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**Strikes Ended
By Local Union**

The Yokohama local of the Government Railway Workers Union called off its waves of 24-hour strikes yesterday at 11 a.m. as the Central Labor Relations Board successfully mediated the dispute.

At a meeting held at 9 a.m. the unions decided to accept the mediation plan and signed an informal agreement to end the strike.

The Tsurumi, Nambu, and Yokohama tram lines were tied up during the morning hours.

The Japan Express Company Employees Union Thursday night called off all scheduled 24-hour strikes of its members.

Dr. Itsutaro Suehiro, chairman of the Central Labor Relations Board, will launch a conciliation move seeking an amicable settlement of the long-standing dispute between the Japan Express Company and its employees union.

Private railway workers in the Kanto district may carry out a new strike.

The Central strike Policy Committee of the Federation of Kanto District Private Railway Workers Unions yesterday afternoon arrived at a "conclusion that the operators still lack sincerity."

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'Vacation' Tactics Spread

"Vacation" strike tactics under way in the Kanazawa locomotive zone have spread to the Nanao locomotive zone, leading to disruption of freight and passenger runs. On Thursday, 100 freight cars bound for the interior of Noto Peninsula were bogged down at Nanao and 30 others at Kanazawa.

NIPPON TIMES JUN 1 1948

EDITORIAL

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Must Avoid Strikes

A series of regional 24-hour strikes covering the whole of Japan during the four-day period of May 18 to 21 has been ordered by the Federation of Private Railway Workers Unions.

Japan has been divided into four blocs and the 24-hour suspension of passenger and freight services has been scheduled as follows:

May 18—Chubu, Kanto and part of Kansai. May 19—Shikoku, Hokuriku, and part of Kansai. May 20—Hokkaido, Tohoku, Kanto and part of Kansai. May 21—Chugoku, Kyushu, and part of Kansai.

**Office Workers on Strike;
Toho Faces Grave Crisis**

By TAMOTSU MURAYAMA 146

A strike by 250 office workers yesterday brought more woe to the Toho Motion Picture Company whose studio in Kinuta is in the physical possession of workers who were discharged by the company.

Yesterday's strike of business department personnel was for a 3-hour period. About 12 motion picture theaters out of 25 in the Tokyo area were closed as a result. Employees are planning a 24-hour strike on Sunday. Workers in Nagoya also are demanding higher wages and it is believed there will be more strikes throughout the Toho outfit from Hokkaido to Kyushu.

"The striking employees know all too well that management cannot raise their wages at present because our Kinuta studio is tied up," a company spokesman said. "We are convinced some sinister outside force is making a concerted effort to throw not only our company but industry as a whole into turmoil," he added.

Mr. Tetsuzo Watanabe, president of the company, declared that the court has done nothing about the company's request for an injunction to obtain possession of the Kinuta studio. The keys of the studio, he explained, are still in the hands of the discharged employees and the chief of police seems determined to do nothing to protect private property in the absence of an order from the courts.

Mr. Watanabe said: "The time is fast approaching when the only recourse left to the management of Toho as well as to any other business and industrial enterprise in this country which runs into this kind of situation, is to close down and sell out."

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The Federation issued the strike order on May 11 after coming to the decision that the Private Railway Management Federation, by attaching numerous conditions in accepting the Central Labor Relations Committee's proposal, had in effect rejected the CLRC arbitration plan concerning the union demand for a wage increase.

The position of the company side regarding the present issue is closely linked with the question of the fare boost for private railways. Company representatives have been negotiating with Government quarters concerned for the authorization of a 75 per cent increase of fares and rates.

The latest information is that a provisional approval may be granted beginning May 15 and the company side is said to be willing to continue the negotiations with the union side in order to avoid the scheduled lay-off.

It is not a question whether or not last-minute parleys will bring about the retraction of the strike order. It is more fundamental. There should be no resort to strikes under the present critical national situation though we in no way deny the labor's right to strike.

What we want to emphasize here is the necessity of exhausting every possible effort to avoid strikes. This goes for all parties concerned, the union, the management, and the labor relations committee.

The disruption of the normal routine of national life as the result of the suspension of transportation facilities will have an extensive destructive effect upon the national effort toward general reconstruction and production increase.

At this time when everything must be geared to rehabilitation and production, every work suspension must be avoided at all costs.

In the case of public utilities such as private railways, this is all the more true. We have before us the example of the communications workers strike some time ago and the recent case of the threatened railway strike in the United States.

We hope that the parties concerned will come to a fuller realization of the disastrous effect of any form of strikes upon the critical and sub-normal economic life of Japan and upon the position of Japan in the world.

And, it is about time that the workers—as well as the managements—fully recognize that issues between them should be solved through legal, peaceful and orderly means and that for that purpose such organs as the Central Labor Relations Committee has been established in democratic Japan.

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MAINICHI MAY 15 1948

**Govt. Workers Strike;
11th-Hour Talks Fail**

**Cabinet Ministers Stick
To Previously Set Policy**

TOKYO, Mar. 25.—In an 11th hour effort to avert a threatened strike of March 25, the Socialist Party stepped in as mediator but the Government-union negotiation again ruptured yesterday at 10 p.m. and the Council of Government and Public Office Employees Unions automatically entered strike at midnight yesterday.

The seventh joint negotiation took place at the Prime Minister's official residence at Nagata-cho yesterday from 8.30 p.m. The talk was solely confined to division of ¥2,920 wage level, and the negotiation ran aground at 10 p.m. when the Government representatives replied that the unions' new proposal on the wage allocation shall be reconsidered by the Government and that a formal reply will be sent on the morning of March 25.

Earlier yesterday afternoon, the Government convened another emergency meeting of Cabinet Ministers at the Diet building to work out measures for negotiations, but no new decision was made. All Cabinet Ministers agreed to hold out the previously-set basic policies and it was indicated that the Government should not yield an inch from March 23 decision.

Even if the worst comes, the Government held that it should lay before the people whole aspects of the negotiations, and the Government's stand.

Later, Cabinet Secretary Tomabechi told the press: "Since close to 810,000 union members out of 1,800,000 already accepted the Government proposal, the Government desires the remaining 1-million members also to comply with it. In view of the present financial conditions, the Government cannot do more, but I'm convinced that the compromise will be still possible within the purview of the Government proposal."

**19 Regional Chapters
Of AJCWU Stage Strike**

TOKYO, Mar. 25.—With the rupture of the seventh joint negotiation as final, 19 regional chapters of the All-Japan Communications Workers Union including those in Hokkaido and Kagoshima simultaneously entered a strike at midnight yesterday.

The walkout of the AJCWU's Aichi regional chapter is reported to have cut off east-west communications network.

In the Kansai district, the Tax Collectors Union also struck, and in concert with this, a part of the Metropolitan Labor Federation went into the same furlough walkout.

Tax Collectors Strike

Kyodo

TOKYO, Mar. 24.—Eleven thousand tax collectors in the Kanto district today went on a 24-hour strike.

Meanwhile, it was reported from Shizuoka that 10 local taxation offices, including the Shizuoka Taxation Office, today were involved in a 24-hour strike.

The strike was carried out in accordance with instructions issued by the tax collectors union headquarters.

The headquarters of the Municipality Workers Union also issued instructions to the chapters throughout the country to carry out a 24-hour strike tomorrow.

MAINICHI MAR 26 1948

Electric Workers' Dispute

TOKYO, Mar. 25.—The union and management negotiation on the electric workers dispute was deadlocked early this morning despite efforts exerted by Dr. Ichiro Nakayama, top conciliator of the Central Labor Relations Committee.

Though the contending parties reached agreement on the wage from March to June and democratization of the electric industry, they did not compromise on the temporary measures for January and February wages.

MAINICHI MAR 26 1948

**Shimane AJFBWU Strike
Violated Labor Law?**

MATSUE, Mar. 25.—The Shimane prefectural labor relations office, at an emergency general meeting, concluded that the 24-hour strike conducted by the Matsue chapter of the All-Japan Financial Bureau Workers Union on March 15 was glaringly in violation of Article 38 of the Labor Relations Readjustment Law and decided to request the Matsue procuratorial office for indictment.

Article 38 stipulates that Government officials and others engaged in administrative or judicial affairs cannot resort to labor disputes.

However, as it is necessary to make clear who was responsible for the strike, the prefectural labor relations office will hold another general meeting on March 28 to discuss this matter.

MAINICHI MAR 26 1948

**3-Month-Old Dispute
Between Management,
EWU Finally Settled**

**CLRC Mediation Accepted;
Electricians To Get ¥5,316
Plus Special Allowances**

TOKYO, Mar. 25.—The dispute of the Electric Workers Union, which has a membership of about 100,000, was successfully settled today.

Both the workers and the management formally accepted the mediation plan as drafted by the Central Labor Relations Committee.

According to the mediation plan, the average wage of the workers will be increased to about ¥5,316 per month.

In addition, they will receive special allowances for the months of January and February as anti-crisis funds.

The dispute came to an end after a struggle of more than three months.

The union issued orders today to all of its local chapters to suspend all dispute tactics in view of the successful settlement of their dispute.

MAINICHI MAR 27 1948

**Osaka AJCWU
To Strike Today**

The Osaka regional chapter of the All-Japan Communications Workers Union, together with 12 other locals in Hyogo, Nara, Wakayama and others, will carry out another 24-hour strike, the third during recent weeks, on Saturday, March 27, from 10 a.m.

The strike will involve all 72 sub-branches in Osaka.

**Tokyo Car-Bus Operations
Suspended For 2 Hours**

TOKYO, Mar. 26.—With negotiations between the Tokyo metropolitan government and the union of its employees going into deadlock, all the tramcars and buses in Tokyo suspended operations for two hours today from 10 a.m. to noon.

The traffic workers held their meetings at the tramcar barns filled with cars. Meanwhile, employees of different departments of the Tokyo municipal government as well as ward offices have been striking in turns since March 25.

Indications are that the situation will take a turn for the worse tomorrow, a wholesale suspension of tramcar and bus service being considered most likely.

To Affect Newspapers

TOKYO, Mar. 26.—The suspension of all newspaper communications in strikes by communications workers on and after March 25 was announced by the All-Japan Communications Workers Union headquarters yesterday.

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**Osaka JCWU Goes On
 2nd 24-Hour Strike;
 72 Locals Involved**

**Many Of 19,000 Members
 Refuse To Join Layoff
 In Spite Of HQ Order**

The Osaka regional chapter of the All-Japan Communication Workers Union comprising 72 branches, whose total membership is given as 19,000, went on a 24-hour strike for the second time Friday, March 12.

Despite the strike order from the regional headquarters, however, a considerable number of workers opposed the strike. In some localities, employees are reported to have declined joining the walkout.

Four hours before the strike, the Osaka Central Telegraph Bureau, decided by 77 to 71 votes at a general meeting of representatives to oppose the strike, but the regional headquarters, overriding the result of the vote, nevertheless issued instructions.

MAINICHI MAR 13 1948

**Tokyo JCWU Workers
 Also Lay Off Work** 146

TOKYO, Mar. 12.—Employees of the Ogikubo division, Tokyo tele-communications transmission engineering, and Tokyo tele-communications engineering bureaus affiliated with the Tokyo regional chapter of the All-Japan Communication Workers Union went on strike at midnight March 11, demanding, among other things, the establishment of a minimum wage system based on the stabilization of prices.

As a result of this walkout, a part of the Metropolitan telegraph and telephone services was disrupted today.

Due to the 24-hour strike by the Ogikubo bureau employees under the direct control of Tokyo TCEB, 3,520 telephone lines out of 3,600 were rendered unavailable.

Following the above walkout, three more bureaus also went on strike, namely, the Oji, Honda and Asakusa bureaus.

In the Oji bureau, which struck for five hours from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., some 1,323 telephone lines out of 1,416 were made useless and in the Honda bureau, 876 lines out of 1,200 were unavaiable for eight hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In Asakusa, where the employees walked out for five hours from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 6,350 telephone lines out of 6,500 were suspended.

MAINICHI MAR 13 1948

Weathermen Stage Strike 146

TOKYO, Mar. 15.—A total of 6,500 members of the Central Meteorological Observatory and all other meteorological observatory labor unions went on a 12-hour strike today at zero hour.

At the Central Meteorological Observatory, all the employees except some workers holding key posts did not come to their offices until noon.

The announcement of meteorological reports in newspapers and by radio was suspended due to the walkout.

MAINICHI MAR 16 1948

**Workers Of 16 Mines
 Stage 24-Hour Walkout**

Kyodo
 TOKYO, Mar. 11.—Twenty-four-hour strikes have been called at 16 coal mines so far.

Following the rupture of final management-labor negotiations in various regions since March 5, 23,910 miners of 14 locals of the National Coal Miners Union and 1,800 of two locals of the Japan Federation of Coal Miners Union have gone on strike.

The coal mines involved are: Bibai and Naie in Hokkaido, Takaogi, Kushigata and Daito in Joban area, Sakurayama, Suzumeda, No.2 Suzumeda, Matsuten, Ube, Atsumami, Okita and Kamioki in Yamaguchi, Takamatsu, Yamada and Otsubi in Fukuoka.

Against the union's demand for daily minimum wages of ¥336 for pit workers and ¥182 for out-of-pit workers, the Japan Coal Mine Operators League stubbornly insisted that the new wages be limited to ¥237 for pit workers and ¥136 for out-of-pit workers.

MAINICHI MAR 13 1948
Kobe Power Strike 146

KOBE, Mar. 12.—The Kobe chapter of the Kansai Power Distribution Co.'s labor union yesterday went on a strike and suspended the entire business with the exception of those related with the Occupation Forces and those specially indicated by the labor union.

MAINICHI MAR 13 1948

Kanto Elec. Workers To Strike

Kyodo
 TOKYO, Mar. 11.—The Kanto chapter of the Electric Industry Workers Union yesterday evening instructed its locals to prepare for a cut-supply strike on March 20. The step was taken immediately after the rupture of negotiations with the management.

MAINICHI MAR 13 1948
Kyushu Workers Also 146

FUKUOKA, Mar. 12.—The Kyushu chapter of the Electric Industry Workers' Labor Union issued a declaration yesterday on its decision to go on a strike March 16 and to suspend the supply of electric power to all establishments in Kyushu with the exception of those of the Occupation Forces.

MAINICHI MAR 13 1948

**Tokyo HQ Will Direct
 All AJCWU Local Strikes** 146

TOKYO, Mar. 20.—The central strike committee of the All-Japan Communication Workers Union, whose membership totalled 331,323 as of August, 1947, issued its directive No. 13 to its locals yesterday, ordering that "on and after March 23, all strikes to be carried out by AJCWU's locals shall be directed by the headquarters in Tokyo."

The switch-over of this strike strategy is regarded to have emerged from the AJCWU's plan to facilitate Government-union negotiations now in a delicate stage, and at the same time to strengthen its unity.

MAINICHI MAR 21 1948

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**24-Hour Strike In Kobe;
 No Streetcars, Buses Today**

KOBE, Mar. 20.—Streetcar and buses will not run in Kobe Sunday, March 21, excepting those for the Occupation Forces.

Eleventh-hour negotiations between the Kobe municipal authorities and three municipal trade unions regarding a wage increase ruptured yesterday noon.

As the result, the union headquarters went on a 24-hour strike today, affecting the municipal library, lumber mill, zoo, printing office, municipal health institutes and hospitals (except for emergency cases and those already hospitalized), municipal restaurants, and street cleaners.

Streetcars for transporting employees of the Occupation Forces will be operated March 21 from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

MAINICHI MAR 21 1948

Streetcar Strike Called Off 146

KOBE, Mar. 21.—The Kobe municipal traffic employees union called off their strike today at 8.50 a.m. due to the presentation of a new mediation plan by Chairman Yagi of the Hyogo prefectural labor relations office. The operation of streetcars and buses was completely restored to normalcy at 9.10 a.m.

MAINICHI MAR 22 1948

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AJCWU Stops Strike Scheduled For Today

Decision May Be Reversed If Talks With Govt. Fail

TOKYO, Mar. 22.—The All-Japan Communications Workers Union, at its central struggle committee meeting last night, decided to cancel temporarily the strike scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, in view of the prevailing situation and as a result of its negotiations with the Government the previous day.

In consequence, the union headquarters, while averring that it still adheres to the three-point demand agreed upon previously, issued instructions this morning to its locals all over the country, asking them to desist from the strike temporarily.

There was a possibility, however, that this decision might be reversed again depending on the results of further negotiations between the Government and the unions.

Labor Minister Kanju Kato met union delegates informally at the Prime Minister's official residence this morning.

Formal negotiations were expected to take place in the afternoon.

Late Saturday night, four representatives of the National Council of Government and Public Employees Unions, calling at the private residence of the Labor Minister, submitted the council's ultimatum to the latter, demanding that the Government pay the ¥2,500 allowance already passed by the Diet and announcing that the council is ready to decide all other matters through collective bargaining with the Government.

Yubari Mine Walkout Ends

SAPPORO, Mar. 21.—Miners of the Yubari mine—Hokkaido's biggest coal pit—went back to work from today after declaring a walkout on Friday in protest against the management's refusal to issue pay to absentee workers.

At an emergency session of labor union leaders, the miners decided to resume work and fresh collective bargaining efforts, reserving the right to strike pending the outcome of future developments.

Ehime GRWU Ends Strike

TAKAMATSU, Mar. 21.—The Ehime chapter of the Government Railways Workers Union assumed full responsibility for restoring transportation operations in the Matsuyama locomotive zone to normal after an "absentee" strike lasting for approximately one month.

The announcement was made in a memorandum issued after a 17-hour negotiation between chapter leaders and representatives of the Government Railways.

MAINICHI MAR 23 1948

24-Hour Strike Slated For March 25 By AJCWU

TOKYO, Mar. 22.—Again stiffening its attitude toward the Government following the rupture of negotiations, the All-Japan Communications Workers Union last night decided to go on a 24-hour strike in a piston fashion, beginning from March 25.

The 24-hour strike on March 25 will be carried out in the following locals:

Kumamoto, Kagoshima, Yamaguchi, Okayama, Ehime, Kochi, Kyoto (partially), Fukui, Shizuoka, Gumma, Aichi, Niigata, Saitama, Iwate, Yamagata, Hokkaido (Hakodate, Obihiro, Wakkanai, Sapporo, and Muroran).

Orders 'Absentee' Tactics

TOKYO, Mar. 22.—The All-Japan Government Workers Union decided yesterday at 10 a.m. to direct unions under its control to carry out "absentee tactics" in waves on and after March 25.

'Furlough' Strike

In accordance with instructions of the National Federation of Trade Unions, all the employees of the head office and branches of the Osaka Commerce and Industry Bureau went on a "furlough" strike March 22.

As a consequence, all the business of the head office and branches in seven prefectures were suspended with the exception of those for labor unions and the Occupation Forces.

2-Hour Power Halt

The Kansai headquarters of the Electric Workers' Union has reached a decision to go on a strike, suspending the transmission of power to big consumer factories in Osaka, Hyogo, Kyoto, Nara, Wakayama, Shiga, and Fukui prefectures March 25 for two hours sometime between 11.40 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The supply to general households, however, will be made as usual.

Private Railways Threatened

TOKYO, Mar. 22.—All private railway networks in the Metropolitan area are being threatened with a one-hour stoppage of power supply from noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 27, as a result of a new strike order issued by the Kanto District Council of Electric Industry Workers Unions.

The new strike order also calls for a one-hour suspension of power (Continued On Page 2)

Labor Walkouts

(Continued From Page 1)

distribution to factories in Numazu City, Shizuoka prefecture, on March 25 and 26, as well as to traffic services and factories in Saitama, Chiba, Gumma, Ibaragi and Tochigi prefectures on March 26.

Toyama Workers Lay Off

TOYAMA, Mar. 22.—A 24-hour strike of the Hokuriku regional strike headquarters of the Japan Electric Industrial Workers' Labor Union was started today at noon and the transmission of 48,000 kilowatts was suspended by six power stations along the Kurobe river.

As the supply of 320 kilowatts of power is expected to be suspended by power stations in this prefecture March 24, the power to be supplied to the Osaka region will see a decrease of some 100,000 kilowatts on that day.

Nagano Electric Strike

Kyoto NAGANO, Mar. 22.—The Nagano chapter of the All-Japan Council of Electric Industries Workers Union this morning plunged into a protracted strike which will be carried out in various forms up to and after Thursday.

As its first step, the chapter suspended power supply during the period from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. today to approximately 200 factories in the prefecture.

MAINICHI MAR 24 1948

Strike Looms Today As Negotiations Fail

CPOEU Says Government Responsible For Rupture

TOKYO, Mar. 24.—Following the rupture of the fourth negotiations, delegates of the Government, and Council of Government and Public Office Employees Unions met in a fifth conference at the Diet building yesterday at 7 p.m. but the negotiations were again deadlocked without reaching a compromise.

Labor Minister Kanju Kato and Cabinet Secretary Gizo Tomabechi represented the Government.

Before the opening of the conference, the Cabinet convened an emergency meeting late yesterday afternoon and decided to push forward the five-point basic policies previously agreed.

In presenting the Government's formal proposal, however, Secretary Tomabechi made slight concessions, stating that in the enforcement of the new wage system, the Government proposal, Chairman Kazuyoshi demand for collective bargaining "within the purview that the application and interpretation of the law will permit." In the original draft, there was no such words as "the interpretation of the law."

After Tomabechi read the Government proposal, Chairman Kazuyoshi Dobashi of the All-Japan Communications Workers Union replied:

"Although we have continued negotiations daily since March 20 in an effort to arrive at an amicable solution, the Government has not shown sincerity. The unilateral attitude of the Government toward our final demand of March 20 has aggravated the situation.

"We hereby demand once more an immediate disbursement of ¥2,920 and recognition of collective bargaining regarding the present deficit and future wage system.

"The projected strike of March 25 cannot be called off. Even if the worst comes to the worst, the responsibility will be wholly the Government's."

Under the present circumstances, it is generally believed that the Council will carry out a strike March 25.

MAINICHI MAR 25 1948

Finance Workers Strike

TOKYO, Mar. 24.—Employees of four bureaus of the Finance Ministry, numbering about 640, carried out a 24-hour "holiday strike" today.

On March 25, some 1,360 workers of other bureaus will carry out similar tactics.

MAINICHI MAR 25 1948

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**All Communications Workers Decide
 On 24-Hr. Nationwide Strike Mar. 31**

TOKYO, Mar. 27.—A nationwide 24-hour strike of all communications workers is set for March 31. The workers will begin the strike at midnight March 30.

The All-Japan Communications Workers Union announced this in its directive No. 27 flashed to its locals throughout the country yesterday at 4.50 p.m.

The AJCWU's Central Strike Committee issued this directive in an attempt to break the present deadlock in the wage negotiations.

Earlier, the AJCWU's regional chapters in Kanto, Tohoku and Shinetsu will strike March 29 along with half of the union members in Hokkaido.

On March 30, the Tokai, Kinki, Chugoku, and Kyushu regional chapters and the remaining members of Hokkaido will walk out, followed

by a nationwide 24-hour strike on March 31.

The Tokyo regional chapter carried out a 24-hour strike yesterday for the second time in March.

The Osaka regional chapter, which comprises 72 sub-branches, struck today.

Despite requests of newspapers, news agencies and broadcasting companies, the striking unions completely cut all communications media earmarked for the exclusive use of the above companies including telephone and telegram services alike.

Due to the disruption of the Tokyo-Osaka communications lines through which the major political, economic and foreign news flow, newspapers and broadcasting concerns experienced great difficulty in the gathering and transmission of news.

According to information reaching the AJCWU's headquarters in Tokyo, 12 locals in Miyagi, Oita, Shimane, Kagawa, Shiga, Nagano, Mie, Chiba, Tokyo, Aomori, Ibaragi and Hokkaido carried out a 24-hour walkout yesterday.

Late last night, the headquarters issued the third 24-hour strike order to the following locals:

Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Saga, Tokushima, Hiroshima, Hyogo, Nara, Wakayama, Toyama, Gifu, Yamanashi, Kanagawa, Miyagi, Akita, Fukushima, Tochigi, and Osaka regional chapters, as well as a part of the Hokkaido regional chapter.

CIO To Support Workers

TOKYO, Mar. 27.—The National Congress of Industrial Organizations, claiming to have a total membership of some 1,600,000, formally announced that it will support the Government employees now in dispute.

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**850 Tramcars, Buses
 In Tokyo Are Stopped
 As Negotiations Fail**

**'Holiday' Strike Called
 By 70,000 Govt. Workers;
 Cabinet Is Aloof On Issue**

TOKYO, Mar. 27.—Despite the partial disruption of traffic and communications services yesterday in various localities, no progress has been made so far in the negotiations between the Government authorities and the Council of Government and Public Office Employees Unions.

Still placing some hopes on the attitude of the council, Cabinet Secretary Gizo Tomabechi and Labor Minister Kanju Kato, in an attempt to find a new approach, early yesterday invited delegates of the Government Railway Workers Union, which had earlier accepted the new wage standard of ¥2,920. The union delegates insisted that the Government should push forward the proposal which the railway workers previously accepted.

Later the Cabinet held a meeting in the Diet building for two hours from 1.30 p.m.

The Cabinet Ministers agreed not to yield any more to the unions since the Cabinet has already made concessions within the extent that "the law permits" regarding the payment of the new wage.

All Ministers held that if the trade unions send their representatives to a new "Wage Adjustment Committee," the dispute would be settled. Although a part of the Ministers demanded immediate application of the Civil Service Act to leaders of the disputing unions, Labor Minister Kato opposed this.

At 5.30 p.m., the Cabinet again met and decided to stand aloof from the dispute for the time being and not to issue any statement to explain the process of the Government-council negotiations.

Following yesterday's two-hour walkout, Metropolitan traffic workers again carried out a strike today, stopping operation of streetcars and buses throughout Tokyo.

The final negotiation between Governor Seiichiro Yasui and the chairman of the Metropolitan Labor Federation ruptured today at 2 a.m. and 500 streetcars and 350 buses involving 2,400 clerical workers and 8,000 drivers and conductors, walked out.

For the Occupation Forces personnel, streetcars are being operated one train per hour on every line.

About 70,000 Government employees including Commerce Ministry employees carried out a "holiday" strike.

Six thousand and eight hundred tax collectors in the Kinki district, together with 4,000 in Tokyo, also joined the strike.

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**Govt. To Maintain
 Firm Attitude**

TOKYO, Mar. 28.—The Government will continue to maintain a strong attitude against the strikes now being resorted to by seven trade unions of Government employees, although for a day or two no change will occur in its "wait and see" attitude, it is learned.

Prime Minister Dr. Hitoshi Ashida met representatives of the trade unions at the House of Councillors for the first time yesterday at 5 p.m. Though the union leaders asked the Prime Minister for his view on the new wage level, Dr. Ashida replied:

"Since the matter has been entrusted to Deputy Prime Minister Nishio and Cabinet Secretary Tomabechi at today's Cabinet meeting, please confer with them. The Government will disburse the money as quickly as possible to settle the dispute."

Interpellations Begin

At yesterday's plenary session of the House of Representatives, major political parties commenced emergency interpellations about the Government measures toward the strikes.

Suekichi Ozaki (DL) asked the Government whether it was true or not that the All-Japan Communications Workers Union disrupted the telephone and telegraphic services for newspaper companies and police stations. If it were true, Ozaki questioned what plans the Government has regarding such steps.

Earlier, the Socialists, Communists and political groups in the House of Councillors had stepped in as mediator to arrange the meeting between the Prime Minister and union leaders.

More Concessions Impossible

Seeing the matter gradually turning out to be a big political issue, the Cabinet convened an emergency meeting yesterday afternoon and decided to uphold its original policy to the last.

All Cabinet Ministers seemed to hold the view that the new wage system, which provides for wages by results and the rank system, is very important for the future disposal of redundant personnel and overall shift of employees, and that no more concessions to the unions are possible.

Regarding the strike of the All-Japan Tax Collectors Union, which resorted to the "holiday" walkout, the Ministers decided, furthermore, to take stern measures by applying regulations of the Civil Service Act to striking clerical workers.

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GHQ Memorandum Sent To Labor Minister Kato Virtually Places Ban On Communications Strike

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Note Concerns Work Stoppage Slated By 400,000 Workers On Wednesday; Killen Calls Union Leaders To Parley

United Press

TOKYO, Mar. 29.—The Allied Headquarters sent a memo to the Japanese Labor Minister virtually banning the coming strike of 400,000 communications workers.

By Rutherford Poats, United Press Staff Correspondent

TOKYO, Mar. 29.—SCAP Labor Division Chief James S. Killen called leaders of the All-Japan Communications Workers Union to a conference this afternoon in an apparent effort to head off a 24-hour nationwide communications work stoppage scheduled for Wednesday, March 31.

Tokyo Citizens Walk To Offices For 3rd Day

Killen said he had had conferences with Cabinet members, including Labor Minister Kanju Kato, "in which the desirability of preventing such a work stoppage was discussed."

Telegraph, telephone, and postal facilities in the Tokyo-Yokohama area were at a standstill today, except those for Allied use as 160,000 workers were idle in a 24-hour strike. The workers reported to their duty posts but refused to work.

The threatened 24-hour general communication strike of 400,000 union members was the most serious phase of the current inflation-stimulated labor unrest.

But Government and public office workers and transportation workers also were beginning strike moves for higher pay.

The National Council of Government Office Workers, claiming a membership of 140,000, ordered "vacation tactics" on Tuesday, March 30, and Wednesday, March 31.

A separate body of the Federation of Provincial Government Workers Unions, with a claimed membership of 300,000, also ordered "vacations" for its members Tuesday.

In Tokyo, the strike wave was brought home to the people as they walked to offices, with the city's streetcar and bus operators on strike for the third straight day.

MAINICHI MAR 30 1948

Eastern Japan Paralyzed By AJCWU 24-Hr. Strike

TOKYO, Mar. 29.—The Hokkaido, Tohoku, Kanto and Shin-etsu regional chapters of the All-Japan Communications Workers Union went on a 24-hour strike today, completely paralyzing all communications lines in Eastern Japan.

Traffic Workers Protest

Kyodo

TOKYO, Mar. 28.—The Tokyo Traffic Workers Union filed a protest with the Metropolitan Government Traffic Bureau for its attempt to carry commuters by trucks free of charge during the period of the strike.

The strikers said in their protest that the attempt is an act of strike-breaking.

At the same time, the striking traffic workers asked employees unions of non-governmental truck enterprises to support them.

MAINICHI MAR 30 1948

NHK Relays Broadcast

TOKYO, Mar. 29.—Although the line between the Kawaguchi transmission office and Nagoya was rendered out of order due to the strike of the All-Japan Communications Workers Union in eastern Japan, the NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) continued broadcasting by utilizing short-wave between Kawaguchi and Nagoya and relaying it to various broadcasting stations through a medium-wave frequency.

MAINICHI MAR 30 1948



Trailer Truck Gives Tokyo Citizens Lift

Not a part of a circus procession, but a trailer truck operated on the street of Ginza, Tokyo, during the transportation workers' strike. This was one of the free-of-charge vehicles operated by the metropolitan authorities to supply citizens with transportation in place of the strike-bound streetcars and buses.

MAINICHI

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146
**Communications Workers Union Calls
 On Locals To Stop Nationwide Strike
 Of 400,000 Workers Slated For Today**

**24-Hr. Layoffs To Go On;
 Collective Bargaining
 With Government Starts**

TOKYO, Mar. 30.—The threatened 24-hour nationwide strike of 400,000 communications workers for Wednesday, March 31, was called off today at 4.40 a.m. when union leaders, winding up the night-long discussion, flashed directive No. 32 ordering all locals throughout the country to stop the nationwide strike and to revert to regional disputes.

Directive No. 32 stated, "judging from the present circumstances, the union considers a protracted struggle as most advantageous."

This implies that the so-called "piston strike" tactics still continue in various localities.

The directive also ordered four regional chapters in Hokkaido, Aomori, Miyagi and Kanagawa to start a 48-hour strike at midnight March 30 and four other locals in Osaka, Aichi, Ehime and Fukuoka to continue the present strike until March 31.

New ¥2,920 Wage Level

After issuing this directive, however, the communications union leaders, together with delegates of the Council of Government and Public Office Employees Unions, began a collective bargaining with the Government authorities at the Diet building today at 9.30 a.m. The talk was confined to the Government payment of the new wage level of ¥2,920.

The action followed yesterday's SCAP memorandum to Communications Minister Eiji Tomiyoshi and Labor Minister Kanju Kato.

Last night, Chairman Kazuyoshi Dobashi of the All-Japan Communications Workers Union visited James S. Killen, chief of SCAP's Labor Division.

At this conference, Mr. Killen made recommendations, asking Chairman Dobashi whether it would not be advisable to:

1. Accept the ¥2,920 wage base and to order the immediate stoppage of the strike as the final solution of the disputes.
2. Approve the basic principle on the payment of wage by work hours regarding allocation of the ¥2,920 base, and
3. Enter into negotiations with the Government regarding a new wage base after April.

After returning to the union headquarters, Dobashi convened an emergency meeting of executives. Although the majority reportedly agreed to stop the strike, no conclusion emerged from this conference.

At 10 p.m., the union leader again called on Mr. Killen, and joining the group of Communications Minister Tomiyoshi, Labor Minister Kato and others, he reported the AJCWU's attitude.

Tomiyoshi Sees Hoshino

At 10.30 this morning, Communications Minister Tomiyoshi invited AJCWU's Vice-Chairman Hoshino and Committeeman Yasuda of the Central Strike Committee to urge the immediate suspension of the projected strike, but the union delegate declined a definite commitment.

Tomiyoshi later told the press that there was a considerable gap between union and Government interpretation of the SCAP memorandum. He said, however, that the Government does not intend at present to take legal action against the union. On the contrary, he said he wants the union leaders to exercise good commonsense and avert the strike.

MAINICHI MAR 31 1948

146
**Striking Official Charged
 With Cutting BCON Line**

United Press

TOKYO, Mar. 29.—Toshio Yamaguchi, an official of the Tokyo chapter of the All-Japan Communications Workers Union, pleaded not guilty today to charges that he interfered with Occupation functions by refusing to restore two telephone-teletype communication circuits between Tokyo and Osaka.

Eighth Army officials charged before a First Cavalry Brigade Provost Court here that Yamaguchi ignored "lawful command from a competent member of the Occupation Forces" to restore the circuits, which are used jointly by the British newspaper BCON and the Osaka Mainichi.

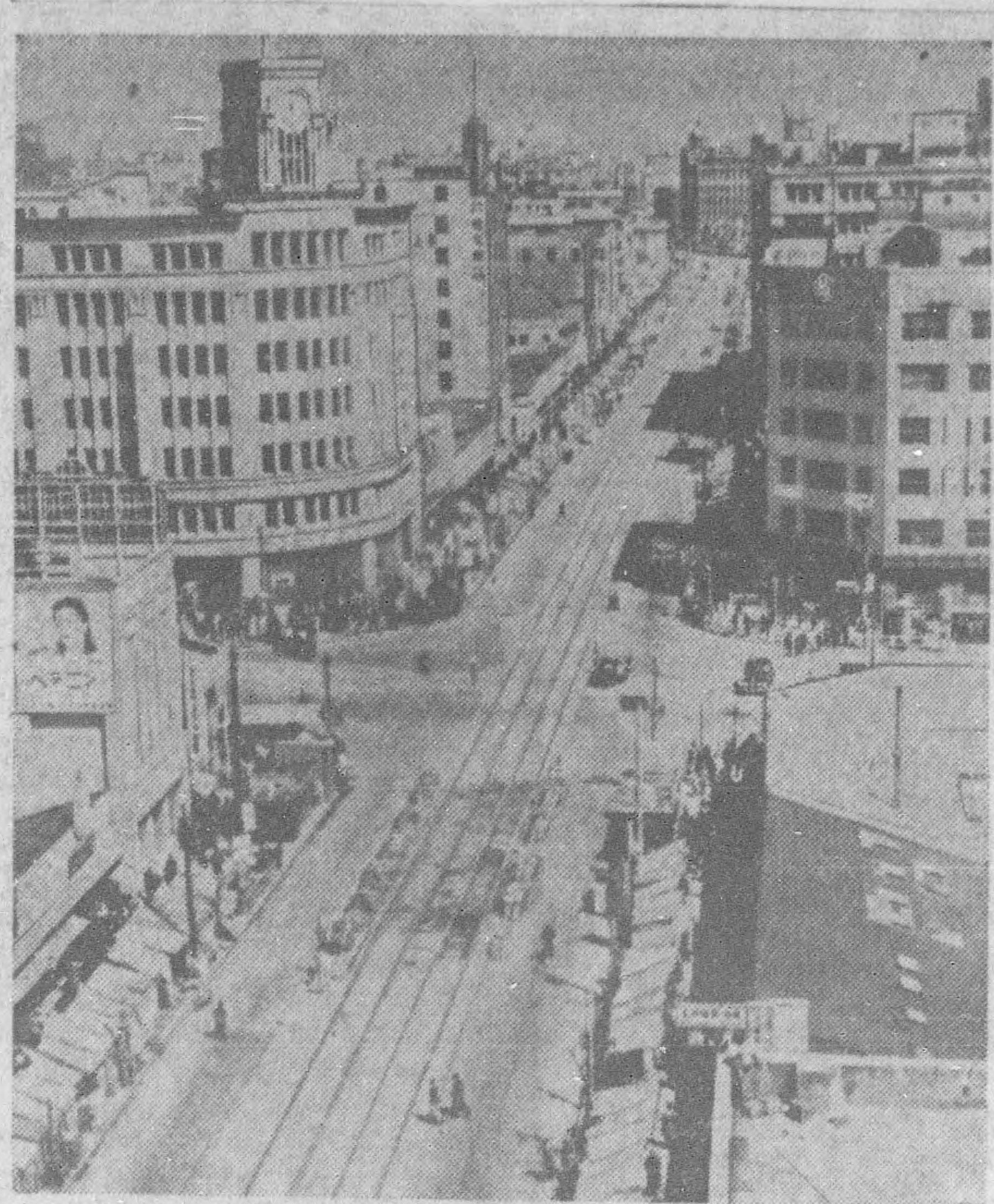
MAINICHI MAR 31 1948

**6 W. Japan Locals Stage
 24-Hr. Strike Mar. 30**

Six AJCWU's regional chapters in Western Japan including the Tokai, Hokuriku, Kinki, Chugoku, Shikoku and Kyushu areas, carried out a 24-hour strike on March 30 although the planned March 31 nationwide strike was canceled due to SCAP's memorandum to the Japanese Government.

In Osaka, the strike was the fourth during March. It will be continued in Osaka on March 31 as directed by the Central Struggle Committee.

MAINICHI MAR 31 1948



And Not A Streetcar Was In Sight—

Kyodo

TOKYO, Mar. 27.—Not a single streetcar rumbled on the Ginza and not a single bus chugged by as the Tokyo Metropolitan transportation workers carried out a strike today.

Deprived of means of transportation, commuters packed the elevated and the underground to overflowing.

Some thumbed rides on passing trucks or utilized taxicabs, pedicabs, and jinrikishas, while others walked.

(Photo shows the Ginza deserted by the usual vehicles).

MAINICHI

MAR 29 1948

'We're On Strike Now!' Fires Spread As Workers Reject Emergency Calls

Refusal by striking telephone operators to relay emergency "fire alarms" caused fire fighters to arrive late and resulted in the unnecessary spread of the conflagration at three localities in Central and Western Honshu on March 25 when 19 locals of the All-Japan Communications Workers Union struck for 24 hours.

In Kochi, southernmost city in

Shikoku, 40 houses were leveled. In Nagoya, a warehouse owned by the Melji Foodstuffs Co. at Fukugawa-cho, Nakagawa-cho, was also burnt out due to, partially or otherwise, the untimely arrival of fire brigades.

In Kyoto, a fire partially destroyed the house of Ichiro Nakagawa, company employee at Karasuma, Kamikyo-ku, at about 1 a.m.

In all these fires, house members or neighbors tried to contact the nearby fire station, but striking telephone operators refused reporting to accept the calls, saying "We're on a strike now. Whether a fire alarm or not, no telephone service is available."

Firefighters and those who were rendered homeless claim that the spread of conflagration was partly due to the disruption of the emergency telephone service.

Twenty minutes after the start of the fire, however, the AJCWU's Kochi local issued an emergency directive, ordering union members to stop the strike for one hour, but the belated resumption of service was too late to stop the spread of fire.

A member of the Aichi local's strike committee said: "It's a matter of great regret, but since it's due to the directive of the headquarters, it cannot be helped. Telephone services available during a strike are those for the police station, fire brigades and post offices. Although it may be troublesome, please rush to the above places in case of a fire."

MAINICHI MAR 30 1948

Falls Seriously Ill; Unable To Call Wife Due To Phone Strike

A fellow union member who suddenly fell sick in the street was refused telephone contact with his wife on account of the third 24-hour strike of the Osaka local chapter of the All-Japan Communications Workers Union, it is learned.

Shoshiro Teramoto, 37, official of the Fukushima post office, was found writhing in agony near the entrance of Umeda station on March 27 at about 5:30 p.m. by a policeman of the Sonezaki police station. He had vomited much blood due to gastric ulcer.

When the policeman took him to the Central Hospital at Sonezaki Naka 2-chome, Kita-ku, Osaka, Teramoto painfully requested him to establish contact with his wife in Kyoto through the Fukushima post office.

The policeman immediately took up the receiver and asked to call Mrs. Teramoto, explaining the serious illness of her husband, but the Hello girl at the Horikawa telephone bureau cut off the line, saying that she could not do so due to the strike.

Teramoto is now receiving treatment at the hospital.

MAINICHI

MAR 30 1948

ITEM 8 Revenue Workers File Suit against Premier, Finance Minister - Tokyo
Mimpo - 1 Apr 48. Translator: Y. Sato. (UG)146
Full Translation:

On 31 March, the Finance Ministry made public the dismissal of Chairman INOUE, Masao of the National Revenue Office Workers Union and six others, and also the reduction of salaries of the 28 members of the central strike committee as a means of disciplinary punishment.

The National Revenue Office Workers Union, which had been expecting the announcement, held a central strike committee meeting at 2000 hours on 30 March (TN - Sic) and deliberated on the established policies.

The meeting reached the decision to file suit with the Metropolitan Labor Relations Committee against Premier ASHIDA and Finance Minister KITAMURA, for violation of Article 2 of the Labor Union Law and Article 40 of the Labor Relations Adjustment Law and violation of the collective agreement, claiming that the Government's action in dealing with the union's legally recognized activities was illegal.

If circumstances so require, the union may assume a stronger attitude against the Government as revealed in a statement previously issued, warning that they would resort to a "work stoppage" strike.

The general strike of the Financial Affairs Bureau Employees Union and the "vacation" strike of the National Revenue Office Workers Union will get underway on 1 and 5 April, respectively, as previously planned.

ITEM 7 Kawanami Company Directors Indicted for Labor Law Violation - Mainichi -
2 Apr 48. Translator: M. Odaka. (RL)146
Full Translation:

The Nagasaki District Prosecutor's Office, which had been investigating the Kawanami Industrial Company case in accordance with the request made by the Nagasaki Local Labor Relations Committee, recently indicted YOSHIDA, Taneyoshi and NISHIO, Yukichi, both managing directors of the company, for violation of Article 40 of the Labor Relations Adjustment Law.

The case, the biggest labor dispute in KYUSHU last year, resulting even in bloodshed, ended in the voluntary resignation of 110 union leaders as a result of the union's defeat. The development of the case can be traced as follows:

The Kayaku and Fukahori chapters in Nagasaki prefecture, and the Uranosaki chapter and Kanokawa branch in Saga prefecture of the All-Japan Shipbuilding Workers Union, which had gone on strike last summer, demanding establishment of a retirement allowance system and the granting of marriage allowances, reached an understanding with the company on 22 November. The company demanded the voluntary resignation of 166 union leaders and dismissed Chairman TAJIMA, Itsuo of the strike committee and 109 others.

ITEM 12 Guilty Strike Leaders to be Punished - Jiji - 1 Apr 48. Translator:
A. Kido. (WM)146
Full Translation:

The Government, which is much harassed over the problem of settling the dispute of the All Japan Government and Public Office Workers Union, decided at a special Cabinet meeting held on the 31st, to deal drastically with the All Japan Communications Workers Union and other government office workers unions, who in spite of the SCAP announcement of the 29th, have not completely called off their strikes.

The Public Servants Regulations will be invoked. The activities of those in national headquarters who were directly connected with the issuing of the orders will be investigated and then they will be subject to disciplinary action or reduction of salary.

PRESS COMMENTS

Wednesday, March 31

WHAT SCAP FIAT SIGNIFIES

ASAHI—The contemplated nation-wide strike of communications workers scheduled to begin today has been called off by a SCAP notice. Thus the Government and public workers' wage disputes spearheaded by the National Communications Workers Union now faces a grave new situation.

It is regrettable that the problem could not be solved independently by the Japanese themselves without SCAP interference. Facing the new situation brought about thus, the Government and the workers have agreed to start anew from the point reached in their negotiations up to March 25. The two parties are, however, disagreed as to whether localized disputes and "leave of absence" tactics should be permitted. The Unions are maintaining that only a nation-wide walk-out of communications workers was subject to the SCAP notice and they are apparently determined to continue local strikes and holiday tactics, whereas the Administration contends that even such regional walk-outs and strikes by clerical workers of the Government and public services are to be regarded as falling under the SCAP memorandum if such actions conflict with public interests. Thus the Government is refusing collective bargaining with its employes unless the strike actions are discontinued.

We cannot but side with the Government although we do not deny the Government-public workers' right to strike. The GHQ notice is confined to the contemplated nation-wide strike of communications workers, to be sure, but the fiat should naturally be construed as demanding restraint also on localized strikes and "leave of absence" tactics as well, inasmuch as the spirit of the memorandum is to preclude aggravation of emaciated Japanese economy and to avoid increasing the burden on Allied nations.

Localized strikes by communications workers and "leave of absence" tactics resorted to by clerical Government-public workers are, in fact, a menace to public interests no less serious than an all-out strike. Under the current circumstances, there can be no other alternative than collective negotiations with the Government if union demands are to be accepted.

Now that collective talks are to be started, the unions would only be inconveniencing the public unnecessarily if they continued such actions. The unions should be advised to discontinue local walk-outs and holiday tactics and start collective negotiations as early as possible. This, in our opinion, is the surest way to win the public's sympathy and bring about a sound development of trade unionism.

Now that the issue has been placed on the lap of the Government and unions for independent settlement, it is earnestly to be hoped that the parties concerned will proceed toward a comprehensive settlement of the problem.

Output Not Seriously Hurt By Walkouts, Killen States

SCAP Official Declares Strike Issue Is A Japanese Government Problem

By RUSSELL BRINES
Chief of Associated Press Tokyo Bureau

The current series of work stoppages has not yet seriously affected Japanese production, and SCAP headquarters does not contemplate dealing with them now, J. S. Killen, chief of the labor division, said.

He flatly denied Japanese rumors that orders to end the strikes had been issued.

"No orders have been given to end the strikes," he told The Associated Press. "We certainly feel that this is a problem which the Japanese Government should deal with and should learn how to deal with."

"We are encouraging them to do so, and we are awaiting developments."

Mr. Killen indicated that if any action is taken by headquarters it would depend upon the seriousness of strike effects upon the country's

economy. Action also might be taken if any of the work stoppages interfered more directly with the aims of the occupation.

"No lasting injury has been done to Japanese economy as yet," he said. "There are no work stoppages which have seriously affected productive processes."

He said the scheduled general strike of last year was cancelled by SCAP order because it would "have crippled economy."

Asked if the current series of work stoppages showed any evidence of being a communist effort to find out how far the party could go without incurring SCAP retaliation, Mr. Killen replied:

"I presume to the extent that the Communist Party is interested, they would like to device techniques which make it more difficult to deal with them, if that becomes necessary."

NIPPON TIMES

MAR 29 1948

SCAP OFFICIAL PRAISES SETTLEMENT OF STRIKE

3-Month-Old Electric Workers' Dispute Amicably Settled

The amicable settlement of the three-month-old electric workers' dispute was lauded by James S. Killen, chief of the Labor Division, ESS, in a statement issued Friday afternoon.

He said:

"The unanimous decision by the Struggle Committee of the All Japan Electric Power Workers' Union to accept the mediation award in its wage dispute signifies that the leadership of this important union has displayed responsible and praiseworthy statesmanship and the union membership is to be congratulated on this decision."

"The Labor Division has been interested from the very beginning of these long-drawn negotiations in watching the attitude of employers and unions in both collective bargaining and in discussion of the wage award. All those members of the Struggle Committee, employers, and Central Labor Relations Board representatives, who have earnestly sought to find a fair basis for agreement, are to be sincerely congratulated on a difficult job well done."

According to the mediation plan, the average wage of the workers will be increased to about ¥5,316 per month, besides special allowances for January and February as "anti-crisis funds."

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NIPPON TIMES

Allied Headquarters Rules Marquat Memo Covers Strike Waves

The regional strikes which have been going on all over Japan have been ruled to come under the Marquat memo and must stop, Allied Headquarters has announced.

However, the United Press reported this morning that 50,000 government communications workers of four prefectures stayed away from their jobs today. A SCAP spokesman said the situation would be investigated and added that union leaders and the government seemed close to reaching agreement on the wage proposal drafted yesterday.

Earlier this week Maj. Gen. William Marquat, chief of General MacArthur's Economic and Scientific Section, sent a memorandum to the Japanese Government informing it that nationwide "coordinated work stoppages" were outlawed. Then smaller strikes broke out all over the country, because union leaders said the memo did not apply to "regional" walkouts.

The main reason for the strikes was a dispute between labor leaders and the government on wages for Japanese Government workers. The base pay for government workers has now been set at 2,500 yen monthly, with 420 additional yen to be distributed along a skilled classification scale.

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STARS & STRIPES

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STRIKE HINDERS RADIO FARE

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'Information Please' And 'Twenty Questions' Programs Suffer

Two of Japan's most popular radio fare—Hanashi-no-Izumi and Niju-no-Tobira, the Japanese counterparts of America's "Information Please" and "Twenty Questions" broadcasts—were the hardest hit of any radio entertainment by the latest widespread strike by the National Communications Workers Union. Stoppage of mail threw authorities of Radio Tokyo in a dither, as the two programs depend heavily on public contributions of suggestions and quiz questions.

The number of postcards submitted by fans of "Twenty Questions," which range over 10,000 normally, dropped to zero on Friday and recovered to a meager 200 on Monday. With the termination of the strike on Tuesday, the number of missives picked up to 6,500.

Authorities of Radio Tokyo expressed belief that the two programs would have been completely snuffed out if the strike had lasted for another week.

NIPPON TIMES APR 2 1948

Police Arrest 18 Strikers

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Eighteen striking workers of the Japan Typewriter Company were arrested by a police squad Wednesday afternoon when they obstructed a bailiff's provisional disposition of the company's plant at Hatagaya, Shibuya Ward, which had been under "production control" by workers.

As workers refused to budge, the Metropolitan Police Board rushed a squad of 260 armed officers.

The company's labor dispute dates back to April 1, last year, when the workers demanded a pay hike.

The management announced the closure of its plants on April 25. The workers filed a suit with the Metropolitan Labor Relations Board and began "production control" of the company's three plants located at Hatagaya, Mita, and Chofu, on November 4.

Subsequently, the management brought a suit against seven members of the union for embezzlement on January 17 and took steps for a provisional disposition of the three plants on March 5.

The court sent a bailiff to the Hatagaya plant as the first step to take over the three plants.

NIPPON TIMES APR 23 1948

Public Indignant at Union in Osaka For Hampering Train Rescue Work

Public indignation is mounting in Kansai over the failure of the striking Osaka Council of National Communications Workers Union to take swift emergency action for facilitating transmission of communications relative to the latest disastrous Kinki Line train accident.

At the time the tragedy occurred Wednesday morning, telephone and telegraph services had been in a state of suspension from a strike since Tuesday. As the result, rescue operations at the scene of the disaster, such as communicating with the head office of the Kinki

Line, neighboring hospitals' and transmitting information concerning the dead and injured, were greatly hampered.

Sharp criticism is being levelled at union labor leaders for their failure to provide for emergency service in the event of such contingencies during the strike period.

Confronted by such public pressure and apparently through recognition of its own failings, the Tennoji Chapter of the NCWU has now belatedly posted notices that it would accept telegrams and phone calls for those involved in the train wreck.

NIPPON TIMES

STRIKE SETTLEMENT HELD SURE AS GOV'T., WORKERS NEGOTIATE

146
Talks Continue on Wage Issue; 'Disciplinary Action' Seen Against Strike Leaders

The Government and its employes yesterday moved toward a settlement of the waves of short-time walkouts which has flared up in all parts of the nation for more than one month as a series of conferences were held between representatives of the administration and the unions.

A basic understanding on the controversial wage problem was expected within Thursday.

The Government indicated that the ringleaders of the strikes would be disciplined following the settlement of the wage issue.

Yesterday's negotiations started at 10:20 a.m. and after two recesses were scheduled to be continued in the late afternoon as the paper went to press.

A notice demanding the immediate cessation of all regional strikes still being continued was handed to Chairman Kazuyoshi Dobashi of the National Communications Workers Union yesterday by Communications Minister Eiji Tomiyoshi.

Falls Under Memorandum

In his notice, Mr. Tomiyoshi pointed out that the strikes in the four districts of Hokkaido, Aomori, Miyagi, and Kanagawa fell under the memorandum issued March 29 by Major General W. F. Marquat, Chief, Economic and Scientific Section, SCAP.

"Therefore," Mr. Tomiyoshi said, "you are requested to take immediate steps to call off the above strikes."

Meanwhile, the Communications Ministry revealed that "disciplinary action" would be taken against those persons responsible for the walkouts since the strike tactics violated the Labor Relations Adjustment Law, the Telegraph Law, and the Postal Service Law.

Labor Minister Kanju Katō, however, pointed out that the

(Continued on Page 2)

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Strike Settlement Held Sure as Gov't., Workers Negotiate

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(Continued from Page 1)
question of punishing the instigators of the strike action would be considered wholly independent of the wage negotiations.

At a press conference at 2 p.m. yesterday, Chief Cabinet Secretary Gizo Tomabechi revealed that the problem of paying the ¥420 out of the ¥2,920 wage base was the only difficult problem left unsolved.

Expresses Confidence

He expressed confidence that a settlement would be reached within the day and that the plan agreed upon would be submitted to the Wage Deliberative Council.

Mr. Tomabechi revealed that the negotiations have reached a point where the time of the payment is being considered. The union, he said, is insisting on the payment by April 5, while the Government is intending to postpone the payment until April 20, because of the new calculations which must be made as a result of the talks over the efficiency pay.

He added that the Government is studying measures which will not conflict with the law recently passed by the Diet concerning the payment of wages to government workers and will not be unfavorable to the Government Railway Workers Union which accepted the new wage scale earlier.

During the afternoon recess, Chairman Dobashi however said that the negotiations had not progressed "very far as yet."

In the meantime, approximately 30,000 workers belonging to the Government and Public Workers Union held a rally at the Imperial Plaza and asked for the immediate payment of the wages on the new scale.

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COMPROMISE PLAN TO SETTLE DISPUTE AS STRIKES HALTED

Government, Workers Draft
Settlement Scheme in
Night Session 146

The Government and its disputing employes were expected late yesterday afternoon to reach a complete agreement on the wage issue based on the compromise plan worked out Thursday night by representatives of the administration and the unions.

Striking workers of the National Communications Workers Union finally returned to their jobs as the union's strike headquarters ordered all of its local chapters to call off all regional walkouts.

A NCWU spokesman, however, declared that the strike leaders would not be responsible for "autonomous" action by its locals.

The 35-day strike action by the communications workers in all parts of the nation was estimated to have resulted in the loss of 952,665 man-days.

The Cabinet meeting yesterday morning accepted the compromise plan concerning the controversial wage issue and awaited a favorable reply from the representatives of the Government and Public Workers Union.

In the final negotiations scheduled for late Friday afternoon, the Government Railway Workers Union, which had accepted the new ¥2,920 wage scale earlier, was asked to participate.

The compromise plan included the following provisions:

1. The Government shall pay the balance between the ¥2,500 basis and the old wage level.
2. A committee shall be set up by the Government and the unions for the creation of a permanent rank system for workers in public service.
3. Payment of ¥2,500 of the new wage standard shall be made on April 10.
4. The decision on the distribution of ¥420 shall be made by May 1.
5. Payment of the wages on the basis of the new wage standard for the four-month period, from January to April, shall be made by May 1, if possible.
6. The Government and public workers will receive new wages on the basis of the new rank system on May 21.
7. The unions shall accept the new wage standard of ¥2,920 and bring their disputes to a final settlement. They shall immediately call off all dispute tactics, now underway or being planned in the course of April.

The plan was drafted by the representatives of the Government and the union Thursday night following a conference with James S. Killen, head of SCAP's Labor Division.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Gizo Tomabechi expressed confidence that the compromise plan would be accepted by the workers.

The strike committees of the unions belonging to the Council of Government and Public Workers Unions held their respective meetings Friday morning, and observers believed that they will accept the compromise plan.

APR 3 1948

NIPPON TIMES

EX-PREMIER BACKS LABOR IF STRIKES NOT POLITICAL

Settlement of Disputes Through
Negotiation Stressed

Kyodo

OSAKA, April 2—If the current labor disputes are motivated by economic demands, "I will not hesitate to support labor," ex-Prime Minister and Socialist Chairman Tetsu Katayama declared in a press interview here.

He, however, expressed his firm opposition to any strike of a political nature.

Mr. Katayama arrived here for a speaking tour together with the Social Democratic Party leaders including ex-Labor Minister Mitsusuke Yonekubo.

The ex-Prime Minister stressed that all disputes should be settled amicably through negotiations between the disputing parties.

He also opined that socialist policies should be achieved "gradually but steadily" in this country.

It will be "difficult and irrational" to push for all socialistic policies at once, he added.

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NIPPON TIMES

Kyoto Strike Settled

The all-out strike of municipal tram and bus service employes in Kyoto City was settled yesterday as the labor union accepted the ¥2,920 basic pay standard.

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NIPPON TIMES

GOV'T AND WORKERS MEET AGAIN TODAY; IMPASSE UNBROKEN

Teachers' Union Reaches a
Provisional Accord With
Government

Settlement of the strike between the Government and the Government and Public Workers' Union was left over to be decided today following another breakdown in the collective negotiations at the 12th meeting held Friday evening.

The union side decided at a meeting of its strike committee at 8 p.m. Friday that unless the three-point demand made on March 27 was approved by the Government, it would not open negotiations on the basis of the new ¥2,920 pay level.

The Government, however, rejected the union's demand stating that unless the new proposal suggested by Chief Killen of the Labor Division, GHQ, is accepted by the union, it could not discuss any economic question in connection with the new pay.

Friday's meeting, which lasted from 9 p.m. until 10:10 p.m., was attended by State Minister Suehiro Nishio, Labor Minister Kanju Kato and Chief Cabinet Secretary Gizo Tomabechi, representing the Government, while the union side was represented by Kazuyoshi Dobashi and 14 others.

Meanwhile, the Japan Teachers' Union decided to open independent negotiations with the Government and succeeded in coming to a provisional agreement accepting the ¥2,920 level and suspending all planned strikes.

Union representatives conferred with Education Vice-Minister Arimitsu at the Education Ministry midnight Friday evening and the agreement was signed at 2 a.m. Saturday.

The agreement stipulated the following:

1. Members of the teacher's union shall be treated as Government officials engaged in field work and shall be paid under the 170 per cent level.
2. The Government shall consider special funds for educational research work in deciding the new pay.
3. The Government shall make temporary advances in the form of loans when the payment of the new level becomes difficult due to lack of local funds.
4. The Government shall urge all offices concerned to have the new pay speedily made to the members.
5. The Education Minister and the Japan Teacher's Union shall mediate in order to end speedily the disputes between prefectural government and the teacher's union.

NIPPON TIMES APR 5 1948

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CALLS STRIKE HEADS POLITICAL AGITATORS

Premier Says 'Some' Labor Leaders Not Working for Workers' Benefit

The Central Labor Relations Board yesterday stepped in to offer mediation between the Government and its employes unions. As preliminary steps, Chairman Itsutaro Suehiro of the CLRS held several talks with the Government and union representatives since April 5.

"Some strike leaders" must be termed as political agitators, Prime Minister Hitoshi Ashida charged Tuesday before the Lower House Labor Committee.

He said these leaders are taking advantage of the current labor disputes to further their political ends rather than to improve the workers' living conditions.

The Prime Minister admitted that the Government and public workers are facing dire difficulties under the pressure of inflationary conditions. For this reason, he continued, most workers are restless and entirely free of political designs.

As for the labor laws, Dr. Ashida revealed that no concrete plan is under way to revise the present legislation. He denied that a labor law similar to the Taft-Hartley Law was being considered by him "officially." He admitted, however, that he had been studying the American labor law for his own personal interest.

Labor leaders and some members of the Social Democratic Party have been strongly opposed to any revision of the existing (Continued on Page 2)

Calls Strike Heads Political Agitators

(Continued from Page 1)

labor laws. Meanwhile, the labor front opposed to the Government offer of the ¥2,920 wage scale showed signs of cracking further as the Labor Minister and Foreign Office employes unions approved the Japan Teachers Union's decision to negotiate independently with the Government.

In view of this situation, Chief Cabinet Secretary Gizo Tomabechi said yesterday that the Government is not considering collective negotiations with the Council of the Government and Public Workers Unions.

He took a strong stand in opposing the three-point demand of the unions, namely, no punishment to strike leaders, full pay to all strikers, and no revision of the labor laws.

Mr. Tomabechi further revealed that the Government preparing legislation concerning the calculation of efficiency allowances which was stipulated in the compromise plan of April 2.

The punishment of strike leaders, he added, will be taken up separately from the question of wages.

In the National Communications Workers Union, a movement is growing among some members to expel the present leaders. Representatives of the Government electric railway workers, however, presented a resolution to the NCWU leaders expressing their backing to the latter's dispute tactics.

Indications were strong yesterday that the unions may ask the Central Labor Relations Board to mediate the remaining differences between the Government and the workers.

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NIPPON TIMES

CLRB MOVES TO END GOV'T.-UNION DISPUTE

Suehiro Seeks to Bring Union Leaders, Ministers Together Under Compromise Plan

As Dr. Itsutaro Suehiro, chairman of the Central Labor Relations Board, continued his preliminary moves for conciliation, both Government and labor circles were hopeful that he would succeed in prevailing upon the Administration and the government employes unions to resume negotiations to settle their lengthy dispute.

The CLRB Chairman held a series of conferences with Government and union leaders yesterday. He was expected to urge the re-opening of negotiations between the Government and its employes.

One of the important points in the attempt to reach a compromise is the question of the disciplinary action taken against leaders of the National Tax Collectors Union, six of whom were discharged. The union is reportedly demanding the cancellation of the penalties against its leaders as a prior condition.

Dr. Suehiro is believed to be considering the following points in his mediation efforts:

1. The Government will not revise the existing labor laws "for the worse."
2. The Government will pay the salaries of all its employes during the period of their one-day walk-outs and "vacation" strikes.
3. The Government will not discharge the strike leaders, but the action against the tax collectors' union will stand.

Deputy Prime Minister Suehiro Nishio following his conference with Dr. Suehiro late Wednesday night said that the Government would be lenient with the leaders of the recent strikes. He added, however, that the disciplinary action against the tax collectors must stand.

Mr. Nishio also revealed that the above three points should be considered separately following the settlement of the wage issue. He added that the Government's "no work, no pay" decision would stand.

Meanwhile, the Government will pay the ¥2,500 basic wage on Saturday only to its workers who belong to those Government offices which have accepted the new ¥2,920 wage level.

Workers in unions which rejected the new wage standard will receive their salaries on the same day but on the basis of the old (Continued on Page 2)

CLRB Moves to End Gov't.-Union Dispute

(Continued from Page 1)

¥1,800 level. Details as to the payment of the remaining ¥420 will be decided on by a special committee to be set up shortly.

The Tokyo Kyuko Line Chapter of the Private Railways and Bus Lines Workers Union, in the meantime is threatening to go on a full-fledged strike since its March 31 demand concerning a sliding scale wage system was rejected by the management.

Some locals of the chapter walked out partially from Monday afternoon.

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Accord Reached In Coal Dispute

The threatened strike of 300,000 coal miners throughout the nation was narrowly averted as the coal mine operators and the representatives of the workers union reached an amicable settlement in a midnight session.

The settlement was made along the lines of the new proposal presented Wednesday by the Coal Mine Operators' Federation calling for an efficiency wage scale for the mining of over-the-quota coal.

Effective for six months from April 1, the agreement provides for a salary of ¥4,000 per month to clerical workers and ¥6,380 to pit workers.

The fixed monthly goal for a worker was set at 5.75 tons with an extra ¥100 to be paid to those who mined up to 102 per cent of the goal, ¥200 for 104 per cent, ¥300 for 106 per cent, ¥400 for 108 per cent, and ¥800 or 116 per cent.

Representatives of the management and the union met from 8 p.m. Wednesday evening and finally arrived at an agreement at 4 a.m. Thursday morning.

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Protect the Public Welfare

The recent series of labor disputes by the Government workers in the form of 24-hour walkouts and "vacation" strikes have brought into sharp focus the crying need to protect the public from serious inconveniences and the rank and file of the working class from their heedless leaders. This need was made clear when the public servants threatened a general strike which was narrowly averted only after they were reminded twice by a SCAP spokesman that the "coordinated work stoppage" would be considered as having a "drastically unfavorable impact upon economic recovery and public welfare."

Labor leaders would be the first to decry the present economic conditions which make it difficult for the workers to maintain a decent standard of living. The public realize only too well the hardships imposed upon the Government workers and doubtlessly sympathize with them. But the people as a whole are also in the same dire economic straits, and the labor leaders have yet to prove how their strike tactics paralyzing the communications and the administrative system would improve the economic situation.

It is also difficult to understand what these leaders had in mind by hedging, as they did, on the interpretation of the term "coordinated work stoppage," and insisting that "regional" and "local" strikes should not be included in the ban on dispute tactics detrimental to the national welfare. The labor leaders should have known without being told that systematic walkouts of short duration though carried out on different days and in different areas have the culminative effects of a general strike.

Furthermore, the main issue over which the leaders of the union threatened a general strike involved the payment of ¥420—whether this sum should be paid on the basis of worker efficiency or distributed evenly among all workers. Surely, the amount in question could hardly justify the calling of a general strike which might lead to economic chaos.

Indeed, the circumstances surrounding the recent labor disputes are such that the people may suspect that motives other than those of a purely economic nature are behind the wave of strikes which threatened to grow into a coordinated nationwide work stoppage. As General MacArthur pointed out in his statement of January 31, 1947, labor is given the freedom of action "in the achievement of legitimate objectives." While the grievances of the workers must be recognized as being real to a great extent, it cannot be said that the labor leaders exhausted every

means of reaching an amicable settlement before resorting to the strike weapon.

The impossible wage demand of ¥7,800 per month which was first made by the workers when the Government offered the new pay standard of ¥2,920, and their insistence upon continuing the strikes while asking the prompt payment of wages upon the new scale cannot be considered "legitimate" or justifiable reasons for embarking upon a program of nationwide strikes. Labor leaders would doubtlessly find it difficult to reply if charges were to be made that they deliberately utilized the difficult living conditions of the Government workers to create a planned disturbance.

The freedom of action given the workers to attain their legitimate objectives bears with it a grave responsibility to the nation and to the people. The right to strike is a potent social weapon which should only be used as a last resort when all other means of negotiation and settlement have been exhausted. By taking such actions as their recent headlong and intemperate strikes, the labor leaders are setting the clock back on the

healthy development of the union movement in Japan.

It would not be surprising if a movement should arise among the people for a positive legislation calling for a ban upon strikes among public utilities' workers and Government employes.

If the Government workers cannot resort to the legitimate channels of negotiation before striking and if they are so inconsiderate of the national welfare as to court economic chaos at a time when every effort must be exerted for the reconstruction of the war-ravaged economy, laws to control the labor unions would surely meet with public favor. Moreover, this is a crucial period when the nation must demonstrate its ability to keep its house in order so that the United States Government and its private capitalists would feel safe in sending credits and making investments in Japan. The nation is also dependent upon American aid for food and other essentials. And the waste caused by strikes in this connection should need no elaboration.

While the threat of a coordinated work stoppage has been averted at this time, the danger still remains, for the fundamental problems concerning the workers' livelihood have not yet been solved. The people thus may be caught again in the middle of a strike through no fault of their own.

An intelligent law defining the responsibilities of workers in the public utilities and the administration while being fair to labor and just to the public is therefore needed. Such a law would be much more preferable now than to allow the present labor leadership to sabotage the sound growth of the union movement. A ban on strikes among workers in essential public services would in no way restrict their freedom for adequate provisions could be made for thorough and immediate arbitration.

Workers themselves need protection from ruthless leaders who are obviously inciting labor disputes for the purpose of crippling the national economy. Strong action by the Diet and the Government is required now to protect the gains made toward economic recovery since the war's end from being completely sabotaged.

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'PRODUCTION CONTROL' DENOUNCED BY MIZUTANI

Strike Tactics Termed 'Unlawful'; Will Not Supply Materials

Japanese workers' post-war strike tactics known as "production control" was denounced by Commerce-Industry Minister Chozaburo Mizutani as being "absolutely unlawful."

He declared at a press conference that the Government would stick firmly to its policy of denying supply of materials to plants as long as they are under "production control" by workers.

One of the by-products of Japan's post-war labor movement, the "production control" tactic was often resorted to by workers engaged in labor disputes, who took over control of production, instead of going on strike, on the ground that the new tactics better suited Japan's post-war economic conditions than strikes involving stoppage of production.

Mr. Mizutani also charged that in his opinion it is the Communist party that is impeding the nation's efforts for recovery of production.

Meanwhile, the Government and its employes were preparing to confer over the settlement of the wage dispute through the good offices of the Central Labor Relations Board at a late hour yesterday.

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SIT-DOWN STRIKERS AT THEATER SEIZED

Police Are Rushed to Metro Movie House to Quell Fight Between Opposing Groups

A group of employes of the Toyoko Motion Picture Company which had tried to occupy the Metro movie theater in the compounds of the Shimbashi subway station Tuesday night were locked in the theater instead by another group of the company employes, and finally were arrested by the Atago police Wednesday.

When the theater closed Tuesday night following the last show, a group of the company employes, 102 strong in all, led by the chairman of the Toyoko Motion Picture Company local of the Japan Motion Picture and Theatrical Workers Union rushed into the hall. The invaders crashed their way into the manager's room and handed Manager Kiyoji Oishi a declaration of strike while others shoved all non-union members of the theater's 22 employes into the manager's room.

While the sleepy members of the group who had spent overnight there were hardly awake another group of the company's employes who are on friendly terms with the management came to the rescue of the manager and others who had been marooned in the manager's room.

After the manager and others were rescued, the two opposing groups staged a free-for-all fight in the empty hall. Officers of the Atago Police Station and the Metropolitan Police Board on orders by the Tokyo District Public Procurators' Office arrived on the scene and arrested all members of the group who occupied the theater on charges of illegal intrusion and intervention of business.

The theater manager said that the employes of the Toyoko Motion Picture Company have been in dispute with the management ever since last summer.

Internal strife divided the employes into two factions, one made up of the non-Japan Motion Picture and Theatrical Workers Union members and the other, much smaller in size, composed of the union members. As the situation aggravated further toward the end of last month, employes of the company's movie houses at Shinjuku, Gotanda and Jujo were driven to the brink of work stoppage.

The company, the manager said, in an attempt to forestall further aggravation of the dispute, fired six union member technicians of the Metro theater on April 5, which fanned the long-smouldering dispute into a fresh flame, and caused the angry mob to crash into the Metro theater Tuesday night.

NIPPON TIMES APR 9 1948

TKK Workers Go on Strike

The Tokyo Electric Express Railway Company's workers' union declared a 24-hour strike Sunday as negotiations held with the company representatives Saturday at the mediation of the Tokyo Metropolitan Labor Relations Committee broke down.

Lines affected by the strike were the Tamagawa, Keio, Toyoko, Inokashira, Tamagawa, Oj, Ikegami and Mekaba.

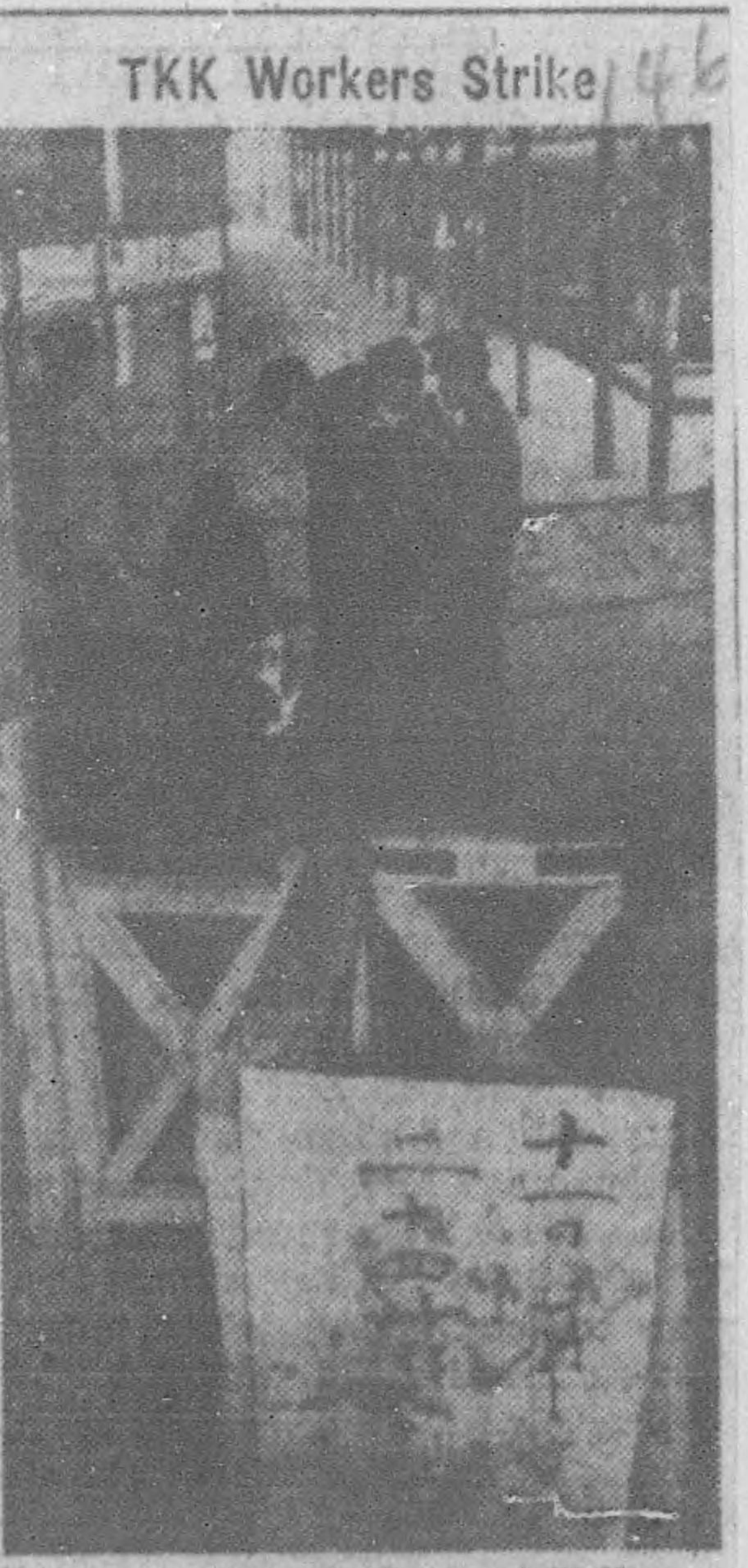
The union demand of ¥3,500, or 145 per cent of the present basic pay was met by the company proposal of ¥2,690, which was rejected at a union meeting of the central executive committee.

The negotiations were begun at 7 p.m. Saturday and came to a deadlock at 2:30 a.m. Sunday.

With the breakdown in the negotiations, the company announced that it would follow the pre-negotiation policy. This action by the company has further angered the union which announced that it would not participate in any further negotiations unless requested by the company. The situation threatens to break out into an all-out strike of the workers after April 14.

Meanwhile, the Odakyu line and the Toyoko department store and theater will go on a 24-hour strike Monday, while on Tuesday the Keihin and Shonan tram lines and the Kanagawa bus lines are scheduled to strike.

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A deserted platform at Shibuya Station with motormen and conductors idling and warming themselves around a fire Sunday morning when employes of the Tokyo Kyuko (Tokyo Electric Express Railway) went on a strike crippling all lines operated by the company in the Metropolis. (Kyodo Photo)

NIPPON TIMES APR 13 1948

City Rail Strike Ends, Labor Relations Board Arbitrates Dispute

The weekend strikes of the privately owned Tokyo Express Railway Company ended at about 5:30 this morning as all the lines in Tokyo resumed operation—according to a telephone call from Stars and Stripes to the company and Kyodo News.

Before the strike came to a halt early this morning, more than 1,500,000 Tokyo commuters faced the possibility of long walks to other tram lines.

Yesterday some 100,000 persons depending on the Odakyu Line were completely stranded. Commuters on urgent trips walked from three to seven miles to reach parallel lines.

APR 13 1948 STARS & STRIPES

Tokyu Workers Call Off Strike

The threatened strike of the Tokyu (Tokyo Electric Express Railway Company) workers was narrowly averted yesterday morning when the company and the union succeeded in bringing about a last-minute settlement of their dispute.

Union and company representatives, following an overnight negotiation, initialled the settlement agreement at 5:30 yesterday morning.

The company and the union reopened negotiations last night after Director Obata of the Transportation Ministry's Land Transportation Control Bureau urged both sides to endeavor to settle their dispute and to avert the threatened strike.

The compromise ended the three-day-old dispute which threatened to paralyze tram and bus service for 1,500,000 commuters in the western and southern section of Tokyo.

The management accepted the union's demand that 115 per cent of the basic wage amounting to ¥2,690 be paid now and ¥1,500 by May 20 as a special allowance on occasion of the organization of the new company.

In addition, the company consented to the union's demand for full payment of wages to the strikers.

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TKK STRIKE MAY HIT 1,500,000 TOKYOITES; CLRB MAY MEDIATE

Gov't. Sends Ultimatum to Public Workers; Demands Answer by Noon Today

More than 1,500,000 commuters residing in the southern and western sections of Tokyo were expected to be stranded today as the workers unions of all tram and bus lines operated by the Tokyo Kyuko (Electric Express Railway Company) yesterday declared a 24-hour walkout starting from midnight, last night.

The decision was taken at the union's Central Struggle Committee meeting.

In a late hour development yesterday afternoon, the Central Labor Relations Board moved to halt the strike of the 13,500 workers by resorting to compulsory arbitration in accordance with Item 5, Clause 1, Article 18 of the Labor Relations Adjustment Law.

The article was expected to be invoked late yesterday afternoon.

Some 100,000 people relying on the Odakyu line, operated by the Tokyo Kyuko were completely stranded as commuters on urgent trips walked from three to seven miles in order to reach parallel-ing tracks.

Gov't Sends Ultimatum

In the midst of this new labor dispute, the Government yesterday sent a virtual ultimatum to the Government and Public Workers Unions which are still balking on the settlement proposals.

The Government demanded that the new proposal be answered by the workers by noon today.

The Government's move came after the tax-collectors, communications workers, and some other unions turned down a compromise proposal worked out by Dr. Itsutaro Sushiro, chairman of the Central Labor Relations Board.

The situation surrounding the union-Government dispute remained completely deadlocked over the week-end, with neither side making any move to break the deadlock due to the failure of the balking unions to settle differences that had developed among them.

Won't Tolerate Delay

Through the various Ministries, the Government yesterday morning served verbal notice on their respective employes unions, bluntly telling them that it cannot tolerate any further delay in settling the dispute.

The Government demanded that unions failing to answer by the time limit would be excluded from the projected Pay Adjustment Committee charged with making detailed wage arrangements on the basis of the new ¥2,920-a-month pay scale.

Elaborating on the Government's latest move to the unions, Chief Cabinet Secretary Gizo Tomabechi pointed out at his press conference yesterday afternoon that the Government must of necessity complete the findings of the projected committee within this month in order to legislate the new wage system in time for its enforcement in full from next month.

Two-Thirds Have Accepted

He stressed that of the total unionized government employes numbering 1,870,000 as many as 1,200,000, or more than two-thirds, had already accepted the new ¥2,920 wage level on the Government terms.

Under such circumstances, Mr. Tomabechi declared, the Government is under obligation to put the new pay scale into force in full without any further delay for the benefit of these employes who have accepted it.

The Chief Cabinet Secretary voiced the hope that as many unions as possible would send their representatives to the proposed Pay Adjustment Committee.

He warned, however, that in case some unions failed to do so the Government would have to proceed "with regret" to set up the committee without their participation and to have the committee work out a new pay system, which would have to apply to the non-participating unions after it had been finally fixed.

Final Proposal

The Government's final proposal was made up of three parts, namely, (1) the terms of confirmation, (2) a memorandum, and (3) the terms of understanding.

The terms of confirmation as submitted by the Government were:

1. That the union shall accept the new ¥2,920 pay scale as the

(Continued on Page 2)

TKK Strike May Hit 1,500,000 Tokyoites; CLRB May Mediate

(Continued from Page 1)

final settlement of the present wage dispute, and,

2. That the union shall forthwith terminate all acts of dispute, whether actually under way or being projected.

In the memorandum as contained in its proposal, the Government notified the unions:

1. That the Government, on the basis of the report submitted by the Temporary Pay Committee, shall immediately pay the unpaid balance below the ¥2,500 level with regard to the January to March salaries.

2. That both the Government and the unions shall immediately set up a committee by inviting all the government employes unions to participate with the object of conferring on and formulating a new pay-system.

3. That the Government shall pay the April salary on April 10 on the basis of the ¥2,500 level.

4. That upon completion of examination of the proposed pay system and upon approval of it by the Diet, the Government shall immediately pay in one lump sum all the wages which it owes its employes retroactively from January through April. (The Government and unions shall aim to complete the examination by May 1.)

5. That the government employes shall receive their newly-fixed May salaries as based on the classification system on the designated regular pay-day.

Terms of Understanding

Under the heading of the "terms of understanding" the Government further told the unions that it would raise no objections in case the unions as a whole insisted in the Pay Adjustment Committee:

1. That the pay differentials based on qualifications shall not, in principle, be further widened, though no objections shall be raised to differentials to be enforced in accordance with the different types of official duty, and,

2. That, with the exception of special cases, all government employes shall be guaranteed a base pay representing 160 per cent of the ¥1,600 level.

Conspicuous by its absence in the Government's final proposal was any reference to the unions' so-called three preliminary conditions of acceptance, centering on their demand that no disciplinary action shall be taken against union officers responsible for the recent work stoppages.

Strikes, Sabotage Hit Coal Production

SAPPORO, April 15—Hokkaido coal production got off to a sluggish start in the new fiscal year, mainly because of strikes and sabotage during the first 10 days of this month. Kyodo News said today.

The first 10 days' output was 185,000 tons, according to estimates made by the Sapporo Coal Mine Bureau. Production then was only about 68 per cent of the set goal of 21,800 tons.

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Communication Men In Osaka On Strike

While 20,000 Osaka communications workers went out on strike yesterday, one Japanese labor leader was acquitted and two were given fines and jail sentences for interfering with Occupation communication during last month's government workers' strike.

Toshio Yamanouchi, 23, executive of the Tokyo Chapter of the National Communications Workers' Union, was sentenced to three years at hard labor and fined 75,000 yen. Mitsugi Shinozaki, 21-year-old member of the Union's Central Strike Committee, was given a one-year hard labor sentence and fined 50,000 yen. Shozaburo Nozawa, 24, was acquitted.

Yamanouchi still faces trial for perjury charged with testifying that he was physically mistreated by CID agents and forced to sign a statement concerned with the cutting of two telephone-teletype circuits between Tokyo and Osaka. Yamanouchi pleaded not guilty on the perjury charge and the trial has been recessed for several weeks.

At the same time an estimated 20,000 communications workers went on strike in Osaka because of dissatisfaction with their monthly wage, because of the firing of union officials, and because the government has refused back pay to workers for the time they were on strike.

The United Press reported that SCAP's Labor Chief James S. Killen called in representatives of the government Communications Workers' Union yesterday and re-

minded them that both local and regional strikes came under SCAP's anti-strike memo of March 29 and should be terminated immediately.

UP also reported that other regional strikes were contemplated by the union to take place today and tomorrow in northern Japan.

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Orders Halt To Strikes

In connection with the "piston" strikes planned by communications workers' locals in various parts of the nation, SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section issued the following statement:

"James S. Killen, Chief, Labor Division, ESS, called in representatives of the National Communications Workers Union at noon April 15, 1948 and informed them that all strikes of communication workers, based on the current wage dispute, came within the scope of the memorandum of General W. F. Marquat to the Japanese government, of March 29, 1948. Because of this, Mr. Killen ordered all such disputes, whether regional or local in effect, terminated immediately."

Hopes for breaking the deadlock in the Government workers disputes were revived yesterday as informal talks were resumed between the two disputing parties.

Three union representatives met with State Minister Suehiro Nishio and Labor Minister Kato from 10:15 a.m. and discussed means of breaking the deadlock.

Meanwhile, the National Communications workers Union, which is spearheading the current Government and public workers dispute, opened a three-day meeting of its central committee in Fukushima yesterday.

The Federation of Mine Employers, upon hearing of the new strike move, laconically announced that no strike-time wages would be paid and again lapsed into silence.

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in order to solve one of the fundamental issues involved did not come through.

Labor Minister Kanju Kato and Commerce-Industry Minister Chosaburo Mizutani failed to do anything to solve the dispute although these responsible officials promised to do something to iron out the difficulties.

The metal mines are under the jurisdiction of the Commerce-Industry Minister Mizutani.

A crucial situation is in the offing if all the metal mines shut down.

Miners Call Second Strike; This Time for Five Days

By TAMOTSU MURAYAMA

The calling of two more strikes was announced Tuesday by the Federation of All Japan Mine Labor Unions as the one-day strike on Tuesday failed to bring any results. A one-day strike is scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 24, and a five-day strike is planned to commence April 28 to include May Day.

This non-Communist labor group went on a one-day strike peacefully in order to sound out the attitude of management as to whether or not they would show any sincerity.

The Labor Ministry which is supposed to be trying to arrange rations of rice and other foodstuffs for the metal mine workers equal to coal miners

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**75,000 Miners to Strike
 For Better Conditions**

By **TAMOTSU MURAYAMA** 146

Challenging the treacherous and feudalistic attitude of metal mine management, approximately 75,000 workers of the Federation of All Japan Metal Mine Labor Union an-

nounced a one-day strike on Tuesday to enforce their demand for better working and living conditions after the rupture of their negotiations. Miners and their dependents directly involved will total 200,000.

These unfortunate miners engaged in copper, gold, iron, lead and other mines, receive about 80 per cent of coal miners' wages. Their general living conditions are terribly behind the times. While coal miners receive a ration of six go of rice for each working day, the metal mine workers get only three go. Their dependents receive no special consideration, though those of coal miners are given as much as the metal mine workers themselves.

They are neglected by the Government and others concerned, whereas coal miners are given every consideration, including medical attention.

The fundamental issue involved is that metal mine management has completely ignored the workers' appeal in spite of their efforts to maintain a decent livelihood. Many of them have already fled to the coal mines in order to escape the suffering resulting from malnutrition and neglected hygiene.

The abnormal inflation in recent national economy has made it difficult for metal miners to maintain even a minimum standard of living, they stated. This means that the rehabilitation of metal mines, now devastated, cannot be achieved.

No response was forthcoming from the metal mine management when the Federation asked the following considerations:

1. That the Federation of Mine Employers shall agree to collective bargaining by the Federation of All Japan Metal Mine Labor Union.

2. That a labor contract be immediately concluded.

3. That the minimum wage system be adopted, which will partly amend the May agree-

(Continued on Page 2)

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**75,000 Miners
 May Go on Strike**

(Continued From Page 1)

ment of last year.
 4. That the sliding scale system be established and a reply to these demands be given by the Mine Employers' Federation on March 22.

It is interesting to note that the Federation of Mine Employers refused to consider even the first point, that of collective bargaining, showing a spirit contrary to the high-flown talk of democratization being mouthed by Japanese capitalists.

Furthermore, it was learned that the Federation of All Japan Metal Mine Labor Union is one of the few independent labor groups not being utilized as a political weapon in the gathering of votes by some ambitious politicians.

The Federation revealed that the Japanese Government has ignored the most serious lack of medical attention prevailing in all the metal mines. Many metal mines are even devoid of medical facilities. "Silicate lungs" which is a vocational affliction with miners, due to fine silicate powder present in the mines is a slow but sure killer and is very common among the miners.

The deplorable conditions have continued because employers have always covered up even the most flagrantly unhealthy conditions in order to save expenses, being aided on the other hand, by the reluctance of miners to make those conditions public because of their fear of losing their employment.

The deplorable conditions which have resulted from the negligence of mine employees must be laid to the responsibility of the Japanese Government.

Metal miners are facing arduous difficulties and dangers, not the least of which is mine poisoning. The miners are asking for what can only be a most reasonable improvement from the standpoint of national life.

**TOBU LINE WORKERS
 TO SUSPEND SERVICE**

Union to Decide Date of Strike
 At Rally Today 146

Commuters and food-foragers will be hard hit when employees of the Tobu electric car line enforce their decision to carry out work stoppage.

During the negotiations with the management Sunday workers of the Asakusa-Nikko-Tobu line demanded the institution of a full-fledged sliding scale wage system but collective bargaining failed. Consequently, the Tobu Line Workers Union decided to go on a strike on a date to be fixed at a rally scheduled today.

Kyoto Tram, Bus Strike

The strike of streetcar and bus workers in Kyoto continued yesterday but it did not affect services connected with the Occupation Forces.

The strike started at midnight on Saturday as the negotiations carried on by the leaders of the workers union in the Kyoto municipal government with the city authorities on their proposals for the establishment of a minimum wage broke down, reported Kyodo. The union indicated that the men would enter another period of absenteeism beginning today if a settlement is not reached by Monday.

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**Mizutani Acts
 To End Dispute** 146

By **TAMOTSU MURAYAMA**

The scheduled one-day strike today by 75,000 metal mine workers was expected to be called off as Commerce-Industry Minister Chozaburo Mizutani moved to solve the acute situation. He was in session last night with representatives of the workers and management.

Meanwhile reports indicated that Communists were offering to step into the dispute to look after the interests of the workers and to prolong the struggle.

In this connection Mr. Mizutani told this writer:

"It is vitally important to settle the dispute as early as possible in view of the present economic condition of Japan. It is impossible to give the same working and living conditions to metal mine workers as have been given to coal miners in view of the present plan of rehabilitation. But I will do all I can to mediate."

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STRIKE DIRECTIVE IS HIT BY RAILMEN

Delegates From 10 Locals Oppose Order Issued by Shimbashi Chapter

A strong opposition is being expressed within the Government railway workers against an order to prepare for a strike as issued last Saturday by the Shimbashi Management Bureau of the Government Railway Workers Union.

Delegates from 10 divisions of the Bureau at the Tokyo, Shinjuku, Shibuya, Iidabashi, Shibaura and other stations met Monday in a conference at the Shinjuku Station's council room "to criticize the strike order." They said the strike directive is a "conspiracy of the Communist Party."

The meeting was held under the slogans, including "Crush the Shimbashi Directive and Other Communist Plots," and "Opposition to Wildcat Struggle Tactics." No conclusion was reached at the meeting late in the afternoon.

Railmen Take Holidays

Nearly 600 members of the Fukushima Chapter of the Government Railway Workers Union took "reward holidays" Monday and Sunday as the chapter entered into new negotiations with the Transportation Ministry over the issue of higher pay and better treatment. A total of 335 workers absented themselves Sunday followed by 250 Monday.

A spokesman for the Fukushima Chapter said that freight and even passenger train operation around Fukushima will be suspended in case of a rupture of the negotiations.

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259 Workers Arrested In Hot Clash With Police

Two hundred and fifty-nine disputing workers of the Mita Plant of the Japan Typewriter Company were taken into custody Thursday evening after two bloody clashes with the police in which over a score of policemen were beaten up.

The bitter battle between the policemen and the workers came about when belligerent union members resorting to force refused to recognize the execution of a tentative court order freeing all of the company's plants from protracted "production control" by labor.

It followed police action on the previous day against the Hatagaya Plant in which 18 disputing workers were taken into custody for obstructing the law enforcement.

On the same day, a peaceful effort was made to induce disputing workers of the Mita Plant to give up their control of the plant without success.

Realizing that force would have to be used in ejecting disputing workers from the Mita plant, 100 policemen were dispatched to the scene Thursday morning to execute the court order.

The police found no trouble in entering through the front gate, but in doing so, were confronted by approximately 200 union members who were prepared to resist them.

A fierce battle quickly ensued between the policemen and the disputing workers. The police were compelled to withdraw when 17 of their men were beaten up.

The police, however, returned to the fray about 4 o'clock in the afternoon with a heavily bolstered force of approximately 300 men. This time they quickly threw a cordon around the plant and broke (Continued on Page 2).

Police Arrest 259 Workers

(Continued from Page 1) into the barricaded plant by smashing one of the minor exits.

In a 20-minute battle, the police finally overpowered the belligerent workers and took them all into custody on the charge of obstructing law enforcement.

In the free-for-all fights, 24 policemen and 20 workers were injured.

Workers in the nearby factories assisted the employees of the Japan Typewriter Company.

Meanwhile, the Metropolitan Labor Relations Board revealed it would either file a protest or bring a law suit against the Metropolitan Police Board shortly.

Workers And Police In Pitched Battle At Nippon Co. Plant

A fierce battle between striking workers and policemen at the Mita plant of the Nippon Typewriter Company Thursday resulted in serious injury to 24 policemen and 20 workers when the police broke into the occupied plant, the Japanese press reported yesterday.

The workers had intended to enforce their code of "production control" by stationing themselves in the plant after it had been outlawed by court order. The police, who were outnumbered two to one broke into the plant and attempted to forcibly eject the strikers.

Beaten back in the first attempt, the police withdrew and tripled their force at a nearby police station. The police re-entered the plant and in a 20-minute battle overpowered the belligerent workers. They were all taken into custody.

A similar situation was shaping up at the Chofu plant of the typewriter company but police had not yet taken action to break into the barricaded plant to enforce the court order.

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Two members of the Board were arrested by the police together with disputing unionists at the Hatagaya plant on Wednesday despite their repeated warnings that they were only mediating the dispute.

Approximately 100 police from the Chofu Police Station yesterday evening temporarily gave up their plan to enforce the tentative court decision ordering abandonment of production control by labor at the Chofu Plant of the Nippon Typewriter Company when they found that disputing workers had barricaded themselves in the plant.

NIPPON TIMES APR 24 1948

Probes Railway Strike

The Control Labor Relations Board has started an investigation into the current slow-down tactics being conducted by the Government railway workers on the Tokaido line. The investigation will decide whether their actions constitute a strike or not. Meanwhile, local train service between Tokyo and Numazu which has been hit by cancellation resulting from absenteeism and sabotage tactics, was restored Thursday. However, in the Tokyo zone, mass absenteeism continued with 26 locomotive engineers and assistants still staying away from work.

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PRESS COMMENTS

Friday, April 23

STOP ANOMALOUS STRIKES

YOMIURI—Since the railway schedule on the Yokosuka and Keihin lines were put into confusion on April 15 due to the mass absenteeism resorted to by engine operators, several runs have been cancelled daily. The engine operators' action, which inconvenienced the public beyond description is of an extremely vicious nature as a labor movement and calls for exhaustive scrutiny of the issue by the railmen's unions.

The strike action, which was resorted to on the excuse of vacation backlogs or faulty train equipments looks justifiable outwardly but so long as such an action hampers normal operation of utilities, it should be characterized as an "abnormal strike action" or "invisible strike."

In view of the terrible inconvenience caused to the general public, it was natural that the authorities concerned should have ordered the absentee crews to resume normal operation. It was also natural that the railway workers union headquarters should have ordered the stoppage of the move. In public utilities, both the management and labor are bound by duty to assume responsibility for public good. Utility workers cannot be justified to resort to strike or quasi-strike without justifiable reasons.

It is for this reason that the Labor Relations Adjustment Law prohibits strike without notice by utility workers. The recent action taken by some of the rail union members may be regarded a sort of unannounced strike.

Such an action has only damaging effects because it abets public antipathy against labor unionism on the one hand and aggravates intra-union split on the other.

At this moment when revision of the labor legislation has become a subject of discussion, this sort of action tends to incite public demand for stronger limitations on labor disputes. Viewed from an objective view-point the absentee engine operators are compromising the interests of the whole working class by their dogmatic action. We advise them to exercise serious self-reflection on what they are doing and put an end to the abnormal strike action, which is incompatible with social justice.

On the other hand, the Government and railway authorities are to blame for the lack of enthusiasm for rehabilitating the Government railways system. Numazu engine operators' refusal to work in faulty engines provides a serious warning to the Government and the railways authorities. The Administration should be called upon to make haste to work out a rehabilitation program convincing enough for the public and railroad workers.

APR 24 1948

NIPPON TIMES

Strike in Sendai

The Sendai Municipal workers went on a three-day strike from yesterday, dissatisfied with the reply from municipal authorities to their demand for establishment of a minimum wage system.

APR 25 1948

NIPPON TIMES

METAL WORKERS CALL-OFF STRIKE

Commerce-Industry Minister to Continue Efforts At Mediation

The Federation of All-Japan Metal Mine Workers Union Friday evening called off its 24-hour strike scheduled for Saturday and ordered its 75,000 miners to return to their jobs immediately.

Commerce-Industry Minister Chosaburo Mizutani mediating the dispute prevailed upon the workers to cancel their walkout. Management representatives did not agree to the arbitration plan presented by Mr. Mizutani, but the latter promised to continue his mediation efforts in order to avert the five-day strike scheduled to begin April 28.

Mr. Mizutani's proposal included the following points:

1. Wages of the metal mine workers will be raised to the level set for the coal mine workers;
2. The new pay scale will be enforced from May, but an allowance of ¥1,000 will be given for March and April; and
3. The increase of special rations to the workers will be studied by the Cabinet.

Reports from the mine, in the meantime, reveal alleged efforts by Communists and Socialists "to present a united front" in the metal mine dispute.

NIPPON TIMES APR 25 1948

DEMOCRATS STUDY CURB ON STRIKES

Prohibition of Walkouts By Workers in Public Services Planned

A plan to prohibit strikes among workers employed in public enterprises and to establish a cooling off period of 30 days in case of general labor disputes by expanding the authority of the labor relation committee is now being studied by the Political Affairs Research Committee of the Democratic Party.

This action is in line with the statement made recently by Prime Minister Hitoshi Ashida at Osaka that he was prepared to revise the existing labor laws in order to deal with illegal actions by labor unions.

The plan is expected to be submitted to the Diet at its next session.

It proposes to make the mediation by the labor relations committee compulsory, in private labor disputes and to set a period of 30 days for negotiation before an actual strike. The period may be further extended whenever necessary.

Secondly, it is proposed to revise Article 8, clause 2, of the labor relations adjustment law so that the strike of workers in public enterprises, will be prohibited with the majority decision of the labor relations committee. At present the support of a majority of the labor, capital and neutral members is required.

If this plan materializes the workers of public enterprises will be practically prohibited from striking, and the right to strike of general workers will also be greatly restricted.

NIPPON TIMES APR 27 1948

Miners' Strike Settled

The nation-wide dispute of 75,000 metal mine workers was amicably settled Tuesday when a final agreement was reached between the management and the workers on the latter's demands for higher wages. Under the new agreement, wages have been raised to ¥6,380 a month for underground miners and ¥4,000 for surface mine workers.

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KILLEN STRESSES RULES GOVERNING LABOR DISPUTES

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Non-Payment of Salaries To Workers on Strike One of 4 Precepts

Four principles, including the non-payment of wages to workers during a strike, were pointed out as fundamental precepts governing labor disputes by James S. Killen, chief of the Labor Division, ESS, at a conference with six Cabinet Ministers on Monday, it was learned.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Gizo Tomabechi said that Mr. Killen had reminded the Japanese Government of the following points in connection with the recent "piston" strikes of the Government and public workers:

(1) Wages should not be paid during a strike and the union should not entertain the idea that workers ought to be paid during a strike;

(2) Government workers who have no right to strike should submit their grievances to a committee formed for the purpose without resorting to a strike at once so as to settle the dispute peacefully;

(3) Workers who are union members should be paid by the union during a strike and they should be suspended without pay by their employers; and

(4) The time stipulations in a collective contract should be strictly observed and when they are overdue the contract should be renewed instead of prolonged just as it is.

Mr. Killen further pointed out that changes in the labor laws should be submitted to the Diet and not discussed with union members.

The Government has been endeavoring to adhere to these principles.

Meanwhile, the Government is expected shortly to urge various enterprises to establish "Dispute Settlement Committees" to prevent labor disputes as well as to bring about peaceful settlement of all labor-capital disputes.

The decision to urge the establishment of such committees to be composed voluntarily by representatives from both labor and capital in place of the present "management councils" was reached at a meeting held Tuesday evening among six Cabinet Ministers concerned with labor affairs.

It was also decided that labor representatives, who devote most of their time to labor union affairs, should take "leaves of absence" from the companies they are employed and to receive their pays from the union instead of from the company in which they are employed.

At the same time, the Cabinet Minister reaffirmed the decision that wages during strike periods shall not be paid as is the case in all other foreign countries.

It is believed that the decisions reached by the Cabinet Ministers will form the basis of a general labor policy to be formulated by the Ashida Cabinet.

In this connection, Labor Minister Kanju Kato testifying before the Lower House Budget Committee yesterday declared that the status quo may have to be maintained for the time being in connection with the question of pay for full-time union officials who are at present on management or government payrolls.

Mr. Kato said that despite the Katayama Cabinet's decision last November to have full-time union officers placed on union payrolls, most of the Japanese labor unions still remain "feudalistic" in character and their economic foundations are still insecure.

He explained that if the new policy should be applied to all labor unions at once, most of the present full-time union officers would have to work with extremely small pay.

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ITEM 7 Ammonium Sulphate Workers Begin Strikes - Akahata - 9 Apr 48.
Translator: C. Akashi: (WM)

148
Full Translation:

With an increase in the price of ammonium sulphate expected in May, the National Federation of Ammonium Sulphate Workers Unions has presented a demand for higher wages, and it is now beginning sporadic strikes.

The Showa Electric Industry Workers Union wants the sliding wage system, while the Japan Nitrogen Industry Workers Union, whose existing wage base is 3,400 yen including tax, demands a 52 percent increase in net income, and accepted the 50 percent increase compromise proposal on 2 April. The demand of the Mitsubishi Chemical Manufacturing Company Workers for a take-home pay of 5,250 yen was met. The Nissan Chemical Industry Company employees also demanded that their present 4,060 yen wage base be increased by 62.5 percent bringing the net income to about 6,250 yen.

The unions affiliated with the National Federation of Ammonium Sulphate Workers Unions are collaborating in their struggles.

ITEM 9 Shinjuku Ticket Clerks Resort to Group Absenteeism - Jiji - 30 Apr 48.
Translator: M. Odaka. (DD)

146
Full Translation:

At Shinjuku Station which was jammed with the holiday crowd on 29 April, the ticket-windows for the Tokaido, the Tohoku and the Joban Lines (with the exception of the Chuo Line) remained closed from early morning, causing the clamoring passengers to raise an uproar. This situation was brought about when 15 of the more than 50 ticket-clerks on the day-shift resorted to group-absenteeism, with the result that the station suddenly became short-handed.

At the ticket-windows for the Chuo Line which were kept upon, there were 20 to 30 percent more passengers than on ordinary days, with the result that confusion reigned all day.

ITEM 2 Takeda Pharmaceutical Workers Call 24-hour Strike - Akahata - 30 Apr 48. Translator: Y. Inouye. (RL)

146
Full Translation:

(Kansai) - Some 4,000 members of the Takeda Pharmaceutical Company's main office and factory workers' unions launched a 24 hour strike on 27 April.

The unions oppose the adverse revision of the labor agreement, and demand standard wages based on a sliding scale system, a 10,000-yen marriage fund, and a sliding scale for retirement allowances. The company insists on the 4,000-yen standard wage and maintains that a "peace provision" should be inserted in the labor agreement. The strike was launched on 26 April with the approval of 91.1 percent of the union members.

ITEM 18

Strikers' Wanton Motives Deplored (by Abe, Shinnosuke) - Magazine:
 Sunday Mainichi (weekly) - 11 Apr 48. Translator: N. Toyota, (DD)

Summary:

We need not look in the newspapers to know that many strikes are taking place in the country, for we have no lights and mail and telegrams remain undelivered. A labor offensive in March was predicted early this year and it seems the strikes are premeditated and not accidental. Someone must have planned them, or was it merely predicted on the ground that inflation would make them inevitable this time?

Who suffers the most from these strikes? They are resorted too in demanding wage raises or in protest against the capitalist and the government. If, however, mails are not delivered and the supply of electricity is suspended on that account, who suffers most? We, the innocent people! It is unjustifiable that the masses are made to feel the heaviest blow.

We, being workers ourselves, do not find it difficult to understand the feelings of the workers who go on strike. We feel like sympathizing with them and encouraging them in their struggle.

To win our sympathy, however, the strikers must have done everything possible beforehand. They should have sought every means to settle the matter among themselves and be so considerate as to avoid inconveniencing the third party. Without going to that trouble, how could they go on strike, incapacitating telephone and transportation facilities in such a thoughtless way! It is most deplorable. Such wantonness provokes our antipathy.

I am saying this not because of my personal inconvenience, but because I think that to incite the animosities of the people in general is not beneficial to the labor movement.

Recently, I happened to witness a workers demonstration at the site of a prefectural government. It seemingly was held in protest against the governor who had suppressed a labor union. All of a sudden, however, an urgent motion was introduced to the effect that the newspaper recently lack understanding and are opposed to the labor movement, hence all the reporters attending the meeting should be compelled to pledge their support of the movement, and if they refused, be expelled from the assembly hall. Many clapped hands to show their agreement and their vociferous denunciation of newspaper reporters lasted for some time.

I do not know what unsympathetic attitude the reporters assume toward the labor movement, but the lack of understanding on the part of the demonstrators towards the newspapers, was exasperating. The newspapermen who were present at the assembly were there only as reporters, and they had no authority whatever to decide whether or not their respective papers should be sympathetic toward the workers' movement. To attempt to force them to pledge their support, therefore, is meaningless, while the action clearly constitutes suppression of speech. Suppression no longer is a government monopoly; it is often abused by those who presume upon their numerical superiority.

When the newspapers are forced to lose their independence as the result of outside pressure, even if done under the name of justice or the will of the majority or whatever else is used, it will have the most alarming effect on the nation, for are we not still grieving over the day when the newspapers lost their freedom under the name of justice before that was the day we lost a nation?

Workers' movements cannot necessarily always be in the right, and it is far from strange that the newspapers are critical, occasionally condemnatory, of their movements. To expel the reporters on that account is to destroy the freedom of speech. Violence in such a case is essentially the same as that which our soldiers resorted to in former days.

Democracy can never be attained when the people are selfish and do not respect each other's standpoint. If the light goes out at dinner time, how annoyed the people will be! If the workers were mindful of others' annoyance and trouble, how could they suspend the electricity supply because of their selfish and wanton motives? If they are compelled to do take such an action as the last resort, they might as well be careful of the hour in which to suspend the transmission. Then, susceptible as we are of such thoughtfulness, how can we but be reluctant in rendering our support to our fellow workers!

ITEM 7 Political Strikes and the Strike Control Law Bill - Kogyo -
6 Apr 48. Translator: H. Konishi. (UG)

14A
 Summary:

The Government and Public Workers Union dispute finally came to a settlement on 2 Apr 48. Both the Government and the Unions are responsible for this prolonged dispute.

Reflecting on recent strikes, the necessity of a special labor legislation was revealed by Premier ASHIDA before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives on 1 April. It is only natural from the standpoint of responsibility on the part of the Government to draft such a law. This legislation is necessary not only to oppress and prevent labor movements but also for the healthy development of labor unions.

Under present conditions, disputes must be avoided except for cases most reasonable and advantageous to the general public, and within the limits of the laws.

The general strike of 1 Feb 47 was prevented by the directive from SCAP. Considering the activities of the unions and their present conditions, it is only proper that the Government should draw up a strike control law.

The Government seems to recognize that the people have the right to carry out labor movements, since the constitution sanctions this rights; however, it is needless to say that labor movements must not be carried out with political and ideological aims. It is for this reason that labor movements should not be permitted under present world conditions.

We cannot positively state that the recent strikes were carried out with political intentions; but, in view of the fact that some union members have admitted that such aims did exist, it is extremely regrettable from the standpoint of a healthy development of unions, and substantiates the reason for such legislation to control strikes.

Premier ASHIDA strongly believes that the recent strikes were carried out with political intentions. If general strikes were called with these intentions, the entire world order would collapse, and all industries would be paralyzed. Therefore, the Government must immediately formulate a proper strike control law and establish a foundation for the development of labor movements which will win the approval of the people.

ITEM 4 Authorities Put Pressure on Oiwake Engine Shed Workers - Akahata -
21 Apr 48. Translator: Y. Sato. (DD)

14B
 Full Translation:

(HOKKAIDO) -- The "repair" strike of the Oiwake Engine Shed Sub-chapter of the Muroran chapter of the Government Railway Workers Union was temporarily called off on 15 April, after being in force for 72 hours. The dispute was brought about by the workers' desire to prevent further transportation accidents through the strict observance of locomotive repair regulations.

The Chief of the Muroran Railway Sub-division dispatched the following telegram to the various local chapters:

- (1) The present strike action is not justified.
- (2) Workers should return to work immediately.
- (3) Measures will be taken against the present strike in accordance with labor laws.

At the same time, the authorities subjected SANNOMIYA, MISHIMA and others working at the Oiwake Station to disciplinary punishment in connection with the goods pilfering case which occurred in March.

This action taken by the authorities is construed to be a temporizing measure to oppress the strikers. Even the station master of Oiwake Station, signed a written affirmation requesting cancellation of the authorities' decision, saying he considered the action unjust.

(HOKKAIDO) -- The Oiwake Engine Shed Sub-chapter of the Muroran chapter of the Government Railway Workers Union which had been engaged in a valiant regional strike put an end to its first offensive. On the afternoon of 17 April, the chapter held a meeting with the attendance of delegates and 200 observers.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mr KASAI, Kiyoshii, Communist Party representative made a speech of encouragement. Then, heated arguments were exchanged over the policies to be followed in the dispute. Launching of a second strike offensive was approved by a 48 to four vote.

ITEM 1 Lesson of the Strike - Mainichi - 18 Apr 48. Translator:
K. Higashikawa (JJY)

146 Full Translation:

The civil service dispute which originated in the Osaka local on 1 March was completely settled on 16 April after more than 40 days of hot and cold negotiations. The Marquat statement issued on the verge of a general walkout seemed to lead the dispute to an immediate solution, but due to the fact that the unions made a three-point demand anew after yielding on the wage issue, the Government stiffened its stand, and the settlement of the dispute snagged again.

The attitude of the Government to stand fast by its established policy was so much stiffened that it spurned the mediation offered by the Central Labor Committee. Despite this hard situation, the dispute was settled smoothly a few days after the CLC approached the Government. We would not attempt to judge who won in the dispute, for we are pleased with the fact that it has been finally settled.

More precisely speaking, the settlement made has not solved everything, for a rivalry is still anticipated between the Government and the unions on the issues of the job classification and the efficiency wage to be discussed by the new Wage Committee. The Government's assurance "to do its best" in connection with the three-point demand still leaves room for controversy. However, considering the fact that an agreement has already been signed, we have no doubt but that future negotiations will be conducted peacefully. If partial sabotage or strike is carried out in course of the negotiations simply because unionists are disgruntled with them, the authority of the trade unions will be questioned.

What is most important is the manner in which they beat retreat. As government employees are in daily contact with the people, we want them to exercise that much discipline.

Lessons to be drawn by both the Government and trade unions from the recent dispute are not few. Firstly, the Japanese people must take full cognizance of international developments. The standards of all our conduct after the defeat must be guided by international aspects. In so saying we do not mean that we should always be internationally passive. It is required of us to start anew from the existing conditions if we are to make any progress. Had this principle been made the basis of judgment, it would not have been necessary for General MARQUAT to issue his statement.

If trade unions are to resort to local strikes for the reason that unified strikes cannot be carried out, they cannot escape the charge that they resort to strikes for the sake of fighting without any fixed objective. It would be poor strategy to leave the general public in doubt as to whether trade unions are fighting for a better wage or against revision of the existing labor laws.

Secondly, don't the prevailing conditions demand that trade union fight for production increases rather than wage increases? We admit that it is necessary to fight for wage increases if production and labor efficiency are to be promoted, but if one takes into consideration the foreseeable fact that a simple demand for wage increases will hit a stone wall under the prevailing industrial conditions, he will at once see that it is the "historic duty" of workers to rehabilitate production "with their own hands."

On this point the Government is also to be blamed. When the Labor Ministry was launched in October last, the Government invited the representatives of all the trade unions and held a conference for overcoming the economic crisis and for reviving production, urging trade unions to co-operate in this movement voluntarily. At the conference table labor leaders demanded the security of the livelihood of workers as the necessary condition for their co-operation. Since

ITEM 6 Release Six Persons Detained in Metro Theater Case - Asahi - 11 Apr 48.
Translator: Y. Inouye. (RL)

146 Full Translation:

The Tokyo District Public Prosecutor's Office on 9 April released six members of the Tokyo Sub-chapter of the Japan Screen and Theater Workers Union, including Chief TAKITA of the Investigation Department, who had been detained in connection with the occupation of the Metro Theater in SHIMBASHI, which occurred as a result of the Toho strife. The union members were released pending a settlement of the strife.

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ITEM 1 (Continued)

then six months have passed, but the revival of production has not been realized. Irrespective of the importation of foreign capital, the revival of production is the immediate crying need.

It looks as if the Government began to be serious about the security of the livelihood of workers only when the dispute arose. The Government should speedily remove the anxiety of workers by securing the real wage of workers. The Administrative Supervisory Committee has already recognized the low wage of civil service workers and has made recommendations to the Government to place these wages on an appropriate basis and to promote these workers' welfare.

Thirdly, we should point out the failure of the strategy of trade unions. In staging local strikes, trade unions lost sight of public interest with the result that they incurred the enmity of city people as well as farmers, leading to their isolation. The struggle of trade unions should be co-ordinated, for local strikes have the effect of weakening their battlefront.

Lastly, we want to say a few words concerning the future labor policy of the Government. All economic demands should be handled economically. The Government should not exercise authority other than economic. If the Government brings undue pressure on what the trade unions call their "integrity", the means of dispute will necessarily become clandestine. We say this because we are afraid labor disputes may become chronic, irrespective of their scale.

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146
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ITEM 2 Reflection on Government and Public Workers' Dispute - Asahi -
18 Apr 48. Translator: J. Ide. (FST)

Summary:

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The settlement of the Government and public workers' dispute, which is nearly one month old, can be regarded as the cessation of the labor offensive, which had its origin in the increase of the 1,800-yen wage base last autumn. In this sense, the nation's labor union has now entered a new phase. We wholeheartedly welcome the solution of this difficult problem. Simultaneously, we should reflect on various lessons to be derived from this dispute as that we can cope with the new change in labor relations.

It is most regrettable that the recent dispute should be solved through the intervention of SCAP, as the result of the failure of a series of negotiations between the Government and the unions. The Government should be called to account for not doing its best in settling the dispute spontaneously from the beginning. At the same time, the unions should be censured as having taken inadequate tactics without considering the objective circumstances confronting them, apart from the fact that the Government Railway Workers Union had previously accepted the Government's proposal.

The difference of opinion between the two forces was concentrated on both the quantitative problem of the 2,920-yen base and the qualitative problem of the job classification system. The unions, which had long demanded the establishment of a minimum wage system, strongly opposed the first matter. However, the fact that the militant All Japan Communications Workers Union was obliged to accept this base can be attributable to its too theoretical tactics based on the 2,400-yen calculation.

Nevertheless, we do not think that the 2,920-yen wage system is adequate under the present circumstance. Since the Government promised recently that a new wage system would be considered after the establishment of the New Wage Adjustment Committee, a new wage level to balance adequately with private industry wages should be established rapidly and reasonably. At the same time, the unions should propose positively a new wage system capable of convincing the common people by taking into account the actuality of the nation's miserable finance and the present amount of consumer commodities to be distributed among the people.

Regarding the qualitative problem, the Government is determined to enforce an efficiency wage system at all costs. To this proposal, the unions countered by declaring that such a system was nonsensical if the livelihood of union members is not safeguarded. This problem is to be settled in the New Wage Adjustment Committee. However, the Government's proposal should be regarded as natural, since the nation's officialdom has now made it inevitable to increase administrative efficiency and to relocate surplus labor power. At this moment, both the job classification system and the efficiency wage system should be enforced by all means.

The three demands, which the union brought on the agenda as conditions for settling this dispute, will be adequately considered by the Government, although both State Minister NISHIO and Labor Minister KATO have made any formal comments. Especially, it is hoped that the Government will take due consideration not to increase the number of issues in this dispute. If this step is taken by the Government at this time, similar events in future labor disputes may be prevented. However, wages during the time of work stoppage must not be paid in principle.

Needless to say, all labor laws should not be changed against the interest of laborers. However, they may be changed, if uncontrolled regional struggles and mass absenteeism are repeated in the future. In this sense, the future of labor laws depends mainly on the attitude of the unions.

As we previously mentioned, it is hoped that the understanding between labor and capital will be increased by taking this opportunity to pave the way for the overthrow of inflation and rehabilitation of our industry.

ITEM 4 Tobu Electric Line Strike Settled - Tokyo Shimbun - 25 Apr 48.
Translator: F. Hagiwara (JJY)

146 Full Translation:

Since an agreement on the Tobu Electric Line dispute reached yesterday at 0705 hours generally fulfilled the union's demands, the union issued an order to call off the strike at 1715 hours. The strike has been wholly settled following provisional signing of the agreement.

Prior to this, the collective bargaining between the company and the union through the good offices of the Metropolitan Labor Committee opened on Friday at 1530 hours. At first both sides would not yield, adhering to their original plans. However, when an agreement was presented by Chief Secretary KAWADA, it was finally adopted by both sides.

The provisional agreement:

(1) The total sum paid on 9 April shall be regarded as March salary. Besides, an average allowance of 1,100 yen per worker shall be paid during April in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the company's foundation.

(2) Wages after April will be paid in accordance with the decision of the Central Labor Committee. However, in view of the actual condition of the employees' livelihood, the sum equivalent to the present wage plus 60 percent of it (including tax) shall be paid for the time being. This will be liquidated after the mediation is completed.

(3) Regarding collective bargaining, both sides will strive for it based on the understanding on 23 April. However, the union will accept the company's request on the selection and release of directors.

(4) No unfavorable transactions shall be carried on in connection with the present dispute. Leaves of absence during the strike shall be recognized as ordinary attendance.

(5) The conclusion of this dispute itself shall not impede the settlement through the medium of the CLC.

(6) When doubt arises as to the interpretation of any clause of this agreement, it shall be settled in accordance with the opinion of the Metropolitan Labor Committee.

Thus, the dispute has been amicably settled since the company accepted the payment of the 1,100 yen and an increased monthly payment of 60 percent after April, together with the prospect of collective bargaining for the future. The formal signing will be conducted following a general meeting. However, the union members insist that they will not disband their strike setup until the problem of the sliding wage system uniformly demanded by the private railway workers has been settled.

ITEM 5 Criticism of "Emperor-Granted Leave" Tactics - Provincial Paper:
Kochi Shimbun (Kochi) - 1 Apr 48. Translator: T. Fukizawa. (WMI)

146 Full Translation:

According to the new Constitution, government officials are servants of the people and not of the Emperor. As such they have been given the right of collective bargaining. Lately these organized public servants have been engaging in Shika (TN: Japanese equivalent of annual leave; literally, a leave presented by the Emperor.) tactics, a quasi-strike tactic.

Being a gift from the Emperor, SHIKA is a leave given by grace and is passive by nature. Thus, a voluntary leave is a contradiction. Leave taken en masse is more so and contradicts the meaning and purpose of SHIKA.

Times change of course; some would say that the meaning of SHIKA has thus changed and that it is no longer a gift from the Emperor, but a right accrued by labor. Perhaps they believe that SHIKA can be taken at will and if necessary, en masse.

Apart from the argument on the propriety of such an opinion we wonder if the members of the government and public workers union have ever questioned or reflected on the suitability of using the term SHIKA in present-day JAPAN. If they have not, they are an ignorant lot. On the other hand, if they are thankful for the leave, then their conduct is beyond comprehension.

We are passing through a period of transition wherein the new is taking the place of the old. There may be other examples of this type of conduct. However, there is some doubt as to whether the question of labor's conscience is not a greater one than the propriety of SHIKA as a labor tactic.

ITEM 2 11-Local Runs Again Cancelled by Absenteeism Tactics - Mainichi -
22 Apr 48. Translator: J. Ide (FST)

Full Translation:

The number of absent workers at the Tokyo Engine Shed reached 28 yesterday, the sixth day of the vacation dispute. They included 16 locomotive engineers and 12 assistant engineers. For this reason, No 804 (ATAMI--TOKYO), No 824 (ODAWARA -- TOKYO), and No 802 (TOKYO - ODAWARA) trains were again cancelled.

In the Numazu Engine Shed, among 13 defective locomotives which are not equipped with lightning arresters, seven have already been fully equipped, but six have been left untouched. Therefore, the following nine trains were cancelled yesterday: No 818 (NUMAZU - TOKYO), No 828 (ATAMI - TOKYO), No 302 (NUMAZU - ATAMI), No 809 (TOKYO - ATAMI), No 821 (TOKYO - ATAMI), No 829 (TOKYO - ATAMI), No 717 (TOKYO - NUMAZU), No 804 (ATAMI - TOKYO), and one freight train. As a result, 3,400 and 2,800 commuters were left stranded at the Ofuna and Fujisawa stations respectively. Furthermore, 150 passengers were obliged to spend the night at various stations as the result of the cancellation of train No 236 which should have left NUMAZU late Tuesday night.

Authorities Declare Lightning Arresters Not Essential

Regarding the problem of lightning arresters, IRAI, chief of the Locomotive Section, Tokyo Railway Bureau, explained the actual situation. He said: "Since the wartime regulation that lightning arresters are not essential is still valid, it is very strange that the union has taken advantage of the failure of this equipment. The Train Section Chief has already issued an administrative order to this effect. Since the installation of this apparatus will be completed by Thursday, the union will lose its basis for resorting to sabotage.

CLC Embarks On Investigation

In accordance with the request of Chief SHIROKI of the Shimbashi Maintenance Office on Tuesday, the Central Labor Committee decided to launch a fact-finding study to take adequate measures toward this problem as the result of the general meeting yesterday. CLC Chairman SUEHIRO is to invite the chairman of both the Shimbashi and Koju Chapters of the Government Railway Workers Union, to sound out the actualities of this problem.

ITEM 13 Strike Preparations Made at Anti-Oppression Committee Meeting - Akahata -
29 Apr 48. Translator: Y. Sato. (GS)

Full Translation:

The Anti-Oppression Committee held a meeting on 27 April at its headquarters building in the compound of the Mita factory. The meeting was attended by Vice-chairman KAMEDA of the National Congress of Industrial Organizations and about 20 representatives from the private railway workers unions, All-Japan Printing and Publishing Workers Union, Japan Screen and Theater Workers Union, Tokyo Transportation Workers Union, Labor-Farmer Relief Association, League of Koreans Residing in JAPAN, and the metropolitan southern district chapter of the Communist Party. The following points were decided upon:

1. Each member union should determine what its attitude is before the statement ordering a general walk-out is issued on 30 April;
2. Each member union affiliated with the National Labor Union Liaison Council should send one committee member and two responsible persons to the committee;
3. An anti-oppression campaign should be launched on a Nation-wide scale in connection with the campaigns designed to obtain signatures demanding the dismissal of Public Prosecutor KATSUTA and Judge NIIMURA; demanding the release of all those previously arrested; and demanding the release of Koreans who were arrested in the fight which resulted after Korean language schools were closed in KOBE.

Mr KAMEDA and two other representatives of the committee visited Communist NAKANISHI, Isao at the House of Councillors to confer with him on urgent problems.

ITEM 7 Survey Reveals Public Opposed to Strikes in Public Enterprises -
Tokyo Shimbun - 21 Apr 48. Translator: M. Mirasawa. (DD)

146

Summary:

Though the National Liaison Council of Government and Public office Employees Unions' strike has been settled from the time being, many problems remain, such as the general government and public officials' wages, payment of wages during strikes, and restriction of strikes.

Results of a survey of public opinion in TOKYO conducted by the TOKYO SHIMBUN in co-operation with the Public Opinion Science Society on 18 April are as follows:

Question 1 -- What is your opinion of the National Liaison Council of Government and Public Office Employees Unions' struggle?

Breach down by age

	20-29 yrs	30-39 yrs	40-49 yrs	50 yrs and over
Government wrong	20.1 %	26.3 %	18.4 %	19.3 %
Labor union wrong	21. %	19.1	18.4	22.0
Both sides wrong	25. %	25.9	27.4	23.3
Undecided	31.5 %	26.3	34.8	33.4
Others	1.8 %	2.4	1.0	2.0

Those undecided are most numerous, and those condemning government, labor unions and both sides are evenly distributed in the 20 per cent bracket, revealing that people are critical of both sides and that it is the people who are victimized.

Question 2 -- Should strikes and similar activities in public enterprise be permitted?

	20-29 yrs	30-39 yrs	40-49 yrs	50 yrs and over
Entirely pro-	45.1 %	43.2 %	44.8 %	46.0 %
hibited				46.2 %
Strengthened	16.2	16.7	15.2	16.0
Adequate	15.0	15.3	20.0	12.3
Relaxed	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
No restrictions	12.3	16.7	9.5	12.7
Undecided	9.4	6.2	8.1	12.7
Other	1.9	1.8	2.4	0.3

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ITEM 7 (Continued)

Note: By public enterprise is meant government and public offices, railways, telegraph, telephone, electricity, gas, water, etc. Thus, 45 per cent favor prohibition of such strikes while 12.3 per cent favor removal and 0.1 the easing of present on the issue.

Question 3 -- Should wages be paid during strikes?

	20-29 yrs	30-39 yrs	40-49 yrs	50 yrs and over
Yes	49.7 %	53.6 %	49.2 %	42.8 %
No	33.4	31.3	32.9	36.5
Undecided	16.9	15.1	17.9	20.7

Note: Of those in favor, only a few advocated payment of full wages.

Thus, many more are in favor of payment than non-payment, but it does not necessarily mean payment of full wages. It also indicates the interest taken by people in the face of present inflationary conditions.

Supplementary question: What is an appropriate wage for government officials?

	20-29 yrs	30-39 yrs	40-49 yrs	50 yrs and over
2,000 yen or less	1.0 %	0.9 %	1.4 %	0.0 %
About 3,000 yen	16.4	18.0	14.8	14.0
About 4,000 yen	35.4	36.2	35.9	28.5
About 5,000 yen	29.0	29.9	28.2	36.7
About 6,000 yen	4.4	5.5	5.3	3.1
About 7,000 yen	3.4	1.2	5.3	3.1
Undecided	10.4	8.3	9.1	14.6

Note: According to the 2,920 yen base, a 30 year-old middle school graduate with 10 years' experience and a wife and child would average 3,000 yen.

The advocacy by the majority of a 4,000 to 5,000 yen wage shows that the people do not consider the government and public officials' demands unreasonable, but are critical of the struggle itself.

There is little difference of opinion between the sexes, but as in a previous instance, the answer "undecided" was very frequently given by women.

Breakdown according to age shows that the attitude of blaming the government on the first question is most common among the 20 year group, while the number of those undecided increases with advance in age. Criticism of labor unions increases in the 40 year group, revealing the degree of interest in labor problems in the different generations.

SOCIAL SERIES: 2083 (Continued)ITEM 7 (Continued)

Replies to another supplementary question, "Did you know that strike activities of government and public officials are restricted by the Labor Relations Adjustment Law?" revealed that few were aware of such provisions, and those answering in the affirmative were in the 40 year group with special occupations. Women have practically no knowledge of such regulations.

The poll was taken by selecting 61 townships at random, distributed proportionally throughout the wards of TOKYO, based upon the number of families in the wards according to figures of the 1947 census. Three places were selected in each township and in each place, three families were picked at random, and all persons of voting age in the families were questioned. In case of absence, the same number of passersby were selected at random in the streets in order to prevent one-sided replies.

In this manner, 1,390 members of 549 families were questioned. It was decided to subject all adult members of the family to the survey because it had been learned from past experience that old people and women tend to avoid such questioning and difficulty is encountered in conducting a true survey.

ITEM 11 Strike and Peaceful Settlement - Provincial newspaper - Akita Sakinake (Akita) - 13 Apr 48. Translator: H. Furukawa (DD).

146
Summary:

The dispute between the prefectural authorities and the prefectural teachers' union, which was once expected to be settled soon has again become worse, as the general meeting of the teachers' union on 10 April voted against the proposal of the regional labor committee. The teachers have decided to resume negotiation with the prefectural authorities on 11 April and resort to a strike if their demands are not accepted by 14 April. We citizens of the prefecture are deeply grateful for the efforts of the regional labor committee, and believe that the authorities and the teachers' union have done their best to reach a peaceful settlement upon the recommendation of the labor committee. However, the decision reached by the majority of the teachers' has brought about a new situation in the course of the event.

We believe that the strike can be avoided by negotiation between the two parties on a new basis. We hope that the regional labor committee will exert its one last effort for mediation, although the committee has been hit by the previous failure. The prefectural government should renew its effort for peaceful solution in realization of its responsibility for the prefecture's education, although it will be difficult to resume negotiation for further compromise. The teachers' union also should strive for peaceful settlement, without giving up hope until the last moment.

It is not wrong that the laboring people, pressed by the inflation and economic straits, resort to a strike as a means of attaining their demands. Democracy aims at the greatest happiness of the greatest number, which must be realized by a government by the people and for the people. Neither repression by violence and power nor abuses of rights can be permitted under democratic government. Apart from the ideological question of whether constant struggle or peaceful negotiation is desirable for the solution of labor problems, we favor peaceful settlement of the situation for the present. It is most regrettable that the teachers' union rejected the mediation plan of the regional labor committee, which was considered most actual. Now we only desire that both parties show their sincerity to approach settlement under the new situation.

The right to strike, as the teachers' union says, is their last resort to win the struggle, but utmost efforts must be made for peaceful solution of the dispute before resorting to a strike. If the labor unions are not cautious in using the right to strike, they will bring about a restriction of strikes by law, to the detriment of their own future.

There is a possibility of legal restriction of strikes for the nation's welfare, and the union must be most cautious in using the right to strike. The prefectural government should strive to settle the dispute from a broad point of view, by examining the teachers' demands and the financial condition once more. Although the gap between the two parties will not necessarily be great, final solution can never be brought about by one-sided concession. Both parties should seek a compromise point by mutual concession for the future of the prefecture's education.

ITEM 17 All Tokyo Shibaura Electric Workers May Join Strike - Jiji - 8 Apr 48. Translator: S. Sakata. (JJY)

146
Full Translation:

The Kanto District Council of the Tokyo Shibaura Electric Workers Unions, which since last month has been demanding a wage increase to an average monthly salary of 3,500 yen including taxes, staged a 24-hour strike on 7 April, since the management would not agree to holding of collective negotiations.

Although the strike is being carried out by 23,000 workers belonging to the Kanto District Council, indications are that all other member unions of the Federation of Tokyo Shibaura Electric Workers Unions, having a total membership of 35,000, will also adopt the same tactics.

ITEM 1 Prospects of Early Settlement Seen in Government Employees Dispute -
 Yomiuri - Asahi - 16 Apr 48. Translator: K. Higashikawa. (FST)

146
 Summary:

(YOMIURI)--The prospect of an early settlement of the long drawn-out government employees dispute was seen yesterday when the unions involved agreed to accept the 2,920-yen basic pay as a provisional measure and to solve the issue of the three-point demand separately from the economic demands. Leaders of the National Council of Government Employees Unions entered into direct negotiations with Vice Premier NISHIO and Labor Minister KATO yesterday afternoon at the Premier's official residence on the basis of the new compromise plan mapped out by the NCGEU. The Government and union leaders practically came to an agreement of views on the economic demands, although the former expressed its opinion concerning the time for the enforcement of the new wage and the phraseology of the compromise plan. In discussing the three-point demand union leaders asked the Government to make a formal promise not to make any further dismissals of men involved in the dispute. With Vice Premier NISHIO promising to do his best the conference ended at 1830 hours. Continued negotiations between the Government and union leaders are slated to be held today.

Compromise Plan and Understanding Outline

The compromise plan formulated by the unions ran as follows:

(1) The unions accept the 2,920-yen basic pay as a provisional measure; (2) all strikes in connection with the 2,920-yen basic pay will be called off in the hope that the matter will be satisfactorily settled by the projected Wage Adjustment Committee; (3) the Wage Adjustment Committee, on the basis of the attached memorandum of agreement, shall sit with the participation of representatives of all the government employees unions; (4) the Wage Adjustment Committee shall come to a definite decision not later than 1 May; (5) the Government shall pay the total amount of the balance of the 2,920-yen basic pay retroactively from January to May on 1 May; and (6) immediately after that a regular Wage Committee shall be launched.

(1) The Government shall not make any further dismissals; (2) the Government shall "do its best" for those who have already been dismissed, (3) the Government shall do its best in connection with

AJCWU Central Committee Meeting to Discuss
 New Wage Today

(YOMIURI)--The first day session of the sixth Central Committee meeting of the All Japan Communications Workers Union was held yesterday at the City Hall in FUKUSHIMA Shi with the attendance of some 243 Central Committee and Central Executive Committee members and 600 representatives of friendly organizations as observers. Members of the Fukushima Ken Agriculture-Forestry Ministry Employees Union warmed up the meeting by hoisting red flags at the entrance of the hall and singing the labor song.

Following a two-hour report by DOBASHI, chairman of the AJCWU, on the current dispute, interpellations were made on measures taken by Central Struggle Committee of the headquarters in connection with the 2,920-yen basic pay and the goal of the struggle. Questions, such as, "Are we going to work hand in hand with the Government Railway Workers Union in future?" or "Isn't the transfer of control of local struggle to headquarters contrary to the original aim of the local struggle?" were unleashed. A Central Struggle Committee member replied, "The national convention of the Government Railway Workers Union at KAMISUWA was conducted in a very undemocratic manner. As things stand at present we cannot shake hands with the GRWU. The control by headquarters over local disputes is in a way an ultimate form of regional struggle." The first day session of the meeting broke up with an exchange of such questions and answers.

At the second day session to take place today the crucial issue of whether or not the union should accept the 2,920-yen basic pay is slated to be discussed. The decision of the AJCWU on the new wage will

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wages unpaid during the strike, and (4) the existing labor laws shall not be changed unfavorably for labor.

Union Leader Avers Settlement in Sight

In a press interview yesterday TSURUOKA chief of the secretariat of the NCGEU said that the prospect of settlement is now in sight. He stated, "As a result of conferring with State Minister NISHIO and Labor Minister KATO on the issues which have so far snagged negotiations between the Government and the unions, prospects of settlement are now seen. However, the time is not yet ripe for revealing the nature of the settlement. In a last ditch effort negotiations will be continued tomorrow."

(ASAHI)--In a press interview Labor Minister KATO also stated that a clue to the settlement of the dispute has been found, adding that both parties to the controversy have practically reached an agreement of views. He, however, said that there are still some issues to be settled.

Holding a meeting of cabinet ministers interested in the present dispute on Wednesday, the Government came to the strong decision that the past policy of the Government should not be changed. This decision left no room for the mediation of the Central Labor Committee. The NCGEU held a meeting the same night and decided to enter into direct negotiations with the Government. The decision was conveyed to the Government yesterday morning, and the NCGEU held an executive committee meeting at noon to consider large concessions. At this meeting the NCGEU decided to accept the 2,920-yen basic pay and to settle the issue of the three-point demand separately from the economic demands. The compromise plan was then drafted.

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inevitably change the course of negotiations presently going on between the Government and the NCGEU. Furthermore, considering the fact that bitter criticisms are now being directed against communist fractions by unionists, a stormy session is expected.

ITEM 3 Lessons from the Strike - Yukan Miyako - 3 Apr 48. Translator: E. Sato. (RL)

Summary:

146
The government and public office workers' nationwide strike, averted just when it threatened to give rise to an immeasurable social unrest, has taught us many lessons.

As a matter of common sense, strikes of government enterprises are not permissible under the occupation of the Allied Powers. Leaders of the dispute must shoulder the responsibility for such radical action. The government, on the other hand, must also analyze itself in regard to its political incompetence which caused the dispute to plunge into a critical stage.

The greatest lesson taught us is that the people in general were unsympathetic and uninterested in the strikers. It is too superficial to think that the masses did not support the striking workers in fear of a social unrest and innumerable inconveniences which would have resulted from the strike. The people in general must not overlook the fact that they themselves believed that the government and public office workers should not stop work at present when JAPAN's economy is in a critical condition.

Man instinctively wishes for the maintenance of social order. The problem is whether or not the livelihood of laborers must be safeguarded even in defiance of social order under JAPAN's existing circumstances. If the government was not confident of settling this problem, it should have held a national referendum.

The common talk that our country has not yet been democratized does not only mean that there still are many persons in various circles who have outmoded ideas. To our regret, it must be said that our labor unions, which should be progressive and democratic, have not yet been democratized. The major cause is that the entire nation is still undisciplined socially, that is, the nation still is lacking in its faculty of reasoning.

There are evidences that labor unions have tried to resort to collective force. The government could not bring the dispute to a final settlement and only wasted time by holding unsuccessful negotiations. It was only with the issuance of a SCAP memorandum that the government was able to get out of its difficulty. We think that the government deserves public censure for incompetence.

We dare to criticize the recent movements of labor unions because we sincerely hope that they will conduct themselves properly in the future. Leaders of the dispute, we believe, also fully realize that it behooves them to go on strike, if necessary, after taking a wide view of JAPAN's existing circumstances and economic power.

It is unfortunate for the entire nation that these failures and inconsistencies are found in the government and public office workers' dispute. If the government intends to settle the dispute by taking advantage of the masses' power, it should turn from its present course and take other steps.

Although the feudalistic thought of blind submission to power has apparently been eliminated, laborers are apt to obey their leaders blindly. It is gratifying that the laborers themselves are mending their ways in this connection. People in all strata of society must not forget that the basic factor for realizing democracy is for them to regain their faculty of reasoning.

ITEM 2 Metal Mine Workers to Strike Again - Mainichi - 21 Apr 48. Translator: F. Hagiwara. (TK)

Full Translation:

146
Involving demands for a labor agreement, minimum wage payment, and sliding scale wage system, the negotiations between the All Japan Federation of Metal Mine Workers Unions (ZENKOREN - 75,000 workers) and the Mine Management Federation broke down on 9 April.

At midnight Monday almost all the locals went on a 24-hour strike. The head offices of the Mitsui, Mitsubishi, Furukawa, and Seika companies, in addition to the Ashio and Hitachi mines, staged strikes. However, the operation of hospitals and drainage were not suspended. The union headquarters decided to stage a three-day strike starting 28 April following a second 24-hour walkout on 24 April.

ITEM 4 Suehiro to Settle Government Workers Dispute Soon - Mainichi - 10
 Apr 43. Translator: T. Fukushima. (JJY)

146
 Full Translation:

The government workers dispute made a big stride toward solution yesterday when the Government accepted a mediation plan by Chairman SUEHIRO of the Central Labor Committee. However, unions are reserving final acceptance until the Government satisfies their three demands-- (1) not to dismiss strike leaders, (2) not to revise labor laws for the purpose of suppressing labors, and (3) to pay wages during strikes.

Negotiations between the Government and the National Council of Government and Public Office Workers Unions started at 1630 hours Thursday at the Premier's official residence under the auspices of Chairman SUEHIRO. Discussion was centered on payment of 2,920 yen and the job classification system. SUEHIRO had beforehand told the union representatives that debate on the unions' three demands would be put off after solution of the wage problem, since he was confident of solving the former.

At 2000 hours SUEHIRO held a three-man conference with IMAI, head of the Government's Wage Bureau, and a wage specialist of the unions' delegation. Having ascertained that both the Government and the unions were not opposed to referring the wage issue to the Wage Adjustment Committee, Chairman SUEHIRO proposed a mediation plan on the wage problem to the disputing parties. The conference closed at 2300 hours.

Yesterday the Government and the union council studied the mediation proposal. The former decided to accept it at its cabinet meeting at 1000 hours as it was reported out by Chief Cabinet Secretary TOMABECHI, whereas the latter at its Expansion Committee session convened at 1800 hours decided to accept it with the reservation that its three demands would be accepted by the Government.

Meanwhile, Chairman SUEHIRO conferred with union representatives over the three demands in the afternoon after he had met Mr J S KILLEN, chief of Labor Division, SCAP. He was expected to consult further with the Government on the same subject. If things proceeded smoothly, official negotiations were to be resumed between the Government and the unions last night.

SUEHIRO's mediation plan entitled "Items Requested by the Unions for Government Confirmation" is as follows:

"The Government shall not oppose the following principles, if they are asserted by the unions in a body at the Wage Adjustment Committee: (1) not to intensify in principle the present wage graduation system based on qualifications, and (2) to make the 160 percent of the former basic pay of 1,600 yen the bottom base of the new wage scale, except for special cases."

"The unions in a body" means unanimity among government workers unions including the Government Railway Workers Union, the Japan Teachers Union, and all other unions which are now not in line with the National Council of Government and Public Office Workers Unions.

Both (1) and (2) principles are so roughly defined that the Government and the unions do not seem to be in complete agreement in their interpretation. However, SUEHIRO has carefully left room for settlement by the Wage Adjustment Committee. In this connection, the Government has promised not to stick to its original plan, as long as a new wage standard does not exceed the limit of 2,920 yen.

As for principle (1), since the present 1,800 yen wage system contains factors of job classification such as educational background and length of service, labor does not want the graduation system to be intensified. As regards principle (2), the Government's plan provides three rates of 150, 160, and 170 percent of the present 1,800 yen standard as the basis of the new wage system according to working hours, whereas the mediation plan proposes to dispense with the lowest rate of 150 percent. Since 2,500 yen, the principal part of the new wage, has already been paid according to the government plan, adjustment will have to be made in payment of the remaining 420 yen, if SUEHIRO's plan is adopted.

Organization of the Wage Adjustment Committee, a switchover from the old wage system to the new one, and other concrete matters remain to be settled. Regarding the unions' three demands, SUEHIRO seems to intend to satisfy them as far as practicable, though it is legally impossible to accept them all. In negotiations on Thursday they were left unsolved.

ITEM 12 Manpower Lost During AJCWU and FTMOU Strikes Equivalent to 16 Ships -
Asahi - 6 Apr 48. Translator: T. Tsukazaki. (UG)

1146
 Extracts:

Although the recent series of labor disputes of the National Liaison Council of Government and Public Office Employees Unions, centered around the 2,920 yen wage standard, aimed at protecting the livelihood of union members, their effect upon industry and the people's livelihood were far-reaching.

This can be understood when we calculate the total number of personnel who participated in the walkout and the total number of working hours lost accordingly. (The figures for unions other than the above two have not yet been completed by the Labor Ministry).

Survey of the Communications Ministry's Labor Affairs Bureau reveals the following:

Members of the All Japan Communication Workers Union who participated in the strike totaled 952,665 and 7,621,320 work hours were lost, on the basis of the stipulated eight working hours per day; 128,635 members of the Federation of Tokyo Metropolitan Office Workers Union took part in the strike and 982,396 hours were lost, with office and field workers calculated separately; 48,395 workers of the Tokyo Transportation Workers Union struck, involving a loss of 243,207 hours.

The total number of union members who participated in the walkouts amounted to 1,129,695 and the number of hours lost totaled 8,846,923.

The following facts can be seen when the total hours lost are applied to coal production and shipbuilding which are the keys to national rehabilitation.

Coal

Statistics of the Coal Administration Section of the Coal Production Board indicate that if the above hours had been applied to coal miners, each of whom is capable of producing 0.108 tons per hour, about 956,500 tons of coal could have been turned out. This amount is well over the 630,000 tons earmarked for the government railway's April consumption.

Shipbuilding

The building of the 7,200 ton TAISETSU Maru, which was recently launched by the Ishikawajima Heavy Industry Company, required 560,000 working hours. Sixteen ships of this tonnage or 27 two thousand ton ships could have been built with the manpower lost.

ITEM 5 DLP Attacks Government Inaction on Budget - Jiji - 21 Apr 48.
Translator: F. Hagiwara. (FST)

146
 Full Translation:

The Democratic Liberal Party held an executive meeting yesterday at 1000 hours in the Diet to deliberate on its Diet program. As a result, the opinion gained strength to probe Government responsibility for lack of prospects of submitting budget bills for the May provisional budget and the ordinary budget. Consequently, the meeting decided to demand an immediate resumption of the House Steering Committee meeting yesterday in order to hear a responsible answer, requesting attendance of the ministers concerned with the budget. This procedure was taken.

Secretary-general YAMAZAKI stated: "Premier ASHIDA and 13 cabinet members being on their speaking tour for several days, both the Diet and the Government are in a political vacuum. This shows that the present cabinet is endeavoring merely to maintain political power and party interests and policies. Obviously, this is caused by the unreasonableness of the third party in the Diet coming to power. Premier ASHIDA is unreservedly speaking in OSAKA about such groundless things as introduction of foreign funds, 2.8 Go rationing of staple foods, and distribution of stored cotton goods. It is imprudent of him to mention such things.

"Relating to the operation of the Illegal Property Transactions Committee, we believe that the proper mission of the committee is to study large-scale scandals after the termination of the war than to stick to current minor cases involving political donations. For this reason our party has decided to make every possible effort in this line."

ITEM 7 We Oppose Strike Control - Provincial Paper: Shinano Mainichi (Nagano) -
6 Apr 48. Translator: M. Kawanabe. (FM)

144
Summary:

Replying to a query made by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lower House on April 1, Premier Ashida declared that the Government is investigating the necessity of enacting a law similar to the strike control law in the UNITED STATES, and is considering its introduction to the Diet.

His statement attracted much attention because it was made immediately after the three party policy agreement which decided against the revision of the labor laws and also after Labor Minister KATO's repeated announcement that he would never revise them. The workers' movement against the revision of existing labor laws has been regarded as being motivated by a willful misinterpretation of the Government's intention.

In this respect, the Premier's statement shows the Government's firm intention to stand openly in opposition to the workers' movement against revising labor laws as well as a decisive counterattack against the labor aggression.

After the government workers dispute, which rocked the foundation of the Ashida cabinet, the Government gradually gained confidence and now is taking advantage of the domestic and foreign situation to make a counterattack against the labor offensive.

The Government seems to have finally forced the labor unions to accept the 2,920 yen wage base and is punishing the leaders of the National Revenue Workers Union for violating the public service regulations. Furthermore, public opinion is showing disfavor over the continuous regional walkouts and this has turned to the advantage of the Government. It is quite evident that Premier ASHIDA is intending to take advantage of these situations.

Another factor which spurs the Premier is the introduction of foreign capital.

To stabilize labor-capital relations and ease labor unrest are the primary requisites for the introduction of foreign capital. Whether the enactment of a strike control law will contribute toward attaining this purpose is a problem requiring serious consideration.

We fear that his suggestion to enact such a law at the present stage would cause the labor unions to form a political opposition to the government since the mal-revision of the labor laws is one of the present contentions which hinders settlement of the dispute.

Premier ASHIDA referred to the TAFT-HARTLEY law in his statement. The necessity of enacting such a law in our country, however, must be criticized from all angles. It is natural that such strikes as will throw society into confusion and paralyze the function of the state should be avoided. Such strikes as the Premier points out, can be prevented by Government Ordinance 311, in accordance with the Potsdam Declaration.

The enactment of a law to control strikes aside from this order will prevent the progress of democratization under the present circumstances in our country. Although the ban on strikes is a world tendency, Japanese workers, unlike American workers with years of experience in labor disputes, must be treated differently.

Oppressive measures against labor movements will not only prevent the democratic development of labor unions but will offer an excuse for political strikes.

The responsibility for forcing the Government to take such a stand lies partly with the unions. Those who are well acquainted with the miserably poor wages paid Government workers will never regard their strikes as being politically motivated.

However, the tactics used by these workers gave their opponents an opportunity to call it a political strike, and in this way, arouse public disfavor towards the unions. In this respect, the unions must consider their own actions.

ITEM 1 Bus, Tram Strike Will Hit 1,600,000 Commuters Today - Yomiuri - 13 Apr 48.
 Translator: K. Hirata (JJY)

146

Full Translation:

The Tokyo Express Workers Union Central Committee on 11 April, ordered a 24-hour walkout starting from midnight yesterday. By this order, all electric cars and buses operated by this company will be stopped simultaneously. Particularly, to the union workers of the Odawara Express Railway, this order will represent a 48-hour strike because they had already walked out yesterday.

Thus, 1,500,000 passengers of electric cars and 100,000 of buses will be affected. In other words, traffic between central TOKYO and its western part as well as a portion of KANAGAWA Ken will be paralyzed. The lines on which operation is expected to be stopped include:

Electric car--Odakyu, Keio, Inokashira, Tamagawa, Mekama, Toyoko, Oicho, Keihin, Ikegami, and Sonan Lines;

Bus--SHINJUKU-NERIMA, SHIBUYA-HATSUDAI, HATSUDAI-HIGASHI KITAGAWA, HIGASHI KITAGAWA-WAKA BAYASHI, KOMASAWA-Tokyo Station, SHIBUYA-Shinagawa Ward Office, Prefectural Higher School-Tokyo Station, MEGURO-Prefectural Higher School, KITASENZOKU-Tokyo Station, GOTANDA-UMAGOMEBASHI, Shinagawa Station-HARA, OMORI-Ikegami Line, Ikegami Line-OTORII, OTORII-MORIGASAKI, Shinagawa Ward Office-OKASHI, KOKUBUNJI-Higashi Fuchu Station, HACHIOJI-OTARUMI, OTARUMI-YUKI, KINUGASA-MISAKI (KANAGAWA KEN), and 13 other routes.

Despite the Tokyo Labor Committee's mediation efforts, negotiations have broken off. The union workers went on a 24-hour strike on 11 April. On the following day, the Odakyu and the head office chapters staged a similar strike. Then came the order calling a simultaneous strike for today. In view of the seriousness of the situation, NAKASHIMA, the First Department chief, and SUZUKI, the Mediation Section chief, of the Central Labor Committee conferred with the Tokyo Labor Committee and the Labor Ministry and decided to halt the strike by resorting to compulsory arbitration in accordance with Article 12 of the Labor Relations Law yesterday morning.

At 1500 hours yesterday Chairman SUEHIRO and KAWATA of the TLC and others met to discuss the method and date for mediation at the CLC chairman's room. At this meeting SUEHIRO expressed his opinion that whether to mediate or not must be decided by taking into consideration the fact that the CLC is scheduled to hold the Private Railway Federation Arbitration Committee meeting at 1400 hours on 13 April. For this reason, the legal solution of the dispute was decided to be postponed until today, making the projected strike unavoidable.

The union said its demands are based entirely on livelihood difficulties. The reasons are:

(1) The demanded amount of money is not high compared to the wages paid by the other metropolitan railway companies. The Tobu company pays wages amounting to 9,600 yen, the Keisei Company 9,700 yen, and the Kosoku Railway Corporation 12,900 yen. Our company will be paying only less than 5,800 yen, even when it complies with our demand.

(2) The management says that it is suffering from financial difficulties. This may be true if we compare the company's recent monthly expenditure to income. However, if the past income is averaged, the monthly expenditure is not so huge that it hits the management financially.

(3) The wage scale which we demanded is, on an average, lower than even the state railway's minimum. The management says that its monthly income totals approximately 95,000,000 yen, although this figure differs more or less according to months. Itemized, the average daily income during March totaled 2,400,000 yen from the electric cars, 100,000 yen from the department store, 250,000 yen from the bus system, and 3,000,000 yen from miscellaneous sources.

However, the union demands:

(1) that 145 percent of the present basic wage of 2,340 yen, in addition to this wage, totaling 5,732 yen--be paid; (2) that as a part of this, 3,392 yen be paid per person by 10 April in order to enable its members to tide over the crisis.

Assuming that the number of employees totals 13,000, 44,000,000 yen will be required if the demand for (2) is accepted. Moreover, the date for paying April's wages totaling 33,000,000 yen is close at hand. Under these circumstances, it is completely impossible to comply with the union's demand.

Recently the management accepted the Tokyo Labor Committee's mediation plan by taking the situation into consideration although this plan called for paying 2,690 yen per person on an average, totaling 35,000,000 yen.

ITEM 1 For Settlement of the Labor Dispute - Mainichi - 13 Apr 48.
 Translator: J. Ide. (JJY)

Summary:

Since the Government sent its ultimatum to the disputing government workers unions yesterday, the much-complicated labor dispute is about to reach its climax. All the unions concerned have to determine their final attitude toward this final proposal of the Government.

Why have the unions clung to their previously set conditions for settlement? It is only because they have still felt the danger of being controlled by the Government in future disputes. The three primary conditions demanded by the unions merely aim at the spontaneity of union activities and the establishment of free labor organizations.

Frankly speaking, we have to agree with the unions' fear that there exists the aforementioned danger. However, the unions should prudently reflect on the reason such a danger has come to the fore. In this sense, the key to the solution of this big labor dispute lies in the close investigation of subjective and objective circumstances by the unions.

To erase misunderstandings and misconceptions, we must point out that the danger which the unions fear at this moment lies not so much in the objective circumstances but rather in the subjective ones. In other words, the key does exist in the political, economic, and social conditions surrounding this defeated nation, which have always constituted the material basis for all struggles, rather than in the unions' formal position amidst the present struggle.

In this sense, the unions' first preliminary demand that no disciplinary action shall be taken against union officers responsible for the recent work stoppage can be justified in principle under the present economic conditions confronting the nation. Especially, the Government should be called to account, since the present labor dispute has been pending since last August. Nevertheless, we cannot agree with the unions' second demand that wages during the strike activities shall be paid unconditionally. Furthermore, the Government has often promised that no amendment shall be made to labor laws.

At all events, both the Government and the unions should assume more positive attitudes in seeking an understanding, which is the key factor for settlement.

ITEM 3 Dobashi Testifies at Military Court on AJCWU Case - Tokyo Shimbun - 13 Apr 48. Translator: R. Shibata (JJY)

Full Translation:

The eighth hearing of the military court trying the case of the Tokyo Transmission and Transportation Engineering Department of the All Japan Communications Workers was resumed at 1000 hours yesterday.

Chairman DOBASHI of the AJCWU presented himself at the court for the first time as a witness for the defense;

After taking his oath at 1040 hours, DOBASHI, answering to the question posed by the defense concerning the contents of the directive of the AJCWU's Central Strike Committee, stated, "The strike in the Tokyo Transmission and Transportation Engineering Department was staged in accord with the Central Strike Committee's decision; that is to say, in complete conformity with the committee's directive." He added, "The directive specified directions to control disconnection or restoration of circuit lines except for those connected with the Occupation Forces."

To the next question as to the steps supposed to be taken by the department in such cases where a military order were issued to restore the circuit lines disconnected according to the Central Strike Committee's directive, DOBASHI answered, "In that case, if an order was formally issued by the Labor Sections of SCAP or other responsible persons, the department was authorized to take appropriate steps following the Central Strike Committee's instruction."

In addition, with regard to the contents of the Central Strike Committee's directive and the authority of individual units of the AJCWU during the strike, DOBASHI testified that the Central Strike Committee's decision provided for no restoration of lines to be made independently by any single unit and that the committee assumed complete leadership, with no authority for lesser units to settle the issue. The court recessed at 1130 hours.

ITEM 4 AJCOMU Refuses to Sign Strike Settlement - Asahi - 21 Apr 48.
 Translator: N. Miwa. (TK)

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 Full Translation:

The conjunction with the formal signing between the National Council of Government and Public Office Workers Unions and the Government, Vice-chairman HOSHINO of the All Japan Communications Workers Union's strike committee and other representatives of the union met Communications Vice-minister SUZUKI at 1500 hours yesterday to sign a formal agreement between the Communications Ministry and the communications workers union.

The All Japan Communications Workers Union declared that the union would sign the government memorandum as in the case of the National Council of Government and Public Office Workers Unions and the Government and demanded of SUZUKI that the Communications Minister reaffirm and seal the matters already approved. However, SUZUKI answered that "the Communications Minister will reaffirm the matter, but he will not seal it." Therefore, the Government and the All Japan Communications Workers Union did not formally sign the agreement.

ITEM 3 Bloody Clashes at the Japan Typewriter Company - Jimmin - 24 Apr 48.
 Translator: H. Minato. (DD)

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 Summary:

Eighteen disputing workers of the Hatagaya Plant were taken into custody because they refused to recognize the tentative court order to free all plants of the Japan Typewriter Company from protracted production control by labor. On the following day, 259 disputing workers of the Mita Plant were taken into custody after two bloody clashes with the police.

Under the Labor Union Law, production control by labor is legally recognized as a means of strife. However, the Government has been recently working to suppress production control. The procurator authorities seem to be exercising strict control over disputing workers and challenging them, forcing them toward actions which infringe upon the law. Such a method is one which would have been employed by the old-time militaristic government.

The police is probably to blame for the bloody clash at the Mita Plant. The Metropolitan Labor Relations Board was intending to mediate between capital and labor. According to the statement of the Labor Union, its leaders were in the process of negotiating with the Mita Police Station to solve the issue amicably, because executive officials arrived, during which time the union members were holding the plant. Therefore, there was no need of mobilizing that many policemen. However, around 300 policemen broke into the Mita plant and by force compelled union members to resist their assaults, after which the members were arrested for obstructing law enforcement.

However, this case is not the only one of its kind. Up till now, arbitrary steps were also taken by the Government. The first was the dispute of the Yomiuri Newspaper, and the union members were assaulted by the police.

Although such arbitrary steps by the procurator authorities are legally recognized, when the labor unions resort to the production control, which is also legally recognized, acts are forced upon them, making them liable for arrest. These insidious tactics cause us to think that there are political objectives behind them. We wish that the Ashida Cabinet would refrain from allowing such base tactics to be used to suppress the production control by labor.

ITEM 11 Gifu Revenue Workers Contemplate Mass Resignation - Akahata - 7 Apr 48.
 Translator: M. Hirasawa. (WM)

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 Full Translation:

(Gifu) The Gifu District Federation of the National Revenue Office Workers Union held an emergency mass meeting on 1 April in GIFU Shi. After seven hours' deliberation, it was resolved to resort to mass walk-out or resignation tactics if the government persists in its oppressive attitude.

ITEM 8 The Significance of the Recent Strike - Asuka Nippo - 20 Apr 48.
Translator: W. Hayashi. (UG)

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Summary:

(This article is taken from the 7 April editorial which appeared in the newspaper TA KUN PAO)

Although labor strikes are being conducted throughout the world today, the recent labor strike in JAPAN deserves special attention since it was accompanied by its own peculiar circumstances.

On 25 Mar, seven major labor organizations in JAPAN launched their nation-wide strike after their demand for a wage boost was rejected. Its scale was unprecedented; its organization compact and its struggle technique progressive. The main body was composed of traffic workers, public officials and a portion of the coal miners.

The strike by the traffic and communications workers was the most serious threat to the Japanese Government. Strike headquarters in TOKYO issued orders throughout the nation, and almost, immediately, all the key cities were involved in the strike. The total number of workers who participated reached about 3,000,000.

The Tokyo traffic workers' tactics were the most radical, for the majority of them launched 24-hour strikes. The public officials continued sabotage and absenteeism. The strike by 400,000 traffic workers slated for 30 March was banned by a SCAP memorandum.

The union leaders, consequently, called off the strike, but the traffic workers in 29 western prefectures rejected the order and launched regional strikes. Since these regional strikes were also banned on 31 March, the workers decided to resort to sabotage tactics.

This strike movement is called a "labor offensive" in JAPAN, and its ostensible objective was the revision of the 2,920 yen wage standard from April. The Ashida Government assumed a firm attitude and attempted to solve the issue by force.

Immediately after receiving the SCAP memorandum, Premier ASHIDA decided at a cabinet meeting to maintain his firm attitude, to punish officials who violated the Public Service Regulations, and demanded the suspension of strike activities. This reveals the true attitude of the Ashida cabinet toward the labor offensive.

Two labor organizations played important roles in the strike. One was the All Japan Communications Workers Union and the other the All Japan Traffic Workers Union, both belonging to the National Congress of Industrial Organization (a left-wing labor organization headed by Communist KIKUNAMI).

It was reported that the recent strike was instigated by the Japan Communist Party which now claims a membership of more than 100,000. A UP dispatch from TOKYO, however, reports that the traffic workers' union's chapters under the influence of the Communist Party number only about 60, and their total membership is only 150,000. Therefore, it is not justified to place the sole blame for provoking the strike upon the Communist Party. When we consider the various reports obtained up to this date, it can be reasoned that the strike was a result of collaboration between right and left forces.

Lower and upper echelons were in complete accord, including both the left and right forces. Both the NCIO and JFLU supported the strike, maintaining unity between them. The JFLU was originally a rightist organization. It is now a nation-wide labor federation

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led by the Socialist Party. Its president is Mr MATSUOKA, member and advisor of the Socialist Party.

In view of the above facts, we can well realize the political significance of the recent strike.

The Draper Mission announced that US policy toward JAPAN would be mitigated in order to make her a workshop of the Orient. Premier ASHIDA also gave the assurance that JAPAN would be made into an anti-Communist bulwark in the Far East. Such programs as increased production, three billion dollar aid and completion of the five-year rehabilitation program in three years have been reported. In short, the entire nation was filled with bright expectations.

At this important moment, Japanese laborers responded to AMERICA's good offices with a strike. This was indeed regrettable.

On 1 April, Premier ASHIDA declared it was really regrettable that the American Congress suspended deliberations on the 180,000,000 dollar aid program for JAPAN due to the recent strike. When we interpret his statement, we are given to understand that the more the Communist threat increases in JAPAN, the more US aid will be extended. This was the first significant political aspect of the recent strike.

In his administrative policy address, Premier ASHIDA stressed political truce and national unity. All circles, however, did not offer support to the new cabinet. The general prediction was that it would not last long. The Communist Party immediately staged a mass demonstration in OSAKA in order to cope with the government's anti-Communist attitude.

The recent strike was, therefore, a severe blow to the new cabinet. This was the second significant aspect of the strike.

It was generally believed that since the three left-wing Socialists - KATO, NOMIZO, and NAGAE - participated in the cabinet and KATO is supported by the laborers, the cabinet would succeed in realizing co-operation between capital and labor by utilizing the leftist Socialists.

In reality, however, the leftist Socialists were divided into the Kato and Suzuki factions. Mr SUZUKI is reported to be planning the formation of a Labor-Farmer Party supported by 53 Diet members.

All labor unions under the rightists and the leftist Socialists headed by SUZUKI participated in the strike instead of supporting Labor Minister KATO. This, in itself, dealt a severe blow to labor leader KATO. This was the third significant aspect.

The major strike was thus temporarily suppressed, but it was not entirely a failure. This was the third time a strike by Japanese laborers was suppressed by a SCAP order.

The first was the prohibition of the famine demonstration in TOKYO slated for 20 May 1946, and the second was the banning of a general strike on 1 Feb 1947. SCAP has thus banned Japanese strikes at the average of one a year.

The Japanese government has hitherto been protected in this manner, and herein lies the particular difficulty in the way of JAPAN's labor offensive.