

GHQ/SCAP Records(RG 331)
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PREFECTURAL REPORT ON SURVEILLANCE OF NATIONAL ELECTIONS
(House of Representatives)

25 April 47
REPORTS CONTROL SYMBOL QGS-E

1. HOKKAIDO PREFECTURE
2. Number of registered voters
(Men 897833
(Women 910159
(Total 1807992
3. Persons actually voting for House of Representatives candidates
(Men 599521
(Women 462572
(Total 1062093
4. Number persons claiming franchise but not permitted to vote
(Men 0
(Women 0
(Total 0
5. Number of surveillance teams on election day41.....
6. Number of polling places2787.....
7. Number of polling places visited592.....
8. Number of ballot counting stations290.....
9. Number of ballot counting stations visited90.....
10. All candidates' purge questionnaires available at the offices of the prefectural screening committee.
11. No additional publicity given the fact that candidates' purge questionnaires are available at Screening Committees' offices.
12. Number of seats in House of Representatives from Hokkaido:
22
 - a. Number of Candidates:
 - (1) By parties:

Social Democratic Party	:	15
Liberal Party	:	16
Democratic Party	:	6

Incl 1'

Farmers' Party	:	4
Peoples' Co-operative Party	:	6
Communist Party	:	6
Japanese Youth Party	:	1
Constitutional Party	:	2
Public Welfare Party	:	1
"New" Democratic Party	:	1
Heiwa Kosei To	:	1
Others	:	4
	SUB-TOTAL	: 63
(2) Independent candidates	:	13
	TOTAL	: 76

b. Number elected:

(1) By parties:

Social Democratic Party	:	8
Liberal Party	:	7
Democratic Party	:	3
Farmers' Party	:	3
Peoples' Co-operative Party	:	1
	SUB-TOTAL	: 22
(2) Independents	:	0
	TOTAL	: 22

c. Total number of votes cast for each party:

<u>PARTY</u>	<u>NO. OF VOTES</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE OF VOTES</u>
Social Democratic	288,078	27.2
Liberal	263,601	24.9
Democratic	135,279	12.7
Peoples' Co-operative	95,909	9.0
Communist	36,356	3.4
Others	157,549	14.8
	SUB-TOTAL: 976,772	SUB-TOTAL: 92.0
Independents :	85,321	8.0
TOTAL:	1,062,093	TOTAL: 100%

13. Women elected:

NONE

14. Number of pre-election campaign meetings held throughout prefecture by each party:

<u>PARTY</u>	<u>NO. OF MEETINGS</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
Social Democratic	8	Not available
Liberal	13	" "
Democratic	8	" "

<u>PARTY</u>	<u>NO. OF MEETINGS</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
Communist	5	Not available
Peoples' Co-operative	5	" "
	<u>39</u>	
SUB-TOTAL:		
Independents'		
Campaign meeting	0	
	<u>39</u>	
TOTAL:		

15. There were an adequate number of polling places. Situation reported QGS-D Continues.

16. Four election bulletins are enclosed.

17. Number of pre-election meetings held by MG District:

	<u>NO. OF MEETINGS</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
With Election Administration Committee:	2	10
With officials :	NONE	NONE
TOTAL :	2	10

18.a. Newsprint devoted to House of Representatives election equal to that of House of Councillors (approximately 30%). Allocation of newspaper space to candidates made on an equal basis.

b. All candidates allotted equal broadcast time. Several did not avail themselves of this privilege.

c. Posters, placards, postcards, and handbills employed throughout Hokkaido. Little, if any, increase in use of outdoor advertising was noted.

d. Military Government teams did not contribute to publicizing this election.

19. Number of reported violations:

a. Coercion, violence or threats	: Negative
b. Soliciting votes	: Negative
c. Interference with free and secret voting	: Negative
d. Interference with access to polls	: Negative
e. Privileges granted favored candidates	: Negative
f. Dishonest tabulation in reporting of votes	: Negative
g. Buying of votes	: Negative
h. Excessive expenditures	: Negative
i. Police or government officials interference of any type	: Negative

- j. Riots or other disorders : Negative
- k. Illegal disqualification of voters : Negative
- l. Violations of purge directives : Negative
- m. Use of school children in campaign : 1
(Asahigawa)

n. Others:

- (1) At approximately 1900 hours, 24 May 1947, Kaoru Mitsui, Communist Party Local Committeeman, reported to the Asahigawa Municipal Office that he had found 3 ballots for the House of Representatives Election on the Corner of 4th and 7th Avenues. Action taken by Election Administration Committee:
 Recount of all ballots.
 Increased number of watchers and officials at polls.
 Conclusion: Ballots in question did not come from the Asahigawa district.

Separate investigation by the chief of the Legal Administrative Section Asahigawa Municipal Office also agreed with the above conclusion.

Investigation by Capt H.M. Wolfe, this Headquarters, present in city at the time, revealed the following: "The three lost ballots nearly certainly have no relation to the discrepancy in counting of ballots which made Kleine school apparently short 161 ballots.

The total number of ballots counted and accounted for at the time of distribution, after recounting, and on 26 April following election counting is identical and correct.

I do not believe that the 3 ballots found on the street are any of those in the Asahigawa allotment."

1st Lt Wm C Sibert, OIC Surveillance team #1 at Asahigawa, also reported that recount of ballots by Election Administration Committee disclosed no discrepancy.

News article appearing in the Hokkaido Shinbun 26 April 1947. (translated below) does not state all of the circumstances brought out by the investigation and was probably obtained from an unreliable source.

On the evening of the 24th, Mr. Kaoru MITSUI, member of the communist local committee, picked up ballots for the House of Representatives on Heiwa Street, 4th Street 7th Avenue, Asahigawa and brought them to the Electoral Administration Committee, which in turn held an assembly on the 25th to discuss what attitude the Communist Party has in regard to this event and

and decided to deliver its decision to the concerned authorities. In view of the great importance of the case, in the coming election of the House of Representatives, the committee will keep watch on every counting office and make inquiries and if the case requires, the committee will investigate the persons responsible.

The following is the statement made by the Electoral Administration Committee: "Upon the protest that the ballots were picked up in the street, we informed the judicial officers about it. Our ballots were counted in the presence of the judicial officers and the Committees, and as a result it was made clear that the number of ballots distributed to our committee was not short. Therefore the election was held as scheduled. But guards were increased to keep constant in the voting so that other ballots of any kind will not get mixed with the legal ones. As to the source of the cards, it is being investigated by the judicial officers.

Mr. EBINA, prosecutor of the Asahikawa District Court, said as follows: "About 9:00 p.m. 24th, I was informed that the ballots for the election of the House of Representatives were picked up in the street. Immediately, policemen of the Asahikawa Police Station assumed activities to investigate the source of the cards. The cards are recognized as genuine ones. But because of the indistrict stamp, whether the cards were brought from another district or are those of this city cannot be made clear until opening the ballots on the 26th. Also it was learned that the number of the ballots was lacking in the 8th balloting station. But it was due to the fact that the cards were distributed insufficiently, and it seems this does not have any relation with the case.

- (2) ABASHIRI sub-prefecture teams reported three (3) instances of failure to post candidates names at polling stations.
 - (3) No further violations of election laws reported.
20. Above violations reported to the Japanese election officials only. Team officers did not deem violations sufficiently serious warrant SCAP notification.
21. Military Government teams comments and evaluations:
- a. All (41) election surveillance teams reported that there was no criticism voiced in regard to the activities of the Occupation Forces.
 - b. Co-operation of all (272) election administration committees with Military Government surveillance teams remains excellent. Functioning and efficiency of all committees continues to improve. Committees take prompt action on reported election violations, but in some instances, have been

reluctant to assert their authority in the presence of Japanese Government officials.

c. Listed below is a summary of team suggestions for improving future elections:

(1) Six (6) teams advocated introduction of printed (Australian) ballot. Chief objections to present method:

- (a) Causes invalid ballots
- (b) Enables voter to enter name(s) of people who are not candidates
- (c) Permits facetious comments

(2) Greater time intervals between elections. One team commented thus:

"The fact that there were four elections within a period of twenty days..... interest in the individual elections was decreased. By holding elections so frequently in areas where access to polls is poor, the average voter will decide on which days he will go to the polls and which days he will not, thus eliminating a certain percentage of registered voters on each election day."

(3) Teach election procedures in schools.

(4) Clarify and/or simplify Japanese election laws. One team reported that Japanese were prone to interpret election laws literally.

d. Other suggestions in regard to elections:

(1) Many "Nisei" interpreters are not familiar with election terms. Printing of American-Japanese guide containing the more common terms was suggested.

(2) Preparation of more comprehensive forms and check sheets for use by teams. Example: Nearly all teams reported that they experienced difficulty translating the word, "minutes" used in the "Polling" and "Ballot Counting" check lists.

HEADQUARTERS
HOKKAIDO MILITARY GOVERNMENT DISTRICT
APO 928

Report Control Symbol QGS-D

28 April 1947

PREFECTURAL REPORT ON SURVEILLANCE OF NATIONAL ELECTIONS
House of Councillors 20 April 1947

1. HOKKAIDO PREFECTURE
2. Number of registered voters
(Men : 894,966
(Women: 907,542
(Total: 1,802,508
3. Persons actually voting for House
of Councillors candidates
(Men : 519,643
(Women: 389,497
(Total: 909,140
4. Persons claiming franchise but not
permitted to vote NONE
5. Number of surveillance teams on
election day 42
6. Number of polling places 2787
7. Number of polling places visited 587
8. Number of ballot counting stations 298
9. Number of ballot counting stations
visited 96
10. All candidates questionnaires are available at the offices
of the Hokkaido Screening Committee.
11. No additional publicity given the fact that candidates
purge questionnaires are available at Election Administra-
tion Committee's offices and at Screening Committee's
offices.
12. Number of seats in House of Councillors from this pre-
fecture (excl. of National Constituency seats) 8
 - a. Number of candidates by parties:
(excl. of National Constituency seats)

Incl 1'

Japan Liberal Party	6
Japan Communist Party	2
Japan Social Democratic Party	3
Democratic Party	1
Peoples' Cooperative Party	$\frac{1}{2}$
	13

b. Number of independent candidates:
(excl. of National Constituency seats)

	$\frac{6}{19}$
TOTAL	19

c. Number actually elected by parties
(excl. of National Constituency seats)

Japan Liberal Party	2
Japan Communist Party	0
Japan Social Democratic Party	2
Democratic Party	0
Peoples' Cooperative Party	$\frac{0}{4}$
SUB-TOTAL	4

d. Number of Independents elected:
(excl. of National Constituency seats) 4

TOTAL 8

e. Total number of votes cast for each party:
(excl. of National Constituency seats)

Japan Liberal Party	267,547
Japan Communist Party	28,205
Japan Social Democratic Party	175,816
Democratic Party	24,030
Peoples' Cooperative Party	<u>38,094</u>
SUB-TOTAL	533,692

f. Total number of votes cast for
Independents (excl. of National
Constituency seats) 292,417

Total number of valid votes cast	826,109
Total number of invalid votes cast	<u>83,031</u>
Total number of valid and invalid votes cast	909,140

13. Women elected NONE

14. Number of pre-election campaign meetings held through-
out prefecture:

a. By parties:

Japan Liberal Party	19
Japan Communist Party	26
Japan Social Democratic Party	14
Democratic Party	21
Peoples' Cooperative Party	8

b. Independents		$\frac{0}{88}$
	TOTAL	

15. All surveillance teams reported an adequate number of polling places. However, team officers in the sub-prefectures of RUMOE, KAMIKAWA, SOYA, reported that polling stations were not centrally located.

16. Eight (8) election bulletins are enclosed. (Four (4) national. Four (4) local)

17. Number of pre-election meetings held by MG team:

	<u>No. Meetings</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
With Election Administration Committee	2	8
With Officials	1	20

18. a. Approximately 30% of newsprint devoted exclusively to the national election. The chairman of the Hokkaido Election Administration Committee, JINPEI MURAKAMI, reported that all newspapers were instructed to allot equal space to all candidates. Newspapers cooperated fully, but all candidates did not exercise this privilege. Team officers reported adequate newspaper publicity throughout the entire island.

b. All candidates allotted equal broadcast time, but again, many candidates did not avail themselves of this prerogative.

c. None of the (42) election surveillance teams reported any increase in the use of placards, posters, post cards and hand bills.

19. Number of reported violations:

a. Coercion, violence or threats	Negative
b. Soliciting votes	Negative
c. Interference with free and secret voting	Negative
d. Interference with access to polls	Negative
e. Privileges granted favored candidates	Negative
f. Dishonest tabulation in reporting votes	Negative

- | | | |
|----|---|---------------|
| g. | Buying of votes | Negative |
| h. | Excessive expenditures | Negative |
| i. | Police or government officials interference of any kind | Negative |
| j. | Riots or other disorders | Negative |
| k. | Illegal disqualification of voters | Negative |
| l. | Violations of purge directives | Negative |
| m. | Use of school children in campaign in Sapporo reported. This was immediately corrected by the EAC. | One violation |
| n. | Others | |
| | RUMOE sub-prefecture, one ballot box not sealed as specified by law. Deficiency corrected by local EAC. | |

20. Above violations reported to the Japanese officials only. Team officers did not deem violations sufficiently serious to warrant SCAP notification.

21. Military Government teams comments and evaluations:

- a. All (42) election surveillance teams reported that there was no criticism in regard to the activities of the Occupation Forces.
- b. Reports from team officers highly commended the efficiency and excellent cooperation demonstrated by the various (272) local election administration committees. In a few instances it was reported that committee members and clerks did not have a full grasp of election laws and procedures. However, improvement is noted with each election. Local EAC clerks are employed as team "guides" and have proven invaluable by providing teams with maps and information showing accessibility of polls, road and stream conditions, climatic changes, etc.
- c. Listed below is a summary of team suggestions for improving future elections.
 - (1) Avoid scheduling elections and ballot counting on Sundays, holidays, etc (Easter, Army Day)
 - (2) Teams covering rural areas reported that even though there were an adequate number of polls the location was often unsuitable.
 - (3) Three teams suggested that future elections be separated by more than five (5) days.
 - (4) Introduction of the printed (Australian) ballot.

(5) Elections should not be scheduled at the height of the herring season.

(6) Elimination of election laws that specifically curb campaign activity.

d. Other suggestions in regard to the elections: NONE