



## EXTRAORDINARY CHINESE AMERICANS

ENSURING FULL INCLUSION IN AMERICA  
ADVANCING U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

### *Letter from Gary Locke, Chairman of Committee of 100*

My grandfather came to this country from China over a century ago and worked as a servant in exchange for English lessons. My father arrived years later and became a member of the Greatest Generation. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1941 before the outbreak of WWII, was part of the Normandy invasion, and marched to Berlin to protect freedom and defeat fascism before coming home to raise a family and build a small business in Seattle.

I was deeply humbled and honored to serve as Governor of Washington State (1997-2005), as U.S. Secretary of Commerce (2009-2011) and as U.S. Ambassador to China (2011-2014). It would have been one of my father's proudest moments to see his son serve as America's official representative in his and my mother's country of birth.

My own family's story is the story of America and the story shared by millions of other Americans who have come here from around the world. America is a nation of immigrants. What makes America great is its diversity of people with their unique cultures from around the world. That diversity has powered America's innovation and dynamism. We must therefore be steadfast and vigilant in fostering an inclusive and welcoming America that embraces our diversity as our nation's strength.

As Chairman of the Committee of 100, I am glad to present this White Paper, "*Racial Disparities in Economic Espionage Act Prosecutions: A Window into the New Red Scare.*" This empirical research was conducted by Committee of 100 and legal scholar Andrew Chongseh Kim, attorney at Greenberg Traurig, visiting scholar at South Texas College of Law Houston, and participant in Committee of 100's Next Generation Leader program. The empirical data and analysis are a timely and necessary contribution to our understanding of discrimination and targeting of Chinese Americans during a time of heightened tension between the United States and China.

The United States and China have a profoundly important and complex diplomatic, economic, and strategic bilateral relationship. Tensions and competitions have increased. The U.S. has deep concerns with China over such issues as trade, protection of intellectual property, theft of trade secrets, and human rights. Those issues must be dealt with forthrightly. But the relationship also holds opportunities for expanded cooperation and collaboration. Based on all my years of government experience, I firmly believe that a stable, peaceful and mutually respectful relationship between the U.S. and China is critical not just for the benefit of our own two countries but for the entire world.

While there is a legitimate concern about the threat of Chinese espionage, the method the U.S. Justice Department has adapted through efforts such as the "China Initiative" results in unacceptable damage to the lives of innocent Chinese Americans and, if left uncorrected, will likely harm vital American economic and national security interests.

As U.S.-China relations have become more tense and as fears about China's illicit activities have grown, there is increasing anecdotal evidence of racial profiling and discrimination against Chinese American scientists and engineers. Recently a Congressional Oversight investigation<sup>1</sup> and a roundtable entitled "Researching while Chinese American: Ethnic Profiling, Chinese American Scientists and a New American Brain Drain"<sup>2</sup> explored this topic.

Committee of 100's concern is that anti-*China* rhetoric has increasingly morphed into anti-*Chinese* rhetoric, which then adversely affects some six million innocent and law-abiding Chinese Americans. We must never let our national competition with China sink into racial profiling and discrimination against any race or ethnicity. As the title of this White Paper suggests, this "New Red Scare" resembles the painful history of the Red Scare and McCarthyism of the 1950's. Look no further than the story of Qian Xuesen, a rocket scientist and physicist who immigrated to the U.S. and made significant contributions to help America win World War II. After the war when Qian returned to Caltech, he was accused of being a Communist sympathizer and spy for China but never officially charged with any crime. The innuendo and accusations effectively ended his career, and disgusted with his treatment, he returned to China in 1955 to help develop China's nuclear weapons program and to become the "Father of Chinese Rocketry."<sup>3</sup> The U.S., driven by fear and hysteria, had created such a hostile culture for Qian and others that he and others were driven away from our country. The Secretary of the Navy at the time said, "It was the stupidest thing this country ever did. He was no more a Communist than I was – and we forced him to go."<sup>4</sup>

Another lesson learned from the Red Scare and McCarthyism of the 1950s is from former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. McNamara believed that one lesson from the Vietnam War is that the U.S. "misjudged then — as we have since — the geopolitical intentions of our adversaries."<sup>5</sup> He blamed the purge of American government experts in Asian affairs during the "McCarthy hysteria of the 1950s" as one reason for this grave strategic mistake that ultimately cost hundreds of thousands of American and Vietnamese lives.<sup>6</sup>

Today, the U.S. may be on the verge of repeating these same tragic errors, harming the individual lives of certain Chinese Americans but also damaging U.S. national and economic security.

Many Chinese American scientists and academics feel increasingly unwelcome.<sup>7 8 9</sup> Yet these may be among the very people best equipped to ensure America remains at the forefront of global science and technology and to foster understanding and peaceful collaboration between the U.S. and China. Moreover, the perception that such racial discrimination exists will inevitably make America seem a less attractive place for potential immigrants of all backgrounds from all corners of the world, not just those from China.

Committee of 100 sponsored and supported this important study being released today because this research is wholly consistent with both of Committee of 100's missions for the past three decades – to enhance equal opportunity for Chinese Americans to engage in all aspects of American society, free of racial or national origin discrimination, and to improve mutual understanding in the U.S.-China relationship.

Committee of 100 believes strongly that immigration into the U.S. from places like China is essential for America's continued moral leadership and its leadership in science and technology. As Americans, we must therefore continue to make all people feel welcome here and to embrace our nation's historic diversity as one of our unique strengths.

I hope you find the issues discussed in this white paper informative and thought provoking. I would like to close with this wise observation that sums up the importance of our diversity in America derived from the constant influx of people from around the world:

*We create the future, and the world follows us into tomorrow. Thanks to each wave of new arrivals to this land of opportunity, we're a nation forever young, forever bursting with energy and new ideas, and always on the cutting edge, always leading the world to the next frontier. This quality is vital to our future as a nation. If we ever closed the door to new Americans, our leadership in the world would soon be lost.*

President Ronald Reagan

--GARY F. LOCKE

<sup>1</sup> "Raskin and Chu Launch Investigation into NIH and FBI Probes of Chinese Scientists," *House Oversight Committee*, February 20, 2020, <https://oversight.house.gov/news/press-releases/raskin-and-chu-launch-investigation-into-nih-and-fbi-probes-of-chinese>

<sup>2</sup> "House Oversight Committee, Roundtable Led By Reps. Raskin And Chu Hears About Effects Of Ethnic Profiling Against Chinese American Scientists," June 30, 2021, <https://raskin.house.gov/2021/6/roundtable-led-by-reps-raskin-and-chu-hears-about-effects-of-ethnic-profiling-against-chinese-american-scientists>

<sup>3</sup> Chang, Iris. *Thread of the Silkworm*. New York, NY: Basic Books, 1995. Print.

<sup>4</sup> Chang, Iris. *Thread of the Silkworm*. Page 200. New York, NY: Basic Books, 1995. Print.

<sup>5</sup> McNamara, Robert S, and Brian VanDeMark. *In Retrospect: The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam*. , 1995. Page 321. Print.

<sup>6</sup> McNamara, Robert S, and Brian VanDeMark. *In Retrospect: The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam*. , Page 32. 1995. Print.

<sup>7</sup> Peter Waldman, "Anti-Asian Atmosphere Chills Chinese Scientists Working in the U.S.," *Bloomberg Businessweek*, April 26, 2021, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-04-26/anti-asian-atmosphere-chills-chinese-scientists-working-in-u-s>

<sup>8</sup> Jeffery Mervis, "Fifty-four scientists have lost their jobs as a result of NIH probe into foreign ties," *Science Magazine*, June 12, 2020, <https://www.science.org/news/2020/06/fifty-four-scientists-have-lost-their-jobs-result-nih-probe-foreign-ties>

<sup>9</sup> Peter Waldman, "The U.S. Is Purging Chinese Cancer Researchers From Top Institutions," *Bloomberg Businessweek*, June 13, 2019, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2019-06-13/the-u-s-is-purging-chinese-americans-from-top-cancer-research>