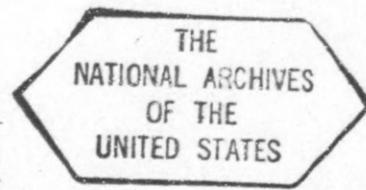


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Budget Comm.
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Views concerning deliberations on the budgets

SUZUKI Mosaburo

Chairman of the Standing Committee

In view of the experiences during the first Diet session, the Budget Committee came to hold the following view in order to secure the fully efficient activities of the Committee to discharge its duty in the Diet.

1. Supplementary budgets for the 1947 fiscal year were decided chiefly in consultations between GHQ and the Finance Ministry in charge of the compilation of the budgets, while the Budget Committee started to deliberate on the budget bills only after hearing the explanation of Government Representatives on the budgets formally submitted to the Diet.

Moreover, due to the fact that the said budgets have been approved by GHQ as well as owing to the pressure of time elements for deliberation, from the technical point of view it was very difficult to reflect the views of the Budget Committee on the budget bills.

In view of such experiences, in future, especially in formulating the budget estimates for the next fiscal year, the Budget Committee asks the part of GHQ to have consideration to get the views of the Committee reflected on the budget bills in process of compilation of them prior to their final decision. Above all things, with regard to the important one, the Committee hopes that while hearing the opinion of the Chairman before reaching a decision with the Government, the GHQ takes proper measures for channel of communications with the Committee.

2. The fact that out of 183 bills presented to the first Diet session the bills presented by the Government amounted to 161 is an evidence that there still remains an abuse of the days of the old Constitution, and under such conditions it is impossible to enhance the authority of the Diet. Furthermore, this may serve to allow the bureaucrats even in future to enjoy their privilege with the reason that they are yet in charge of legislation. Without depriving the bureaucrat of the function of legislation, the democratization of politics seems to be far from its goal.

In order to eliminate such an abuse traditional from the days of the old Constitution, it may be an idea to enlarge the Legislative Division of the Diet, but of the most urgent is to develop the activities of the structure of each political party to take charge of investigation and planning, and to strengthen the political affairs investigation committee of each party in both aspects of personnel and materials. However, I regret to say, the real state of things is that the political affairs investigation committees are suffering from the shortage of revenue resources, and they are experiencing difficulties even in deliberating on the bills presented by the Cabinet to the full, to say nothing of drafting bills.

In this occasion, to eliminate such defects, a measure is desired to be adopted for appropriating some expenses in the Diet budget estimates for the survey of political affairs to be conducted by each party and for distributing the expenses in proportion to the strength of each party.

Only through such a measure, the function of the political affairs survey committees is likely to be assured as it should be.

During the first session of the Diet, this Committee has devoted itself almost entirely to the deliberation of questions of a general nature as a whole, the ~~divisional~~ ^{sub-}committee sitting only one day. Hereafter, in order to carry out a discreet budgetary deliberation, the management of the Committee is considered to be effected through the activity of 4 ~~divisional~~ ^{sub-}committees as its center. For the achievement of this aim the personnel of the qualified specialist investigators and clerks should be recruited. At present two each are engaged in activity, but one qualified specialist investigator and one clerk in each ~~divisional~~ ^{sub-}committee are required in the minimum. This measure is considered of most urgent necessity for fuller display of the functions of this committee.