

Newspaper clipping (Home Ministry)
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Home Ministry

(Id only to Army + Navy
as official Criminal Agency)

HOME MINISTRY SET TO DISSOLVE DEC. 31

Diet Passes Law to Abolish
One of the Most Vicious
Oppression Agencies

"Passage by the Diet of the law abolishing the Home Ministry December 8 has sounded the death knell of what was once one of the most vicious instruments of Japanese oppression," a SCAP representative said. The law orders dissolution of the Ministry next December 31 and the transfer of essential residual functions to other Government agencies.

"Next to the War and Navy Ministries, the Ministry of Home Affairs was the most powerful arm of Government in Japan," the SCAP official said. "Through its regulation and control of State Shinto, local government, and police, the Home Ministry had directed the lives of the masses of the Japanese people, and had kept them in chains for many decades."

A bill making the Japanese police force autonomous, taking it out of the jurisdiction of the Home Ministry, passed the Diet Tuesday. This bill also drastically limits the national authority of the police force, which will operate almost exclusively on the prefectural and local levels.

The Public Works Bureau, which worked out land reclamation and construction in rivers and harbors, was combined with the War Rehabilitation Bureau into a Construction Board, which will be attached to the Prime Minister's Office.

Administrative handling of elections, formerly the charge of the Home Ministry, was turned over to the National Election Management Commission, with passage of a Diet bill setting up such an agency.

A Local Finance Commission was established as a study group to plan an agency to handle national Government affairs relating to local taxation.

Other miscellaneous duties of the Ministry, centering around the relationship of local and national Governments, will be taken over by a provisional Domestic Affairs Bureau, set up by a provision of the law wiping out the Home Ministry.

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Home Ministry

(Newspaper clipping)

12 December 1947

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