EDITORIALS

Most editorials were focused on the latest coalition attempt and the reopening of the Diet today. Opposition tactics attracted the attention of two journals, and other comments centered on the WFTU and CHINA.

Politics

Observing that a coalition cabinet is "now almost a reality as a result of yesterday's Yoshida-Inukai conferences," MAINICHI in its seventh edition believed that a two-party cabinet would not only be contrary to popular will but is absolutely unnecessary since the Democratic Liberal Party has a Diet majority. The daily predicted the move would stir up trouble in the Democratic Party and would contribute in no way to political stability. ASAHI demanded a thorough explanation of the last-minute maneuver to form a coalition. Acknowledging that the cabinet's quality might be enhanced somewhat with Democrats participating, the journal saw the danger, however, that such a large Diet majority might become arbitrary and rely on the power of numbers alone to settle national problems instead of fully debating them in the Diet.

Asking the DLP to select competent ministers, YOMIURI doubted the advisability of the party's excluding former bureaucrats but praised its decision to keep out scandal suspects. Certainly the nation cannot afford to have a single cabinet member tainted in any way with corruption, the editorial averred, urging YOSHIDA to remember this point whether the portfolios are given to his party alone or include Democrats.

NIHON KEIZAI called upon the Diet to live up to popular expectations, warning that its actions would be subject to the austere criticism of the voters. To establish a good predecent in naming the premier, all parties should vote for YOSHIDA who must immediately form his cabinet and tackle urgent national issues sincerely, the paper said. It cautioned against amalgamation of conflicting elements which will only contribute to political instability.

TOKYO TIMES stated that the powerful single-party cabinet to be formed must enforce the nine economic principles to reconstruct JAPAN's economy. Since the execution of the program will cause the nation considerable hardship, the paper, having confidence in the Yoshida Cabinet's political power, hoped that it would enforce proper and effective measures as soon as possible to cope with unemployment and business confusion.

MAINICHI felt that all members of the Socialist Party should assume responsibility for their defeat, stating the party leaders should have resigned unconditionally. Their attempt to retain their posts "is unfitting," the journal remarked, believing that by transferring leadership to newcomers and reforming the party's administrative structure is the only method to reorganize the party. Discussing the problem of designating the succeeding premier, the daily thought that it would be only common courtesy for the party to vote for YOSHIDA. Even if the Socialist lower echelons prefer to vote for the party's candidate, the party leaders must be courageous enough to enlighten them on democratic principles, or the Socialist party will lose the people's support, the paper asserted.

AKAHATA deplored the Yoshida Cabinet's measures on the pretext of executing the nine economic principles. Instead of their being strengthened, the reactionary forces are confusing JAPAN's economy and dividing their own camp, the journal stressed, declaring that this is increasing the people's power based on a strong unified organization with the working class leading the movement. If the Communists fight to organize the masses, the daily emphasized, tne split in the reactionary forces will become wider, which will unify and increase the strength of the proletariat.

Miscellaneous

Though the split of the World Federation of Trade Unions is caused mainly by the Western democracies' opposition to communism, TOKYO SHIMBUN noted, in JAPAN the attitudes of the NCIU and the JFTU arise from the different views as to whether labor movements should be confined to economic strife. If it is the rule of democratic government to introduce political strife into the Diet, labor unions must confine their struggles to the limits of economic demands, the journal asserted, pointing out that JAPAN's union movement should take the course of economic strife.

JIJI SHIMPO observed that the Chinese no longer desire to fight and their siding with the stronger Communist forces is a shortcut to peace and the solution of their problems. The Communists moves for political power have already been taken up at a preliminary conference, and a main conference is scheduled for March, the paper said, concluding that it will be an eventful month for CHINA.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF
ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

PRESS ANALYSIS

CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

FEB 15 1949

NO: 1007

DATE: 10 Feb 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Politics drew sharpest emphasis today. Top headlines in most Tokyo papers were keyed either on tomorrow's Diet opening or the revived trend toward a conservative coalition cabinet. Exchange rate developments continued to get good coverage, but only NIHON KEIZAI [illegible]d with economic news.

POLITICS

Redesignation of Democratic Liberal President YOSHIDA as premier will highlight the opening of the fifth special Diet session tomorrow. YOSHIDA is expected to get Lower House sanction to form his third cabinet by at least 300 votes. On the same day he will begin selecting his cabinet ministers from a slate recommended by Democratic Liberal executives. His appointees will probably be ready for investiture by Tuesday. (a) While still focusing his efforts on organizing a single-party government, YOSHIDA has left the door open for collaboration with the Democrats. Observers feel that his cabinet forming moves may swerve abruptly toward a conservative coalition if he cannot get the ministers he wants from his own party. (b)

Twenty-six Socialist executives, including Chairman KATAYAMA, resigned yesterday as a result of the party's failure in the last general election. Shouldering blame for the 23 January defeat, the resigning officers called for an early party convention to draw up a foolproof strategy for a comeback. (c)

ECONOMY

Officials studying the single exchange rate problem have raised both the export and import goals for the next fiscal year. Project Z, the Economic Stabilization Board's latest exchange rate inquiry, premises 1949-50 imports of 1,060,000,000 dollars and exports of 600,000,000 dollars. The previous ESB study--Project R--set the export and import targets at 450,000,000 dollars and 950,000,000 dollars respectively. (d)

INVESTIGATIONS

The next cabinet will try to retain the Illegal Property Transactions Committee. Its probe activities are expected to continue even during the special Diet session, but under different leadership. Socialist MUTO, present IPTC chairman, will be replaced--probably by Democratic Liberal KAJI Ryosaku. (a)

Minato Ku Communists asked the Tokyo Prosecutors Office yesterday to investigate reports that recently elected Democratic Liberal IDE Mitsuji has been blackmarketing in oil and evading taxes. (e)

IMMIGRATION

Chief Cabinet Secretary SATO yesterday thanked the US House Judiciary Committee for its decision to lift the ban on Asiatic immigration. Speaking for the Japanese Government, SATO hoped that the committee action would be approved quickly by Congress. "This is proof," he said, "that the Occupation Forces have understood the actual situation in JAPAN and that all the American people entertain special goodwill toward her." (f)

LABOR

The leftist All Japan Coal Workers Union yesterday unanimously adopted a resolution for absorption in the Japan League of Coal Mine Workers Unions. The JLCMWU made no immediate reply but will discuss the merger today. (d)

The Central Committee meeting of the All Japan Communications Workers Union in NAGOYA was thrown into an uproar yesterday when rightist members questioned DOBASHI's legal qualifications to serve as chairman. Committeemen also engaged in a bitter word battle over the Communist Party. (d)

(a) Mainichi Shimbun
(b) Yomiuri Shimbun
(c) Asahi Shimbun
(d) Nihon Keizai Shimbun
(e) Akahata
(f) Jiji Shimpo

EDITORIALS

Political developments again constituted the chief topic for editorial discussion in the major dailies. Other papers took up such divers issues as foreign trade, labor law revision, rice deliveries, public libraries, the plight of housewives, and the North Atlantic Security Pact.

Politics

NIHON KEIZAI considered the formation of a single-party cabinet a step toward the ideal of bipartisan politics. But the journal regretted the ... disappearance of a sound opposition party and the advance of radical elements which deny the principles of parliamentary politics. It felt that the Democratic Party in opposition would give an opportunity for a gradual adjustment of socialism and capitalism to the point where a change in power would not be dangerous or unreasonable as in ENGLAND.

TOKYO SHIMBUN doubted that the Government and the Democratic Liberals have the "necessary confidence or preparation" to adhere to their basic budget policy. A balanced budget without boosted taxes is absolutely essential for carrying out the nine principles, the paper declared, warning that the entire next cabinet must be ready "to lose its popularity, or even to become an object of the people's resentment" in order to frame the budget in line with the nine points.

Tactics of the "would-be progressives"--Socialists, Communists, and Worker-Farmers--HOCHI SHIMBUN believed, are very similar to conservative strategy. Neither group has popular support, the daily said. It pinned its hopes on the embryonic National Trade Unions Congress to promote political moves which can be fully understood and backed by the people.

Miscellaneous

Noting that under current export trade conditions JAPAN can only hike her export volume by slashing production costs, YOMIURI desired that the Government and the industrialists concerned would work toward this end. Hailing the proposed 300,000,000-dollar trade agreement with the British Commonwealth, the journal looked forward to the day when mutual trading on credit would be allowed.

The writer of AKAHATA's signed comment, predicting that the Yoshida Government would railroad adverse labor law revisions through the Diet, asserted that the contemplated legislation would put organized labor in "compulsory servitude." It would deprive workers of their fundamental rights and is a flagrant violation of the Constitution, the editorial emphasized. Workers throughout the nation must rise up en masse, the writer urged, to fight the reactionary elements which would destroy the Constitution.

While the rice delivery goal will be attained, ASAHI thought, the Government's demands for over-quota deliveries depend upon how it executes them. The imposition of taxes on over-quota rice has prevented farmers from making deliveries since farmers feel uneasy as to how much tax will be levied upon them next year, the paper said. It added that the Government has also taken an unreasonable attitude in disaster-stricken areas. To tide over the food shortage in the coming off-season period, the daily concluded, the Government must purchase as much rice as possible by helping farmers to deliver over-quota rice through practical and concrete measures.

Pointing out that the Education Ministry has drafted a bill to appropriate 3,600,000,000 yen for establishing libraries throught JAPAN plus a central reference library in each prefecture, MAINICHI wanted the Diet to realize the value of libraries for the benefit of the younger generation. For an effective library system it is necessary to train competent librarians, the journal remarked. It advised the people who utilize the libraries to handle the books more carefully, stating that the cutting out of pictures and illustrations from books is one of the reasons why the improvement of Japanese libraries has been hampered.

Though Japanese women now have equal rights with men, their social activities are restricted by too many household chores and by improper education and background, NICHI NICHI asserted. Kitchen facilities are inadequate, it said, stressing that future houses must be constructed so as to improve the housewives' efficiency.

JIJI SHIMPO discussed whether NORWAY, SWEDEN, AND DENMARK will join the North Atlantic Security Pact or will be compelled to conclude a nonaggression treaty with the SOVIET UNION. Observing the three nations' strong desire to participate in the pact, the daily supported their sincere efforts as cultural nations to attain security from aggression.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 1006 DATE: 9 Feb 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Most Tokyo papers today led with the impending merger of the Commerce-Industry Ministry and the Board of Trade and followed it with speculations on the cabinet lineup. Among the major journals only MAINICHI and TOKYO SHIMBUN deviated, both reversing the order.

POLITICS

Premier YOSHIDA is expected to get his third postwar cabinet underway by next Tuesday. He will start assigning cabinet portfolios to ranking members of the Democratic Liberal Party after the Diet formally hands him the reins of the next government on Friday. In choosing his ministers YOSHIDA will follow the tentative slate prepared by Democratic Liberal executives. The most controversial posts in the proposed lineup are those of chief cabinet secretary and finance minister. Party leaders, however, reportedly intend to reappoint Chief Cabinet Secretary SATO and to give the finance ministership to Chairman SASAYAMA of the Holding Company Liquidation Commission. (a)

DLP Diet members authorized YOSHIDA to choose his own Diet officers. Besides giving their president a free hand in establishing close liaison between the cabinet and the Diet, Democratic Liberal representatives approved the formation of an action policy committee. But a decision was postponed on subsequent proposal to revert to the old "Liberal Party" name. (a)

Upper House Socialists, meanwhile, prepared to oppose YOSHIDA's designation as premier, even at the expense of conflicting with their lower House colleagues. Socialist councillors will also demand the resignation of the party's Central Executive Committee today. (a) Councillor NADA Hiroo, former director-general of the Economic Stabilization Board, will join the Socialist Party at the end of this month. (b) Communist Diet members, holding their first postelection meeting on Monday, set up a steering group and resolved "to act as party members without slavish adherence to constituencies." (c)

ECONOMY

Premier YOSHIDA disclosed yesterday that the Commerce-Industry Ministry and the Board of Trade will be merged into the Trade-Industry Ministry--a new agency specifically designed to stimulate exports. Its nucleus will be the Trade Bureau, which will take over the functions presently assigned to the Board of Trade and the Commerce-Industry Ministry's General Affairs Bureau. Government planners are rushing work on the required bills in an effort to inaugurate the new ministry on 1 April. (d)

In another move to speed industrial recovery the Government yesterday informally approved an ordinance setting forth investment procedures, penal regulations, and other rules pertaining to acquisition of property by foreigners. The 27-clause ordinance, to be announced officially soon, makes only a few phraseological departures from the original draft which was reported earlier. (d)

Prospects for foreign investments brightened as the nation's farmers fulfilled their rice delivery quotas 50 days ahead of last year. Rice deliveries--one of key factors governing economic recovery--went over the top early this week, reaching 30,653,568 Koku on Monday. (e)

PURGE

Purge appeals will be reviewed according to the basic principles outlined in the purge directive, the Government announced yesterday as it published an ordinance formally establishing the Purge Appeals Committee. The Government stressed that it does not intend to make any fundamental revision of the purge order. The seven PAC members were also named yesterday. (f)

The trial of former Agriculture-Forestry Vice Minister SHIGEMASA Masayuki opened in the Tokyo District Court yesterday morning. The defendant is charged with violating the purge directive and economic regulations relative to the Showa Denko scandal. (f)

(a) Mainichi Shimbun
(b) Asahi Shimbun
(c) Akahata
(d) Nihon Keizai Shimbun
(e) Yomiuri Shimbun
(f) Tokyo Shimbun

EDITORIALS

Editorial interest was focused mainly on Premier YOSHIDA's cabinet-forming maneuvers and financial problems--the budget, the export industry, and the stock market.

Politics

JIJI SHIMPO doubted whether Premier YOSHIDA would be successful in administering personnel affairs in view of his past failures, even though the Democratic Liberals' victory has been attributed to YOSHIDA's personal capabilities rather than party policies. His appointment of former Finance Minister IZUMIYAMA and his failure to persuade the "professor group" to join the first Yoshida Cabinet, the paper declared, "makes us suspect that YOSHIDA has undeniably been off the track in regard to personnel administration". Pointing out that past absolute majority parties were not successful because of intraparty conflicts due to "collusion of sentiment rather than disparity of opinion concerning policy", the daily urged YOSHIDA to exercise self-reflection and to be more cautious in handling personnel affairs either in or out of his party.

The Premier's decision to form a single-party cabinet prompted DAI ICHI to demand that the DLP form the new cabinet free from persons involved in scandals and from co-operation among party bosses. For JAPAN's economic rehabilitation and for the new cabinet to fight the Communists, the daily asserted, competent ministers must be selected carefully. It is more important to leave no room for Red activities than to have new Diet members from bureaucratic circles combat the Communists, the journal concluded.

Finance

Declaring that the first requirement in drafting the budget is to hold it at its present level, YOMIURI emphasized that administrative retrenchment--a Democratic Liberal campaign promise--must be carried out thoroughly and immediately. If the Administrative Policy Council's recommendations for slashing personnel expected to be announced tomorrow are to be followed, the paper said, all government agencies must be drastically simplified. Time-worn laws and useless controls must be abolished, thus eliminating excessive bureaus, it asserted, also calling for the denationalization of the miserably managed government enterprises. It is incumbent on the voters to ensure that the Government pushes retrenchment to the maximum consistent with efficiency, the daily believed.

Rough sledding was foreseen by NIHON KEIZAI for JAPAN's export industry after the exchange rate is fixed unless industrialists devote their best to improving the quality of their products with the least expense possible. Though prices appear to be leveling off and production is on the upgrade, the daily warned, still it is premature to say that inflation will be curbed very soon. Enterprisers must concentrate on management rationalization, and they must be given 6-12 months to accomplish it, the paper said.

TOKYO SHIMBUN considered the reopening of security exchanges in the near future significant in that it will provide an opportunity for establishing a normal exchange structure which the present system of spot transactions on a cash basis precludes. Success of the reopened stock market depends largely on the caliber and wisdom of the dealers who up to now have followed the profit-first principle, the editorial thought.

Miscellaneous

ASAHI agreed with Assistant Secretary of Labor GIBSON's statement regarding JAPAN's labor policy in achieving economic stabilization. To attain the objective suggested by him, the journal desired that labor unions be set up on a democratic and independent basis. It is also necessary for each union member to see that his thinking has matured enough to meet GIBSON's expectations, the paper said, adding that past labor disputes would not have occurred had the workers realized their responsibility. In its final comment, the daily believed that GIBSON's statement "leaves as free a margin as possible for the development of labor unions, while relying upon the proper judgment of JAPAN's workers".

Noting that JAPAN's critical housing shortage is being hampered by careless destruction by fire as well as other reasons, MAINICHI pleaded with the people to be more careful. This will help alleviate the housing shortage somewhat, the daily remarked, but it is still necessary for the Government to exert efforts toward the construction of houses. The Construction Ministry's plans to give individuals and companies buildin, priority and to arrange to borrow funds from banks have failed to materialzie, the journal stated.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER **PRESS ANALYSIS**

NO: 1005 **DATE:** 8 Feb 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Tokyo papers gave top play today to statements by US Army Secretary ROYALL and Assistant Labor Secretary GIBSON. Cabinet forming moves, though pushed out of lead column by ROYALL's prediction of quick economic recovery and GIBSON's views on Japanese labor, continued to keep a foothold on the top half of page one. Stories pegged on foreign trade also drew extensive coverage but with less emphasis than over the week end.

POLITICS

Cabinet forming activities gained new impetus yesterday with Premier YOSHIDA's return to TOKYO. The Democratic Liberal president and his party executives reportedly agreed on a basic plan for setting up a single-party cabinet. It was understood, however, that one of cabinet portfolios will go to the Upper House RYOKUFUKAI. YOSHIDA is expected to elaborate his organizational plan at today's general meeting of Democratic Liberal Diet members. (a)

To tighten his control of the Diet YOSHIDA yesterday offered DLP Supreme Adviser SHIDEHARA the post of Lower House speaker. SHIDEHARA, who apparently will have a free hand in selecting his vice-speaker, has indicated almost certain acceptance. (b)

Defeated Democratic candidates, meanwhile, have decided to form a new non-parliamentary group. The 47 Democrats scheduled to attend tomorrow's inaugural meeting include new aspirants who finished as runnerups in the recent election as well as former representatives like NARAHASHI Wataru and HOSOKAWA Yasohachi. (b) Socialist planners, also seeking to recoup election losses, have called for changes in the party's administrative and tactical machinery. Their recommendations, including the adoption of a deputy secretary-general system, will be submitted for approval to the Central Executive Committee tomorrow. (a)

IMPORTS

The Government yesterday asked for precision tools from the US to stimulate the production of export goods. The request for import permission was sent to GHQ with a list of 200 items needed to boost output in 14 key industries. The cost of the imported machinery, amounting to nearly 3,000,000 dollars, was to be defrayed by EROA funds. (c)

Economic inspectors reported that 510 persons have been punished for side-tracking imported foods from official rationing channels. The violators, caught during a two-month checkup of wheat processing plants, flour mills, and bakeries, illegally diverted wheat and barley imports valued at 15,000,000 yen. (d)

LABOR

Anti-Communist labor leaders will confer with Socialist officials tomorrow to forge a political link between the projected National Trade Union Congress and the Socialist Party. NTUC promoters, representing the Japan Federation of Trade Unions and the anti-Communist factions of the NCIU-affiliated unions and the Government Railway Workers Union, will hold a preparatory committee meeting Saturday. (e) GRWU representatives called on Socialist executives yesterday and urged them to reject collaboration with the Communists. (f)

PURGE

The Purge Appeals Committee will be established today by a government ordinance after the Cabinet gives its formal approval. The seven committeemen will be announced at the same time. Though one of the informally chosen members, NAKATO Kaoru, declined the appointment, it is believed that the PAC will begin functioning without a full complement if a suitable replacement cannot be found immediately. (b)

(a) Yomiuri Shimbun
(b) Jiji Shimpo
(c) Kogyo Shimbun
(d) Asahi Shimbun
(e) Dai Ichi Shimbun
(f) Tokyo Shimbun

EDITORIALS

Political developments drew the heaviest comment in the major dailies, while only MAINICHI editorialized on the GIBSON press conference. Other topics included the anti-Communist labor front, accelerated industrial production, and social degeneration.

Politics

Seeing the need for a cabinet powerful enough to tide over the present crisis and withstand criticism both at home and abroad, NIHON KEIZAI recommended immediate formation of a single-party regime. Such an administration, the daily noted, would make it difficult for political leaders to evade responsibility and would leave much less room for "equivocation and compromise in the shaping of policies". However, Democratic assistance should be utilized, the journal advised, to give quality and numerical strength to the cabinet. The paper stressed the selection of "truly competent" cabinet members, underlining the need for skilled economic ministers.

TOKYO SHIMBUN, virtually confident of the organization of a single-party administration, called for complete agreement between YOSHIDA and his party on the cabinet lineup. Otherwise the cabinet "would fail to give full play to its efficiency and power of execution", the daily observed, warning the DLP to recognize the deep significance and great responsibility involved in forming such a cabinet.

Urging full support of the Communist Central Committee's plans for the approaching "great struggle", AKAHATA declared that the Communists' "responsibility has never been heavier than at present". The daily said a "new disposition and set of plans" had been formulated recently by the committee which emphasized the immediate need for a united front, an enlarged party, and Communist-Socialist amalgamation. A modest attitude of members toward the masses, intraparty education, and publication of local political newspapers are indispensable to party development, the paper averred.

Labor

MAINICHI echoed the sentiments of Assistant Secretary of Labor GIBSON expressed at his news conference yesterday. Unions should remember, the paper said, that the no-strike, no-collective-bargaining ruling in the NPSL, which he criticized, came as a result of their abusing the strike right, as he pointed out. The unions' self-reflection was urged by the journal which called them "too ready for struggle". The daily thought the most effective propaganda against those unions which are talking democracy while paving the way for totalitarianism would be improvement of workers' livelihood. Management's responsibility in this connection must not be overlooked, it stressed.

YOMIURI felt the proposed National Trade Unions Congress would never be effective as a bulwark against Communism unless its cosponsors can forge a closely knit organization free from petty, intrafactional bickering. If a democratic anti-Communist labor front does not materialize, the daily emphasized, the Red brand of unionism which turns unions into hotbeds of subversive political activity will play an even greater role in the labor union movement.

Miscellaneous

The main reason for the remarkable increase in production was attributed by JIJI SHIMPO to the readjustment of JAPAN's economy since the war's end. The boost in power and raw material imports have been contributing factors, it added. Since fixing an exchange rate will have considerable effect on future production, industrial rationalization is necessary to produce superior quality and low price goods to compete with foreign commodities, the journal pointed out.

SEKAI KEIZAI observed that the deplorable condition of JAPAN's society cannot be solved "unless an environment is so created as to enable the people to support themselves". Together with production hikes, the Government should seek a balance between population and natural resources and promote birth control, it advocated. To eradicate the nation's social evils, it asserted, it is necessary to dig to the very roots of social disorder.

The Chinese Communists' refusal to answer the Nationalist peace proposal, ASAHI declared, will weaken Communist influence over the masses. While local peace has been jeopardized by Communist strategy, there is still room for negotiations, though it is doubtful whether an over-all peace can be realized, the daily believed.

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ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 1004 DATE: 7 Feb 49

Tokyo Newspapers Today and Yesterday

Major week-end reports were pegged on two news pivots--cabinet forming and economic stability. Amorphous speculations on the third Yoshida Cabinet crystallized today into relatively clearcut accounts of an impending single-party government. But in several major papers, politics lost top play to detailed stories on the single exchange rate, exports, and on other facets of the Economic Stabilization Program.

POLITICS

Democratic Liberal President YOSHIDA will ask only members of his own party to join the next cabinet. Shelving his original plan to seek Democratic collaboration, YOSHIDA will start recruiting his third cabinet after the single-party idea is officially approved by Democratic Liberal Diet members tomorrow. On his return to TOKYO today, he will get a list of ministerial candidates prepared by the party's top leaders. The list, offering three candidates for each cabinet post, reportedly excludes former career bureaucrats who have recently joined the party as freshmen Diet members. Even with the best of luck, YOSHIDA is not expected to get his cabinet installed before 15 February--four days after the convocation of the special Diet. (a)

Concurrently Democratic Liberal executives are backing a move to call themselves "Liberals" again. A resolution to readopt the old party name will be placed before the membership if President YOSHIDA approves. (a)

ECONOMY

The Economic Stabilization Board has launched Project Z--a new exchange rate study envisioning a 500 yen boost in official coal prices, a twofold increase in rail freight charges, and other upward revision of basic prices. The new project, supplanting previous studies carried out by the ESB on the basis of prices now in effect, recommends government subsidies for industrial salts, iron ore, and other raw material imports used in producing export goods. (b)

Domestic coal output slumped in January. The Coal Board announced Saturday that the New Year holiday had cut January production to 2,938,600 tons, or 93.6 percent of the goal. Despite Coal Board plans to balance the loss with a new production step-up drive, the total coal output for the 1948 fiscal year will probably not exceed 35,000,000 tons. (c)

PURGE

Socialist Secretary-general ASANUMA's qualifications to hold public office are being investigated by the Inspection Section of the Premier's Office. The probe into ASANUMA's alleged wartime connections with the Greater East Asia Youth Corps is being conducted at the request of the Attorney General's Office. (d)

MATSUMOTO Jiichiro, purged Upper House vice-speaker, filed a petition Saturday with the Inspection Section, asking that he be cleared from the purge. (d)

LABOR

Maritime Board Chief AKIYAMA ruled Friday that seamen would not be classified as public employees. Longshoremen and office workers of the Civil Merchant Marine Commission were designated public employees Thursday at the suggestion of GHQ's Civil Service Division. (e)

The Education Ministry notified school teachers Saturday to make individual adjustments to the 48-hour week. It announced that home study will be counted as part of their work but added that overtime will not be recognized "except under such special circumstances as tempest or flood." (f)

(a) Mainichi Shimbun
(b) Tokyo Shimbun
(c) Asahi Shimbun
(d) Yomiuri Shimbun
(e) Nihon Keizai Shimbun
(f) Jiji Shimpo

EDITORIALS

Cabinet formation and party attitudes continued to provoke comment from the Tokyo dailies over the week end. Financial problems also prompted considerable editorial interest.

Parties

Underlining the need for strict adherence to the nine-point economic stabilization program under a rigidly controlled economy, today's signed YOMIURI editorial believed that the Democratic Liberals should revise their pre-election pledges of free economy and follow the nine principles to the letter. While a party actually should never ignore its campaign platform, the journal averred, the DLP has no choice but to abide by the stabilization program for the good of the nation. In its advice to the DLP, yesterday's MAINICHI urged President YOSHIDA to select "fresh and competent ministers" instead of "avaricious men and old-fashioned party leaders," even if he has to fill some posts with non-Diet members.

A partial reshuffle of Socialist leaders is not enough to rejuvenate the party, ASAHI declared yesterday. It must endeavor to implant the philosophy of social democracy in the minds of the working masses, the editorial stressed, if it aspires to become a potent political force in the nation.

Finance

TOKYO SHIMBUN yesterday, noting that about half of the taxes for the whole fiscal year are still in arrears, foresaw trouble in collecting the remainder. As the fiscal year draws to a close, the daily said, revenue authorities should seek the taxpayers' co-operating in paying their taxes and in reporting incomes honestly, thus eliminating the need for reassessment.

Taking up the price revision problem yesterday, YOMIURI felt wholesale price juggling at present both unwise and unnecessary. Nor should government subsidies be halted completely, the paper thought. To settle the issue it advocated continued subsidization on the premise that recipient industries carry out strict rationalization, a gradual equalization of prices, and control of inflation.

Predicting a "tremendous" budget, yesterday's AKAHATA called for an immediate campaign against the Government's "inflation-provoking" financial policy which it emphasized will lower the living standard even further and heap a heavier burden on the masses. The daily hoped all Japanese Communists would lead the new struggle against the unfair budget.

JIJI SHIMPO yesterday questioned the Reconstruction Finance Bank's decision to let bank directors advance loans individually. This slight change in loan-granting procedure will not prevent corruption, asserted the daily, suggesting instead a basic reform in the method of allotting RFB funds.

Miscellaneous

Observing that labor law revisions are being translated into action, today's ASAHI pointed out that union members should not confuse the necessity of democratization and autonomy in the labor movement with other plans to which they are opposed. Although no one denies the urgency of fulfilling union members' protests regarding procedural matters, the paper stated, it is their immediate task to realize the true aims of the union movement.

The important role that small industries play in JAPAN's economy was stressed by JIJI SHIMPO today; however, the daily was not sure whether the Government wants to encourage or maltreat the industrialists with its heavy taxation policy and intensified financial control. It flayed the Government for its inconsistent policy.

While the abnormally warm winter weather may affect this spring's wheat crop, agricultural authorities have reported that the wheat crop does not depend so much upon the weather in winter as it does on the weather in May or June, according to MAINICHI today. The journal told the Agriculture-Forestry Ministry authorities to handle the farmers' needs such as insecticides and fertilizer instead of relying on future weather conditions. Yesterday's NIHON KEIZAI advised Government authorities to take some appropriate countermeasures to keep the damaging effects of the warm winter weather on agricultural production to a minimum instead of assuming the attitude of a spectator.

In view of HIRAZAWA's retracting his confession to the prosecutors, TOKYO SHIMBUN today saw the need for an evidence law and a jury system as measures against acts and speech which are designed to insult the courts of justice.

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ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 1003 DATE: 5 Feb 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

The latest cabinet-forming developments again dominated the news in the major dailies. Foreign dispatches on President TRUMAN's latest press conference generally were placed in the bottom half of the first page.

POLITICS

Cabinet formation maneuvers went into high gear yesterday when top Democratic Liberals conferred with Premier YOSHIDA and later among themselves over the distribution of cabinet portfolios in the single-party cabinet. YOSHIDA reportedly asked DLP Chief Secretary HIROKAWA to draw up a list of ministerial possibilities to be given to him Monday. Some observers feel nevertheless, that YOSHIDA has not entirely abandoned the hope for a conservative coalition. He was not available yesterday afternoon, however, when Democratic President INUKAI called to discuss the issue. Now that the DLP is proceeding with the cabinet line-up, INUKAI is placed in an embarrassing position in his party since he so strongly pushed for a coalition. But it is believed the coalition idea will crop up again because the Democrats have pledged co-operation with the DLP from outside the cabinet. (a) Democratic directors, meanwhile, adopted a party reform plan which would create the post of supreme adviser to the party. It was agreed that KIMURA Kozaemon should be recommended for the position. (b)

Socialist Chairman KATAYAMA, Secretary-general ASANUMA, and all other party executives will resign at the Central Executive Committee meeting next Wednesday. Socialist Diet Policy Committee Chairman YONEKUBO and KATAYAMA agreed to this move Thursday, and ASANUMA concurred yesterday. (c)

The special Diet session will be limited to 70 days, the Cabinet decided yesterday. The Diet will convene on 11 February and recess one week later while the new cabinet maps its legislative program. It is slated to reconvene on 3 March when the opening ceremonies will be held. Approval of this timetable will be sought at a conference of Diet parties today. (b)

ECONOMY

ESB officials decided yesterday to present Army Secretary ROYALL with a six-point request pertaining to economic stabilization. Permission to send Japanese businessmen abroad will be asked as well as reduction in marine transportation costs by the partial use of Japanese vessels or the chartering of US Liberty ships. Introduction of US manufacturing techniques and machinery and enlargement of JAPAN's fishing area will also be requested. (b)

Acting Finance Minister OYA told the press yesterday that submission of a provisional budget to the Diet might be necessary in view of the many difficulties surrounding compilation of the regular 1949-50 budget. (d)

PRODUCTION

The Commerce-Industry Ministry has completed a draft plan calling for exploitation of 1,220,000 kilowatts of power resources at a cost of 30,000,000,-000 yen. The program will be discussed by the ESB and the Finance Ministry and is scheduled to be launched on 1 April. (e)

A six-man technical investigation mission composed of four coal mining experts and two coal unionists will be sent by the Government to the US in March to study methods for hiking JAPAN's coal output to the 42,000,000-ton level annually. Announcement of the mission representatives will be made shortly after approval of the authorities concerned. (a)

December industrial production hit a postwar high, according to a Commerce-Industry Ministry survey published yesterday. The surprising results were attributed mainly to the unusually favorable weather conditions. (a)

(a) Yomiuri Shimbun
(b) Mainichi Shimbun
(c) Asahi Shimbun
(d) Tokyo Shimbun
(e) Nihon Keizai Shimbun

EDITORIALS

JAPAN's political situation and STALIN's statement comprised the major topics for editorial comment. Other papers discussed commodity prices, reassessment of capital, and publishing rights.

Parties

TOKYO SHIMBUN favored a coalition between the Democratic Liberals and the Democrats. Since a single-party cabinet is an unusual phenomenon in Japanese politics, coalitions are bound to be formed, bringing about corruption of political circles, the paper said. Though many oppose a coalition and chances for its materialization are becoming slimmer, both parties should reconsider the critical national situation which calls for a choice between capitalism and socialism, the daily held, concluding that if parties lose this opportunity, perhaps they can merge in the next general election. It also urged "profound thinkers to push coalition maneuvers".

AKAHATA asserted that the coming by-elections for 35 prefectural assemblymen and one governor is a "golden opportunity to make the people recognize the true character of the conservatives' reactionary policies... and to promote the people's political awakening." Stating that Premier YOSHIDA is already planning further revision of the Election Law "to prevent Communists from being elected," the party mouthpiece advocated that such violence must be stopped by winning victories in the by-elections to cut the conservatives strength and by utilizing fully the lessons learned from the Lower House election. The Communists can advance even further, the journal averred, if they focus their newly gained strength on achieving political unification and co-operating with the Socialists, Worker-Farmers, and other democratic forces by setting up common candidates.

Stalin's Statement

Observing the cold reception of President TRUMAN and Secretary of State ACHESON to STALIN's statement, ASAHI said that it is now being looked upon as merely another peace offensive of the SOVIET UNION. Believing that Soviet-American opposition can be settled peacefully, the paper agreed with ACHESON's declaration that the two countries should make adjustments diplomatically through the United Nations.

JIJI SHIMPO noted that the US atitude toward the SOVIET UNION will not undergo a great change unless the latter makes positive concessions in practice rather than in words, such as proposing peace negotiations through official diplomatic channels and lifting the Berlin blockade. In view of such circumstances, the journal believed that the time is not right to settle US-Soviet differences. Since cessation of the Cold War is the concern and desire of the whole world, the paper felt that the two nations should negotiate through the UN.

Miscellaneous

MAINICHI, pointing out two reasons for a possible price hike--rising inflation and setting a single exchange rate--suggested that the current price level should be maintained to safeguard the people's livelihood. It added that there is no basis for wage control if price hikes are permitted indiscriminately. Though the paper remarked that fixing an exchange rate will naturally bring about an increase in prices, it was of the opinion that profits from the trade fund may be used as price adjustments in order to prevent price boosts.

It was believed by NIHON KEIZAI that the Taxation Council's reassessment of fixed capital was too moderate to improve the financial condition of enterprises. The daily warned that in effectuating capital reassessment, profits gained are nothing but disguised profits resulting from inflation. If the Government and the people recognize disguised profits and the assessed profits as financial gains, the journal said, enterprises will not become sound. The contemplated Taxation Law revision must guarantee minimum taxation on capital or the reassessment will be useless, the editorial commented.

Controversy over the publishing rights for the novel MIYAMOTO MUSASHI prompted YOMIURI to flay publishers who are only looking out for their own interests, disregarding the literary rights of authors. The feudalistic practices used in publishing books based on the "gentleman's agreement" must be eliminated, the paper stated, urging the Literary Guild to draft rational and progressive literary laws modeled on Western patterns.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF
ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

PRESS ANALYSIS

CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

NO: 1002 DATE: 4 Feb 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Major dailies generally favored cabinet speculation for their lead stories. YOMIURI, however, gave first place to the Stalin, Acheson statements.

POLITICS

Democratic Diet members voted yesterday not to participate in the next cabinet but to co-operate from the outside. The party decision was made after the second Yoshida-Inukai talk slated for yesterday was postponed at the request of Premier YOSHIDA. Democratic President INUKAI asked the party's membership to leave the coalition issue to his discretion, but anticoalitionists railroaded through the nonparticipation motion. It is believed, however, that INUKAI has not given up his idea of joining in the next administration. (a) While YOSHIDA and INUKAI are scheduled to confer at 1000 hours this morning, it is unlikely that YOSHIDA will offer another coalition proposal. Democratic Liberals feel that INUKAI has no alternative but to break up his party and form a procoalition group. (b) DLP executives, meanwhile, are working on the agenda to be presented at the party's meeting of Diet members to be held Tuesday. (a)

Formation of a joint labor-political front was discussed by representatives of the National Congress of Industrial Unions' affiliates and of the Communist and Worker-Farmer parties yesterday. Socialists declined to attend the NCIU-sponsored discussion. (a) Worker-Farmer OKADA told the group that his party opposed merging with the Communists but would "fall in line" with them in their joint struggle proposals. (b) In HOKKAIDO Socialists asserted Tuesday they would collaborate with the Communists regardless of the attitude of Socialist headquarters in TOKYO. (c)

FINANCE

Economic ministers yesterday set 10 March as the deadline for budget presentation to the Diet though they reached no decision on basic budget policy. (a) Following the conference Transportation Minister OZAWA revealed the Government is contemplating partial abolition of control on perishable foods sometime in May. It is also planning the reopening of restaurants and free sale of rice after delivery quotas have been completed, he said. (b)

The Tokyo Securities Dealers Association decided yesterday the inaugural meeting of the stock exchange will be held on 12 February. Preparations are being rushed by the TSDA to get the exchange functioning smoothly as soon as possible. (d)

LABOR

Labor unions with members who represent employer interests or who have a voice in making company policy will no longer be recognized as labor unions, according to the Labor Ministry's interpretation of Article 2 of the Labor Union Law announced yesterday. Labor unions will also not be considered as such if their expenses are defrayed by their companies. (e) Qualifications of the National Labor Union Liaison Council are currently being probed by the Tokyo Metropolitan Labor Committee to see if the NLULC falls under the purview of Article 2. Results of the investigation are expected to have far-reaching effects on the nation's labor organizations. (f)

The Education Ministry ruled yesterday that teachers would be exempt from the 48-hour working schedule now in force for other government employees. A ministerial ordinance will be published soon to this effect. (b)

The Civil Maritime Commission Employees Union canceled its 48-hour strike order last night after the Personnel Board declared that CMCEU workers are government employees. (b)

(a) Mainichi Shimbun
(b) Yomiuri Shimbun
(c) Akahata
(d) Jiji Shimpo
(e) Tokyo Nichi Nichi Shimbun
(f) Nihon Keizai Shimbun

EDITORIALS

Comments on ROYALL's visit continued to dominate editorial columns. Two dailies discussed political parties, while other papers were concerned with the exchange rate, the labor-management conference, and STALIN's statement.

Royall Visit

JIJI SHIMPO believed the visit of the Royall Mission affords the Yoshida Cabinet an excellent opportunity "to explain anew the actual conditions in JAPAN." The paper saw the special responsibility of the Government as that of "offering detailed opinions for reference" on the "delicate and difficult questions connected with the daily life of the Japanese people and thus contributing to the smooth and complete execution of Occupation policies."

Contrasting ROYALL's civilian clothes and soft hat while reviewing troops with the ultramilitaristic garb of former Japanese Army leaders, TOKYO SHIMBUN declared: "The US Army, with such a civilian as its chief, well deservse the adjective 'democratic.'" The paper discussed the military implications of the Royall visit, pointing out that the front line of Soviet and US forces has now shifted to HOKKAIDO and asserting that JAPAN, itself, must "take immediate steps to establish a base for achieving sound independence."

TOKYO TIMES also noted ROYALL's appearance in civilian dress, commenting it made the Japanese "reflect deeply on past ways of thinking." The Army Secretary's statement that he did not intend to increase the strength of the Far East armed forces impressed the daily with his "peace-loving attitude." The journal voices respect for DODGE and felt certain he would not undertake formalistic currency reform measures which were not in keeping with the domestic situation.

Parties

Public concern over the Communists advance prompted YOMIURI to ask the Socialist Party to reconstruct itself by examining its past political actions. The journal pointed out that the party should concentrate its energies upon joining hands with the masses, eliminating its top leaders to give the party a fresh start, and clarifying its basic principles. In view of its important role in developing parliamentary politics, the daily hoped that the party would fulfill the people's desires.

Observing that foreign circles do not believe the Democratic Liberal Party will fully co-operate with Allied policy, NIHON KEIZAI told the DLP "to make up its mind to sacrifice itself in paving the way for economic stabilization." If bureaucratism in controlled economy is prevented and the goal of increased production is attained, it would prove that even the conservatives are able to co-operate with Allied policy, the daily thought. It emphasized that both the party and its supporters should be sincere in fulfilling the duty imposed upon the nation.

Miscellaneous

ASAHI declared that deciding a high or low yen rate is difficult since both have their advantages and disadvantages. A high rate will probably be established, the paper stated, which will force many industries to shut down -- a phenomenon which can be combated only by drastic slashes in production costs. Firm determination as well as US assistance is necessary to settle this difficult problem.

In a signed DAI ICHI comment, the writer felt the labor-management conference was a success. Labor-capital harmony could not have been achieved without SCAP sponsorship, the editorial added, noting that a revolutionary spirit still exists in the labor movement. The writer believed, nevertheless, that labor and capital depend too much on outside aid to handle their problems.

AKAHATA coupled its remarks on Institutional Press Week with a plea for more newsprint and a high-speed rotary press. Despite the 90 percent-monopoly of newsprint by the "bourgeois papers," the Communist daily said, there has been a remarkable increase in the number of local political newspapers and organs of labor unions and other cultural organizations, which makes a "large democratic printing plant urgently necessary."

Regarding STALIN's statement, MAINICHI thought that if he truly aspires for the peace and security of mankind, he should visit the US once. The paper doubted whether the USSR is desirous of establishing world peace in view of her indefinite attitude taken on international problems. If the USSR wants to dispel the misunderstanding cropping up among the Western European nations, it should carry out its diplomatic relations more frankly, the paper concluded.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF
ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER **PRESS ANALYSIS**

NO: 995 **DATE:** 27 Jan 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

The fire in NARA rated the heaviest play in most of the papers though the Yoshida-Inukai conference was prominently featured in all dailies and given the lead spot in JIJI SHIMPO.

POLITICS

Democratic Liberal President YOSHIDA and Democratic President INUKAI agreed on conservative co-operation yesterday, but postponed discussion of Democratic participation in the next cabinet until later. After calling on INUKAI to congratulate him on his election victory, YOSHIDA told the press he still intended to co-operate with parties whose policies harmonize with the Democratic Liberal's and would form a single-party cabinet only if the DLP cannot reach an agreement with any other party. INUKAI, meanwhile, stated he hoped to make a final decision on the issue after hearing opinions of all Democratic Diet members Monday. (a)

Democratic Liberals favor SHIDEHARA Kijuro and MORI Kotaro for speaker and vice speaker of the Lower House respectively. This sentiment was conveyed to YOSHIDA by Secretary-general HIROKAWA and Transportation Minister OZAWA Tuesday. (b) A Democratic Liberal will probably be named to succeed MATSUMOTO Jiichiro, the purged Upper House vice speaker. Democratic Liberals ITAYA Junsuke and SHIBEMUNE Yuzo are considered strong possibilities. (c) OZAWA reportedly will become chief cabinet secretary, and YOSHIDA will appoint other ministers from a list of about 20 names to be submitted by HIROKAWA. (b)

ECONOMY

Railway freight and season pass rates will be hiked as soon as possible, the Transportation Minister told the press yesterday. But he added that the Government is not contemplating an immediate boost in passenger fares. (d)

In his first press conference since the election, acting Finance Minister OYA revealed his definite intention to abolish the transactions tax. He predicted that budget compilation would be extremely difficult since he does not want to revise transportation rates or commodity prices. (e)

INVESTIGATIONS

DLP Representative OZAKI Sukichi was jailed yesterday after authorities questioned him concerning a 1,000,000-yen gift from DLP Representative NAGAO Tatsuo to hush up the coal lobby scandal. (a)

Upper House Vice Speaker MATSUMOTO Monday labeled his purge a "plot designed by the present Cabinet," declaring he would "fight it to the last." (c) The Government is expected to announce shortly the revival of a purge appeal committee to hear petitions from purgees. It is planned to empower the Premier to cancel the purge designation upon recommendation of the committee. (f)

LABOR

The National Liaison Council of Government and Public Office Employees Unions and the National Congress of Industrial Unions yesterday agreed to fight jointly for a minimum wage, against discharge of employees and unfavorable Labor Law revision, and against taxation of the masses. (d)

NARA FIRE

Some of the nation's valuable art treasures were lost when part of the Horyu Temple in NARA was damaged by fire yesterday. The blaze destroyed wall paintings over 1,300 years old though quick action by priests and villagers prevented the fire from spreading. (a)

(a) Tokyo Shimbun
(b) Yomiuri Shimbun
(c) Shin Yukan
(d) Nihon Keizai Shimbun
(e) Jiji Shimpo
(f) Hochi Shimbun

EDITORIALS

The far-reaching ramifications of the election continued to dominate editorial columns today while other comments pertained to economic rehabilitation, the Nara fire, and the China situation.

Election

In a comprehensive analysis of the Socialist position, MAINICHI interpreted the mission of the Socialist Party in JAPAN as that of "organizing the masses with a view to contributing to the recovery of the country and the stabilization of the people's life." It does not consist of competing with the Communists for the support of the masses, the journal asserted. The only way for the Socialist Party to regain its position is to declare itself a social-reformist party and to fight in this direction, the daily stated. It pointed out the need for a clear definition of party principles, adding that "as long as ideological confusion exists within the party, the Socialists can never hope to secure unity in their actions."

Also discussing the postelection Socialist position, ASAHI's subeditorial urged sympathy rather than contempt for the party's defeat, suggesting that the people await the day of a party comeback "with a deep affection like that of a mother lion that has kicked her cub into a ravine." The fact that a socialist party is not active "is a problem of national importance," the daily emphasized. It contrasted the present Socialist plight to that of the British Labor Party and observed that the British group suffered a bitter defeat in 1931 only to make a victorious return in 1945.

JIJI SHIMPO advised the Democratic Party to remain as the opposition. Should a coalition be formed, the paper remarked, the Socialist and Communist parties will form the opposition which the latter will eventually dominate, leaving the Diet to "degenerate into a stage for propaganda and demonstrations." This will only cause the Diet to lose the nation's trust which is just what the Communists desire, the paper added. Since the Democrats, Socialists, and Peoples Co-operatives may have an opportunity to take over the reins of power as did the DLP, they should function as the opposition and prepare for future developments, the journal thought. Two diametrically opposed camps--the DLP and the Communists--NIHON KEIZAI stressed, cannot fail to adversely affect the course of Japanese politics. Noting that the people already sense a threat to democratic politics arising from the opposition "of an ultraconservative capitalistic party and an extreme leftist group," it urged the DLP "to prevent a cold war inside JAPAN" which may result through failure to cope with the Communist Party.

Evidently the people have already advanced beyond social democracy and are moving toward a revolution, AKAHATA concluded in an editorial summarizing the "glorious and great advance" of the Communist Party at the polls. Warning against "elation over success" and advocating a "humble attitude," the Communist organ set as the major task of the party "the unconditional unification of the labor front and the political front along the lines of Marx-Leninism." The daily predicted a party of "1,000,000 Bolsheviks".

ASAHI's first editorial told the people to reflect on the reasons for the high voting rate. If ballots were cast merely because of whim, rumor, or public sentiment, the daily said, the 74.1 percent rate is worthless. Quantity must be supported by quality, the paper averred, if JAPAN's politics are to become truly democratic.

YOMIURI agreed with the Exchange Rate Establishment Deliberation Council that some government subsidy to industrial enterprises is necessary. However, it pointed out, the question is not the propriety of the council's plan but rather the manner in which the policy will be carried out. The economic recovery of JAPAN depends on the forceful rationalization of enterprises and reduction of production costs, the daily stressed. It felt that not much change would result in the economic situation if foreign trade funds were entirely turned over to subsidize export enterprises.

Concerning the Horyu Temple fire, ASAHI's second comment flayed the Government and temple authorities for not co-operating in speeding repairs which may have prevented the recent catastrophe. The paper emphasized that cultural development should not be neglected and hoped that the authorities would exert efforts to rehabilitate international cultural treasures.

TOKYO SHUMBUN stated that the Chinese people's desire for peace and their strong racial consciousness may have been the reason for the Nationalists' decision to favor peace with the Communists. In view of CHINA's position in the FAR EAST and her relations with JAPAN, an early cessation of hostilities was desired by the journal.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF
ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER **PRESS ANALYSIS**

NO: 994 **DATE:** 26 Jan 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Stories on the convocation of the Diet on 11 February captured the lead spot in most of the dailies. Speculation on the next cabinet and election observations rounded out the above-fold coverage.

POLITICS

Top Democratic Liberal officials summoned by Premier YOSHIDA yesterday decided to convene the special Diet on 11 February. Later the Cabinet agreed to resign en masse also on the 11th and to nominate YOSHIDA premier the same day. (a) Maneuvering to form the third Yoshida Cabinet also shifted into high gear with a series of conferences of DLP leaders throughout the day. It is generally observed that the party will proceed with formation of a single-party cabinet unless the Democratic Party proposes a conservative coalition. DLP representation in the Lower House swelled to 268 yesterday when four independents joined the party. (b)

Democratic President INUKAI and Secretary-general INAGAKI conferred yesterday on future party strategy, agreeing that the Democrats should take a wait-and-see attitude until the DLP makes a bid for their support. INAGAKI stated following the talk that the party would either participate in a coalition or become a friendly opposition. Ashida supporters, however, are insisting the Democrats function as a distinct opposition party. (b)

SHIDEHARA Kijuro, supreme adviser to the DLP, is being strongly mentioned for Lower House speaker. UEHARA Etsujiro and HOSHIJIMA Jiro, however, are also considered likely possibilities for the post. (a)

The National Election Management Commission, meanwhile, announced yesterday that 74.1 percent of the eligible voters cast ballots in Sunday's election, 6.2 percent more than in April 1947. Only 68 percent of the women went to the polls, as compared to 80.7 percent of the men. (c)

The Government is considering establishment of a special council to re-examine the Election Law which will eliminate the past practice of government parties' revising the law to suit their own ends. (b)

Predicting the next Yoshida Cabinet will fall within a year, Communist Secretary-general TOKUDA said yesterday the Communists will ask the Worker-Farmers to join in a democratic front "to fight the reactionary conservatives" along with conscientious Socialists who have already been approached. He pledged his party's opposition to unfair labor law revision, dismissal of workers, wage control, low rice price, and heavy taxes. (c)

INVESTIGATIONS

Tochigi police will summon four suspected Election Law violators--DLP Representatives KODAIRA Hisao, MORISHITA Ko, SATO Chikahiro, and OSAWA Kaheiji--either today or tomorrow for questioning. In NIIGATA Ken an arrest warrant was issued for Democratic Liberal Representative TANAKA Shoji who allegedly bought votes during the election campaign. DLP Representative KADOWAKI Katsutaro of TOTTORI Ken is expected to be arrested shortly for illegal campaigning. (d) Another DLP Diet member, MATSUI Toyokichi, will be asked to appear soon before Gumma police for questioning on campaign violations. (3) Fukui authorities yesterday detained DLP Representative OKUMURA Matajuro, his borther, and a campaign supporter on suspicion of Election Law violations. (b)

ECONOMY

The single exchange rate will be enforced simultaneously with the nine economic principles, the Single Exchange Rate Establishment Council decided yesterday. It was also agreed that no over-all price revision would be made at present. (a)

(a) Mainichi Shimbun
(b) Yomiuri Shimbun
(c) Asahi Shimbun
(d) Tokyo Shimbun
(e) Nihon Keizai Shimbun

EDITORIALS

Various aspects of the Democratic Liberal Party's victory and Communist advances in the recent Lower House election prompted editorial comment from all the major dailies this morning.

Election

The significance of the election lies in the spectacular gains of the Communist Party, according to NICHI NICHI. Warning that there is danger communism will be put into practice if the people are not quickly made conscious of what it is, the daily emphasized that "vigorous criticism of communism is urgently needed." Not until the Communists get into power will the people understand their danger and then it will be too late, the paper added, for the government will be a dictatorship.

Also labeling the Communist advance "one of the most significant results of the election, "MAINICHI conceded that the party has become one of the bargaining bodies of the Diet. In view of this new political responsibility, it would be well for them to discard their old ways, the daily recommended. It suggested that the NOZAKA Sanzo slogan, "Lovable Communists," might well be taken "out of the mothballs again." In analyzing the Communist success at the polls, the daily stated that the Socialists and other parties of long standing paved the way for Communist growth by ineffective policies and scandal involvement.

Realistically accepting the Communist Party as a potent voice in politics since its "remarkable advance" at the polls, SEKAI KEIZAI hoped that the Communists would refrain from "irresponsible and destructive actions" and would avoid "unnecessary agitation." Economic circles should not fear the Communist advance, the daily said and advised the DLP to permit the Communists to develop activities as a responsible public organ. "If the Democratic Liberals remain stubborn conservatives and look upon the working masses as an enemy, a further increase in Communist influence will be invited," the daily argued.

In view of the fact that many Democrats still favor middle-of-the-road politics, YOMIURI felt that this is the DLP's chance to "form a single party cabinet and strive to realize their public pledges." It flayed the Democratic Party for trying to gain power through a conservative fusion with the Democratic Liberals, stating that even if asked to co-operate in a coalition, it should refuse and remain as the opposition or return to their conservatism and support the Government from outside the cabinet. ASAHI also favored a single-party cabinet because 264 Diet seats assures "stability" and "establishes a foundation for full government activities." Considering the Democrats either as an opposition party or as co-operating in a conservative merger is impractical, the paper believed. It was concluded by the daily that a cabinet should correspond fully with the will of the people.

JIJI SHIMPO cited the sudden decline in the strength of the Socialists as the "greatest factor in the present political change." Likening the Socialist Party case to the pendulum of a clock, the daily commented that political phenomena are ruled by the psychology of action and reaction. The journal believed that the present DLP landslide did not mean overwhelming confidence in the party by the voters but was merely the result of a psychological reaction to the popular disappointment in the maladministration of the Socialist and Democratic parties.

NIHON KEIZAI termed the Socialist Party's defeat a "misfortune", stressing that "it must become the leader of the anticonservative forces." Whether the DLP forms a single-party or coalition cabinet, the Socialists wield considerable influence upon politics, the daily remarked. It emphasized that since the Communists oppose parliamentarism the DLP and the Socialist Party "must learn that they are responsible for the defence of parliamentary politics and the development of constitutional government."

Now that the election is over, TOKYO SHIMBUN declared, the DLP must speed the execution of JAPAN's economic stabilization plans. Platforms and policies of the various parties have been inadequate and it has been necessary to seek bureaucratic assistance, the paper said. With many competent bureaucrats elected in the DLP machinery, the journal pointed out, the party will find it easier to draw up policies. Since past bureaucratic measures were impractical, the daily asserted, the DLP should choose capable members for its Political Research Committee to carry out the nine economic principles in line with DLP policy.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF
ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER **PRESS ANALYSIS**

NO: 993 **DATE:** 25 Jan 49

Complete election returns coupled with speculation on the next cabinet and statements by prominent political leaders filled the front pages of all the papers. Thumbnail sketches of the new representatives were also carried by NIHON KEIZAI, JIJI SHIMPO, and YOMIURI.

ELECTION

The Democratic Liberal Party was swept into power Sunday as 29,962,896 voters went to the polls to elect a new Lower House. Unseating many Democrats, Socialists, and Peoples Co-operatives, the DLP gained a clear Diet majority of 264 seats, 112 more than it held before the election, and amassed a popular vote of 12,643,972. The Communist Party increased its Lower House membership almost nine-fold, winning 35 seats as compared to four previously. Democrats dropped from 90 to 68; Socialists from 111 to 49; and Peoples Co-operatives from 29 to 14. Top-ranking Socialists failing to be re-elected include KATAYAMA Tetsu, NISHIO Suehiro, KATO Kanju, and NOMIZO Masaru. Democrats NARAHASHI Wataru, TAKEDA Giichi, and HITOTSUMATSU Sadayoshi were also turned down by the voters. (a)

Observers predict that the DLP will seek the backing of all conservative forces in forming the next cabinet, though some party members favor a single party administration. (a) At a press conference yesterday Premier YOSHIDA pledged an all-out fight against the Communist Party which he said was trying to destroy the nation. He expressed his desire to co-operate with any party having the same principles and policies as the Democratic Liberals and to form a cabinet as soon as possible.

Democratic President INUKAI interpreted his party's defeat as an indication "that the people have censured the behavior of the Democrats in the Diet and that they support fair political deals." In a note to a YOMIURI correspondent, INUKAI further pointed out that the next regime will not be decided by party heads but will reflect the will of the people. His attitude on co-operation with a DLP-led coalition will be determined by the Democratic Diet members, he said. (a)

Middle-of-the-roaders led by ex-Premier ASHIDA Hitoshi were severely hit by the loss of NISHIO and NARAHASHI. While their strength is now overshadowed by the Democratic Liberals, it is believed they will insist on forming the next cabinet on a coalition basis. (b) But in view of the decline in middle-road support, it is generally conceded that the Democrats will attempt party unification to participate in a conservative coalition. (a)

With the defeat of Chairman KATAYAMA, the Socialist Party is facing a crisis which, it is predicted, will result in his resignation along with several other party leaders who were rejected at the polls. The party is expected to hold a convention prior to Diet convocation slated for mid-February. (b) Saturday the Socialist Central Executive Committee will meet to map the party's future strategy. KATAYAMA declared following the election that the Socialists would continue their fight for social democracy. While favoring a two-party system which would pit the Socialists against the conservatives, he asserted, however, that his party would never compromise with the Communists. (a)

PURGE

The purge of Upper House Vice Speaker MATSUMOTO Jiichiro and nine other staff members of the now defunct Yamato Patriotic Movement Headquarters was made public by the Attorney General's Office yesterday. Fifteen former directors of the ultranationalistic KOKUHONSHA were also purged, according to the same announcement. (c)

The Attorney General's Office, meanwhile, is examining the qualifications of Socialist Secretary-general ASANUMA Inejiro who is suspected of being a former adviser to the Greater East Asia Youth Corps. ASANUMA, re-elected to the Lower House Sunday, denies any connection with the organization. (a)

(a) Yomiuri Shimbun
(b) Mainichi Shimbun
(c) Tokyo Shimbun

EDITORIALS

The Democratic Liberal victory and the Communist advances in the recent election drew an avalanche of editorial comment from the major dailies today, while only one paper discussed the Chinese situation.

Election

The result of the general election indicates that a trend of direct conflict between right and left camps has already begun to appear, ASAHI's later editions observed. Whether the confusion arising from this trend can be prevented "depends largely upon whether or not a healthy middle influence exists," the daily added. It noted that election results show voters placed more emphasis upon the virtues of the parties rather than upon the character of individual politicians."

JIJI SHIMPO declared that "if the DLP victory is a manifestation of the people's dislike for radical reform," the Democratic Liberals must form their policies in line with this popular feeling. Though the paper attributed the Communist victory to the people's reaction against the Socialists, it added that their advances will not affect the people's desire for "conservative politics and the capitalistic system."

While a strong conservative administration is anticipated, the Communist advances cannot be disregarded, SEKAI KEIZAI emphasized. Sticking to strong policies in executing the nine principles will only benefit the Communists, the journal stated, defeating the purpose of the conservative regime. The new legislators must be watched closely so that they will not be involved in corruption, the daily asserted.

A division of JAPAN's political world into three major categories as a result of the expected conservative coalition was envisaged by NIHON KEIZAI. "The capitalism of the conservatives, the social democracy of the progressives, and the communism of the radical elements" will form the basis of the three national political groups, the journal predicted. Earlier editions of the paper declared that the people are in favor of two-major-party politics--conservative versus progressive--no matter what the postelection political line-up turns out to be. The daily looked beyond the possible coalition of the Democratic Liberals and Democrats and foresaw the fusion of the two groups into a single conservative party.

Also anticipating the merger of the conservative parties, MAINICHI urged close co-operation between the two political groups which it described as "not essentially different." Middle-of-the-road politics "has lost its raison d'etre," the daily asserted and added that the political situation will "assume an entirely new aspect" as a result of the recent Communist strength. To aid in settling important international and domestic problems, the parties should not "bicker among themselves in the Diet for the sake of private interests," the journal said.

TOKYO SHIMBUN advocated the immediate formation of a coalition cabinet between the Democratic Liberals and the Democrats but strongly emphasized that the top party should assume political leadership. Possibility of a split of the Democratic Party into factions--conservatives and the middle-of-the-roaders--was acknowledged by the daily.

YOMIURI's early editions stressed the DLP's responsibility in realizing JAPAN's economic recovery to carry out the nine economic principles in accordance with the people's expectations. Merely strengthening bureaucratic controls is useless, the paper said, calling for administrative and enterprise adjustment. Its late edition cited the people's desire to do away with bureaucratic control as a major factor in the victory of the DLP and the surprising gain of the Communists. The success of the new government will be largely determined by its ability to abolish useless control measures and the bureaucratic mode of administration, the daily believed.

The decrease in the abstention rate was welcomed by ASAHI's early editions as a great success for the public management system adopted for the first time in this election. To iron out any defects in the Election Law, the journal suggested that a thorough investigation be made to remove any unnecessary restrictions on free and active election campaigns and to keep the law from becoming a bureaucratic monopoly.

Chinese Situation

According to AKAHATA, the Chinese Communists have encouraged the democratic forces in JAPAN. The daily urged local Communist and democratic forces to be strengthened so that the new Chinese Government may be able to help supervise JAPAN and create a new Sino-Japanese relationship.

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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

PRESS ANALYSIS

FEB 3 1949

NO:992 **DATE:** 24 Jan 49

Tokyo Newspapers Today and Yesterday

Election news dwarfed all other local developments both yesterday and today. Returns as reported in the final city editions this morning, however, were still far from complete.

ELECTION

Democratic Liberals took an early lead as the ballot counting progressed early this morning. Communists were also making a good showing, while Democrats and Socialists fell far behind the Democratic Liberals. As of 0300 hours today, the DLP was assured 83 of the 138 seats already decided, with about half of the victors new faces in the Diet. Only 25 Democrats, 11 Socialists, and 7 Peoples Co-operatives were victorious. Three Communists have been elected thus far. Early returns indicated that women aspirants were trailing throughout the nation.

Seventy percent of the eligible voters went to the polls yesterday, 2.1 percent more than in the April 1947 election, the National Election Management Commission reported yesterday. SHIMANE Ken set the highest rate with 83.9 percent; HOKKAIDO made the poorest record with 59.9 percent followed by TOKYO with 61.6 percent. (b) Balloting for the review of Supreme Court judges also indicated better results than expected. The abstention rate was only about 30 percent. (a)

Voting throughout the nation began at 0700 hours yesterday to choose the 466 Lower House members from a field of 1,364 candidates. (c) Twenty-eight prefectures began tallying votes immediately after the polls closed at 1800 hours yesterday, and the complete election picture will be known by about 2000 hours this evening. (b)

A total of 273 Election Law violations were noted in TOKYO To, including 14 uncovered Saturday. (c) Prefectural police in TOCHIGI Ken demanded the arrest of 12 candidates who broke campaigning regulations. (a) Meanwhile, in NIIGATA Ken police were hunting DLP candidate TANAKA Shoji for illegal electioneering. (d)

Premier YOSHIDA on the eve of the election labeled the public-managed election "a complete failure," though he declined to elaborate further. (c)

ECONOMY

The period preceding final economic stabilization will be divided into three stages, according to Finance Ministry officials. During the first period the single exchange rate will be set, strong economic controls will be clamped on all key industries, and prices will be revised somewhat. The second phase will begin when industrial rationalization has progressed to a degree permitting domestic economy to be linked directly with international economy. The export-import price adjustment system will become almost nonexistent during the last stage which is not predicted for at least a year. (e)

Commerce-Industry Ministry authorities are expected to recommend to the Economic Stabilization Board that the exchange rate be set at 350 yen. Final decision will be made tomorrow on the proposal which is being framed in the hope that the 350-yen rate will enable an 80 percent production boost. (f)

A 200 percent hike in postal and telegraph rates is being contemplated by the Communications Ministry to wipe out deficits the Postal Administration and Telecommunications Ministries will inherit when they begin functioning on 1 April. Drastic personnel retrenchment will also be effected. (f)

STEEL

Ordinary steel output for December hit a postwar high with 120,000 tons, 20,000 tons more than the November figure. Shaft furnace, pig iron and open-hearth furnace steel ingot production also set postwar records, according to production results disclosed by the Commerce-Industry Ministry Saturday. (f)

(a) Asahi Shimbun
(b) Yomiuri Shimbun
(c) Tokyo Shimbun
(d) Mainichi Shimbun
(e) Jiji Shimpo
(f) Nihon Keizai Shimbun

EDITORIALS

Week-end editorials were split among three major issues--the Lower House election, JAPAN's economic recovery, and CHIANG Kai-shek's resignation.

Election

Noting with approval the "relatively good turnout" at the polls despite the adverse conditions facing voters, YOMIURI in a later edition today commented: "The downward trend of abstention is to our credit; it indicates growing democracy here and the concern of the people with parliamentary government." Yesterday the paper "looked eagerly" for full participation of women voters in the election, pointing out that not a single phase of "livelihood economy, such as food rationing, clothing, and housing" is independent of government policies.

TOKYO SHIMBUN today urged voters to keep continuous watch over the activities of the representatives they elected. "The people must feel their responsibility" for the results of the election, according to the daily which observed that the casting of a ballot does not mean the end of a citizen's duties. Yesterday's TOKYO SHIMBUN named the primary objectives of the election as "a political cleanup and a readjustment of the party line-up" and declared that the "fate of JAPAN" depends upon the type of Diet and government that comes into existence after the election.

The existing system of public-managed elections has ended in complete failure, MAINICHI averred today. But, the daily added, this does not mean that public management should be abolished as such; instead, this principle should be reinforced in the future but "restrictions on oral and documentary campaigns should be lifted." Yesterday it protested the "Government's trying to make the people realize that voting is one of their duties," contending that votes should be cast by the voluntary will of the people and not because of a demand from the Government or political leaders.

Underlining the importance of the election in the nation's history, ASAHI yesterday advised voters to go to the polls "in a bright, cheerful mood" and cast their ballots in the interests of JAPAN's reconstruction.

AKAHATA, meanwhile, looked beyond the immediate ballot results in its final pre-election editorial and called for the opening of a second popular offensive "in opposition to fascistic antinational policies and for the protection of the people's livelihood and racial independence." The Communist daily exhorted party members to form a vast front, "including even the Socialists," to deal a decisive blow to the "conservative reactionaries."

Recovery

Fixing an exchange rate should offer the public no cause for worry, JIJI SHIMPO declares today. Rather, export industries will be most affected, the journal emphasized, pointing out the necessity of enterprise rationalization to meet the changes brought about by an exchange rate.

A signed editorial in YOMIURI's early editions today stressed the importance of stabilizing economy by curbing inflation and establishing a single exchange rate in preparation for the nine economic principles. The writer thought that temporary artificial measures to cope with the resulting decreased production and the radical change in commodity prices would be impractical.

Chinese Situation

MAINICHI today declared that the "Nationalist Government virtually abandoned its stand when CHIANG resigned." While CHINA's fate is certain, the effect of a radical change in CHINA on Asiatic countries has become a world problem, the paper added. Today's ASAHI looked forward to the day when a new and peaceful CHINA will emerge even though CHIANG has failed. There may be moves to maintain the Chinese Republic, but it must be remembered "squarely and coolly" that the victors are the Chinese Communists, SEKAI KEIZAI stressed today. If the Nationalist Government wants to regain power or if the Communists desire to control CHINA, they must execute policies to win the people's sympathies, NIHON KEIZAI noted yesterday, concluding that the long wait that the Chinese people will have to bear is a tragedy. Unless Acting President LI practically submits to unconditional surrender, yesterday's JIJI SHIMPO held gloomy prospects for CHINA's fate. Even if the Nationalist Government is moved to SOUTH CHINA, the paper felt that it would encounter the same difficulties as it would in conducting peace negotiations.

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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER **PRESS ANALYSIS**

NO: 991 **DATE:** 22 Jan 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

The Chiang resignation received top emphasis in nearly all Tokyo papers today. Of the major dailies only JIJI SHIMPO subordinated it to the Lower House election--generally the number two story of the day. Price reform and other economic issues continued to rate front-page space, but only NIHON KEIZAI played them above last-minute surveys of election interest and party strength.

ELECTION

Public interest in tomorrow's election sharpened as the 1,365 candidates moved into their final day of campaigning. Aspirants for the 466 Lower House seats will wind up their speech-making today and await the verdict of the voters in the first general election under the new Constitution. When the votes are counted, the Democratic Liberals are expected to emerge as the first party, with approximately half its 387 candidates in the winners' circle. The Democrats with 211 candidates in the race and the Socialists with 184 are given an equal chance of becoming the runner-up party. Of the total number of candidates only 862 are newcomers--366 less than the 1947 election. (a)

Chairman UNNO of the National Election Management Commission urged all voters to go to the polls tomorrow. Noting that the postwar abstention rate had progressively increased, he asked the public to reverse this trend by fully exercising its right to vote. He especially called on the women "to become more politically enlightened." (b)

Election results will be known by 1700 hours next Monday. In TOKYO, officials will start counting ballots at 0800 hours Monday and will probably finish by 1400 hours. Many prefectures intend to begin tabulating votes on election day. Virtually final returns are expected from FUKUSHIMA, TOCHIGI, WAKAYAMA, TOTTORI, SHIMANE, KAGAWA, and KUMAMOTO by Monday noon. (c)

ECONOMY

Government economic experts, preparing for the single exchange rate, have nearly completed a basic plan for revising the price structure. The projected price system, unlike previous ones, will be linked closely with the international price level. In fixing new commodity rates utmost efforts will be made to avoid any revisions that would boost living costs. The main problem will be to adjust the coal price without jarring the entire economy. (d)

The Reconstruction Finance Bank will temporarily refuse all new loan applicants RFB Director KITASHIRO announced yesterday. Clarifying other aspects of RFB policy, KITASHIRO indicated that basic and export industries will continue to receive loan preference and that loans to coal companies will hereafter be made on an individual-need basis. (d)

SOCIAL SECURITY

A broadened social security system benefiting not only labor but the whole population is being planned by the Welfare Ministry. Slated for Diet submission following approval of the Social Security System Council which begins to function in early March, the plan will cost an estimated 156,305,000,000 yen in its early stages. Social security for workers will be extended to include insurance against loss of wages, medical expenses, and widows' pensions. Other citizens will be granted health insurance only. Either the Diet or a single government ministry will be charged with responsibility and authority over the new system. The sweeping revision is an outgrowth of the US Social Security Mission report last year and the recommendations submitted by the Social Insurance System Investigation Committee in October 1946. (c)

(a) Asahi Shimbun
(b) Dai Ichi Shimbun
(c) Yomiuri Shimbun
(d) Nihon Keizai Shimbun

EDITORIALS

Tomorrow's election provoked considerable and varied comment in the metropolitan press this morning. Only MAINICHI deviated with editorials on currency devaluation and CHIANG Kai-shek's retirement.

Election

A blistering YOMIURI editorial declared that the "inflamatory" Communist Party must be "utterly destroyed." The Communists, with thier subversive, anti-American, production-hampering program opposing foreign capital induction, have absolutely nothing to offer the people, it continued, asking how the Japanese could have survived without US generosity. Contrary to Communist propaganda, foreign capital is indispensable to economic independence, the daily emphasized. Not only must the Communists be defeated tommorrow, it asserted, but a strong Lower House capable of executing the nine principles must be elected, and scandal-tainted candidates must be rejected. In a somewhat less vehement tone, TOKYO SHIMBUN's first editorial called for defeat of Communist candidates since "communism is incompatible with democracy." Adoption of this antidemocratic, freedom-stifling theory would be "very thoughtless and absurd," it concluded.

The city edition of NIHON KEIZAI predicted a totalitarian regime in the near future if the people do not cast aside their indifference and vote tomorrow. Popular attention must be focused on the election if politics is ever to be cleaned up, the paper averred. The same paper's prefectural edition saw no excuse for a high abstention rate. Since politics is so closely linked with the people's livelihood, those who do not vote are showing apathy to their own welfare, the editorial pointed out. Every citizen must cast his ballot, the journal advised, if he wants improved living conditions through better government. In agreement with NIHON KEIZAI, SHIN YUKAN's pre-election advice to the voters included admonitions to reconsider the election's significance, scrutinize candidate and party qualifications, and cast ballots conscientiously. It is up to the electorate to purify Japanese politics, the daily said.

JIJI SHIMPO warned against a dispersion of votes among minor parties, charging that their existence "will always lead to an unstable political situation and is the very reason for the slow reconstruction of our country."

Labeling the election "particularly important to the working masses," ASAHI called for a thoughtful and well-considered vote from labor. "Each union member should judge party policies not only as a union member but also as a citizen of JAPAN," the daily advised. It warned against voting "under pressure of a general trend of unions," fearing this might permit "mob rule to gain round" in JAPAN.

AKAHATA made a last-minute bid for the female vote, severely criticizing Communists for neglecting this important segment of the electorate. Party members should concentrate on winning the women, the Communist mouthpiece said, by convincing them that the reactionary forces will only make their living more unbearable.

The significance of the Supreme Court judge review was discussed in detail by two newspapers. TOKYO SHIMBUN's second editorial pointed out that the reviewing system was established "to put the judicature completely and directly under popular sovereignty." The procedure of appointing Supreme Court justices at the discretion of the cabinet embodies a danger of "party appointments" which would abstruct the impartiality of the court, the daily explained. Stressing the importance of casting a vote in the judicial review, MICHI NICHI used statistics to show that "210,001 votes will decide the propriety of the appointments." Thus, if there is great abstention from voting, slightly more than 200,000 votes would reflect the will of 41,789,999 persons, the journal noted.

Miscellaneous

To deprive the yen of its existing confidence through currency readjustment "is not a very good policy" and would "hardly be effective in curbing inflation," MAINICHI's prefectural edition maintained. Comparing the yen devaluation problem to like situations in RUSSIA and GERMANY in recent years, the daily concluded that JAPAN need not follow in the footsteps of either.

In its city edition MAINICHI questioned whether CHIANG Kai-shek's retirement would pave the way for peace in CHINA. It saw little hope that the Communists would accept the peace conditions to be proposed by the new president, General LI Tsung-jen.

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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER **PRESS ANALYSIS**

NO: 990 **DATE:** 21 Jan 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Dearth of election news today pulled several local economic stories above the mid-page fold, but the general front-page pattern remained the same as yesterday, with dominant emphasis going to foreign dispatches.

ELECTION

Premier YOSHIDA yesterday reaffirmed his intention to keep Socialists and other nonconservatives out of the postelection cabinet. Confident that his party would take command of the next government, the Democratic Liberal leader asserted while enroute from FUKUSHIMA to SENDAI on a campaign tour that he will strive for a conservative coalition. "I have no intention of holding a conference of the four party heads as in the past," he said, "since this necessitates complicated procedures." (a)

With the election only two days away, party spokesmen released predictions on the probable number of winning candidates. Democratic Liberal headquarters was confident of taking from 210 to 226 of the 466 Lower House seats. Other parties were less optimistic. The Socialists, who earlier had expected 110 sure winners, now scaled down their estimate to 91. Democratic leaders, believing that INUKAI's selection as party president would offset some of the unpopularity stemming from the Showa Denko scandal, looked forward to at least 110 seats in the next Diet. Peoples Co-operative Chairman MIKI, speaking for the last of the four major parties, forecast 26 certain winners. (a)

Socialist campaign headquarters yesterday expelled two unendorsed candidates--in SAITAMA and KUMAMOTO Ken--for defying party policy. (b)

ECONOMY

Government officials have drawn up an export subsidy plan giving special consideration to silk, shipbuilding, and aluminum. Formulated by the Economic Stabilization Board and the Board of Trade, the subsidy program will go into effect after the enforcement of the single exchange rate. Subsidies would be granted to export items whose consersion rates under the Price Ration System are lower than a fixed rate. This rate will be set after the total amount of subsidies is known. (c)

The Board of Trade will boost the daily interest rate on overdue loans from three to 10 sen starting 25 January. The new move was aimed at stimulating the repayment of foreign trade fund loans used for the purchase of imports and occupation-released goods. At the present rate of default, arrears threaten to reach ¥1,600,000,000 yen by the end of January. (c)

The Holding Company Liquidation Commission, ruling that "no prima-facie case of restriction of competition can be found," dropped 16 more companies yesterday from the list of firms earmarked for deconcentration. The HCLC also decided to set up an advisory committee to review successor company designations. (c)

LABOR

Labor and management representatives will confer on 27 and 28 January to work out a co-ordinated plan for stepping up production and speeding economic revival. The conference, suggested by the GHQ Labor Division, will seek an area of agreement on such key issues as industrial rationalization, discharge allowances, and efficiency wages. Subsequent meetings on similar problems are scheduled once every month. Delegates from 17 major unions, excluding those of the government employees, will represent labor. (b)

A poll of three Tokyo locals of the Japan Electric Power Workers Union showed that the rank-and-file will vote overwhelmingly Sunday for Communist candidates. In two of the three locals the Communists had over twice as many supporters as the second-place Socialists. (d)

(a) MAINICHI SHIMBUN (b) ASAHI SHIMBUN (c) NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN (d) AKAHATA

EDITORIALS

The majority of the editorials were again pitched on Sunday's election. Some of the major dailies, however, chose such varied topics as national savings, sports, and the Chinese situation as the basis for their comments.

Election

ASAHI sharply criticized all political parties for their pre-election vagueness on how to implement the nine-point economic stabilization program. They were accused by the daily of agreeing with the nine points while advocating contradictory policies. Further charging them with deliberately attempting to paint "a rosy picture" of the hard road to economic recovery, the journal predicted that the nation would never be reconstructed unless a party capable of effectuating the nine principles is voted into power. This party, the editorial asserted, must be willing to lead the nation into a period of hardship, to distribute the burden equally, and to enforce rigid economic controls.

Development of existing political parties into more mature organizations will be accelerated in the coming election, NIHON KEIZAI said. Forecasting "a great change" in the numbers of votes cast for the various parties, the daily believed the election results will cause parties to abandon the idea of representing class interests and to develop into national organizations. "True politics can only be achieved through the emergence of two large contending parties," the journal pointed out. It suggested that diametrically opposed political groups woo the large "neutral masses" by expanding their narrow "class" viewpoint into more nationally-minded policies.

While interest in the election is becoming intensified during the last few days of campaigning, TOKYO SHIMBUN observed, some people continue to maintain a "totally indifferent" attitude. These people were classed by the paper into two categories—those of low mentality who have not shaken off the feudalistic practice of doing only what they are told and those of the so-called intelligentsia who refuse to take an interest under any circumstance. Labeling both groups "destructive to the sound development of democratic society," the journal declared that the former should "seek the advice of others" in selecting candidates and the latter should "condescend to choose at least tolerable representatives."

In a final-round effort to mobilize support for Communist candidates, AKAHATA called upon members and supporters of the party and labor-farmer organizations to "fight to the last to expose the malfeasances of the four corrupt parties and to prevent abstention from voting." The Communist organ, declaring that the four political groups were advocating voter emphasis on individual candidates rather than upon political parties, denounced this as "paving the way for fascism which denies political parties." The editorial reiterated that "liberty, peace, and independence of our nation are dependent upon the success or failure of our united popular front" and exhorted members to be worthy of popular support and to fulfill their racial duty.

Miscellaneous

Though pleased with the favorable trend in national savings which exceeded the 30,000,000,000 yen goal for the fiscal year, JIJI SHIMPO saw the need for currency stabilization. That deferred and time deposits constitute approximately 10 percent of the total deposits and the ratio of increased savings to Bank of Japan notes is far below normal is positive proof of the nation's economic instability, the paper observed, adding that fund shortages also indicate excessive demand over supply. Even an increase in bank notes created by an inflationary trend will not help the situation, the daily stated, pointing out that the approaching tight money situation must be surmounted by a sound financial policy.

MAINICHI deplored the dispute between representatives of TOKYO To and the Japan Association for Physical Culture over who should be the host or sponsor for the National Athletic Meet in TOKYO this fall. It is unreasonable for the JAPC to insist that it is the sole athletic governing association while depending upon financial aid from others, the journal said. It hoped that the JAPC would realize its mistake and form a true democratic organization.

Even though the Nationalist Government has decided to move to CANTON, YOMIURI held little hope for peace negotiations. The future moves of the Chinese Communists who now hold the upper hand, will decide the fate of CHINA, the daily stated.

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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER **PRESS ANALYSIS**

NO: 1001 **DATE:** 3 Feb 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Army Secretary ROYALL's first press conference in JAPAN took precedence over all other news in the major papers. Second place generally went to the latest developments in cabinet formation.

POLITICS

Democratic Liberal President YOSHIDA and Democratic President INUKAI are slated to confer again today--a move which may determine the character of the next cabinet. Formation of a coalition which the two leaders reportedly desire will be extremely difficult, however, as opinion is strong in both parties against a two-party government. The Democrats, evenly split over the coalition issue, will hold a general meeting of their Diet members immediately following the Yoshida-Inukai talk. Coalitionists are maneuvering to stave off a showdown vote on the problem in the hope of winning over the Upper House Democrats, many of whom want to stay out of the next cabinet. The anti-Inukai faction is maneuvering to force a party decision regardless of the outcome of the Yoshida-Inukai conference. (a)

DLP officials, meanwhile, are drawing up a tentative slate of cabinet ministers though final choice will be entrusted to YOSHIDA. Selection of the finance minister and chief cabinet secretary are the biggest headaches. (b)

Three Socialist councillors yesterday presented Chairman KATAYAMA with a demand for his resignation as well as those of all the Central Executive Committeemen to take responsibility for the party's disastrous defeat at the polls. The demand represented the opinion of more than 10 Upper House members which met yesterday morning. (a)

Worker-Farmer Party executives agreed yesterday to participate in the Communist-proposed joint front. Merger with the Communists, however, was considered premature at present. (c)

FINANCE

Cabinet deliberations on the budget made no progress at yesterday's meeting of economic ministers. A definite policy is not expected until after the new finance minister is named. (d)

The Foreign Capital Research Society was inaugurated Tuesday under the chairmanship of Bank of Japan President ICHIMADA, the bank revealed yesterday. The new association, sponsored by ICHIMADA, Federation of Economic Organizations President ISHIKAWA Ichiro, and Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry President TAKAHASHI Ryutaro, will study measures pertaining to foreign capital induction. (c)

FOOD

The Agriculture-Forestry Ministry yesterday asked for 1,304,000 Koku of rice in quota-plus deliveries by the end of March. Above-quota deliveries will be sought on a voluntary basis with t ose farmers who comply rewarded with more than double the incentive goods offered for allocated deliveries, the Ministry said. Fertilizer totaling 33,000 tons will also be distributed. (c)

PURGE

The Government asked Tuesday for SCAP approval of establishment of a seven-man Public Officials Rescreening Committee. PORC members will be sworn in as soon as the nod is given by SCAP. (b)

LABOR

The Civil Maritime Commission Employees Union will go on a 48-hour nation-wide strike tomorrow to protest being considered public employees. The union's Tokyo chapter will stage a 24-hour walkout today. (e)

(a) Yomiuri Shimbun
(b) Asahi Shimbun
(c) Nihon Keizai Shimbun
(d) Mainichi Shimbun
(e) Jiji Shimpo

EDITORIALS

Army Secretary ROYALL's visit drew editorial comment from three dailies, while the political situation was discussed by two more. Other topics included IPTC revival, stock market reopening, and STALIN's statement.

Royall Visit

Three papers concurred in attributing more than economic objectives to the Royall visit, believing that the personnel makeup of the Mission indicates a thorough review of JAPAN's position in a Red-dominated FAR EAST. The dailies agreed that ROYALL's survey and subsequent recommendations will have a far-reaching effect on future US policy toward JAPAN. MAINICHI pointed out that the Japanese are eager to implement rehabilitation measures. "The US may be a little dissatisfied with the progress of JAPAN's recovery," the journal commented, suggesting, however, that "recovery has been quicker than expected" considering the sweeping changes underway in the nation. The paper was confident that ROYALL would "assuredly" find reason for an optimistic outlook on JAPAN's economic independence and a basis "to pin hopes on JAPAN as a bulwark against any new form of totalitarianism." HOCHI SHIMBUN declared the Mission is charged with the job of seeing "how fully JAPAN is prepared to react to the nine-point program." Military significance was also attached to the Mission by the paper which noted the simultaneous appearance of Admiral RAMSEY in TOKYO. SEKAI KEIZAI urged the Government to grasp the import of ROYALL's visit and the issues involved "to avoid blundering in the execution of its policies." The time has come when the problem of communism should be considered seriously in JAPAN, the daily asserted.

Parties

ASAHI observed that the Democratic Liberals' absolute majority should be sufficient basis for carrying out policies by themselves. If a coalition with the Democrats is formed without a genuine policy agreement, the result will only be numerical superiority, the daily pointed out. Besides, YOSHIDA's personal obligation to INUKAI must be disregarded since politics is a public matter, the paper stressed.

To fight the destructive policies of the Democratic Liberal Cabinet, a mobilization of the masses was advocated by AKAHATA. Communists have already approached the Socialists and Worker-Farmers to join the fight, the journal stated, emphasizing that "if the Socialist Party rejects our proposal 100 times, we will make a 101st proposal." It noted that internal strife among democratic forces will only strengthen the reactionary bloc and called for full-scale regional mass struggles to attain unification. The Communist Party should be developed into a party with "a membership of 1,000,000 by exerting unselfish efforts to appeal to the masses," it avowed.

Miscellaneous

TOKYO SHIMBUN "insisted" on the continuation of the Illegal Property Transactions Committee but advocated "serious investigations" of committee's management. That it was established is a "concrete expression of the Diet's own interest in cleansing political circles," the daily maintained.

Welcoming the reopening of the stock market, JIJI SHIMPO felt that even though the evils of speculation must be guarded against, the very existence of such a trend contributes to the social and economic functions of the stock market. It remarked that since the stock market exerts considerable supervisory influence over inefficient private enterprises, the reopening of the exchange is an important step toward JAPAN's economic recovery.

YOMIURI flayed government authorities for their inability to cope with the housing shortage, due to their lack of a persistent housing policy. It hoped that the Government, aided by labor-capital co-operation, would formulate positive measures.

TOKYO TIMES mourned the death of Miles VAUGHN as not only a great loss to the US but as an irreparable loss to JAPAN. His meritorious service in trying to create peace and friendship between the US and JAPAN cannot be forgotten the daily said.

As long as RUSSIA's basic policy--bolshevization of the entire world--remains unsettled, peace declarations are hardly significant, NIHON KEIZAI concluded. STALIN's statement is a Russian attempt to propagandize its stand as a peace-loving nation and is aimed at settling unrest in the USSR, preventing the conclusion of the North Atlantic Security Pact, and slowing the progress of US rearmament, the journal surmised.

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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER **PRESS ANALYSIS**

NO: 1000 **DATE:** 2 Feb 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Arrival of the Royall Mission rated top space in the major dailies, though in later ASAHI editions it was crowded out by one-party cabinet speculation. Other papers also played up the single-party cabinet angle.

POLITICS

Premier YOSHIDA should form a single-party cabinet, the Democratic Liberal Party's executive members recommended yesterday. The top party leaders conferred yesterday afternoon with YOSHIDA absent, unanimously deciding to ask the Premier to set up a one-party regime. (a) DLP Chief Secretary HIROKAWA talked with YOSHIDA for over three hours and informed him of the overwhelming sentiment of the party's leaders. Revealing that YOSHIDA, who still favors a coalition, will disclose his intentions at an executive meeting next Monday, HIROKAWA told the press that another Yoshida-Inukai confab was unlikely. (b)

Democrats, meanwhile, agreed yesterday on a policy of co-operation with the DLP though party officials left the decision of participation inside or outside the cabinet with President INUKAI. But Upper House Democrats voted yesterday morning that the party should remain outside the administration. It is believed that if INUKAI insists on joining the cabinet, the Upper House Democrats will bolt the party. (b)

HARA Hyo, Socialist Central Executive Committeeman, will visit Chairman KATAYAMA soon to announce his resignation from the CEC and attempt to persuade KATAYAMA to follow suit. "It is wiser for him to resign now to take responsibility for the past," HARA said yesterday, even though "a party convention will be held soon and will re-elect KATAYAMA unanimously." (b)

ECONOMY

The budget will be limited to 600,000,000,000 yen, acting Finance Minister OYA declared at a press conference yesterday. He asserted that the transactions tax will be abolished and the increase in the exemption point of the earned income tax will be enforced "at all costs," even though it will be exceedingly difficult. (c)

In its compromise income tax revision plan, the Tax System Deliberative Council yesterday advocated a flat 30 percent increase in taxes. The basic exemption rate and deduction rates for dependents and earned incomes will also be hiked a corresponding 30 percent. (c)

The Board of Trade lowered the exchange rate ceiling on export commodities to 450 yen to the dollar effective yesterday. This step affecting nearly 70 industries was taken to hasten the rationalization of industries which will be hardest hit by the establishment of a single exchange rate. (a)

LABOR

About 30 labor representatives of the National Congress of Industrial Unions and independent labor organizations asked Labor Minister MASUDA yesterday to establish a labor regulations revision council with union representatives as its nucleus. The group, members of the All Labor Regulations Policy Committee, also requested that labor law revision bills now under consideration be thoroughly restudied and aired at public hearings. (d)

An agreement to comply with all decisions reached at the recent labor-management conference was made by 24 management representatives yesterday who met under the auspices of the Japan League of Management Organizations. (e)

Japanese labor unions are generally pleased with the WFTU invitation that they join the organization. The National Liaison Council of Labor Unions is already preparing to send delegates to the WFTR convention in June. (c)

(a) Asahi Shimbun
(b) Mainichi Shimbun
(c) Jiji Shimpo
(d) Hochi Shimbun
(e) Tokyo Shimbun

EDITORIALS

Editorial comment was almost evently divided between political and financial matters today while only one paper--DAI ICHI--discussed STALIN's willingness for peace talks with TRUMAN.

Parties

YOSHIDA should respond to the public confidence placed in him "by clarifying his firm attitude to form a single-party cabinet," MAINICHI averred. A coalition with INUKAI would not carry out the mandate of the people, would confuse rather than stabilize politics, and would help ruin the Democratic Party, the daily declared.

Flaying the Democratic Party for its lack of definite principles and "reckless attitude," JIJI SHIMPO bluntly asserted that no other party is as "politically irresponsible as the Democratic Party." On the basis of its past activities, the Democratic Party should not take part in a coalition, the daily asserted. If it does, the paper added, it will be an "unconditional surrender" to the Democratic Liberals and thus a "betrayal of the nation's votes."

TOKYO TIMES termed the Communists presence in the Diet "strange," since they deny democratic politics and intend to establish a government on the framework of Communist ideology. Since the Democratic Liberals and the Communists will wage an "all-out fight" against each other, the daily said the people must be highly critical of both.

NICHI NICHI declared that the secret of politics lies in grasping "the psychology of the people," pointing out that the DLP won because the people were disillusioned by the policies of the other parties while the Communists succeeded because they understood the people's feelings. It criticized the Socialists for not following such a policy and advised them to understand the psychology of the people to rescue JAPAN's politics from extremists.

Finance

Regarding the tax issue as a social problem and a major reason for the great advance of the Communist Party, YOMIURI urged a thoroughgoing retrenchment of government expenditures by the DLP as the "only way" to realize a balanced state budget. "The people's capacity to bear taxes has reached its limit," the daily commented.

TOKYO SHIMBUN believed the Taxation System Deliberation Council's program to revalue assets in order to ease the enterprisers' financial burdens was commendable, but noted that there are still many fundamental and technical defects needing revision.

While the reopening of the stock exchange will help JAPAN's economic reconstruction, NIHON KEIZAI stressed that various problems blocking economic stabilization must be settled as well as reorganizing the stock exchange. It must strive for smooth circulation of capital through sound transactions in stocks and bonds, the paper stated, warning the people to be on guard against unscrupulous stock brokers.

Miscellaneous

Lashing out at the "inhuman exploitation" of government employees, AKAHATA cautioned all workers to take heed and organize themselves to fight the spreading attempts to suppress labor. Though capitalists are screeming for labor-capital co-operation as essential to economic revival, the Communist organ exclaimed, such co-operation is nothing but "labor's unconditional surrender to wholesale dismissals, the pegging of wages, and increased working hours."

Doubting the people's understanding of the reason for the recent review of Supreme Court justices, ASAHI outlined the purpose and significance of the Supreme Court. It remarked that a Supreme Court justice should possess the qualities of a learned lawyer and the makings of a good diplomat to enhance the dignity of the Supreme Court.

DAI ICHI's second editorial hoped that the reported continuation of the Illegal Property Transactions dommittee in the Lower House would be realized. In view of the Democratic Liberals' passive attitude toward reviving the committee, the paper thought that the committee chairman does not necessarily have to be selected from the DLP according to precedent, but felt that the former chairman would be the logical choice.

In a guarded appraisal of the Stalin announcement, DAI ICHI's first editorial observed it is possible the "peace offensive" of the SOVIET UNION may lead to the establishment of world peace. The daily warned against assuming a "thoughtlessly cautious attitude toward STALIN's statement."

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF
ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER **PRESS ANALYSIS**

NO: 999 **DATE:** 1 Feb 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

STALIN's replies to INS captured the lead spot in all the major dailies. Cabinet speculation also rated prominent space, and YOMIURI emphasized a story on budget policy.

POLITICS

Possibilities of a conservative coalition grew stronger yesterday with the selection of pro-Inukai members as directors of the Democratic Party. The new directors will hear President INUKAI report today on his recent conference with Democratic Liberal President YOSHIDA, and a decision on party participation in a coalition is expected. (a) Democratic Liberals, meanwhile, working on the assumption that a single-party cabinet will be formed, are already drawing up the slate of ministers. A portfolio will be left vacant for ONO Bamboku whose trial is now in progress. Keio University lecturer NAGATA Kiyoshi who is not a Diet member is also being strongly considered for a cabinet post. (b) He conferred yesterday with Premier YOSHIDA in OISO, reportedly concerning the selection of finance minister and ESB director-general. (c)

The Socialist Party is looking favorably on the National Congress of Industrial Unions' Democratization League proposal to form a labor front excluding the Communists. A party decision will be made on 9 February. (d) The Communists, disappointed at Socialist refusal to participate in the Red-sponsored labor front, are still asking for Socialist co-operation. (e)

Peoples Co-operatives yesterday decided to pursue a policy of establishing party independence. Their first postelection meeting concluded that an amalgamation with the Social Reform and New Farmers parties would be ineffective against the absolute Democratic Liberal majority in the Diet. (f)

ECONOMY

The Cabinet will meet in a special session today to map its future policy on budget compilation. A 600,000,000,000-yen budget is being planned by the Government, and efforts will be made to trim ministerial expenditures to a level compatible with the over-all budget figure. The Government also hopes that sweeping price changes will be unnecessary, though it contemplates some revisions to compensate for the single exchange rate. (a)

The Agriculture-Forestry Ministry will announce in two or three days the prefectural breakdown of the more than 1,300,000-Koku overquota rice deliveries it is demanding. They are to be completed by 1 April with quota plus deliveries rewarded with 2.5 times the amount of incentive goods given for ordinary deliveries. (g)

Exports for October topped imports in yen value for the first time since the war, the Board of Trade revealed yesterday. The UNITED STATES headed the list in both imports and exports. (c)

INVESTIGATIONS

DLP Chief Secretary HIROKAWA told reporters yesterday that his party still intended to abolish the Lower House Illegal Property Transactions Committee, maintaining that "its activities can well be taken over by the judiciary." (h) But Transportation Minister OZAWA said yesterday that since HIROKAWA believes the IPTC is necessary to purify politics, "the committee will be revived as soon as the Diet session opens." (a)

At the Shigemasa-Ono trial yesterday, ONO declared the 200,000 yen received from SHIGEMASA was not used to hush up the Showa Denko scandal, adding that he was "too proud to be bought off by such a small sum." (b)

(a) Yomiuri Shimbun
(b) Mainichi Shimbun
(c) Nihon Keizai Shimbun
(d) Asahi Shimbun
(e) Akahata
(f) Dai Ichi Shimbun
(g) Tokyo Shimbun
(h) Hochi Shimbun

EDITORIALS

Army Secretary ROYALL's scheduled visit to JAPAN today drew comment from two dailies, while other papers discussed the Democratic Liberal Party, revaluation of fixed assets, and the Horyu Temple fire.

Royall Visit

Conjecturing on the significance of the Royall Mission to JAPAN, ASAHI saw two lines of action the group will take. An "on-the-spot examination of the policy for stabilizing Japanese economy under the nine principles, centering around the establishment of a single exchange rate," is indicated by the inclusion of Joseph DODGE in the mission, the daily felt. The presence of Gen WEDEMEYER, Far Eastern affairs expert, on the other hand, presumes an "examination of new conditions caused by the Communist advance in CHINA" and a discussion with Gen MacARTHUR of the possibilities of strengthening JAPAN as an anti-Communist base in the FAR EAST," the journal added. Whatever the conclusion the Royall Mission reaches, according to the paper, the goal toward which JAPAN must move is "to establish a peaceful democratic state on an unshakable basis." Pointing to the difference between currency and wage conditions in GERMANY and JAPAN, the daily hoped that DODGE would consider these differences "squarely in the light of his experience."

TOKYO SHIMBUN tied in Secretary ROYALL's visit with a strong denunciation of the Communists. "The rehabilitation, independence, and peace of JAPAN, materially and spiritually, cannot be accomplished without dependence on US aid," the journal stressed, severely criticizing the Communists for "exerting strong efforts against the rehabilitation of the country." Although the Communists cry loudly for racial independence in their opposition to US aid, it is they who negate racial independence, the daily pointed out. "World control by a single party is impossible when the races of the world are entitled to independence," it exclaimed. Cautioning against being "charmed by the honeyed words of the Communists who are utterly lacking in scruples," the paper said that the people must "march courageously on the road to national rehabilitation in line with democracy and US aid." Because the observations Secretary ROYALL may make are likely to influence future US help to JAPAN, the daily urged the people to reflect deeply on the situation in the country as he will see it.

Democratic Liberal Party

YOMIURI warned the Democratic Liberal Party that if future politics continue to be dominated by "indeterminate and vacillating tendencies," it will fall to the status of a third or fourth-rate party in the next election. Cabinets in the past have wasted their time because of the people's indifference to politics following JAPAN's defeat and the absence of political stability, the journal stated, pointing out that with the nation's economic rehabilitation at stake, a strong administration to "unify and organize individual efforts for this recovery" is necessary. Now that the Democratic Liberals are entrusted with this task, they must be cognizant of their responsibility, the journal emphasized, telling the people to keep careful watch over the party's activities.

Economy

In a comprehensive analysis of the proposed reappraisal of business assets, JIJI SHIMPO advised against too-hasty action, "in consideration of the current economic situation." The daily feared many complicated problems would arise if the revaluation of company property is carried out now "before the economic situation has been restored to a semblance of normalcy and social conditions have been somewhat stabilized." It advocated restriction of property revaluation to the necessary minimum sufficient to cover losses, renovation of the tax system to consider depreciation fully, and postponement of over-all revaluation to some future date.

Horyu Temple Fire

The people's indifference to the fire which destroyed the treasured wall paintings at the Horyu Temple was questioned by MAINICHI. Though it is a matter concerning cultural feelings, the paper said, it should become a political issue. The daily agreed with the politicians that economic stabilization is more important than culture, but it saw no harm in spending a portion of the state budget to preserve valuable art treasures to be handed down to posterity. To give the people national pride and racial confidence, the journal asserted, national treasures should be in the people's possession so that culture can be blended into their daily life.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF
ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

PRESS ANALYSIS

CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

NO: 998 DATE: 31 Jan 49

Tokyo Newspapers Today and Yesterday

The Fine statement on the labor-management conference crowded out Gen MacARTHUR's attack on PANYUSHKIN in all of yesterday's papers but MAINICHI. Today dailies played up the coming MacArthur-Wedemeyer talks, Chinese Communists' demands, and speculation on the next Yoshida Cabinet.

POLITICS

Maneuvering to form the next cabinet is expected to speed up with the return of Premier YOSHIDA from OISO tomorrow. YOSHIDA has been studying the lineup of his next administration, concentrating on the finance, ESB, and attorney general portfolios. Democratic Liberals have already decided to leave appointment of these posts in the hands of the Premier and to have non-Diet members in the next cabinet. Three Upper House members will also get portfolios. Another Yoshida-Inukai conference is expected in the near future as Yoshida is anxious to have the Democrats in the cabinet so that it will control two thirds of the Diet votes. (a)

The Socialist Central Executive Committee yesterday rejected the Communist proposal for a joint struggle "in view of the unfaithful and class actions of the Communist Party." The CEC, however, reaffirmed its policy of fighting reactionary proposals of the conservative bloc both in and out of the Diet. The Socialists will hold a party convention in March to elect new officials and map future party strategy. (a)

After receiving the Socialist rejection, the Communists declared yesterday that the decision was based on the Socialist's "disregard of the wishes of the people and their lack of understanding" and again asked for Socialist co-operation in the joint front. (a) Saturday the National Congress of Industrial Unions petitioned the Socialists, the Communists, and the Worker-Farmers to fight jointly against discharge of workers and for a minimum wage, NPSL revision, and abolition of taxes on the masses. Leaders of the three parties were asked to meet at the NCIU hall on Thursday. (b)

The NCIU's Democratization League, meanwhile, at its Executive Committee meeting over the week end decided to push formation of a labor front excluding the Communists but including the Socialists and the Worker-Farmers. An inaugural meeting will be sponsored by the league on 12 February. (a)

Peoples Co-operatives will hold their first postelection conference today. It is believes that they will foster a merger with the Social Reform and New Farmers parties in order to make a party of 25 or 26 members. (a)

INVESTIGATIONS

Niigata police have arrested about 80 people for Election Law violations involving Democratic Liberal Representative-elect TANAKA Shoji. It is believed that over 5,000,000 yen was spent for bribing voters in NIIGATA during the recent Lower House campaign. Meanwhile, an arrest warrant was issued Saturday in TOKYO for defeated DLP candidate TAKAHASHI Shohachiro who allegedly gave several hundred thousand yen in election bribes. TAKAHASHI has been missing since Friday afternoon. (c) Kanagawa Communists have dropped charges of illegal campaigning against Socialist Chairman KATAYAMA who was defeated in the election. (d)

LABOR-MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Japan League of Management Organizations Director-general SHIKAUCHI pledged full co-operation Saturday with the conclusions of the labor-management conference. NCIU Chairman KAN, however, declared his organization backed labor's views expressed at the meeting. Agreeing that labor-capital harmony is needed, Government Railway Workers Union Chairman KATO predicted trouble if wage stabilization is planned on the present wage base. (c)

(a) Yomiuri Shimbun
(b) Nihon Keizai Shimbun
(c) Mainichi Shimbun
(d) Asahi Shimbun

EDITORIALS

The Labor-Management Conference and the postelection status of major parties dominated week-end editorial columns. Other comments dealt with the purge directive and JAPAN's economic recovery.

Labor-Management Conference

ASAHI yesterday was pleased that labor and management have come to an understanding. The daily hoped that the conference would be continued and expanded and also saw the need for an economic recovery council as "a deliberative body for sincere and effective discussion rather than a "battle-ground for labor-capital conflicts." Yesterday's MAINICHI regarded the conference as "the first step toward the materialization of the nine economic principles." It is gratifying, NIHON KEIZAI stated yesterday, that agreement was reached on some points. It urged labor, management, and the Government "to take the responsibility for translating the agreements into action."

YOMIURI yesterday observed that the labor movement has come to a turning point. It remarked that reconstruction of union activities depends upon eliminating the idea that unions are a medium for struggle, stating that union activities must have common interests with management and labor.

Parties

The Communists' fear of foreign capital induction is a "primitive and naive sentiment," JIJI SHIMPO declared today. So long as Communist propaganda remains synonymous with "capital phobia" or racial exclusiveness, it is not a serious matter, the paper concluded, pointing out that "the majority of the people are wise enough not to be taken in by such childish arguments."

Denouncing the Communist Party for its duplicity, NICHINICHI today described the party election celebration under a picture of LENIN as a "fresh disclosure of its genuine character." The Communists should have celebrated in front of the Hinomaru flag, the journal averred, since one of their major policies is that of racial independence.

Newspaper criticism of Diet activities of the Community Party provoked a charge by AKAHATA yesterday that reactionary parties were "exerting frantic efforts to maintain the Emperor System, thus destroying democracy." Only in a people's republic can a democratic parliament and people's sovereignty be established, the Communist organ avowed.

The Socialists, TOKYO SHIMBUN declared today, must reflect on their disastrous defeat and restore their original character by thoroughly reinvestigating their past. Merging with Communists is impractical, the daily added, pointing out that the Socialists should emphasize pure or rational socialism rather than trying to gain power. In a signed YOMIURI editorial this morning, the writer, noting the wide gap between Democratic Liberals and Communists, saw the need for revival of a sound socialist force. The editorial urged the Socialist Party to become unified in formulating realistic policies instead of relying on formalistic theories.

Today's MAINICHI called foreign press criticism of the Japanese election too severe but stated that many ideas worth serious thought were presented. Admitting that the Japanese have developed a postwar tendency to resort to unscruplulous tactics to achieve their objectives, the paper hoped that foreigners would consider the true nature of the Japanese.

Asking the DLP to "act modestly and cleverly instead of acting through the force of members," ASAHI yesterday outlined three main problems the majority party must solve--administrative readjustment, large-scale tax reform, and adoption of indirect wage control.

Miscellaneous

Approval of the rebirth of the purge appeal committee was voiced by JIJI SHIMPO yesterday. It appealed for a "fair and most careful" interpretation of the purge directive, deploring its mechanical application as contributing to the shortage of able men in various circles.

NIHON KEIZAI yesterday hoped that Secretary ROYALL's visit would stimulate the Japanese to advance toward the achievement of the nine-point program. Essential points for the promotion of foreign trade were outlined by the paper. Yesterday's edition of TOKYO SHIMBUN asserted the proper way to face the high yen exchange rate issue is to promote management on a normal basis. The daily urged careful examination of pessimistic comments on the exchange rate, noting that the issue is designed to get JAPAN out of the "hothouse" into the "stormy arena of international economy."

DECLASSIFIED - E.O. 11652 - Section 3 (E), NARS Date

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF
ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER **PRESS ANALYSIS**

NO: 997 **DATE:** 29 Jan 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Foreign dispatches crowded out locally originated stories with heavy emphasis going to the approaching Royall visit and the latest developments in CHINA. AKAHATA played up the latest Panyushkin statement.

POLITICS

The political arena was comparatively quiet yesterday as Premier YOSHIDA left for his villa in OISO. Both the Democratic Liberals and the Democrats, however, are trying to adjust divergent views within their respective parties so that they may present united fronts when active cabinet-forming maneuvers begin next week. Democratic Leader TOMABECHI reportedly was won over to the coalition-advocating Inukai faction yesterday as a result of his talk with Secretary-general INAGAKI. The party as a whole now seems to be leaning toward a conservative coalition. (a) But nearly 60 percent of the people want a single-party government, according to a TOKYO SHIMBUN survey conducted yesterday. (b) Democratic Liberal Lower House strength increased to 269 yesterday when TAKAHASHI Gonroku, independent from FUKUOKA Ken, joined the party. (a)

A five-man Communist delegation headed by ITO Ritsu asked the Socialist Party to participate in a joint struggle with the Communist Party. In a visit to Socialist Headquarters, the Communists presented a 13-point program to which Socialist representatives replied that they would study the proposal at their Central Executive Committee meeting today. Following the conference, Socialist Secretary-general ASANUMA declared that while the Socialists agree with the 13 points, it would be difficult to co-operate with the Communists on fundamental policies. After the talk with the Socialists the Communists called on Worker-Farmers and presented the same 13-points in addition to a proposal for a merger of the two parties. (c)

ECONOMY

Discussion on the 1949-50 budget was begun at yesterday's cabinet session in the hope that the basic budget policies will be decided by the time the Cabinet resigns on 11 February. (d) Chief Cabinet Secretary SATO told reporters after the session that the transactions tax would be abolished during the next fiscal year since it has been promised by the Democratic Liberal Party. Abolition during the current fiscal year would be extremely difficult, he added. (a)

Authorities of the Commerce-Industry Ministry decided yesterday to launch preparations to liquidate the Public Oil Distribution Corporation by 31 March. Oil distribution will be handled by a ration ticket system after the corporation as been disbanded. (b)

A unanimous agreement was reached at yesterday's session of the Tax Deliberation Council that revaluation of fixed capital of enterprises should be carried out to meet the need for capital accumulation. (b)

INVESTIGATIONS

Democratic Liberal Representative-elect ONO Bamboku yesterday denied being bribed to hush up the Showa Denko scandal by ex-Agriculture-Forestry Vice Minister SHIGEMASA Seishi though he admitted receiving 200,000 yen from SHIGEMASA. ONO's trial opened yesterday. (e)

Another DLP Diet member, TANAKA Shoji suspected of illegal campaigning, surrendered to Niigata police yesterday after being hunted since 22 January. The Tottori District Court issued an arrest warrant for DLP Representative KADOWAKI Katsutaro Thursday for Election Law violations. (a)

(a) Yomiuri Shimbun
(b) Tokyo Shimbun
(c) Mainichi Shimbun
(d) Hoehi Shimbun
(e) Jiji Shimpo

EDITORIALS

Maj Gen MARQUAT's order to the labor-management conference to increase production prompted editorial comment from four dailies, while the election results were further analyzed by the other papers.

Labor-Management Conference

Discussing the recent SCAP-sponsored labor-management conference where Maj Gen MARQUAT called upon "the Japanese to recognize the actualities now facing JAPAN," SEKAI KEIZAI declared that the people must accept the principle of "production first" in order to achieve JAPAN's rehabilitation. It added that industrial peace can be established if labor and management get rid of class opposition and if they become conscious of mutual responsibilities and common aims. However, labor and management must be put on a scientific and rational basis to wipe out their constant disputes and bring about fair distribution of profits, the daily asserted.

NIHON KEIZAI, in a similar comment, remarked that as long as labor and management are opposed to each other, a boost in output can never be attained even if the present monetary stringency and material shortages are improved. While production can be hiked by intensifying labor, the journal said, it is impractical if used excessively or at the sacrifice of the working people. If labor and management refuse to co-operate on their own endeavor, strong measures to secure their co-operation are necessary, the paper believed.

JIJI SHIMPO agreed that "only through increased production can capital and productive facilities be combined, profits gained, and workers given the right to ask for more wages." The paper urged labor and management to unite on their own effort instead of waiting for SCAP to intervene.

TOKYO SHIMBUN was sure labor-capital co-operation would be promoted. Commenting on the failure of the Economic Rehabilitation Council due to interference from radical elements, the paper stated that labor and management cannot co-operate as long as they are "ideologically split." The journal hoped that both groups would revive the ERC in order to help reconstruct the nation's economy.

Election

Although MAINICHI concluded that the public management of elections should be intensified, it considered that the recent election procedure "was certainly a failure" since it placed emphasis on the imposition of restrictions. The daily suggested changes in the election policy, including less restrictions on campaign speeches and literature, an increased allowance of posters, and a higher campaign expense sum.

ASAHI concurred in approving public management of elections. It attributed the prevalence of vote buying to the severe campaign restrictions and advocated the removal of unnatural and unnecessary hindrances to electioneering. Deploring especially the prohibition of recommendation by third persons, the journal held that this "results in the suppression of voluntary election campaign on the part of the people."

In a review of the Socialist Party situation, YOMIURI foresaw two paths that the Socialists might take to regain their former position. The first, according to the daily, would be to remain as a class party, based on organized labor and tenant farmer groups, and seeking the support of a large class of workers outside these categories. The second, it added, would be to abandon its "class advocacies" and shift emphasis to the middle class, "centered around smaller entrepreneurs and salary men." In the latter case, the daily pointed out, the party could merge with a part of the Democratic and Peoples Co-operative parties and form a completely new organization.

NICHI NICHI felt the only way for the Socialist Party to rebuild itself would be to criticize its own mistakes and "honestly and faithfully observe its platform." A weak point of the Socialists, the daily thought, was the antagonism between left and right factions which has "paralyzed the activities of the party." It emphasized that the Socialists must unite as "social reformers," irregardless of Communist name-calling.

While acknowledging the absolute majority of the DLP, AKAHATA voiced doubts as to its "real strength," declaring that "fundamentally, reactionary forces are divergent" and stand on "a very frail foundation." In outward appearance, the DLP is united but there is an "undercurrent of divergent selfish motives of individual members," the Communist organ alleged. This, it added, is already leading to misgivings and antagonism toward the party by bureaucrats and capitalists.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
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ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 996 DATE: 28 Jan 49

The PIO release on the management-labor conference attended by Maj Gen MARQUAT filled the lead spot in all the major morning dailies. Gen MacARTHUR's statement on communism in JAPAN and US Secretary of State ACHESON's press conference also received heavy above-fold play, dwarfing local news developments.

POLITICS

Democratic Liberal sentiment is growing for a single-party cabinet even though President YOSHIDA has openly expressed his desire for a conservative coalition if at all possible. The Democrats, meanwhile, are far from united on the problem of co-operating with the Democratic Liberals, but they are expected to make a definite move after Democratic Diet members meet Monday. (a) Democratic Executive Committee Chairman TOMABECHI said yesterday that the Democratic Liberals should form a single-party regime, pointing out that the coalition idea was based on the assumption that the DLP would not win a Diet majority. Voicing his personal opinion, former Democratic President ASHIDA told Secretary-general INAGAKI yesterday that the party should remain in the opposition. (b)

Directors of the Peoples Co-operative Party yesterday reaffirmed their previous policy of co-operativeness. Party Chairman MIKI is expected to convey this attitude to INUKAI and Socialist Chairman KATAYAMA soon. (b) Slated to see KATAYAMA, Socialist Secretary-general ASANUMA, and other party leaders today is a Communist delegation headed by ITO Ritsu which will propose a joint Socialist-Communist front. Little hope is held that the Socialists will accede to the Communist proposal. Their Central Executive Committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow in an emergency session to discuss the Communist overture. (a) On the other hand, the Communists are optimistic over Worker-Farmer participation in the joint front since most of the Worker-Farmers are sympathetic with Communist policies. (c)

Final results from Sunday's review of Supreme Court judges announced yesterday revealed that all the judges received overwhelming votes of public confidence. Only 4.413 percent of the 31,051,735 ballots--115,891 less than those cast in the Lower House election--were noncofidence votes. (d)

BUDGET

Cabinet deliberations on the 1949-50 budget will begin today though discussion will be confined to fundamental principles. (e) Finance Ministry authorities, however, are studying a budget plan totaling 600,000,000,000 yen which would make a hike in railway freight and passenger rates inevitable. (f) Chief Cabinet Secretary SATO said yesterday that the Cabinet would take up the problem of boosted railway rates today. (a)

INVESTIGATIONS

TANAKA Shoji, newly elected Democratic Liberal from NIIGATA Ken suspected of election bribery, left TOKYO last night to surrender to Niigata police. (f) Fukushima police, meanwhile, are investigating defeated Democratic Representative YAMASHITA Harue for illegal campaigning. She is accused of serving sake and distributing name cards at an election speech meeting. (b) The Communist Party filed an election bribery charge Wednesday against DLP Representative-elect MIIKE Makoto. (g)

The Upper House Judicial Affairs Committee heard testimony from two Showa Denko officials yesterday pertaining to funds spent to hush up the scandal. Both admitted money was used to "obtain the understanding" of police, politicians, and newspapermen. (h)

(a) Yomiuri Shimbun
(b) Nihon Keizai Shimbun
(c) Tokyo Nichi Nichi Shimbun
(d) Asahi Shimbun
(e) Tokyo Shimbun
(f) Mainichi Shimbun
(g) Dai Ichi Shimbun
(h) Jiji Shimpo

EDITORIALS

Analysis of the election continued to occupy editorial columns in the major Tokyo dailies. Other topics included the fire in NARA's Horyu Temple and the peace negotiations in CHINA.

Election

While nothing definite was decided in forming the new administration at the Yoshida-Inukai conference, MAINICHI advised the Democratic Party to give full co-operation to the Democratic Liberal Party. Criticizing the Democrats for their attitude of antagonism, the journal pointed out that to co-operate would be "more manly" than to adhere to petty feelings as the result of internal strife that has blinded its leaders. It told the Democrats to disregard middle-of-the-roadism and exert efforts to establish a responsible administration according to the people's wishes.

ASAHI, commenting on the mistakes of past Diets, voiced a hope that the newly elected Lower House members will "behave in a convincing manner to restore the credit of the Diet and to promote democratic politics." The daily emphasized that parties should adhere to their avowed policies, giving as a fundamental reason for the rejection of the Socialist Party its participation in coalitions and subsequent compromise of party principles in order to stay in power. The paper held that the trend toward the extreme right and left in the Diet was not a matter for "pessimistic interpretation" so long as the struggle between the DLP and Communists is carried out "within the limits of parliamentarianism."

Analysis of the election shows that the Communists received two-thirds of the votes the Socialists lost, HOCHI SHIMBUN observed. It considered this an indication that the working classes have turned from social democracy and have gone a step nearer the leftist camp. The danger of the Communist advance is that it might cause the reactionaries to unite and form an unwelcome, formidable party, the journal interpreted. The Communist claim that their advance means a victory over the conservative-reactionary forces is, numberically speaking, a "ridiculous miscalculation on their part," the daily added.

Noting the DLP's lack of progressiveness, TOKYO SHIMBUN said that this is the reason why Communists, anti-Democratic Liberals and other groups brand the party as conservative and reactionary. The third Yoshida Cabinet will accomplish nothing in such an unstable state, the paper said, asking the DLP to become a strong conservative party. It is the DLP's responsibility to be a representative of a true absolute majority and act as a stabilizing force by utilizing competent personnel to reconstruct JAPAN, the daily concluded.

Pointing to the urgent need for a unified people's front, AKAHATA vigorously appealed to the Socialist Party to join forces with the Communists "in a struggle against the reactionary forces for the interests of the people." The Communist organ advocated that the Socialists, together with all workers and farmer organizations, carry out close joint action, both inside and outside the Diet, with regard to all urgent problems. Since the Socialists co-operated with conservative groups when expedient, there should be no reluctance to side with Communists in order to safeguard the people's livelihood, the daily argued.

NIHON KEIZAI declared that the DLP, like other parties, "pretends to be the only faithful executor of the nine-point economic principles." The paper stressed that execution of the nine points depends upon each party's ability to incorporate them into its own policies instead of entrusting the policies to the bureaucrats. If the DLP follows this line of thought, it may be able to carry out the nine principles and avoid being run by bureaucrats, the journal asserted.

Miscellaneous

Regretting the loss of art treasures caused by the Horyu Temple fire, YOMIURI desired a thorough investigation of the authorities concerned. There can be no excuse for such a tragic incident, the journal felt, adding that the responsibility must be shared by the artists, inspectors, and the Education Minister. It hoped this disaster would bring about a tightening up of official discipline.

Regarding the Chinese situation, JIJI SHIMPO concluded that the Communists will force the Li Government to accept the eight conditions set forth by the MAO Tse-tung regime. So long as the Li Government hesitates to do so, there can be no hope for successful peace negotiations, the daily averred. It believed the removal of the capital to CANTON shows that war advocates are still influential in the Nationalist Government.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF
ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

PREFECTURAL PRESS ANALYSIS

NO:299 DATE: 1 Feb 49

The prefectural press was again featured by a heavy volume of comment on election campaign developments, as writers continued to discuss the reasons for public apathy toward the election. The prevalent opinion was that restrictions upon electioneering imposed by public management of elections were largely responsible for the lack of enthusiasm. Approval of the permission accorded to the Japanese press to support political parties and candidates was expressed by a number of journals. On the economic front, the impending establishment of a single exchange rate spurred writers to demand immediate preparation of counter-measures to deal with the expected confusion in the nation's economic structure. The SCAP directive liberalizing foreign investment procedures was commended, although commentators emphasized the need for improved domestic conditions and increased public effort in order to render foreign capital effective. Editorial comment on the Chinese situation was mostly of a pessimistic nature, with writers fearing that successive Communist victories precluded early settlement of the civil war. Other issues claiming more than ordinary attention were the 48-hour work week for federal employees, which virtually all journals approved, and the proposal to increase Japan's police force, which most papers considered necessary to insure adequate protection for the people.

POLITICS

Disinterest in the general election campaigns continued to be a major source of concern to many prefectural journals. Among reasons said to be responsible for public apathy were failure of parties in the past to fulfill campaign promises and the feeling that as long as Japan was under Occupation rule it made little difference which party assumed political power. However, one of the chief factors contributing to the dearth of enthusiasm, in the opinion of numerous writers, was institution of the public management of election system, which was considered a failure because its restrictions allegedly dulled the interest of the people. Papers also commented favorably on a SCAP official's criticism of the Election Law article prohibiting the press from supporting any party or candidate.

In a representative editorial on the dearth of public interest in the election, a Nagoya journal (a) said that among the many reasons for dearth of enthusiasm was the "lack of faith in politics." The writer thought that two causes led to this general distrust: the feeling of "complete disgust" over disregard by political parties of pledges made during the last general election, and the mistaken concept that since Japan was under the occupation of Allied powers there could be no autonomous politics, and consequently there would be "little difference in administrative policies" regardless of which party won the election. In the first instance, the parties were said to be responsible because "as often revealed," political parties have defeated themselves by stressing "idealistic and impractical policies."

Secondly, the belief that only slight changes in administrative policies could be effected no matter which party assumed political control was mistaken, the writer believed. Although policies must not be incompatible with Occupation principles, it did not necessarily mean that there would be no difference in the policies of the various governments. This was said to be fully evidenced by the fact that the political achievements of the Katayama, Ashida, and Yoshida Cabinets have all differed. Inasmuch as Occupation policies were set to rehabilitate the nation's economy, restrictions should be regarded as having been created by the current pressing situation and not as having been forced on the Japanese by the Allied powers, the journal maintained.

The commentator urged careful examination of party policies, since those that were inconsistent with the existing critical situation will end in failure.

(a) Chubu Keizai (Nagoya, 12 Jan)

In exercising their electoral franchise, the people must abandon erroneous concepts that would deny Japan sound politics; otherwise, the nation's rehabilitation and political independence would be seriously affected.

Public Management of Elections

Since the present public management of elections is a "complete failure," it will be necessary to re-examine the causes of its shortcomings and devise a better system for the next election, according to an Osaka journal (b). The amount of funds appropriated for the campaigns was small, and the various prefectures were unable to conduct elections in the manner desired, declared the editorialist. Although regulations were aimed at reducing the cost of elections and to remove irregularities, the paper said, actually economical elections were not carried out. Clever tactics allegedly were being utilized to circumvent regulations, and it was predicted that election expenditures would cost as much as those of unrestricted elections in the long run. The Election Campaign Special Cases Law means no more than a "well-combined product of the bureaucrats' desire to control and incumbent Diet members' fear of losing their constituency," the writer charged. Despite the hope that new and well-qualified representatives would unseat incapable incumbents, newcomers reportedly were finding it difficult to strengthen their position under the public management system.

Formal public elections with neither sufficient funds nor spirit were inferior to free elections. Although 780,000,000 yen had been appropriated by the government for the election, many prefectures had not yet received their allotment. Hokkaido prefectural officials had to go to Tokyo to demand their share of funds. Limitations on campaign expenditures was deemed proper, but insufficient funds would not succeed in arousing the people's interest. The masses must be stimulated through greater "fanfare and pageantry" (c).

Although recommending an examination of election restrictions, a writer in Nagano (d) did admit that certain regulations -- especially in respect to campaign expenditures -- were necessary. Heavy expenses incurred by candidates were likely to tempt them to succumb to briberies offered by moneyed interests, and therefore it was deemed advisable that a fair amount of public management should be maintained. However, limitations on free electioneering were liable to abet behind-the-scene activities and encourage local bosses to resort to sinister practices, argued the editorialist. The paper also criticized restrictions on billboard advertising and campaigning through the mails. A Gifu writer (e) also censured the rigidity of election regulations, contending that the more strict the rules governing electioneering were, the more would candidates be inclined to break them in fear that their "campaigning was inconclusive." Furthermore, when public management of elections was not carried out smoothly "as was the case in the current election," there was danger that underhanded methods would become more widespread. The commentator also charged that special measures regulating elections were drafted by Diet members who "sought to protect their interests," thereby handicapping new candidates. A Hiroshima journal (f) issued a warning to the effect that in view of the political immaturity of the Japanese, imposing excessive restrictions on electioneering would prove "suicidal" for the nation.

A minority viewpoint regarding the efficiency of the system of public management was presented by a Kanazawa editorialist (g). The writer maintained that the first government-sponsored election in Japan's history was not "disappointing," noting that in Ishikawa Prefecture, at least, "desirable tendencies were manifested in every phase of electioneering." Candidates were said to be showing unprecedented activity in public meetings, radio talks, and outdoor gatherings. The outdoor speech-making method has now become one of the most effective ways of electioneering, according to the writer, who claimed that the "earnest announcement of political viewpoints in public" by various candidates was one of the outstanding characteristics of the current campaign. This, the writer insisted, marked a true democratic election, because in the past "no Japanese politicians revealed their policies before the public." Political

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(b) Osaka Nichinichi (Osaka, 19 Jan)
(c) Muroran Mimpo (Muroran, 16 Jan)
(d) Shinano Mainichi (Nagano, 13 Jan)
(e) Gifu Times (Gifu, 13 Jan)
(f) Chugoku Shimbun (Hiroshima, 17 Jan)
(g) Hokkoku Mainichi (Kanazawa, 7 Jan)

aspirants did not consider themselves as a part of the people, the paper charged, but drew a sharp line between themselves and the electorate. The journal hoped that public management of elections would be enforced more completely in the future so that the "poor people who are on the same footing with the commoners would be able to run as candidates and have a fair chance of success."

Freedom of the Press

The permission granted to newspapers to comment on parties and candidates -- as a result of Major IMBODEN's statement criticizing the provision in the Election Law prohibiting political support by the press -- would contribute greatly to a fair election, according to a Nagoya journal (h). The paper observed that this dispensation would not be agreeable to candidates of ill fame since they would become subject to press attacks. Earlier, the same journal (i) remarked that the Election Law provision was severe and that it was a contradiction to the Japanese Constitution.

At a time when feeling was widespread that the Election Law curtailed the liberty of voters, the statement of IMBODEN "greatly encouraged the people," in the opinion of a Yokohama commentator (j). Voting should be based on the free will of the individual, said the writer, and criticism should not be reduced to mere personal attacks. The paper said that by instituting the existing "irrational" Election Law the Diet members "have committed a political crime." An Okayama editorialist (k) stressed that the electorate could be enlightened only by free criticism and "ruthless disclosure of vice" -- to enable them to know enough of the truth in order to cultivate their sense of political appraisal. Those who fear newspapers and avoid free censure were corrupt bosses and dishonest candidates, declared the writer. The paper said it supported no particular political party, but endeavored to serve the public interest and social justice by enabling the people know "all facts without hesitation."

ECONOMY

Writers expressed concern over the effects the impending establishment of a single exchange rate would have on the nation's economy -- particularly small industries -- and urged that sound counter-measures be speedily evolved to cope with the expected confusion. A journal in Tokushima (l), for example, predicted that with the rate reportedly slated to be fixed in spring export trade would suffer considerably, and might even become impossible. The major problem was to hold down sacrifices which export industries would have to make to a minimum. It was thought that if the rate of 350 yen per dollar was not workable, enterprises would become bankrupt unless drastic cuts were effected in production costs. Makeshift measures to meet the new situation must be ruled out entirely, and serious consideration must be given to rationalization of enterprises from the standpoint of both management and labor.

If a high exchange rate were instituted without any preliminary plans, its reaction would be grave inasmuch as all-out industrial rationalization could not be materialized immediately, according to an Osaka journal (m). Since it was feared that a sudden industrial shake-up would harm banks and large enterprises, the paper suggested that readjustment take place gradually, despite the necessity for speedy rationalization. Remedial measures must be aimed at minimizing radical changes, advised the commentator, who regretted that no definite counter-plans had as yet been evolved. It was premature to think that foreign trade would be easily reopened and national livelihood improved with the settlement of the exchange rate, cautioned a Hiroshima writer (n). The paper also stressed the urgency of instituting sound measures to meet the anticipated crisis, since establishment of the yen rate was expected to affect the entire national economy, including workers and farmers.

If the exchange rate were set high in an attempt to promote efficiency in

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(h) Chukyo Shimbun (Nagoya, 18 Jan)
(i) Chukyo Shimbun (Nagoya, 16 Jan)
(j) Kanagawa Shimbun (Yokohama, 16 Jan)
(k) Yukan Okayama (Okayama, 16 Jan)
(l) Tokushima Shimbun (Tokushima, 17 Jan)
(m) Sangyo Keizai (Osaka, 12 Jan)
(n) Chugoku Shimbun (Hiroshima, 10 Jan)

enterprises and reduce production costs, and thereby increase exports, a fatal blow would be dealt to small businesses (o). Thus, it was advisable to fix a low rate in view of the advantage in rationalizing and stabilizing enterprises and enabling them to maintain their adaptability to unexpected changes. The rate, above all, must be established to meet the requirements of real conditions (p).

The danger to Japan's small enterprises was underlined by a Sendai writer (q), who claimed that institution of a single rate would create a "stabilization panic" and that the sudden participation of Japanese economy in international commerce would affect the price structure. In such an event, the editorialist argued, large industries would be able to tide over the crisis, but small businesses would encounter serious difficulties. Contending that the Zaibatsu assumed control of Japan's economic structure by taking advantage of the straitened circumstances of small industries, the commentator warned that a similar situation would arise if the national economy were left to itself after establishment of the exchange rate. A "monopolistic plutocracy" would replace the old Zaibatsu, and would lead to the bankruptcy of small enterprises and to the unemployment of workers, admonished the writer. Doubting whether the administration had planned any measures to overcome the social crisis that was expected to occur, the paper claimed that the collapse of industries could be avoided if comprehensive steps were taken, such as eliminating obsolete methods of management and low standard of techniques.

Introduction of Foreign Capital

The SCAP directive intended to facilitate foreign investments received widespread support among provincial editorialists. Papers pointed out, however, that the ultimate effectiveness of foreign capital would depend on its proper utilization by Japanese industry, and in this connection called on political and financial leaders to improve economic conditions as much as possible. A Nagoya journal (r) was of the opinion that domestic conditions were not ripe to receive foreign investments because economic stabilization has not yet been realized and the exchange was still unsettled. However, since funds would help to foster conditions favorable to Japan's economic independence, the SCAP directive was said to be highly significant. The writer felt it would arouse the people's will to rehabilitate the nation, and accelerate rationalization of industry to enable it to fit in with the changed situation. Needless to say, if foreign funds were not applied effectively, it "might result in the subjection of Japan to foreign nations as a certain political party contends," the paper cautioned. Inasmuch as the introduction of capital before the peace treaty testifies to an unprecedented generosity on the part of the US and inasmuch as various legal arrangements allegedly have been made by SCAP to prevent foreign investments from becoming void after the signing of the treaty, the economic and financial circles must not "endeavor to betray the good will of the US Government," declared the journal. The commentator felt that the measures to attract foreign capital would contribute tremendously to the economic independence of Japan, since the regulations were impartial to both foreigners and Japanese.

The salutary effect of the introduction of capital was underlined by a Hakodate editorialist (s), who held that under an economy suffering from acute inflation caused by a dearth of materials the inflow of funds -- no matter whether they were invested in government or private enterprises -- would be the only way to check inflationary trends, develop restricted industries, and thereby boost production. The paper cited the growth of mining and other industries -- which was ascribed to the importation of materials and motive power from the US -- as an example of the efficacy of outside aid. Introduction of capital, however, must be matched by concentrated efforts on the part of the Japanese themselves to improve economic conditions, the writer concluded.

Journals in Kagoshima (t) and Okayama (u) believed that the most important issue in Japan's eventual return to international trade was whether the nation

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(o) Kita Nippon (Toyama, 8 Jan)
(p) Nagasaki Nichinichi (Nagasaki, 10 Jan)
(q) Kahoku Shimpo (Sendai, 10 Jan)
(r) Chubu Keizai (Nagoya, 15 Jan)
(s) Hokkaido Shimbun (Hakodate, 17 Jan)
(t) Minami Nippon (Kagoshima, 16 Jan)
(u) Sanyo Okayama (Okayama, 16 Jan)

could attract investments. No effort must be spared, the papers advised, to make the necessary preparations to instill confidence in outsiders. A Nagoya commentator (v), calling for reflection on the part of business leaders for improvement of the economic situation, charged that under the present circumstances -- in which confusion resulted in unbalanced national finance, unsound management, and destitution of workers -- it was "useless to attempt to make foreign capital productive." The crux of attaining stabilization, in the final analysis, said the journal, was the nation's own ability to render available funds effective, and not the abundance of investments. A similar opinion was advanced by an Akita editorialist (w), who underscored the urgency of labor-management cooperation. Sound enterprise management was considered the most vital factor in full utilization of foreign funds, in the opinion of a Moji writer (x). Judging from the systems employed in the US and Britain, said the commentator, Japan's business management was "utterly primitive."

Permitting foreigners to engage in business in Japan through the introduction of capital did not mean it was according them any privileges. Foreign merchants must abide by Japanese laws and regulations, especially those of economic controls. Thus, it is clear that both domestic and foreign capital would be on an equal footing in the eyes of the law, and it is improper to antagonize the inflow of capital in the fear that it would exert a pressure on domestic capital. With the introduction of outside funds, Japan must adopt American methods of management, technique, and labor supervision in order to expedite the development of industries (y).

INTERNATIONAL

The Chinese civil war continued to draw considerable attention in the prefectural editorial columns, with writers contending that successive Communist victories virtually made it impossible for the Nationalists to achieve peace terms on an equal footing. A Hakodate journal (z) was pessimistic over prospects of a peace settlement due to the Communist rejection of the Nationalist truce terms. With the advantage growing daily for the Communists, it was thought that Nationalist generals in various provinces would conclude separate peace agreements with the Communists and thereby "eventually force the Kuomintang into dissolution." The Nationalist position was considered further weakened by the reported announcement of both Britain and the US of a policy of non-interference in the China crisis. This meant that the two countries "no longer appreciated the status and power of CHIANG," in the opinion of the commentator, and thus the civil war, which lost its opportunity of being mediated, had entered the final showdown stage.

Because the position of the National Government was "extremely weak," it was faced with the choice of accepting Communist peace terms or complete defeat. In view of the failure of China to secure aid from the US and of the United Nations' hands-off attitude, and the likelihood that the four big powers -- US, Britain, Russia, and France -- would reject the Nationalist plea for mediation, there was no alternative but for the Nationalists to negotiate directly with the Communists. And in the light of "overwhelming" Communist victories, the Nationalists would have to accept peace on the former's terms (al).

Claiming that the masses' enthusiasm for peace was rising daily, a Nagoya paper (bl) held that now the power to realize peace lay with the people and not with the two opposing factions. With the hostilities in favor of the Communists, it was hardly imaginable that a compromise could be reached on an equal footing, declared the editorialist. As for the eight prerequisites for peace enunciated by the Communists, although they were deemed harsh, it could not be expected that they would assume a conciliatory attitude for a truce and retreat from the principles they had advocated previously. The paper maintained that as long as the Nationalist insisted on demanding the continuation

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(v) Nagoya Times (Nagoya, 18 Jan)
(w) Akita Sakigake (Akita, 15 Jan)
(x) Yukan Shin Kyushu (Moji, 15 Jan)
(y) Kyoto Shimbun (Kyoto, 15 Jan)
(z) Hokkaido Shimbun (Hakodate, 18 Jan)
(al) Nishi Nippon (Fukuoka, 16 Jan)
(bl) Chukyo Shimbun (Nagoya, 17 Jan)

of the Kuomintang as a condition for peace, there was no prospect for a compromise. The writer presumed that for some time there would continue a "delicate situation" with the intermingling of various factors centering around the peace issue. It was predicted that during this period the people's voice would become stronger and exert a considerable influence.

A Kochi paper (c1) thought that both groups would have to reach an agreement sooner or later because "neither was strong enough to defeat the other." But a writer in Sendai (d1) believed that the overtures of peace made by both the Communists and Nationalists were "nothing but political statements" which looked more like "proclamations of war." The journal felt that the US attitude would control the fundamental situation in Asia, but that it would be influenced by the US budget, change in the Secretary of State, and President TRUMAN's new foreign policy. If the Communists eventually gained complete control of China it was predicted that the US anti-communism principle would be subjected to a severe test. The paper thought, however, that in view of the direction of US foreign policy toward Europe the US attitude toward China would not be clarified. Now that the Chinese Communists were going to "rule over half of China," it was questionable whether peace could ever be restored to East Asia, according to a Fukuoka journal (e1). The writer was of the opinion that the weapons of the Japanese armies which the Communists captured "laid the groundwork for the collapse of the Nationalists."

ADMINISTRATION

Journals endorsing the institution of the 48-hour work week for federal employees agreed that it was proper in view of the need for total mobilization of effort to realize the national economic stabilization program. Writers emphasized, however, that increasing the work hours would be meaningless if workers continued to be inefficient and lacked enthusiasm. In similar editorials, papers in Kumamoto (f1), Osaka (g1), Tottori (h1), Gifu (i1), Saga (j1), and Muroran (k1) deplored the reported inefficiency in government offices, and demanded that employees realize their status as public servants whose role in national reconstruction was important. The writers hoped that the longer hours would exert a favorable influence on private enterprises and contribute toward boosting production.

Other journals also stressed the need for raising the efficiency level of federal workers. A writer in Kanazawa (l1), reminded the employees of their position as public servants, and urged that they eradicate the inefficiency resulting from "excessive red tape business," while a Nagoya editorialist (m1) maintained that lengthening work hours would carry no significance if the habits of the workers continued to be marked by "incompetency and indolence."

Federal workers must be willing to reform their "evil working practices" and join in the struggle to attain self-sufficiency, admonished a Gifu journal (n1). Opposition by the government workers' union to the 48-hour week was uncalled for, in the opinion of the writer, because such an attitude was "contrary to the wishes of the masses." It was time that public workers discarded their attitude of superiority and diligently contributed to national reconstruction, concluded the writer. The Saturday half-day does not conform to the current period in Japan's history, according to a Yokohama editorialist (o1), who believed that the additional working hours would be fruitful only if federal employees displayed more enthusiasm. A Nara writer (p1) said that although the increase in work hours "might substantially lower the 6,307-yen wage standard recently won by government workers" they must realize above all their status as servants of the people and be willing to bear "hardships in fulfillment of their responsibilities."

(c1) Kochi Shimbun (Kochi, 9 Jan)
(d1) Kahoku Shimpo (Sendai, 17 Jan)
(e1) Yukan Kyushu (Fukuoka, 12 Jan)
(f1) Kumamoto Nichinichi (Kumamoto, 11 Jan)
(g1) Osaka Shimbun (Osaka, 8 Jan)
(h1) Nipponkai Shimbun (Tottori, 11 Jan)
(i1) Gifu Times (Gifu, 14 Jan)
(j1) Saga Shimbun (Saga, 12 Jan)
(k1) Muroran Mimpo (Muroran, 13 Jan)
(l1) Ishikawa Shimbun (Kanazawa, 12 Jan)
(m1) Chubu Nippon (Nagoya, 12 Jan)
(n1) Gifu Times (Gifu, 10 Jan)
(o1) Kanagawa Shimbun (Yokohama, 9 Jan)
(p1) Nara Nichinichi (Nara, 7 Jan)

POLICE FORCE

Diversified reaction to the proposal to enlarge Japan's police force was noted in the prefectural press. A Kobe journal (q1), for example, did not think it was necessary to expand the force to the proposed 300,000 policemen. Instead, it was considered more urgent to strengthen the existing police body with "suitable training and equipment" to such an extent as to safeguard the public peace of a disarmed nation. The "militaristic characteristic" ascribed to the police was due to the various difficulties growing out of the transitional period following installation of the American police system, resulting in the failure to eliminate completely the remnants of the European type of police force. The commentator emphasized the necessity of improving the treatment for policemen as well as elevating their quality. "Most policemen" were obliged to retire when they reach the mid-forties because of small salaries and the increasing hardships of supporting their families, the writer stated.

Several journals sought to allay fears that augmenting the force would lead to the nation's rearmament. Japan's existing police strength was not sufficient to maintain public peace and security, and thus it was only natural for the US to consider increasing the armed police. Russia's opposition to the proposal was incomprehensible and indicative of "nervousness," inasmuch as the inability of a force of 150,000 to fight Russia with its military might was a "self-evident fact" (r1). The various "misunderstandings and imaginary fears" of foreign nations -- that strengthening police power can only mean rearmament -- were occasioned by over-sensitive precaution. Only thorough democratization of Japan could wipe out such misgivings (q1).

Demands for improvement in the police force were issued by at least two papers. An Akita editorialist (s1) observed that although the force allegedly was reorganized after the end of the war to "protect the freedom and interests" of the people, there was still a great deal of disrespect for the police among the people. As long as public misunderstanding of the new law enforcement system existed, the writer said, it would be impossible to maintain peace and order. The paper demanded that the police manifest their authority by sternly dealing with those who obstruct the performance of their duty. If the police act with confidence and courage based on reason and sound judgment, they would be able to command increased respect and cooperation from the masses. However, while it was imperative for the police to strive to achieve democratization, it was also incumbent on the people to accord more support to the police, concluded the commentator.

(q1) Kobe Shimbun (Kobe, 13 Jan)
(r1) Shin Nippon (Osaka, 5 Jan)
(s1) Akita Sakigake (Akita, 12 Jan)

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF
ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 983 DATE: 13 Jan 48

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Tokyo editors continued to stress economic news. In most major papers today, the top story--a Washington dispatch on the impending new policy on foreign investments--was followed by a local report on some phase of the nation's economy. Only ASAHI disturbed the pattern by leading with the election.

ELECTION

As tonight's deadline for filing candidacy applications neared, persons withdrawing from the Lower House election far outnumbered new registrants. In the past few days 23 candidates quit the race, while the number of new entries dwindled from one or two to none. Less than 1,380 candidates--nearly all of them pre-New Year applicants--are expected to keep campaigning until the 23 January election. (MAINICHI: 1)

The hottest contest is anticipated in TOKYO's First District where 24 candidates are running for six Lower House seats. Of the seven contenders who have any chance of winning, Communist NOZAKA enjoys perhaps the strongest support. Other Communist candidates in the Fifth and Sixth districts have also driven deep wedges into the Democratic Liberal and Socialist positions. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 2)

ECONOMY

Bank of Japan President ICHIMADA said yesterday that management must be ready to sacrifice immediate profits to insure a stabilized economy. Speaking to newsmen on the impending single exchange rate, ICHIMADA emphasized that businessmen cannot expect "reasonable prices" until the economy has been revived through increased production and foreign investments. He declared that by accepting "some unreasonableness" now to avoid a general price rise, businessmen will improve their chances for a favorable dollar-yen exchange rate and thereby speed economic recovery. He also underlined the prime importance of wage control in stabilizing the economy. (NIHON KEIZAI: 6)

Directors of the Economic Stabilization Board geared their allocation program to the nine economic principles yesterday by giving export industries top priority on raw materials. They will seek cabinet approval for their new plan next Tuesday. (KOGYO SHIMBUN: 7)

Enforcement of the single exchange rate will be used by the Trade Board as signal to carry out numerous trade-boosting measures. They include the universal adoption of CIF prices, the establishment of 16 trade offices abroad, and the payment of export bonuses in foreign money. (MAINICHI: 8)

LABOR

Labor Ministry officials conferred with other government representatives yesterday in an effort to adjust conflicting views on the labor law revision draft by next Monday. The conferees are expected to encounter many difficulties before the tentative revisions endorsed by the Labor Ministry last Monday can be whipped into final shape. (NIHON KEIZAI: 11)

Workers opposing the leftward drift of the National Labor Liaison Council will meet in TOKYO on 11 February to organize the All Labor Congress. (YOMIURI: 12)

INVESTIGATIONS

HINOHARA Setsuzo testified from his bedside yesterday that he had been arrested earlier than expected in connection with the Showa Denko affair. The company's former president admitted giving former Agriculture-Forestry Vice Minister SHIGEMASA about 1,700,000 yen to "seek the understanding of the Diet" but denied asking prosecutors to hush up the scandal. Upper House Judicial Affairs committeemen, who heard his testimony, also questioned his mistress at her home yesterday. (YOMIURI: 13)

EDITORIALS

Several papers still favored problems linked with economic stabilization as the basis for their editorials. Other topics included labor, the election, the budget, and education.

Recovery

YOMIURI, commenting on the new five-year economic rehabilitation formula based upon revision of the original economic recovery program, told the people not to consider it as a mere desk plan despite current instability of exports and production. Since the program is considered a target for economic recovery to make Japanese economy self-sustaining, the paper stressed, the Government and the people should change their indifferent attitude and exert all-out co-operative efforts.

NIHON KEIZAI pointed out that conditions of JAPAN's economy must be improved although it will necessitate lowering the people's living standard. Since the extent of foreign aid upon which JAPAN is dependent cannot be predicted in the next five years, the journal asserted, it is impossible to design a workable rehabilitation plan. The paper felt that the new program should be used only as a foundation for economic recovery while waiting developments in domestic and foreign economies and should be based on a practical one-year or half-year plan.

In line with the basic policies laid down by the revised five-year plan and the nine-point program, TOKYO SHIMBUN called for administrative readjustment. It was desired by the paper that the proposed administrative reform council should draw up measures to cut personnel and eliminate unnecessary government agencies. This is an opportunity for the Government to achieve satisfactory results which it has failed to do in the past, the journal concluded.

Labor

Taking cognizance of the many violations by management of Article 11 of the Labor Union Law, SEKAI KEIZAI underlined the need for strengthening the labor committee setup as a means of realizing industrial peace. The daily pictured the Committee's function as that of a labor court. AKAHATA, on the other hand, said the measure giving labor committee equal power of compulsion with a court of justice is another evidence of the Government's aim to make trade unions as weak as possible. The Communist organ urged the defeat of Democratic Liberal candidates in the forthcoming general election as a means of averting further adverse changes in labor legislation. It accused the Democratic Liberals of "conspiring to infringe upon the Constitution by depriving the working classes of democracy and oppressing their trade union movement."

Miscellaneous

The last day for registering candidates in the Lower House election prompted MAINICHI to urge the people to think seriously about the election during the remaining days of the campaign. They should give first consideration to parties and party platforms, the journal asserted, though they must not neglect the individual candidates' qualifications.

DAI ICHI considered Premier YOSHIDA's statement Monday advocating release of purged former town or village heads who have been discriminated against unfairly nothing short of election propaganda. If these people are freed from the purge, the daily predicted, a multitude of reactionary bosses will descend upon towns and villages which are now struggling to become democratized. Regardless of their qualifications, which YOSHIDA praised, their assistance should not be sought under any circumstances, the editorial declared.

While admitting that almost insurmountable objects block speedy budget drafting, JIJI SHIMPO nevertheless charged the Government and the Diet with lack of responsibility for habitually delaying budget compilation. The people must maintain an avid interest in the budget in view of the grave effect it will have on them, the paper said.

Economic, rather than intellectual, qualifications are largely determining the student bodies of JAPAN's universities today, ASAHI pointed out and termed this condition "a great cultural loss and an obstacle to the economic and social reconstruction of JAPAN." The journal called for a drastic boost in government education expenditures and urged the establishment of a system whereby students could study while working.

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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER **PRESS ANALYSIS**

NO: 982 **DATE:** 12 Jan 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Economic news dominated the Tokyo press today. Most lead stories stemmed from the government agreement on the outline of the five-year recovery program. But the foreign capital inducement plan and the nine stabilization principles also drew heavy play. Secondary emphasis went to the election.

ECONOMY

Members of the Foreign Trade and Investments Committee will meet in a few days to consider the formation of a private agency to handle foreign investments. Discussion will center on four specific investment offers which have been under subcommittee study since last fall. Intensified government moves to set up loan-handling facilities were partly touched off by reports that GHQ will soon announce a new policy on foreign capital. (ASAHI: 1) But according to officials in the Economic Stabilization Board and other agencies, the Government has no immediate intention of defining a policy on foreign investment and commerce. (NIHON KEIZAI: 2)

The Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry petitioned occupation authorities to lift restrictions barring foreign investors from recovering their prewar investments. The petition, aimed at stimulating the influx of new foreign capital, sought the removal of loan-deterring clauses in the Antimonopoly Law and the Foreign Exchange Control Law, the quick stabilization of the yen-dollar exchange, and the reinstatement of purgees with experience in handling foreign capital. (NIHON KEIZAI: 3)

The Government, meanwhile, revealed the basic principles of its five-year recovery program. The outline approved by the Economic Recovery Program Committee yesterday premised a temporary decline in the national standard of living. Key emphasis was placed on harnessing the economy to produce 1,600,000,000 dollars worth of exports. (NIHON KEIZAI: 4)

ELECTION

Democratic executive TOMABECHI said in a campaign speech Monday that only a coalition government can effectively stabilize the nation's economy. He stipulated, however, that the Democratic Liberal Party must "change its ways" and the Socialist Party "sever all ties with its left wingers" before a coalition cabinet can work in harmony. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 9)

Though less than two weeks away, the Lower House election stirred little public interest. Candidates continued to speak to poorly attended gatherings. The number of persons filing candidacy applications by tomorrow's deadline is expected to total only 1,380--about 200 less than during the last general election. (MAINICHI: 11)

INVESTIGATIONS

Former Agriculture-Forestry Minister HIRANO's brother, Masukichi, was questioned yesterday in the coal lobby scandal probe. He is suspected of bribing former Lower House Vice Speaker TANAKA. (JIJI SHIMPO: 14)

Showa Denko ex-President HINOHARA and his mistress did not appear before the Upper House Judicial Affairs Committee yesterday due to sickness. At the hearing--to investigate an alleged attempt to hush up the Showa Denko affair--three other witnesses denied offering any bribe-money to prosecutors. (YOMIURI: 15)

PURGE

Premier YOSHIDA told newsmen in KOCHI yesterday that he hopes to establish an appeal board to "correct" injustices arising from the purge. YOSHIDA, campaigning in his home district, pointed out that many persons, such as village chiefs with perhaps a month or two of wartime service, were purged on mere technicalities. He felt that the reinstatement of some purgees would "contribute to the nation's efforts toward economic recovery." (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 16)

EDITORIALS

The single exchange rate provoked comment on three of the leading journals. Other editorial columns took up activities of the Communist Party and the 48-hour week for civil servants.

Exchange Rate

MAINICHI desired immediate effectuation of measures to minimize the number of industries that will collapse after establishment of the single exchange rate. Since the new rate is expected to be fixed at approximately 350 yen, the paper stated, enterprisers wanting to survive should rationalize. Even though the main purpose of the exchange rate is to eliminate the weaker enterprises, a panic should be averted, it added, suggesting that skillfully granting government subsidies paid from import profits and not from the National Treasury would help surmount the threatening panic. A high exchange rate was opposed by NIHON KEIZAI since it would hinder the export trade. If the rate is fixed at 300 yen, the number of Japanese industries that can survive international competition must be considered, the daily asserted, pointing out that even government subsidies would be useless to industries in view of JAPAN's present financial status. The journal stressed that the most practical measures for industrial development must be considered in establishing a single exchange rate.

With the proposed setting of an exchange rate, ASAHI declared that the execution of the nine-point economic stabilization program is vital for Japanese economy. In tackling the main problem, wage stabilization, the journal advised against direct control which will only increase the lackadaisical attitude of enterprisers. Providing them with legal means to prevent wage increases and to eliminate the cause of dispute will only antagonize the workers, the paper said. The co-operation of labor is necessary, it continued, which is possible by combining wage hikes with production boosts through indirect control.

Communists

YOMIURI interpreted the Japanese Communists' brand of racial independence as nothing but an anti-American campaign similar to Red drives in other parts of the world. The Communist Party is striving to impede foreign capital induction by regarding it as a destroyer of national independence, the journal asserted. This theory of racialism was considered by the daily to be far from the SCAP-encouraged racial independence which is a healthy type designed to promote national pride. The people should not be hoodwinked by the Communists' nationalism which is just another tactic to realize class dictatorship, the editorial declared.

Warning Communists against being "intoxicated by favorable public opinion and the enthusiasm of audiences at lecture meetings," AKAHATA told party members to fight even harder to achieve victory in the coming election. Any slackening of efforts now that the Communist-Socialist merger is developing and the masses are turning to the party for leadership is tantamount to campaigning for the enemy, the party mouthpiece emphasized.

Miscellaneous

While DAI ICHI opposed the new 48-hour schedule for government employees in principle because civil service working conditions set the pace for private industry, still it felt that under present circumstances, the Government has no other alternative but to demand longer hours from its personnel. For this reason unions should co-operate, the daily said. However, it pointed out, the Government will be wasting its time by enforcing the new schedule unless it ensures that the employees really work.

TOKYO SHIMBUN voiced approval of the recently launched movement to give young people a pure sex education. Calling it a trend toward the achievement of social order and the establishment of the people's livelihood on a wholesome basis, the paper recommended that similar enlightenment campaigns be developed for politics, government offices, and labor unions.

Concerning the war in CHINA, JIJI SHIMPO belived the agitated moves of Kuomintang Party leaders show signs that the civil war will soon be settled. But the outcome cannot be easily predicted, the daily observed, since behind-the-scene moves for continuation of hostilities are being carried on by jingoists withing the Nationalist Government who anticipate Communist rejection of peace negotiations. An attempt at mediation by the Four Powers seems unlikely, the paper added.

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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER
PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 981 DATE: 11 Jan 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Foreign dispatches continued to receive sharpest emphasis. All major Tokyo papers except NIHON KEIZAI subordinated local developments to US budget and the China war situation. KEIZAI's lead was keyed on the revised financing program--a story generally neglected by the other dailies.

ELECTION

Premier YOSHIDA disclosed yesterday that the Government is contemplating a large-scale clearance of purgees, especially those who served as town and village chiefs during the war. Speaking to newsmen while enroute from OKAYAMA to KOCHI on a campaign tour, the Premier advocated the clearance of purged town and village chiefs "who are capable of contributing to the sound and healthy growth of local government." He added that the Government will also consider the release of some political and economic purgees. In underlining the need for granting "some sort of amnesty" to purged industrial talent, the Premier said, "If and when foreign trade among private traders is boosted, the services of men who enjoy the confidence of foreigners will be required." (MAINICHI: 1)

Elsewhere on the campaign front, interest lagged. Many candidates addressed poorly attended meetings. A debate in one Tokyo district where a close race is expected drew only 50 persons. In another metropolitan district one fourth of the scheduled speeches were canceled. The total number of candidates, meanwhile, started to decrease after reaching 1,381 last Friday. (ASAHI: 3)

LABOR

Labor Ministry officials were believed to have completed the revised drafts of the Labor Union Law and the Labor Relations Adjustment Law yesterday morning. The proposed changes, drawn up in a series of secret meetings since 8 January, include safeguards against illegal acts by employers in Chapter 3 of the LUL. No major revisions are expected in the LRAL. (NIHON KEIZAI: 6)

Investigators dispatched by the Personnel Commission to spot-check work habits found yesterday that most government employees were complying with the new 48-hour week. The inspection, coinciding with the government crackdown on tardiness and loafing by civil service workers, covered the Welfare, Education, Agriculture-Forestry, and Foreign ministries. Nearly all workers except those in the Agriculture-Forestry Ministry were at their desks by 0830 hours. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 7)

ECONOMY

Export industries received top priority in the revised loan system enforced by the Government yesterday. The new financing program, designed to speed rehabilitation, reclassified the favored industries and reduced from four to three the number of priority categories for equipment funds. (NIHON KEIZAI: 9)

Total budget estimates for the 1949-50 fiscal year exceeded 1,000,000,000,000 yen--almost twice the expected revenue. (JIJI SHIMPO: 9)

INVESTIGATIONS

Former Agriculture-Forestry Vice Minister SHIGEMASA Masayuki's trial for violation of the purge ordinance and bribery opened yesterday in the Tokyo District Court. The hearing is being held separately from the Showa Electric Company affair though SHIGEMASA allegedly accepted the bribe from SEC President HINOHARA Setsuzo. (YOMIURI: 10)

Nisshin Textile Company President OYAMA Takanari was denied a writ of habeas corpus yesterday. The Tokyo District Court rejected OYAMA's demand, ruling that he had not been illegally detained since a warrant for his rearrest had been properly issued. (NIHON KEIZAI: 11)

EDITORIALS

The coming election again proved a popular topic for editorial comment, though several papers showed interest in economic recovery. Other issues ranged from labor law revision to the US budget.

Election

While realizing the need for picking competent representatives in the Lower House, YOMIURI nevertheless told voters to first choose a party and then vote for the outstanding candidates in that party since parliamentary politics is based on the party system. The daily asserted that regardless of how desirable an aspirant may be, if he is not aligned with an organized party, especially a large one, his influence will be almost nil in the Diet.

AKAHATA, blaming the "four rotten parties" for the insufferable tax burden imposed on the working people, called upon all laborers to back the Communist drive to defeat the forces of reaction and monopolistic capital. If the people fail to rally around the Communists and permit their defeat, the party organ exclaimed, the masses will suffer persecution and ruthless tax collection immediately following the election.

HOCHI SHIMBUN projected its thinking to the postelection government. The paper demanded that all the political parties refrain from unscrupulous backstage maneuvers to gain power after the election. Instead they should pledge their sincere efforts to settle the political situation openly and to the best interests of the nation, it declared.

Pointing out that the people will be asked to review the Supreme Court judges in the coming election, ASAHI urged the electorate to become familiar with the court's membership, thus enabling a fairer judgment at the polls.

Recovery

KOGYO SHIMBUN emphasized that imports exceed exports in JAPAN's postwar foreign trade. To help eliminate this condition, the paper saw the need for increasing the ratio of exports to imports as well as invisible trade funds which include tourist attraction and marine transportation and insurance. Since many problems confront the realization of these issues, the daily said, an immediate solution should be found to relieve the burden on US taxpayers and to achieve JAPAN self-sufficiency. The fact that JAPAN has been dependent upon the US and other nations for economic support for the past four years was also deplored by NICHI NICHI. Continued assistance cannot last forever, the paper stressed, advising that the Japanese people should begin to exert efforts this year toward self-sufficiency in order to lighten the American taxpayers' load, to enable JAPAN to regain freedom and independence, and to create a sound government. NIHON KEIZAI decried popular apathy toward putting the nation on its feet. Reformation of the people's thinking has not kept pace with the remarkable democratic innovations in the nation, the journal observed, hoping that the nine-point program would jar the people out of their lethargy.

Miscellaneous

Noting that the unthinking actions of the nation's labor movement will be easy prey for the Communists, TOKYO SHIMBUN desired a revision of the labor laws within the necessary scope to curb such irresponsibility. The journal, placing the blame for the labor movement's plight upon the incompetence of political leaders, demanded that administrators tackle the proposed labor law revison firmly without Allied help.

Unless the securities market is stabilized to some extent, JIJI SHIMPO stated, it will hinder the readjustment of capital. The daily warned general investors against dealing in such an unpredictable stock market without seriously considering the degree of speculation involved. This is not only important for their own interests but for the democratization of stock transactions, the paper concluded.

MAINICHI commented that the new budget program laid down by the second Truman Adminstration aims at utilizing American economic power for the benefit of all nations. Whether the US can maintain or increase her economic strength will have considerable effect upon the fate of the world, the daily stated. The only way in which global peace and security can be maintained, the journal asserted, is through the all-out efforts of the US to retain her economic prosperity.

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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 980 DATE: 10 Jan 49

Tokyo Newspapers Today and Yesterday

Foreign dispatches shoved most local news off the front pages of the Tokyo press both yesterday and today. The top story in all the papers yesterday was the nomination of Dean ACHESON to succeed Secretary of State MARSHALL. The major emphasis today was split between the China war mediation and background articles on the general election. Domestic reports, when appearing on page one at all, were usually pegged on campaign speeches or government discussions on labor law revision and the single exchange rate.

LABOR

Labor Minister MASUDA yesterday spiked rumors that the Labor Standards Law will be revised together with the Labor Union Law and the Labor Relations Adjustment Law. "It is my policy not to revise the LSL," he said, "because the enforcement of a 48-hour-week for government employees will make any changes unnecessary." MASUDA added that the revised versions of the other two laws will differ from the Taft-Hartley Law "and consequently will not suppress labor." (MAINICHI: 1 today)

The Labor Legislation Revision Committee proposed Friday that the Premier be empowered to designate as a public utility any enterprise in which strikes would sharply aggravate living difficulties. While granting Premier the authority to make provisional designations, the LLRC did not expand the scope of industries classified as public utilities. Committee members will continue talks on the designation issue and other ambiguous points during most of this week in an effort to complete the revision draft by 17 January. (NIHON KEIZAI: 1 yesterday)

Leaders of the National Congress of Industrial Unions called on all organized workers to start a campaign against the tightening of the labor laws. Details of NCIU's projected struggle program will be worked out at a roundtable conference on 12 January. (YOMIURI: 2 yesterday)

ELECTION

Peoples Co-operative Chairman MIKI said yesterday that the position of his party as the "third force between the conservative and progressive parties" will not change after the general election. Though conceding a sweeping victory to the Democratic Liberals, he stressed that the Peoples Co-operatives would not participate in a Democratic Liberal cabinet. MIKI predicted that his party would increase its Diet seats from 29 to 42. (NIHON KEIZAI: 3 today)

Democratic Liberal headquarters, meanwhile, expelled 75 party members who entered the Diet race without official endorsement. Many candidates, when notified of their expulsion, refused to comply with the decision, claiming excessive headquarters interference with election activities. (YOMIURI: 4 yesterday)

ECONOMY

Little hope is held for a decision on the wage control problem at today's session of the Single Exchange Rate Policy Council. ESB authorities are pressing for direct control, while the Labor Ministry advocates indirect supervision. The problem is the first in a series of issues which must be settled before the council makes its recommendations on the single rate to the Government. (MAINICHI: 5 today)

Bank of Japan note circulation continued to shrink last week, dropping to 339,374,000,000 yen on Friday. City bank loans are also registering a downward trend. (NIHON KEIZAI: 11 yesterday)

Pig iron output in December broke all postwar records with 82,625 tons, 106 percent of the goal. The favorable production figure was attributed to increased labor enthusiasm and the smooth flow of fuel and materials. (NIHON KEIZAI: 6 today)

EDITORIALS

Comments on the approaching election dominated the week-end editorial columns. Two major dailies were concerned with national recovery, while two more praised Gen MARSHALL's accomplishments the past two years.

Election

MAINICHI today was pessimistic over the chances of having an improved Diet after the election since "only the candidates and the people directly concerned are showing an interest." But because "JAPAN's destiny lies in the hands of the people," the daily argued, voters should pick their men carefully and not fail to exercise their balloting privilege and duty.

On the other hand, yesterday's ASAHI decried party leaders in TOKYO for officially designating candidates who are unpopular in their constituencies while discarding those who enjoy the people's confidence. This evil practice must be eliminated, the editorial said, pointing out that the only alternative left now that the authorized slates are already published is for the people to mark their ballots with discrimination.

The general trend among the people to favor aspirants for their personal qualifications rather than their party platforms was frowned upon by JIJI SHIMPO yesterday. While sterling character is essential, the paper declared, still the primary consideration should be given to political views.

Realizing that the Communist-Socialist merger is the quickest way to hasten the downfall of the present ruling class, AKAHATA yesterday prodded each Communist to exhaust every resource in order to inform the masses of the salvation movement, thus paving the way for a party of 1,000,000 members.

Recovery

NIHON KEIZAI favored the stand taken by the Economic Consultative Commission's report--"the US must encourage import and private investment abroad for maintaining moral authority and political guiding power all over the world"--since it will help speed JAPAN's economic reconstruction.

Noting the importance of increasing coal production for JAPAN's economic rehabilitation, yesterday's DAI ICHI stressed the need for considering the quality of coal and the volume of industrial coal consumption.

Before the economic recovery plans for JAPAN can be executed successfully, TOKYO TIMES said yesterday, the population question must be tackled. Population increases must be cut down through birth control, the journal declared. And in conjunction with this measure, it added, domestic food output must be boosted, and Japanese economy must be handled on a planned basis to create more jobs.

Marshall's Resignation

Both YOMIURI and MAINICHI yesterday joined in recounting the achievements of US Secretary of State MARSHALL, and neither predicted a material change in US foreign policy with the appointment of ACHESON as MARSHALL's successor. ACHESON's selection was hailed in both editorials as a development of world-wide importance. Recalling his advocacy of JAPAN as the workshop of ASIA, MAINICHI asserted in addition that the people are more than ever "duty-bound to make further efforts toward rehabilitation and self-support.

Miscellaneous

Yesterday's TOKYO SHIMBUN, sympathizing with the government workers' objections to the 48-hour week, failed to understand the Personnel Commission's decision, especially when the wage level had been fixed. The paper believed that extension of working hours would be absolutely useless if strong measures are not taken to ensure improved efficiency.

The writer of a signed YOMIURI editorial today thought a de facto peace treaty for JAPAN would be the most practical method at present in view of the small chance of a formal peace conference. By this method, the writer said, JAPAN's stabilization and reconstruction will be facilitated if problems confronting foreign trade, reparations, and industry are settled.

TOKYO SHIMBUN today called for a larger scale city planning project for TOKYO to alleviate the crowded living conditions which will be created by the removal of the city entry ban.

Today's ASAHI pointed out that the confusion caused by the war has led to a deplorable lack of clear-cut moral standards to govern the nation's social behavior. The paper felt that this situation must be rectified by instituting a democratic form of self-training in ethics.

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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICE

PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 979 DATE: 8 Jan 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Major news emphasis went to foreign dispatches again this morning. The FEC debate on NPSL revision and stories on international developments and attitudes crowded out items on domestic finance measures, the new labor policy, and the election campaign.

FINANCE

Conferences began yesterday between the Board of Trade and the Economic Stabilization Board to iron out differences in their plans for the single exchange rate. The Board of Trade is advocating a rate of 350 yen, while the ESB argues that it should be fixed at 300 yen without revising the current price structure. (NIHON KEIZAI: 1) ESB authorities believe it will be possible to hold the lid on prices by granting subsidies through pool accounting, even though the rate may be comparatively high. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 2)

The five-year rehabilitation plan which hinged on foreign investment is slated for drastic revision in order to bring it into line with the nine-point economic stabilization program. Reinvestigation of existing policies will begin Tuesday at the meeting of the Economic Rehabilitation Program Committee. (HOCHI SHIMBUN: 3) Formal cabinet approval is expected Tuesday on a revision of the priority order in the financing of industrial funds. Primary consideration will be given to export industries as well as those linked with the production of daily necessities. (YOMIURI: 4) Reaffirming this policy, Finance Minister OYA told the press yesterday that adjustment funds would be supplied to export industries for a fixed period. (YOMIURI: 5)

A 350,000,000,000-yen ceiling on Bank of Japan note issue was voted by the Cabinet yesterday. (JIJI SHIMPO: 6) The meeting also approved a 15,625,000,000-yen public works disbursement program for the January-March quarter. (JIJI SHIMPO: 7) In addition, the Cabinet named 10 members to the newly created Tax System Council--the organ charged with reviewing the present tax structure. (JIJI SHIMPO: 8)

LABOR

Labor Ministry authorities decided yesterday to back an indirect wage control system along with a minimum wage. A low price policy with the goal of holding prices close to their present level will also be actively supported by the Ministry. (JIJI SHIMPO: 9)

Government employees will be permitted either individually or as an organization to negotiate with the authorities concerned on their working conditions or welfare improvement, according to a Personnel Commission ruling published yesterday to become effective today. The privilege, however, does not include the right to bargain collectively with the Government. (NIHON KEIZAI: 10) The Education Ministry has decided that teachers should not be compelled to abide by the 48-hour week in view of their unusual working hours. It is understood the Ministry will ask the Personnel Commission's approval for the teachers to work by the old schedule. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 11)

ELECTION

Registrations of new candidates came to a virtual standstill yesterday since only those previously screened can now apply. With the total reaching 1,379 as of 2000 hours last night, it is believed that the final number will reach about 1,400. (MAINICHI: 13)

The Democratic Liberal Party expelled 80 unauthorized candidates yesterday. Charges will be filed by the party against those expelled who declare themselves as DLP candidates. (NIHON KEIZAI: 14) Premier YOSHIDA said yesterday that when he returns to TOKYO, he plans to study the party's roster of official candidates, and cancel authorization of weak or unqualified aspirants. (NICHI NICHI: 15) Fukushima Democratic Liberals are voicing strong dissatisfaction with the expulsion of five of their candidates, maintaining that it will jeopardize the party's success in the prefecture. (NIHON KEIZAI:16)

EDITORIALS

Labor law revision, the 48-hour week, and election campaign drew the heaviest editorial comment. Other topics included the agricultural economy, rumors of a currency reform, and JAPAN's role in maintaining world peace.

Labor

In its later editions MAINICHI approved the Government's planned labor law revision which, it said, will presumably demand responsible collective bargaining. But the journal wondered if the Government will have the necessary political power to effect this legislation. Bitter attack on the proposal can be expected during the election campaign, the paper observed, asking that labor as well as management recognize the imperative need for revamping the labor code. ASAHI's main editorial felt that unionists, by self-awakening and self-restraint, could have avoided such government measures, pointing out that they must co-operate to revive Japanese economy.

HOCHI SHIMBUN disapproved of the bureaucrats' insistence on half-day Saturdays. The new 48-hour week does not force government personnel to devote themselves to economic reconstruction, the journal stated, advising the Government to formulate effective measures that will be a challenge to its employees.

AKAHATA flayed the Yoshida Cabinet for placing labor committees under its direct control and did not blame labor union members for turning to the Communist Party for unification of the labor front. To prevent the prostitution of labor committees, the capitalist offensive, and the downfall of labor, the Communist organ urged, "Fight reaction with every step!"

Election

TOKYO TIMES considered today's widespread election attitude, which stresses the candidate rather than the party, contrary to logical political development. World history teaches that overemphasis on the individual results in an excessive number of small parties, the jornal warned, declaring that the accent should be placed on the candidates' ability to renovate corrupt parties. In further comment TOKYO SHIMBUN said this candidate-first penchant of the voters might be dangerous for democratic government if it should develop into public denial of political parties as a whole. The journal thought it most important for the people to evaluate the views of both the parties and candidates toward the objectives of the Nine-Point Economic Program. If the voters' attitude is sound, it will eventually bring about sound politics, the daily believed.

It is foolish to evaluate candidates aside from parties, advised the editorial appearing in earlier editions of MAINICHI. In light of the agricultural crisis, the paper called upon the farmers to elect men who will conscientiously represent their interests, thereby disproving the public belief that they vote only according to personal ties or self-centered interests. YOMIURI was indignant to find that men involved in scandals are numbered among the election candidates. "What impudence!" it cried, lamenting that criminal suspects should receive any degree of official sanction. "We want a pure Diet rather than a capable Diet," it concluded, "we want a blunt and honest government rather than a wordy government."

Agriculture

The farmers themselves should raise the status of agrarian economy by improvement of techniques and management, remarked NIHON KEIZAI in discussing the agricultural depression now in progress. They have already been given their own land, the paper added, and must forego any Communist-inspired plans to evade taxes or delivery quotas. The subeditorial in MAINICHI's earlier editions also called attention to the "agricultural panic" on its way, explaining that farmers, in spite of their decreased cash holdings, must temporarily finance the major share of state expenditures.

Miscellaneous

JIJI SHIMPO believed that the rumors of a currency reform should cause no worry since JAPAN has reached the stabilization stage. While certain monetary measures will be necessary to settle postinflation problems, they will not disrupt the nation at the present time, the daily said.

Citing Gen MacARTHUR's emphasis on democratizing JAPAN into a peace-loving nation, ASAHI's subeditorial declared that the people's dependence upon provisions in the Constitution is an irresponsible attitude. It stressed that the attainment of peace should not be left entirely up to others.

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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 978 **DATE:** 7 Jan 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Foreign dispatches on TRUMAN's message to Congress, investment in JAPAN, and the FAO rated prominent space in major papers. Labor law revision and the 1949 budget were the big domestic stories.

LABOR

The Labor Ministry is speeding revision drafts of the Labor Union Law and the Labor Relations Adjustment Law to define the union responsibilities clearly and hasten realization of the nine-point stabilization program. While denial of the strike right is not planned, it is certain that political and sympathy walkouts will be tabooed. In an effort to settle labor disputes amicably, peace clauses in contracts will be made compulsory to avoid sudden strikes, and grievance machinery will be created, it is understood. (MAINICHI: 1) The new Labor Standards Law, however, is not slated for overhauling at present. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 2)

Labor Minister MASUDA said in KYOTO yesterday that he hoped to freeze wages just as soon as they are equalized in all industries. (MAINICHI: 3) Ministry bureau chiefs decided yesterday to advocate an indirect wage control policy at the ESB conference today. Direct control is premature now, they agreed. (NIHON KEIZAI: 4)

Beginning Monday, government employees not adhering to the new working hours will be docked accordingly, the Personnel Commission has ruled. Civil servants are still observing the old work schedule in many offices. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 5)

FINANCE

The Finance Ministry has begun preparation of the 1949 budget based on the current price-wage structure. Ministerial demands for appropriations are due Monday. However, either a new budget or an adjustment budget will be drafted after the exchange rate is fixed. (NIHON KEIZAI: 6)

Bank of Japan notes in circulation shrank to 347,799,000,000 yen Wednesday, 20,212,000,000 yen less than the 30 December peak. (NIHON KEIZAI:7)

ELECTION

Slackened registrations for the Lower House election have caused observers to predict that the total number of candidates will be less than that for the 1947 election. Only the Democratic Liberals have put up more names than before. (YOMIURI: 11) As of 1930 hours last night, 1370 aspirants had filed applications to run. (MAINICHI: 11)

Democratic President INUKAI declared on his stumping tour in SHIBATA Wednesday that he personally opposed a "meaningless conservative merger" with the Democratic Liberals. Concerning the rumor that NARAHASHI is contemplating a center fusion, he said that the issue would depend upon who could command the support of the party majority. (ASAHI: 12)

The Democratic Liberal Party is expected to publish its official attitude on the 130 unauthorized DLP candidates this afternoon. President YOSHIDA wired the party's chief secretary yesterday, stressing the need for immediate action. (YOMIURI: 13)

Election control managers in the six major cities threatened to resign yesterday if they were not given more election funds. (NICHI NICHI: 14)

PRODUCTION

December coal production hit 3,196,200 tons, the Coal Board announced yesterday. While the per-miner output averaged seven tons--a postwar record --still the monthly output fell below the 3,340,000-ton goal. Colliers will have to dig eight tons a day during the January-March quarter if the 36,000,000-ton goal is to be achieved. (NIHON KEIZAI: 17)

Tohoku and Hokuriku will be ordered shortly by the Agriculture-Forestry Ministry to make quota-plus deliveries to cover this year's 3,360,000-Koku rice deficit this year. (MAINICHI: 18)

EDITORIALS

Four major dailies focused their attention on President TRUMAN's "State of the Union" message to Congress. Other topics ranged from the nine economic principles to Japanese sports.

TRUMAN's Speech

NIHON KEIZAI looked for difficulties in achieving both the domestic and foreign policies set forth in TRUMAN's "State of the Union" message to Congress. Tied up with international problem as US economy now is, the President's return to New Deal concepts for improving the national well-being is certain to have vast significance for the postwar world, according to the paper, which added doubtfully: "Whether theoretically possible or not, the external policies to strengthen national defense and to preserve world peace are apt to conflict with each other in practice, as are the internal policies for maintaining prosperity and checking inflation."

In further analysis of the speech, ASAHI also stressed the world-wide consequences of New Deal policies today in contrast to the strictly domestic importance of the Rooseveltian internal reforms. The daily commended TRUMAN's expressed intention of keeping the pledges he made last fall and his willingness to work for peace on the basis of international co-operation.

YOMIURI was especially interested in the foreign policy aspects of this new year's message, pointing out that US aid to WESTERN Europe must be strengthened by strong military power to give it the "final guarantee." Admitting the logic of AMERICA's supporting the North Atlantic Alliance, the paper awaited future presidential explanation of how the "military vacuum" in ASIA is to be filled.

Also stressing the international implications of TRUMAN's address, TOKYO SHIMBUN summed up the US foreign policy as a "new peace offensive." The journal believed the economic recovery of the Western European nations may well be thwarted unless they are united militarily and backed by US armed forces. If the North Atlantic Pact is concluded, the anticipated organization of SOUTHEAST ASIA will probably be realized, the paper observed.

Miscellaneous

To overcome the present economic crisis caused by the inflationary policies of political leaders and monopolistic capitalists, SEKAI KEIZAI declared, JAPAN's reconstruction depends upon the people's ability to understand and share the burden of fulfilling the nine economic principles. A political force representing the majority of the people must be established during the coming election to realize this program, the daily asserted.

The writer of a signed DAI ICHI editorial warned the people that racial independence, advocated by radical extremists, should not be based on exclusiveness and self-righteousness. In the 19th century radicalism meant an ideal of nondependence upon foreign powers in politics, economy and culture, the writer said, pointing out that the races of today should endeavor to maintain the order and the welfare of world society.

JIJI SHIMPO discussed Russian representative DEREVYANKO's accusation made at the Allied Council for Japan session concerning the reinforcement of the Japanese police force, stating that the Japanese people fear the very thought of rearming JAPAN in preparation for an aggressive war. But it said this does not mean that the present police force is adequate for maintaining law and order. To decrease the crime wave throughout the country, the journal demanded that the Japanese police force be improved by increasing personnel, revising its organization, securing better equipment, and maintaining discipline.

AKAHATA flayed the four corrupt parties' attempt to deceive the farmers to win votes for the coming election. The farmers have been driven to the brink of ruin, the paper declared, stressing that the Communist Party is fighting for the emancipation of the farmers and the rehabilitation of agricultural economy. Joining the party was felt by the paper to be the best method for farmers to eliminate authoritarianism. By enlarging the Communist Party, unification of the farmers' front can be realized, it emphasized.

With sports in JAPAN regaining their prewar level, MAINICHI observed, the Japanese people should acquire the spirit of fair play since sportsmanship contributes toward raising the Japanese cultural standard and can be used as a basis for cleaning up political circles. Believing that international participation in sports events tends to bind the nations closer together, the paper placed great expectations upon JAPAN's athletes and sports.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER **PRESS ANALYSIS**

NO: 989 **DATE:** 20 Jan 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

The China peace negotiations and the coming Royall visit continued to draw top emphasis in the Tokyo press. Major local stories were generally speculative, pivoting primarily on the election chances of the various parties, the composition of the postelection cabinet, and the establishment of the single exchange rate.

ELECTION

Democratic President INUKAI indicated Tuesday that his party will join the Democratic Liberals in a conservative coalition government if the terms are right. The campaigning Democratic leader declared upon arriving in HIROSHIMA that the formation of a conservative cabinet "depends on negotiations to be conducted among the participating parties after the election." While not laying down any specific conditions, INUKAI insisted that the modified capitalism advocated by the Democrats should keynote economic policy for the next 10 years. (a)

INUKAI's remarks, coupled with Democratic Liberal President YOSHIDA's press conference statement on Tuesday, strengthened the probability of a postelection government composed exclusively of conservatives. Indications were that the Democratic Liberals would succeed in forming a right-wing coalition even if they win no more than 180 seats. The only rival movement--a national coaltion drive spearheaded by the Peoples Co-operatives and mid-road Democrats--was not expected to change the political trend. (b)

Democratic Liberal candidates increased their popularity as the race for the 466 Lower House seats entered its final phase. On-the-spot surveys showed that 125 Democratic Liberals were certain to win, while another 135 were given a better than even chance. The Democrats were conceded 58 sure winners and the Socialists, 41. Of the minor parties only the Communists, with 10 probable winners, appeared likely to augment their previous Diet strength. (c)

ECONOMY

The Government has reportedly drafted a plan to revise the existing stock issue system. The proposed revision, aimed at facilitating capital investment and democratizing the security-holding structure, will be submitted to the next Diet for approval and be enforced about August. Adoption of the authorized capital system and other envisaged changes will mark a departure from German commercial concepts that have previously dominated stock issuance procedure. (d)

Bank of Japan President ICHIMADA said yesterday that the Single Exchange Rate Council will not reach a final decision until the end of February--a month later than presently anticipated. He told a press conference that the single exchange rate should be fixed by tempering the desire for a high yen rate with such considerations as its effect on exports. He urged what he termed a "reasonable" exchange rate. Turning to other economic issues, ICHIMADA called for reform of the tax system and for rigid adherence to the ceiling on bank notes. (d)

LOBOR

Three Finance Ministry Employees Union officials were dismissed by the Finance Ministry for arousing ministry employees against the 48-hour week. A fourth official was suspended for 30 days. Finance Vice Minister NODA asserted that it was necessary to "sacrifice them for the sake of discipline." (d)

The Japan Federation of Public Office Workers Unions is preparing to file change against Premier YOSHIDA for violation of election rules. It is alleged that YOSHIDA was guilty of illegal electioneering when he personally delivered instructions to Kochi prefecutral office workers and made a slanderous remark against the Communist Party. (e)

(a) DAI ICHI SHIMBUN
(b) YOMIURI SHIMBUN
(c) MAINICHI SHIMBUN
(d) NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN
(e) AKAHATA

EDITORIAL

Editorial writers were partial to election issues as the basis of their comments again today. However, two journals concentrated on the nine-point economic stabilization program.

Election

"There should be no change in the basic principle that people should vote for parties rather than individuals," ASAHI declared in an editorial calling for the elimination of political corruption "through the instrumentality of the general election." The parliamentary form of government "is liable to be shaken when the relations between parties and individual members become ambiguous," the daily stated. As an aid in evaluating party policies, the editorial strongly urged voters to review each party platform, although it admitted that Japanese political platforms "are usually much too abstract and general to enable the public to understand them thoroughly."

JIJI SHIMPO also saw the need for choosing parties rather than individual candidates. Sympathizing with the burden of the public in trying to sort out the "disorderly and abstract political opinions" of candidates, the daily recommended that voters "pass judgment on the political parties to which candidates belong." If the people realize that elections under parliamentary politics are nothing more than elections of parties, then the choosing of candidates becomes a simple matter, based upon their party affiliation, the journal concluded.

YOMIURI expressed concern over an anticipated 20-50 percent abstention rate in the coming election and declared that "in a democracy abstention is a kind of crime." Pointing out that the outcome of this election is being watched by the entire world, the daily warned that the Japanese might be branded as "incapable of maintaining a democratic form of government" if 40 to 50 percent of the voters do not go to the polls.

Noting that a powerful government is necessary to execute the nine economic principles, to fix an exchange rate, and to introduce foreign capital, MAINICHI told the people to carefully select their party and candidates in the coming election. With the election only three days away, "candidates and political parties will show their true colors," the daily said, warning the people against voting for those who promise anything to gain their ends, do not ing but bow to their constituents and solicit their help, degrade their opponents, and resort to bribery. It was emphasized by the paper that candidates and parties which stick to policies and platforms should be the people's choice.

TOKYO TIMES questioned the right of candidates who are implicated in scandals to run in the coming election. Though the law allows their candidacy, the paper declared, it merely guarantees the prerogatives of the accused and does not affect the people's judgment and morality. The journal hoped that the voters would render their honest judgment upon such candidates to clean up political corruption.

Recovery

Underlining the need for strict adherence to the nine-point economic stabilization program to stimulate JAPAN's industrial recovery, NIHON KEIZAI criticized political parties for attempting to harmonize their conflicting views with the nine points. Instead, the daily asserted, they should be ready to execute the SCAP-recommended pro ram as if it were their own. When national recovery is so urgent, there is no room for rash promises incompatible with the MacArthur proposal, it concluded.

TOKYO SHIMBUN stressed the vital role the Single Exchange Rate Policy Council, the Administrative Structure Reform Council, and the Taxation Council are playing in implementing the economic stabilization program. In view of the important effect of the councils on living conditions, the paper said, public interest in them should be at a high pitch, and the people should watch their activities closely to prevent bureaucrats from taking over.

National Flag

Even though SCAP has given the Japanese people unrestricted permission to display their national flag, NICHI NICHI observed that the national emblem has been rarely seen in public. Citing examples of people using it to wrap black-market goods or to make cushion covers, the paper felt that "people who have lost their loyalty and respect for the national flag are not qualified to be citizens."

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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 988 DATE: 19 Jan 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Secretary of the Army ROYALL's impending visit to JAPAN caught top play in all major Tokyo papers today. Editors generally subordinated local news to foreign dispatches, though several journals featured detailed opinion surveys on the election. Except for the Yoshida interview and a sharply emphasized report on the single exchange rate, domestic newsbreaks remained below the mid-page fold.

ELECTION

Premier YOSHIDA yesterday underlined the need for a conservative coalition. The Democratic Liberal leader, in his first press conference after returning to TOKYO from a prefectural campaign tour, urged the formation of a strong postelection cabinet composed of persons who share the same political view. He added that the development democratic politics also hinged on a similar fusion of the opposition forces. Commenting on his trip to the Kansai, Kyushu, and Shikoku districts, YOSHIDA said he received the impression that the voters endorsed the proposed appeal committee to rectify purge injustices. He reported widespread election interest and believed that it presaged victory for at least 200 Democratic Liberal candidates. (a)

A national survey of pre-election sentiment indicated, however, that the Democratic Liberals cannot win more than half the Lower House seats. Prefectural reports showed that Democratic Liberal candidates, though strong individually, will split the votes for their party in many electoral districts. The Democrats, on the other hand, appeared to be stronger than expected. The Socialist Party stock rose in many constituencies, due primarily to Chairman KATAYAMA's two-week stumping tour. Of the minor parties only the Communists were reported likely to improve their previous Diet strength. (b)

Election supervisors yesterday exempted the press from regulations against criticism of political parties and candidates. In a statement liberalizing the emergency election rules, the National Election Management Commission pointed out that the function of the press is "to report news to the people freely and truthfully" and urged "fair and just criticism" of the contending candidates. (c)

ECONOMY

Officials studying the single exchange rate problem have decided to announce their conclusion before the end of the month. The Single Exchange Rate Establishment Council voted yesterday to fix a new dollar-yen ratio soon after examining specific figures at its sixth meeting next Tuesday. (d)

Directors of the Japan Industrialists Organization yesterday recommended a single exchange rate which would eliminate the need for export subsidies. While no specific figures were mentioned, it was believed that the JIA favored a rate of about 350 to 400 yen to the dollar. (c)

INVESTIGATIONS

Former Agriculture-Forestry Minister SHIGEMASA Masayuki, on trial for purge and economic violations, wept yesterday when questioned by Judge KOBAYASHI of the Tokyo District Court concerning his financial connections with HINOHARA Setsuzo. SHIGEMASA was censured by the judge for giving conflicting testimony on the purpose for which HINOHARA gave him 1,000,000 yen. (c)

The Tokyo District Court also sentenced ex-Transportation Vice Minister INO Shigejiro and six others yesterday to two years' imprisonment for bribery. (a)

(a) TOKYO SHIMBUN
(b) NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN
(c) ASAHI SHIMBUN
(d) YOMIURI SHIMBUN

EDITORIALS

The approaching election drew comment from only two dailies today. Other papers were more concerned with implementation of the economic stabilization program and recent developments in the FAR EAST.

Election

ASAHI deplored the popular apathy toward the "election to replace a House of Representatives notorious for its corrupt practices." While the lack of interest may be attributed to the strict campaign regulations, the journal asserted, still "people of a democratic country should assume a more enthusiastic attitude toward politics." The popular belief that the Diet cannot be purified must be squelched, and voters must turn out en masse at the polls to select worthy candidates, preferably by party, the daily concluded, hoping to see a vast improvement in the next Lower House.

The "great election campaign" was considered by AKAHATA as a boon to a "gigantic, unified labor front." Reporting that labor unionists are joining the Communists in great numbers, "driven by an irresistible force," the paper urged all powerful labor unions to take up the fight against "old-style sectionalism based upon fission and opposition policies," cast off the selfish union-first principle, and work for unification.

Economy

Taking to task the political parties' lack of concrete plans to implement the nine-point economic stabilization program, YOMIURI soundly criticized the "hastily constructed" campaign platforms. The greatest mission of the victorious party, the journal pointed out, will be the "speedy and effective materialization of the nine principles." Therefore, it added, the method by which each party plans to achieve this goal is of utmost importance to the voters. Lack of definite political platforms in this regard is "proof that our parties are not sincere and that they have made no organized effort to study methods of reconstructing JAPAN," the daily charged.

Consideration was given to the problems involved in establishing a single exchange rate by two newspapers. In the event the rate is fixed at about 315 yen, SEKAI KEIZAI proposed a "pool management" for private export enterprises. Such an arrangement, the daily said, would allow all profitable businesses to expand as far as possible and would make unprofitable industries pay through management rationalization. If existing concerns are pooled, the journal argued, export business "will not be liable to decline and can be operated on a profitable basis." TOKYO TIMES foresaw the collapse of "some small-scale unsound enterprises" with the establishment of the single exchange rate. On the other hand, the paper added, "suitable exports will be supported and expanded by means of foreign capital." These enterprises, according to the journal, will become the "backbone of Japanese economy."

Miscellaneous

Postwar stock market fluctuations prompted TOKYO SHIMBUN to advise the Securities Transactions Commission to assume more responsibility for giving necessary guidance to stock brokers. The mission of the brokers in JAPAN is to sell as many shares to the general public as possible to prevent monopolization and raise industrial funds, the paper declared. If it is to eliminate corruption prevalent in the stock market today, the Securities Transactions Commission must exert its authority instead of assuming the attitude of a bystander, the journal concluded.

Due to recent developments in CHINA, INDONESIA, and other parts of the world, MAINICHI observed that the democratic nations are intent upon attaining world peace and stemming communism. Even though JAPAN cannot participate in any of the pacts or conferences, which are being considered by various blocs throughout the world she must pay close attention in order to cope with world developments.

JIJI SHIMPO looked upon MAO, Tse-tung's eight conditions as nothing but demands for unconditional surrender. The paper said that two conditions--land reform and the elimination of bureaucratic capitalists--are acceptable to the Nationalists, but the other six conditions are beyond consideration. Since it is highly improbable that the Communists will accept any Nationalist counter-proposals, the daily held little hope for immediate peace in CHINA.

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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 987 DATE: 18 Jan 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

The China war and the SCAP release on foreign funds dominated the front pages of the Tokyo press today. Spot news on local development received scant emphasis. Domestic stories--when featured at all--were generally based on pre-election surveys.

ELECTION

Democratic President INUKAI yesterday denied having discussed a conservative coalition with Premier YOSHIDA. He asserted that contrary to YOSHIDA's campaign statements, he had never agreed to link his party with the Democratic Liberals. INUKAI emphasized, moreover, that no such move is contemplated. (a)

The National Election Management Commission has decided to exempt the press from the election law provisions barring political attacks on campaigning parties and candidates. It stipulated, however, that newspapers cannot solicit votes for specific candidates. (b)

NEMC Chairman UNNO disclosed that election interest had sharpened in the past few days, especially in the rural areas. But despite the gradual increase in public interest since the year-end holidays, UNNO feared that the abstention rate on 23 January will be greater than in previous general elections. (c)

A cross-sectional survey of 23 Tokyo wards revealed that over 20 percent of the voters did not know the date of the election. About one fourth of the citizens interviewed could not name a single candidate running in their district. Forty percent had never heard the political views of their local candidates. (a)

ECONOMY

The International Finance Committee of the Federation of Economic Organizations yesterday defined the prerequisites for a stabilized dollar-yen exchange. Outlining its basic policy for fixing a single exchange rate, the committee recommended that the Government freeze wages at their present level and revise the "unreasonable prices" of certain key materials. The committee report stressed the importance of holding down domestic prices to avoid a "strained high yen rate." It will be submitted to the Government after formal approval by FEO executives. (a)

Bank of Japan authorities reported that notes in circulation dropped below 330,000,000,000 yen last Friday after a one-day contraction of 1,272,000,000 yen. The sharp decline--the third since the bank reopened on 4 January--reduced the total note issue to 329,977,000,000 yen. (d)

Distribution of incentive goods will be expanded to encourage voluntary over-quota rice deliveries, an Agriculture-Forestry Ministry spokesman announced yesterday. He told a special allocation conference that the Government will assign extra delivery quotas to each prefecture by 25 January. (e)

LABOR

Officials of the Labor Ministry and the Attorney General's Office completed their draft amendments to the contemplated labor law revision yesterday. Negotiations have already begun with quarters concerned on the proposed changes. After a series of public hearings at a later date, the revisions will go to the Diet in late February. (a)

The Private Railway Management Association accepted Central Labor Committee Chairman SUEHIRO's truce proposal for the railway dispute at noon yesterday. The Suehiro plan called for the same July-September wages as in the earlier proposal but calculated October-December wages with regional differentials. (d)

(a) MAINICHI SHIMBUN
(b) JIJI SHIMPO
(c) DAIICHI SHIMBUN
(d) NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN
(e) TOKYO SHIMBUN

EDITORIALS

Editorial comments were split among three major issues: the Lower House election to be held on Sunday, various aspects of the economic stabilization program, and recent developments in SOUTHEAST ASIA.

Election

Hope for an eleventh-hour resurgence of interest in the coming Lower House election was voiced by MAINICHI after sharply cirticizing the apathy of voters up to now. A recent public opinion poll conducted by the newspaper in TOKYO indicated that "the people in general are far more indifferent toward the election than generally anticipated." More encouraging, however, the daily noted, were the reports of capacity audiences at various prefectureal campaign rallies.

"The key to victory in the general election lies in the final spurt to the finish line," AKAHATA declared in an exhortation to party members and sympathizers to "utilize every effective and suitable fighting tactic to the very last second." A three-point program to solidify the Communist front against the "monopolistic capitalists" was outlined by the party organ which asked particularly for unified action with the Worker-Farmer Party.

Revision of the Election Law into a public-managed system has ended in failure, YOMIURI concluded in a review of the reasons for wide-spread indifference to the approaching election. Designed to cut the expense of the election, the revision has only managed to "adversely affect popular enthusiasm" for it, the daily pointed out. Despite all the defects of the existing system, however, the voter should "make the most of this opportunity to exercise his sovereign right," the journal recommended.

Economic Recovery

A signed KOGYO SHIMBUN comment saw the need for JAPAN to participate in international commerce again if she is to be economically independent. But, the writer said, efforts to this end have appeared to be more vote-getting expedients than action designed to hasten economic recovery. While appreciating the Yoshida Cabinet's moves to carry out the nine-point economic stabilization program, the editorial nevertheless pinned the major responsibility for its success on the people's willingness to lead austere lives.

NIHON KEIZAI in its prefectural edition decried the tendency in the past to consider supplementary budgets inevitable and pointed out that they cannot be tolerated this year in view of the nine-point program. For JAPAN to whip inflation, the daily asserted, strong but realistic measures must be taken by the next cabinet. Never has JAPAN needed powerful financial policies more than she does now, it concluded.

Observing the reluctance of US private investors to sink money in foreign countries because of the instability of other nations, SHIN YUKAN believed that world economy will collapse if Americans fail to invest abroad. It is incumbent on the Japanese to stress to the US investors the necessity of US capital induction for JAPAN's economic reocvery, the journal declared.

Southeast Asia

ASAHI, noting that the Western European democracies are advocating an anti-Communist joint defense system for SOUTHEAST ASIA, thought that materialization of the plan depends upon the US attitude. While the US is busy completing the North Altantic Defense Alliance, she may be forced to take immediate action in the Far East in view of recent developments in CHINA and INDONESIA, it added. The daily also remarked that the actions of BRITAIN and FRANCE will bear watching since they will exert considerable influence upon the future situation in the ORIENT. Even though the US has adopted a Europe-first policy, JIJI SHIMPO felt that the Communist infiltration in CHINA and the critical situation in INDONESIA will necessitate a Pacific defense pact based on national consciousness and US participation. TOKYO SHIMBUN emphasized that such a pact is inevitable for restraining Communist domination and for various economic reasons. The conclusion of this pact will be vital to JAPAN, the daily stated, urging the people to be on the lookout for any favorable developments comparable to the conclusion of a peace treaty. NIHON KEIZAI's city edition observed that the Communist forces have been halted in EUPOPE but they are now exerting their influence in EAST AISA as shown by the situations in CHINA, INDONESIA, INDIA, and BURMA. The journal warned JAPAN against becoming entangled in any Communist movement to dominate the world.

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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

PRESS ANALYSIS

JAN 27 1949

NO: 986 **DATE:** 17 Jan 49

Tokyo Newspapers Today and Yesterday

Japan news generally lost the week-end play to foreign dispatches on the China situation and the suggested Pacific alliance. Of the major papers only YOMIURI and NIHON KEIZAI led with local stories. YOMIURI featured a forum on taxes yesterday and an election preview today. Both KEIZAI leads were pegged on the Government's tightened loan policy.

ELECTION

Election supervisors yesterday favored the promulgation of a cabinet decree to exempt newspapers from special rulings against criticizing political candidates and parties. The National Election Control Committee, acting on the recommendation of Maj IMBODEN, will liberalize the special Rulings on Election to allow free criticism by newspapers published with allocated newsprint. The committee will unmuzzle the press after a final talk with Prosecution Affairs Chief KIUCHI. (MAINICHI:1 today)

Revision of the Election Law and the appointment of a full-time foreign minister were pledged by Premier YOSHIDA yesterday. The Democratic Liberal leader, who returned to TOKYO last night after stumping the provinces, said the present Election Law is "obstructing the rise of new figures" and promised its revision if his party forms the next cabinet. He advocated a small constituency system, asserting that this would help develop two major parties--one conservative and the other progressive. He added that the reinstatement of purgee KAWAKAMI Jotaro to replace Socialist Chairman KATAYAMA would speed the formation of a two-party system. In his remarks on the foreign minister appointment YOSHIDA indicated that former Foreign Vice Minister OKAZAKI will probably get the post. (YOMIURI: 2 today)

Pre-election surveys of the 117 electoral districts showed that the Democratic Liberals will take the most seats in the Lower House. The Democrats and Socialists raced for second place, with the Democrats slightly favored. Of the minor parties only the Communists appeared likely to improve their position. (ASAHI: 4 today)

ECONOMY

Bank of Japan loans will be granted only to the Central Agricultural Bank during the January-March quarter. This new Bank of Japan loan policy is designed to contract the note issue in harmony with the nine-point economic stabilization program. Emphasis will be shifted from government to private financing in the hope that the note issue can be kept within the 350,000,000,000-yen limit during the year. (NIHON KEIZAI: 6 today) In its program to decrease currency in circulation the Finance Ministry has decided to eliminate dependence of private banks on the Bank of Japan and to set 500,000,000,000 yen as the goal for national savings during the fiscal year. It also planned to hold down interest rates. (NIHON KEIZAI: 1 yesterday)

Special and local committees of the Japan League of Management Organizations have agreed to co-operate in standardizing wages in various industries as a measure to promote wage stabilization. The league will also back a social insurance system for the unemployed. (NIHON KEIZAI: 7 today)

PURGE

Government officials yesterday awaited the return of Premier YOSHIDA to materialize plans for a purge review committee. The proposed committee would reinstate persons who were unjustly purged. While empowered to rectify clearcut cases of unfairness, it would have no authority to make decisions conflicting with the basic purge policy. The committee's composition, the procedure for filing appeals, and other related details were worked out by Justice Minister UEDA. The Government has already started to recruit committee members. (MAINICHI: 9 today)

EDITORIALS

The coming election proved a popular editorial topic over the weekend. Other papers commented on JAPAN's economy, the 48-hour week, human slavery, and recent developments in CHINA.

Election

Even though campaign restrictions "have served to make the election nebulous in the eyes of the people" and the voters are disgusted with many politicians, today's ASAHI declared, the chief cause for popular apathy toward the election lies in the prevailing tendency to regard politics as being of a different world. The daily, stressing the principles of popular sovereignty, urged the electorate to awaken to the importance of selecting their representatives.

YOMIURI's signed editorial this morning emphasized the role of political parties in a democratic government. Calling for a basic reform of Japanese parties, the daily advised them to cast aside their reactionary outlook and irresponsibility, to foster class co-operation instead of class consciousness, and to work together to put the nation on its feet. Parties were condemned by TOKYO SHIMBUN yesterday for running worthless, corrupt candidates. The paper also cautioned them against drifting with the tide; they must clarify their policies prior to the elction and then stick to them afterward, it asserted.

NICHI NICHI yesterday believed that the existing election laws should be reviewed to ensure that they do not trample on the rights of the free press and the people. Agreeing with Maj IMBODEN, CI&E, the journal pointed out that the injustice should be corrected regardless of how the people feel about the Communists or the Socialists, both of whose papers are charged with violating the election ordinance for openly supporting their candidates.

Large-scale unification of youth organizations was advocated by AKAHATA yesterday to prevent the "subjugation of young men to the will of the fascists." The Communist daily labeled youth "the most miserable victim of the reactionary Government's humiliating policy" and noted enthusiastically the growing strength of young people's groups over the country and the possibility of a solid-bloc youth vote.

Viewing pessimistically the coming plebiscite of Supreme Court judges, MAINICHI today described the review of judges as "too big a task for the Japanese to carry out properly at this time." Lack of knowledge about the judges and the difficulty of evaluating their competency for the posts were cited by the daily as the major obstacles to a "satisfactory" popular review.

Economy

In a review of the economic changes to be expected in the near future, YOMIURI yesterday warned management and labor to prepare for a hard adjustment. "The only way to survive is to try to cut down production costs and to manufacture the highest quality of goods possible at the same production costs," the journal emphasized.

Transfer of government railways to private instead of public management to improve efficiency and service may be seriously considered this April, JIJI SHIMPO indicated in yesterday's editorial. The daily observed that the government railways system is still losing money while most private railways are now operating in the black.

Miscellaneous

Concerning the 48-hour week, JIJI SHIMPO today diasgreed with the plan to install time clocks in government bureaus since the amount of work accomplished is not decided by the number of working hours. Mechanical controls are a discredit to government employees, the journal asserted, pointing out that it would be more practical to improve the workers' efficiency.

To cope with the increasing cases of illegal trafficking of human beings and utilization of forced juvenile labor, TOKYO SHIMBUN today saw the need for familiarizing the public with new laws such as the Employment Security, the Labor Standards, and the Juvenile Welfare Laws.

Commenting on MAO Tse-tung's reply to Gen CHIANG Kai-shek's peace offer, both ASAHI and MAINICHI yesterday believed that the Nationalists and the Communists are desirous of a peaceful and unified CHINA. The former journal concluded that MAO's peace conditions signify his willingness to settle the disputes politically through compromise, while the latter felt that even though peace efforts will not be halted by MAO's announcement, a compromise between the two rivals seems impossible.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF
ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 985

DATE: 15 Jan 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

The new SCAP policy on foreign investments and trade took lead play in all major Tokyo papers today. The directive itself and its impact on Japanese leaders pushed nearly all other local news off the top half of most front pages. Only an isolated labor or election story rose above the mid-page fold.

ECONOMY

Government and industrial leaders yesterday welcomed the SCAP move to broaden the scope of business activities and loosen restrictions on foreign investments. Trade Board officials felt that the new directive to the Government would facilitate raw material imports and help the nation become the trade center of the FAR EAST. As a trade stimulant they prepared to simplify export procedures drastically after 1 February. Private industry generally favored the relaxed regulations, but one spokesman urged that steps be taken to prevent recipient companies from becoming mere subsidiaries of foreign firms.(YOMIURI: 1)

Government planners hurried to translate the directive into action. One of their immediate aims was to lift discriminatory regulations against foreign traders and investors. (MAINICHI: 2)

The foreign Trade and Investments Committee, meeting for the first time yesterday, took up one of the four pending contract proposals involving private foreign investments, but reached no decision. Discussion of the remaining cases was either postponed or shelved. (YOMIURI: 3)

ELECTION

Socialist Chairman KATAYAMA predicted yesterday that his party will win more Diet seats in the coming election than it did in the last one. Interviewed in TOKYO between prefectural campaign tours, KATAYAMA declared that his chief rivals--the Democratic Liberals--will have difficulty in getting more than 200 seats. The Communists, he added, will send less than 10 representatives to the new Diet. Though refusing to comment specifically on the postelection cabinet, KATAYAMA made it clear that he would oppose a conservative regime. (NIHON KEIZAI: 4)

Most persons trying to guess the outcome of the election gave the Democratic Liberals a two-to-one edge over the Socialists. Public response to a newspaper survey indicated that the Democratic Liberals would win 200 seats; the Socialists, 98; and the Democrats, 90. (YOMIURI: 5)

Government authorities screening election candidates announced their first purgee yesterday--an independent running in the Tokyo First District. His disqualification reduced the total number of candidates to 1,367. (ASAHI: 6)

The Tokyo police ruled that SHAKAI SHIMBUN violated election regulations in its recent issue containing a list of Socialist candidates. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 7)

Fifty-one breaches of campaigning rules were reported to the National Rural Police as of yesterday. Eighteen of the 70 persons involved were charged with illegal pamphleteering. The greatest number of violations occurred in the Tokyo area. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 9)

LABOR

Labor unions will be operated more democratically and grievance machinery expanded, according to the revision draft of the Labor Union Law and the Labor Relations Adjustment Law completed Thursday. The proposed revision does not deny the right to organize or bargain collectively. Government officials will confer with GHQ on the draft beginning tomorrow. (NICHI NICHI: 10)

The Welfare Ministry Employees Union issued a statement yesterday strongly attacking the 48-hour week. (ASAHI: 11) The Newsprint Allocation Board, meanwhile, dismissed its union chairman TAKAHATA Taira for persuading board personnel not to observe the new working hours. (NIHON KEIZAI: 12)

EDITORIALS

SCAP's directive permitting limited foreign investments was greeted by several favorable editorial comments, while the election campaign and Adult Day were discussed by other dailies.

Foreign Investment

Major journals were unanimous in acclaiming the SCAP directive easing restrictions on foreign investment. ASAHI, however, questioned whether the setup for capital introduction has been fully arranged. Pointing to the need for revision of the Antimonopoly Law, mitigation of the overburdening corporation tax, lifting of discriminatory legislation against foreign enterprises, correction of unnecessary controls, protection of patent and other rights, and liquidation of outstanding foreign debts, the daily urged immediate government action. Particular emphasis should be given the reappraisal of fixed capital--a problem so urgent, in the journal's opinion, that failure to meet it "will surely be branded as negligence."

While calling the directive "an epochal event," YOMIURI cautioned, "we cannot anticipate that a great deal of private capital will flow in from abroad immediately." A prerequisite to the successful introduction of foreign investment will be the elimination of unstable elements in Japanese economy, the journal concluded. Late editions of NIHON KEIZAI agreed that while the latest SCAP order is "good news," still it does not mean a rapid influx of foreign capital. First, the editorial said, several laws must be revised and industries must be rationalized. To those overpessimistic about foreign investments, the journal pointed out that economic recovery necessitates rationalization with its attendant unemployment whether help comes from the outside or not; to those overoptimistic, it warned that capital induction is not a cure-all. Opposition to foreign capital on the grounds that JAPAN will become a slave to outsiders was labeled political propaganda by the daily. JIJI SHIMPO also minimized the "fear of colonization," saying that the new directive offers a stimulus to JAPAN, for it is not a benevolent aid which breeds dependence on others but rather introduces competition to Japanese concerns and the "participation of stern supervisors."

Recognizing the indispensability of foreign investment in JAPAN, MAINICHI hoped that the nation's businessmen would take advantage of the opportunity to engage in fair competition with outsiders. SEKAI KEIZAI, "very gratified" with the relaxed regulations, saw that the Japanese Government will be forced to shoulder a heavier burden since its independence will be more fully recognized. TOKYO SHIMBUN likewise forecast rough sledding for the nation even though the way has been paved for the investment of foreign funds. No stone should be left unturned to promote the export trade, the journal declared.

Election

NIHON KEIZAI's early editions called for reform of the present methods of public-managed elections, advocating joint campaign meetings sponsored by the people to give the voters an opportunity to survey the political positions of the numerous candidates. The people must show more enthusiasm and understand the significance of the system of public-managed elections if they expect sound development of politics, the paper said.

YOMIURI's second comment stressed six points to prevent political corruption, advising the people to follow these rules when voting in the coming election for Lower House members.

Economic recovery policies of the "four rotten parties and monopolistic capital" are merely plans to destroy national economy and garner as many votes as possible, AKAHATA declared. Taking advantage of the people's desire for recovery, it emphasized, will drive the masses into bankruptcy and poverty. A Communist Party victory in the general election is the best method of eliminating the four corrupt parties and facilitating economic recovery, the daily concluded.

Adult Day

ASAHI's subeditorial hoped that celebration of Adult Day would not be controlled or standardized by the Government. It should be a movement to awaken young people's public consciousness and national responsibility, to improve their physical condition through sports programs, and to raise their level of discipline, purity, and culture.

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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICE

PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 984

DATE: 14 Jan 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

The Draper statement captured the lead spot in all the major papers except JIJI SHIMPO which carried a story on government preparations for foreign capital induction. Election stories were also heavily played.

ELECTION

A total of 1,369 candidates--198 less than the number of aspirants in April 1947--registered for the Lower House election before the deadline yesterday. The Democratic-Liberal Party dominates the field with 384 hopefuls, though it has officially recognized only 327. (ASAHI: 1) Of the remainder there are 212 Democrats, 186 Socialists, 116 Communists, and 63 Peoples Co-operatives. (YOMIURI: 2)

A pre-election survey conducted by ASAHI reveals that new candidates as a whole stand little chance of being elected. (ASAHI: 3) Predicting that the DLP would win a plurality, Democratic President INUKAI hinted in NAGOYA yesterday that his party would join a conservative coalition, though participation would hinge on the policy agreement reached. (NICHI NICHI: 4)

The Government turned thumbs down yesterday on the National Election Control Committee's request for additional election funds. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 5)

ECONOMY

The Government has decided to place the ESB's Foreign Trade and Investment Committee temporarily in charge of foreign investments. The move was made in anticipation of the US announcement tomorrow on its new policy toward foreign investment in JAPAN. Machinery for handling capital induction will be set up by the committee today which is also expected to discuss several specific offers from foreign firms. ESB Director General SUDO, meanwhile, told the press yesterday that immediate government decision on its foreign investment policy is impossible until intraministerial differences are ironed out. (JIJI SHIMPO: 6)

A 250 percent hike in government railway freight rates is anticipated on 1 April when the railways begin operation as a public corporation. The Transportation Ministry is drafting a plan incorporating this change to be presented to the Diet by 20 February. Passenger fares are also slated for a 30 to 50 percent hike. (NICHI NICHI: 7)

INVESTIGATIONS

Ex-Welfare Minister TAKEDA Giichi was arrested yesterday on suspicion of accepting a 1,000,000-yen bribe and aiding in obstructing passage of the state coal control measure. His arrest was sought originally on 24 December but was delayed since he was hospitalized. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 8)

The last two Showa Denko scandal suspects were free on bail with the release late Wednesday of UMEBAYASHI Tokio and AYABE Kentaro, both officials in the Umebayashi Contracting Company. (DAI ICHI: 9)

Metropolitan Police Board officials are currently investigating the SHAKAI SHIMBUN for possible violation of the election law. The Socialist Party official organ is under fire for publishing the party's official list of candidates in its issue yesterday. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 10)

FOOD

The Agriculture-Forestry Ministry estimated yesterday that farmers will be able to deliver 1,670,000 Koku of rice above the assigned quota. It is believed the Ministry will allocate the additional quota to prefectures without lowering their estimate. (ASAHI: 11)

LABOR

The Shipping Control Association Workers Union revealed yesterday its intention to go on an indefinite strike next Thursday if wage demands are not met. The union is asking for its employees' 3,091-yen wage level to be upped to 6,307 yen, the new civil service wage base. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 12)

EDITORIALS

Significane of the Lower House election provoked comment from several major dailies, while other editorial topics included child slavery, new universities, price control, and the Wagner Act.

Election

YOMIURI reminded the people of the general election's significance-- to elect a new House of Representatives, to renovate both parties and the Diet, and to decide between a middle-of-the-road coalition and a conservative single-party cabinet. Blaming the Socialists, Democrats, and Peoples Co-operatives for "retaining rotten ties between each other and simply exploiting their position in the government to further their own private and party interests," the journal stressed that the reappearance of such political corruption must be elimihated through the establishment of responsible politics. The people must exercise their right in the coming election to create a political structure to further JAPAN's economic independence.

NIHON KEIZAI deplored the people's lack of interest and enthusiasm in the coming election, placing such conditions on technical defects in public management of elections and intensified control over campaigning. Despite these measures, the paper declared, "we must make the most of our present experience" for the sound development of democratic elections.

Observing the instability of political parties created by the division of power among the minor parties, JIJI SHIMPO called for the establishment of a strong political force. The daily suggested that the various political parties should be co-ordinated into the Democratic Liberal, Socialist, and Democratic parties, even though there are many opposed to such plans. Choosing the parties most capable of realizing political stabilization is essential, it siad. The people must go to the polls bearing in mind that a powerful political party is necessary to facilitate national reconstruction, the journal concluded.

AKAHATA flayed the National Rural Police Headquarters for confiscating the Akahata extras because they allegedly violated election regulations. Such fascistic actions only hamper democratic procedures and are "designed to suppress with enmity democratic advances of the masses," the Communist organ emphasized. In opposition to fascistic suppressive authority, the journal urged the masses and the Communist Party to conduct elections which are "truly for the people."

Miscellaneous

The importance of stabilizing domestic prices at as low a rate as possible before the single exchange rate is set was emphasized by ASAHI in its first editorial. Criticizing the "reluctance" of the Government to take adequate measurs for the stabilization of retail prices, the daily declared that the authorities concerned should give positive support to the price reduction movement about to be launched by the Federation of Housewives Organizations on an area-by-area basis throughout the nation.

Commenting on the recurrence of child slavery in TOCHIGI Ken, ASAHI's second editorial declared the long-standing custom of selling children will never be eradicated from agricultural communities until living conditions for farmers have been stabilized. This problem is based on economy rather than or morality or education, the daily said. Considering the only solution to lie in good government administration, it suggested, however, that parent education and laws punishing child brokers would be helpful in eliminating this feudalistic practice.

In a review of the problems facing new universities, MAINICHI looked favorably on the wide attention being given the university administrative issue by "learned men" and urged the "people in general" to keep watch on the outcome. Discussing in detail the various plans proposed for the administrative structure, the daily cautioned that the opinions of students and school employees should be respected. Hope that the Diet "will take a sincere attitude toward the problem of an educational budget" was expressed by the journal.

Revival of the Wagner Act in the UNITED STATES will mean recognition of the maturity and self-restraint of her labor unions, observed TOKYO SHIMBUN. The journal predicted that the CIO and AFL, both of which have established an anti-Communist policy, will eventually bolt from the World Federation of Trade Unions. This means that the UNITED STATES is considered able to approach the status of an "ideal society" without undergoing a revolution, the daily commented and added that JAPAN must learn from the US in this respect.

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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 977

DATE: 6 Jan 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Foreign dispatches again shoved domestic stories into the background. Major papers divided above-fold space among yesterday's Allied Council meeting, TRUMAN's speech to Congress, US loans to JAPAN, and the revised reparations policy. The election was still the main local development.

ELECTIONS

The total number of Lower House candidates stood at 1,357 for the second day yesterday. A few more registered but were compensated for by withdrawals. Of the 1,357 aspirants, 855 are running for the first time, 425 were representatives during the last session, and only 77 were formerly in the Diet. (MAINICHI: 1) The number of candidates is more than twice the number of seats in nearly every district with the national average about 2.9 times the 466 to be elected. (HOCHI SHIMBUN: 2)

Democratic Liberal Party headquarters is expected to publish a list today or tomorrow eliminating approximately 100 of its candidates. The DLP is determined to discard all hopefuls who are suspected of any crime. Party headquarters has been extremely busy with candidates eager to be officially recognized or anxious to eliminate their rivals. (DAI ICHI: 2)

In its third announcement of official candidates yesterday, the Peoples Co-operative Party added three new names, boosting the number of authorized contenders to 60. (MAINICHI: 3)

All the 63 persons who had applied for purge screening were cleared yesterday, according to an announcement made by the Premier's Office on the result of the second group of screenings for Lower House candidacy. The application deadline for screening is tomorrow. (MAINICHI: 4)

LABOR

Government workers were still slow in complying with their new working hours yesterday, the fifth day since the 48-hour week was put into effect. In many offices as high as 90 percent of the workers reported to their desks an hour late. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 7) The National Council of Government Employees Unions decided to oppose the revised working hours, maintaining that the eight-hour day actually slashes the 6,300-yen wage base to 5,200 yen. (JIJI SHIMPO: 8)

The Government has set 1 April as the deadline for drafting all bills pertaining to the revision of existing labor laws. In the meantime all current laws will be weighed carefully so that they will conform to Gen MacARTHUR's message which pointed out that certain freedoms must be surrendered temporarily to achieve economic revival. (YOMIURI: 9)

COAL

The 1949 coal production goal, originally 40,000,000 metric tons, is liable to be pushed up to 42,000,000 tons. A strong opinion prevails in government circles that the projected output must be hiked at all costs. Coal Board authorities, however, maintain that any boost in the goal would be incompatible with the nine-point stabilization program since the coal industry would need an unlimited and well-timed supply of funds and materials to mine the 42,000,000 tons. (NIHON KEIZAI: 10)

INVESTIGATIONS

OYAMA Takanari, director of the Nisshin Textile Manufacturing Company, appealed to the Tokyo District Court yesterday for immediate release, claiming that his arrest violated the Human Rights Law. Taken into custody last month for bribery in the coal lobby scandal, OYAMA was held beyond the maximum period without being indicted. However, he was charged with violating economic regulations. His case, the first since enactment of the law, was tried yesterday with the verdict expected on 10 February. (JIJI SHIMPO: 11)

EDITORIALS

Editorial comments were concerned with pre-election campaigns and the nine economic principles. Other topics included the 48-hour week, the farmers' responsibilities, streptomycin, and TOJO's last words.

Parties

ASAHI's main editorial voiced lack of faith in the possible achievements of the general election, fearing that party platforms are being designed for vote-gathering rather than for practical realization. In other remarks the daily advised that incapable, dishonored candidates should retire from the field in favor of the new candidates, and further suggested that each party clarify its attitude toward the anticipated political reorganization so that the people will be able to reach an accurate judgment when it comes time to cast their ballots.

Classing the Communist Party with the small parties in the matter of inclination toward irresponsible campaign promises, YOMIURI recommended that they be liquidated at this election. Before choosing a political party, the voters should determine its capacity to shoulder the affairs of government and carry out its platform, the journal said. A direct advance toward a bipartisan setup must be made, it stated flatly, if political stabilization is to be achieved.

AKAHATA referred to the "contemptible strategy" of Communist Party enemies who, it cried, with the election campaign on, are resorting to burglary and theft of important party documents in order to check its progress. These happenings call for strengthened defense of the party, the Communist mouthpiece pointed out, explaining that the added protection should consist of strict observation of all party decisions by its organs and members. Violations of these decisions warrant severe censure and punishment, it concluded.

Recovery

NIHON KEIZAI stressed that maintaining financial balance is the most important factor mentioned in the nine economic principles. The nation's inflationary policies must be eliminated, the journal said, since inflation has created financial deficits and has upset national economy. Revisions must be made in the price system, taxation methods, and budget expenditures, it added. Through a gradual process, the paper believed, economic stabilization can be realized if the people can bear the coming year of privation.

Hopeful for economic rehabilitation this year, TOKYO TIMES said the nine-point program should be effected through budgetary steps as well as through popular activities. If Allied aid is efficiently utilized and the people show all-out endurance and industry, inflation can be curbed and a favorable turn in foreign trade can be expected, the journal said.

Miscellaneous

JIJI SHIMPO deplored the attitude which the government and public office workers have taken regarding the new 49-hour week. Under present economic conditions the people are dependent upon government offices to settle their livelihood problems, the journal stated, and for this reason government offices should remain open 24-hours a day if necessary to complete official business. Government workers should tackle control problems first, and after the people have regained economic freedom, the employees can revive their former schedule, the paper concluded.

Observing that the US cannot be expected to continue importing food for the Japanese, MAINICHI declared that the farmers will have to bear the responsibility for feeding the people by exerting efforts to increase production and deliveries. Since poor execution of farmland reforms have inconvenienced many farmers, the daily advised, the Government should formulate measures to redistribute land on an equitable basis.

Even though a large quantity of US streptomycin is to be imported to JAPAN, TOKYO SHIMBUN warned, tuberculosis patients must not be fooled by the belief that the drug is a cure-all. The paper hoped for the improvement of streptomycin and for its availability to the public at low cost.

Discussing TOJO's last words to the world, ASAHI's subeditorial condemned him for his smallness of character. His loyalty to the Emperor and to the State was maintained to the end, the paper asserted, but he failed to acknowledge that a code of morality existed among the people.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
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ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 976 DATE: 5 Jan 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

A Washington dispatch on possible revision of Japanese reparations policy captured the top spot in several papers. Other heavily played stories included developments in CHINA and Premier YOSHIDA's press conference.

ELECTION

Premier YOSHIDA declared yesterday that the Democratic Liberals would win at least 200 Lower House seats in the election. Speaking at a press conference on a train for KANSAI, he said his party would never participate in a national coalition regardless of the outcome of the balloting. (NIHON KEIZAI: 1) Stumping HOKURIKU, Socialist Chairman KATAYAMA, meanwhile, squelched current rumors yesterday that his party would disband to join a center party. He told the press that he opposed middle-road government, believing that socialism alone can serve as the principle for reconstruction. (ASAHI: 2)

The National Election Control Committee ruled yesterday that campaign speeches by party presidents do not violate the Election Law if they disseminate party policy only and do not endorse specific candidates. However, candidates will not be allowed to attend party-sponsored meetings. (MAINICHI: 3)

Only 11 Lower House aspirants filed applications for candidacy yesterday, while two others withdrew their names. (ASAHI: 4) Applicants numbered 1,357 as of 1800 hours last night, including 452 Democratic Liberals, 209 Democrats, and 188 Socialists. (MAINICHI: 4) Communist Party headquarters announced yesterday that the official slate of party candidates totaled 116--one for each district except AKITA's first. (NIHON KEIZAI: 5)

The Finance Ministry decided yesterday to authorize 780,000,000 yen for election expenses. The figure represents a compromise between the NECC-demanded 820,000,000 yen and the originally allotted 650,000,000 yen. (MAINICHI: 6)

COTTON

The Board of Trade yesterday bared its plan for disposing of government-held cotton effective 1 February. The price of cotton earmarked for domestic consumption will remain unchanged, but that for the export industry will be fixed consistent with the international market. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 8)

GOVERNMENT

Defending the Personnel Commission's 48-hour-week order as essential to national reconstruction, Chief Cabinet Secretary SATO yesterday asked all government workers to co-operate fully. Preceding SATO's statement, the Cabinet approved the lengthening of civil service working hours. Strong labor objections have already been raised to the new schedule. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 9)

The Cabinet also decided yesterday to create an Administrative Structure Reform Council to study administrative retrenchment measures. The new organ will formulate a concrete plan by the end of February which is aimed at paring government office personnel 30 percent. (NIHON KEIZAI: 10)

EXCHANGE RATE

The Single Exchange Rate Policy Council at its second meeting yesterday reportedly decided to take measures to control wages as the first step in setting the single rate. The majority of council members apparently favored solving the wage issue on the basis of the three enterprise readjustment principles. (YOMIURI: 11) Two bankers were appointed on the council by the Government yesterday. Tokyo Bank President HAMAGUCHI Takehiko and Teikoku Bank President SATO Kiichiro were named in addition to the nine financial leaders already serving on the council. (YOMIURI: 12)

The Economic Stabilization Board and the Board of Trade, meanwhile, have worked out a plan based on 300 yen to the dollar which they will submit to the SERPC as reference data. If the recommendation is followed, it is believed that the single rate will have little effect on national economy. (YOMIURI: 13)

EDITORIALS

Three dailies commented on political developments centering around the coming election, while two papers discussed the plight of enterprises. Other topics included agrarian villages and world peace.

Election

With electioneering close to its peak, YOMIURI struck out at campaigners for distorting truths to curry favor, especially in regard to the nine-point economic rehabilitation program. To judge the claims and propositions of the speechmakers, the paper cautioned the people to look back upon the irresponsible politics of the last 18 months and avoid the paths which experience has shown to be wrong. Creation of a new and reliable administration, it concluded, depends solely upon the voters' own powers of analysis and good sense.

Acknowledging the primary aim of the general election to be political stability, MAINICHI questioned the form this stability will take, reporting that each political party has its own concept of the term. The daily itself saw only two possibilities for achieving sound government--through a conservative bloc or a bloc of the so-called middle-of-the-road factions. In this connection the paper wondered what possible impression the Socialist Party could be giving its working class supporters by its agreement to coalition with the latter faction, and stated further that this party has always seemed "tossed about in the current of political trends."

All class struggles are really political struggles, said AKAHATA, pointing out that the wage struggle has begun to manifest its own political character. Asserting that both the Government and the capitalists intend to tie up the wage problem with mass dismissals, it recommended that this policy as well as the Government's tax collection program be combatted by new, systematized propaganda activities, possible only after enough union members join the Communist Party. A large number of those working for advancement of the masses must be sent to the Diet, it added, in order that the people's rights in politics and industry be increased.

Enterprises

JIJI SHIMPO declared that the fate of the nation's industry will be determined by the establishment of the exchange rate, but it deplored the attitude that enterprisers have taken--predicting a panic, expecting subsidies from the Treasury as countermeasures, and advocating a minimum exchange rate. Enterprisers must exert efforts toward adapting themselves for overcoming unfavorable conditions, the journal pointed out, instead of depending upon the Government's past practice of covering losses from production costs. With enterprises pitted against the competition of world trade, fixing the new exchange rate will be a challenge to JAPAN's industry, the paper concluded.

TOKYO SHIMBUN also felt that the enterprisers as well as the people have been under the protective care of the Government too long. The drastic changes in living conditions resulting from the enforcement of the nine-point economic stabilization program call for the people's enthusiasm to overcome impending difficulties, the journal stated. The sooner industrial rationalization and promotion of efficiency are carried out, the paper believed, the better the people's living will become.

Miscellaneous

ASAHI was concerned over the existence of two types of agrarian villages--progressive and nonprogressive. Inflation and the method of executing land reform were noted by the paper as being the major causes for this condition. But while fixing the exchange rate will unfavorably affect agrarian economy, the daily thought, each individual farmer should iron out his own difficulties.

Threat of war which is causing international insecurity can be placed upon the struggle between the Communist and anti-Communist worlds, NIHON KEIZAI declared. Unfriendly US-Soviet relations in EUROPE and the civil war in CHINA are problems that have to be settled for the realization of universal peace, the daily continued. As for JAPAN, the paper stated that the situation in CHINA has given JAPAN an opportunity to regain her international independence and join the family of nations to contribute toward world peace.

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ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 975 DATE: 4 Jan 49

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Domestic news in all the major papers was almost nil with heavy play going to foreign dispatches on the Chinese situation and the opening of US Congress. Local stories were limited mostly to speculation on the peace treaty, exchange rate, and 1949 exports.

ELECTION

Election campaigning started into full swing yesterday after the new year's week end. Today candidates begin making radio speeches and publicly managed debates will commence tomorrow. (JIJI SHIMPO: 1)

Democratic President INUKAI, on a stumping tour in SENDAI, told the press yesterday that his party would win at least 110-120 Lower House seats, "even under the most unfavorable circumstances." Deeming a coalition regime inevitable, he pledged Democratic support of "that party which does not evade its responsibilities and which has the power to execute measures speedily." He dismissed rumors that the party is endangered by an internal split with "a large family is bound to have some dissident members so we are not particularly concerned." (MAINICHI: 2)

Peoples Co-operative Chairman MIKI voiced a strong desire for a national coalition yesterday in AKITA and called for an end to "absurd partisan strife." To attain real stabilization in line with the nine-point program, the Government should foster "unification of the progressive, realistic third force," he said, revealing his hope to lead the consolidation movement after the election. (MAINICHI: 3)

Registrations for candidacy, meanwhile, slowed almost to a standstill with only six new aspirants filing yesterday. As of 1930 hours last night, 1343 candidates had applied to run in the election. (MAINICHI: 1)

Democratic Liberals are emerging the strong favorites in TOKYO To and KANAGAWA, SHIZUOKA, NAGANO, and NIIGATA Kens. However, Socialist influence is waning at the expense of the Communist upsurge. This may be attributed to the current popular sentiment against middle-of-the-roadism. (MAINICHI: 4)

The Communist-Socialist amalgamation movement, originating in AOMORI, spread to TOKYO Sunday with the first conference of young union leaders at National Congress of Industrial Unions headquarters. Several Socialists announced their intention to bolt their party in order to support the fusion which will also embrace the Worker-Farmer Party. The 150 present adopted a resolution appealing to "conscientious comrades of the Socialist and Worker-Farmer parties, as well as to laborers throughout the nation, to rise together . . . and participate in the Communist-Socialist merger in a drive to form a democratic, racial front and to fight monopolistic capitalists." (AKAHATA: 5)

GOVERNMENT

The first cabinet session of the new year today will launch full-scale deliberations on measures to implement the nine-point economic stabilization program. The Single Exchange Rate Policy Deliberation Council will meet also today. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 6)

The cabinet vice ministers decided yesterday to abolish the Saturday half-day system for government workers and extend the lunch hour to 30 minutes. The decision, promulgated as a Premier's Office ordinance yesterday, revises the Personnel Commission's regulations published 1 January. (JIJI SHIMPO: 7)

In its draft plan for disposing of new account deficits in the coal industry, the Commerce-Industry Ministry has proposed that the Government will pay 15,125,000,000 yen of the 18,000,000,000 yen demanded. Of the former amount 3,305,000,000 yen will be shelved now but will be woven into future official prices to be covered within three to five years. (NIHON KEIZAI: 8)

EDITORIALS

Political party activities drew comment from three dailies, while the nine-point economic stabilization program, finance, sports, and the situation in CHINA were discussed by the other papers.

Parties

"Politics is but the reflection of the popular mind," said NIHON KEIZAI, explaining that strong, stabilized democratic politics, the first step toward economic self-reliance and national independence, demands thoughtful choice of parties and candidates. The general election will serve either to indict or vindicate the critical faculties of the Japanese people, the daily stated.

Attributing loss of the government and public office employees' right to strike to Communist Party influence, TOKYO SHIMBUN warned that public utility and key industry workers may similarly lose the right to strike if their present destructive philosophy continues. Holding this year too important for JAPAN's reconstruction to involve these industries and utilities in a political struggle toward any experimental communistic society, the paper urged Red followers and those considering such an attachment to compare the theory and history of communism with actual conditions.

The Communist Party needs to strengthen its ties with the masses and accent its revolutionary nature and activities, according to AKAHATA, which believed it can thereby win the coming general election and become a bolshevik party of 1,000,000 members. For the strongest offensive against the conservatives, the party organ advised use of the masses' disgust with existing parties, their depression at social democracy, and their bitter experiences in obtaining a livelihood.

Recovery

MAINICHI demanded a "forceful and systematic" execution of the nine-point economic program even though the people must endure a period of austerity. While enforcement of this program is the people's responsibility, political parties, enterprisers, and trade unions should assume most of the burden, the paper stated, by presenting the nation the true meaning of austerity embodied in concrete policies. The daily felt that any difficulties which may arise can be easily overcome as long as preparations to enact the program are complete.

Despite Gen MacARTHUR's emphasis of a shift from political reform to economic recovery, SEKAI KEIZAI pointed out that politics and economics are inseparable, necessitating popular formation of a strong political force in the coming election to satisfy the nations desire for economic rehabilitation. JAPAN's recovery, the paper stressed, depends upon the degree of success the people can translate the nine-point program into action.

DAI ICHI advised the Japanese people to endure even greater privation than in the past and show more interest in reconstructing JAPAN if they expect the US to continue her aid for economic recovery. The domestic economic structure can be readjusted by the nine-point program, the journal declared, and the people must exert efforts to carry them out despite added hardships.

Miscellaneous

Regarding price and currency policies the most important subject of the new year, YOMIURI foresaw a boost in official price levels and continued government subsidies. But since subsidies should be granted only temporarily and currency expansion held to a minimum, the daily said, government expenses must be retrenched, stricter vigilance over Reconstruction Finance Bank loans exercised, and public works limited to productive efforts. For new sources of public works revenue, the paper suggested that the Government apply for Allied approval to appropriate profits in the Trade Fund Special Account.

Sports in JAPAN appear to have regained their prewar level, according to JIJI SHIMPO. But it stressed the need for democratizing the nation's sports and increasing the proficiency of athletes.

Concerning CHIANG Kai-shek's intention to resign, TOKYO SHIMBUN declared that his political ability to unify CHINA should not be underestimated. Though some observers believe the Nationalists are only trying to conceal their weaknesses and to place the responsibility for the continuation of the internal strife on the Communists, the paper said, the Communists' reaction to the peace proposal is being closely watched.

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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 974. DATE: 3 Jan 49

Tokyo Newspapers Saturday and Today

Gen MacARTHUR's new year's message captured the lead spot in all the dailies Saturday except AKAHATA. Today the papers played up the latest Chinese developments, though ASAHI led off with a postelection cabinet preview and MAINICHI, with a dispatch from its correspondent in LONDON.

ELECTION

A total of 1,338 candidates had registered for the Lower House election as of 1930 hours last night. Democratic Liberals headed the list with 449 aspirants. Two hundred and nine Democrats have filed applications, while Socialists number 188 and Peoples Co-operatives, 61. The Communist Party has put up 116. (MAINICHI: 1 today)

Barring an unforeseen shift in public opinion, it is almost certain that the DLP will emerge as the first party, if not the majority party in the Diet. While Democratic President INUKAI apparently favors a conservative coalition with the Democratic Liberals, a strong segment of his party is actively maneuvering for a middle-of-the-road amalgamation embracing the Peoples Co-operatives and the Socialist right-wingers. It is believed that if the Democratic Liberals win less than 180 seats, formation of the next cabinet will be extremely difficult. (YOMIURI: 2 today)

INUKAI told the press on his way to TOHOKU that the DLP would get 180-210 seats; the Democrats and the Socialists, 105-112 each; and the Communists, 10. Predicting a coalition regime, he said the Democrats favored a closely knit coalition with a strong sense of responsibility. (YOMIURI: 3 today) PCP Chairman HIKI declared in SENDAI that if a conservative coalition forms the next cabinet, it will be immediately confronted with a strong people's front. (YOMIURI: 4 today)

GOVERNMENT

Government employees will be required to work a 48-hour week beginning on 1 January, according to a regulation published by the Personnel Commission Friday. The new order slashes the real value of the 6,307-yen wage standard recently approved by the Diet. (JIJI SHIMPO: 7 today)

The Construction Ministry has mapped out the 1949 road repair program at an estimated cost of 50,000,000,000 yen. It is planned that 30,000,000,000 yen will be earmarked for repairs with the remainder to be spent for improvements. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 6 today)

The Cabinet is slated to approve formally the creation of a rescreening committee at its first meeting of the new year. The committee, formed to rectify purge injustices, will start functioning as soon as possible. (JIJI SHIMPO: 5 today)

CURRENCY EXPANSION

Bank of Japan note issue hit 368,011,000,000 yen as of Thursday, an increase of only 614,000,000 yen over the previous day. But money in circulation, it was estimated, would hover around the 360,000,000,000 level at the year end since about 8,000,000,000 was expected to return to the bank Friday. (YOMIURI: 4 Saturday)

INVESTIGATIONS

Former Premier ASHIDA, free on bail since 29 December, was indicted Friday on another charge in the Showa Denko scandal. With his indictment and those of ex-Democratic Diet member UMEBAYASHI Tokio and Umebayashi Construction Company employee AYABE Kentaro, the Tokyo District Prosecutors Office wound up its seven-month probe of the scandal and will now concentrate on the trials to come up soon. Indictments were also issued Friday for TANAKA Manitsu, FUKATSU, Tamaichiro, and AZUMA Shunei--all suspects in the coal lobby affair. (MAINICHI: 5 Saturday)

EDITORIALS

All major dailies devoted their editorial columns Saturday to the outlook for the new year, while today's papers ranged from Gen MacARTHUR's New Year's message to the new habeas corpus law.

New Year

The general election will set the pace for the new year, according to ASAHI, which warned that the people must responsibly undertake the job of self-government through choice of capable representatives, or face inter-national disgrace. Economic and political reconstruction rests upon the whole nation, it added, and requires conscientious use of popular sovereignty for successful achievement. TOKYO TIMES agreed that the coming general election will be the key to JAPAN's fortunes in 1949 and advised that last year's disgraces should be made up by the people's all-out efforts for reconstruction.

Congratulating the Japanese on their accomplishments toward national recovery, JIJI SHIMPO derived much hope for 1949 from Major General MARQUAT's statement that the country's economy is on a sound enough basis to invite foreign investors and that great advancements are anticipated this year. TOKYO SHIMBUN, on the other hand, said JAPAN's economy has been protected so far by US aid, deficit financing, and other factors that have not included a real will to work or effective business programs. Recommending national self-help for 1949, the paper called for removal of inflation as a prerequisite for establishment of a single exchange rate. NIHON KEIZAI looked upon achievement of economic independence as JAPAN's most important but most difficult objective for the new year. Surveying the hardships accompanying stabilization, the daily believed 1949 might be a year of hope for economic stability, but a severe one for the people. As the beginning of the independence program, MAINICHI too, expected that 1949 would be a very bitter year. With commodity shortages, the tight money condition, high taxes, and the unstable international situation, the journal predicted that the fight to live will become desperate. AKAHATA emphasized that 1949 is the year in which the Communists should lead the working masses in a struggle to create a peace-loving, independent, and democratic JAPAN.

YOMIURI ran a commentary by its president and editor, BABA Tsunego, who remarked on American methods of celebrating the holiday season. Mr BABA's experiences in America and Europe led him to regard unrestricted travel and trade as the only means for postwar rehabilitation and attainment of world peace.

MacARTHUR's Message

In Gen MacARTHUR's new year's message emphasizing a shift from political reform to economic recovery, ASAHI pointed out that JAPAN's recovery pivots around the establishment of an exchange rate. To prepare for this drastic innovation, the daily called for the enforcement of the nine-point economic program; however, whether MacARTHUR's expectations for economic recovery can be fulfilled depends upon the people's wholehearted efforts, it said.

The TOKYO SHIMBUN and ASAHI suboditorials were highly pleased to have the national flag restored to the people for unrestricted use and display. Since the flag now represents the nation's march to self-sufficiency, both papers hoped that the Government would make the flags available to the nation.

Chinese Civil War

CHIANG Kai-shek announced on new year's day that he would resign on condition that the Communists settle the internal conflict sincerely, JIJI SHIMPO and MAINICHI stated, but the papers could not see peace in the near future with the Communists' domineering attitude.

Miscellaneous

The writer of the signed YOMIURI comment advised the people to assume responsibility for the Diet's activities since its present confused state is the true manifestation of the people themselves.

Communist leader TOKUDA suggested in the AKAHATA editorial a constant check on election conference proceedings to cut down lengthy discussions. Unless party members spend more time in canpaigning, he cautioned that the Communists will lose the election.

TOKYO SHIMBUN's main editorial told the people to thoroughly understand the rights that the new habeas corpus law is intended to safeguard. While crimes are increasing, the journal warned that care must be taken lest the benevolence of the law be used to the advantage of guilty persons.

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PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 973 DATE: 31 Dec 48

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Foreign dispatches again shoved domestic news into the background. Though election stories overshadowed other local developments, several papers gave prominent space to various surveys of national developments during the year.

ELECTIONS

Applications for Lower House candidacy tapered off with only a few more than 100 registering yesterday, the fourth day of filing. The total as of 1900 hours yesterday stood at 1,242 with 425 Democratic Liberals, 180 Socialists, and 203 Democrats. The National Election Control Committee now estimates the number of candidates will reach 1,578 by the end of the filing period. (MAINICHI: 1)

A total of 319 authorized candidates and one semiofficially recognized candidate comprise the official slate of the Democratic Liberal Party. The list is complete except for two constituencies where it is expected that six more will be officially recognized, bringing the number to 326. The party has formally notified local election control committees that unauthorized candidates claiming to be Democratic Liberals should be punished. (NIHON KEIZAI: 2)

Socialist-backed candidates rose to 186 yesterday with the addition of five to the official roster. Emergence of the party as the first party in the new Diet was predicted by Socialist Secretary-general ASANUMA since it put up only its "choicest" candidates. (NIHON KEIZAI: 3) Democrats, meanwhile, announced three more approved candidates yesterday, making a total of 176 officially designated by the party. (NIHON KEIZAI: 4)

The National Election Control Committee made public yesterday regulations stipulating that candidates must report all donations during the past year within a week after filing their candidacy. Deadlines for applying to participate in joint speech meetings were also announced. (NIHON KEIZAI: 5)

INVESTIGATIONS

Bribery charges against seven political leaders allegedly involved in the textile scandal were dropped by the Tokyo District Prosecutors office yesterday after a thorough investigation proved that none of the accused has received money illegally from Toa Kogyo Company president UMEMURA Kiyoshi. (JIJI SHIMPO: 8) Those exonerated from suspicion included ex-Commerce-Industry Minister HOSHIJIMA Jiro, ex-Finance Minister ISHIBASHI Tanzan, ex-Agriculture-Forestry Minister ISHIGURO Takeshige, ex-Labor Minister KATO Kanju and his wife Shizue, Socialist leader SUZUKI Mosaburo, and ex-ESB Director-general WADA Hiroo. The prosecution office also announced that Socialist MIZUTANI Chosaburo and Democrat TOMABECHI Gizo, both of whom had been summoned for questioning in the case, were not connected with the scandal. (HOCHI SHIMBUN:8)

Showa Denko president HINOHARA Setsuzo was released on bail yesterday after six months' imprisonment. Prosecutors also freed former Representatives KAWAHASHI Toyojiro and KITAURA Kitaro who have been in custody since 7 December on suspicion of bribing former Premier ASHIDA Hitoshi. (HOCHI SHIMBUN: 8)

It is believed that former Democratic Liberal Representatives TANAKA, Manitsu, AZUMA Shunei, and FUKAZU Tamaichiro will be indicted when the go-ahead signal is given by the Supreme Council of Prosecutors. The trio is being held on suspicion of bribery in the coal lobby scandal. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 10)

EXCHANGE RATE

The single exchange rate will probably be fixed within three months at about 330 yen to the dollar, according to authoritative sources in the Economic Stabilization Board. It is planned that the price structure will undergo no drastic change. At the first meeting of the Exchange Rate Council yesterday, ESB Director-general SUDO outlined in detail the general situation relative to the exchange rate. Premier YOSHIDA called for ERC members to co-operate to the fullest in setting the rate promptly. Following an open discussion, the council adjourned until 4 January. (YOMIURI: 11)

EDITORIALS

Political party campaigns for the forthcoming election drew comment from three dailies, while the remainder of the editorials focused their attention on the past year's progress.

Election

Parliamentary government in JAPAN is doomed, according to YOMIURI, if Diet proceedings continue removed from public interest. To regain the people's confidence, the paper advised political parties not to depend exclusively on the directive of the Occupation Forces but to carry out programs in line with a unique and dependable party contention which, however, keeps within the framework of Occupation policies. Honest campaign pledges faithfully kept can do much to surmount this crisis, the daily concluded.

JIJI SHIMPO believed the political situation will improve as soon as the voters start actively backing the principles and policies of specific parties. At this time, the daily asserted, most Japanese are regarding the election campaigns "as if they were seeing a festival in which they have no part." The new, exceptional regulations and the Political Fund Regulation Law will relieve campaign burdens to a great extent, it remarked; but, more than this, the people must make voluntary financial donations to political parties if a real cleanup is to be made.

Recommending full public management of elections, MAINICHI looked upon the Government's financial appropriation for the coming election as stupidly small. The amount should be supplemented at once, the paper insisted, if the plan is to have any chance for success. It went on to say that the Dietmen's record of criminal involvements can be laid to the enormity of their campaign fund needs; through less expensive elections, their frantic maneuverings for money would obviously diminish. The Government, political parties, and voters should all regard the public management plan with much greater seriousness, it stressed.

End of the Year

To ring in the New Year, ASAHI told the Japanese people to realize the true spirit of democracy and to attain economic self-sufficiency by seriously undertaking economic reconstruction. It added that in accomplishing this task without the help of the US, concerted efforts must begin with the coming year. The people must review the past events to select the good points while looking into the future with the expectation of facing innumerable difficult problems, the journal said. No matter what problems may arise at home and abroad, the paper believed that peace must be maintained at all costs.

NIHON KEIZAI, observing that the nation is gradually returning to normal, recognized a spirit similar to prewar days throughout the country. Many political, economic, and social events of significance occurred in 1948, the journal pointed out, such as the reduction in prices, an increase in production, and a shift from the discussion of an economic crisis to an economic stabilization program. Since the problems that are now facing the people stem from the transition from abnormal to normal times, the paper urged the nation to take advantage of the prospects for further improvement. The nine-point economic stabilization program leads the way to national reconstruction and efforts to accomplish this goal are necessary for JAPAN's democratization, the journal concluded.

At the end of the war, declared TOKYO SHIMBUN, inflation profiteers, blackmarketeers, and pseudodemocrats took advantage of the nation's moral decadence and confusion. But the journal asserted that in the year 1948, the people became wise to their game and began to discriminate between good and evil and to make readjustments in financial, political, and social circles. This was considered the turning point of postwar JAPAN by the daily which emphasized that false politics, ficticious capital, and sham employment have given way to truth and justice for the benefit of honest working man.

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PRESS ANALYSIS

NO:972 DATE:30 Dec 48

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Foreign dispatches crowded local news out of the lead columns in most of the major dailies though Lower House election stories continued to receive heavy coverage. TOKYO SHIMBUN and ASAHI gave the top spot to the transfer of US troops from KOREA to JAPAN; MAINICHI, a report on ENGLAND from its correspondent now in LONDON: and YOMIURI, a roundup of the Chinese situation. NIHON KEIZAI, however, led off with an item on the capital needed to finance the government railways.

ELECTION

Lower House candidates increased to 1,138 as of 2030 hours yesterday, the third day of filing. Democratic Liberals with 395 hopefuls comprise more than one third of the aspirants and outnumber the 187 Democrats and the 171 Socialists combined. Thirty-one women have announced their candidacies in contrast to 83 in the previous election. The National Election Control Commission has estimated that the total will not reach 2,700 as originally believed. (MAINICHI:1)

The Democratic Party added six more names to its official list of candidates yesterday, bringing the total to 173. (ASAHI:2) The party is expected to face a crisis after the election since the selection of INUKAI Ken as party president did not resolve the differences between his faction and the pro-Ashida group. The party's election headquarters has been favoring the Inukai segment, thus boosting the chances of a conservative coalition in the next cabinet. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 3)

The National Election Control Commission declared yesterday that the Finance Ministry's allotment of 730,000,000 yen would be insufficient to cover election expenses. While asking for 2,100,000,000 yen, it pointed out that the election would be impossible with less than 800,000,000 yen from the Government. (YOMIURI:4)

Former Vice Chairman INASAWA Seikichi of the Agrarian Youth League was named chairman of the New Farmers Party which was formally organized yesterday. KAWAGUCHI Yoichi and KITA Jiro of the old Japan Farmers Party sponsored the new party which is centered around the AYL. (YOMIURI:5)

FINANCE

Bank of Japan note issue climbed to 36,018,000,000 yen Tuesday, an increase of 10,460,000,000 over Monday. The unprecedented spurt this week has been partially attributed to the Government's year-end payments which can be regarded as an election tactic by the Democratic Liberal Party. (YOMIURI:8)

The Government has decided to permit private banks to advance loans totaling 1,200,000,000 yen in order to alleviate the fund shortages plaguing the coal industry. It is planned that the money will be paid back from the sale of coal during the January-March quarter. (NIHON KEIZAI:9)

It is generally believed that the Government will furnish 5,000,000,000 yen as capital for the government railways which start functioning as public corporation on 1 Apr 49. Authorities are still undecided, however, whether the Government should assume responsibility for the railways' present liabilities. (NIHON KEIZAI:10)

The council for the establishment of a single exchange rate will hold its initial session this morning and will then confer with Gen MARQUAT, ESS, GHQ. Headed by Premier YOSHIDA, the council is composed of cabinet ministers concerned and nine civilians including Bank of Japan President ICHIMADA. (ASAHI:11)

INVESTIGATIONS

Former Premier ASHIDA Hitoshi, jailed since 7 December for questioning in the Showa Denko scandal, was released on bail yesterday. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 15) The Tokyo District Prosecutors Office, meanwhile, postponed indictment of former Liberal Party President HATOYAMA due to insufficient evidence. HATOYAMA allegedly violated the Purge Directive. (YOMIURI:16)

EDITORIALS

Staple food allocation and inflation problems were the main topics for editorial comment. Other papers were concerned with real wages, lifting the city entry ban, and the cold war.

Allocation

JIJI SHIMPO was afraid that repercussions may arise from the demand for additional deliveries when delivery quotas have already been allotted. Since the allocation is based on a SCAP order, the Government as well as the farmers must comply, the paper asserted, even though the main complaint of the farmers and the people is the Government's breach of promise, especially when they were under the impression that the surplus rice after completion of delivery would be put on free sale. Unless the Government can give a satisfactory explanation for the revision, the daily felt that the adverse effect on the farmers will hamper the fulfillment of remaining deliveries.

According to SEKAI KEIZAI, the SCAP directive for superquota deliveries is necessary to maintain an adequate staple food supply. It believed that free sale of staple food after the allotted quotas have been fulfilled will only result in speculation which is against the principle that privation should be shared equally by the people. In this sense, the journal urged all political parties to formulate concrete policies to conform with the directives concerning the delivery allocations and the nine-point economic stabilization program instead of merely trying to gain popularity.

Inflation

MAINICHI foresaw that "a year hence, another 100,000,000,000 yen of Bank of Japan notes will be put into circulation and prices will be hiked correspondingly," but stated that the rate of increase, which has consistently lowered from the 1946 level, may be expected to maintain its downward trend. Adding that it is impossible for JAPAN to stabilize inflation at one stroke, with production still lagging, the daily concluded that the spiral will eventually end through translation of the nine-point program into action. In a gloomy summary of year-end conditions, AKAHATA, to the contrary, insisted that inflation is showing signs of aggravation and that the "Government and monopolistic capital, interpreting the recent nine-point economic principles for their own interests only, intend to utilize them as a tool to exploit the people." The Communist mouthpiece expected heightened tax rates and controls over funds as well as enforcement of tighter restrictions on financing, all of which it regarded as devices of capitalistic profiteers for domination of the country. The people do not have to be subjected to the deceits of the four corrupt parties, it declared; they need only exert their efforts toward popularization of Communist policies.

On a different aspect of the finance situation, ASAHI reported the established theory that during the progress of inflation, real wages are reduced; the opposite circumstance in JAPAN, where wages have increased "continually and considerably," the paper attributed to greater productivity. Logically then, it said, production struggles should replace wage struggles, but the question remains: What ratio of production profits should be paid out in wages? How this problem will be settled in the coming year, the journal decided, will have a vital effect on JAPAN's reconstruction.

Miscellaneous

Lifting the ban on establishing residence in 14 major cities is not practical, YOMIURI emphasized, since the authorities have not made definite plans to cope with the confusion it will create. The inadequate food distribution and transportation and the housing shortage must be considered in order to handle the population increase in the cities, the paper declared, adding that the Government and the Diet must take prompt action next year to quell the unrest in urban areas by improving the food situation and constructing inexpensive apartments at Treasury expense or granting loans to those desiring to build houses.

TOKYO SHIMBUN reviewed international occurrences of 1948 leading up to President TRUMAN's declaration that the UNITED STATES will spare no efforts to arrive at an understanding with the SOVIET UNION. This, the paper looked upon as the biggest hope for 1949. Although it did not believe the cold war would become actual war, with all of the great powers hoping to avert such a development, the journal stated that results of the US policy would determine the solution of the cloudy world situation.

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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 971 **DATE:** 29 Dec 48

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

The Government's preplanting rice delivery quotas overshadowed all other news developments. More election candidates and follow-up stories, however, drew heavy above-fold play.

FOOD QUOTAS

The Government announced at a gubernatorial conference yesterday the pre-planting delivery quotas by prefectures for the 1949 rice and Irish and sweet potato crops. The quota for rice is set at 32,328,000 Koku against an estimated yield of 67,732,000 Koku, Irish potatoes at 324,221,000 Kan against 678,660,000 Kan, and sweet potatoes at 743,268,000 Kan against 1,497,315,000 Kan. Both the crop estimates and the quotas slightly exceed last year's figures. Agriculture-Forestry Minister SUDO told the governors that additional quota allocations would be made when the actual 1949 crop is ascertained. (YOMIURI: 1)

ELECTION

Applications for candidacy in the Lower House election rose to 988 as of 2130 hours yesterday, the second day of registration. Democratic Liberal aspirants totaled 346 in contrast to 161 Democrats and 155 Socialists. More than 60 percent of the candidates thus far have never been in the Diet before. (MAINICHI: 2) Former Premier ASHIDA Hitoshi was among those announcing his candidacy yesterday as an independent. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 3)

Democratic Party President INUKAI Ken declared that no other party but his can stabilize national economy in accordance with the nine-point SCAP directive. Outlining the Democrats' campaign strategy, he deemed the party-advocated revised capitalism the only plausible means to put the nation on its feet. (JIJI SHIMPO: 4) The Peoples Co-operative chapter in HOKKAIDO notified party headquarters yesterday that it would disband to participate in the movement to form the New Farmers Party. (MAINICHI: 5)

FINANCE

Bank of Japan note issue jumped to 350,558,000,000 yen Monday, climaxing last week's highly accelerated currency expanision. The year-end total is expected to top 360,000,000,000 yen. Bank authorities attribute the sudden spurt to government payments during the last 10 days of the month, farmers' withholding money from circulation, and the increased demand for cash as a result of the coming election. (NIHON KEIZAI: 7)

The Exchange Rate Deliberation Committee, to be headed by Premier YOSHIDA, will hold its first meeting tomorrow to begin study on the exchange rate, generally believed to be set at a high figure. Members of the 10-man committee will be formally appointed today. (YOMIURI: 8)

COAL

Coal output during the middle 10 days in December hit 1,048,000 tons, exceeding the 1,039,200-ton goal. The favorable showing was attributed to increased production in KYUSHU, SEIBU, and TOBU. (NIHON KEIZAI: 9)

INVESTIGATIONS

Former Democratic Liberal Representative KIMURA Kohei was given a six-month sentence by the Tokyo Superior Court in a reversal of a lower court's not-guilty verdict. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 12) The court also overruled former Liberal Diet member YAMAMOTO Katsuichi's acquittal from a previous trial and sentenced him to eight months' imprisonment. (JIJI SHIMPO: 13)

Nisshin Textile Industry Company president OYAMA Takanari's attorney filed a writ of habeas corpus for OYAMA in accordance with the Human Rights Protection Law yesterday. OYAMA contends that he was illegally detained on a coal bribery charge since he was not indicted within 10 days after his arrest. (JIJI SHIMPO: 14)

EDITORIALS

Editorial comments on the new farm quota assignment appeared in only two dailies, while two others took up the coming general election. Economic reconstruction absorbed the editorial remarks of three journals.

Allocations

ASAHI said the assignment of 1949 rice and potato quotas calls for greater democratization of farm villages so that the burden of increased quotas will be shared equally. Satisfactory adjustment to this new method of food collection, the journal concluded, is one of the farmers' most important tasks in the coming year. According to NIHON KEIZAI in its later editions, the chief problem in the whole preallocation program is the price of rice, which, the daily explained, cannot possibly be changed much at this time regardless of the hardship to farmers. The only way to help agrarian economy, the paper went on, is to increase agricultural productivity, advising that this can be achieved only through improved techniques and multilateral management.

Election

The level of JAPAN's democratization is most easily measured by her elections, declared DAI ICHI in an editorial condemning thoughtless vote-casting. The paper was dubious of any marked improvement in the representation to the next Diet unless the voters show better political sense in the coming general election than has been manifested thus far. To provide a basis for sounder critical judgment, the daily outlined a brief criterion for voting and advised of the deep significance of the balloting privilege. Deploring election-poll absenteeism, TOKYO TIMES stressed that women, the worst offenders, are duty bound to vote in this election, and, moreover, to elect women candidates of high character and competence to office. With reconstruction of the nation's politics at stake, the paper added that indifference can neither be justified nor excused.

Reconstruction

The recent control on the labor union movement prompted YOMIURI to place the blame on the Communist Party and the labor organizations it dominates. The labor movement will face even greater difficulties now, the daily asserted, pointing out that economic rehabilitation is the best method to settle this problem, not because the three economic principles and the nine-point economic program demand it, but because they are in line with the aims of the world labor movement.

With US policy stressing JAPAN's economic recovery, TOKYO SHIMBUN suggested that enterprisers try to improve production efficiency and rationalize enterprises despite the effect a new exchange rate may have upon them.

SEKAI KEIZAI declared that the international significance of the US's nine-point program depends upon her attitude toward JAPAN, should all the surrounding areas fall under Communist reign. To prevent the US from retracting her offer of aid, the daily warned JAPAN to exert efforts to realize economic recovery.

Finance

NIHON KEIZAI's early editions deplored the so-called antitax movements since they upset the revenue system, confuse fiscal administration, and encourage extremists to lead the people astray. The editorial called for forcible measures against evaders and a reduction of the people's tax burden.

JIJI SHIMPO reviewed the trend of this year's stock market, noting the year-end boom. Despite the favorable conditions, the paper thought that considerable speculation is still necessary in making investments.

Miscellaneous

MAINICHI believed that the two world problems are release from austerity and release from terror. The former has been settled partially through American aid and the co-operation of non-Russian nations, but the latter is unpredictable in view of struggles in various countries. The journal stated that this will be the main issue next year.

AKAHATA plugged for a cultural movement in conjunction with the election campaign and the swing toward the Communist Party. Men of letters were urged by the paper to work hand in hand with the masses to elevate the people's intellectual level.

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JAN 13 1949

CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 968 DATE: 24 Dec 48

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Emphasis was split today between two major developments--the war crimes hanging and Diet dissolution. Earlier editions of the Tokyo papers led with the execution of the seven condemned Japanese war criminals. But with the actual Diet breakup, several editors switched in their late editions to the dissolution story. No other local newsbreak remained consistently above the mid-page fold.

POLITICS

The Government dissolved the Lower House last night and semi-officially set the next general election for 23 January. Premier YOSHIDA formally ordered dissolution six hours after the opposition parties had moved no-confidence in the Cabinet. The motion, presented by Socialist Chairman KATAYAMA, was carried in the Lower House by a vote of 227 to 130. With the Diet dissolved, political interest shifted to the new election, which will be proclaimed next Wednesday. (MAINICHI: 1)

Former Premier ASHIDA, now being held in Kosuge Prison for alleged involvement in the Showa Denko scandal, will run for the Lower House again on the Democratic ticket. His name was placed on the list of approved candidates by party advisers Wednesday. (ASAHI: 3)

The trend toward a Communist-Socialist merger extended into MIYAGI Ken this week as communications workers spearheaded a move to unify the left. The heads of the All Japan Communications Workers Union's Tohoku Regional Federation and Miyagi District Headquarters announced their intent to follow AJCWU Chairman DOBASHI into the Communist Party and urged the rank-and-file to do the same. Socialist labor and agrarian leaders in several other prefectures spurred the unity drive by embracing Communism. (AKAHATA: 5)

INVESTIGATIONS

Prosecuting authorities were poised last night to arrest about 10 Diet members, mainly Democrats, if the Diet dissolved by 2000 hours. This course of action was decided at a conference of top-level prosecutors yesterday. (JIJI SHIMPO: 5)

KOBAYASHI Kenji was named as chief judge by the Tokyo District Court yesterday in the coal lobby scandal hearing. He is also expected to try Toa Industrial Company President UMEMURA Kiyoshi and former Textile Bureau Chief SUZUKI Juro. (JIJI SHIMPO: 6)

ECONOMY

The Cabinet will meet daily starting today to draft implementing measures for the economic stabilization program outlined in the recent SCAP letter. Ministry recommendations will be shaped into a composite government policy by the Economic Stabilization Board for enforcement after the general election. (YOMIURI: 8)

Government agricultural experts estimated yesterday that the 1948 rice crop will total 62,347,695 Koku, a six percent increase over last year. Sweet potato production was reported to be 1,617,679,090 Kan, 37.4 percent more than the 1947 crop. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 10)

LABOR

Renewed negotiations between the electric workers and the power companies snagged yesterday when management representatives refused to liberalize their wage offer. Vice-chairman WATANABE, who reported the outcome of the all-night talks to SCAP Labor Chief HEPLER, was asked to call off all strikes and continue negotiations. Another truce effort was launched at 1830 hours yesterday. (YOMIURI: 11)

Government officials, seeking a compulsory agreement in the electric power and private railway wage disputes by midnight yesterday, authorized disbursals to these industries from the price adjustment fund. (MAINICHI: 12)

EDITORIALS

Editorial columns were dominated by the execution of the war criminals and the Diet's dissolution. MAINICHI and ASAHI carried their comments on the execution in late editions yesterday and early editions today, while together with other dailies, their late editions this morning took up dissolution.

War Criminals

JIJI SHIMPO believed the execution of the seven top war criminals does not complete the punishment for the war crimes. All the hardships the Japanese are now experiencing are nothing but punishment imposed on the people themselves for their part in the war which they will have to bear for generations to come, the paper stressed. In accordance with Gen MacARTHUR's memorandum, it told the people to realize the utter futility of war--the greatest sin of mankind. For letting the wrong leaders assume power of the nation, TOKYO NICHINICHI noted that the only way in which the people can atone for the execution of the war criminals is by devoting their efforts to renounce war and to establish world peace.

DAI ICHI dared to say "we have no compassion whatsoever for those who were executed. . .because we are thus severely criticizing ourselves who could not check militarism or safeguard peace." The journal wanted the people to remember the seven for the disgrace they placed upon the nation and urged the people to wipe out the still existing feudalistic and militaristic tendencies. The judgment day must be remembered as a day on which a new JAPAN was launched, the daily concluded.

The ASAHI subeditorial extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and hoped that JAPAN would never again wage war. Advising the Japanese people to rely on the intelligence of other nations for her safety, the daily felt that the sensible way is to renounce war and to exert efforts to promote the people's welfare. TOKYO SHIMBUN saw the necessity of emphasizing the effects the execution have before the eyes of the world. If their deaths have exerted strong influence upon all peoples, the journal declared that a "cornerstone for peace" has been established. The execution must be regarded as the end of all the militaristic and aggressive ideas of the past, SEKAI KEIZAI observed, adding that JAPAN must reconstruct herself into a cultural state by preventing the future reappearance of warmakers.

Dissolution

MAINICHI rejoiced that the Diet finally had been dissolved but was disgusted that the opposition bloc had stubbornly fought it to the last. In view of the extremely vital problems facing the next Diet and cabinet, the daily urged the voters to look over the candidates and the parties closely so that the most competent Diet possible will be elected. Careful study of candidates and party platforms was also advocated by NIHON KEIZAI. Realizing that the process of creating a democratic form of government is naturally slow, the editorial stressed that the future course of Japanese politics hinges on the people's votes in the January election.

ASAHI called dissolution "nothing but self-destruction" by the Lower House which finally adhered to the will of the people. But the voters were cautioned by the journal against returning an incapable a Lower House as the present one. They must remember that representatives must be chosen competent enough to put the nation back on its feet.

Recovery

Quoting Gen MacARTHUR's letter which said that "there can be no political freedom so long as a people's livelihood is dependent on the largess of others," AKAHATA reiterated its adamant stand against the introduction of foreign capital and plugged for national reconstruction by the people's efforts alone. Since economic and political freedom go hand in hand, the Communist mouthpiece pointed out that this fact must be taken into consideration in implementing the directive. It also prodded Communist organizations to continue their fight for freedom and independence and against the "corrupt, conservative, reactionary forces and antipopular fissionists who are paving the way for fascism by misusing the nine principles."

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 970 **DATE:** 28 Dec 48

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Lists of Lower House aspirants captured the lead spot in most of the major dailies. NIHON KEIZAI and YOMIURI, however, subordinated the election news to the Premier's statement and the Government's labor policy, respectively.

ELECTION

A total of 671 had filed for candidacy in the 23 January Lower House election as of 1930 hours last night. Democratic Liberals led the field with 225 candidates, followed by 105 Democrats and 99 Socialists. (MAINICHI: 1)
Fifty-eight applications were accepted yesterday in TOKYO, four more than the first day of filing preceding the last general election. (YOMIURI: 4)

Former Premier ASHIDA Hitoshi yesterday refused to permit his name to appear on the official slate of Democratic Party candidates. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 5)
Ex-Finance Minister IZUMIYAMA Sanroku informed the Democratic Liberal headquarters yesterday that he would not run for election. (YOMIURI: 6)

Strict supervision will be exercised over the elections, according to Prosecutor-general FUKUI who declared yesterday that authorities would disregard partisan interests in apprehending election violators. (DAI ICHI: 7)
In the regulations published by the National Election Control Committee yesterday, it was stipulated that school children could not be utilized as vote-getters. Civil servants, however, will be allowed to campaign, though this provision is slated to be revised in mid-January. (YOMIURI: 8)

GOVERNMENT

Premier YOSHIDA, acknowledging that an early peace treaty is improbable, told the press yesterday that an interim measure intended to pave the way for a de facto peace would be considered. The nation must be prepared to undergo a "phenomenally austere life," he said, since economic rehabilitation must be directed toward hiked exports rather than reconstruction of domestic industries. (NIHON KEIZAI: 2)

The Government, through Vice Labor Minister EGUCHI, notified prefectural governors yesterday of its new labor policy. Framed in accordance with the nine-point stabilization program, the policy is designed to foster independent, democratic labor unions. It also seeks to develop harmonious labor-capital relations. Enforcement of these measures will prevent members of specified political parties from participating in the national labor union movement. In addition, those unions failing to comply with the program by 30 Jun 49 will be disqualified. (YOMIURI: 3)

The Cabinet at its regular session today will begin selection of members to comprise the special committee in charge of implementing the nine economic stabilization principles. It is hoped that the committee will be formed by the end of the year. (NIHON KEIZAI: 9)

Construction Ministry authorities are contemplating introduction of a bill to the next Diet which would require the nation's 250,000 contractors to register. The projected law is aimed at eliminating illegal contracting firms. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 10)

INVESTIGATIONS

Ex-Agriculture-Forestry Minister HIRANO Rikizo was sentenced by the Tokyo District Court to 10 months' imprisonment for falsifying his purge questionnaire. Immediately following the verdict, HIRANO declared he would appeal the decision. (NICHI NICHI: 11)

Ex-Premier ASHIDA's former secretary, SHIMOKOBE Mitsufumi, was released on bail yesterday with the completion of his phase of the Showa Denko investigation. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 12)

Prosecutors handling the coal lobby probe yesterday indicted OYAMA Takenori, managing director of the Nisshin Textile Company. His indictment was based on the allegation that he had facilitated a bribe to former Lower House Vice-Speaker TANAKA Manitsu. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 13)

EDITORIALS

The forthcoming election and the campaigning of political parties were the main comments in the editorial columns. Other papers discussed the Chinese civil war, JAPAN's export goal, and education.

Election

In carrying out election campaigns, NIHON KEIZAI stressed that political parties must abide by their promises if they expect the people's support. Most parties are expounding policies related to the nine-point economic stabilization program but they have deliberately interpreted it to their own advantage, the daily added. Instead, it said that they should present their platforms with confidence and take full responsibility for any mistakes. Merely trying to criticize the policies of opponents will only turn out to be a fault-finding campaign, the journal cautioned.

It is up to the voters to see that the present Diet is free from the disgraceful actions of Diet members and political parties, YOMIURI emphasized. In the coming election the daily suggested that party platforms and pledges be thoroughly scrutinized, the character and ability of parties and candidates be fully evaluated, and the existing feudalistic tendencies wiped out. The paper advised the people to take this opportunity to reconstruct the Government and the Diet by casting a responsible vote.

TOKYO SHIMBUN's first editorial saw no reason why a Democratic Liberal-Democratic merger is not possible. While the Democratic Liberal Party desires a fusion because both parties belong to the conservative camp, the Democrats disagree from the standpoint of progressiveness of their party and the DLP's bossism, the paper asserted. With the similarity of the parties, even in their discussion of the freedoms and controls in economy, the journal urged both parties to consider amalgamation in view of the coming election.

TOKYO SHIMBUN's second comment warned political parties to select candidates more carefully since many already recommended are of dubious character. It felt that Democratic Liberal President YOSHIDA should carry out his intention of rejecting the authorization of questionable candidates, pointing out that a clean up of politics depends upon such measures.

"Toward the goal of one million members!" goaded AKAHATA, predicting great, new power for the Communist Party from the general election. Noting the recent party addition of many union executives, among them leaders of the Japan Farmers Union, the paper saw enormous aid to the bolstering of Communism from farmer friendship and cited the revolutionary strenght derived from the agrarian element in CHINA. The journal said 1949 will call for "iron unity and struggle on the part of workers, farmers, and the citizens."

Chinese Civil War

In consideration of possible political settlement to the Chinese civil war, ASAHI explained that neither the Communists nor the Nationalists can logically take the first step toward compromise--the former because it is in the stronger position, and the latter because weakened troop morale would be lost altogether--and that the only way out lies in foreign mediation, with RUSSIA the likeliest selection. It added that a drastic change is in store for CHINA in the new year. JIJI SHIMPO, on the other hand, held no hopes for a near end to the war in CHINA but considered the Communist regime a reality. In examination of the Communist occupation policies, the journal foresaw many difficulties with regard to effecting farm and production techniques foreign to Chinese traditions, and concluded that the Japanese people should take keen interest in the situation.

Miscellaneous

The chief importance of the UNITED STATES' nine-point directive to JAPAN is that its execution is demanded by the US Government, stated DAI ICHI. As for the projected 1949 goal, the daily said it cannot be attained unless American aid is increased and the Japanese people resolve to lower their standard of living for achievement of economic stabilization.

Japanese education has by no means emerged from chaos, declared MAINICHI, and is certainly not proceeding smoothly toward the aim of democratization. Listing some glaring examples of abuse of authority and other weaknesses in school operation, the paper called the attention of teachers to their broad responsibilities as educators, and, similarly, the attention of advanced students to their job of learning.

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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER **PRESS ANALYSIS**

NO: 969 **DATE:** 27 Dec 48

Tokyo Newspapers Saturday, Sunday, and Today

Major domestic stories between Saturday and today pivoted most frequently on the coming general election. Tokyo papers gave prominent space to the official election announcement and to speculation--often backed by public opinion surveys--on the relative strength of the parties. Other well-played reports included the Diet arrests, the Marquat statement on economic prospects, and the release of 19 war crimes suspects.

POLITICS

The Government officially set 23 Jan 49 as the date of the Lower House election in an Imperial edict published today. Election officials will start accepting candidacy applications this morning. Over 2,800 candidates--nearly double the number running in the last general election--are expected to file applications before the 13 January deadline. Their race for the 466 Lower House seats is likely to be the most competitive in the nation's history. The Election Supervision Committee already has set up 42,871 polling stations to accommodate 42,000,000 voters. (YOMIURI: 1 today)

The heads of the four major parties will leave TOKYO early next month on nation-wide stumping tours. Peoples Co-operative Chairman MIKI will start the exodus on 1 January, followed by Socialist Chairman KATAYAMA and Democratic President INUKAI on 2 January and by Democratic Liberal President YOSHIDA on 3 January. (YOMIURI: 2 today)

ECONOMY

Acting Finance Minister OYA said yesterday that a single exchange rate would be "difficult to set" by the end of April. Speaking to newsmen while enroute to KANSAI, OYA pointed out that the time required for pre-enforcement preparations would probably defer the single rate until July. (MAINICHI: 5 today)

INVESTIGATIONS

Former New Liberal Diet member OTAKI Kameyoshi and former Democratic Diet member UMEBAYASHI were arrested Saturday for implication in the Showa Denko scandal. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 7 yesterday) Ex-Democratic Liberal Representative AZUMA Shunei was also apprehended Saturday on suspicion of bribery in connection with the coal lobby case. Ex-Welfare Minister TAKEDA Giichi was questioned in the hospital the same day. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 8 yesterday)

On the heels of Diet dissolution, prosecuting authorities issued arrest warrants Friday for five Diet members allegedly involved in the coal scandal. They included AZUMA, TAKEDA, former Lower House Vice Speaker TANAKA Manitsu, and former Dietmen FUKATSU Tamaichiro and NAGAO Tetsuo. Both TANAKA and FUKATSU were detained later in the day, but NAGAO's arrest was postponed because of illness. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 2 Saturday)

LABOR

Rail workers on the Tobu line signed an agreement Saturday ending their wage dispute with the management. The truce plan--a compromise between the union's demand of 5,000 yen excluding taxes and the company's offer of 4,500 yen including taxes--was proposed by the Tokyo Labor Committee. (YOMIURI: 11 yesterday)

Leaders of the Japan Electric Power Workers Union called off their periodic power shutoff strike after agreeing Friday to a provisional plan for year-end allowance. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 3 Saturday) The disputing metal miners also signed a wage compromise and suspended all strikes. (JIJI SHIMPO: 4 Saturday)

EDITORIALS

Diet dissolution Thursday evening promoted an avalanche of comment over the week end on the approaching Lower House election. Other topics ranged from current labor unrest to the overpopulation issue, while only one daily was concerned with the Indonesian problem.

Election

Papers were unanimous in stressing the grave significance of the coming Lower House election. It was also pointed out that the most competent candidates should be elected. Today ASAHI emphasized that the people must not pass up this opportunity to have themselves heard in the Government through the ballot and urged a fair, clean election. Also calling for an honest election, this morning's MAINICHI declared that it is incumbent on the Japanese to show the world that they can clean up the nation's politics.

Among yesterday's comments, SEKAI KEIZAI felt that unless minor parties whose existence cannot be justified band together, the Red menace will develop into a real threat in JAPAN. YOMIURI, agreeing that minor parties were impeding parliamentary politics, advised the voters to cast their ballots for the major parties only, thus eliminating the useless small groups. All the parties were warned by DAI ICHI not to make rash campaign promises which can never be harmonized with SCAP's nine-point program for economic stabilization. AKAHATA plugged for a joint Communist-Socialist election offensive as the forerunner of a "gigantic struggle for the expansion, strengthening, and bolshevization of the Communist Party."

Editorials Saturday included YOMIURI's demand that political parties select their official slates of candidates rigidly and AKAHATA's order to Communists to fight dauntlessly for their party, unifying the masses and attacking the corrupt parties. Emergence of healthy two-party politics void of antagonism between reactionary conservatives and class-conscious workers was desired by NIHON KEIZAI which especially wanted a genuine improvement in old-fashioned conservatism. Voicing disgust at the partisan bickering preceding Diet dissolution, TOKYO SHIMBUN called for an ideal election free from the bribery characteristic of previous voting. JIJI SHIMPO also decried the opposition bloc for staving off dissolution and setting a bad precedent in Diet-cabinet relations. The people were cautioned by the journal not only to vote wisely but to study the records of the Supreme Court judges so they may evaluate them properly and dismiss those believed to be incompetent.

Labor

Labor disputes are temporarily settled or on the way to solution, TOKYO SHIMBUN said yesterday. Foreseeing trouble if capitalists exploit their advantageous present position, the paper advised both parties to co-operate on the basis of mutual understanding. Yesterday's ASAHI pointed out that all union members should use prudent judgment in either enlarging the wage framework or continuing their strike tactics by demanding complete removal of the wage frame.

SCAP Directive

JIJI SHIMPO yesterday could not understand the true meaning of the directive concerning price control intensification since it runs counter to control adjustment heretofore conducted under SCAP guidance. Whether JAPAN's actual economic situation is considered or the control objective has been attained needs careful investigation, the daily concluded. TOKYO TIMES stressed today that the Japanese must exert all-out efforts to carry out the nine economic principles to realize JAPAN's economic recovery.

Miscellaneous

Today's JIJI SHIMPO observed that the year-end banking situation has improved due to the slackened inflationary pace. Even though a hands-off policy is the basis of banking operations, the journal cautioned the people to use discretion in enforcing it. NIHON KEIZAI doubted yesterday whether the 1,800,000-ton iron-steel goal can be attained under present inadequate facilities. Wasting funds and materials must be guarded against, the paper asserted, if the iron and steel industry is to avoid nationalization.

TOKYO SHIMBUN today advised the Japanese people change their living habits as a basis for new politics and economy. In a signed YOMIURI editorial today, the writer favored repeal of the present Abortion Law as the most practical method to solve overpopulation. Yesterday's MAINICHI hoped for the early settlement of the Indonesian situation.

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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 963 DATE: 18 Dec 48

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Domestic news was buried today under Washington reports on the Supreme Court war crimes hearing and the clash in the Far Eastern Commission over SCAP labor policies. The trend toward a government-opposition wage accord was the only local development to rate consistent, above-fold emphasis.

POLITICS

Government officials roughed out a revised wage bill yesterday to replace their shelved 5,330-yen proposal. As it took shape the Government's new 6,307-yen civil service wage plan closely resembled the joint amendment proposed by the three major opposition parties. The Socialists, Democrats, and Peoples Co-operatives, however, still opposed the government-drafted measure, though the only major point of difference was the effective date of the 6,307-yen standard. If the government revision bill is presented to the Diet today as planned, the opposition parties will vote it down and submit their own proposal. Government sources believed the Diet would dissolve on Monday if the Lower House acts on the wage-budget issue today. (YOMIURI: 1)

Democratic Liberal executives split yesterday on how to handle the wage question. One faction urged that the revised wage bill be submitted as a government proposal so that the Democratic Liberals could keep the initiative. The other group argued that Diet dissolution would be speeded if the Democratic Liberals went along with the joint opposition amendment. (MAINICHI: 2)

The final decision on whether to revise the original 5,330-yen proposal or to withdraw it altogether in favor of the opposition amendment will be made after consultation with SCAP officials, Chief Cabinet Secretary SATO told the Lower House Steering Committee yesterday. "I am going to call at GHQ," he said, "to get certain data which the Government needs before it makes its final decision." (MAINICHI:3) Acting Finance Minister OYA emphasized that the Government does not intend to recompile the supplementary budget. (ASAHI: 4)

ECONOMY

The Economic Stabilization Board, preparing for price revisions next month, studied plans yesterday for setting up an advisory group to determine price policy. Members of the projected 12 or 13-man council will be drawn exclusively from civilian experts in education, finance, and industry. (KOGYO SHIMBUN: 8)

LABOR

The Government will propose specific truce terms to both labor and management in an effort to settle the coal mine and electric power disputes. The new peace overture--decided on after a conference between labor Minister MASUDA and SCAP officials yesterday--will probably be coupled with revised wage scales for workers in such government-subsidized industries as electric power, coal, and textile. (YOMIURI: 10)

INVESTIGATIONS

Attorney General UEDA warned chief prosecutors yesterday against exploiting their positions, declaring that they "should respect public opinion but must not be restrained by it." The prosecutors were urged by Prosecutor-general FUKUI to take drastic measures against illegal dispute tactics among labor unions and were cautioned against associating too intimately with local leaders. (MAINICHI: 14)

Communications Minister FURUHATA declared yesterday that he had been "placed in an embarrassing spot in connection with the coal mine case" and promised to take "positive measures against the irresponsible reporting of some papers." It had been rumored that FURUHATA's house would be searched yesterday. (ASAHI: 15)

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
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PREFECTURAL PRESS ANALYSIS

NO:294 DATE: 28 Dec 48

Economic and social issues were relegated to secondary position in the prefectural press again, as editorialists continued to focus their attention on political developments. Confidence in the ability of INUKAI Ken, newly elected president of the Democratic Party, to instill new spirit into the decadent Democratic forces was expressed in numerous editorial columns, as well as the hope that he would succeed in promoting a merger with the Democratic-Liberals to form a conservative group. The alleged indifference of the electorate toward the anticipated general election moved journals to issue warnings that democratic government could not be established without intelligent public interest and participation, and to urge the people not to be misled by deceptive maneuvers of campaigners. Demands for purification of political circles were made by many writers, who deplored the harmful effects the scandals involving top-ranking officials had on national reconstruction. Meanwhile, the Chinese civil war drew considerable notice, as commentators stressed the critical situation confronting the Nationalist Government. Papers generally held little hope that CHIANG's forces would be able to stem the Communists' advance in view of the latter's reported success in solidifying conquered areas and of the Nationalists' inability to secure immediate aid from the US.

POLITICS

The election of INUKAI to the presidency of the Democratic Party received widespread endorsement in the provincial press. Journals were confident that he possessed the necessary ability to lift the Party from the morass of scandals, and hoped that he would successfully amalgamate his party with the Democratic-Liberals. Writers were in agreement that a two-party system -- consisting of conservatives and progressives -- was needed to democratize Japanese politics.

CHUBU NIPPON (Nagoya, 11 Dec) declared that the political life of INUKAI -- leader of the conservative bloc -- would be determined by how well he readjusted and led his faction and the middle-of-the-road group in a concerted campaign in the coming election. Also, INUKAI was faced with the task of reestablishing the reputation of the party after the "dishonor brought on by the arrest of ASHIDA and KURUSU," the paper noted. The commentator conceded that the Party was in difficult straits, but was hopeful that INUKAI would contribute to the establishment of model democratic politics by fully utilizing "his good sense and intelligence and by performing deeds based on his international viewpoint."

Voicing hope that INUKAI would inject a fresh spirit into the degenerated atmosphere of politics, YUKAN MIE (Yokkaichi, 13 Dec) admonished the new leader of the Democrats and all party men to "learn a lesson from ASHIDA, whose scheming led to his downfall." The writer exhorted INUKAI to instill the spirit of progressiveness into the conservative camp, and warned that if the conservatives "combined with reaction they would do more harm than good to social progress." This was said to be expecting a great deal of INUKAI, but unless someone like him could introduce this vigor, Japanese politics could never be purified and the conservative camp could never be inspired with the spirit of reform. A similar opinion was expressed by HAKODATE SHIMBUN (Hakodate, 12 Dec), which stressed that one of the big problems confronting INUKAI was to win back the confidence which his Party forfeited as a result of some of its leaders' implication in scandals.

Many journals voiced confidence in INUKAI's political ability, claiming that he was one of the "few politicians of intelligence and knowledge." KUMAMOTO NICHINICHI (Kumamoto, 12 Dec) pointed out that YOSHIDA, in contrast to INUKAI, was "disliked by labor and not respected by the intelligentsia." A dissenting view, however, appeared in HYUGA NICHINICHI (Miyazaki, 12 Dec), which was of the opinion that INUKAI lacked the broadmindedness necessary for a statesman. The editorialist admitted, nevertheless, that due to his cultural background, he was "very sensitive to the trend of thought." Other points in favor of INUKAI, the paper conceded, were his advocacy of "healthy conservatism, his respect for humanism, and his opposition to socialism and communism."

Belief that the election of INUKAI to the presidency of the Democratic Party did not signify that the Party was in harmony appeared in SHIN HOKKAI (Sapporo,

11 Dec). On the contrary, the "complicated circumstances" under which he was elected -- allegedly through concessions and secret promises -- meant that the Party was on the "verge of disruption," insisted the journal.

Hope for Amalgamation

In a representative commentary, CHUKA KOKUSAI (Osaka, 12 Dec) hoped that the Democratic-Liberals would amalgamate with the Democrats to form a sound conservative party, and, at the same time, that the Socialists would merge with other progressive factions so that the political situation could be clarified and stabilized. The 11 parties reportedly in existence at present were probably the "natural outcome of the political situation," according to the editorialist, but it was considered inefficient as far as the functioning of the Diet was concerned. If the Diet were divided into two major parties -- conservatives and progressives, plus a few Communists and independents -- the deliberation of the budget and the revision of the National Public Service Law would have been conducted more smoothly, argued the writer. The paper thought that the cooling of relations between the Democrats and the Socialists in connection with the dispute over the NPSL offered a favorable opportunity for the former to sever its ties with the Socialists and "march a step forward toward the formation of a conservative coalition." It was said that the creation of such a coalition would increase the power of the opposing camp, and that to have a strong progressive party in Japan which could play an important role in democratization was most desirable.

Welcoming the trend toward the establishment of two major political groups, NIIGATA NIPPO (Niigata, 11 Dec) voiced the hope that the election of INUKAI would result in the clarification of the confused political situation and in the appearance of a majority party "which could advance with strong political power." SANYO SHIMBUN (Okayama, 11 Dec) believed that a merger of the two parties would be workable, because although there assertedly were slight differences in policy between the two factions, there was no fundamental opposition between them as conservatives. Full support of the move to form a conservative front was offered by HOKKAI TIMES (Sapporo, 11 Dec). The existence of small parties was the root of political confusion, declared the journal, and real democratic politics could not grow unless the two-party system was effective. Similarly, SHIMOTSUKE SHIMBUN (Utsunomiya, 15 Dec) maintained that good politics could not be expected under the current political situation wherein "many minor parties were vying with each other." National reconstruction could not be realized without a firmly established two-party system, since the government which commands only a minority in the Diet would be forced to make compromises frequently, the journal insisted.

General Election

The need for a general election was underscored by numerous provincial papers, which felt that an election would serve to purify political circles if the people cast their ballots conscientiously. Writers were alarmed, however, at the reported indifference of many sections of the electorate, who, it was feared, would succumb to deceptive maneuvers of various candidates. CHUBU NIPPON (Nagoya, 15 Dec), for example, held that the general election was vitally significant in that purification of political quarters -- which had so far been conducted by the Diet -- would be conducted by the people themselves. Deploring the delaying tactics of the Opposition elements over the Diet dissolution issue, the commentator contended that regardless of what strategy the Opposition employed, the political situation had reached the stage where a general election could no longer be postponed. Since the aim of the purification of political circles was to stablish parliamentary politics which would frankly reflect the people's will, the public was urged to observe various maneuvers in the Diet in order to be able to select the best candidates. Meanwhile, political parties were requested to respect certain matters in connection with the election. Public management of elections must be rigidly enforced; parties should officially recognize persons who can justly reflect the desires of the people. Furthermore, all parties should be required to clarify their policies.

YAMAGATA SHIMBUN (Yamagata, 14 Dec) agreed that the dissolution of the Diet and a general election were the soundest means to determine the judgment of the masses on the political activities carried on by the different parties during the Diet session. Japanese politics, as reflected in the Diet deliberations, were far from the democratic politics which Japan's politicians advocated, according to the writer, who attributed this condition partly to the attention Diet members

focussed on the general election. TOO NIPPON (Aomori, 8 Dec), although emphasizing that an election was necessary to improve the deteriorated political situation, feared for the results of the election in view of the large number of candidates and the "low tone of the voters' consciousness."

Citing IZUMIYAMA's drunken conduct as an example, KYOTO NICHINICHI (Kyoto, 16 Dec) denounced the "low grade" of politicians in the Diet. The writer stressed the need for improvement of parliamentary politics, but wondered what the candidates of the "corrupt" Democrats, the "prevaricating" Socialists, and the "mendicant" People's Cooperatives would say in their campaign speeches. If they possessed any conscience, the journal maintained, they would "resign their positions and dissolve their parties."

Journals deploring the alleged indifference of the public to the general election included SAITAMA SHIMBUN (Urawa, 10 Dec) and CHUGOKU SHIMBUN (Hiroshima, 11 Dec). The first-named paper said that the people themselves were to blame for corruption, for it was they who "had elected representatives irresponsibly." Since elections were "influenced more by money than by speeches," it would be impossible to get truly capable persons elected, the writer felt. The only way to overcome this condition, according to the paper, was through awakening of the people to the fact that their votes were more effective than money. The Hiroshima journal demanded that the masses view the election with "sober sense," since the administration of the nation was controlled by the "intention of each individual."

SHIMOTSUKE SHIMBUN (Utsunomiya, 15 Dec), urging the people to support a political party whose platform was in line with the objectives of the Occupation, regretted that women voters -- especially in those areas where they outnumbered the men -- were still indifferent to politics. The writer called on the masses to realize that through the caliber of representatives which they sent to the Diet they themselves were responsible for the failures of the successive governments.

A typical editorial cautioning the people against deceptive campaign tactics appeared in SANGYO KEIZAI (Osaka, 8 Dec). According to the writer, the campaign activities could be divided into two categories -- one to gain public support through destructive propaganda, and the other to try to attract voters by advancing plausible platforms. The journal regretted that damaging maneuvers allegedly had been aimed already at labor and farming classes. Fearing that workers would "blindly follow destructionist trends," the commentator urged employees, especially those in small and medium enterprises which were in stringent circumstances, to avoid succumbing to propaganda against their employers. Similarly, destructive trends were noticeable in agricultural districts, where, the paper feared, owing to the "ideological instability of farmers," there was a great possibility that villagers would be "easily affected by pernicious propaganda." The paper admonished that so long as Diet members were elected through plausible platforms, neither improvement of the national political standard nor emancipation of laborers and farmers could be realized. Thus, it was imperative that the people acquire firm political convictions in order to be able to appraise political parties and candidates correctly.

Political Corruption

Disappointment over the corruption involving top-level officials was voiced by a considerable number of prefectural editorialists. NAGOYA TIMES (Nagoya, 12 Dec) and TOKAI TIMES (Okazaki, 8 Dec) said that the people were "dumbfounded by the bottomless corruption" in connection with the Showa Denko, State Coal Control Mine measure, and the textile scandals. The Nagoya writer charged that the very individuals who warned the masses of the "national crisis" and urged them to lead an austere life were the hypocrites who "violated their own preachings" and thus retarded national rehabilitation. Forced resignation from office and imprisonment were said to be insufficient punishment. The writer demanded more severe retribution for discrediting the dignity of Japanese politics.

Claiming that corruption had plunged the people into despair and disillusionment, the Okazaki journal declared that with sovereignty transferred to the people since the end of the war, if politicians failed to administer their positions in accordance with the will of the public, they would be ousted. Japan's democracy seems slow in progressing because it was given to the Japanese

as the result of defeat and not as a result of their struggles for it, declared the writer, but even then, some advance has been made as evidenced by the people's demands for elimination of politicians who do not comply with the concept of democracy. On the other hand, the writer regretted that statesmen have not awakened to the new principle of government, but have continued to follow the line of dictatorship and have utilized their office to further their own interests. The public was told not to be surprised at the exposure of scandals, but to take it as a "natural course which a new Japan is destined to follow." Such exposures were "inevitable bleedings of the corrupt Japanese political world," the journal observed, and the people, rather than being afraid of these "bleedings," must exert their utmost efforts to create a better future.

Deploring the "increased number of wicked officials" in the government since the end of the war, OSAKA SHIMBUN (Osaka, 8 Dec) demanded immediate purification since "corruption was impeding development of national industry." The commentator said that "mere official warnings" were of no avail in enforcing discipline, but that "more severe steps must be taken to cleanse federal circles." The journal suggested institution of the "responsibility system," whereby the official in charge would be held responsible for the "errors and crimes committed by his subordinates."

Several reasons were advanced for the prevalence of scandals. SHIN NIPPON (Osaka, 10 Dec) thought that the comparatively low salary of representatives made it natural for them to want more money, but insisted that it did not justify their accepting funds from questionable sources. At present it was said to be almost impossible to conduct campaigns without a substantial sum of money, thus making funds more and more essential in politics. Unless this situation were corrected forcefully, it would result in a "serious condition for Japan's politics," the writer cautioned. In a similar vein, SHUKAN JIJI (Fukushima, 6 Dec) noted that participation in politics required a huge amount of money. No matter how harshly individuals like ASHIDA and NISHIO were punished, said the commentator, occurrences such as their cases could not be held in check unless the issue of funds required for political campaigning were settled completely.

The basic cause of official corruption lay in the current system of controls, in the opinion of HOKKAI NICHINICHI (Asahikawa, 10 Dec). The writer charged that financiers reap "vast profits" by taking advantage of economic controls and by conspiring with government officials on the one hand, while politicians raise necessary funds in collusion with the financiers. As long as the political, official, and financial circles were corrupt, the editorialist insisted, the people will suffer no matter which party wins at the general election.

ISE SHIMBUN (Tsu, 7 Dec) called on the people to utilize the general election to raise the level of politics. In the election, the people were the examiners, and every party and candidate was obliged to stand before the public to be closely examined, the writer stated. When both the candidates and the electorate realize their respective duties and responsibilities, then it can be said that Japanese politics will rise from its "scandalous and degraded level" and proceed a step toward its return to international standing, declared the journal.

INTERNATIONAL

Commentaries on the Chinese civil warfare continued to emphasize the "critical plight" of the Nationalist Government, particularly in view of US reluctance to extend substantial military aid to the faltering Kuomintang regime. MINAMI NIPPON (Kagoshima, 11 Dec), for example, declared that reports of Chinese Communist successes indicated that the future of the Nationalist Government was "hopeless," and that the situation had passed from the "critical stage to a crisis." Since the US allegedly was not intending to send immediate assistance to the Nationalists, the outlook was said to be extremely grave. Whether the Japanese liked it or not, the writer said, the moves in China exerted a great influence on Japan, and therefore the Japanese must watch the developments closely.

The ability of the Chinese Communists to solidify their gains impressed many journals, among them YAMAMOTO TIMES (Nara, 9 Dec) and KYOTO SHIMBUN (Kyoto, 14 Dec). The first-named paper noted that the Communists have succeeded in winning the confidence of the people, and that the districts they have occupied "have been comparatively well settled." While declaring that the extent of Soviet aid to the Communists was unknown, the writer conjectured that the reason for their success was that their strategy was "suitable to the present situation in CHINA."

The journal was of the opinion that if the Communists ruled north and central China with "sound domestic policies and a moderate foreign policy, quite a new situation would develop in eastern Asia." The writer also warned the Japanese people not to regard the Chinese warfare as a mere military event, but as a vital development that had a direct relationship to Japan's economic reconstruction. The editorial in KYOTO SHIMBUN similarly observed that the Communists have produced tangible results not only militarily but politically and economically.

HOKKAI NICHINICHI (Ishikawa, 12 Dec) expected the collapse of the Nanking Government due to the "demoralization of its troops and people, and declared that although some quarters were placing hope in the formation of a coalition regime headed by SUN Fo as a stepping stone for establishment of peace, the chances for achieving peace between the warring elements were slim. Even if a coalition government were formed consisting of anti-CHIANG elements and members of the People's Party and the Communists, it was considered problematical whether it would succeed in preventing eventual domination by the Communists.

Appeal for US Aid

MIYAKO SHIMBUN (Kyoto, 12 Dec) ventured the opinion that although the Nationalists were appealing to the US anti-Communists on the ground that a Chinese Communist victory meant the extension of Communism all over Asia, the Americans' "knowledge of Chinese Communism does not seem to be so simple as that." The current economic policies of the Communists were said to be anti-feudalistic, democratic, and revised capitalism, and these "may be regarded as being nearer the US principles than those of the Nationalists," observed the commentator. At least the Communists' long-cherished "new democracy" reportedly was not interpreted as Communism, but as the principles for the democratic emancipation of the masses, and would "enjoy the support of progressives throughout the world," maintained the writer. Contending that the only hope of the Nationalists lay in aid from the US, HOKKAIDO SHIMBUN (Sapporo, 12 Dec) claimed that the intent of their predicted retreat to the Canton area was motivated by the city's accessibility to foreign assistance through its harbor facilities. Despite the fact that the Nationalists have been trying to hold their position by emphasizing the internationality of the civil war, US authorities have shown "no sign of extending over-all support," according to the writer, who pointed out that President TRUMAN's reply to CHIANG's appeal for aid was not made public.

Warning Against Capitalists

An unusual comment was offered by CHUKA KOKUSAI (Osaka, 14 Dec) which attacked Japanese opinion which allegedly holds that Japan's economic power should be strengthened to enable the Nationalist Government to continue fighting on the "first line of the anti-Communist war." To advocate such an opinion was an "ambitious and dangerous act," the writer believed, since the intent assertedly was not the improvement of the living standard of the people but the enrichment of an extreme minority of the "munitions industry capitalists." The longer the civil war was fought, the more the Japanese capitalists would profit by selling munitions and arms, the journal maintained. Then after the conclusion of hostilities these industrialists would profit by exporting rehabilitation materials to China, claimed the editorialist. Japan's emphasis of the "joint anti-Communist front" to camouflage its aggressive war was completely exposed at the Tokyo Trials, the paper pointed out, and it was "apparent that this same slogan was now being employed." The commentator believed, nevertheless, that the Japanese people were exerting sincere efforts toward peace, and that such "vicious designs" of taking advantage of the anti-Communist drive would not gain the public's support.

ADMINISTRATION

Provincial writers agreed that administrative readjustment must be undertaken on a comprehensive scale to accelerate Japan's reconstruction. In similar editorials, SANYO SHIMBUN (Okayama, 10 Dec) and CHUBU NIPPON (Nagoya, 13 Dec) pointed out that although successive cabinets adopted plans to readjust and simplify government administration, "none was ever carried out successfully enough to result in reduction of personnel." On the contrary, the commentators

declared, new federal offices and corporations were established, with the result that the government structure was expanded. The reason was ascribed partly to the "complication of administration" since the termination of the war, but it was mostly due to the fact that the plans of readjustment were drafted by the very government officials who were the "object of the reduction policy." The measure of State Minister IWAMOTO for federal readjustment -- reportedly under consideration by the Cabinet -- was said to be decisive, but the writers questioned its practicability due to its alleged lack of an unemployment plan, "which should form the basic feature of any readjustment program."

KOBE SHIMBUN (Kobe, 10 Dec) commended the IWAMOTO plan as being "significant and practical." There was no other way for Japan to survive than to take part in the international economy, and in order to do so Japan must reorganize its federal structure to increase efficiency of administration. As for countermeasures for unemployment, the paper thought it was better for Japan to start public enterprises for the relief of the unemployed and construct roads and power plants than to "maintain incompetent officials who force Japan's economy to remain stagnant." Also stressing the need for measures to counteract unemployment was CHUBU KEIZAI (Nagoya, 15 Dec), which appealed to labor unions to "understand the actual state of Japan's economy and cooperate with the reduction in force program."

Likewise, EHIME SHIMBUN (Matsuyama, 12 Dec) sounded a note of warning on the Government's projected program, declaring that administrative readjustment and industrial rationalization should not be carried out hastily without a decisive and positive unemployment policy. The writer thought that efforts should be directed toward encouragement of industrial production first, in order to make possible the transfer of the unemployed from government to private enterprises. Industrial rehabilitation, the commentator suggested, should be centered around export trade. As for instituting public works, the paper felt that it would still be difficult to undertake in a defeated country like Japan.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
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MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF
ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER **PRESS ANALYSIS**

NO: 966 **DATE:** 22 Dec 48

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

Diet approval of the wage bill and the US Supreme Court decision rejecting the war crimes appeals competed for top play in the Tokyo press today. The split was about even, with YOMIURI, NIHON KEIZAI, and TOKYO SHIMBUN leading with the six-to-one court verdict and MAINICHI and ASAHI giving dominant emphasis to the Diet action. JIJI SHIMPO pegged its lead on the electric power dispute-generally a page two story.

POLITICS

The Diet passed the new 6,307-yen wage bill yesterday after 20 days of debate. With the civil service wage issue out of the way, government officials were certain that the supplementary budget would be approved today. They expected the opposition to clear the way for Diet dissolution by moving no-confidence in the Cabinet tomorrow. (YOMIURI: 1)

Peoples Co-operative Chairman MIKI said yesterday that the opposition parties will present a no-confidence motion "within a day or two or at most three days" in accordance with their 28 November agreement with the Government. MIKI made his statement after visiting Government Section Chief WHITNEY with Socialist Chairman KATAYAMA and Democratic President INUKAI. The three leaders of the major opposition parties, while avoiding a definite time limit on debate, indicated their desire to complete action on the supplementary budget "as soon as possible." (NIHON KEIZAI: 2)

LABOR

Maritime union leaders, acting quickly on the Hepler warning against continued strikes, ended their dispute with the Shipping Association yesterday after gaining a 40 percent boost in seamen wages. Several other disputing unions, including the coal miners and the textile and private railway workers, shelved strike plans and reopened truce negotiations. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 3)

The electric power workers started to negotiate on a management-drafted compromise plan last night. Union officials, who reported to SCAP Labor Chief HEPLER yesterday that earlier talks had snagged on the winter allowance issue, asked to try again for a quick settlement. (MAINICHI: 4)

The National Congress of Industrial Unions, though accepting the nine principles of the US-ordered recovery program, feared that they would give capitalists an excuse to exploit labor. (ASAHI: 6)

ECONOMY

Concurrent with efforts to fix a single exchange rate under the nine-point stabilization program, the Government is trying to set a yen-dollar rate of 300 to one for five major textile goods. Board of Trade officials, who are working on the program with Commerce-Industry Ministry experts, apparently intend to put the new rate into effect from mid-January if it is approved this year. (ASAHI: 8)

INVESTIGATIONS

Mrs KATO Shizue was summoned for questioning yesterday in connection with an alleged campaign donation she and her husband, Kanju, received from textile tycoon UMEMURA Kiyoshi. (NIHON KEIZAI: 12)

Showa Denko investigators searched the home of Democratic Diet member UMEBAYASHI Tokio yesterday and seized documentary evidence. UMEBAYASHI is suspected of being linked with ex-Premier ASHIDA in the Showa affair. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 13) Prosecutors, meanwhile, are expected to interrogate former Welfare Minister TAKEDA Giichi shortly on ASHIDA's part in the case. (YOMIURI: 14)

A Kyushu coal operator and a Nihon University student were arrested on suspicion of bribery in the coal lobby scandal late Monday. (YOMIURI: 15)

EDITORIALS

Editorial columns were filled mainly with comments pivoting around Gen MacARTHUR's nine-point directive on economic stabilization with the labor aspect provoking considerable interest.

SCAP Directive

Regarding Gen MacARTHUR's letter, HOCHI SHIMBUN told the Government to have the people exert "sacrifice and determination." The paper, however, felt the present Cabinet and political parties unqualified to make such demands in view of this corrupt activities. The best way to respond to the directive, the paper suggested, is to eliminate by the ballot all politicians who only think of winning votes. TOKYO SHIMBUN pointed out that the instructions were only a warning to the Japanese people who are neglecting their duties in realizing economic recovery. Unless organized labor adheres to the provisions of the letter, the journal believed working and living conditions would become worse. SEKAI KEIZAI called for an autonomous and democratic peoples' movement directed toward complete economic reconstruction. It urged political parties, enterprisers, and labor unions to unite in their efforts to revive economy. Desiring the heavy burden of realizing economic stabilization to fall equally among the people, instead of on the working class alone, ASAHI prodded the Government and political parties to co-operate to attain this objective.

Labor

Disagreeing with the theory that labor is wholly to blame for the economic programs thus far advanced, DAI ICHI nevertheless criticized labor for its unclear aims--it is not certain whether its moves are designed to improve living conditions or to destroy capitalism, the paper stated. Labor leaders were advised by the daily to clarify labor's goal which, according to the paper, must be constructive and procapitalistic.

CHUKA NIPPO believed that labor and capital were afforded an excellent chance to work harmoniously now that new restrictions would be imposed on workers. While opposing any damper on labor activities as detrimental to the growth of democracy, the daily pointed out that there was no other choice at present. On the other hand, NIHON KEIZAI welcomed the anticipated quiet in labor circles. Though some basic human rights will have to be surrendered, the journal called upon workers to strive for boosted industrial output in order to secure better pay and livelihood.

JIJI SHIMPO saw the inevitability of mass lay-offs in government offices but felt that State Minister IWAMOTO's retrenchment plan calling for flat personnel reductions should be supplanted by a program to lift some economic controls while intensifying the remainder. Elimination of administrative deadwood would thus be greatly simplified, the paper asserted.

Adoption of a minimum wage system based on full ration distribution at reasonable prices was plugged by AKAHATA. The Personnel Commission's wage proposal was labeled a "counterpart" of the revised National Public Service Law which has "deprived laborers of fundamental human rights and constitutes a link in a policy to bring all the Japanese workers into the clutches of slavery." The communist mouthpiece urged the people to rise up against this "traitorous policy" and fight for the "stabilization of livelihood and safeguarding of freedom and independence."

Miscellaneous

YOMIURI was disgusted at the selfish, vacillating maneuvers of the political parties to twist events to strengthen their respective positions. However, the daily observed that although "Diet dissolution itself has its dubious points, the public is relieved that it is to come about for sure."

The second part of a signed AKAHATA commentary stressed that a Communist-Socialist amalgamation will develop various mass struggles which will increase the popularity of the Communist Party. Through the dignity of party policies and organization, the editorial asserted that the masses will join the party. A Communist-Socialist merger will guarantee national independence, popular democracy, and peace, the writer emphasized.

Despite the formation of the SUN Fo Cabinet in CHINA, MAINICHI doubted whether peace negotiations with the Communists will be established along the lines of the new Cabinet. The daily stated that the ability of the new Cabinet will determine whether the civil war will become worse. If cabinet unity is broken, the paper observed that peace cannot be hoped for in the near future.

CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

Press Statement
Mr J. L. Cooper
Scientific Consultant
Economics Branch
Agriculture Division
Natural Resources Section

15 December 1948

Today marks the first anniversary of the Japanese Government program to reform farmer associations in accordance with universally recognized cooperative principles.

We welcome the opportunity to congratulate the farmers of Japan on their success in voluntarily organizing more than 28,000 new agricultural cooperative enterprises and 10,500 local mutual relief associations. Praise also is due the farmers for their active interest in liquidating the more than 210,000 organizations which formerly regimented their activities, and for their success in further strengthening their cooperatives through the organization of more than 700 federations.

Farmer membership in local agricultural cooperatives now exceeds 7,250,000. An additional 475,000 nonfarmers have become associate members. This active support by the farmers clearly indicates their confidence in cooperative principles.

Mutual relief associations are organized under the Compensation Against Agricultural Loss Law. This measure authorizes a government-sponsored crop and livestock insurance program with subsidies for excessive damages to staple food crops. The assistance of the relief associations enables farmers to keep in production land on which the risk of loss is too great for them to assume alone. During 1948 Japanese crop and livestock activities were insured by local mutual relief associations for 44 billion yen. Claims payable for losses occuring during this year will exceed an estimated 3 billion yen.

Responsible Japanese Government officials deserve commendation for their effective administration of laws governing agricultural cooperative and insurance activities. However, the struggle to free agricultural organizations from nonfarmer domination has just begun. The real test of the farmers' ability to guide their own organizations will be their success in operating, protecting, and strengthening the new cooperatives they have now started. The extent of their success will depend upon their alertness and wise judgment.

Farmers and responsible officials must make steady progress toward the development of strong cooperative enterprises fully capable of serving membership requirements. The ultimate benefit from such an independent cooperative movement will be a stabilized agriculture better suited to meet the critical agricultural production requirements of Japan.

昭和二十三年十二月十五日

天然資源局経済部農業経済課学術顧問J・L・クーパー氏の談話

談話ステートメント

本日は日本政府が万国共通の協同組合原則に依り農村協同組合の改組一周年記念日である。

日本の農民団体が今日迄自発的に二万八千余の協同組合及び組合会と一万五百の地方共済組合とを組織しこれが改組に対し衷心より喜ぶ次第である。

成功を祈する点を述べたことを衷心より喜ぶ次第である。

[illegible]組織的に活動した二十一万余の[illegible]組合の存在に熱意を示し、七百余の[illegible]組合を結成して協同組合の強化に成功した[illegible]民諸君に謝辞を呈したい。

[illegible]万[illegible]組合の[illegible]組合員[illegible]には七百二十三万を超え[illegible]家[illegible]組合員[illegible]には二十七万五千に超してある。このやうな[illegible]民諸[illegible]の熱意は[illegible]組合の[illegible]則を充分に[illegible]してあることを証明してある。

共[illegible]組合は[illegible]災害[illegible]に際[illegible]において結成されたもので[illegible]災食[illegible]の[illegible]組が異[illegible]災害を[illegible]つた[illegible]合、[illegible]組合[illegible]

[illegible]民諸君は[illegible]係官[illegible]取員[illegible]位と共に[illegible]合員の[illegible]望に充分[illegible]へるやう、[illegible]力なる[illegible]協同[illegible]合[illegible][illegible]の[illegible][illegible]なる[illegible][illegible]をはらはけれはならぬ。この[illegible]協同[illegible]合は[illegible][illegible]の[illegible][illegible][illegible]なく、実[illegible]組織の[illegible][illegible]という[illegible][illegible]目的を[illegible]つてゐる。ここにより日[illegible]の[illegible][illegible]の[illegible][illegible]に[illegible]する[illegible][illegible]なる[illegible][illegible]に[illegible]へゐる[illegible][illegible]を[illegible]つに[illegible]るのである。

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CIVIL INFORMATION OFFICER

PRESS ANALYSIS

NO: 965 DATE: 21 Dec 48

Today's Tokyo Newspapers

The supplementary budget issue, though still drawing sharpest local emphasis, lost some space in the major papers this morning to the Hepler warning against continued strikes. MAINICHI and ASAHI, for example, led with the impending passage of the revised wage bill and budget, while YOMIURI--the third member of the Big Three--preferred the SCAP labor official's call for industrial peace. The play pattern differed somewhat in the evening papers. TOKYO SHIMBUN's top story was pegged on the forthcoming Supreme Court decision on the war crimes debate, while the smaller evening journals generally bannered the Hirasawa mass murder trial.

POLITICS

All major opposition parties except the Socialists gave virtual backing yesterday to the government-revised wage plan for public employees. The Democrats and Peoples Co-operatives split with the Socialists by supporting nearly all the provisions of the Government's 6,307-yen plan. Their proposed amendment, however, included two new provisions to expedite administrative reform. Socialist executives spurned both the government revision and the joint amendment drawn up by their opposition colleagues. But the top leaders of all three parties agreed to act on the wage bill and supplementary budget by tonight. With both measures assured passage today, cabinet officials looked forward to Diet dissolution before Thursday. (YOMIURI: 1)

The Democratic Liberals expected the opposition parties to submit a no-confidence motion tomorrow morning in fulfillment of their 28 November pact with the Government. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 10)

LABOR

SCAP Labor Chief HEPLER urged the leaders of six major unions yesterday to call off their strikes immediately and co-operate with management to speed the nation's economic recovery. He pointed out in his interview with the union representatives that Gen MacARTHUR's letter on the US-backed stabilization program had stressed that both labor and management were obligated to step up industrial production. "Any further attempt on the part of labor unions to wage disputes," he warned, "is likely to deprive them of the right to strike." All representatives except those of the coal mine unions promised to reply to the warning by 1000 hours today. HEPLER was also scheduled to appeal to management for industrial peace. (YOMIURI: 2)

After the Hepler warning the electric power and coal workers decided to renew wage negotiations. Maritime union executives voted to unsnarl their shipping tie-up at 2400 hours today. The textile workers, meanwhile, were weakening on their resolve to stage a walkout. (YOMIURI: 3)

ECONOMY

Industrialists welcomed the US-ordered recovery program, particularly its recommendations on wage stability. Spokesmen for the Federation of Management Organizations and the Japan Management League, convinced that wage control was the keystone of the nine-point program, demanded that the Government stabilize wages "forcibly." (ASAHI: 6)

INVESTIGATIONS

Democratic Party Secretary-general TOMABECHI was questioned by Showa Denko scandal investigators yesterday on an affidavit submitted by former Premier ASHIDA. Authorities are currently probing the moves of politicians at the time of the Ashida cabinet formation. (TOKYO SHIMBUN: 11)

About 10 Diet members will be arrested shortly in connection with the coal lobby case, it is believed. A top-level conference of prosecuting officials decided yesterday to make the arrests by Christmas irrespective of Diet dissolution. (MAINICHI: 12)