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GENERAL OFFICES  
NEWS BUILDING NEWYORK CITY

MILES W. VAUGHN  
GENERAL MANAGER  
FOR ASIA

Tokyo, September 30, 1947

Brig. Gen. C. Whitney  
Chief, Government Section  
General Headquarters  
Tokyo

Dear General:

Supplementing my letter of August 22 about the purge cases of Mr. Obama and Mr. Odajima of the newspaper, Nihon Keizai, formerly the Chugai Shogyo Shimbun, I am informed that the Japanese Central Screening Committee on Monday cleared from the purge the Chugai Shogyo Shimo (predecessor of the Nihon Keizai) and this action will automatically clear Mr. Obama.

The committee's liaison section will submit its decision regarding this newspaper to Government Section, GHQ, according to Mr. Obama's information, today or tomorrow (Sept. 30 or Oct. 1).

It is assumed that the Government Section has received copies of "evidence" on the Nihon Keizai's record unfavorable to the newspaper and to Mr. Obama which was submitted to the Japanese committee in the name of the Nihon Keizai Employees Guild. The committee overrode this evidence.

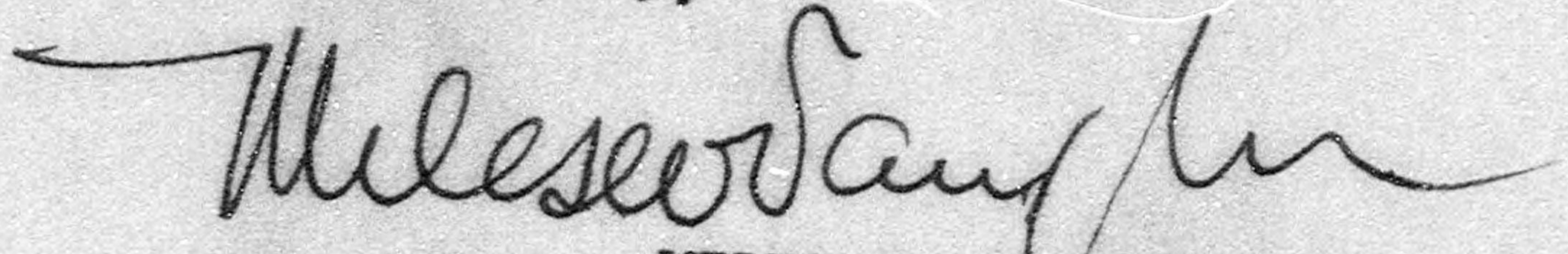
Officers of the newspaper guild profess no knowledge of ever having officially submitted the material. It is assumed to have been framed and submitted by two Nihon Keizai editorial staff members who were discharged two months ago on discovery that they had falsified their application papers and that they were members of the Japan Communist Party. The men's names are E. Yoshimura and U. Hori. These two men were schooled only in grammar schools; however, their applications claimed they had received college degrees. They were discharged in accordance with the regular procedure for dismissal when curricula vitae are falsified.



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I submit the foregoing for what it may be  
worth in the interest of fair play.

Cordially,

  
MILES W. VAUGHN



July , 1947

To the Central Public Office  
Qualification Screening Committee:

COUNTER-EVIDENCE  
OF  
TOSHIE OBAMA

According to the provisions of the Cabinet and Home Affairs Ministry Ordinance No.3 promulgated by the official Gazette extra dated June 30, 1947, I, TOSHIE OBAMA, who was the Chief of the Editing Office of the Chugai Shogyo Shimpo-Sha, later renamed the Nihon Keizai Shimbun-she seems to be liable to the purge. I, however, firmly believe that I do not come under the purge in view of the following facts:

1. The editorials in question were entirely written by the chief of the editorial committee, Teisuke Matsuda, under the supervision of the editor-in-chief, Tokichi Tanaka, but I, the chief of editing office then had actually nothing to do with them.
2. Tetsuji Kata, one of the well-known weekly reviewers, who was generally believed to be anti-military was contributing to the paper, but on my finding in one of his contributions supporting fascism he was at once relieved of the contract and he went over to the Yomiuri Shimbun. The very contribution was however automatically inserted in our paper by unsuspecting staff of the make-up department as it unfortunately happened that the contribution was delivered to our press when I was away travelling to give lectures in Kansai cities and Odajima, the sub-chief, was absent owing to illness.
3. I Toshie Obama, was then widely known for my confirmed liberal views and my outspoken friendship for America and Britain. Indeed I intensely disliked the German way, particularly the way the Nazis thought and behaved. Since the outbreak of the China Incident the military did not tolerate opposing views on diplomatic questions; I could not therefore, very well openly opposed to the Nazis, but severely criticized it under the guise of economic questions or problems of thought missing no opportunity to promote an atmosphere of anti-nazism.
4. From these standpoint all the requests made by German Embassy to our press so frequently after the outbreak of the Anglo-German war was turned down without exception. News articles also poured in regularly from the same quarters, but we never took up anyone of them as we did not subscribe to German idea and also because of their being invariably propaganda materials. It was I who caused every staff to be rigidly warned not to insert any



German propaganda articles in our paper, which resulted in frequent complaints by the German embassy to the Army about the Chugai Shogyo Shimpo-Sha and my humble self. This fact is best known by Mr. Tsunashima who came to the Chugai Shogyo Shimpo-Sha with Graff Milbach as his interpreter. Mr. Tsunashima went to an oversea front as a 2nd-lieutenant and is reported to have been repatriated safely, but his whereabouts is unknown.

5. On account of my avowed opposition to militarism and axis ideology my subordinate suffered much inconveniences or had to pay sacrifices.

All of our reporters met an unprecedentedly rigorous treatment, having been indefinitely barred from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. This was undoubtedly attributable to the fact that I (Obama) offended the officials of that Ministry which was in my opinion only a detached office of the military in embarking upon the policy of aggression and aggrandisement to which I was consistently opposed.

Another incident which I now amuses me is about Mr. Sejiro Momomoto, an ex-reporter of the Chugai Shogyo Shimpo:- He was a conscientious young reporter. He was covering the War Office and he recounted militaristic yarns every day. This evidently caused my (Obama's) outburst resulting in his transfer to Nanking and subsequent resignation. It had long been forgotten by me, but when I was awaiting the clarification of my status with regarding ~~to~~ the appointment to the House of Peers it was reminded me by the story that Matsumoto, the sub-chief of our Political Department was told by Mr. Momomoto to himself "What such an extreme anti-militarist like Obama was barred from the House of Peers for?"

#### My Anti-war Activities Outside of Our Press.

On account of the rigorous restriction placed on the Chugai Newspaper by the military and in view of the fear of the unemployment of so many young writers, in case of our press being closed down on my account, who entered this press attracted largely by my personal popularity, I had to modify considerably my tone of criticism. But outside our press my anti-war activities were ever so conspicuous that many friends of mine advised me to be more cautious. When I was prevented from delivering a scheduled lecture over radio by an air-raid manœuver in Nagoya in 1940, the listeners-in without exception believed that I was arrested by the military police.

#### My Activities at Lecture at Various Places.

Lecture meetings of small scale were sponsored at various places beginning with Tokyo. As a regular lecturer, I delivered speeches supporting the cause of liberalism and denouncing the policy of expansion and succeeded in gathering a fairly strong followers in all parts of Japan. Although it is impossible to enumerate such lectures, it is a fact that I made more than one each month at least, such meetings being roughly as below:



Tokyo Seiko-kai (place (Kojin-sha club)  
 Yushin-kai (place not always same)  
 Twentieth-day kai (place same as above)  
 Kagaku Kogyo Doshi-kai (place Kuramae Kogyo-kai or  
 Togyo Kaikan)  
 Nagoya Eirakukai (place Nagoya Hotel, Kanko Hotel or else)  
 Meitei-kai (place Kanko Hotel, Hasshokan or else)  
 Kyoto Shokō Kenkyu-kai (place Manyokan or Miyako Hotel)  
 Osaka Shoyukai (place Osaka Club)  
 Keizai Kenkyu-kai (place Kansai Keizai club)

Besides these I attended almost every month to meetings at  
 Yokohama, Hachioji, Ome, Maebashi, Ashikaga, etc.

The oppression by Special police and Kempei Tai (Military Police)  
 and their Obstruction in Lecture.

While Nagoya and Kyoto chapters were holding meeting once a  
 month since 1932, military police began to interfere in Kyoto from  
 1936. The local representatives were summoned to the special section  
 of the police and ordered to close the chapter in 1943. In Nagoya  
 the interference began in 1940 and meetings in even private houses  
 were prohibited in 1944. In Tokyo and Osaka closing was not ordered  
 but were threatened all the summary. At Ome there used to be  
 frequent meetings, but no meetings were held since the last meeting  
 in Autumn 1939. I was invited for the first time in eight years to  
 the meeting on March 2nd this year. According to the disclosures  
 by the chairman no meeting had been held there for a long time on  
 account of the police's prohibition of accepting Obama as a lecturer  
 on the ground that Obama made a speech in 1939 pointing out that the  
 Anglo-German war would end in a British victory and also that he  
 was desirous of a British victory. The chairman Mr. Sentaro Kawasaki  
 also told me he was struck very much with my foresight as to the  
 result of the Anglo-German war. For the first time, the reason why  
 Ome chapter abruptly stopped requesting my lecture was made clear  
 to me. Further, when I went to Kyoto last November for a lecture,  
 I met there Mr. Teiji Houri who was formerly an executive of the  
 Shoko Kenkyu-kai and is now the mayor of Shodoshima, his native  
 village. He ceremoniously said, "I beg to tender you my sincere  
 apologies". On my questioning about the cause of his apologies  
 he told me that he, having been in contrast with me as an executive  
 of the Shoko Kenkyu-kai for ten years, was not pleased with my  
 being always anti-military, anti-war and anti-German. He was,  
 he said, in some doubt as regards the views expounded by me but  
 things having cleared up with the end of the war, he was ~~now~~ <sup>now</sup> pro-  
 foundly ashamed of himself.

The Kempei Tai summoned me for explanation for my lecture in  
 Kyoto in July, 1936, which they regarded as anti-military. They ques-  
 tioned me for my lecture at Nagaoka City Hall in 1938, and accused  
 me about our press being so markedly pro-Anglo-American in 1940 and  
 once more in the same year I and our president, Tokichi Tanaka,  
 were taken to the Kempei Tai on the ground that we were maintaining



some secret liaison with American and Britain. At each of these instances we were obliged to tender a letter of apology and narrowly escaped from confinement

Furthermore, Mr. Ray <sup>or</sup> Crowley, the correspondent of the Wall Street Journal of New York (attached to the U.S. Army as Lt. Colonel during the war), with whom I had had personal contacts in pre-war days and have renewed friendship anew, was said to have been pressed hard to divulge his connection with Kijuro Shidehara, Masamichi Hiyama and Obama (myself) by the officials in charge at the Sugamo Prison where he was imprisoned immediately after the outbreak of the war. I owe my life to Mr. Crowley for he had stubbornly denied about his relations with me (Obama).

A similar case occurred when Mr. Tomijiro Nakazato, a subordinate under Mr. H Vere Redman, the chief of the Intelligence Department of the British Embassy, was taken to the Sugamo Prison on the alleged infringement of the National Defense and Security Act and questioned about the relation between Obama and the Intelligence Department of the British Embassy by the Preliminary Examination Judge Katsuo Matsumoto of the Tokyo District Court.

#### Ban on Broadcasting.

I used to deliver speeches on the air often, several scores of times since 1929, but as I was summoned to the Kempei Tai (military police) so often and was subjected to a strict vigilance by the Kempei, knocking at my door every fourth or fifth day, the request for my broadcasting dropped off. Towards the end of the war I was requested to broadcast for the "Daitoa-Hoso" (or Great Eastern Propaganda), but I declined it. I was thus isolated from broadcasting for a long period of ~~five~~ and half years.

#### Thorough Internationalism.

Being an earnest advocator of thorough internationalism, I never ceased to oppose to the ultra-nationalistic politics and economy. At a public lecture meeting held at Ashikaga City of Tochigi Prefecture immediately after the outbreak of the Manchurian incident in 1931, I boldly declared that the territorial expansion was bound to be highly detrimental for the interest of Japan. This evidently caused a great sensation in that district but I did not swerve from this line, warning the nation of the danger of embarking upon an adventurous policy.

I strongly opposed to the idea when certain group of bureaucrats became crazy in their attempt to produce staple fibre in order to check the import of raw cotton. For, these officials were willing servants of the Army. I also strenuously opposed to, "autarchy" which ruled over Japan then as I was convinced of the necessity of promoting a better free international trading.



## The Relation Between the Government and Semi-Official.

I had been appointed to various posts such as central coöperator of councilor of Spiritual Mobilization, Imperial Rule Assistance Association, National Savings Encouragement Headquarters, National Propaganda Headquarters, Literary Patriotic Association, all executives of influential press without discrimination and if any one rejected it, he would have certainly been taken to the Kampei-tai. Under the circumstance there was no choice but to accept it and in my case I did not partake in any deliberation or meeting.

At the meeting of the Spiritual Mobilization, the main point of my speech was about the national uniform, this being a proof of my non-collaboration to this kind of militaristic body. At this meeting of the Spiritual General Mobilization the plan of national uniform to commemorate 2,600th year, proposed by Kazunobu Kenokogi and seconded by Juso Miwa, was opposed by me. By the way this plan was initiated by the military and any one opposing it was stamped as anti-military.

At the first central cooperation congress of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association I criticized the Government's economic policies and the president, Nobumasa Suetsugu, stopped my speech saying the time was up and adjourned the meeting.

Although I was a nominal councilor of the National Savings Encouragement Headquarters no meeting whatsoever was held at all. The Imperial Rule Assistance Publication Headquarters held meeting only once and although I was asked to speak as a councilor I flatly refused to do so.

The Association of service to the Nation through Publication had appointed the chiefs of editing office of every influential newspaper its councilor as an honor generally and no meeting of the councilors had ever been held. This association was practically ran by notorious Kiwao Okumura, one of the public enemy of Obama myself.

In view of my reputation as a liberal thinker, the fact that I was not imprisoned is really extraordinary. Friends of mine are ascribing the reasons to the following two or three points:

1. Economy is evidently the most troublesome question for the military, although my oppositions to various propositions had not failed to irritate them they thought it wise to leave me unmolested as they considered me an expert on economic matters.

2. Although my opposition to the plan of national uniform, "Mompé" or the most hideous type of women's clothings or gaiter was an fragrant anti-militarism, I cleverly manouvered not to deal with it as a question of thought, but handling very cautiously within the sphere of economy they could not discover excuses of catching me.



3. I had no intercourse with military circles, not have I had any ambition at all, (any one who had some sort of relation with the military or had any ambition were eventually wiped out. The reason was that there were several factions within the Army and those who belonged to any faction were almost without exception punished when different factions gained power).

I, Obama, am such a man as roughly outlined in the foregoing statement. On the occasion of my appointment to the House of Peers in March last year, conducted a painstaking examination into my case and cleared <sup>it</sup> judging me to be a fit material for democratizing Japan.

*The G. H. Q.*

In consideration of the above counter-evidences, I earnestly request that I shall be adjudged passed promptly.

Toshie Obama



October 24, 1947.

AFFIDAVIT

To the Central Public Office Qualification Screening Committee:

It is an irony that Mr. Toshie Obama, President of the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, should have been placed on the list of purgees even only for a matter of form. It is a widely known fact that Mr. Obama, a liberalist and pacifist, fought against the control of the Japanese militarists. That the Chugai Shogyo Shimpo, forerunner of the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, distinguished itself as an outstanding existence after the outbreak of the China Incident, could be attributed to Mr. Obama's effort and struggle.

As an expert economist, Mr. Obama has constantly advocated free economy and free international trade. For instance, when different government organs planned and blindly carried out indiscreet schemes of self-sufficiency playing into the hands of the militarists for several years before the outbreak of the Pacific War, Mr. Obama firmly stood by his economic internationalism making a striking contrast with the majority of the economists and commentators who gave their cooperation to the authorities.

Mr. Obama talks quite unreservedly, yet he gets no resentment from others. We all agree that this accounts for his being very honest with no evil designs in his mind.

Now that great writers worthy of trust and support of the whole nation are scarce and there are not many newspapers with



established public confidence and writers with ability to convince the general public, qualifications indispensable for making Allied occupation policy thoroughly understood by the nation, it would be a serious loss to allow such an influential writer as Mr. Obama expelled from the journalistic fields especially in view of the current confusion of the people's thoughts.

It is a pity that nowadays there are only a few newspapers where the presidents' ideas are thoroughly understood by each and every reporter on outside duties. Mr. Obama being one of the rare exceptions to the rule, we extremely regret, not only for his sake but for the sake of the general public, to see him removed from the presidency of the Nihon Keizai Shimbun.

In view of all the foregoing, we firmly believe that it is imperative to retain so honest, trustworthy, democratic and powerful a writer as Mr. Obama in the journalistic circle, and thereby prevent any chaotic condition that may prevail after the signing of the peace treaty and ensure that the nation as a whole will keep in harmony with the United States.

We shall be pleased if you will kindly take the aforementioned facts into consideration and thoroughly postview his case so as to have him removed from the purge list of the organs of public opinions.

(Signed)	KOMAKICHI MATSUOKA, Speaker of the House of Representatives.
( " )	TOYOHICO KAGAWA, Religious worker
( " )	JUNZO SASAMORI, Member of the House of Representatives: State Minister.



- (Signed) MOSABURO SUZUKI,  
Member of the House of  
Representatives.
- ( " ) TSUNEO MATSUDAIRA,  
President of the House of  
Councillors.
- ( " ) JIRO KOBAYASHI,  
Secretary-General of the  
House of Councillors.
- ( " ) UMEO OKU,  
Member of the House of  
Councillors.
- ( " ) YAHACHI KAWAI,  
Member of the House of  
Councillors.
- ( " ) MUNEYOSHI TOKUGAWA,  
Doctor of Agriculture:  
Member of the House of  
Councillors: Lecturer,  
Tokyo University.
- ( " ) KYO KIUCHI,  
Member of the House of  
Councillors.
- ( " ) MASAO AKAGI,  
Member of the House of  
Councillors: Director-  
in-chief, the Society of  
Erosion Control.
- ( " ) YUZO YAMAMOTO,  
Member of the House of  
Councillors: Literator.
- ( " ) NAOTO ICHIMADA,  
President, the Bank of Japan.
- ( " ) TEIICHI KAWAKITA,  
Vice-President, the Bank of  
Japan.
- ( " ) KOTARO TANAKA,  
Member of the House of Council-  
lors: former Education Minister.
- ( " ) TAKEO KURUSU,  
Finance Minister: Member of  
the House of Councillors.



- (Signed) HIRO O H A S H I,  
President, Japan Women's  
College.
- ( " ) NAROU O K A D A,  
President, the Tokyo National  
Library.
- ( " ) TETSUZO TANIKAWA,  
Vice-Director, the National  
Museum: Professor, Hosei  
University.
- ( " ) MASANORI I T O,  
General Managing Director,  
the Japan Press Association.
- ( " ) TSUNEGO B A B A,  
President, the Yomiuri Shimbun.
- ( " ) JIICHIRO MATSUMOTO,  
Vice-President of the House of  
Councillors.
- ( " ) TAKIZO MATSUMOTO,  
Member of the House of  
Representatives: Parliamentary  
Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs.
- ( " ) MITSURU I S H I I,  
President, the Japan Publishers'  
Association.
- ( " ) TSURUKICHI OKUMURA,  
Dean of the Tokyo Dental College:  
Chairman of the Council of Dental  
Education.
- ( " ) HITOSHI ASHIDA,  
Foreign Minister: Member of the  
House of Representatives:  
Doctor of Law.
- ( " ) IWASABURO TAKANO,  
Doctor of Law: President, the  
Broadcasting Corporation of Japan.
- ( " ) TAKUZO ITAKURA,  
Doctor of Law: Prof. Emeritus,  
Keio University:  
President, Jiji Shimpō Sha.



October 24, 1947.

A F F I D A V I T

To the Central Public Office Qualification Screening Committee:

It is with a great surprise to learn that Mr. Toshie Obama is on the list of purgees.

I have known him for about thirty-five years. In his school days, I already noticed in him an unusually strong sense of justice. Being an ardent exponent of social reform, he shared my socialistic ideas and took part in the activities of the Social People's Party, working, for instance, in the election campaign of Messrs. Komakichi Matsuoka, Tetsu Katayama and myself.

Although he changed his opinion subsequently and left our group in the belief that social reform in Japan could be better carried out by utilizing the strong points of capitalism rather than by socialism, I still have a confidence in his conscience and believe that he will fight for the extension of people's rights and overthrow of feudalism. This is the reason why I regard him as a comrade in the movement to democratize Japan.

As a representative journalist of Japan as well as an influential expert economist, Mr. Obama cannot be dispensed with in the democratization of Japan, but what makes me his earnest supporter most is his honesty, sincerity, trustworthiness and fine gentlemanship.



From the viewpoint of social justice I cannot look on indifferently when Mr. Obama is expelled from the journalistic circle, and therefore earnestly hope that he will be passed at an early date. I take the opportunity of soliciting your kind attention to the foregoing not only for Mr. Obama himself but also for the democratization of Japan.

(SIGNED)

I S O O      A   B   E.  
The "Father" of the Social  
Democratic Party:  
Prof. Emeritus, Waseda  
University.



October 24, 1947.

A F F I D A V I T

To the Central Public Office Qualification Screening Committee:

It is with great appreciation that I watched Mr. Toshie Obama, President of the Nihon Keizai Shimbun and an exponent of anti-militaristic and anti-rightistic ideas, struggle to break down imperialism and militarism through the columns of the Chugai Shogyo Shimpo, forerunner of the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, or in speeches and subscriptions elsewhere. He did much, indeed, toward awakening the nation from its militaristic nightmare.

Mr. Obama served as secretary of the speaker of the House of Representatives when my father, Saburo Shimada, held that position, and consequently I have been acquainted with him for over thirty years.

As a faithful believer in liberalism and democracy, he put these ideas into practice not only in his public life but also in his private life, and he will be an indispensable personage for our country in maintaining a harmonious relationship with the United States.

As a Councillor and Supporting Member of Waseda University, he helps me in the administration of the University which will naturally be affected by his removal from the journalistic fields.

In consideration of all the foregoing, I shall be very pleased if his case is acted upon favorably at the earliest date possible.

(Signed) K O I C H I S H I M A D A

President, Waseda University



October 23, 1947.

A F F I D A V I T

To the Central Public Office Qualification Screening Committee:

While I was in the service of the League of Nations in Geneva twenty years ago, I travelled to Japan for the purpose of popularizing the idea of the League of Nations in Japan. It was then that I became acquainted with Mr. Toshie Obama, one of the pacifists in the journalistic fields of Japan and had his assistance in propagating the idea of peace among the Japanese people.

Later, when I myself entered the journalistic circles in Japan, I had more occasions to get in touch with Mr. Obama. But it was mostly in connection with matters pertaining to international peace that I met him in various meetings of the League of Nations Society and other similar organizations.

As one of the representative journalists in Japan, Mr. Obama strongly advocated promotion of international peace and worked hard for that end from a journalist's standpoint. This attitude taken by Mr. Obama led him to experience many difficulties both in public and private lives during the War. However, I am glad to endorse the fact that he never changed his belief in the international peace and his attitude in putting the idea in practice.



October 23, 1947.

A F F I D A V I T

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After the end of the War, when an association was established in Japan to support the United Nations, Mr. Obama was appointed one of its directors. This proves that he is a faithful believer in international peace and an earnest supporter of a democratic society based on order and justice.

(Signed)

TETSURO FURUKAKI,  
General Managing Director,  
the Broadcasting Corporation  
of Japan: Managing Director,  
the United Nations Association  
of Japan.



October 23, 1947.

To the Central Public Office Qualification Screening Committee:

Mr. Toshie Obama, President of the Nihon Keizai Shinbun, has been an intimate friend of mine for very long years. I know quite well he is a bearer of liberalistic ideas, has always advocated international peace, and boldly expressed anti-militaristic thoughts.

I remember too that, before and after the War, he used to carry his opinions expressly in public and private meetings.

It remains still in my memory that the Chugai Shogyo Shimpo edited by Mr. Obama had always moderate and fair opinions and distinguished itself in our journalistic circles.

I, one of the old friends of Mr. Obama, sincerely hope that the Committee will take these matters into considerations, and postview the case in favor of Mr. Obama.

(S i g n e d) K. H O R I N O U C H I

President of the Foreign  
Service Training Institute:  
former Ambassador to  
Washington.



October 24, 1947.

A F F I D A V I T

To the Central Public Office Qualification Screening Committee:

As an editor of the magazine "Chuo Koron" (The Central Review) I have been acquainted with Mr. Toshie Obama for many years. Mr. Obama is an enthusiastic liberalist. He always spoke and acted along anti-militaristic and anti-bureaucratic lines and vigorously combatted militarists and bureaucrats. It is, therefore, my earnest desire that he will be permitted to keep his present position for the sake of the good relations between the United States and Japan.

(Signed)

K A N J I R O     S A T O,  
Member of the House  
of Representatives.



~~To Tom~~


October 23, 1947.

My Dear Colonel Marcum:

Through Mr. Hisetake I have been trying to ask you to spare me a few minutes. And I am indebted to you for your granting me an appointment at 9 A.M. tomorrow (24th). But very unfortunately there cropped up a certain matter which requires my attendance tomorrow morning by all means. It is my purge question I am worried about. But I now feel it is not a matter that requires immediate action. I know very well you are always tied up. So I would like to look you up some time next week.

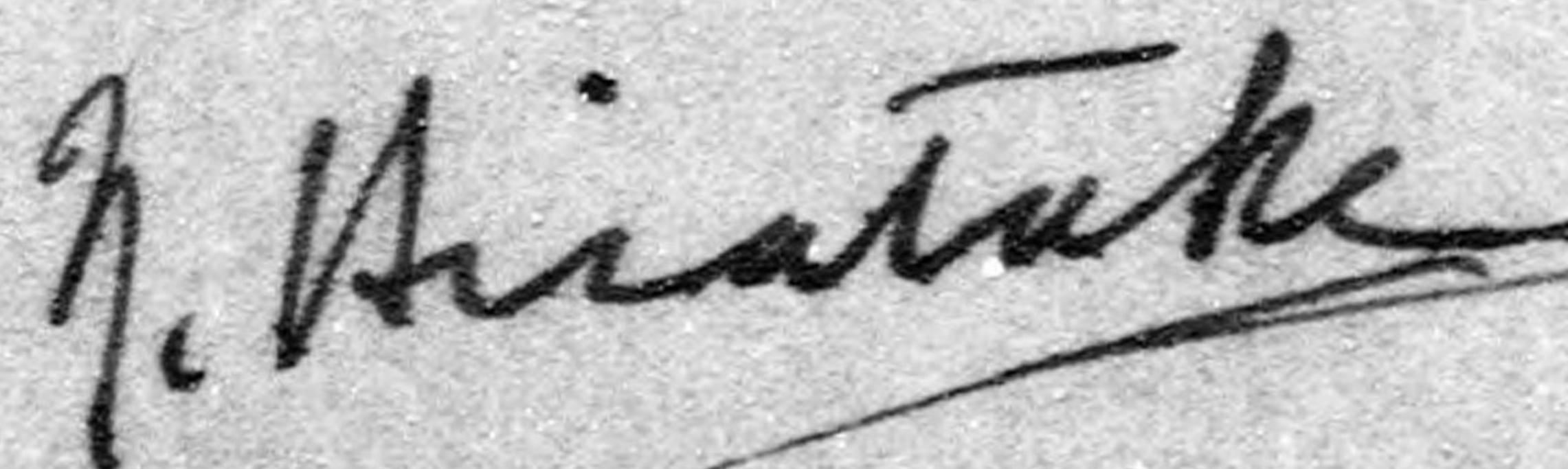
Believe me,

Yours ever

  
T. O B A M A.

P.S. Hoping to see you again

-----  
N. H I S A T A K E





# United Press Associations

INCORPORATED IN NEW YORK  
GENERAL OFFICES  
NEWS BUILDING NEW YORK CITY

MILES W. VAUGHN  
GENERAL MANAGER  
FOR ASIA

Tokyo, August 22, 1947

Brig. Gen. C. Whitney  
Chief, Government Section  
General Headquarters  
Office of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers  
Tokyo

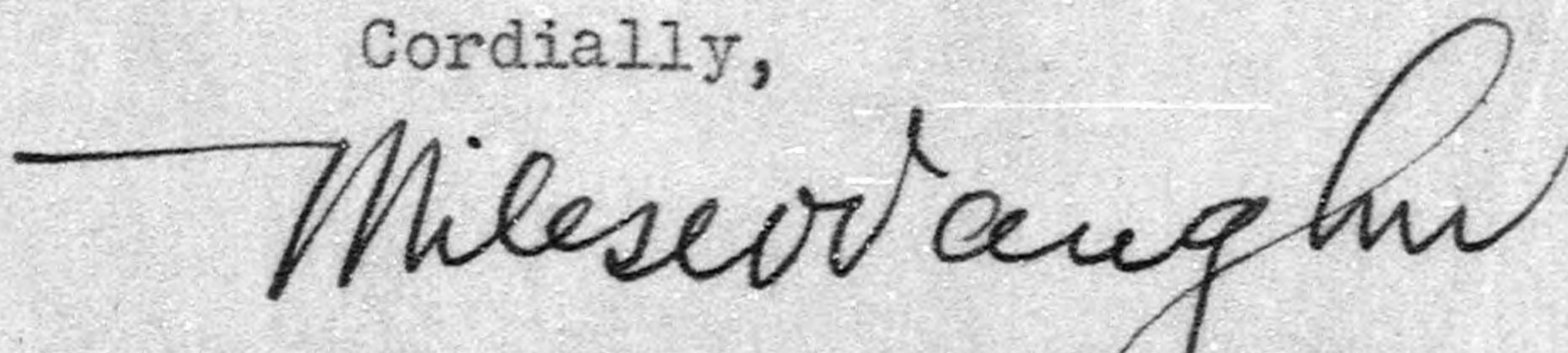
Dear General:

Attached are self-explanatory and I am passing them along to your office for what they may be worth.

To the best of my knowledge I believe both Mr. Obama and Mr. Odajima loyally have supported the Occupation since its beginning, both personally and through their newspaper, Nihon Keizai, formerly Chugai Shogyo.

From what I know of Japanese journalism I believe these men will perform a useful service in the democratization of Japan if they are permitted to retain their present posts as the principal executives of Nihon Keizai which, as you know, is one of the leading Tokyo dailies.

Cordially,



MILES W. VAUGHN

Encl.



July , 1947

To the Central Public Office Qualification  
Screening Committee:

Counter-evidence  
of  
Chugai Shogyo Shimpo-Sha

submitted by  
Toshie Obama, President,  
Nihon Keizai Shimbun-Sha  
(retitled from Chugai Shogyo Shimpo-Sha)  
No.16, Kayaba-cho Nichome, Nihombashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo-to.

In accordance with the provisions of Cabinet and Home Affairs Ministry Ordinance No.3 promulgated by the Official Gazette extra dated June 30, 1947, the Government has announced that Chugai Shogyo Shimpo-Sha, the forerunner of Nihon Keizai Shimbun-Sha, comes under the so-called Purge Ordinances.

Strictly speaking, however, Chugai Shogyo Shimpo-Sha had not practically published any articles that might fall under the provisions of Imperial Ordinance No.1 of January 4, 1947, as stated in our screening papers previously submitted, and there are only twelve articles of somewhat doubtful nature found during the entire period under investigation.

Policy of Chugai Shogyo Shimpo.  
Chugai Shogyo Shimpo was inaugurated in 1876 by Messrs. Eiichi Shibusawa and Takashi Masuda, pioneers in Japanese economic field, who advocated the establishment of a newspaper following the example of the Journal of Commerce of New York. The paper's announced policy has been "always to be fair and impartial and to endeavour to promote the peaceful and democratic development of Japanese economy which is the basis of the people's life." Its inaugural message read in part: "men discuss politics and people's right and think themselves great. Power and influence seem to belong solely to Shizoku (ex-samurai class) who take no account of men of commerce and industry. Resulting evils of feudalism are so evident that it seems hopeless to make the nation wealthy and strong." It is this lamentation over the trend of the society that prompted the inauguration of a newspaper specializing itself in economy.  
Such being the origin of this newspaper, its mission necessarily lies in the economical expansion of the nation and its people. To be more concrete, it never neglected to print in detail the trend of public finance, money market, industry, foreign trade, transportation etc. in the United States, Great Britain and other countries of the world together with supporting figures. For instance, even after the outbreak of the Pacific War, it published economic statistics, market situations (such as New York's steels and other stocks, wheat, cotton and other commodity prices) of the United States, Great Britain and other countries as far as telegraphic conditions permitted. This led the military and some of the bureaucrats to blame the paper. "It is more like a newspaper of a neutral country to publish stock and commodity markets of hostile countries," they said.



It goes without saying that the way of thinking of all the staff of the newspaper, from the officials down, brought up under a policy of this sort was naturally in line with the maintenance and promotion of the world peace.

1) Editorials of Passive Nature.

Most of the aforementioned twelve articles (editorials) had nothing to do with stimulating aggressive policy or militant nationalism, approving or promoting coercivism, or inspiring or positively recognizing totalitarianism. The paper merely carried articles passively approving military actions or government policies on such occasions as the grand festival of the Yasukuni Shrine, New Year's day etc., or only when specially asked by the military or the Government to support their intended announcements.

2) Articles contributed exclusively by anti-militarists.

Contributors of articles to Chugai Shogyo Shimpo were all anti-militarists, as criticized by the military at those times. The weekly commentators under special contract were representative liberalists of Japan at the time namely Retsu Kiyosawa, Gyokujo Hanzawa, Hidematsu Tsumura and Masanori Ito. Gyokujo Hanzawa, by the way, was later detained for a few months during the Pacific War by the Military Police for being of an anti-militaristic thought. Tanzan Ishibashi and Tetsuji Kata were also on the list of regular contributors as expert economists. But we did lose no time in eliminating Kata when he praised fascism in one of his commentaries. Subsequently Kata wrote weekly comments for Yomiuri Shimbun. Thus, Chugai Shogyo Shimpo-Sha managed to stir up an anti-war and anti-militaristic atmosphere.

3) "Impressions of the United States" by Mr. Hashimoto of Shiun-So.

Through "Private Talks on Japanese-American Diplomatic Relations" published since the termination of the war, it is widely known that Mr. Tesuma Hashimoto of Shiun-So went to the United States with the understanding of the U.S. Government in December 1940, when the trend of events between the United States and Japan was threatened with dark clouds, and played an important role in adjusting the relations between the two nations. By the time Mr. Hashimoto returned in March, 1941, however, the Army and Navy authorities responsible for sending Mr. Hashimoto on his American mission had completely reversed their attitude, and oppressing Mr. Hashimoto, were driving the nation right into the Pacific War. Thus Mr. Hashimoto was not only denied the opportunity of conveying to the nation his impression of the American atmosphere but he was also obliged to leave Tokyo and retire to Tokushima Prefecture, his native place, by undue pressure brought upon him by the Military Police. Before retiring, he earnestly desired at least to make known the unexpectedly peaceful atmosphere prevailing in America; but knowing the true intention of the Military, nobody would agree to print his story. It was at this juncture that Chugai Shogyo Shimpo boldly undertook the job and beginning March 29, it published the long story of Mr. Hashimoto's trip for eleven consecutive days. The introductory note by Obama, chief of the Editing Office, appearing with



the first article will serve to show very clearly the true intention of the author and Chugai Shogyo Shimpo. It was as follows:

"Words of Introduction"

"Shiun-So is a patriotic group which is not only very well known to all Japanese but also known to men of intelligence all over the world. We might call Mr. Tsuma Hashimoto its superintendent or its leader. In short, "Shiun-So is no other than Hashimoto" is the impression he gives. To know how American treated this strange visitor is particularly significant at this moment. At a glance this may look like an ordinary traveling record, yet if by careful reading you find a certain atmosphere underlying between the lines, you will have found an important key to judge the future of the Japanese-American relations."

4) Honorific title used for Generalissimo Chang Kai-Shek. With the outbreak of the China Incident, all other Japanese newspapers, without exception, resorted to call the head of the Chinese Republic simply Chang Kai-Shek, but Chugai Shogyo Shimpo alone kept up paying respects in placing an honorific with his name. It was only several months later that we had to give up this practice, very reluctantly indeed, in view of our editing staff threatened by numerous letters daily, also of undue pressure brought to bear upon the paper by the militarists.

5) Militarists and Military Men Turned Down. Shortly before the outbreak of the China Incident, contributions of articles by militarists and military men began appearing in Japanese newspapers and magazines. With the progress of the incident, these articles as well as conversaciones among these men became so popular. Chugai Shogyo Shimpo, however, afforded absolutely no opportunity to this kind of men. No articles by them were accepted. Nor was conversacione ever held for them by us.

6) Cooperation categorically denied to military. Other newspapers, Tokyo dialies in particular without exception, extensively called upon their subscribers from time to time and vied for raising funds for contribution to the Army and Navy under various names such as donation of airplanes. Chugai Shogyo Shimpo-Sha did not once conduct such positive cooperation with the military. Our Enterprising Department once raised a relief fund to be sent over to tornado-strippen Florida, but never cooperated in donating for either airplanes, tanks or other materials directly used for war purposes or such objects as monuments to the loyal deads and their appurtenant equipments, etc. In spite of frequent demands of the military, we would never give our cooperation by the ostensible reason of the characteristic nature of our paper as an economic journal. We continued to take this attitude to the very end of the Pacific War which caused the military to watch our paper with evil eyes.



7) Refused to send Army men under disguise of staff correspondents.

Around April or May, 1941, Chugai Shogyo Shimpo-Sha boldly rejected a demand of the General Staff to send to Java as nominal staff correspondents a party of five men and women headed by a colonel. Although all sorts of pressures were brought to bear upon the paper, the demand was flatly turned down. Shortly afterwards, however, this same party succeeded to go over to Java as staff correspondents of Hochi Shimbun-Sha and gave rise to a trouble there. Evidently the Army forced upon Hochi Shimbun-Sha what was refused by Chugai Shogyo Shimpo-Sha.

8) German Embassy and Chugai Shogyo Shimpo-Sha.

It was during the China Incident that the German Embassy started to approach newspapers by all sorts of means. An intelligence officer, Count Milbach by name, called on Chugai Shogyo Shimpo-Sha time and again and persistently asked Toshie Obama, then chief of the Editing Office, to send a suitable reporter, preferably an economic reporter, to the Embassy every day. No reporter was ever sent, however, and it was probably to make up for this that the Embassy began sending us various items of information daily. These materials were never used by order of Toshie Obama, then chief of the Editing Office. When the chief was away travelling Sadakichi Odajima, the sub-chief, did take special care in holding up the German materials. We did this because of the paper's traditional anti-German policy, and also because German information always carried propaganda with it.

9) Importance Placed on Reports from British Side.

On the contrary, reports from the British Embassy always gave actual, accurate figures. It was for this reason that we printed them so frequently that Toshie Obama was even questioned by preliminary-examination Judge Matsumoto of the Tokyo Local Court. By the way, the American Embassy never sent us any information.

10) Our Reporters Barred from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

After the start of the Pacific War, or a little later than the designated period for screening, there occurred an unprecedented case when the Ministry of Commerce & Industry closed its doors indefinitely to the reporters of Chugai Shogyo Shimpo-Sha. The Minister at the time was Mr. Shinsuke Kishi whose spokesman advised that the ban would be lifted if the resignations of the paper's President and chief of the Editing Office Obama were produced. In the past there were instances where reporters' clubs shut their members out for violating their rules, but there were no instances wherein Government offices took similar actions. Prior to the outbreak of the Pacific War, Chugai Shogyo Shimpo took every opportunity of criticizing and blaming the so-called new bureaucrats and some officials of



the Ministry of Commerce & Industry for making preparations for the Pacific War and secretly collaborating with the military. It was out of a grudge that the Ministry picked up a trifling offense on our part of printing one item or another on the list of prohibited news, and taking advantage of the provisions of the National Spiritual Mobilization Act, attempted to take revenge on our incooperative attitude. Such was the general belief among the newspapers.

All the foregoing will give you an idea of the kind of a newspaper Chugai Shogyo Shimpō was. The paper barely managed to survive during the war and proved to be a rare and exceptional newspaper in Japan. We shall therefore be greatly obliged to you if you will kindly go over our record thoroughly and decide our case as "passed" at an early date.

---

( Toshie Obama )

President,  
The Nihon Keizai Shimbun-Sha



July , 1947

To the Central Public Office  
Qualification Screening Committee:

COUNTER-EVIDENCE  
OF  
TOSHIE OBAMA

According to the provisions of the Cabinet and Home Affairs Ministry Ordinance No. 3 promulgated by the official Gazette extra dated June 30, 1947, I, TOSHIE OBAMA, who was the Chief of the Editing Office of the Chugai Shogyo Shimpo-Sha, later renamed the Nihon Keizai Shimbun-Sha seems to be liable to the purge. I, however, firmly believe that I do not come under the purge in view of the following facts:

1. The editorials in question were entirely written by the chief of the editorial committee, Teisuke Matsuda, under the supervision of the editor-in-chief, Tokichi Tanaka, but I, the chief of editing office then, had actually nothing to do with them.
2. Tetauji Kata, one of the well-known weekly reviewers, who was generally believed to be anti-military was contributing to the paper, but on my finding in one of his contributions supporting fascism he was at once relieved of the contract and he went over to the Yomiuri Shimbun. The very contribution was however automatically inserted in our paper by unsuspecting staff of the make-up department as it unfortunately happened that the contribution was delivered to our press when I was away travelling to give lectures in Kansai cities and Odajima, the sub-chief, was absent owing to illness.
3. I, Toshie Obama, was then widely known for my confirmed liberal views and my outspoken friendship for America and Britain. Indeed I intensely disliked the German way, particularly the way the Nazis thought and behaved. Since the outbreak of the China Incident the military did not tolerate opposing views on diplomatic questions; I could not therefore, very well openly opposed to the Nazis, but severely criticized it under the guise of economic questions or problems of thought missing no opportunity to promote an atmosphere of anti-nazism.
4. From these standpoint all the requests made by German Embassy to our press so frequently after the outbreak of the Anglo-German war was turned down without exception. News articles also poured in regularly from the same quarters, but we never took up anyone of them as we did not subscribe to German idea and also because of their being invariably propaganda materials. It was I who caused every staff to be rigidly warned not to insert any



German propaganda articles in our paper, which resulted in frequent complaints by the German embassy to the Army about the Chugai Shogyo Shimpo-Sha and my humble self. This fact is best known by Mr. Tsunashima who came to the Chugai Shogyo Shimpo-Sha with Graff Milbach as his interpreter. Mr. Tsunashima went to an oversea front as a 2nd-lieutenant and is reported to have been repatriated safely, but his whereabouts is unknown.

5. On account of my avowed opposition to militarism and axis ideology my subordinate suffered much inconveniences or had to pay sacrifices.

All of our reporters met an unprecedentedly rigorous treatment, having been indefinitely barred from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. This was undoubtedly attributable to the fact that I (Obama) offended the officials of that Ministry which was in my opinion only a detached office of the military in embarking upon the policy of aggression and aggrandisement to which I was consistently opposed.

Another incident which I now amuses me is about Mr. Sajiro Momomoto, an ex-reporter of the Chugai Shogyo Shimpo:- He was a conscientious young reporter. He was covering the War Office and he recounted militaristic yarns every day. This evidently caused my (Obama's) outburst resulting in his transfer to Nanking and subsequent resignation. It had long been forgotten by me, but when I was awaiting the clarification of my status with regarding to the appointment to the House of Peers it was reminded me by the story that Matsumoto, the sub-chief of our Political Department was told by Mr. Momomoto to himself "What such an extreme anti-militarist like Obama was barred from the House of Peers for?"

#### My Anti-war Activities Outside of Our Press.

On account of the rigorous restriction placed on the Chugai Newspaper by the military and in view of the fear of the unemployment of so many young writers, in case of our press being closed down on my account, who entered this press attracted largely by my personal popularity, I had to modify considerably my tone of criticism. But outside our press my anti-war activities were ever so conspicuous that many friends of mine advised me to be more cautious. When I was prevented from delivering a scheduled lecture over radio by an air-raid manouver in Nagoya in 1940, the listeners-in without exception believed that I was arrested by the military police.

#### My Activities at Lecture at Various Places.

Lecture meetings of small scale were sponsored by me at various places beginning with Tokyo. As a regular lecturer, I delivered speeches supporting the cause of emperalism and denouncing the policy of expansion and succeeded in gathering a fairly strong followers in all parts of Japan. Although it is impossible to enumerate such lectures, it is a fact that I made more than one each month at least, such meetings being roughly as below:



Tokyo	Seiko-Kai (place Kojun-Sha Club)
	Yushin-Kai (place not always same)
	Twentieth-Day Kai (place same as above)
	Kagaku Kogyo Doshi-Kai (place Kuramae Kogyo-Kai or Togyo Kaikan)
Nagoya	Eirakukai (place Nagoya Hotel, Kanko Hotel or else)
	Meitei-Kai (place Kanko Hotel, Hasshokan or else)
Kyoto	Shoko Kenkyu-Kai (place Manyoken or Miyako Hotel)
Osaka	Shoyukai (place Osaka Club)
	Keizai Kenkyu-Kai (place Kansai Keizai Club)

Besides these I attended almost every month to meetings at Yokohama, Machioji, Ome, Maebashi, Ashikaga, etc.

The Oppression by Special Police and Kempei Tai (Military Police) and their Obstruction in Lectures.

While Nagoya and Kyoto chapters were holding meeting once a month since 1932, military police began to interfere in Kyoto from 1936. The local representatives were summoned to the special section of the police and ordered to close the chapter in 1943. In Nagoya the interference began in 1940 and meetings in even private houses were prohibited in 1944. In Tokyo and Osaka closing was not ordered but were threatened all the summary. At Ome there used to be frequent meetings, but no meetings were held since the last meeting in autumn 1939. I was invited for the first time in eight years to the meeting on March 2nd this year. According to the disclosures by the chairman no meeting had been held there for a long time on account of the police's prohibition of accepting Obama as a lecturer on the ground that Obama made a speech in 1939 pointing out that the Anglo-German war would end in a British victory and also that he was desirous of a British victory. The chairman Mr. Sentaro Kawasugi, also told me he was struck very much with my foresight as to the result of the Anglo-German war. For the first time, the reason why Ome chapter abruptly stopped requesting my lecture was made clear to me. Further, when I went to Kyoto last November for a lecture, I met there Mr. Teiji Houru who was formerly an executive of the Shoko Kenkyu-Kai and is now the mayor of Shodoshima, his native village. He ceremoniously said, "I beg to tender you my sincere apologies". On my questioning about the cause of his apologies he told me that he, having been in contact with me as an executive of the Shoko Kenkyu-Kai for ten years, was not pleased with my being always anti-military, anti-war and anti-German. He was, he said, in some doubt as regards the views expounded by me but things having cleared up with the end of the war, he was now profoundly ashamed of himself.

The Kempei Tai summoned me for explanation for my lecture in Kyoto in July 1936 which they regarded as anti-military. They questioned me for my lecture at Nagaoka City Hall in 1938, and accused me about our press being so markedly pro-Anglo-American in 1940 and once more in the same year I and our president, Tokichi Tanaka, were taken to the Kempei Tai on the ground that we were maintaining



some secret liaison with American and Britain. At each of these instances we were obliged to tender a letter of apology and narrowly escaped from confinement.

Furthermore, Mr. Ray Crowley, the correspondent of the Wall Street Journal of New York (attached to the U.S. Army as Lt. Colonel during the war), with whom I had had personal contacts in pre-war days and have renewed friendship anew, was said to have been pressed hard to divulge his connection with Kijuro Shidehara, Masamichi Hoyama and Obama (myself) by the officials in charge at the Sugamo Prison where he was imprisoned immediately after the outbreak of the war. I owe my life to Mr. Crowley for he had stubbornly denied about his relations with me (Obama).

A similar case occurred when Mr. Tomijiro Nakazato, a subordinate under Mr. H. Vere Redman, the chief of the Intelligence Department of the British Embassy, was taken to the Sugamo Prison on the alleged infringement of the National Defense and Security Act and questioned about the relation between Obama and the Intelligence Department of the British Embassy by the Preliminary Examination Judge Katsuo Matsumoto of the Tokyo District Court.

#### Ban on Broadcasting.

I used to deliver speeches on the air often, several scores of times since 1929, but as I was summoned to the Kempei Tai (military police) so often and was subjected to a strict vigilance by the Kempei, knocking at my door every fourth or fifth day, the request for my broadcasting dropped off. Towards the end of the war I was requested to broadcast for the "Daitoa-Hoso" (or Great Eastern Propaganda), but I declined it. I was thus isolated from broadcasting for a long period of five and half years.

#### Thorough Internationalism.

Being an earnest advocator of thorough internationalism, I never ceased to oppose to the ultra-nationalistic politics and economy. At a public lecture meeting held at Ashikaga City of Tochigi Prefecture immediately after the outbreak of the Manchurian Incident in 1931, I boldly declared that the territorial expansion was bound to be highly detrimental for the interest of Japan. This evidently caused a great sensation in that district but I did not swerve from this line, warning the nation of the danger of embarking upon an adventurous policy.

I strongly opposed to the idea when certain group of bureaucrats became crazy in their attempt to produce staple fiber in order to check the import of raw cotton. For, these officials were willing servants of the Army. I also strenuously opposed to, "artarchy" which ruled over Japan then as I was convinced of the necessity of promoting a better free international trading.



### The Relation Between the Government and Semi-Official.

I had been appointed to various posts such as central cooperator or councilor of Spiritual Mobilization, Imperial Rule Assistance Association, National Savings Encouragement headquarters, National Propaganda Headquarters, Literary Patriotic Association, all executives of influential press without discrimination and if any one rejected it, he would have certainly been taken to the Kempei-tai. Under the circumstance there was no choice but to accept it and in my case I did not partake in any deliberation or meeting.

At the meeting of the Spiritual Mobilization, the main point of my speech was about the national uniform, this being a proof of my non-collaboration to this kind of militaristic body. At this meeting of the Spiritual General Mobilization the plan of national uniform to commemorate 2,600 year, proposed by Hazunobu Kanokogi and seconded by Juso Miwa, was opposed by me. By the way this plan was initiated by the military and any one opposing it was stamped as anti-military.

At the first central cooperation congress of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association I criticized the Government's economic policies and the president, Nobunasa Suetsugu, stopped my speech saying the time was up and adjourned the meeting.

Although I was a nominal councilor of the National Saving Encouragement Headquarters no meeting whatsoever was held at all. The Imperial Rule Assistance Publication Headquarters held meeting only once and although I was asked to speak as a councilor I flatly refused to do so.

The Association of Service to the Nation through Publication had appointed the chiefs of editing office of every influential newspaper its councilor as an honor generally and no meeting of the councilors had ever been held. This association was practically ran by notorious Kiwao Okumura, one of the public enemy of Obama myself.

In view of my reputation as a liberal thinker, the fact that I was not imprisoned is really extraordinary. Friends of mine are ascribing the reasons to the following two or three points:

1. Economy is evidently the most troublesome question for the military, although my oppositions to various propositions had not failed to irritate them they thought it wise to leave me unmolested as they considered me an expert on economic matters.

2. Although my opposition to the plan of national uniform, "Hompe" or the most hideous type of women's clothing or gaiter was an fragrant anti-militarism, I cleverly manouvered not to deal with it as a question of thought, but handling very cautiously within the sphere of economy they could not discover excused of catching me.



3. I had no intercourse with military circles, not have I had any ambition at all, (Any one who had some sort of relation with the military or had any ambition were eventually wiped out. The reason was that there were several factions within the Army and those who belonged to any faction were almost without exception punished when different factions gained power.

I, Obama, am such a man as roughly outlined in the foregoing statement. On the occasion of my appointment to the House of Peers in March last year conducted a painstaking examination into my case and cleared it judging me to be a fit material for democratizing Japan.

In consideration of the above counter-evidences, I earnestly request that I shall be a judged passed promptly.

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Toshie Obama



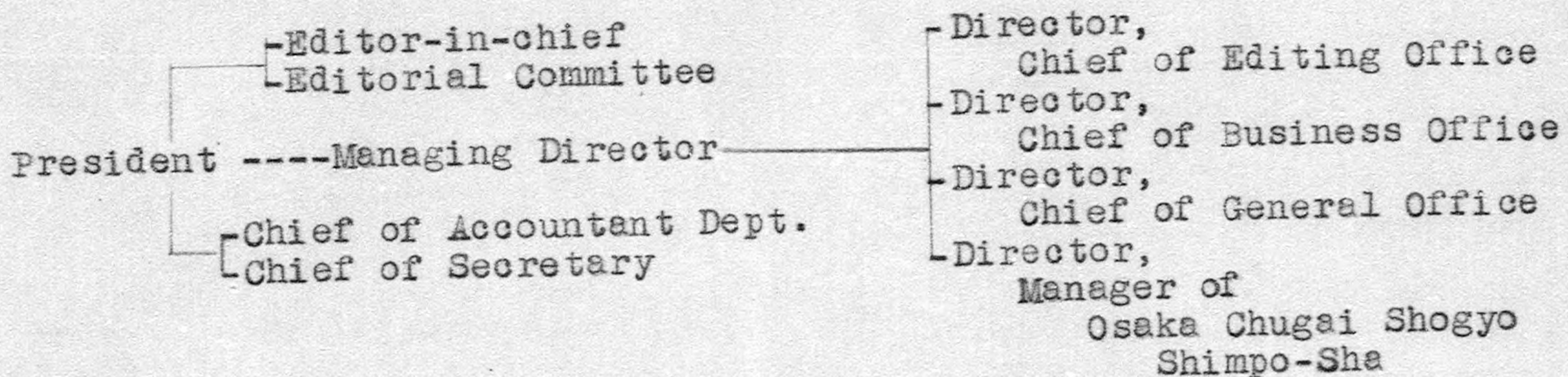
July , 1947

To the Central Public Office  
Qualification Screening Committee:

Counter-evidence  
of  
Sadakichi Odajima

submitted by  
Sadakichi Odajima, Managing Director,  
Nihon Keizai Shimbun-Sha  
(Formerly Chugai Shogyo Shimpo-Sha)  
No.16, Kayaba-cho Nichome, Nihombashi,  
Chuo-ku, Tokyo-to.

Functional System of Chugai Shogyo Shimpo-Sha  
(For the designated period of screening)



Extract from Record of Careers  
of Obama and Odajima

January, 1934

Obama-----Chief of Editing Office from sub-chief of Editing Office  
Odajima--appointed sub-chief of Editing Office concurrently  
chief of Social Department.

February, 1942

Obama-----Editor-in-chief from Chief of Editing Office; elected  
Managing Director.  
Odajima--Chief of Editing Office from sub-chief of Editing Office;  
elected Director.

July, 1945

Obama-----Editor-in-chief, elected President  
Odajima--Chief of Editing Office, elected Managing Director.



I, Sadakichi Odajima, was serving for our press as its sub-chief of Editing Office throughout the entire period designated by the Purge Order, directly under the Chief of Editing Office, Toshie Obama. My duties were to assist my chief Obama and to take charge chiefly in editing our newspaper.

As outlined in the above diagram of the Chugai Shogyo Shimpo-Sha's organization, the editorials were in direct charge, as in most of leading papers in Tokyo, of the editor-in-chief and the chief of editing office (Obama in this case) did not have nothing to do with the editorials. Consequently I, an assistant to the chief Obama, was absolutely free from any connection with the editorials. I hereby solemnly swear that I in the position of the sub-chief of Editing Office was not responsible for the editorial in any way whatsoever.

As shown in the second diagram, since my appointment to the post of the sub-chief of the editing office succeeding to my predecessor Obama in January 1934, I have been in the position to assist my superior Obama right throughout up to the present. This, I believe, is because I and Obama have been in perfect accord of opinion on the progresses and the character of this great paper.

I firmly believe that there are scarcely any items to be likely questioned in accordance with the Imperial Ordinance No.1 of January 4, 1947, except the editorials published at the occasions like new year or Yasukuni Shrine's annual festivities to commemorate or ceremonize them and very small number of signed commentaries.

I entered this press in 1919 and up till the outbreak of the China Incident, a period of twenty years, devoted myself to the editing business throughout and did my very best lest I should err in my duties, always paying minute attention and faithfully following the traditional doctrine of our press standing on moderation and righteousness.

Since the mutiny of the army on February 26, 1936, the tyranny of the military aggravated more and more and culminated in the outbreak of the China Incident. In spite of the restraining policy of the Government, on account of the lack of controlling power of headquarters coupled with arbitrary forcefulness on the spot the situation was rendered precarious more and more, this making me feel madly against the military. At the meeting announcing the appointment of colonel Kenryo Sato to the Chief of Information Department of the Army, I discussed with Lt. Col. Shuitsu Matsumura, a staff of the department, severely criticizing over the military aggravation of the situation despite of the restraining policy of the Government, Matsumura exclaimed



angrily "the clash between Japan and China is a destiny". I pointed out to them that it is nothing but sophistry of the Army to escape from the responsibility. Nevertheless, the China Incident only extended on and encouraged with the outbreak of the European war, the military and cliques of aggressors surrounding the military conspired to extend the Incident to the war against the U. S., such trend of things became more apparent then.

I thought it was out of question to make war against America in the light of the modern warfare being of the total strength of nation. Some personnels in responsible positions even in the Japanese army might, I thought, be considering the hopelessness of fighting against America in view of the terrible difference of power between the two countries. In comparing the production of a few of essential war materials the difference is twenty to several hundred times, and taking an example of oil, it clearly showed how largely Japan had been relying on the U.S. for Japan's economy at that time. Thereupon when editing our paper I placed the utmost importance always to contrive to prevent such war despite of the fact that lives of leading anti-military or anti-war ideologists were constantly threatened, conducting my duties always coolly. I made it my basic policy that prohibiting to use any of the information supplied by the German Embassy, we must exert ourselves to prevent the public from reckoning "America an easy prey", and our paper stood firmly on our basic policy, of which persons of good sense should have recognized early.

When a German invasion of England by landing was generally thought imminent in Japan after the tragedy of Dunkirk in the European war, I declared to the staff in our make-up department "German landing is absolutely impossible, although men can swim across the Dover Channel, so long as the British Navy not being crushed", and I thus directed their attention to eliminate any notion based on the realizability of the German invasion when conducting their duties. When the situation became decisive, a little banquet was held in honor of my foresight.

From about the time of Japanese occupation of French Indo-China on, the pressure of the military on all passively cooperating papers became gradually blunt, and the treatments of military news by all papers became almost identical to the extent that one could not find practically any difference in the news of all papers at a glance. Here, what I want to lay strong emphasis is that our Chugai Shogyo Shimpo had maintained the conviction to the furthest end that the America-Japan negotiation conducted by Ambassador Kurusu would be, however narrowly, peacefully concluded and that the military, which was the source of originating main information, supplied willfully to our paper certain information as if endorsing our own views. This was made clear later that the military supplied different information, out of its



tactics, to various newspapers so as to accord with the inclination or character of respective paper. The way the military took advantage of our paper in the most natural manner over the basic policy of our press and our conviction of peaceful conclusion of the Kurusu negotiation, stood in good contrast with other newspapers of which the military took advantage in different ways.

Almost on the eve of that sneaky attack on Pearl Harbor by Japanese navy, Obama and I attended to a meeting of friendly exchanging views on current situation with Mr. Saburosuke Suzuki, the president of Ajinomoto concern, and Mr. Keizo Tsuchiya, the president of the Imperial Hotel, and my chief Obama exclaimed "America-Japan no war" and I myself seconded him adding "leaders of our navy have no confidence in oil". We had treated materials for our paper under such point of view to the last minute, but it was revealed afterwards that Lt. General Yoshizumi, the chief of military affairs bureau of army then, was said to have taken up the old tactics to deceive own sides first in order to delude enemy.

Voices were raised among certain circles in our paper desiring to have some columns for fragmental current topics as have now been seen in other Tokyo dailies, my chief Obama and I bluntly rejected such propositions every time on the ground that such fragmental writings, based on personal views, were likely to mislead the public as they would lightly ride on the tide.

As mentioned above I had taken every possible care within my power and as far as circumstances allowed not to fall in with the tide and firmly maintain our basic policy standing on the prevention of further war as well as non-extension of the China Incident, I had done my utmost to edit our paper within the frame of this basic policy notwithstanding overwhelming difficulties and all sort of restraints.

In the light of what was transpired in our Chugai Shogyo newspaper of those days I earnestly request you to examine my counter-evidence and I shall be grateful if you would promptly judge me passed.

---

( Sadakichi Odajima )



MEMORANDUM FOR: ~~THE RECORD~~ *Chief, P.S.Q.D.*

SUBJECT: OBAMA, Toshie

1. Subject case was screened and purged by the Japanese Government on 25 October 1947, on the grounds that he was Director and concurrently Chief of Editorial Bureau of the black-listed Chugai Shogyo Shimpo Sha between 23 January 1937 and 5 February 1942. His questionnaire was forwarded to Government Section on 30 October 1947.

2. Examination of subject questionnaire reveals that he is purgeable on two counts: that he was Chief of Editorial Bureau of the Chugai Shogyo Shimpo Sha between 24 January 1934 and 23 January 1942 and that he was between 31 May 1943 and 2 September 1945 Councilor of Great Japan Patriotic Press Association, a Category C organization.

OBAMA's questionnaire also reveals that he was an official in at least four other culpable organizations.

He became:

- a. Chief of Editorial Committee of the Japan Newspaper Association, a quasi Governmental press control agency, on 27 March 1942.
- b. Councilor of the National Spiritual Mobilization Headquarters on 1 May 1940.
- c. Councilor of the I R A A Movement Propaganda Headquarters on 31 May 1943.
- d. Member of the Central Cooperation Society of I R A A on 20 May 1941



His writings and speeches are confined to subjects of economics and finance, most of which are journalistic in nature.

Although OBAMA claims himself to be a liberal, his questionnaire does not give any information substantiating his assertion.

3. OBAMA's counter evidence <sup>submitted by OBAMA</sup> however points out the following:

- a. He dismissed <sup>from his staff</sup> a writer who turned out to be a pro-fascist.
- b. His newspaper consistently rejected "hand-cuts" by the German Embassy.
- c. Reporters of the newspaper were barred from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- d. His "anti-war activities" were subject of oppression by Thought Police and Kempei Tai.

4. OBAMA's Chugai Shogyo Shimpo Sha was known as a newspaper of the Mitsui. More than 50% (per cent) of the stock was held by the Zaibatsu concern. The Nihon Keizai Shimbun, the successor to the Chugai Shogyo Shimpo Sha, of which <sup>he</sup> OBAMA is the President, is said to be undergoing financial re-organization, breaking up its tie with the Mitsui concern under the current holding company dissolution program.

5. It is believed that OBAMA can be considered as a "liberal" only in so far as the interests of the Zaibatsu were often in conflict with the Military during the war and therefore the opinion of its spokesman were often anti-military and "liberal" in nature.

6. It is recommended that the action of the Japanese Government declaring OBAMA ineligible for public service be sustained.

*H. Tomiyama*