

Mr. Adam Goodman
President
Paramount Film Group
5555 Melrose Avenue
Hollywood, CA 90038

Dear Mr. Goodman:

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States, is deeply troubled by a scene in the movie, *The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard*, where the Piven character uses the term “Jap,” a racial slur, which results in a physical attack on an Asian character.

Your promotional information characterizes the film as a satirical comedy, however, there is nothing funny about the use of racial slurs and there is little that is insightful or thought-provoking in a scene that displays a shocking lack of judgment. By their very nature, racial slurs are hurtful and they have the potential for causing great harm by singling out and marginalizing identifiable racial and ethnic groups. For us, the scene is a sad reminder of a time during the 1980s and 1990s when “Japan-bashing” based on perceived economic threats reached a dangerous level where racial slurs provoked hate crimes and real people were victimized and where Asian Americans were made to feel isolated and vulnerable.

Unfortunately, slurs often have been used to define and denigrate racial and ethnic groups. There is no need to perpetuate the use of slurs today or in the future, especially for a cheap laugh. People, especially the young, who view the movie, may come to believe the use of the slur is acceptable notwithstanding its R-rating. Japanese Americans are particularly offended because we painfully recall how slurs were used during the 1940s to vilify and demean our community resulting in a forced eviction from our homes and communities on the West Coast, followed by confinement for up to three years in concentration camps.

We would like to meet with you soon to discuss the film and ways that this situation can be avoided in the future. I look forward to your early response.

Sincerely,

S. Floyd Mori
Executive National Director
Japanese American Citizens League

Cc: Mr. Brad Grey, Chairman and CEO, Paramount Pictures Corporation