank and file within the Republican Party. His long standing friendship with the Bush family was one of the assets for the late Dr. John B. Tsu's strength and effectiveness to get the message of Asian Americans pass on directly to the Presidents.

I believe that the Democrats are more vocal and the Republicans are more closed mouth. In this sense, the late Dr. John B. Tsu was neither of them in his thoughts.

- What would you describe about the qualification of a leader for Asian Americans?

+ I think that the man must be "totally less-selfishness as his motivation of becoming the leader of Asian Americans". The man for this position must have the quality of being visionary, energetic, compassionate, internationally minded with the sense of understanding about international affairs how it is going to affect on American policy.

- What are his pros and cons if you have observed any of it about him?

+ He had talent and desire of devoting himself to be a kind of crusader of the needy people regardless of their social status, ethnic background and political affiliation. He was less-selfishness and compassionate for others.

On the cons side, he did not get a chance to have cultivated a successor to continue his work and keep up with all his connections with higher political echelons. We also must think that it is not an easy job to step up in his big shoe either.

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Mr. Albert Chang has been active in Asian Americans community both at regional and national level and played a key role for the advancement and empowerment of Asian Americans. He is Co-worker with the late Dr. John B. Tsu for Asian Coalition and contributed to the betterment of Asian Americans.

He held numerous positions in civic, academic and business circle, some of which he served was as Member of Advisory committee with Dept of Commerce, Member of California Architect Board. He was San Francisco Fair Chairman. He served also as a Member of the Board of Governors appointed by White House at East West Center. He is also active in business circle in the numerous capacities.