

ITEM 6 Ashida Considers Democratic-Liberal Participation - Jimmin - 13 Apr 48.
 Translator: B. Ishibashi. (VM)

Full Translation:

412-4
 A lecture meeting on the people's reconstruction movement was held at 1500 hours, 11 April, under the sponsorship of certain members of the eastern division of the Democratic Party. Premier ASHIDA attended the meeting and delivered a speech entitled, "I Appeal to the People". A striking contrast was noted between his opinion on the Democratic-Liberal Party's participation in the Cabinet and the opinion revealed by Chairman KATAYAMA of the Socialist Party while travelling by train to TAKAOKA. The following points were stressed in the Premier's speech:

- (1) The Government plans to increase the present food ration from 2.5 Go to 2.8 Go.
- (2) The Bank of Japan note issue has almost ceased to increase since December.
- (3) Production of materials is only 40 percent of the 1937 level. Goods must be imported from abroad.
- (4) The Diet cannot be dissolved now with so many pressing matters awaiting discharge. However, as the situation changes in the future, if it becomes clear that the people are absolutely opposed to the Government I believe it is only natural from the viewpoint of political morals that the Diet should be dissolved and the people's will respected.
- (5) It is almost impossible to carry the nation through the crisis unless powerful measures are enforced by a cabinet in which the four major parties participate. If the Democratic-Liberal Party makes up its mind to co-operate with this cabinet, I will readily welcome their co-operation.

ITEM 11 Katayama Opposes Democratic-Liberals in Cabinet - Jimmin - 13 Apr 48.
 Translator: B. Ishibashi. (VM)

Full Translation:

412-4
 (TOYAMA) - Chairman KATAYAMA of the Socialist Party, on his stumping tour of the country, arrived in TAKAOKA Shi, TOYAMA Ken, at 1300 hours, 11 April. In an interview with the press enroute he revealed the following views:

"Although the Katayama Cabinet seems to have been unpopular with the people, its policies were right and natural one designed to bring the nation through the crisis. It is rumored in some quarters that the Diet will be dissolved in the near future. However, the Ashida cabinet has before it a number of important problems such as the purification of political parties, revision of prices, administrative readjustment, and tax reform. It must settle these before the Diet is dissolved. Thus, the present cabinet is entrusted with an important mission.

I am opposed to the idea of forming a national coalition cabinet to include the conservative Democratic-Liberals. The Ashida Cabinet is significant in that it is a coalition of the three progressive parties. From this viewpoint, also, I believe that there will be no modification unless the so-called modified capitalism of the Democratic Party approaches socialism as a matter of course.

A possible adverse revision of the Labor Union Law is being discussed in connection with the confusion brought about by the labor offensives. The Socialist Party has already decided to effect such revisions of labor regulations as would not hinder sound union movement. The revision will not prove to be a yoke on the labor union movement.

In regard to the projected reform of the Election Law, we should support public management of elections to reduce election expenses and we should adopt the unrestricted plural-entry ballot system. In view of the fact that our foreign relations are now taking a turn for the better, I sincerely ask the people to bear the hardships and rise for the sake of national reconstruction.

ITEM 1 Ex-Liberal Purgee in Political Donation Case - Jimmin - 10 Apr 48
Translator: T. Fukizawa, (DD)

Full Translation:

412.4
 In connection with the illegal transactions of politicians over the political donations now being taken up at the Diet, there has risen a rumor recently that several million yen from the Nichiro Fishery Company business funds were given to the old Liberal Party (The present Democratic-Liberal Party) through construction contractors. It is said that former Liberal Party Chief Secretary KONO, Ichiro who was summoned as a witness by the Illegal Property Transaction Investigation Special Committee, and Upper House member and auditor of the Democratic Liberal Party, OZUMI, Kenji, president of the SUMIDA Gumi contractors, is connected with this case; and it is expected to prove to be a pretty big case.

In March, last year, the Nichiro Fishery Company, which has its main office in the Marunouchi Building, contracted the SUMIDA Gumi of YOKOSUKA Shi to build a fishing harbor on the KURIHAMA shore, which work is still unfinished.

It is said that based on a written contract arranged between him and President OZUMI of the SUMIDA-Gumi, the then president of the Nichiro Company, KONO, Ichiro, paid out 32,000,000 yen as construction expenses from the business funds of the Nichiro Company.

Of this amount, about 5,000,000 yen was given to the Liberal Party, through KONO, as election funds. As a result, OZUMI was recognized by the party as an official Upper House candidate, and after being elected, he became auditor of the Party. Recently the SUMIDA-Gumi presented the Nichiro Company with an additional construction expenses bill for 16,000,000 yen and shocked the board of directors.

The start of the affair is as follows:

Contract Signed After Kono's Purge

In January of last year, directly before his purge, KONO, the then chief-secretary of the Liberal Party and president of the Nichiro company, invited OZUMI, who was then a YOKOSUKA Shi Municipal Assemblyman, to go on a sightseeing tour to HOKKAIDO.

Ignoring the KONOIKE-Gumi and the KIDA-Gumi, which had been the regular Nichiro Company contractors, KONO contracted OZUMI's SUMIDA-Gumi to construct the fishing harbor in KURIHAMA, which had been planned. Technically, however, KONO has no responsibility for the 32,000,000 yen contract because the contract was dated 21 Jan 47, immediately after KONO was purged. At the same time this contract was signed, 15,000,000 yen was handed over as initial payment, of which 5,000,000 yen was donated to the Liberal Party, it is rumored.

ITEM 5 Democratic Party Shaken by Parliamentary Vice-minister Issue -
Asahi - 15 Apr 48. Translator: F. Hagiwara. (TK)

Full Translation:

412.4
 To discuss the selection of parliamentary vice-ministers, the Democratic Party has held several top leader conferences without coming to a conclusion. The issue finally was left to President ASHIDA and Director-general KIMURA. Four members of both Houses including AMANO, Hisashi were unofficially decided on Tuesday. However, opinion within the party was strongly against this decision.

At both yesterday's directors' meeting and executive meeting, detailed explanation of the parliamentary vice-ministership selection by the top leaders was demanded on the ground that the selection seemed to have been conducted in a very confused atmosphere. There were many who were discontented with the present selection.

The disaffected elements on the parliamentary vice-ministership issue will not, it is observed, immediately attempt to secede from the party. However, the case may come to the fore hereafter with the outlet for dissatisfaction steaming from a different problem. Thus the Democratic Party is said to have increased the danger of future party disturbances.

At yesterday's directors' meeting, the Democratic Party decided to hold an extraordinary convention of the party on 4 and 5 May at the Ueno Seiyoken Restaurant.

ITEM 11. Attitude of Democratic Liberal Party towards Ashida Cabinet -
Yukan Miyako - 15 Apr 48. Translator: K. Murakami. (TK)

4124
 Summary:

Statement by Secretary-general Y.M. SAKI, Takeshi:

"The present instability of the political situation comes from the fact that the difference of numerical strength between the government and non-government parties is so small that the Government is unable to lead the National Diet by itself. The Government has no power and passion to tide over the difficult situation. The cancellation of interest payment on war bonds shows the defectiveness of the three-party policy agreement. Finance Minister KITAMURA stated that the payment of interest on war bonds would be cancelled after May. We would, however, be against such bad measures.

"In order to increase the people's confidence in the Government, it says with tongue in cheek that a good phenomenon is seen for checking future progress of inflation: that the Bank of Japan's note issue does not show any progress for the present. However, it is very dangerous that the Government should be satisfied with this temporary phenomenon without taking a radical inflation policy. Now that the wage standard of labor is going to be increased, the present stabilized condition of circulation will never last until this autumn.

"The general unification of conservative fronts, which our party advocated last autumn, seemed to have been let off as the Democratic Liberal Party was formed. However, we are ready to co-operate with the Democrats and other conservatives at any time. The tendency toward unification of the conservative front is now prevailing throughout the country, especially in such prefectures as OSAKA, HYOGO, YAMAGUCHI, CHIBA, SAITAMA, AOMORI, and NIIGATA. At the same time, we have already formed a solid

combination with the opposition parties headed by the Reform Socialist Party, Farmers Party, and the First Diet Members Club. Understanding has already been made with them on such issues as tax, vice-president, and revision of the election law.

"With the object of forming unified national conservative front, our party has mobilized all its members to stumping. With the support of public opinion, we will put pressure upon the Ashida Cabinet. Although no party decision has yet been made on whether we should present a non-confidence vote to the cabinet or demand Diet dissolution in the near future, we will make every possible effort to hasten the resignation of the present Government."

ITEM 6. Shizuoka D-L Faction Holds Overwhelming Majority in Prefectural
Assembly - Mainichi (Shizuoka Edition) - 14 Apr 48. Translator:
T. Fukawa. (FST)

41214
 Full Translation:

Since the formation of the Democratic Liberal Party in TOKYO, the Shizuoka Prefectural Chapter of the Liberal Party has also become active. On 12 April, at the Mizuguchiya Hotel in OKITSU Machi, a round-table conference of the prefectural assemblymen of the Liberal Party was held. At this conference, the application of seven members of the SHINSEIKAI (New Politics Council) - FURUGORI, ONO, OGUCHI, HIRAKAWA, SUZUKI (Tei), IWASAKI (Kame), and TSUKAGUCHI-- and three members of the Democratic Party -- MOTOSUGI, SAKAI, and SUZUKI -- to join the party was acted upon.

In addition, Liberal SANO, Toichi was elected in the by-election for prefectural assemblyman from IBARA Gun. Consequently, the party has now jumped to first place, holding an overwhelming majority of 36 seats. Further, with one or two more members from the SHINSEIKAI and the Peoples Co-operative Party expected to join it, it may be said that the party has succeeded in organizing an overwhelming force of approximately 40 out of the total 63 members. Therefore, it is observed that in the Prefectural Assembly hereafter, the Liberals will be the target of the violent drive of the Socialists and the Peoples Co-operatives to cut their majority down and that a lively political fight will develop.

The ceremony launching the Shizuoka Chapter of the Democratic Liberal Party is scheduled to be held the first part of next month.

ITEM 1 Democratic Party's Attitude toward New Phase of Politics - Tokyo
Tomin - 14 Apr 48. Translator: N. Tachibana. (RL)

4/24
Summary:

The following questions and answers were exchanged with Chief Secretary KIMURA of the Democratic Party:

Q: How will the Democratic Party adjust to the various trends of the government parties?

A: The three government parties will make arrangements to prepare for the Diet sessions at delegates' conferences and liaison meetings. We intend to avoid postponing sessions due to the lack of a quorum. That is the only way to check the opposition's offensive.

Q: How will the three-party agreement on policies be materialized?

A: The three parties' principles and claims have been worked into the policy agreement. There are still a few questions left to be solved in the future. The Socialist and Democratic parties have expressed different opinions on the cancellation of interest payment on war bonds. The nationalization of banking organs will be determined after asking the opinions of experts. There is also a difference of opinion between the Socialists and Democrats on the question of land reform.

Q: How will the Democratic Party support the Ashida cabinet, and have it enforce Democrat policies?

A: Whether or not the government parties give full support to the Ashida cabinet will be manifested during deliberations on the budget. The parties will set up a committee to complete preparations for the discussions on the budget compilation question during the Diet recess. Under a coalition regime, it is difficult for government parties to push their own policies. Our modified capitalism is best fitted to the present phase of JAPAN's reconstruction.

Q: How will opposition to the readjustment of enterprises, the policy for industrial concentration, and the nationalization of important industries be adjusted?

A: It is not true that smaller enterprises will be sacrificed for enterprise readjustment. The state should protect even small enterprises since they are important cogs in our reconstruction. The nationalization of important industries should be carefully launched with the public's understanding.

Q: What preparations will be made to import foreign capital?

A: The basic prerequisite is to stop political strifes, and lead the labor movements toward production increase. The entire population should work to revive production.

Q: Will a general election be necessary?

A: Not for some time. We should avoid dissolving the Diet at the present stage, where the most important factor is increased production.

4/24
ITEM 5 Democratic Liberal Leaders Talk on Non-confidence Issue - Asahi -
17 Apr 48. Translator: F. Hagiwara. (TK)

Full Translation:

(OSAKA)--The Democratic-Liberal leaders including SHIDEHARA, SAITO, TANAKA, and HOSHIJIMA who visited OSAKA conducted informal talks with financial leaders at the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry at 1100 hours yesterday. They stated in a press conference as follows:

"A nonconfidence proposal against the Ashida Cabinet is now in the air. However, the issue should not be brought up hastily, unless sufficient consideration can be given it. We consider that the time is not yet ripe. A greater part of the Diet members do not wish dissolution of the Diet. However, in order to establish parliamentary politics, the dissolution should be carried out. We believe that the people will agree to this step when they apprehend its meaning clearly."

ITEM 1 Democratic-Liberals to Attack Political Vacuum - Nihon Keizai -
21 Apr 48. Translator: B. Ishibashi (DD).

412.4

Full Translation:

The Democratic-Liberal Party held a special executives' meeting at its party headquarters at 1000 hours on 20 April. Present were more than 10 party executives staying in TOKYO, including President YOSHIDA, Adviser UHARA and Chief Secretary YAMAZAKI. Opinion was exchanged in regard to the formation of various local chapters of the newly established party and reports on the living conditions of the people.

The meeting then made arrangements as to the party's policy to be taken during the Diet session. As a result, the meeting decided to take up the following questions. The party (1) will call the present Cabinet to account for the present political vacuum created by the fact that cabinet ministers, including the premier, are away from the capital; (2) will demand the holding of a House Steering Committee meeting to obtain explanations on the Government's intentions in compiling the budget; and (3) will speed up formal deliberations by the Illegal Transactions Investigation Committee. With these questions, and after obtaining the co-operation of minor opposition parties the party will open a full-scale opposition offensive.

Chief Secretary YAMAZAKI stated: "From the premier's administrative speech in the Diet to his recent statement made at OSAKA the present cabinet has revealed in short that it has no policy. The premier always points to the pegged-down inflation, but this situation is merely a result of business management since last year.

"The industrial world continues to be in a most critical condition. Cabinet opinion is divided on such important questions as labor, the suspension of interest payments on war bonds and administrative readjustment. The present cabinet not only betrays its lack of policy but also its weakness peculiar to a coalition cabinet based on different principles and policies. What leaves a bitter taste in our mouths is the fact that it is using the importation of foreign capital as a political tool by explaining to the people that this will check inflation, and better their livelihood."

ITEM 1 Fusion of Conservatives Is Impossible--Ashida Nihon Keizai - 26 Apr
48. Translator: T. Fukushima. (JJY)

412.4

Full Translation:

Merger of the Democratic Party and the Democratic Liberal Party is unthinkable as long as the latter is dominated by veteran reactionaries, Premier ASHIDA, Mitoshi, told a press conference yesterday at SHIKANUMACHI, TOCHIGI Ken, where the local convention of his party is in session. The replies of the Premier to the queries of the newsmen follow:

Q--How about the progress of administrative readjustment and abolition of local government agencies?

A--As readjustment plans for each ministry have been nearly drawn up, they will be carried out shortly. The Government cannot abolish all its local branches at one time, but will start their disposal at once, beginning with the most superfluous ones.

Q--What is your stand on revision of labor laws?

A--I am of the same opinion as State Minister NISHIO. If the labor movement goes too far in the future, there will be no alternative but to revise the present labor laws. In such a case, I believe Labor Minister KATO will change his stand.

Q--What are the prospects of increasing the rice ration?

A--I want to realize it by all means, though Agriculture-Forestry Minister NAGAE considers it impossible. Since the UNITED STATES is most kindly interested in our food situation, I believe that the ration increase will be possible before this fall.

Q--It is asserted that the stability of the political situation should be sought through the merger of conservative forces instead of dissolution of the Diet. What do you think of this?

A--The Democrats and the Democratic Liberals are pitted against each other since their policies are not similar. They cannot be fused together so easily as is supposed. The Democratic Liberal Party is considered to be reactionary by foreign observers and it is controlled by 70-year-olds. Amalgamation is unthinkable until ascendancy in the party shifts to the hands of younger members,

ITEM 5 Gifu Chapter of DL Party in Staff Trouble - Provincial Paper: Gifu Times (Gifu) - 17 Apr 48. Translator: T. Fukawa (DD)

412-4
Full Translation:

The Gifu Prefectural Chapter of the Democratic-Liberal Party, organized on 10 April, has run into difficulty regarding the election of the chapter's staffmembers. At the inauguration ceremony, NIWA was elected Chapter Chairman, GOTO Vice Chairman and TANAKA Chief-Secretary. These three were to select the rest of the staff.

The former Democratic Party, however, claimed that the bulk of the Prefectural Administration Club was to enter the chapter after the inaugural ceremony, so the former Liberal Party could not effectuate the election on that day and had been awaiting the participation of the Prefectural Administration Club.

One week passed since the opening ceremony, and the only former Democratic Party members to participate were Diet member GOTO, Prefectural Assemblymen MUTO and ASAI, and TSUKADA, Hisashi. Thus, GOTO's hope for the attendance of most of the Administration Club at the election has fallen.

On the other hand, for fear that the new chapter may have difficulty in developing if the election is postponed, the former Liberal Party conferred with Chief-Secretary TANAKA and decided to protest to Vice-Chairman GOTO about the election matter, and conduct the election as soon as possible. Since the former Liberals had withdrawn their plans to have MUTO elected vice-chairman and agreed on GOTO for the post with the definite promise that the bulk of the Prefectural Administration Club would participate. The attitude of the party's younger members has become acute, and GOTO's responsibility may be called to account. At the same time, since, contrary to expectations, the new chapter has taken on political-boss characteristics, a tendency toward reforming the chapter organization by ousting boss-like members has appeared among the reform factions led by the Liberal Club.

From the above, it is evident that the Gifu Prefectural Chapter of the Democratic-Liberal Party will inevitably encounter many difficulties in the future.

ITEM 8 D-L Party May Become First in Tochigi - Mainichi (Tochigi Edition) - 22 Apr 48. Translator: A. Kido. (DD)

412-8
Extracts:

An officers' meeting to decide whether or not to join the new party, was held by the Tochigi Prefectural Chapter of the Democratic Party at 1400 hours, 20 April. Under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary OKAWA, each of the County and City sub-chapters was asked to submit their respective resolutions regarding the new party issue. However, the bolting of Upper House member OSHIMA, Sadayoshi, OKADA, Kikuji and 20 members of the Prefectural Assembly has been decided on. Among those who have not yet decided what to do are OSHIMA, Kiichiro, KODAIRA, Tokiichiro (SHIONOYA), and ODAIRA, Yuzaburo (HACA).

On this day, at Prefectural Assemblyman ODAIRA's request, Governor KODAIRA was also present at the meeting. The Governor stated as follows, in approval of the new conservative party.

"I too am convinced that the time will come for giant merger of the conservative camp. Yet, owing to the surrounding circumstances and, especially, being an administrative official of the present Government, I cannot assume too clear an attitude. The Democratic Party will split in two parties, but in the management of the prefectural administration, I ask your co-operation."

With the split of the Prefectural Chapter of the Democratic party, the Democratic-Liberal Party will become at a bound the prefecture's number one party. Including Liberal Diet member YAMAGUCHI it will have a big household of three Lower House, two Upper House, and 26 Prefectural Assembly members. The bolting group met after the officers' meeting and at once conferred on plans for the formation of the new party, deciding on the dissolution of the Democratic Party Office for the time being. The remaining group, being obliged to set up a new office, is presently making plans under Diet Member YANO. In the other hand, a section of the bolting group has proposed the formation of a Democratic Club (tentative) as a friendship club of the Conservative Camp, which, however, has not yet been taken up in concrete terms.

ITEM 3 Yoshida Declares Conservative Amalgamation Is False Rumor - Mainichi -
25 Apr 48. Translator: J. Ide. (TK)

4124
 Full Translation:

(AOMORI)--President YOSHIDA of the Liberal-Democratic Party, who attended the inaugural rally of its Aomori chapter yesterday, discussed in a press conference the conservative amalgamation, which has come to the fore with the resumption of the Diet close at hand, and opposition offensive in the coming session.

He declared:

On conservative amalgamation: "Some circles have misjudged my talk with Upper House Speaker MATSUDAIRA immediately after he met Premier ASHIDA. The public judgment that this will pave the way for conservative amalgamation and a coalition cabinet is utterly a groundless rumor. I talked with MATSUDAIRA on non-political affairs. Our attitude was clarified in the answer to Premier ASHIDA at the time of his cabinet formation. He need not sound out our attitude toward these two problems. Our condition to these problems is that President ASHIDA and the Democratic Party shall concede to us unconditionally. Beautiful names such as national salvation must not be made a political tool to confuse the common people. I am sure that the best measure under present conditions is to form a single-party and powerful cabinet at all costs."

On the future of present cabinet: "The key to the question of how long the present Cabinet will survive depends upon the problem of to what extent the Democratic Party will concede to the left-wing Socialists by cancelling its platforms. If the party should not concede, the present Cabinet will collapse sooner or later. If it should concede, the present Cabinet will survive for a certain period, though it will remain powerless. The weak point of the Democratic Party lies in the fact that it will not be able to develop its influence merely by resorting to partisan tactics."

On the opposition offensive: "As a big party, we do not want political mud-slinging with the Government. However, we cannot overlook maladministration, if it should continue. Under certain circumstances, we may put a nonconfidence vote on the agenda. As far as my information and judgment are concerned, the rumor that objective circumstances may not permit a general election are utterly groundless. Frankly speaking, however, we don't think that now is the best time for a general election, in view of various problems confronting our country."

ITEM 2 Yamaguchi Democrats to Strengthen Position - Provincial Paper:
Bocho (Yamaguchi) - 17 Apr 48. Translator: F. Ota. (DD)

4124
 Full Translation:

With the formation of the Democratic-Liberal Chapter and growing indications of a Diet dissolution, what the Democratic Party will decide to do has become the focus of attention in YAMAGUCHI Ken political circles.

When the Democratic Cabinet was formed, KURUSU endeavored repeatedly but in vain to persuade Representative UKEDA into joining the party. At present, AKITA, Mitsukazu of SHIMONOSEKI and Mayor HASEGAWA of TOKUYAMA Shi are being sounded, but it is not yet clear as to how far the negotiations have developed.

On the other hand, Vice-governor AOYAGI, who aspires to run in the next Lower House election, went to TOKYO at KURUSU's invitation early this spring, when it seemed that the Diet would be dissolved, and it was thought that he would join the Democratic Party. After returning to the prefecture, however, he had an interview with TSUCHIYA, Motoo, ex-chief of the Liberal Chapter, through the efforts of Prefectural Assemblyman UNO and others, and it now seemed that he would run on a Liberal ticket.

However, another prospect exists that he will enter the Democratic Party as was first expected in accordance with the development of the situation, as it is safer for him to avoid possible competition with SHIGETOMI, Taku in a Democratic Liberal territory.

Anyway, the Democratic Party, which is presently in power, will not be satisfied with only Councillor KURUSU, but will start a strong move to extend its territory.

ITEM 6 Japan's Democratization Will Take a Generation Says Saito -
Provincial Paper: Kobe Shimbun(Kobe) - 18 Apr 48. Translator:
T. Fukawa. (DD)

4/24

Full Translation:

SAITO, Takao, head of the Democratic-Liberal Party's General Affairs Department came to KOBE on 17 April to be present at the inauguration mass meeting of the HYOGO Ken Chapter of the Democratic-Liberal Party. He spoke on the normal procedure of constitutional government and added, "I want you citizens to hear just what kind of an explanation the Democrats, who will soon arrive here in KOBE, will make regarding my speech."

SAITO spoke further on the following points:

(1) On the normal procedure of constitutional government we must exert every effort toward establishing the regular way for constitutional government. The present Cabinet insists that the transfer of political power from the previous Cabinet is not because of the administrative politics. But the very friction within the Democrats is an indication that differences arose over each others policies. To call the designation of ASHIDA as premier constitutional is an arbitrary mixture of the legal view that the Diet designates the premier, and the fact that the political party's decide who that person shall be. The Ashida Cabinet, which no one wants, ignores the wishes of the people, and anything that is unconstitutional disagrees with that which is democratic. A premier designation which does not represent the wishes of the people is a false one, and, therefore the present cabinet is a false cabinet.

(2) On a powerful cabinet: The idea of a coalition cabinet, which is formed in emergencies, in being accepted as if it were natural. I know from personal experience the weakness of having several captains trying to run the same ship at the same time. Today's politics is not politics, but propaganda.

(3) On prospects of JAPAN's economy: It is absolutely a lie to say that it must be the Democratic Party or else JAPAN cannot receive the UNITED STATES' generous aid. The hopeful news regarding the importation of the foreign capital is in no way because of the present cabinet, but it is solely the US's doing.

(4) On prefectural politics: HYOGO Ken's politics has two major camps, with the Socialists on one side and the MINSHU SEIJI-KAI (Democratic Politics Society) on the other. I am anxious to inject this two-major party system in national politics and effect a giant liquidation of the various political groups.

(5) On the democratization of JAPAN: I think that the democratization of JAPAN will not come until the present adults die off and the present primary school children grow up into adults and replace them. The Japanese are that much prone to unreasonable action.

ITEM 7 Miyagi Democrats Press Charges Against Ex-Democrats - Mainichi (Miyagi
Edition) - 24 Apr 48. Translator: A. Kawamura (UG).

4/24

Full Translation:

Twelve former Miyagi Democrats, including KATO, Hokichi, AIZAWA, Tomoo, KADOWAKI, Junzo, roused the ire of the Democratic Party when they turned on their former party.

Prior to the inaugural mass meeting of the Prefectural Chapter of the Democratic-Liberal Party held on 18 April, they announced a pro-Democratic-Liberal statement in a newspaper advertisement, attacked the Democratic Party as representatives of the "Miyagi Ken Democratic Party" and supported the position of Diet member HONMA, who had been ousted by the party over the Coal Mine State Control issue.

On 23 April, the Chapter proffered charges against them through the Sendai District Public Procurator's Office in the name of Chief Secretary HIRONO, on grounds that with the by-election in the second electoral district before them, they had schemed to confuse voters supporting the Democratic Party with the name of their body for purposes of furthering their own interests, and that they had violated the administrative regulations pertaining to associations, because they had not reported it as an association called the "Miyagi Ken Democratic Party", which actually does not exist.

ITEM 4 Agricultural Policies of the Democratic-Liberal Party - Magazine: Wakai Nogyo (Monthly) - Apr 48. Translator: F. Tsuneishi. (UG)

4124 Summary:

(Recently I visited Diet member MORI, Kotaro, head of the Liberal Party Agriculture and Forestry Division and vice-president of the National Farmer's Union and asked him to explain the agricultural policies of his Party).

Reporter: Recently, farmers everywhere are complaining about the foodstuffs delivery problem.

MORI: In JAPAN's present stage, delivery is essential. At least that is our Party's stand on the present food problem. The basic cause of JAPAN's belated reconstruction is the lack of industrial raw materials. We should import materials we lack and strive to increase the production of collateral materials, but unfortunately, our hands are full with the work of importing food. Decreasing the amount of food imports in order to increase the importation of raw materials can be realized only through increasing agricultural production to a self-sustaining level.

Reporter: But this cannot be realized under the present food delivery system, the low agricultural product prices and a situation where fertilizer and farm implements can be obtained only at blackmarket prices.

MORI: That is why our Party is opposed to the present food delivery system. The present system only serves to reduce the desire on the part of the farmers to increase production. A delivery system based on the yield as the standard is not sound.

Our Party advocates the adoption of a plan where the farmers are held responsible for only a certain amount of food. For instance, if this is fixed at 50 percent of the estimated harvest, a farmer will be held responsible for three bales of rice if his harvest yields six bales. If he produced eight bales, he will still deliver only three bales, and on the other hand, if he produces only five, he will still be responsible for three bales.

However, the problem is how to determine the land to be chosen as the standard from the standpoint of productivity of the soil in estimating the harvest. Under the present condition where the village bosses control the investigation organs, they are free to stoop to trickery, and the poor farmers who will not be able to obtain a sufficient amount of fertilizer will not see an increase in their yield no matter how hard they may work.

Reporter: Under your plan, the rice left over after delivery is completed can be sold freely. This will stimulate the will of the farmers to increase production. (While watching Mr MORI spout such lies, your reporter visualized a scene of capitalists, blackmarketeers and the nouveaux riches gorging on snow-white rice bought on the free market and reaping in wealth-- a delivery system remote from the poor and the workers).

Even under a delivery system based on yield, is not the price of rice the problem? Farmers will not deliver rice because the price is so low. Is this not so?

MORI: I do not think the present price is appropriate. But to increase the rice price will be advantageous only to the wealthy farmers and disadvantageous to those who are poor.

Reporter: Why is this so?

MORI: Because if the price is hiked, the poor farmers must eat their own high priced rice.

Reporter: Why? (As the reporter presses the question, MORI indignantly replies).

MORI: The capacity of the poor farmers and those who farm for only their own needs is very limited. (For the first time, this writer understood the essence of the obligatory food delivery system advocated by the Liberal Party. The capitalists and blackmarket profiteers are the ones responsible for bringing about strife between the wealthy and poor farmers over the food delivery, by keeping the price of rice at a low level.)

Reporter: Then the price of rice is not to be taken into consideration. But fertilizer and farm implements should be rationed in greater quantity, should they not?

MORI: I am aware of this, but the quality of fertilizer is poor and there is a lack of funds, and raw materials. I forgot to mention earlier, but regarding techniques, the farmers must break away from the restrictions of the fixed, bureaucratic, Nishigahara method (Method of planting--Translator) and widely adopt civilian techniques. By civilian techniques is meant the Theory of the nutrition cycle as explained by OIDO, enzymatic (fermented) fertilizer and X-rays.

(I was surprised to hear this. I, myself, had thought OIDO's influence might be widespread, and was surprised to find that it actually was.)

Reporter: A third land reform is being widely discussed. What do the Liberal Party members think of this?

MORI: The Japan Farmers Union is most impertinent. The landowners of our country are not the exploiting class that the Japan Farmers Union, the Socialist Party, and the Communist Party claim they are. To institute a third land reform is unthinkable.

(If all these things are true, land reform or democratization are unnecessary matters. If political power is in the hands of such a party, there is no hope for farmers and workers to advance in this world.)

ITEM 15 Nature of the Democratic Liberal Party (Yoshida, Shigeru) -Magazine: Saiken (Monthly) - Apr 48. Translator: W. Takashima. (UG)

412.4
Summary:

On being elected president of the newly-organized Democratic Liberal Party to which the people had been looking forward for a long time, I would like to clarify the nature of this new conservative party.

Since May last year when the Socialist cabinet was formed, the inflation, social unrest, moral decadence and corruption in public officialdom have become strikingly evident as the result of the Government's lack of policy. The Government, however, has made no attempt to reflect on this situation.

On the contrary, it has been absorbed solely in maintaining its position. Political corruption has reached the most deplorable state since the MEIJI Government. Such a condition will not be removed without the formation of a powerful, responsible single-party cabinet based, not on several minority parties, but on a party which holds a majority in both Houses.

From this point of view, we together with our comrades, planned to consolidate several parties with the same policies into one powerful party. We believe that only through such a step can our politics and economy be put on the road towards national reconstruction.

In other words, we recognize that the responsibility for the rehabilitation of our country, now facing unprecedented difficulties, lies with our new party. We must co-operate in its development, breaking all past sentimental barriers standing between us.

Now is the time to save our country from its difficulties and to give stability and hope to the people who are filled with apprehension, impatience. For this purpose, we must eradicate two factors: the prevalence of socialistic ideological ideas and the existence of the feudalistic bureaucracy camouflaged as socialism, for these are forcing the people into submission by oppressing the free display of their economic and cultural abilities and individuality.

Therefore, one of our objectives is to establish a normal social, economic life in which every person can have the free opportunity to exhibit his ability, while respecting both workers and enterpriser.

We want our national economy released from the old, militaristic and self-supporting system. We favor its speedily reorganization into a peaceful international economy.

ITEM 7 Gumma Democrats May Merge With Democratic-Liberals - Mainichi (Gumma Edition) - 28 Apr 48. Translator: K. Yasutake. (UG)

412.4
Full Translation:

With the inauguration of the Gumma prefectural chapter of the Democratic-Liberal Party scheduled for 29 April, the prefectural chapter of the Democratic Party held its general election meeting on 26 April.

SUZUKI, Kyohei (incumbent), member of the Lower House, was elected chairman; the three elected vice-chairmen are SUZUKI, Junichi (incumbent) member of the Upper House; SAKAINO, Kiyo, member of the Upper House and NAKASONE, Yasuhiro (incumbent), member of the Lower House. A movement to organize a new conservative party is in the conservative camp composed of the Democratic and the Democratic-Liberal Parties.

When the Democratic-Liberal Party was formed in TOKYO, the prefectural chapter of the Democratic Party was going to be re-organized under chairman SUZUKI, who is a member of the TAIYO Kai (Sun Club), a faction within the Democratic Party.

The prefectural political situation seems to indicate that Chairman SUZUKI does not necessarily adhere firmly to the Democratic Party but may make efforts to merge the Democratic Party with the Democratic-Liberal Party taking with him a majority of the prefectural assembly members if the latter party agrees with him. He is even regarded as having ideas about forming a new conservative party.

The indications of complying with a proposal for merger is strong within the prefectural chapter of the Democratic Party, providing the Liberals offer one. Therefore, it will not be impossible to realize a coalition between these two parties in this prefecture.

ITEM 3 Trend Towards Conservative Merger Seen In Kansai District - Tokyo
Shimbun - 26 Apr 48. Translator: F. Mitsuhashi. (DD)

417
 Summary:

When the Democratic-Liberal leaders arrived at the Kyoto Station on 14 April, reporters asked, "Will a non-confidence vote be presented to the National Assembly when it reconvenes?" and "When will the dissolution of the Assembly be demanded?" This shows that local citizens, being oppressed by the high commodity prices and heavy taxation, are dissatisfied with the control measures of the present Government and expect the Democratic-Liberal Party to remedy this situation. However, in replying to these questions, Vice-chief Secretary SAITO did not give any clear-cut answers.

On this day, the Democratic-Liberals held four speech meetings in urban and rural districts. The results of the meetings were just tolerable. SHIDEHARA explained the theory of a two party system and denounced the Ashida Cabinet. SAITO emphasized that the Ashida Cabinet was a false cabinet and the people applauded.

However, the influence of the Democratic-Liberal Party is not strong in the urban regions of the Kansai District, as these regions are in the spheres of influence of the Socialist and the Democratic Parties. Accordingly, the Democratic-Liberal Party dispatched almost all of its leaders to these regions to challenge the government parties which were scheduled to send Premier ASHIDA and many other

Cabinet ministers to these sections a few days later. On 16 April, the group of Democratic-Liberals entered OSAKA Shi and issued the following statement:

"Since it has become obvious that local citizens have no longer any confidence in the Ashida Cabinet and that they have taken interest in the Democratic-Liberal Party, we will attend the National Assembly with a serious resolution, when it reconvenes."

During the time these leaders were here, the Keihan District was under a labor offensive, arising from the strike by the National Communications Workers Union, but, the citizens in this district looked unexpectedly calm.

Merchants, Industrialists Criticize Control Methods

At a round-table conference of the leaders of various circles, which was held by the Democratic-Liberal Party at the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chairman SUFO of the Party's Political Affairs Investigation Committee explained the party's economic policy. He pointed out, in particular, measures to accumulate capital by revising the taxation system and adjusting labor relations and measures to make domestic conditions amenable to the introduction of foreign capital. He, thus, solicited the support of medium and small merchants and industrialists. In turn, the merchants and industrialists sharply criticized the present control measures.

Since the economic control in the Kansai District is more severe than in the Kanto District, their businesses are in a difficult state. They showed much more interest in economic measures than in political measures. This is probably because OSAKA is JAPAN's economic center. Their views sounded like "appeals" rather than "opinions."

The Osaka Chapter of the Democratic Party is under the control of HOSOKAWA, Yasohachi (chief of the chapter), and KITA, Narajiro, both of whom belong to the TAIYOKAI (Sun Club), which is called, "The bomb within the Democratic Party." During the change of government period, they opposed President ASHIDA and recommended YOSHIDA. When Premier ASHIDA and other ministers came to OSAKA on 19 April, they found that HOSOKAWA had provided no building for their speech meeting. In the Osaka Prefectural Assembly, Democratic assemblymen formed the FUSEI KURABU (Osaka Prefectural Administration Club) composed of Liberals and Democrats during last year's election for Governor in opposition to the Socialist Party and elected AKAMA.

The Hyogo prefectural assemblymen, who formed the MINSHU SEIJI KAI (Democratic Politics Society), are also carrying out a movement for a conservative merger. Originally, the Lower House members elected from this prefecture were 10 Democrats, five Socialists, two Liberals and one Peoples Co-operative. However, since SAITO, Takao, HARA, Kenzaburo, and OKAMI, Tsukasa, seceded from the Democratic Party, the number of Democratic Lower House members has decreased to seven and that of the Democratic-Liberals increased to five. The future development of the Democratic Politics Society, which is under the influence of SAITO, Takao, will probably cause considerable disturbance in the political field.

ITEM 15 Ishibashi Keeps Active (Kamimura, Tanichi) - Magazine: Seikai Jeep -
Apr 48. Translator: F. Tsuneishi. (UG)

429
Summary:

Two years have elapsed since HATOYAMA, just on the verge of gaining power, was purged, but has the inherent boss-like nature of the Liberal Party been removed? From external appearance, new faces make it appear as if the Party has been renovated but actually, the older members still retain their power as advisors. They cannot

fool the world so easily.

ISHIBASHI, former Finance Minister who is treated like a god by blackmarketeers and civil engineering and building contractors, is playing a big role, directing party leaders and pouring "Ishibashism" into the party. He is also spreading out into the world of enterprise, making much profit. If the Illegal Properties Transactions Investigation Committee carries out investigations, no doubt all these shady dealings within the party will be revealed.

There is an office in SURUGADAI, KANDA, with the sign, "Liberal Ideas Society" (JIYU SHISO KYOKAI). This is ISHIBASHI's office where he shows his face around 1000 hours every morning. His associates are two Diet members, Secretary SHIMAMURA Ichiro, who is also in charge of liaison with the Liberal Party, and TAKAHASHI Eikichi. The telephone is always busy, and blackmarketeers, contractors and well-dressed men, who appear to be new yen profiteers, are always coming in for a discussion with ISHIBASHI.

We do not know the text of their discussions, their plans for blackmarketing or arrangements for political party maneuvers; but whenever a political change nears this office becomes busier than ever. Not only Liberals, but many from other groups come to hear ISHIBASHI's opinions. This office was especially busy at the time ASHIDA assumed his post.

ISHIBASHI, who until recently lived in a small village in KOIWA, has spent much money on a house in SHIMOOCHIAI. His living is just as luxurious as in the days of his ministership. Other purgees are finding their fortunes declining but not ISHIBASHI who finds himself more prosperous than ever. Some say he gained his profits through dealings in building materials with the Transportation Ministry, and others say he made money through illegal transactions of paper.

Shrewd ISHIBASHI does not become a company president or director or take any other position which attracts attention.

ISHIBASHI's financial theory is altruistic, and he has the ability to pull the simple-minded people round to his way of political thinking. It is said his political theories are centered around narrowminded patriotism and exclusionism.

Thus, his associates believe and propagate the cause of ISHIBASHI's purge as not being due to his actions and statements during the war, but brought about by his excess of zeal in his work to reconstruct JAPAN which brought about dislike towards him. To discern whether he is really patriotic or not, one only has had to watch his actions as a politician and to have noted his inflation policy.

Some people after reading TOJO's statement at the Tokyo Trials, said they reconsidered his position, but such cheap heroism and false patriotism are the buds of the aggression which put JAPAN in her present tragic position. We do not know from what angle ISHIBASHI is looking at politics, but if it is with the above attitude, his political theory is harmful to JAPAN's democratization.

Not only is his concept of free economy a dream in today's stringent situation, but also an obstacle to rehabilitation, which will only put more pressure upon the masses.

ITEM 4 Democratic Liberals Favor Single Ballot System - Tokyo Shimbun -
19 Apr 48. Translator: T. Fukushima. (JJY)

412.4
 Full Translation:

A frontal clash is expected between the government parties and the Democratic Liberal Party over revision of the Election Law, since the latter proposes a single ballot system against the former's plural ballot one.

A bill for the revision of the Election Law prepared by the secretariat of the Election Control Committee will be presented to the Diet shortly as a Diet bill. A Lower House special committee on revision of the Political Party Law and the Election Law will start preliminary deliberations on the bill today.

On the other hand, another revision plan has been drawn up by the Democratic Liberal Party under the direction of OZAWA, Sajuki. The plan adopts a single ballot system as against the limited plural ballot system of the ministerial parties' bill. These are the points of the Democratic Liberals' plan:

(1) The present medium constituency system shall be continued, though necessary modifications shall be made according to the findings of latest surveys.

(2) A transferable single ballot system shall be adopted.

(3) To strengthen public control of elections:

(a) All forms of propaganda shall be supervised by the Government. However, a certain amount of mail, say 10,000 letters and 20,000 postcards shall be supplied to each candidate free of charge for his individual canvassing.

(b) The space of the election bulletin shall be enlarged so as to contain the policies and opinions of candidates.

(c) The number of joint and individual speech meetings shall be limited to 20 times.

(d) Any candidate who gives a false report of his campaign expenses shall be disqualified for election. In other respects, too, the penalties shall be intensified.

ITEM 2 Democratic-Liberal Party Launches Offensive in Kyoto - Provincial
Paper: Kyoto Shimbun (Kyoto) - 13 Apr 48. Translator: T. Fukizawa.
(DD)

412.4
 Full Translation:

The Kyoto Democratic-Liberal Party Chapter Formation Preparatory Committee will hold a meeting at 1400 hours on 15 April at Maruyama Music Hall to form the prefectural chapter, attended by President YOSHIDA and party, who are expected to head west on a stumping tour of the KINKI district. President YOSHIDA is expected to reach KYOTO at 1830 hours on 14 April, together with SAITO, Takao, HOSHIJIMA, Jiro, and others.

Supreme adviser SHIDEHARA and his party will reach KYOTO at 1300 hours on 15 April via the Hokuriku Line and will develop a vigorous opposition offensive of party leaders on parade. Then, at 1830 hours, they will hold oratorical meetings simultaneously at the five schools of ITABASHI, DAISHIKINRIN, KARAKU, MINAMI-OUCHI; and SEIIN, together with Diet Members NAKANO and OKUMURA and others, to agitate for a demand that the Ashida Cabinet voluntarily resign.

Chapter Chief ONOGI, who attended the 12 April preparation arrangement meeting, stated, "Although we will not demand Diet dissolution and new general election in view of various circumstances, we do demand voluntary general resignation." He is expecting a political change around May.

ITEM 10 Liberal-Democrat Elected Mayor of Fujisawa Shi - Mainichi - Kanagawa Edition - 20 Apr 48. Translator: K. Yasutake (WM).

4124
Full Translation:

Ex-deputy-mayor IZAWA, Juro (Dem-Lib) became Mayor of FUJISAWA Shi, when the ballots were counted on 19 April. It was believed that he would be elected by a small margin of votes, but he won decisively in every precinct, overwhelmingly defeating his nearest competitor, SUZUKI (Dem).

Tabulation of Votes

12,772	IZAWA, Juro	(Dem-Lib)
5,871	SUZUKI, Takejiro	(Dem)
3,505	HAYAMA, Matasaburo	(Com)

The successful candidate stated: "This is my first election campaign. I was not confident of success. However, thanks to the voters, I am now mayor of this city. I am going to run the municipal administration smoothly and co-operate with citizens without leaning on any one party or faction."

ITEM 16 Four Democrats May Join Democratic Liberal Party in Saitama - Mainichi (Saitama Edition) - 8 Apr 48. Translator: M. Ota. (MEM)

4127
Full Translation:

The Democratic-Liberal Party will hold a majority of the seats in the Saitama Prefectural Assembly if four bolters from the Democratic Party join it.

At the inaugural meeting of the Democratic-Liberal Party, which was held on 5 April as previously reported, it was announced by a party official that four Democrats of the Prefectural assembly will probably join the new party since they had seceded from the Prefectural Chapter of the Democratic Party.

They are Democratic Prefectural Assemblymen YOSHINO, Ichinosuke (KITA SAITAMA), MANAKA, Rin (KITA SAITAMA), YAMADA, Toyoji (OSATO) and KURIHARA, Shoichi (KUMAGAYA).

This issue became the subject of much controversy within the political circles of the prefecture. If the four bolters join the Democratic-Liberal Party, the line-up according to party in the prefectural assembly will be 33 Democratic-Liberals, 11 Democrats, ten Socialists and five non-partisans, and the Democratic-Liberal Party will enjoy an absolute majority.

ITEM 11 Oshima and Okada Join Democratic-Liberal Party - Yomiuri - 27 Apr 48. Translator: A. Kido. (WM)

4124
Full Translation:

Upper House member OSHIMA, Sadakichi, (TOCHIGI Ken), and OKADA, Kikuji (same), who had bolted the Democratic Party on 23 April, joined the Democratic-Liberal Party on 26 April. On the same day, OKU, Shuichiro (KYOTO) bolted the Democratic-Liberal Party to become a complete independent. Mr OKU is expected to join the Democratic Party shortly.

Thus, the respective party strengths in the House of Councillors as of the 26th is now as follows: RYOKUFU KAI (Green Wind Society) -- 38; Socialists -- 43; Democratic-Liberals -- 45; Democrats -- 44; MUSHOZOKU KONDAN KAI (Independent Consultation Group) -- 14; Communists -- four; pure independents -- four; and vacancies -- five.

4/2.4
4 The press announced 14 October that Takeshi Yamazaki, secretary-general of the Democratic Liberal Party, had tendered his resignation as a member of the Diet. Yamazaki, favored by "progressives" within the Diet for the post of Prime Minister, had previously announced he had no desire for the position.

OUTGOING MESSAGES-SRS

14 OCT 1948

4 With the three former Government parties indicating opposition to formation of a one-party conservative government by Democratic Liberal Party President Shigeru Yoshida, Diet designation of the new Prime Minister has been delayed.

OUTGOING MESSAGES-SRS

14 OCT 1948

4/2.4 The unseating of the "conservative and reactionary" Yoshida Government was declared to be a major objective in the coming general election by the Social Democratic party in a "Dissolution Struggle Manifesto" issued 24 December.

OUTGOING MESSAGES-SRS

27 DEC 1948

4/2.4 The third national convention of the Democratic Liberal Party opened 24 December with a discussion of election policies and announcement of the names of 290 official party candidates to the House of Representatives. A seven-point emergency policy program was adopted.

OUTGOING MESSAGES-SRS

27 DEC 1948

412.4
ITEM 1 DLP Rushing Preparation for General Election - Yomiuri -
1 Nov 48. Translator: f. Kurata. (WM)

Full Translation:

The nation's political situation is now becoming complicated; the Democratic Liberal Party is thumping for Diet dissolution at the outset of its extraordinary session, and the opposition parties are trying to forestall the DLP move in a joint effort to recover from the existing scandal-scars in time for the general election.

The Democratic Liberal Party, while encouraging the Government to proceed with an immediate dissolution of the extraordinary Diet at its opening session, is now pressing for the selection of candidates to run on the DLP ticket and the collection of campaign funds through the party's Election Policy Committee. The Election Policy Committee is expected to decide on the distribution of the party tickets in every electorate throughout the country today.

The Democratic Liberal Party seems determined to limit the number of tickets to be issued throughout the country to about 250 and concentrate them among electorates with the best chances of success. It is said that the party's election caretakers, including ONO, HOSHIJIMA and HIROKAWA, have already decided on a tentative lineup of candidates for the coming general election. Regarding the collection of campaign funds, the party will dispatch the EPC members throughout the country, setting minimum goals of fund collections to be met at the responsibility of each party chapter and the Diet members

NEWSITEM 1 (Continued)

belonging thereto. At the same time, the party is planning an open fund collection movement patterned after the community chest movement in TOKYO and other cities throughout the country. Practical policy in this respect is expected to be decided at Tuesday's Standing General-Affairs Committee meeting.

While DLP preparations for the general election are getting under way on a complete basis, the opposition parties, including the Socialists, Democrats and the People's Co-operatives, are taking the stand that the DLP move is a sort of political offensive and therefore impractical under the existing circumstances. The fact is, however, that the Socialists and Democrats actually have their hands full with the task of wiping the scandal-scars off of their own faces and, therefore, they cannot afford to dress up for the general election too soon. Under the circumstances, the opposition parties seem to be going all out to postpone the general election until next February or thereafter, thereby increasing their political strength in the meantime.

Opposition Stand Allegedly Based on Forecasts

The present Cabinet is charged with carrying out a thorough housecleaning of the nation's political circles and also disposing of such urgent issues as the revision of the National Public Service Law and the budget formulation for public servants pay; but there can be no frontal clash whatsoever between the government and opposition parties in this respect.

The holding of a general election prior to settlement of the four outstanding political scandals including the Showa Denko, State coal control, textile and the arms disposal, is bound to run counter to the Yoshida Cabinet's motto to carry out a thorough political housecleaning.

Any attempt to dissolve the Diet while there is no actual difference between government and opposition parties, will throw the Democratic Liberal Party subject to open charges for minding only party interests and tactics, and this also can be regarded as neglect of political responsibility.

Major reactions to the DLP move for Diet dissolution by the opposition parties are as follows:

(1) The Socialist Party: The DLP move for Diet dissolution, if actually taken up, will certainly deal a trouncing blow to the Socialist Party. Therefore Secretary-general ASANUMA, Chairman SUZUKI of the Political Research Committee and Chairman YONEKUBO of the Diet Policy Committee met last Saturday to discuss the steps to be taken by the Socialist Party in coping with the DLP offensive. As a result, they agreed to take a reserved attitude on the present situation and to discuss practical measures at an Election Policy Committee meeting scheduled for this coming Saturday.

(2) The Democratic Party: In the Democratic Party, the Inukai-led KEISETSU KAI and part of the TAIYO KAI are disposed to avoid Diet dissolution through unification of conservative forces, and to organize a new conservative party through which to engage in the general election, if the Diet is dissolved. On the other hand, part of the pro-Ashida factions, including the MUMEI KAI, GETSUYO KAI, YOKA KAI, and SHINSHIN KAI, is apparently inclined to organize the Central Political League in co-operation with the Peoples Co-operative Party, the right-wing faction of the Socialist Party and DLP-minded Democratic Liberals.

NEWSITEM 1 (Continued)

(3) The Peoples Co-operative Party (ICHINOMIYA): Chairman MIKI, now in ICHINOMIYA to attend the party's chapter meetings in AICHI Ken told a press conference last Saturday that the DLP move for dissolution of the special Diet session is "out of the question at this moment." He stressed that the Diet dissolution should not be carried out prior to the disposal of important issues, including the revision of the National Public Service Law. Thus, he expressed the view that the Diet will not be dissolved before February, next year.