



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

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JACL PLEASSED AT SELECTION OF PETE ROUSE

Washington, DC – The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization, announced that it is pleased with the selection by President Obama of Pete Rouse as White House Chief of Staff to replace outgoing Rahm Emanuel.

Peter M. Rouse was born in New Haven, Connecticut, and is of Jewish and Japanese American heritage. His maternal grandfather emigrated to San Francisco from Tokyo in 1885. He returned to Japan in 1910 to marry his wife. They moved back to the United States, eventually settling in Alaska in 1915. Their daughter, Mary Mikami Rouse, is the mother of Pete Rouse. The grandparents retired and moved to Los Angeles shortly before World War II began. They were forced to evacuate their home and were incarcerated with other Japanese Americans in a federal detention camp in Arizona during the war.

Rouse has been one of three White House officials with the title Senior Adviser to the President, along with David Axelrod and Valerie Jarrett. He had worked on Capitol Hill for more than 30 years, since 1971. He had been chief of staff to South Dakota Senator Tom Daschle, the former majority leader, whom he met as a fellow legislative assistant for Senator James Abourezk (D-SD). He had worked for Daschle since 1985 and was planning to retire after Daschle lost his reelection bid in 2004. However, he became chief of staff of then-Illinois U.S. Senator Obama after being contacted by a law school friend of Obama.

Rouse received a B.A. from Colby College in 1968, an M.A. from the London School of Economics in 1970, and an M.P.A. from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 1977.

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