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Education (Political)

CI&E

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
Civil Information and Education Section

APO 500
17 February 1947

AG 000.1 (17 February 1947) CIE

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Copies of Documents

TO : Commanding Officer, Osaka Mil Govt Tm, Osaka-Shi, Osaka-Fu, APO 660

1. Transmitted herewith are five copies of the POLITICAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN, No. 1, dated 15 February 1947.

2. It is requested that they be made available to officers concerned with civil information and education and with local political affairs.

3. The material forwarded is not to be construed as directive nor as granting any additional authority.

D. R. Nugent
D. R. NUGENT
Lt. Col., USMC
Chief, C I & E Section

1 Inclosure
POLITICAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN, No. 1, 15 February 1947

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POLITICAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

No. 1 — 15 February 1947

Prepared by Civil Information and Education Section and Government Section, GHQ, SCAP for the use of Military Government Officers and Japanese information agencies or media. Items published herein may be reproduced in whole or in part.

Constitution Day

FOREWARD

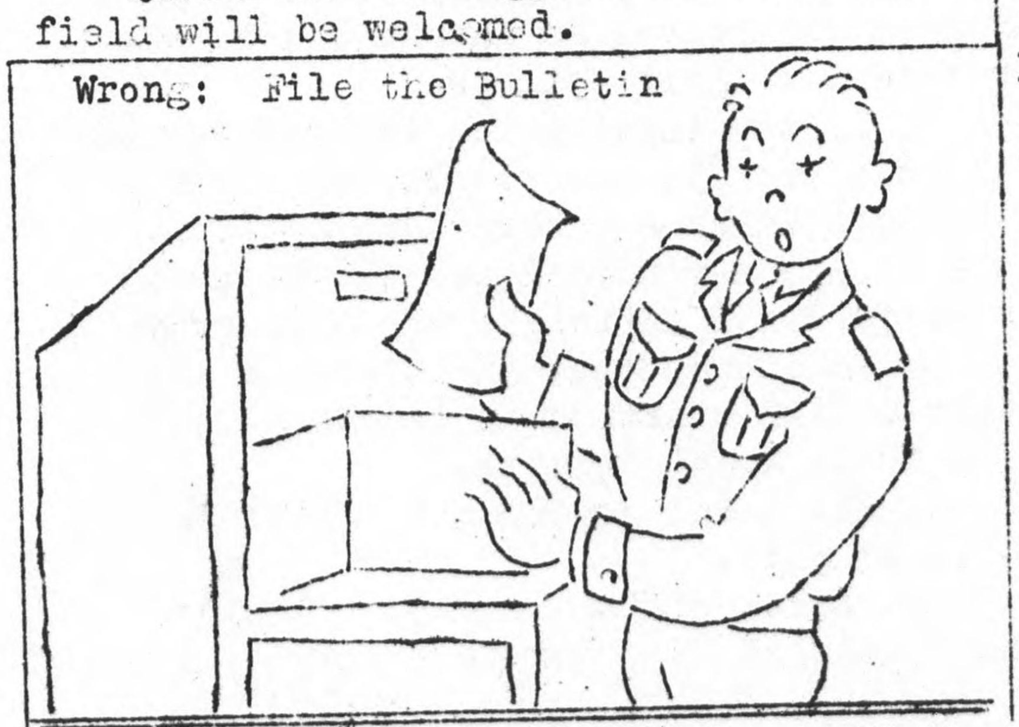
Presented herewith is the initial issue of POLITICAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN, a combined effort of the Civil Information and Education Section and Government Section to get more information to the Military Government Officers in the field and get it there as quickly as possible.

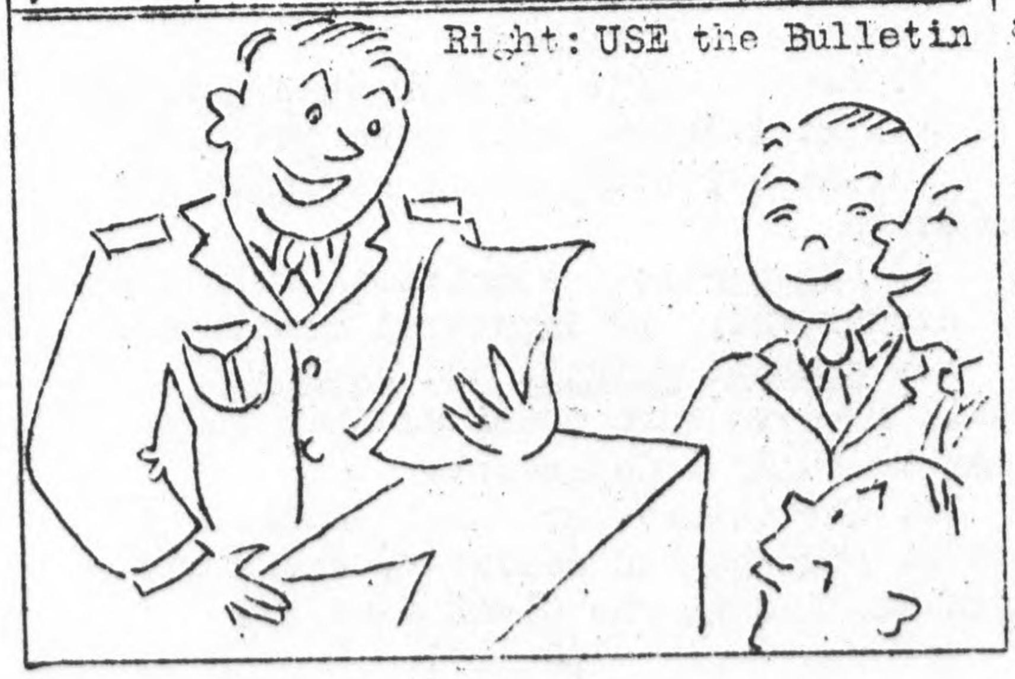
The BULLETIN will be distributed every two weeks, at least up to and through the period of the local elections.

It will endeavor to discuss political events and issues of particular significance to Military Government Officers at this time, as it becomes increasingly important to foster the development of political participation and consciousness in the Japanese.

The contents of the BULLETIN is intended for dissemination to the Japanese public through the Military Government officers as an aid to the democratization of local communities thru better knowledge of the aims and purposes of current programs and policies.

Questions and suggestions from the field will be welcomed.





DEMOCRACY DAY

Saturday, 3 May 1947, will be a landmark in Japanese history. On that day the new democratic Constitution becomes the law of the land. Long discussion and consideration by the Japanese government, by the Japanese people and by the freely elected representatives in the Diet preceded its almost unanimous adoption.

Both the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers and the Emperor of Japan have welcomed this Constitution as a charter of democracy. The day upon which it becomes effective should become a national holiday in Japan comparable to Independence Day in the United States.

This issue of POLITICAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN is principally devoted to those activities which are designed to make the new Constitution an effective weapon of Democracy in Japan. The topics covered here are:

I. The Constitution
II. The Purge
III. The Democratization of Local Government

These articles, and others to come in future issues, will show the way by which Democracy Day can be made by the Japanese a symbol of liberation and peace for all the future.

WHAT DOES THE NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEAN TO SUZUKI SAN?

Local government reform means more than the right to vote. It means the liberation of local government from domination by the national bureaucracy. It means that the voter gains control over the conduct of his own affairs and that Tokyo can no longer interfere in matters of purely local concern.

New revisions which the Japanese government is understood to be preparing for submission to the Diet will give greater local control over police, educational systems, health and sanitation services, finance and labor matters.

(Cont'd on next page)

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12065 SECTION 3-402/NNDG NO.

THE PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THEIR RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

Heretofore, Government in Japan has issued orders and regulations affecting every phase of life. It has been a lofty authority over which the people have had no control. It has looked upon itself as far above the common people, operating in a field of affairs in which the general public had no right to participate.

That certain rights are guaranteed to the individual by fundamental law and that every public official, however lofty, should be fully responsible to the electorate have been concepts unknown either to Japanese bureaucrats or to those who controlled the Government.

The old feudal days are over now. That is why much has already been said concerning the new democratic Japanese Constitution and why much more will be said. The idea that the people shall control all their public affairs is new to Japan and should be brought home to every individual in the nation. Only when the general public casts off feudal thinking and accepts the democratic way of life can Japan take best advantage of the fact that sovereignty now rests in the people.

Political education leads to political maturity but the process is not always rapid. Often it must be nurtured. The individual must not only be shown his new rights and his new responsibilities, but he must also be led toward a full understanding of them.

Thus he will gain faith in them through an understanding of their principles. Enthusiastic appreciation of the new rights and the new responsibilities of free men will make the citizen a fully free citizen in a new Japanese democracy.

For this reason a Committee for the Popularization of the Constitution is planning a series of orientation courses to be given in a dozen centers of Japan. This will be followed by a nationwide lecture campaign and by other methods of publicity. The goal is to make every person in Japan realize the value of the democratic freedom that is now available to him.

The new Japanese Constitution provides the machinery for complete establishment of true democracy and safeguards that machinery against tampering on the part of enemies of freedom. The adoption of the Constitution, however, does not achieve all objectives; a full and thorough knowledge of the contents of this important document must be spread throughout the nation.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Cont'd.)

The task of the central government, as far as local areas are concerned, will be limited generally to the establishment of national standards, coordination and the collection and dissemination of information. All this is in conformity with the terms of the new democratic Constitution whereby local autonomy is guaranteed.

As a result of the contemplated revisions important changes will be made in the pattern of the Japanese Govt.

1. The governor will be responsible to the people who elect him to office rather than to the central government at Tokyo. He will no longer be an official of the central government nor a member of the civil service. Only in a few, very exceptional, cases will he be responsible to the Home Ministry.

2. Within the pattern of democratic government, local communities may select for themselves the form of government which they desire. Provisions for this choice will be made by law so that citizens of cities, towns, and villages, may choose for themselves the type of local government best suited to their needs.

3. The democratically elected local assemblies will have far more freedom than they now have regarding the budget. They will have the right to approve, or to reject, the appointment of many new officials of local governments.

4. Assemblies will choose their own officials. Except in very extraordinary cases, assemblies may not close their sessions to the general public. They must meet frequently and they must regard themselves as answerable to the voters for their actions.

5. By the initiative, the referendum and the recall, the people can control the officials whom they have elected. The people may demand new elections to replace local officials who have proved to be incompetent and citizens may take definite action on issues affecting their local affairs.

6. All local government officials will be paid.

7. Local officials may no longer be dismissed by order from Tokyo nor can local assemblies be dissolved by the central government.

8. Local courts, rather than governmental ministries, will make judicial decisions affecting local governmental matters.

9. Non-partisan committees will administer fair and impartial elections.

10. Kenkai, shikai, and chosonkai will receive more power so that they may be fully independent.

11. The entire personnel problem is to be studied and necessary revisions recommended in the Civil Service.

(Cont'd. on page 3)

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PEOPLE'S RIGHTS (Cont'd.)

The extent to which the general public exercises its newly won powers for the development of a free, responsible government will largely determine not only the measure and the success of that government but will also determine the limits and the duration of the Occupation itself.

LOCAL SPEAKERS TO BE TRAINED FOR CONSTITUTION LECTURES

A course of special training for speakers who will lecture in the towns and villages of their respective prefectures prior to the enforcement of the Constitution on 3 May is being sponsored by the Society for the Popularization of the Constitution in nine different district centers of the country.

The training will be given by various scholars, Diet members, and journalists. Between 30 and 50 trainees will be selected by each prefectural chapter of the Society. The selection will be made from among members of the local assemblies, bar association, labor union, women's organization, youth organization, economic and commercial bodies and other organizations as well as from among educators and newspaper men.

Following is the schedule of training courses to be held during the next six weeks:

Feb. 20-24	KANAZAWA
Feb. 21-25	YAMAGATA
Feb. 25-Mar.1	KUMAMOTO
date unset	NARITA (CHITA)
Mar. 1-5	TAKAMATSU
Mar. 6-10	OKAYAMA
Mar. 12-16	KYOTO
Mar. 18-22	NAGOYA
Apr. 1-5	SAPPORO

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (cont'd)

12. All existing laws, Imperial Ordinances and other instructions affecting local government will be thoroughly examined and, when necessary, revised, in order to assure the effectiveness of the reforms to be made in local governmental matters.

All these reforms are extensive in themselves but they are only preliminary steps toward complete democratization of local government.

For this reason, voters should give serious consideration to the important role which each individual may now play in the new and democratic Japan.

If the voter is active and eager and intelligent in the enjoyment of his new political rights and in the execution of the civic duties that devolve upon him in consequence of those rights, stabilization of the people's livelihood will be enhanced and the road smoothed for the further progress of a democratic, progressive nation.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW PURGE ORDINANCES

Recent ordinances issued by the Japanese Government not only extend the purge to local government but also hit certain influential political and economic posts.

The term "public service" now includes members of the Imperial Diet, all personnel of the National Government, members of prefectural and municipal assemblies and personnel of the local governmental bodies and specified positions in particular companies, associations, media of mass communications and other organizations.

For the purpose of screening, the positions in the public service have been divided into <u>principal</u> public office and <u>ordinary</u> public office.

Principal public office in the case of the National Government is limited to those persons who hold or who are candidates for appointment or election to positions of the three highest civil service ratings or their equivalent. Principal public office in local government is limited to specified positions.

Ordinary public office in the National Government service means any position other than principal public office. Ordinary public office in local government service means certain specified positions secondary in importance to the principal public offices.

The new ordinances include a penalty clause providing for a maximum ¥15,000 fine or three years' imprisonment for violation of various injunctions of which the following are of particular importance:

1. Prohibition against a purgee's continuing his influence or power through any other person in public service.
2. Prohibition against any person in public service seeking or accepting advice or guidance from a purgee.
3. Prohibition against any purgee's occupying a position in any newspaper, magazine, or other publishing company, broadcasting corporation, or company controlling any media of mass communication.
4. Prohibition against a purgee's entering into the premises of the governmental office or organization from which he has been removed or specifically barred.

The penalty provision also applies to persons who falsify entries in or who omit information from their questionnaires or who otherwise fail to obey official instructins.

Two other provisions of the new ordinances are significant. One is the "non-succession provision". This means that persons who have held the position of mayor or deputy-mayor, headman or deputy headman consecutively from or prior to

(Cont'd. on page 4)

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HIGHLIGHTS OF PURGE (Cont'd)

1 September 1945 shall be barred, (even though they do not fall under any other provisions of the purge ordinances), from being candidates for election or appointment to these positions. They may, however, run for, or be appointed to, any other office from which they are not specifically barred.

The second important provision is that any person who is a relative within the third degree of relationship by blood, marriage or adoption of any purgee, shall be ineligible for ten years to succeed or to be appointed to any position from which the purgee has been removed.

REVISED SCREENING SYSTEM IS PROVIDED

A revised screening system is provided by the new ordinances, namely, a central committee responsible to the Prime Minister and 46 prefectural committees, including the metropolis of Tokyo and the five principal cities of Osaka, Kobe, Yokohama, Kyoto and Nagoya responsible to the prefectural governors and 128 municipal committees in cities with a population of 50,000 or above who are responsible under their respective mayors to the governors of the prefectures in which they are located.

The membership of the central and Prefectural committees is set at nine and the municipal committees at five permanent members with no limitation on the number of temporary commissioners. Temporary commissioners may not vote on any action before the committee as a whole.

A quorum of seven permanent members is required for formal action by the central and prefectural committees and a quorum of three permanent members is required for similar action by the municipal committees.

The chairman must vote on all issues. In the event of a tie resulting from the absence of one member, the chairman is required to cast a second and deciding vote. The results of screening action will be posted in bulletin form and the questionnaires of all persons on whom final action has been taken will be made available for public inspection.

NATIONAL SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY GIVES WOMEN PROMINENT ROLE

A number of women assumed new important responsibilities in the Social Democratic party when a recent national convention went on record in support of giving women true representation and participation in party affairs.

(Cont'd next column)

WOMEN (Cont'd.)

It is unfortunately true that in some areas women's sections in the political party branches are still headed by men. In others, the women's sections are treated more as separate women's club groups rather than as integral parts of the party. In some cases they have been so independent and uninformed of party policy that they have even campaigned for issues opposed to party interests.

The National Convention of the Social Democratic party has led the way in correcting this situation. Miss Tsuneko Akamatsu was chosen to head the women's section of the national committee and Mrs. Hisako Yonevama was elected as a member of the Central Executive Committee.

Military Government officers can do a great deal in their conferences with local political leaders to see that women are included in party activities and given their rightful opportunity for leadership, especially as the heads of women's sections.

TIME SCHEDULE SET FOR VARIOUS SCREENING COMMITTEES

Approximately 2500 permanent and temporary commissioners of the prefectural and municipal committees will be screened by the central committee by approximately 15 February. Prefectural and municipal committees will begin their screening about 20 February. The approved screening schedule for the committee is as follows:

1. Feb.	Members of Screening Committees
15 Feb.	Holders of Principal Prefectural Public Office
20 Feb.	Holders of Principal Municipal Public Office and Election Administration Committee Members
25 Feb.	Candidates for Governor and Mayor of 5 Principal Cities and Members of House of Councillors
28 Feb.	Candidates for Prefectural Assemblymen Candidates for Mayor and Headmen of Town and Village, Superintendents of poll stations and of the vote.
20 Mar. to 15 Apr.	Holders of Principal Public Office in special organizations
25 Mar. to 15 Apr.	Candidates for Assemblymen of City, Town, and Village
16 Apr. to 30 Apr.	Holders of Principal Public Office in special organizations

Furthermore, all new appointments to the public service must be screened on the basis of the new questionnaire and under the provisions of the new ordinances.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12055 SECTION 3-402/NNDG NO. 750

Following are exact translations of the articles that appeared in POLITICAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Issue No. 1 dated 15 February 1947

(DEMOCRACY DAY)

デモクラシー。デー

一九四七年五月三日（土曜日）は日本の国史に於て画期的な日となるであらう。　ことし三月三日に新憲法が施行されるのである。　新憲法が殆ど全員一致によつて可決されるまでには、日本政府、日本国民及び国民の自由意思によつて選出された議員によつて永い間論議がたゝかはされ、充熟考された。

聯合軍最高司令官も天皇も新憲法をデモクラシー憲章として歓迎した。　新憲法施行日はアメリカ合衆国に於ける独立記念日にも比すべき、日本に於ける全国的祝日となるべきである。

この政治会議は新憲法をして日本民主化のための有効的武器たらしめるやうな諸活動に献立つことを主たる目的としてをり、次に述べる諸問題は

一　憲法　二　地方　三　地方庁の民主化

である。

本號並に次號以下に掲載される記事はデモクラシーデーとして特事に立つての日本の過去と平和との記念日たらしめようとする　意をしめすであらう。

WHAT DOES THE NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEAN TO SUZUKI SAN?)

新しい地方庁は地方民に何を意味するか

地方制度改革は選挙権だけの問題ではない。　それは地方庁を　中央官庁支配から開放することを意味する。　それは又選挙人は選挙人自身のことは自分達で解決し、中央官庁は　も早や絶対に地方的なことには干渉しないといふことを意味する。

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日本政府が國會に提案するために準備中の諸改革は警察、教育制度、住宅、衛生、財政、労働等のことに關し、より大きい權限を地方に附與しようとしてゐる。

地方の事に關しての中央官廳の仕事は一般的に言つて、全國的な標準を立てたり情報を集めたり、提供したりすることに限られるであらう。　このことは地方自治が保障されてゐる民主的新憲法の條項と合致する。

計畫中の改革が實現すると、日本政府の性格に重要な變革がもたらされる。

一、　知事は中央官廳に對してよりもむしろその選擧民に對して責を負ふ。　彼はもはや中央官廳の官吏でも、地方官廳の官吏でもない。　唯どく例外的な場合に於てのみ、内務省に對して責を負ふことがあるにすぎない。

二、　地方公共團體は民主的なものであるかぎりに於て、好きな機構を選擇することができる。　このことに關する條項は、地方民が自分達のために一番適合した地方廳の型を選擇することができるやう法律によつて規定される。

三、民主的に選擇された地方議會は予算に關して、現在よりもはるかに自由を與へられる。　それらは地方廳の多くの新しい官吏の任命を承認、拒否する權利を與へられるであらう。

四、　地方議會は議會に必要な官吏を選擇できる。　例外の場合を除いては議事は公開されなければならない議會は度々開かれ、選擧人に對する責任を忘れてはならない。

五、　一般投票權召還權を提案して、地方民は彼等の選擧した官吏を案制できる。　又、無能な地方官吏を更迭するため選擧を要求できるし、市民はその地方だけの問題については決定的な權能をとり得る。

六、　凡ての地方官吏は有給である。

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七、地方官吏は中央官廳の命令によつて免官になつたり又、地方議會が中央官廳によつて解散させられたりすることはない。

八、地方廳に關する法律上の決定については中央官廳よりは、むしろ地方裁判所が之にあたる。

九、無黨無派的委員會が公正な選擧を行ふやう管理する

十、縣會、市會、町村會は充分に獨立できるやうにより以上の力を附與される。

十一、地方官は人事問題を研究し、必要な改正を進言する

十二、地方制度に關する現存の法律、勅令、その他の法令は根本的に檢討され、もし必要があるならば、地方制度改革が效果的になされるやうに改革されねばならない。

之等の改革は廣範圍なものであるが、地方の完全な民主化に對するほんの序の口にすぎない。

故に、選擧人は、各人が新しい民主的日本に於て演ずる重要な役割に深甚な考慮を拂うべきである。

若し選擧人が新しく與へられた政治上の諸權利を享受することと並に之等の權利の附與された結果、地方民に移行された諸責務の遂行に活動的であり、熱心であり聰明であるならば國民の生活はより安定し、日本の民主化進歩化はより容易となるであらう。

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國民は彼等の權利と特權とを知るべきである

今まで日本政府は生活の全面に及んで命令や規則を發してきた。日本政府は国民が抑制しえない非常に高い權威であった。政府は自身を国民の関與しえない、ことがらをする、一般国民からはかけはなれたものと思ってゐた。

或る種の權利は基本法によって個人に保証されてゐると云ふことと、如何なる高官と云へども凡て並に參民に対し完全に責任を負ふと云ふことは本の官吏並に政府を支配してゐた人々にも知られてゐなかった概念であった。

封建時代はすでに過去のものとなった。そのことは民主的な新憲法に於てまったくかえられた訳である。右今後ともまったくかえられる訳である。国民が彼等の凡ての公共の事柄を管理すると云ふ思想は本来は新しいことであり、国民の各人によって解されるべきである。一般国民が封建的思想をすてる方法に入る時に於てのみ日本は主權在民といふ事実を最善に利用できるのである。

政治教育は国民をして政治的に成熟せしめるがその効果がみられるのは必ずしも早いとは云へない。しばらくそれは育成されなければならない。各人は新しく付与された權利と特權に伴ひ責任とを示さなければならない、ばかりでなくそれらを完全に理解するやう指導されなければならない。

かくてそれらの諸原則を理解することによってそれらを確信することに至る。自由の新しい權利並に新しい責任を熱心に識することは市民をして新生日本の民主主義の下に於ける完全な自由市民たらしめるであらう。

これ為に憲法普及會は日本の十萬の中心都市で連續的に憲法解説講座を計画してゐる。これらはそれ全国的憲法講演運動及び他の普及方法はこれらの目的とするところは日本人全部に彼等に与へられた民主々義的自由の價値を理解させることである。

新憲法は真の民主々義を完全に建設するための機構を規定しその機構が自由の敵によってわいされるのを保障するものである。しかしながら新憲法の判定は凡ての目的を達成するものではない。新憲法の内容を全国民に完全に知らしめなければならぬ。

自由な責任ある政府を発達させるために国民が新たに獲得した權利をどう程度に活用するかによって政府の民主化の程度並に占領期間範圍決定は大いに左右される

公職適否審査委員會制度改正さる

勅令によって公職適否審査委員會制度が改正され即ち中央委員會は首相に対して責任を負ひ東京都及び大阪、神戸、横浜、京都、名古屋の五大都市を含む四六都道府県委員会は地方長官に対して責任を負ひ人口五万以上の市に於る一二八の市委員會は市長の監督の下に所在地の地方長官に対して責任を負ふ。

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12065 SECTION 3-402/NND 863 NO. ___

中央委員會の委員數は九名、都道府縣委員會及び市委員會は委員五名とし臨時委員を置くことが出來る。但し委員會の決定に加はることが出來ない。

中央委員會に於ては七名の定足數がなければ會議を開くことが出來ない。都道府縣委員會並に市委員會に於ては三名の定足數がいる。

委員長は常に投票權を行使すべきである。委員一名欠席する可否同數の場合は委員長の決するところによる。公職適否審査の結果は掲示板の型式でひろく公衆の閲覧に供される。

新追放令概録

日本政府によって最近公布された追放令は地方共同団体に及ぼしたのみならず、ある種の有力な政治的、経済的地位につく規定した。

現在公職とは帝国議会の議員官吏の職員、地方公共団体の職員及び議会の議員並びに特定の会社、協会、報道機関その他の団体の特定の職員の職を云ふ。

資格審査のために公職は更に主要公職並に普通公職の二つに分れる。

官吏の主要公職とは一級官待遇以上の官吏及び待遇官吏の職にあるか、それらの職に任命或は進まされんとする人々に限定される。地方公共団体の主要公職は特定された職を意味する。

官吏の普通公職とは主要公職以外の職を意味する。

地方公共団体の普通公職とは主要公職につぐ重要な職を意味する。

追放令は一、五、〇〇〇以下の罰金若しくは三年以下の懲役もしくは禁錮を以て違反されることになるが、特に重要なことを次に挙げると

一、追放該当者が公職にある人を通じて彼の影響及至支配を継続することの禁止

二、公職にある者が追放該当者から指示乃至勧奨を受けうとしたり、受けたりすることの禁止

三、追放該当者が特殊社、雑誌社、その他の出版社、放送機関、報道機関の職につくことの禁止

四、追放該当者が退職されたる官吏、その他の団体の構内に入ることの禁止

罰則は負担表に虚偽の記載をしたり、又は事実をかくした記載をしたり、公的指令に従はない場合に適用される

新追放令には更に二つの重要な規定がある。その一つは留任禁止條項である即ち昭和二十年九月一日以降引続き市長町村長又はその助役の地位にあつたものは追放令の他の規定に該当せずとも之等の職の選挙に候補者となつたり任命されることは禁ぜられるしかなり特に禁ぜられたる職以外の職に立候補したり任命されることはさまたげない。

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第二の重要な規定は追放該当者の三親等内の親族及び配偶者は追放該当者の退職した公職に十年間つくことが出来ない。

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POLITICAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

No. 6 — 7 May 1947

Prepared by Civil Information and Education Section and Government Section, GHQ, SCAP, for the use of Military Government Officers. Items published herein may be reproduced in whole or in part.

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SCREENING ACTIVITIES

During the period from 29 March to 26 April 1947, a total of 190,658 persons were screened by both Central Government and Local Government Public Office Qualifications Examination Committees. Of the total of 5,440 persons screened by the Central Government Committee, 161 were barred from public service and 197 were removed, a total of 368 persons who were considered unfit to hold public office. On the local government level, 185,245 persons were screened, of whom 251 were barred and 232 were removed.

As of 26 April the number of persons screened since the promulgation of the new purge ordinances on 4 January 1947 totaled 269,855. Of this number 462 were barred from public service and 496 were removed from public office.

Following is a tabulation of the results of the screening of 5,327 candidates for the principal elective positions in the Japanese government: (cont'd on page 2)

WHAT ARE THESE NEW "CIVIL LIBERTIES"?

Within recent weeks there have been many references to the civil liberties guaranteed to the people of Japan by their new Constitution. What are these civil liberties that are deemed so important?

It is a striking commentary upon the nature of government in Japan under the Meiji Constitution - the old autocratic, feudalistic rule - that no word existed that adequately expresses the democratic concept of civil liberty. Shimin teki kenri - concerning the rights of citizens - though close, is an awkward expression. Minken - the rights of the people - is far better. But words alone - black marks on paper - no matter how beautifully written, drawn with what careful artistry - have no meaning unless they are read and understood as the clear symbol of the people's faith.

It is the basic requirement of a free, popular government that the civil liberties of the people be guaranteed. Civil liberty is the right of the individual to be secure in the conduct of his affairs without interference other than through the orderly processes established by law, to participate freely in all public affairs, to think and to speak according to the dictates of his own conscience.

The individual in a free society who has faith is never afraid of what others may say. He knows that he is free to oppose openly and vigorously every official act which he deems against the interests of the people - free to organize and lead his fellow men in the exercise of their civil rights to alter those laws and to remove those officials.

(cont'd on page 2)

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CIVIL LIBERTIES (cont'd)

It is this concept of the dignity and importance of the individual human being that is so vital to democracy. The State is a free organization of free women and free men, associated together to adopt rules designed to regulate human intercourse for the mutual advantage and protection of all.

Japan stands at the crossroads of her destiny. Unless the Japanese people, in and out of office, irrespective of birth or breeding, regardless of wealth or rank, are prepared to accept and protect the precious and irreplaceable freedom of the individual, there can be no hope either for a Japanese democracy or for any future other than chaos and disaster.

Japan under the old regime enjoyed no liberty in the true sense of the word. There existed neither a supreme law which threw the cloak of protection about the men and women of Japan in the enjoyment of civil liberties nor any tradition of public service which imposed upon public officials the duty of promoting the interests of the people - the public welfare.

The police, as the operating agency of government, arrested without warrant or good cause, confined without trial, beat and tortured without being held answerable, entered and searched private homes and seized private papers without justification or a lawful warrant.

The position and responsibility of the Japanese Government in the Japanese State is today a vital one. The efforts of that government to secure peaceful and gradual progress toward a responsible Japanese democracy are acknowledged. Every tendency on the part of Japanese officialdom to revert to the traditional system of basing every decision on what is thought to be good or proper for the people regardless of their opinion - the tendency to rule rather than govern - must be scrupulously avoided. No official of government, however great his position, however wise or important he may consider himself to be, has the legal or moral right to oppose or ignore the wishes, the demands, the decisions of the individual citizens of Japan made and expressed through the normal civil channels and processes.

Japan has a new Constitution which lays the groundwork for a peaceful, democratic state. It has the opportunity of turning its back upon the horrors of war and the tragedies of oppression. The men and women of Japan have the right to live their own free lives, to choose their own officials, to demand of them compliance with the people's decisions and judgments. Let there be no more talk of obligations the people owe the State. The people are the State.

(cont'd in next column)

SCREENING ACTIVITIES (cont'd)

Screened for House of Councillors	1,406
Barred	31
Screened for House of Representatives	3,427
Barred	136
Screened for Prefectural Governor	451
Barred	20
Screened for Mayor of the five Principle Cities	43
Barred	1

Among prominent figures in Japanese politics found subject to the purge during April were:

Yoshinari Kawai, Minister of Welfare
Watari Narahashi, Member, Executive Committee, Democratic Party.
Ken Inukai, Executive Committee Democratic Party
Takeshige Ishiguro, Secretary General Democratic Party
Keinosuke Zen, Member Elect to the House of Councillors, former head Economic Stabilization Board.
Hitoshi Imamura Member, House of Representatives from Nagasaki Prefecture, Social Democratic Party
Matsuhei Matsuoka, Member, Liberal Party
Usaburo Chizaki, Campaign Manager of Democratic Party.

A total of 65,024 persons were reported screened for elective posts in local government.

Approximately 10,000 former mayors and deputy-mayors, ward heads and headmen and deputy-headmen of towns and villages were prevented from running for re-election under the provisions of Imperial Ordinance No. 3 of 1947.

CIVIL LIBERTIES (cont'd)

They are answerable only to themselves for their decisions. They will suffer from their mistakes. Their agents - their public officers - are now charged by them with the defense of the rights and liberties of the people.

The rights of a free citizen entail a clear duty to respect the established rules enacted by them. When a citizen sells his vote, when he permits his decisions and his actions be dictated by selfish desires or wrongful motives, when he resorts to intimidation and violence rather than to the verdict of the law court or the ballot box he betrays himself and his society. It is upon the honesty, the integrity, the faith of free men and women that the future of democracy rests. The burden is upon the men and women of Japan, to be vigilant in the defense of their freedom.

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TONARI GUMI ARE OUTLAWED

Today throughout Japan, no Rengokai, no Chonaikai, no Burakukai or no Tonari Gumi has either legal or quasi-lawful grounds of existence. The abolishment of the system in toto as the Ministry of Home Affairs has ordered it, naturally means that there are now no Rengokaicho, Chonaikaicho, Burakukaicho or Tonari Gumicho. Nor are there to be any.

What has been the nature of this evil system of control? How was it organized and how did it function? Historically every Japanese citizen knows that all echelons of Local Government have served primarily as agencies of the Central Government. The chief executives of the villages, towns, cities and prefectures have been the officials who have passed the orders and instructions down to the people and performed the necessary action. The family as a whole and individuals alike were forced to join whether they wished to do so or not. Indeed they had no way out because most all essential rations were distributed by the System and hence no Japanese could obtain sufficient necessities of life without joining and taking part in the compulsory organization's activities.

The Tonari Gumi System stripped the villages, towns and prefectures of what vestiges of autonomy they possessed. There certainly was no place in this system for any type of criticism, for freedom of speech or action. The effect of this System put the national government, mainly through one Minister, that of Home Affairs, in autocratic control of 47 governors who influenced or ordered 11,000 mayors and headmen of cities, towns and villages to act as desired; the mayors and headmen influenced if not commanded more than 200,000 Rengokaicho, Chonaikaicho and Burakukaicho, and these in turn dominated or persuaded more than one million Tonari Gumicho, who together with their families made up the some 70 million people who composed the nation.

What action did the Japanese Government take with regard to this system? What was its purpose? The Diet having passed the Constitution and embarked upon a democratic course for the government of a new Japan, the Central Government, acting through the Ministry of Home Affairs, decided to abolish the Tonari Gumi System from beginning to end. It did this in order that the citizen could have freedom of thought, speech and action and to allow both women and men the opportunity to

(cont'd on next column)

TONARI GUMI (cont'd)

exercise political, religious and civil liberties guaranteed by the new Constitution. The Ministry wished to remove the last of the organs or agencies of government which had been under the control of the obnoxious Imperial Rule Assistance Association and dominating Gunbatsu.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has been charged with the administration of rationing which was accomplished through the Tonari Gumi, and so the President of the Food Management Board has issued instructions which prescribe issuance of rations directly to the individual. On 28 March the President of the Food Management Board gave a press release emphasizing that "individual consumers are entitled to direct ration distribution at any time during the office hours at the rationing points after the date when the ration is announced to be ready for distribution", and repeated the warning from the Ministry of Home Affairs issued previously that "from now on the existence of Tonari Gumi or any similar organization will be forbidden".

For the receiving of rationed goods today no formal organization, even though voluntary, is necessary. For the sake of convenience neighbors may ask one another to collect their rations or pool their tickets, but this is as far as they need go in this respect.

If in some localities the officials have not yet organized the rationing system so that the individual can obtain his rations freely of others, the citizens can and should report the fact to the procurator for investigation, write to newspapers or make the matter public in properly conducted meetings — the lawful means. If in some places the former Chonaikaicho or Tonari Gumicho are yet for any reason giving orders or demanding services, the citizen can report them also as acting contrary to the government's published instructions; moreover he or she need pay no attention to their now unauthoritative calls.

With the new laws for local autonomy, the citizen will enjoy freedom of political and governmental action not obtained before. With the abolition of the Tonari Gumi System, Japanese people can have the free interchange of opinion among the members of the same communities. No more important foundation exists than this for real and positive self-government in a democracy.

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REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES IN CRIMINAL PROCEDURE REFORMS

The home of every Japanese is his castle. The new Constitution puts great emphasis upon the dignity of the individual. It is designed to build up a government by law so that the scope of interference by the State in the private sphere of the individual is legally defined and limited.

Elaborate safeguards have been established for the protection of the individual in the field of criminal justice. Civil liberties are dearly won and maintained only if the people are fully aware of their rights and eager to use them courageously.

No person shall be deprived of life or liberty, nor shall any other criminal penalty be imposed except according to procedure established by law. The accused has the right to a speedy trial, competent counsel, and examine witnesses. No one shall be apprehended except on a warrant issued by a judicial officer which specifies offenses with which he is charged. He shall not be detained without adequate cause, and infliction of torture as well as cruel punishments are absolutely forbidden.

Since no law contrary to the principles of the Constitution will have legal force after May 3, a fundamental revision of the existing Code of Criminal Procedure has become necessary. The Japanese Government, aware of the danger of hasty legislation, resorted to the expedient of submitting to the Diet provisional bills which contain only the most elementary provisions of the basic Codes. The great task of enacting the final revision will be up to the next Diet.

Following are a few "highlights" of the provisional Code of Criminal Procedure. No public procurator or judicial police officer has the power to issue a warrant of arrest or detention. Only a judge may issue such warrants. Exceptions occur where sufficient grounds exist which infer punishment by death, life imprisonment or penal servitude for a period of three years or longer, or where, because of urgency, a warrant could not be obtained beforehand from a judge. The second exception is in the case of an individual actually engaged in committing a crime. In all cases, warrants of detention must be requested within seventy-two hours.

Speedy trial is guaranteed by the provision that the public procurator must bring public action within ten days after detention; otherwise the suspect must be released.

The new provisional Code, with reference to the absolute right of the individual to privacy in his home, states unambiguously that a public procurator or judicial police officer may not seize,

(cont'd in next column)

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (cont'd)

search, or inspect without a judicial warrant — save in the case when a criminal is arrested while in the commission of a crime or when a warrant of arrest or detention is being executed.

The provisional Code of Criminal Procedure demands widest publication. It seeks to protect the people from arbitrary acts on the part of the police, the public procurator, and the judiciary; it attempts to give the people the protection of law and speedy operation of justice.

ELECTION RESULTS FOR WOMEN

Despite considerable opposition on the part of the press and the almost total lack of support from their political parties, 15 women were elected to the House of Representatives in the April 25th election, and, according to the latest reports, 10 women to the House of Councillors, making a total of 25 in the Japanese Diet. Of this total, 12 are women who served in the House of Representatives last year.

Commenting on the results, Shizue Kato, prominent female member of the Social Democrat party, said:

"In this election voters seemed to vote for parties rather than for individuals and so did not seem to regard candidates as men or women. I feel that the women members of the Diet have passed the stage where they should be regarded as 'Diet Women'. They should fight in the Diet as members of a party."

Women elected to the Diet campaigned on platforms that included equal educational opportunities for women, higher standards for public health facilities, improvement of nursing standards, improvement of living conditions through developing the cooperative program in rural areas, these cooperatives to include dairies, nursery facilities for children, community kitchens, etc. In addition to the above, members of the Social Democrat party made a strong appeal to the working women by promising improvement in the working conditions of women and children.

The need now exists for community education programs aimed at both men and women and designed to develop techniques for continuing the interest in government that was aroused by the four April elections.

LAND REFORM CONFERENCES

A series of five conferences on land reform will be held this month in five different regions of the country They will be attended by all the economic affairs officers of Military Government and by the prefectural CI&E officers. Dates and places of the conferences are as follows: 19 May, Kyushu; 21, Kure; 23, Kyoto, 27, Sendai, 29 May Tokyo.

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I. The Law of the Constitution

II. New House of Representatives Election Law

III. Campaign Promises

IV. Interpretation of Election Laws

THE LAW OF THE CONSTITUTION

In all the discussions on the new Constitution far too little emphasis has been placed on the true scope and direction of its effect upon the Japanese State. Much has been written and much said of the responsibilities and obligations of the Japanese people. In the typical pattern of Japanese official behavior the government is already undertaking to "enforce" the obligations of the Constitution on the people. That the Constitution is a law directed at and restricting the Japanese citizen in his private or political activity is a serious misconception although one quite in keeping with Japanese political tradition. The state, according to traditional Japanese political theory, was a separate entity to which the people - the subjects - owed entire allegiance. The people served the government, which, in its beneficence, protected and cared for the people. The people had no rights against the state. In a very literal sense the state could do no wrong. This is a far cry from the ideology of democracy, wherein it is a prime tenet that the basic purpose of government is the service - the welfare - of the governed. The machinery set up and the agents chosen have for their sole purpose the accomplishment of the will of the people.

For the Japanese, embarking on this new political adventure, this point is an important one. It re-orients the entire slant of emphasis in government. No longer do the people owe respect, obedience, support to a small knot of self-appointed minorities. No longer are the operating agencies of government charged with loyalty to the overlord and responsibility to him for securing and maintaining the entire allegiance and service of all the subjects.

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NEW HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION LAW

One of the last acts of the 92nd Diet before dissolution was to amend the House of Representatives Election Law. These amendments not only brought this law into focus with those for local elections and with the House of Councillors law but completely changed the size of the House of Representatives election districts, the number of members returned therefrom, and the method of voting.

Under the new law there will be 117 lower House election districts, as compared to 53 in the old law. Each of these 117 districts will return from three to five members, for a total membership of 466. Restricted plural voting has been replaced by the single ballot. This means that each elector will write in the name of one, and only one, candidate for the House of Representatives.

(cont'd on page 2)

WOMEN DO NOT FORGET TO VOTE!

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LAW OF CONSTITUTION (cont'd)

No longer are public officials answerable only to their superiors and only for failure to carry out the wishes of the superiors.

Under the new Constitution every public official is directly and immediately responsible to the people of Japan from whom he derives all authority and by whose instructions he must be guided. He is their agent, operating in an organization designed by them and under rules enacted to restrain him and protect the people. The Constitution which has been established has, for its primary purpose, the imposition of specific legal limitations upon the conduct of officers and agents of government and the provision of sufficient checks and safeguards to secure the maintenance of those limitations. The so-called rights and duties set forth in Chapter 3 are not rules of conduct for the individual. They are the definitions of those fields of individual action into which the state may not trespass. The security of those fields is maintained by the vigilance of the individual and the integrity of the courts. The law of the Constitution is a prohibition upon state action, a limitation upon the authority of the majority in power and upon every officer and agent acting under such majority.

This distinction between ordinary municipal law and the law of the Constitution is frequently overlooked. The civil code, the criminal code, the commercial code contain the rules which guide the conduct of men in their relations one with the other as individuals or one as an individual with organized society. The Constitution, on the other hand, imposes its rules of conduct upon organized society and its agents. It is not directed at the people. It fixes the machinery and sets the limits - the governors - upon the operation of that machine. It sets forth why, how and to what extent organized society may enforce its will upon or require the services or support of the individual.

This is a far cry from the old system under which the Japanese people so long have suffered. The individual who could claim relationship to the throne or official membership in the Imperial Government through the accident of blood or the fortuity of appointment stood in the position of a privileged character to whom the law did not apply. The law was the vehicle whereby he imposed his will and the will of his superiors upon the great mass of unfortunate individuals who were looked upon to do the work and provide the sources of wealth and strength from which the Imperial Government derived its position, its prerogatives and its privileges. Those lesser individuals who were responsible to the Imperial Japanese Government for their good behavior, for their complete subservience to the Imperial will, had no other claim upon that government than the privilege of enjoying the Imperial beneficence when it was seen fit to bestow it. Their protection lay solely in the good faith of their rulers. (cont'd on next column)

REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION LAW (cont'd)

Included among the noteworthy minor changes is the provision placing supervision of the elections, the appointment of election officials, and the counting of ballots into the hands of the locally chosen election administration committees, a feature now applicable to all election laws in Japan. The franchise has also been expanded so that now only incompetents and prisoners are excluded from voting. Candidates' filing deposits have been raised from 2,000 to 5,000 yen and fines have generally been increased ten-fold, reflecting the current inflation. Several jail penalties have been made more severe.

A new Article 96 prohibits the use in election campaigns by school teachers, school officials, and members of educational associations of students below the age of 20 who are presently under the tutelage or influence of the aforementioned. The purpose of this prohibition is to prevent a candidate such as a teacher or a school official from taking advantage of this special relationship of authority with students under him. It does not prevent, however, a teacher in Tokyo for instance, from returning to his country home and employing school children there to further his campaign. Such is not considered in the Japanese law as having a "specially related" position to school children below the age of twenty.

Other provisions limit legal campaign expenditures to 50,000 yen and require campaign receipts and expenses for political parties and candidates to be made public.

This law was passed on 31 March. Three hundred thirty-five copies of a National Election Hand Book containing this law and the House of Councillors Election Law were dispatched to Eighth Army on 1 April for distribution to units in the field.

INTERPRETATION OF ELECTION LAWS

Reports on the local elections held on 1 April and 15 April have revealed several instances of uncertainty on the part of local election administration committees in respect to the proper interpretation of various articles of election laws and ordinances. These uncertainties, as reported to SCAP by military government teams, have already been brought to the attention of the Home Ministry by SCAP and clarifying interpretations are being issued by the Ministry. (cont'd on page 3)

LAW OF CONSTITUTION (cont'd)

This now is changed and in the new Japanese Constitution are established not only the rules by which the Imperial Japanese Government must be guided but the means by which the Japanese people can enforce their will upon that government and impose punishment for or secure redress from wrongs perpetrated by that government upon the people.

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INTERPRETATION OF ELECTION LAWS (cont'd)

Among the more important of the interpretations are the following:

a. Candidates' use of loud speakers in the vicinity of polls on election day is permitted.

b. Campaign posters may be posted on election day anywhere outside of confines of polling places, provided other provisions of the Posters Law are met. Large number of invalid votes cast in the last election has emphasized the necessity of keeping candidates names before voters throughout election day.

c. Names and political affiliation of all candidates concerned should be posted at each polling place on election day.

d. Neighborhood groups, voluntarily organized to carry on any function of the dissolved Tonarigumi, are prohibited from any activity in the elections and cannot be utilized by election officials or candidates for any purpose whatsoever.

e. Legal posters permitted by election laws are stationary posters; posters carried in trucks or by men with sandwich boards are normally considered as illegal.

In this connection, military government teams are reminded that their responsibilities in election matters do not extend to the interpretation of Japanese election laws for the benefit of local election administration committees. As noted in the election surveillance instructions issued to all military government teams: "This is a Japanese election under Japanese laws .. and execution must be carried out by Japanese officials. In no case may you interfere with the administrative authority of these officials. Your duties are (1) to observe, (2) to refer violations to Japanese officials following action to final disposition, and (3) to report to higher authority."

CAMPAIGN PROMISES

Numerous reports continue to be received of grandiose campaign promises with which candidates have succeeded in winning votes -- even though legally there was no possibility of fulfilment of the promises.

In the last analysis it is evident that the problem is one which will be solved only with the greater political education of the Japanese people -- with realization from experience that all promises will not be transmuted automatically into deeds. In connection with elections in the immediate future, however, the following may prove of service:

1. In particularly egregious cases, a query to the local election administration committee for an opinion as to whether the campaign promises fall within the scope of those prescribed by Article 2 of the House of Representatives Election Law. This Article, which is applied mutatis mutandis to all the April elections, provides, in part; "Any person who has committed an act falling under any of the following heads shall be liable to confinement or penal servitude for not more than three years or

(cont'd on next column)

LABOR DISAPPOINTED IN APRIL 5 ELECTIONS

Japanese labor unions, sharply critical of many Administration policies in recent months, found little cause for satisfaction in the results of the April 5 elections which even the left-wing press admits was a clear-cut victory for the Liberal and Democratic parties.

The JFL, with its approximately 900,000 members, supported the Socialist party, divided between right and left-wing group. The result admittedly was disappointing to the union. The Socialists elected only two mayors in eastern Japan out of a total of 78, while in western Japan the party had only six successful candidates out of 77 races. The Socialists elected only three governors but have a chance of electing three more in later run-offs.

The CIU, which claims around 1,600,000 members, achieved even less happy results. The bulk of its strength is generally believed to have gone to the left-wing Socialists and Communists. The Communists polled less than one percent of the total vote and proved a negligible factor in the election.

Labor union leaders admittedly hope to do better in the approaching general election but the fact remains that by dividing its forces, labor largely nullified its power in the April 5 voting. Thus labor unity, which union leaders have proclaimed in principle if not in fact, failed to meet its initial test.

Labor unions assert that more labor strength than is commonly supposed went to independent candidates who favor labor policies and principles. Only future alignments will clear up this point. It was generally reported that the independents received considerable conservative party support and that a substantial number of independents will be absorbed into the Liberal and Democratic parties.

CAMPAIGN PROMISES (cont'd)

to pay a fine of not more than 20,000 yen

2. When, with the object of being elected, causing a candidate to be elected, or preventing him from being elected irrigation, tenancy, credit, contributions, or other matters of direct interest to an elector or canvasser or to a shrine, temple, school, company, guild, or civic corporation in which an elector or canvasser is interested have been taken advantage of in persuading an elector or canvasser.

3. In especial connection with the election for local assemblymen on the 30th a reminder to the press that the powers of local assemblies are essentially local in nature and that local assemblies have not powers to nullify or modify any laws passed by the Diet. In actuality, the Constitution provides that the Diet alone is the only legislative body in Japan in the proper meaning of the word; laws passed by the Diet are applicable without change to any locality in Japan. Any candidate for local assemblymen anywhere who promises modification or suspension of Diet law "if I am elected" is making a promise beyond his powers to fulfil.

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CONSTITUTION PAMPHLET BEING DISTRIBUTED

The Japanese committee for the popularization of the Constitution is now engaged in printing and distributing through their prefectural sub-committees, with the assistance of the social education sections of the prefectural governments, pamphlets containing the new Japanese Constitution and a brief explanation thereof. These pamphlets are to be placed in the hands of every household in Japan prior to the election for the national Diet. It is suggested that military government units in the field keep informed as to the progress of this distribution.

MEN MUST URGE WOMEN TO VOTE

Much has been written and said in the past week about "the widespread apathy of women" in the last election, and all sorts of reasons -- many of them entirely inadequate -- have been given for the failure on the part of some to realize their obligation to vote. However, the chief reason according to many women leaders who are spending all of their time on the task of educating women voters, is the discouragement generally advanced by men. These women say that a campaign is needed to urge men -- husbands, sons, and brothers -- to encourage and persuade women to exercise their full voting privileges. They say that save for a few enlightened leaders men have failed utterly to recognize that in a democracy men and women are interdependent outside as well as inside the home.

Some evidence to support these claims may be found in the fact that in certain instances such a high percentage of women did not vote that investigation is needed to determine the causes; and that most political parties did not make a strong bid for the women's votes and did litfle, if anything, to support women candidates.

To get out the total electorate is particularly important at this time, because on the results of these elections and the percentage of people who vote will depend to some extent, at least, the attitude the average man or women in the democracies takes toward the question of an early peace treaty with Japan. Since there are about 2,500,000 more women voters than men the failure of women to vote greatly affects the total picture.

Another cogent reason for women voting in this election is the fact that the men and women who are elected to the next Diet will be charged with the responsibility of debating and passing upon the revisions in the Civil Code and other extremely important reform legislation. They will be making laws affecting marriage, divorce, inheritance, the right of women to own property, the right of a widow to make decisions regarding her children, the family system in all of its various ramifications. Women in the past have often campaigned to change these laws. This is the first opportunity they have ever had to help elect the Diet that will make the changes. If

(cont'd on next column)

MEN MUST URGE WOMEN TO VOTE (cont'd)

they do not participate in the election, both the election for the House of Councillors on April 20 and that of the House of Representatives on April 25, they will have no real right to criticize such changes as are made. Similarly, the new government will be concerned with matters affecting repatriates, orphans, working women, the amount of money a family may draw in cash, food, housing rice collections -- everything that is basic to life in the city and the country.

Such are the appeals that are being used to show women and men, too, that politics have a direct effect on their home life and that in order to better the latter, men and women alike take part in the form

RURAL AFFAIRS

Rural Land Reform and Rice Collection continue to be the number one subjects on Rural Affairs information programs. Radio broadcasts on both subjects may be heard on the programs "Farm Facts" and on the "Farmer's Hour."

"Farm Facts" is a daily program from 5:45 to 6:00 AM and 9:15 to 9:20 PM. "Farmer's Hour" is a weekly program on Monday nights from 8 to 8:55 PM.

Rural Land Reform broadcasts are scheduled regularly every Thursday and Saturday on the "Farm Facts" program. Two important informational boosts for Rural Land Reform are now "in the mill", namely an exhibit on Land Reform, and a question and answer pamphlet entitled "ABC of Land Reform."

The Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry has promised that printing of both will b completed by the end of this month, MG teams will receive copies of the exhibit and the pamphlet which should be valuable background material for CI&E officers spo soring lectures on Rural Land Reform.

WATCH FOR ELECTION POSTERS!

Hundreds of thousands of election education posters which were developed in the Exhibits Unit of CI&E, SCAP, have been reproduced and distributed to prefectural offices by the Home Ministry.

Military Government officers should look for these in their communities and i they are not visible inquire at the prefectural office as to what use has been made. A sample set of the four posters will be sent from SCAP to all Military Government teams within a few days.

A sketch of one of the posters appears on the first page of this Bulletin. The original is done in blue, black, and white. Also in these colors is another poster bearing the admonition "Vote For The Person You Believe In, Not For Whom You Are Told."

Two posters in red, black, and white carry the advice "The Person You Elect Is Your Representative, Choose Carefully" and "Selling or Buying Votes Are Crimes."

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新衆議院議員選挙法：

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新しい選挙法の下に於ては、選挙区は117であるが、之に対し改正前は53選挙区であった。各選挙区から3名乃至5名の議員が選出され、総議員数は466名である。制限連記制は廃止され、単記制がとられた。即ち之のことは各投票人は衆議院議員候補者一人の名前だけを書くことを意味する。

小さな改正ではあるが注目すべきもの丶中に、次の規定がある。即ちそれは選挙の管理、選挙長の任命並に投票の集計を夫々の選挙区で選出された選挙管理委員会の手にゆだねたことであり、之は今や日本に於る凡ての選挙法に適用できる特徴であると云へる。選挙権も拡張され、今や無能力者並に囚人のみ選挙から除外されてゐるにすぎない。現在のインフレーションを反映して、供託金は2,000円から5,000円に引上げられ、選挙法違反に対する罰金は一般的に云って10倍となった。懲役刑のよりきびしくなったものもある。

第96條は新たに次の規定を設けた、即ち先生や学校関係の官吏や、教育上の色々な会の会員による選挙運動に、そのやうな人々の監督乃至影響下に現在ある20才以下の生徒を使ふことを禁じた。その目的とするところは、先生だとか学校関係の官吏とかの立候補に、彼等のもとにある生徒との特別の関係を利用せしめないことである。しかしながら、例へば東京の先生が田舎に帰って、自分の選挙運動を継続するために田舎で生徒をやとうことを禁ずるものではない。かゝることは現行法の下に於ては、20才以下の生徒と特別の関係にある地位にあるものとは考へられてゐない。

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新憲法について:

(THE LAW OF THE CONSTITUTION)

新憲法に関する凡ゆる論議について云へることは、新憲法が日本に及ぼす效果の眞の範囲と方向とに関し、余りにも強調されなかったことである。日本国民の責任と義務とに関しては、多く書かれもし、説かれもした。日本の官吏の典型的なやり方で、政府は既に新憲法による義務の履行を国民に強制してゐる。新憲法は私的生活を行ひ、或は政治活動にたずさはる日本人に対して向けられ、それを制限する法であると云ふ考へは、日本の政治に対する旧来の考へ方のよい例ではあるが、重大な誤解である。旧来の日本の政治理論によれば、国家とは国民が全面的に忠誠であらねばならぬところの、国民から遊離した存在であった。国民は政府に奉仕し、政府は国民をその恩恵として保護し、面倒をみたのである。国民は国家に対し、何等の权利をも有しなかった。国家は文字通りの意味に於て悪をなし得なかった。かゝることは民主主義の理念からは凡そかけはなれたものであり、民主主義理念によれば、政府の基本的な目的は、被悦治者に対する奉仕、換言すれば被悦治者の福祉であると云ふことが最高原理であるのである。機構並にその運営に選出された人の唯一の目的と云ふものは、国民の意思を実現成就せしめることである。

この新しい政治的危險にのり出した日本国民にとつて、これは重要な点である。それは政治の力点のおきどころを全くかへることである。もはや国民は、国民から選ばれたものでない一握りの少ぬ者に対し、尊敬したり、服従したり、支持したりする必要はない。もはや政治の運営に当るものは、上司に対する忠誠の義務もなければ、凡ての国民が彼に対して全面的に忠誠であり、奉仕することを確保することも、維持することも必要ではない。もはや官公吏は彼等の上司に対してのみ責任を負ふものでなく、又、上司の意思を実行する場合の失策に対してのみ責に任ずるものではない。

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普通の市制と憲法との間に存するこの相違は、しばしば顧過されてゐる。民法、刑法、商法などは、人々が個人として互に立つ場合、或は組織された社会と個人との関係にある場合の行為を規律する規定を包含してゐる。他方憲法は組織された社会及びその運営者の行動を規律してゐる。それは国民に向けられたものではない。それは機構を確立し、そしてその活動に対して制限―整調器―を置くものである。それは組織された社会が何故に、如何に又いかなる範囲迄その意思を個人に強制しうるか、或は又個人の奉仕又は支持を要求しうるかを示してゐる。

これは今迄日本国民が永い間苦しんできた古い制度とはるかにことなったものである。血縁関係とか或は遇然に任命された結果、天皇或は政府の関係と関係のできた者は特権的地位に任命され、法律の適用は及ばなかったのである。法律はそのやうな人の意思並に彼の上司の意思を不幸な大衆におしつける機関であり、その人々は唯単に働き、そして政府がその地位と特権とをつくり出す富と力を用意するもの位に軽視されてゐたのである。之等の一部の人々―彼等の立派な行為に対し、並に天皇の意思に絶対服従することに対し政府に

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対しこのみ責に任じてゐた之等の人々——は然るべき時に与へられる天皇の恩恵を享受すると云ふ特権以外に政府に対し何等関心を有しなかつたのである。彼等の保身は全く彼等の支配者から信用されることにかゝつてゐたのである。

今やかゝることは改革された。そして新憲法に於ては政府が導かれなければならない準則ができたのみならず、国民が自分の意思を政府に強制し、政府が国民に対して犯した過ちに対しては処罰したり賠償を確保する手段をつくつたのである。

立候補者の約束について：

(CAMPAIGN PROMISES)

立候補者が選挙運動でえらぶつた約束——それを実行する法的可能性が存在しないとは云へ、それを選挙民に与へ投票をかき集めるのに成功したと云ふ多くの報告が引懸き上せられてゐる。

最近の分析によると、次のことが明かである。即ちこの問題は日本人に政治教育をより施すことによつてのみ解決しうべきものであり、凡ての約束は自動的には実行にうつされないと云ふことを経験によつて理解することによつてのみ解決されるものである。来るべき選挙に関連して以下の諸点は参考になるであらう。

① 特にひどい場合には、立候補者のなす約束が衆議院議員選挙法第112條によつて規定されてゐる色々の約束の中に入るかどうかと云ふ意見について、地方の選挙管理委員会に対してなす質疑である。この條文は凡ての4月選挙に準用されるものであるが、その中に次の規定がある。"左の各号掲ぐる行為を為したる者は3年以下の懲役若は禁錮又は2万円以下の罰金に處す。

(二). 当選を得、若は得しめ又は得しめざる目的を以て選挙人又は選挙運動者に対し其の者又は其の者の関係ある社寺、学校、会社、組合、市町村等に対する用水、小作、債権、寄附其の他特殊の直接利害関係を利用して

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誘導を爲したるとき"

② 4月30日に行はれる地方議会の選挙との特別の関連に於て言論機関に次のことを想起せしめることである。即ち地方議会の权限は本質的に地方的なものであり、地方議会は国会を通過した法律を無效にしたり、修正したりする权限を有しない。現に憲法は国会のみが正しい意味に於ける日本に於ける唯一の立法機関であり、国会を通過した法律は日本中如何なる地方にもそのまゝ適用されるものであると規定してゐる。「若しも私が当選した暁は」国会を通過した法律を修正したり或は停止したりすることを約束する地方議員の候補者は、彼に与へられる权限以上であつて実行不可能な約束をしてゐるものである。

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(CAMPAIGN PROMISES)

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最近の分析によると、次のことが明かである。即ちこの問題は日本人に政治教育をより施すことによつてのみ解決しうべきものであり、凡ての約束は自動的には実行にうつされないと云ふことを経験によつて理解することによつてのみ解決されるものである。来るべき選挙に関連して以下の諸点は参考になるであらう。

① 特にひどい場合には、立候補者の為す約束が衆議院議員選挙法第112條によつて規定されてゐる色々の約束の中に入るかどうかと云ふ意見について、地方の選挙管理委員会に対して為す質疑である。この條文は凡ての4月選挙に準用されるものであるが、その中に次の規定がある。"左の各号掲ぐる行為を為したる者は3年以下の懲役若は禁錮又は2万円以下の罰金に處す。

(二). 当選を得、若は得しめ又は得しめざる目的を以て選挙人又は選挙運動者に対し其の者又は其の者の関係ある社寺、学校、会社、組合、市町村等に対する用水、小作、債権、寄附其の他特殊の直接利害関係を利用して

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誘導を為したるとき」

② 4月30日に行はれる地方議会の選挙との特別の関連に於て言論機関に次のことを想起せしめることである。即ち地方議会の権限は本質的に地方的なものであり、地方議会は国会を通過した法律を無效にしたり、修正したりする権限を有しない。現に憲法は国会のみが正しい意味に於ける日本に於ける唯一の立法機関であり、国会を通過した法律は日本中如何なる地方にもそのまゝ適用されるものであると規定してゐる。「若しも私が当選した暁は」国会を通過した法律を修正したり或は停止したりすることを約束する地方議員の候補者は、彼に与へられる権限以上であつて実行不可能な約束をしてゐるものである。

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新衆議院議員選挙法：

Translations from Political Affairs Bulletin, No. 25

(THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION LAW)

第九十二議会解散直前に衆議院議員選挙法が修正された。修正は単に本法を地方選挙法並に参議院議員選挙法にあはせたのみならず、根本的に選挙区の大きさ、一選挙区の定員数並に投票方法を変更した。

新しい選挙法の下に於ては、選挙区は117であるが、之に対し改正前は53選挙区であった。各選挙区から3名乃至5名の議員が選出され、総議員数は466名である。制限連記制は廃止され、単記制がとられた。即ちこのことは各投票人は衆議院議員候補者一人の名前だけを書くことを意味する。

小さな改正ではあるが注目すべきもの丶中に、次の規定がある。即ちそれは選挙の管理、選挙長の任命並に投票の集計を夫々の選挙区で選出された選挙管理委員会の手にゆだねたことであり、之は今や日本に於る凡ての選挙法に適用できる特徴であると云へる。選挙権も拡張され、今や無能力者並に囚人のみ選挙から除外されてゐるにすぎない。現在のインフレーションを反映して、供託金は2,000円から5,000円に引上げられ、選挙法違反に対する罰金は一般的に云って10倍となった。懲役刑のよりきびしくなったものもある。

第76條は新たに次の規定を設けた、即ち先生や学校関係の官吏や、教育上の色々な会の会員による選挙運動に、そのやうな人々の監督乃至影響下に現在ある20才以下の生徒を使ふことを禁じた。その目的とするところは、先生だとか学校関係の官吏とかの立候補者に、彼等のもとにある生徒との特別の関係を利用せしめないことである。しかしながら、例へば東京の先生が田舎に帰って、自分の選挙運動を継続するために田舎で生徒をやとうことを禁ずるものではない。かゝることは現行法の下に於ては、20才以下の生徒と特別の関係にある地位にあるものとは考へられてゐない。

他の規定は法定選挙費用を50,000円に限定し、又政党並に立候補者に対し、選挙費用の収支を公表すべきことを要求してゐる。

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新憲法について：

(THE LAW OF THE CONSTITUTION)

新憲法に関する凡ゆる論議について云へることは、新憲法が日本に及ぼす效果の眞の範圍と方向とに関し、余りにも強調されなかったことである。日本国民の責任と義務とに関しては、多く書かれもし、説かれもした、日本の官吏の典型的なやり方で、政府は既に新憲法による義務の履行を国民に強制してゐる。新憲法は私的生活を行ひ、或は政治活動にたずさはる日本人に対して向けられ、それを制限する法であると云ふ考へは、日本の政治に対する旧来の考へ方のよい例ではあるが、重大な誤解である。旧来の日本の政治理論によれば、国家とは国民が全面的に忠誠であらねばならぬところの、国民から遊離した存在であった。国民は政府に奉仕し、政府は国民をその恩恵として保護し、面倒をみたのである。国民は国家に対し、何等の权利をも有しなかった。国家は文字通りの意味に於て悪をなし得なかった。かゝることは民主主義の理念からは凡てかけはなれたものであり、民主主義理念によれば、政府の基本的な目的は、被悦治者に対する奉仕、換言すれば被悦治者の福祉であると云ふことが最高原理であるのである。機構並にその運営に選出された人の唯一の目的と云ふものは、国民の意思を実現成就せしめることである。

この新しい政治的危險にのり出した日本国民にとつて、これは重要な点である。それは政治の力点のおきどころを全くかへることである。もはや国民は、国民から選ばれたものでない一握りの少ぬ者に対し、尊敬したり、服従したり、支持したりする必要はない。もはや政治の運営に当るものは、上司に対する忠誠の義務もなければ、凡ての国民が彼に対して全面的に忠誠であり、奉仕することを確保することも、維持することも必要ではない。もはや官公吏は彼等の上司に対してのみ責任を負ふものでなく、又、上司の意思を実行する場合の失策に対してのみ責に任ずるものではない。

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新憲法の下に於ては、凡ての官公吏は日本国民に対し直接的に又即時に責に任ずるものである。即ち日本国民によって彼等の凡ての権威はきそづけられてゐるのであり、彼等は国民の指示のみによって導かれなければならない。彼等は国民によってつくられた機構の中で働き、彼等を制約し、国民を保護するためにつくられた法規の下で働く国民の代理人である。新憲法はその第一の目的として官公吏の行動に対する法的制限を特に課し、之等の制限を確保するために充分な制約と予防の規定を設けてゐる。第三章に規定されてゐる所謂権利と義務とは個人に対する行動の準則ではない。それらは国家が侵入してはならないところの個人行動の分野に関する規定である。之等の分野を確保することは、個人の監視と法廷の完全さとによって維持されるのである。憲法は国家の行動に対しての制約規定であり、政権を掌握せる多数党の権限並にそのもとに於ける官公吏の行動に対しての制約である。

普通の市制と憲法との間に存するこの相違は、しばしば顧過されてゐる。民法、刑法、商法などは、人々が個人として互に立つ場合、或は組織された社会と個人との関係にある場合の行為を規律する規定を包含してゐる。他方憲法は組織された社会及びその運営者の行動を規律してゐる。それは国民に向けられたものではない。それは機構を確立し、そしてその活動に対して制限―整調器―を置くものである。それは組織された社会が何故に、如何に又いかなる範囲迄その意思を個人に強制しうるか、或は又個人の奉仕又は支持を要求しうるかを示してゐる。

これは今迄日本国民が永い間苦しんできた古い制度とはるかにことなったものである。血縁関係とか或は遇然に任命された結果、天皇或は政府の周僚と関係のできた者は特権的地位に任命され、法律の適用は及ばなかったのである。法律はそのやうな人の意思並に彼の上司の意思を不幸な大衆におしつける機関であり、その人々は唯単に働き、そして政府がその地位と特権とをつくり出す富と力を用意するものだ位に軽視されてゐたのである。之等の一部の人々―彼等の立派な行為に対し、並に天皇の意思に絶対服従することに対し政府に

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対しこのみ責に任じてゐた之等の人々——は然るべき時に与へられる天皇の恩恵を享受すると云ふ特権以外に政府に対し何等関心を有しなかつたのである。彼等の保身は全く彼等の支配者から信用されることにかゝつてゐたのである。

今やかゝることは改革された。そして新憲法に於ては政府が導かれなければならない準則ができたのみならず、国民が自分の意思を政府に強制し、政府が国民に対して犯した過ちに対しては処罰したり賠償を確保する手段をつくつたのである。

立候補者の約束について：

(CAMPAIGN PROMISES)

立候補者が選挙運動でえらぶつた約束——それを実行する法的可能性が存在しないとは云へ、それを選挙民に与へ投票をかき集めるのに成功したと云ふ多くの報告が引懸きよせられてゐる。

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POLITICAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

No. 5 15 April 1947

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II. New House of Representatives Election Law

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IV. Interpretation of Election Laws

THE LAW OF THE CONSTITUTION

In all the discussions on the new Constitution far too little emphasis has been placed on the true scope and direction of its effect upon the Japanese State. Much has been written and much said of the responsibilities and obligations of the Japanese people. In the typical pattern of Japanese official behavior the government is already undertaking to "enforce" the obligations of the Constitution on the people. That the Constitution is a law directed at and restricting the Japanese citizen in his private or political activity is a serious misconception although one quite in keeping with Japanese political tradition. The state, according to traditional Japanese political theory, was a separate entity to which the people - the subjects - owed entire allegiance. The people served the government, which, in its beneficence, protected and cared for the people. The people had no rights against the state. In a very literal sense the state could do no wrong. This is a far cry from the ideology of democracy, wherein it is a prime tenet that the basic purpose of government is the service - the welfare - of the governed. The machinery set up and the agents chosen have for their sole purpose the accomplishment of the will of the people.

For the Japanese, embarking on this new political adventure, this point is an important one. It re-orients the entire slant of emphasis in government. No longer do the people owe respect, obedience, support to a small knot of self-appointed minorities. No longer are the operating agencies of government charged with loyalty to the overlord and responsibility to him for securing and maintaining the entire allegiance and service of all the subjects. (cont'd on page 2)

NEW HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION LAW

One of the last acts of the 92nd Diet before dissolution was to amend the House of Representatives Election Law. These amendments not only brought this law into focus with those for local elections and with the House of Councillors law but completely changed the size of the House of Representatives election districts, the number of members returned therefrom, and the method of voting.

Under the new law there will be 117 lower House election districts, as compared to 53 in the old law. Each of these 117 districts will return from three to five members, for a total membership of 466. Restricted plural voting has been replaced by the single ballot. This means that each elector will write in the name of one, and only one, candidate for the House of Representatives.

(cont'd on page 2)

WOMEN DO NOT FORGET TO VOTE!

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LAW OF CONSTITUTION (cont'd)

No longer are public officials answerable only to their superiors and only for failure to carry out the wishes of the superiors.

Under the new Constitution every public official is directly and immediately responsible to the people of Japan from whom he derives all authority and by whose instructions he must be guided. He is their agent, operating in an organization designed by them and under rules enacted to restrain him and protect the people. The Constitution which has been established has, for its primary purpose, the imposition of specific legal limitations upon the conduct of officers and agents of government and the provision of sufficient checks and safeguards to secure the maintenance of those limitations. The so-called rights and duties set forth in Chapter 3 are not rules of conduct for the individual. They are the definitions of those fields of individual action into which the state may not trespass. The security of those fields is maintained by the vigilance of the individual and the integrity of the courts. The law of the Constitution is a prohibition upon state action, a limitation upon the authority of the majority in power and upon every officer and agent acting under such majority.

This distinction between ordinary municipal law and the law of the Constitution is frequently overlooked. The civil code, the criminal code, the commercial code contain the rules which guide the conduct of men in their relations one with the other as individuals or one as an individual with organized society. The Constitution, on the other hand, imposes its rules of conduct upon organized society and its agents. It is not directed at the people. It fixes the machinery and sets the limits - the governors - upon the operation of that machine. It sets forth why, how and to what extent organized society may enforce its will upon or require the services or support of the individual.

This is a far cry from the old system under which the Japanese people so long have suffered. The individual who could claim relationship to the throne or official membership in the Imperial Government through the accident of blood or the fortuity of appointment stood in the position of a privileged character to whom the law did not apply. The law was the vehicle whereby he imposed his will and the will of his superiors upon the great mass of unfortunate individuals who were looked upon to do the work and provide the sources of wealth and strength from which the Imperial Government derived its position, its prerogatives and its privileges. Those lesser individuals who were responsible to the Imperial Japanese Government for their good behavior, for their complete subservience to the Imperial will, had no other claim upon that government than the privilege of enjoying the Imperial beneficence when it was seen fit to bestow it. Their protection lay solely in the good faith of their rulers. (cont'd on next column)

REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION LAW (cont'd)

Included among the noteworthy minor changes is the provision placing supervision of the elections, the appointment of election officials, and the counting of ballots into the hands of the locally chosen election administration committees, a feature now applicable to all election laws in Japan. The franchise has also been expanded to that now only incompetents and prisoners are excluded from voting. Candidates' filing deposits have been raised from 2,000 to 5,000 yen and fines have generally been increased ten-fold, reflecting the current inflation. Several jail penalties have been made more severe.

A new Article 96 prohibits the use in election campaigns by school teachers, school officials, and members of educational associations of students below the age of 20 who are presently under the tutelage or influence of the aforementioned. The purpose of this prohibition is to prevent a candidate such as a teacher or a school official from taking advantage of this special relationship of authority with students under him. It does not prevent, however, a teacher in Tokyo for instance, from returning to his country home and employing school children there to further his campaign. Such is not considered in the Japanese law as having a "specially related" position to school children below the age of twenty.

Other provisions limit legal campaign expenditures to 50,000 yen and require campaign receipts and expenses for political parties and candidates to be made public.

This law was passed on 31 March. Three hundred thirty-five copies of a National Election Hand Book containing this law and the House of Councillors Election Law were dispatched to Eighth Army on 1 April for distribution to units in the field.

INTERPRETATION OF ELECTION LAWS

Reports on the local elections held on April and 15 April have revealed several instances of uncertainty on the part of local election administration committees in respect to the proper interpretation of various articles of election laws and ordinances. These uncertainties, as reported to SCAP by military government teams, have already been brought to the attention of the Home Ministry by SCAP and clarifying interpretations are being issued by the Ministry. (cont'd on page 3)

LAW OF CONSTITUTION (cont'd)

This now is changed and in the new Japanese Constitution are established not only the rules by which the Imperial Japanese Government must be guided but the means by which the Japanese people can enforce their will upon that government and impose punishment for or secure redress from wrongs perpetrated by that government upon the people.

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INTERPRETATION OF ELECTION LAWS (cont'd)

Among the more important of the interpretations are the following:

a. Candidates' use of loud speakers in the vicinity of polls on election day is permitted.

b. Campaign posters may be posted on election day anywhere outside of confines of polling places, provided other provisions of the Posters Law are met. Large number of invalid votes cast in the last election has emphasized the necessity of keeping candidates names before voters throughout election day.

c. Names and political affiliation of all candidates concerned should be posted at each polling place on election day.

d. Neighborhood groups, voluntarily organized to carry on any function of the dissolved Tonarigumi, are prohibited from any activity in the elections and cannot be utilized by election officials or candidates for any purpose whatsoever.

e. Legal posters permitted by election laws are stationary posters; posters carried in trucks or by men with sandwich boards are normally considered as illegal.

In this connection, military government teams are reminded that their responsibilities in election matters do not extend to the interpretation of Japanese election laws for the benefit of local election administration committees. As noted in the election surveillance instructions issued to all military government teams: "This is a Japanese election under Japanese laws and execution must be carried out by Japanese officials. In no case may you interfere with the administrative authority of these officials. Your duties are (1) to observe, (2) to refer violations to Japanese officials following action to final disposition, and (3) to report to higher authority."

CAMPAIGN PROMISES

Numerous reports continue to be received of grandiose campaign promises with which candidates have succeeded in winning votes -- even though legally there was no possibility of fulfilment of the promises.

In the last analysis it is evident that the problem is one which will be solved only with the greater political education of the Japanese people -- with realization from experience that all promises will not be transmuted autbmatically into deeds. In connection with elections in the immediate future, however, the following may prove of service:

1. In particularly egregious cases, a query to the local election administration committee for an opinion as to whether the campaign promises fall within the scope of those prescribed by Article 2 of the House of Representatives Election Law. This Article, which is applied mutatis mutandis to all the April elections, provides, in part; "Any person who has committed an act falling under any of the following heads shall be liable to confinement or penal servitude for not more than three years or

(cont'd on next column)

LABOR DISAPPOINTED IN APRIL 5 ELECTIONS

Japanese labor unions, sharply critical of many Administration policies in recent months, found little cause for satisfaction in the results of the April 5 elections which even the left-wing press admits was a clear-cut victory for the Liberal and Democratic parties.

The JFL, with its approximately 900,000 members, supported the Socialist party, divided between right and left-wing group The result admittedly was disappointing to the union. The Socialists elected only two mayors in eastern Japan out of a tota of 78, while in western Japan the party had only six successful candidates out of 77 races. The Socialists elected only three governors but have a chance of electing three more in later run-offs.

The CIU, which claims around 1,600,000 members, achieved even less happy results The bulk of its strength is generally believed to have gone to the left-wing Socialists and Communists. The Communists polled less than one percent of the total vote and proved a negligible factor in the election.

Labor union leaders admittedly hope to do better in the approaching general election but the fact remains that by dividing its forces, labor largely mullified its power in the April 5 voting. Thus labor unity, which union leaders have proclaimed in principle if not in fact, failed to meet its initial test.

Labor unions assert that more labor strength than is commonly supposed went to independent candidates who favor labor policies and principles. Only future alignments will clear up this point. It was generally reported that the independents received considerable conservative party support and that a substantial number of independents will be absorbed into the Liberal and Democratic parties.

CAMPAIGN PROMISES (cont'd)

to pay a fine of not more than 30,000 yen

2. When, with the object of being elected, causing a candidate to be elected, or preventing him from being elected irrigation, tenancy, credit, contributions, or other matters of direct interest to an elector or canvasser or to a shrine, temple, school, company, guild, or civic corporation in which an elector or canvasser is interested have been taken advantage of in persuading an elector or canvasser.

3. In especial connection with the election for local assemblymen on the 30th a reminder to the press that the powers of local assemblies are essentially local in nature and that local assemblies have not powers to nullify or modify any laws passed by the Diet. In actuality, the Constitution provides that the Diet alone is the only legislative body in Japan in the proper meaning of the word; laws passed by the Diet are applicable without change to any locality in Japan. Any candidate for local assemblymen anywhere who promises modification or suspension of Diet law "if I am elected" is making a promise beyond his powers to fulfil.

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CONSTITUTION PAMPHLET BEING DISTRIBUTED

The Japanese committee for the popularization of the Constitution is now engaged in printing and distributing through their prefectural sub-committees, with the assistance of the social education sections of the prefectural governments, pamphlets containing the new Japanese Constitution and a brief explanation thereof. These pamphlets are to be placed in the hands of every household in Japan prior to the election for the national Diet. It is suggested that military government units in the field keep informed as to the progress of this distribution.

MEN MUST URGE WOMEN TO VOTE

Much has been written and said in the past week about "the widespread apathy of women" in the last election, and all sorts of reasons -- many of them entirely inadequate -- have been given for the failure on the part of some to realize their obligation to vote. However, the chief reason according to many women leaders who are spending all of their time on the task of educating women voters, is the discourage ment generally advanced by men. These women say that a campaign is needed to urge men -- husbands, sons, and brothers -- to encourage and persuade women to exercise their full voting privileges. They say that save for a few enlightened leaders men have failed utterly to recognize that in a democracy men and women are interdependent outside as well as inside the home.

Some evidence to support these claims may be found in the fact that in certain instances such a high percentage of women did not vote that investigation is needed to determine the causes; and that most political parties did not make a strong bid for the women's votes and did little, if anything, to support women candidates.

To get out the total electorate is particularly important at this time, because on the results of these elections and the percentage of people who vote will depend to some extent, at least, the attitude the average man or women in the democracies takes toward the question of an early peace treaty with Japan. Since there are about 2,500,000 more women voters than men the failure of women to vote greatly affects the total picture.

Another cogent reason for women voting in this election is the fact that the men and women who are elected to the next Diet will be charged with the responsibility of debating and passing upon the revisions in the Civil Code and other extremely important reform legislation. They will be making laws affecting marriage, divorce, inheritance, the right of women to own property, the right of a widow to make decisions regarding her children, the family system in all of its various ramifications. Women in the past have often campaigned to change these laws. This is the first opportunity they have ever had to help elect the Diet that will make the changes. If

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MEN MUST URGE WOMEN TO VOTE (cont'd)

they do not participate in the election, both the election for the House of Councillors on April 20 and that of the House of Representatives on April 25, they will have no real right to criticize such changes as are made. Similarly, the new government will be concerned with matters affecting repatriates, orphans, working women, the amount of money a family may draw in cash, food, housing rice collections -- everything that is basic to life in the city and the country.

Such are the appeals that are being used to show women and men, too, that politics have a direct effect on their home life and that in order to better the latter, men and women alike take part in the form

RURAL AFFAIRS

Rural Land Reform and Rice Collection continue to be the number one subjects on Rural Affairs information programs. Radio broadcasts on both subjects may be heard on the programs "Farm Facts" and on the "Farmer's Hour."

"Farm Facts" is a daily program from 5:45 to 6:00 AM and 9:15 to 9:20 PM. "Farmer's Hour" is a weekly program on Monday nights from 8 to 8:55 PM.

Rural Land Reform broadcasts are scheduled regularly every Thursday and Saturday on the "Farm Facts" program. Two important informational boosts for Rural Land Reform are now "in the mill", namely an exhibit on Land Reform, and a question and answer pamphlet entitled "ABC of Land Reform."

The Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry has promised that printing of both will be completed by the end of this month. MG teams will receive copies of the exhibit and the pamphlet which should be valuable background material for CI&E officers sponsoring lectures on Rural Land Reform.

WATCH FOR ELECTION POSTERS!

Hundreds of thousands of election education posters which were developed in the Exhibits Unit of CI&E, SCAP, have been reproduced and distributed to prefectural offices by the Home Ministry.

Military Government officers should look for these in their communities and if they are not visible inquire at the prefectural office as to what use has been made. A sample set of the four posters will be sent from SCAP to all Military Government teams within a few days.

A sketch of one of the posters appears on the first page of this Bulletin. The original is done in blue, black, and white. Also in these colors is another poster bearing the admonition "Vote For The Person You Believe In, Not For Whom You Are Told."

Two posters in red, black, and white carry the advice "The Person You Elect Is Your Representative, Choose Carefully" and "Selling or Buying Votes Are Crimes."

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CI & E

POLITICAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

No. 4 — 1 April 1947

Prepared by Civil Information and Education Section and Government Section, GHQ, SCAP, for the use of Military Government Officers. Items published herein may be reproduced in whole or in part.

File: Political Affairs Bulletin,

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SCAP WARNS POLITICIANS ON CAMPAIGN PROMISES

The following statement was released by SCAP to discourage campaigners who advocate destruction of the government's economic program:

"How can some candidates and some political parties honestly promise at this time the discontinuance of controlled collection of staple food crops and the elimination of price controls and rationing--a program so wisely initiated by the Japanese Government? It is on the basis of the government's program that SCAP is importing food to meet minimum requirements after indigenous supplies are equitably distributed. Whenever or wherever critical shortages of essential commodities exist, economic controls exercised by the government in the public interest are recognized as being democratic in nature when without them the result would be extreme maldistribution creating hardship and suffering among the people.

"Candidates who promise the destruction of this government program are being unrealistic and misleading the voters. Until the economy of Japan is stabilized to the extent of having sufficient exports to purchase on the world markets the food and other things needed by Japan, controls cannot be removed from these critically short essentials of life. The above are typical of the questions that the voter should examine to determine the value of campaign promises."

RUN OFF ELECTIONS

Run off elections for local chief executives, to be held on April 15, will introduce a new concept into Japanese political life.

In past elections for legislators, both national and local, successful candidates have always been required to obtain a prescribed minimum percentage of the votes cast. This varied from one-sixth of the total votes cast for a given seat in a town or village assembly to one-quarter of the votes cast for a seat in the National Diet. If no candidate obtained the prescribed minimum number of votes a new election would eventually be held, but with no limitation on the candidates eligible to run.

The purpose of this method, of course, was to ensure that a successful candidate enjoyed at least a modicum of popular support, since in view of the multiplicity of political parties in Japan it was entirely possible for the leading candidate to wind up with only about 15 percent of the total vote. In actual operation, however, the plan had at least two flaws: no re-election was normally held until after the total number of vacancies in the assembly in question reached a stated number--and when the election was held the same candidates could run again, thus raising the possibility of another inconclusive election.

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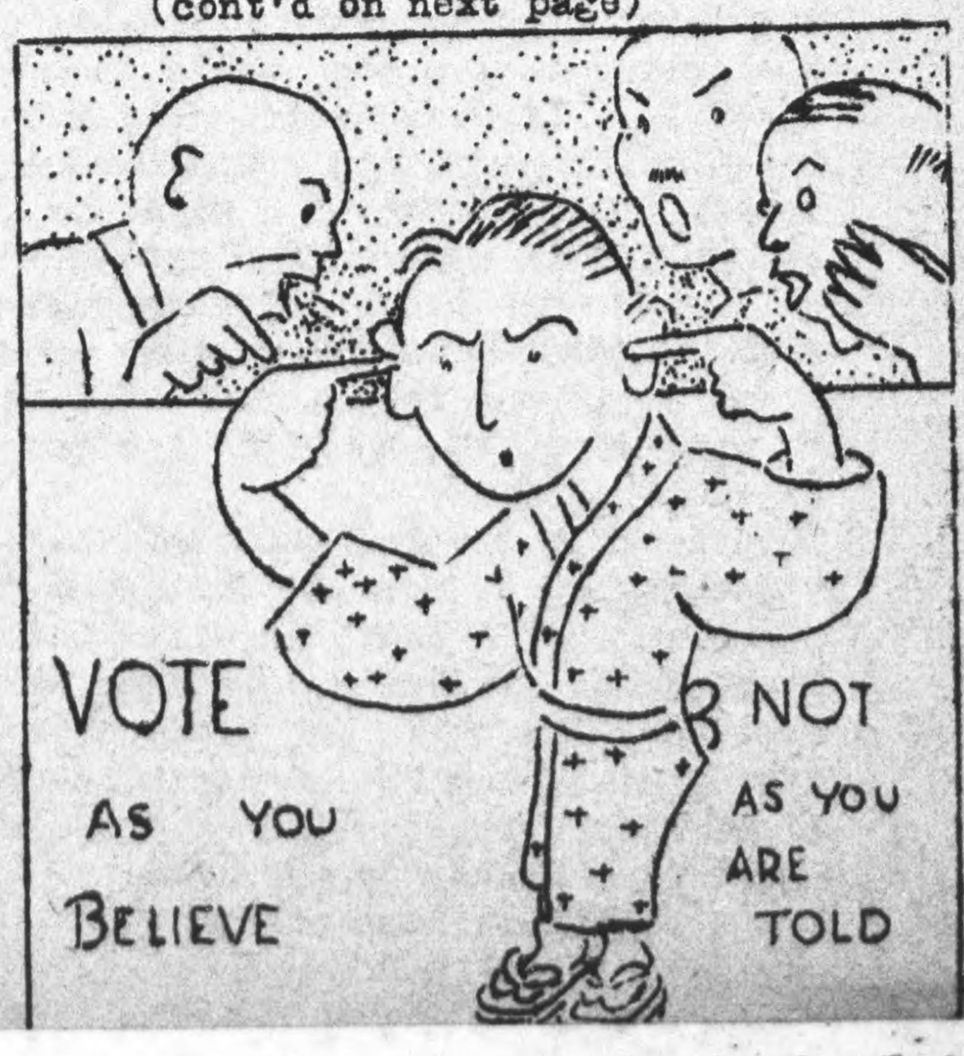

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AMENDMENT TO IMPERIAL ORDINANCE NO.1

Acting on reports that undesirable persons who fall under the terms of the Purge Ordinances are still participating in politics, the Japanese Government early in March moved to block these activities by amending Article 15 of the Imperial Ordinance No.1 of 1947. This important new amendment provides that:

a. Any person who has been designated as falling under the Memorandum may not participate in an election campaign or in any form of political activity.

b. When reasonable evidence is submitted showing that a person engaging in political activities is subject to the provisions of the Purge, the Prime Minister or the responsible Governor may issue an injunction against further political activity on that person's part and require him to submit a questionnaire.

c. Furthermore, the Prime Minister, or the responsible Governor, reserves the right to require the screening of any person in any case where reasonable evidence exists that such person falls under the Memorandum.

d. In order to prevent undue or arbitrary delay the status of a person required to submit a questionnaire under the provisions of this amendment must be decided within 72 hours. Any person violating this amendment or refusing to submit a questionnaire or otherwise refusing to comply with official instructions under these provisions is subject to fine or imprisonment.

Run Off Elections (cont'd)

When new local government legislation was written last fall, and for the first time in Japan's history provision was made for the popular election of local chief executives, the Diet decided to provide certain minimum standards to ensure that local chief executives could be elected only with substantial popular support. It was also decided to tighten up the other provisions of the procedure to ensure that re-elections, when necessary, could be held within a few days after the original election, and to provide that the number of candidates in a run-off election be limited to the top two in the first election. It was particularly felt that this latter provision would markedly strengthen the position of a mayor or governor elected in a run-off election, since, as far as such an election was concerned, he would be elected by a majority of the votes cast.

The following regulations will therefore be applied to the April 5 election for chief executives:

Whenever a winning candidate has polled three-eights or more of the total number of valid votes cast, he will be declared elected and no further election will be necessary except in the event of such qualifying circumstances as death, declination of office, nullification of the election because of fraud, or the like.

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REPORTS ON ELECTIONS

With respect to the reports desired in connection with the surveillance of the April elections, military government personnel are reminded that reports fall into four separate categories and are desired following each of the five elections to be held. Categories are as follows:

1) Reports directly to SCAP, by the quickest means available, of all serious violations of the election laws or other malpractices, whether or not they are corrected by Japanese officials.

2) Reports directly to SCAP, by the quickest means available, of any criticism of the activities of Occupation personnel in connection with the elections or any election incidents which may lead to criticism of Occupation personnel.

3) Summary reports on each election, in conformity with report forms already distributed. Reports should be forwarded to SCAP, via normal channels, within two weeks after each election.

4) Complete reports on each election in accordance with topic headings listed in Chapter 1 of each of the two handbooks issued to assist military government officers in the surveillance of national and local elections. Reports should be included in the monthly routine Military Occupation Report.

In connection with points 1 and 2 above, it is imperative that requisite information be forwarded with the least possible delay--even though the election concerned may already have been completed. This necessity stems from the fact that election procedures for all Japanese elections national and local, are more or less the same, and violations and abuses unchecked in one election may be repeated in the next.

ELECTION HOLIDAYS FOR JAPANESE EMPLOYEES OF U.S.

GHQ has notified the Eighth Army and other major subordinate commands that insofar as practicable, every Japanese working for the Occupation Forces will be given a half holiday on 5 April, 15 April, 20 April, 25 April, and 30 April in order to vote. In those instances and on those days where all-day operations are essential, the order stated GHQ desires that time to vote be allowed all Japanese by making provisions for substitutes through liaison with responsible Japanese Government offices.

It is anticipated that the Japanese Government will, as in the past, shortly announce similar half-holidays for its employees.

Run Off Elections (cont'd)

Where no candidate has polled three-eights of the valid votes cast, a re-election will be held on April 15th, in which the first two individuals in the April 5th election will run. In the rare instance where a tie vote might make impossible the determination of the first two individuals in the April 5th election, the tie will be broken by the drawing of lots.

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PURGE RESPONSIBILITY OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Nineteen representatives of the nation's leading political parties met at GHQ, Tokyo, on 14 March 1947 to hear a representative of the Government Section, SCAP speak on the role of political parties in carrying out the purge. Those present included not only members of the major parties represented in the Diet, but also delegates from the Independent Club and two women's political groups. Important points of the statement are summarized below:

"The current election campaign is a period of transcending political importance during which the issues involved in the political, social and economic rehabilitation of Japan will be presented to and discussed with the people. The political parties and groups which you represent carry the responsibility of presenting these issues clearly and of outlining the measures which you propose as best designed to aid in the rehabilitation of your country.

"This is a period during which candidates for elective positions and their supporters will discuss what should be done, how it should be done, when it should be done and who is to do it. You are fully aware of the adverse conditions existing in Japan today. You are also aware of the reasons why these conditions exist and who is generally responsible. It is therefore unnecessary to review these matters.

"However, the purpose of our conference is indivisibly connected with the question of economic, social and political rehabilitation, the reasons why adverse conditions exist, the responsibility for the development of such conditions and the larger issue of who is to lead the country in a nation-wide program designed to eliminate adverse conditions and make Japan economically independent and socially and politically democratic.

"The question of who is to be elected and, incidentally, who is to be vested with the authority to appoint other persons to positions of authority and influence in the government has been and is the raison d'etre of political parties. Traditionally, in democratic countries political parties have concentrated in their campaign program on (1) publicizing the qualifications of their own candidates, and (2) informing voters of any adverse facts concerning the qualifications of their political opponents.

"This practice, while sometimes subject to abuse by individuals, has, nevertheless, proven to be an effective method of providing the voters with the complete and accurate information they must have if they are to select public officials who will minister to their security and welfare. Today the problem of selecting a properly qualified candidate for public

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LABOR OPPOSES SINGLE BALLOT SYSTEM

Japanese trade unions, working through the All-Japan Labor Union Joint Committee, trained their opposition on the Administration's proposal to substitute a single ballot system for the present system of plural voting.

Charging that a democratic election system in Japan is impossible under the single ballot system, representatives of the Joint Committee told the House of Representatives the proposed new voting plan would result in a "conservative reactionary administration in two or three years" and that much of the gains made by labor would be lost. Conservative parties, it was further charged, are pressing for the new plan out of fear of labor's growing strength.

Earlier, the All-Japan Enlarged Executive Committee, an NCIO affiliate, recommended that candidates endorsed by NCIO unions be limited to the Social Democratic Party, the Communist Party or to "democratic neutrals." Use of union funds in election campaigns was frowned upon.

Meanwhile, a sobering note of warning on labor's role in politics was injected by Willard Townsend, United States representative on the World Federation of Trad Unions delegation now visiting Japan. Mr. Townsend said Japanese labor unions should strive for economic rather than political gains and should not follow the Communist line.

Labor was preparing to use the WFTU visit as a rallying point for a unified labor front in the approaching elections and was planning a big welcome meeting for the delegation on April 4 outside the Palace.

Purge Responsibility (cont'd)

office is fundamentally no different than it was in the past. There is, however, this important difference. Now, in addition to selecting persons properly qualified for public office, the voters must prevent the continuance of influence and exercise of power by undesirable persons. In the coming elections, it is the voters who must insure that persons who are designated or subject to designation as undesirable under the provisions of the purge directive, SCAPIN 550, as implemented by Imperial and Cabinet and Home Affairs Ministry Ordinances are eliminated from all positions of power and influence over the people.

"The political parties and semi-political parties, such as the women's organizations represented here today, have training and experience in the fields of government and politics. They are, therefore, best qualified and, in the present period of emergency, are logically most responsible for assisting the people to properly to evaluate the qualifications of candidates for public office.

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CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES

Although final ordinances have not yet been issued in all cases, it is anticipated that the following limits will be set on campaign expenditures in the forthcoming April elections:

House of Councillors (National Constituency)	¥75,000
House of Councillors (Prefectural Constituency)	¥50,000
House of Representatives	¥50,000
Governors of Prefectures (depending on population)	¥25,000/50,000
Mayors of Cities (depending on population)	¥5,000/20,000
Chiefs of Tokyo Wards (depending on population)	¥5,000/20,000
Mayors of Towns, Villages	No provision
Prefectural Assemblies	¥12,000
City, Tokyo Ward Assemblies	¥1,200
Town, Village Assemblies	No provision

Free postcards for use in election campaigns will be distributed to candidates according to the following schedule:

30,000 to candidates for House of Councillors from National Constituency.
20,000 to candidates for House of Councillors from Prefectural Constituency and candidates for House of Representatives.
10,000 for candidates for Governor.

The following limitations have been placed on the number of posters which may be used in the campaign:
10,000 for members of the House of Councillors from the National Constituency, with not more than 1,000 used in any single Prefecture.
1,000 for Members of the House of Councillors from Prefectural Constituencies, for members of the House of Representatives, Governors of Prefectural and Mayor of five large cities.
300 for members of Prefectural and Municipal Assemblies and Mayors of other cities.

Purge Responsibility (cont'd)

"In view of this fact, you are invited here today to consider the suggestion that you officially recognize this responsibility by developing and promoting a program of full cooperation with the government in its administration of the purge ordinances. This is not a partisan political issue. The purge is the responsibility of the people and their government and not of a single political party or any special interest group."

WOMEN ACTIVE IN ELECTIONS

Thirty branches of the nationwide women's organization "Shin Nippon Fujin Domei" (New Japan Women's League) are participating in a pre-election campaign to get out the women's vote. Instructions to the branches from the national headquarters in Tokyo include:

1. A request that all qualified League members run as candidates.
2. Directions for forming lecture teams to cover the country with election information.
3. The announcement of the publication of an "Election Handbook" to be distributed to all branches.

In line with the above, CI and E officers in I Corps cooperated with Shin Nippon Fujin Domei in planning a meeting of 2,000 men and women in Kyoto, 23 March, the entire program being concerned with the citizen's responsibilities in the approaching elections. I Corps secured the cooperation of SCAP in the endeavor. Exhibits furnished by the Exhibits Unit of CI and E, SCAP included "Democratic Organization", "The British Elections" and "The Constitution."

The meeting was noteworthy especially because the audience was composed of about an equal number of men and women and both participated in the discussions.

Similar meetings have been held by the Japanese women leaders with the cooperation of Military Government teams in Osaka, Fukushima, Odawara, and other parts of Japan. A two-day institute has been planned by the Tokyo-Kanagawa Military Government team in Yokohama. Between two and three thousand women are expected to attend the latter and while the meeting will cover several phases of the CI and E Information program, particular emphasis will be placed on the importance of women's voting in the coming elections.

ULTRA-NATIONALISTIC ORGANIZATION ADDED TO PURGE ORDINANCE

The Great Japan Military Virtue Association (Dai Nippon Butoku Kai) was dissolved and its funds and other properties seized under Home Ministry Ordinance dat 8 November 1946 because during the war the Association became an instrument of the militarists.

All influential persons of this association or any branch thereof within the period of December 6, 1941 to September 2, 1945 will be treated as falling within the provisions of Category "G", Appendix "A" of SCAPIN 550, in the absence of satisfactory proof to the contrary, as persons who have shown themselves to be active exponents of militant nationalism and aggression.

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FOLLOWING ARE TRANSLATIONS FROM POLITICAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN, NO. 4

総司令部、候補者の約束につき警告：

(SCAP Warns Politicians On Campaign Promises)

以下は政府の経済プログラムを破壊することも辞さない選挙遊説者を阻むために、総司令部によつて発せられたステートメントである。

'立候補者にしろ、政党にしろ、現在主食の集荷統制を廃止するとか、物價統制及び割当配給を徹廃するとか云ふことを国民に約束することが、どうしてできるであらうか？ 之等のことは日本政府によつて賢明に考案、実施された プログラムなのである。総司令部が日本国内の食糧が平等に国民に配分されたあと、国民の最少限度の要求をみたすために食糧を輸入するのは、実に日本政府のプログラムに基いて行はれてゐるのである。いかなる時と処とを問はず、必需物資が極端に不足してゐる場合、公衆の利益のために、政府によつて実施される経済統制は本質的には民主的だと認められるのである。それなくしては、極端に不公正な配給となり、国民に困難と苦痛とをもたらすことになるであらう。 かゝる政府のプログラムを破壊することを国民に約束するやうな立候補者は現実的でなく、投票者をまどわかすものである。日本の経済が日本の必要とする食糧その他を世界市場に於て購入しうるだけ充分な輸出をなしうる程度に安定するまでは、極度に不足してゐる生活必需物資の統制をはづすことは不可能である。以上のことは、投票人が立候補者のかいげ色々な約束の價値を決定するにあたり検討すべき問題の典型的なものである。'

婦人の選挙啓蒙運動について：

(Women Active In Elections)

全国的婦人団体であるところの'新日本婦人同盟'の支部30は婦人の投票をうながす選挙運動を行つてゐる。東京にある全同盟本部から各支部に発せられた指令には、次の如きものが

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包含されてゐる。

1. 凡ての同盟のメンバーに立候補の要請をすること。
2. 講演班を組織して、全国的に選挙啓蒙運動を行ふこと。
3. '選挙便覧'を印刷して全支部に配布すると云ふ予告。

上述の線に沿って、第一兵団、民間情報教育担当将校は、3月23日京都に於て行はれた2,000名参集の大会を全同盟が計畫するのに協力した。この大会のプログラムは全部、来るべき選挙に対する市民の責任と云ふことに関するものであつた。第一兵団はこの企てに総司令部の協力を得、又、総司令部、民間情報教育部によって作られた'民主的団体'、'英国に於る選挙'、'憲法'と云ふやうなものが展示された。

この大会に於ては、参会者が殆んど男女同数であり、共に討議に加はつたことは特筆すべきことである。

同様の大会は、大阪、福島、小田原、その他の都市で軍政部の協力の下に、日本の婦人指導者によって行はれた。横浜にある東京-神奈川地区軍政部によって、2日間の講習会が計畫された。約2～3千人の婦人が出席の予定であり、そこでは民間情報プログラムの数個の問題がとり上げられる筈であるが特に来るべき選挙に於ける婦人投票の重要さが強調される予定である。

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衆議院議員	50.000円
知事	25.000円～50.000円 (人口に応じて)
市長	5.000円～30.000円 (人口に応じて)
東京区長	5.000円～20.000円 (人口に応じて)
町村長	制限なし
都道府縣会議員	12.000円
市会議員並に東京区会議員	1.200円
町村会議員	制限なし

選挙無料郵便葉書は次のやうに立候補者に与へられる.

全国選出参議院議員候補者	30.000
地方選出参議院議員並に衆議院議員候補者	20.000
知事候補者	10.000

選挙に使用されるポスターの数については次の制限がをかれてゐる.

全国選出参議院議員候補者	10.000 (但し一縣使用1.000以下)
地方選出参議院議員並に知事五大市長候補者、衆議院議員候補者	1.000
都道府縣会議員、市会議員五大市以外の市長候補者	300

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1947年勅令第1号に対する修正について：

(Amendment to Imperial Ordinance No.1)

追放令に該当する好ましからざる人物が未だ政治にたずさはってゐるといふ情報にもとづいて、日本政府は3月末旬、1947年勅令第1号第1條を修正することにより、之等の人々の政治的活動を封ずる手段をとった。この重要な修正は次の如く規定してゐる。

a. 覚書該当者として指名された者は、選挙運動並にいかなる形式の政治活動にもたづさはってはならない。

b. 政治活動にたづさはってゐる者が、追放令に抵觸するといふもっともな証據が提出される場合には、首相又は当該知事は当人に政治活動を継続することを禁ずる指令を発し、調査表を徵することができる。

c. 更に首相又は当該知事は、或人が覚書に該当するといふもっともな証據が存在する場合はいつでも、その人の資格審査を要求する權利を有する。

d. 不当な、或は独断的な遅延を防ぐために、この修正により調査表の提出方を要求された者の資格審査は72時間以内に決定されなければならない。この修正を犯したり、調査表の提出を拒絶したり、又この條項にもとづく指令に応じない者は罰金又は懲役に処せられる。

選挙費用について：

(Campaign Expenditures)

未だ最後的命令の発せられるないものが、殆んど凡てであるとは云へ、来る4月選挙に於る選挙費用については、以下の如き制限がなされる予定である。

参議院議員（全国選出）	75,000円
〃 （地方 〃）	50,000円

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POLITICAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

No. 3 — 15 March 1947

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NEW POLITICAL PARTIES ARE BORN

As time draws near for elections three new political parties have emerged. One, the People's Cooperative Party, is a merger of the former People's Party and the Cooperative Democratic Party.

This new merger group holds 78 seats in the Diet. For the time being no president will be elected, but the party had adopted the "committee system" with Takeo Miki as Chief Secretary.

The gist of the party statement made at the formation meeting on 8 March follows:

"Since the general elections of last spring, we have endeavored in and out of the Diet to break through the economic crisis and to stabilize people's livelihood. Some conservatives who endeavor to maintain privileges and instigate egoism under the veil of liberty are in dispute and strife with some left-wingers who involved the people into ill-considered strife, neglecting the people's fate by forcing them to be organized by classes.

"For the people who are now gasping at the realities of war defeat and have no

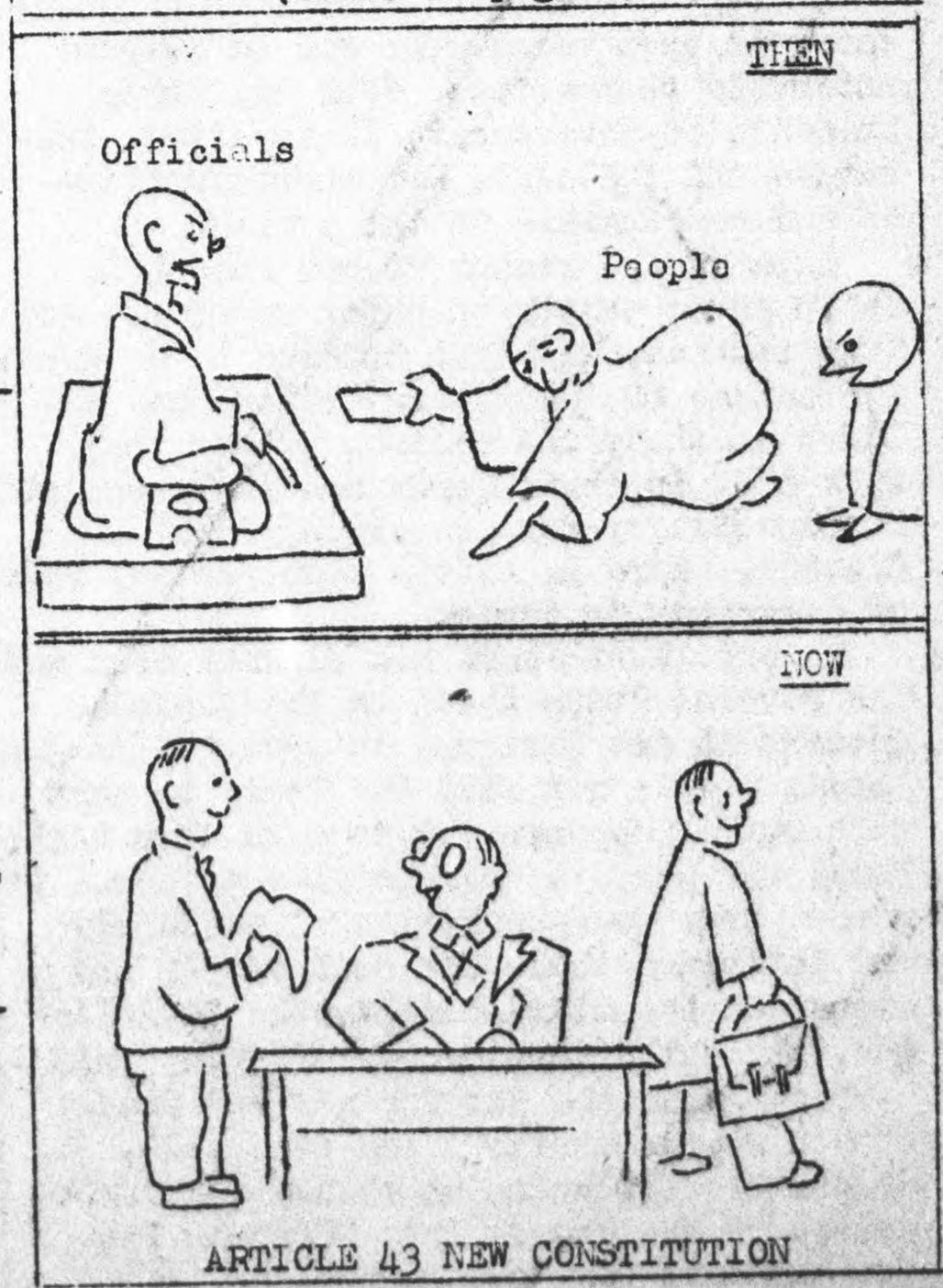
(Cont. on page 3)

SUPPLEMENTARY REGISTRATION FOR ELECTIONS

Recent Japanese legislation has not only established provisions for supplementary registration prior to the April elections for all individuals newly meeting eligibility requirements but has also provided that repatriates may register for voting in the national elections even though they do not meet the normal Japanese requirement of six months residence in an election district as a pre-requisite for registration.

According to present law, all individuals (including repatriates) who have become eligible for voting since the last registration list was prepared (as of last fall) may register at designated local offices between 18 March and 24 March, with 23 March to be used as the day for determining age (20), residence, etc. Registration books, which will include both the names of those registered previously and those newly registered will be

(Cont. on page 2)



ARTICLE 43 NEW CONSTITUTION

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12065 SECTION 3-402/NNDG NO.

SOVEREIGNTY UNDER THE NEW CONSTITUTION

On the 3d of May 1947, Japan embarks upon its first experiment in popular government. On that daythere comes into effect as the supreme law of this land a written Constitution of government, all-embracing in scope and democratic in form. The basic change wrought in the political structure of Japan by this Constitution is the reposing of sovereignty in the hands of the people. This is not a theoretical concept. It is a very real and fundamental change. Under the new Constitution the ultimate authority, the source of all political power in Japan, is the people.

Sovereignty involves the absolute right to institute government, to reform, alter or totally change it, to establish the rules of government and to appoint the agents to govern under those rules. The idea that the people alone have this right is completely new to Japan. Heretofore all power and authority has flowed outward and downward from the Emperor. The people have never directly or indirectly had any say in the determination of the form of government or any participation in the operations of government.

The new Constitution completely alters this. Under it the ultimate legal authority rests in the people and they exercise that authority thru the processes of government established by the Constitution. In the Diet, both the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors are required to be directly representative of all the people. The Diet is the highest organ of state power. The Prime Minister is elected by the Diet and a majority of the Ministers of State must be appointed from the Diet. Appointments to the Supreme Court are subject to review by popular vote upon being made and at 10-year intervals thereafter. Thus all three branches of government, legislative, executive and judicial, are representative of and responsible to the people.

This is the status of government in Japan as it exists on paper under the new Constitution. Much yet remains to be done, for unless the people understand and believe in their new status, unless they know that in their hands now rests the full responsibility for preserving their new freedom, there is little hope for any sort of democracy in Japan.

An excellent start has already been made. The several steps taken by the Japanese government are designed to give to the Japanese people not only the tools to work with but an opportunity to make them work. Thus, the purge is essentially designed to remove from every position of authority and influence those who believed in and supported the militaristic, the feudalistic, the authoritarian way of doing things.

This opens the way for new and freely chosen representatives and officials. The elections will bring these new representatives of the people into office. The

(Cont. in next column)

local government reforms will give to the people practical experience in politics. The great body of legislation implementing the new Constitution will provide simple and more direct methods for exercising control, for questioning and seeking redress from official malfeasance and oppression.

The people must still be told and taught, taught to criticize their officials, to decide for themselves, to resent pressure and reject corruption. They must be courageous in support of their own opinions and in defense of the rights and liberties guaranteed them. And every media of public information must be used to urge upon the people of Japan the vital truth that upon them and each and every one of them now rests the full responsibility for making the new Constitution a creed of freedom and democracy, an article of faith in common humanity.

Supplementary Registration (Cont.)

available for inspection and complaint from 29 March to 31 March.

All individuals whose names appear in this list will be eligible to vote in the Diet elections on 20 April and 25 April, but only those who appear in the list and who have also lived in the same election district for the previous six months will be eligible to vote in the local elections on 5, 15 and 30 April. This two-fold plan has been adopted in an attempt to reabsorb repatriates into the national life as speedily as possible, which recognizes that reabsorption into local life is still a matter of several months.

Although registration is the most important of the pre-election events which will take place during the next fortnight, military government personnel are reminded that a number of other activities of importance will precede the elections on 5 April. These will include the actual filing of candidacies by candidates who have been screened, the display of their questionnaires at the offices of screening committees, and the posting of candidates' names in official public places. The public should be encouraged to scrutinize all such information.

Special provisions for campaign expenses call for a series of separate progressively made statements to be posted by all candidates in official public places for the examination by the public at large. Adequate publicity should be given to the fact that the statements are to be posted and that all voters can inspect them. The separate postings of the expenses and receipts fall into the following categories:

1) Prior to filing candidacy,
2) From the date of filing candidacy to the eleventh day before election, and
3) From the 10th day before election to the 4th day before election.

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LABOR UNIONS FORM NEW ORGANIZATION

Politically-minded Japanese labor unions, after several months of abortive effort to unify the labor front, have dissolved their All-Japan Congress of Labor and started anew with a new organization--the All-Japan Labor Union Liaison Council.

Organized March 10 in Tokyo, the Liaison Council is pledged to strive for attainment of "unity in campaign problems of labor unions". At the same time, the autonomy of all organizations comprising the Council is preserved.

Among the 38 union groups representing some 5,800,000 workers participating in the Council, is the powerful Japanese Federation of Labor Unions which heretofore had rejected proposals of the leftist Japan Congress of Industrial Organizations for labor unification.

While the newly organized Liaison Council will strive to coordinate labor's efforts to achieve common objectives, the spade work in the approaching elections will be left largely to individual federations. The JFLU and some other federation are setting up election committees in every labor union affiliated with them.

Meanwhile, Communist hopes of obtaining support from the big JFLU were dimmed with the decision of the Social Democratic party-- with which the JFLU is affiliated-- to give a flat "no" to the Communist party's recent proposal for joint action in the coming elections. The Social Democrats announced that they would conduct their campaign from an "unfettered viewpoint".

New Parties are Born (Cont.)

resources, is there any room to permit the existence of the theory of the two party system or of the formality of the old class strife without speaking of the theory of economic liberalism which finds the natural balance through 'The weak becomes the victim of the strong'?

"We, the People's Cooperative Party and sympathisers with the independent group, want to take the middle way under the badge of the 'People's Cooperative Party', without distortion of either the left or of the right wings and hoping for the peaceful development of the race.

"We cordially invite any supporters to join us and take part in this task of national reconstruction."

The second party, the Laborers' and Farmers' Vanguard Party, was formed when the arrangement committee held a mass meeting at Omori ward in Tokyo on March 9, and decided on party slogans, statement and creeds. One of the slogans is "the establishment of a socialistic country in accordance with the course of the race".

It is said that this party will recognize about 35 candidates officially at the coming general elections. Gaku Seno,

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ELECTION SURVEILLANCE PROCEDURE

Representatives of the Military Government Teams were informed at a conference by Government Section in Tokyo during January that an additional conference was contemplated at GHQ to brief the field forces on the national election laws.

It has been decided, however, that no further conference will be necessary for this purpose inasmuch as the provisions of the House of Councillors Election Law were explained in January and but slight change in the old House of Representatives Election Law is anticipated.

A handbook with laws and annotations for Japanese Diet elections has been prepared by the Government Section and will be distributed to Military Government Teams thru the Eighth Army as soon as the Diet takes final action on technical amendments to the two national election laws which are now pending in that body.

This document is similar in content & scope to the Local Election pamphlet distributed in January and should answer most of the questions which may arise in the mind of an officer observing the election in the field. This handbook on national elections, along with surveillance instructions contained therein, should, when it reaches your hands, be considered as part of the formal instructions on elections as it will be transmitted thru command channels.

In view of recent amendments to the local election laws an annex to the pamphlet pertaining to that subject has been prepared and will also reach you before election time. These amendments are minor in nature and will have no bearing on the steps you have already taken to familiarize the Japanese with provisions of the election laws nor on the steps you have taken to organize surveillance. In essence, the amendments merely provide for a slight relaxation in eligibility requirements for electors, for special registration prior to the elections, and for tightening regulations with respect to campaign receipts and expenditures.

An analysis of election instructions either issued or in the process of being transmitted will reveal that your surveillance procedure for all five elections will be of exactly the same nature and will require the same steps to be taken in each case. Five summary reports are called for, one covering each of the three local elections and one covering each of the two national elections. Forms for both types of reports have already been dispatched.

New Parties (Cont.)

chief party officer, was at one time a Communist party leader in Japan.

The Japan Farmers' party was formed on February 20. The party has five Diet members.

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ELECTION POLICIES GIVEN OUT BY FIVE BIG POLITICAL PARTIES

(Asahi Shimbun, 13 March 1947)

As the general elections approach all the political parties are making strenuous preparations, including the securing of campaign funds, shaping of policies, selection of candidates, etc.

The policies of the five major parties for the forthcoming elections aregiven as follows:

Liberal Party: Having learnt a bitter lesson from last year's election when the party placed too many candidates in the field, the party leaders this year have decided to limit the number of "officially recognized" candidates to 300. Of this number the party expects to have 200 in the Diet.

Estimates made by party leaders are: Status quo in several prefectures, decrease of from one to two men as compared with the present number in two or three prefectures, and increase of from one to five in Hokkaido, Kyushu and the other prefectures, making a total of about 200, an increase of some 50 over the present number.

No special instructions will be given by Party Headquarters regarding the maintenance of a common front with the Progressive Party candidates, but this question will be left to local people who know best the conditions existing in the various constituencies.

Progressive Party: Sandwiched between the Liberal and Socialist Parties, the Progressives expect a stiff fight during the campaign. Election measures are being worked out now under the leadership of Chief Secretary Inukai and his two aides, Chizaki and Nagao. On or about the 20th of this month local branch leaders will be called to Tokyo for a conference, at which the campaign plans will be explained and discussed in full.

At the Party's headquarters about 260 "officially recognized" candidates for the Diet have already been decided, this number to be increased to about 300. Party leaders estimate that at least 142 seats in the Diet are assured, although some party members hold the very pessimistic view that 70 or 80 may be the most that could be expected, thus forcing the Progressives down to a third place in the Diet ranking.

Of the present Diet members, 32 have been purged. Most of these men are from the local districts and their absence will have a serious effect upon the campaign. Since most of the candidates are either well-to-do farmers or directors of corporations, the Party sees no serious trouble in raising campaign funds, candidates who require total party support being very few in number.

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Socialist Party to Have 300 Officially Recognized Candidates

Socialist Party: The Socialist Party has a very limited number of proper candidates for the election of the prefectural governors, mayors and the members of the House of Councillors. As a result, the party intends to concentrate its efforts on the coming elections for the House of Representatives.

This year there is a tendency in the policy of the Socialist Party to absorb progressive elements from citizens outside the party rather than from old party men having experience in the proletarian movement. Success or failure in the coming election, it is said, will be determined by the issue "How can the party headquarters stop the reckless number of candidates to be recommended by local branches and how can the headquarters push the men the headquarters recommend into various localities properly?" In short, success or failure is considered dependent on the controlling power of the party headquarters.

Cooperative Principle to be Upheld by People's Cooperatives

People's Cooperative Party: The People's Cooperative Party is a newly organized party among the members of the defunct Cooperative Democratic Party, People's Party and some of the Independents. The amalgamation, it is said, will favor these mabers in the coming elections. It is explained that instead of small parties they organized a large and influential party and have come to wear the color of a third party against the Conservative and Progressive elements. Of the present strength of 78, some 62, with the exception of those purged or having no will to run, will enter the field for the election. This party is expected to draft some 200 "officially recognized" candidates and hopes that some 130 will be elected.

The party will call to the farmers, medium and small commerce and industry men and school teachers for support. The party stands for the cooperative principle based on humanism, and the party seems to be confident that on account of the foregoing slogan the middle-class people running to neither Capitalism nor Socialism will give support to the party.

Communist Party: The Communist Party does not necessarily concentrate its efforts on successful election. It intends to fight on the principle of enlightenment in connection with its propaganda movement, to pursue thoroughly the responsibility of the Government in regard to inflation, unemployment and the blackmarket life and by means of clarifying the truth about the pains of social life, strengthen the unity of the laborers, peasants and small citizens and develop the fight into a wide spread citizens' struggle instead of a mere anti-Government movement of the labor classes.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12065 SECTION 3-402/NNDG NO.

FARMERS MUST NOT BE MISLED BY EMPTY PROMISES OF POLITICIANS

Farmers should be exhorted to consider the critical rice delivery situation from more than one point of view and should not be misled in the coming elections by politicians whose platform is: "Vote for me and I'll see that there is no more compulsory rice delivery".

There is absolutely no legal basis for such a promise. In fact, it is diametrically opposed to existing laws and the Imperial Ordinance for Emergency Measures on Foods of 17 February 1946.

Unless the present rice collection program realizes over 110% of its established goal, it is entirely possible that the 2.5 go ration will have to be reduced.

Unless the rice collection quotas are met in the next two months, Japan's 44,164,000 non-self-suppliers will not have enough food for a minimum diet.

The significance of this situation is not always apparent to the farmer, especially as it directly affects his own circumstances. The economic interdependence of the farmers and the industrial workers must be brought home to the farmers more emphatically. The farmer knows that he cannot get tools and fertilizer unless he pays high blackmarket prices for them. Then, he reasons, he must sell his rice at blackmarket prices in order to get the money he needs.

However, what he may not think about, is the fact that if the rice is not flowing into the proper channel, the industrial workers do not get their ration. Then they are obliged to buy food in the blackmarket and may go on strike for higher wages in order that they may eat to live and work. They will go foraging for food in the country or become ill from malnutrition and will stay away from work. Consequently, the tools which the farmer needs are manufactured in less quantity and of poorer quality. As long as tools are scarce, they will continue to be exorbitant in price.

The industrial reconstruction of Japan is the most essential requirement to the establishment of a prosperous and peaceful nation. But it is on the farmer that the success or failure of this industrial reconstruction depends.

The economy of Japan demands the import of certain commodities from abroad and the only way credit can be built up abroad is through exports. If the industrial workers, through lack of sufficient food, are unable to develop products for export, the stabilization of Japanese economy cannot be realized.

Thus it may be seen that the farmer is the very hub of this economic wheel, and instead of thinking of his city neighbor with bitterness as he is wont sometimes to do, the farmer should realize the complete interdependence that exists between them, that must exist for the prosperity of the country.

CHONAIKAI AND BURAKUKAI FUNCTIONS TRANSFERRED

The Ministry of Home Affairs announced recently that the functions listed below which have been performed by the wartime agencies-- the Chonaikai, the Burakukai and their federations, the Rengokai--will be transferred to city, town, village or ward offices or branches thereof before 1 April 1947:

a. Adjustment of family cards.
b. Certification of incomings and outgoings.
c. Signing (seal) of ration books.
d. Certification of non-possession of income.
e. Certification of residence.
f. Rationing (notification of method of distribution of goods, collecting of cash payment of goods and distribution thereof, distribution of ration coupons).
g. Transmission of notifications of city, ward, town or village (circulating notice).
h. Distribution of public notification of tax payment, collection of taxes, inspections (house cleaning),
i. Reports of various investigations.
j. Spraying of disinfectants.

In the transfer of the functions the Ministry's plan provides that (1) when necessary the city, town or village administration will establish official branch offices for the public's convenience. This step assures the people of dealing directly with their government rather than through a maze of controls. Moreover, all certificates issued or business transacted will be in the direct name of the administration; (2) buildings of the former Chonaikai and Burakukai can be utilized by the local administration for minimum needs; (3) the disposal of assets will be in conformity with a majority vote of all the inhabitants of the former Chonaikai or Burakukai, (the age limit being 20 or over) in a public meeting called for this purpose; and (4) in matters or rationing the city, town, village or ward office may deal with a single representative of the inhabitants of an area of the size of the present tonarigumi providing that he or she has been elected to gather the rations and supplies for the others. Each individual citizen has the positive right to take his or her ration card to the governmental office in person and draw rations, yet the voluntary election for delegation of responsibility to one member of a group is provided for convenience.

As was shown in the last Bulletin, these three levels of control were sandwiched in between the city, town and village governments and the tonarigumi or neighborhood associations which were and are themselves one level of organization above the people.

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SPECIAL EFFORT NEEDED TO SECURE THE VOTE OF WOMEN

While figures are incomplete, reports from 46 prefectures indicate that women will take full advantage of their first opportunity to run for office in every level of government, from ward head to candidate at large for the House of Councillors.

To date 19 women are reported to have declared their candidacy for this highest elective office in the Government, many of them as independents.

This tendency of women to run without party support is seen at all levels. Of 54 candidates in 14 prefectures, 28 are independents, 3 progressives, 1 cooperative democrat, 4 liberals, 9 communists, 8 social democrats, and 1 Buddhist.

That 28 women in this group of 54 are running as independents is evidence of the fact that women are determined to participate in government whether or not they are given official recognition by the political parties. It is also evidence of the fact that all the parties need to give much more attention in the future than they have in the past to the importance of the women's vote.

They may do this by assigning women specific jobs in connection with getting out the vote, arranging special meetings for women voters, giving women needed information about party policies and training them to speak and participate in public meetings.

More than this, every non-partisan women's organization in the country needs to plan meetings at which candidates of all parties serve as speakers, giving women, during the discussion period, an opportunity to ask questions and participate in discussions.

Some organizations are already planning such meetings. Others are circulating questionnaires among the candidates, with the end in view of publishing factual information about the candidates' qualifications for office.

This is a device frequently used with much success by the League of Women Voters in the United States.

Questions asked are concise and directly connected with important issues of the day. The candidate knows that his answer will be publicized on a factual non-partisan basis along with similar information from all other candidates. Generally the League publishes the result in leaflet form and then distributes it not only to members, but at a cost charge to other interested voters. This, in effect, is considered a public service. The result is also published in the newspapers as a report from the League of Women Voters.

This organization also conducts mock elections in order to give its membership an opportunity to practice casting a ballot.

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EXPLANATION OF APPEAL PROCEDURE

An important matter of interest to all persons subject to screening under the purge ordinances is the establishment by the government of a public office qualifications appeal board.

Article I of Imperial Ordinance No. 65 of 1947 provides that "Any person who has been designated as falling under the memorandum in accordance with the provisions of Imperial Ordinance No. 109 of 1946, or of Imperial Ordinance No. 1 of 1947 and as a consequence thereof removed or barred from appointment or election to a postion in the public service may, in the event he feels that an error has been made in his case, file an appeal for a recission of designation to the Prime Minister."

Imperial Ordinance No. 66 of 1947 provides for the establishment of the public office qualifications appeal board under the supervision of the Prime Minister. The board is completely independent and is vested with the necessary authority to carry out its mission.

Persons who have been designated as falling under the memorandum and thereby removed or barred from any position in the public service who desire to file an appeal for reconsideration may do so by submitting to the Prime Minister a letter of appeal, stating all the pertinent facts, together with any relevant documents or additional evidence. In case the appellant has been designated as falling under the memorandum by the prefectural governor, the letter of appeal and attached materials shall be submitted to the Prime Minister through the prefectural governor.

DONT FORGET....your suggestions and your questions are welcome. We are anxious to know if and how you are able to use this bulletin and what ideas you can give us for making it of more use to you.

Special Effort Needed to Secure the Vote of Women (Cont.)

Such devices were used in Japan's last election when a record vote went to the polls. In addition, nursery schools were organized to care for children while mothers voted, teachers had their classes make "kami-shibai" urging everyone to go to the polls, and women's organizations asked every member to contact at least five other people urging them to go to the polls on election day. In this way Japan made every possible effort to live up to a new democratic role in which men and women work together to build a new country.

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File: Political Affairs Bulletin

POLITICAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

No. 2 — 1 March 1947

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IV. Dissolution of Chonaikai and Burakukai
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LOCAL ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE IN APRIL

Dates of Japan's first post-war elections have been announced by the Cabinet as follows:

April 5 - Elections for Governors of Prefectures, Mayors of Cities and Towns, Chiefs of Villages and Wards.

April 15 - Run-off elections, as necessary, for local chief executives mentioned above.

April 30 - Elections for members of Assemblies of Prefectures, Cities, Towns, Villages, and Wards.

Not only are the new elections of marked importance as the first local elections since wartime, but they also usher in a new phase of Japanese governmental and political life. Thanks to recently enacted legislation, for the first time in history:

1. Chief executives of local entities of government will be chosen by direct popular vote;
2. Local legislatures will be chosen by universal sufferage and will have enough power to make membership more than a mere honorary position;
3. Local elections will be supervised not by government officials but by election administration committees responsible to the electorate.

(Cont'd on page 2)

WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION?

One of the questions most frequently encountered concerning the new Constitution is that of its origin. Many Japanese are honestly concerned over the thought that this is a foreign document, drafted in General MacArthur's Headquarters and forced upon the Japanese Government and people. The enemies of democracy in Japan have not hesitated to spread such suspicions. It is important that the facts in the case be known.

At the outset the Supreme Commander was well aware that no lasting benefits could be obtained in the work of encouraging the establishment of a free democratic government in Japan unless the basic framework were altered. At the time of the surrender, Japan was governed by an uncontrolled executive, answerable to no one but the Emperor and unrestrained by any fundamental law.

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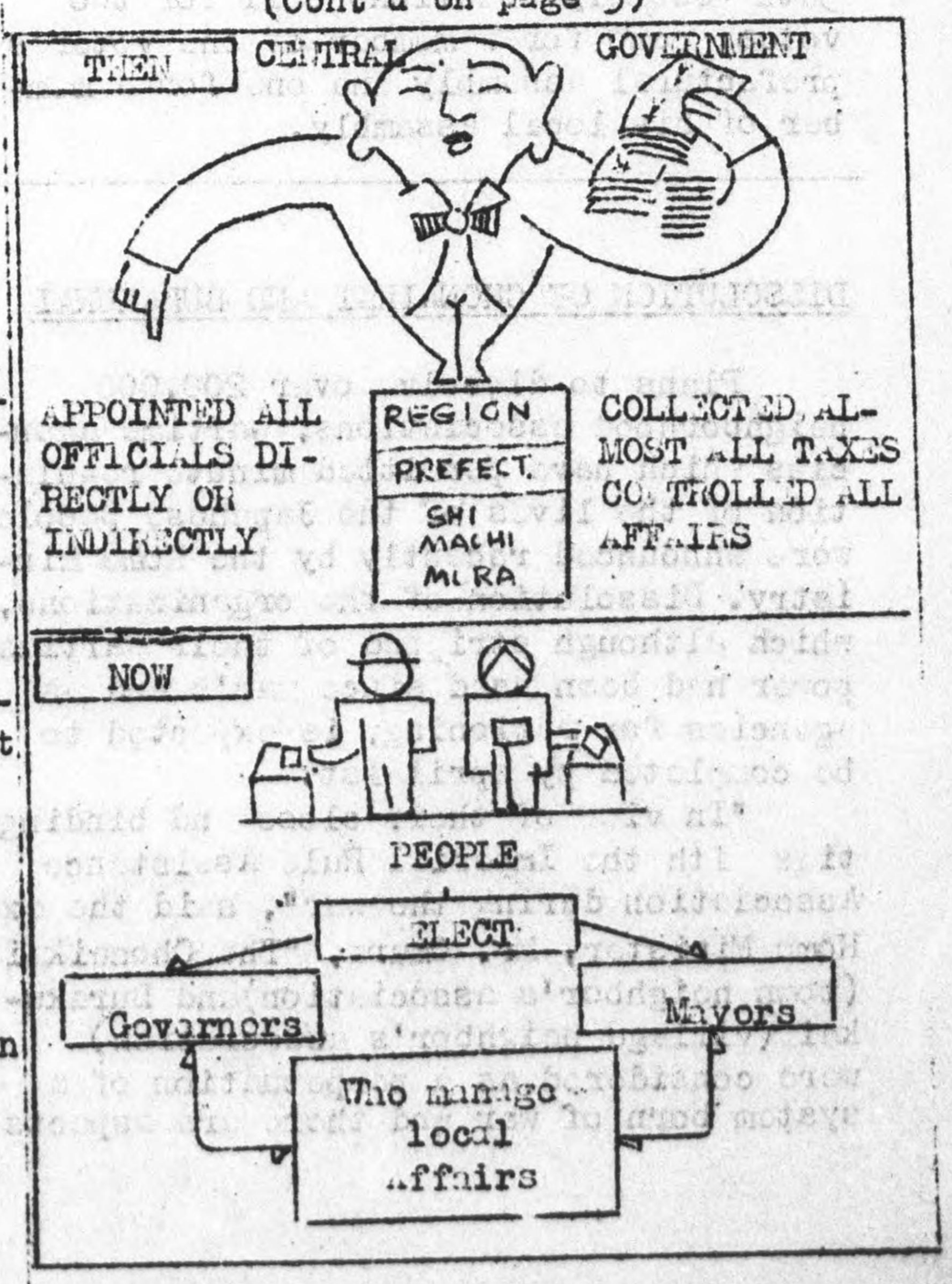

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Local Elections (cont'd)

Although no changes are likely to be made in local election laws before April, the Japanese Government is contemplating some revisions in a few of the articles of the national election laws which are pertinent to local elections, and one or two ordinances concerning the election may be issued by the Cabinet or the Home Ministry. (As soon as available, these materials will be assembled, annotated, and forwarded to forces in the field via routine channels.)

As the law now stands, each voter will cast two votes in the April 5th election; one or two, if necessary, in the April 15th election; and two in the April 30th election. In the first election he will cast one vote for the governor of his prefecture (To, Do., Fu or Ken) and one for his local chief executive (city, town, village, or ward.) The extent and scope of the April 15th elections will be entirely dependent upon the results of the election on the 5th.

Present legislation requires that a successful candidate in the election for local chief executive receive 37½ percent of the total number of votes cast for the office. Where no candidate receives such a percentage, a run-off election, involving the two candidates who received the largest number of votes, must be held.

In some voting districts, therefore, run-off elections for both governors and the local chief executive may be required. Other districts may require no election, may require an election for the governor alone, or may require an election for the local chief executive alone. April 30th assembly elections call for two votes: one for a member of the voter's prefectural assembly and one for a member of his local assembly.

DISSOLUTION OF CHONAIKAI AND BURAKUKAI

Plans to dissolve over 200,000 neighborhood associations, wartime agencies which have permitted minute regulation of the lives of the Japanese people, were announced recently by the Home Ministry. Dissolution of the organizations, which although stripped of their wartime power had been used since war's end as agencies for rationing, is expected to be completed by April 1st.

"In view of their close and binding ties with the Imperial Rule Assistance Association during the war", said the ex-Home Minister, Mr. Omura, "The Chonaikai (town neighbor's association) and Burakukai (village neighbor's association) were considered as a perpetuation of a system born of war and there are aspects

Dissolution (cont'd)

which recall wartime regimentation and chauvinism. Thus one must see in the concept of involuntary membership in the Chonaikai and Burakukai the characteristics of a police state.

"Until the present moment, in view of the exigencies of rationing, it has been administratively unwise to alter the structure of these organizations. Now, however, continuance of the present structure not only is considered contrary to the principles of local autonomy but may also permit unscrupulous individuals to exercise improper influence over the forthcoming elections.

"With the abolition of the Chonaikai and Burakukai, the road will be open for the formation of free, voluntary organizations of the citizens for satisfaction of their various needs. The future of Japan lies in the development of individual initiative and free and flexible organizations. With the clearance of war-time totalitarian restrictions, the citizens are invited to rebuild Japan on the new foundation. The present measures have been taken to implement the democratization of the natinal system which is the fundamental principle of the new Constitution and the attention of every citizen of this country is called hereto."

The system of Chonaikai and Burakukai, as established by Home Ministry Instructions #17 of September 11, 1940, applied to Japan a spy-hostage system of mutual responsibility well known to Oriental potentates, previously used by the Japanese themselves in their pacification of Formosa, Korea and Manchuria, and later applied as an annex of military government in China, Burma, Malaya, the Philippines, and the Netherlands East Indies. Membership was compulsory at all levels; leaders at all levels were either appointed from above or chosen through a process of selection by the appointees. The system thus provided a direct chain of command between the government and every citizen; the government was easily able to issue orders, disseminate propaganda, or probe for intelligence.

At the height of the war, the number of Chonaikai and Burakukai reached 215,000 assigned, in view of their intimate connection with the lives of the populace, a bewildering variety of duties. Many of these duties were dropped at the end of the war but some remain. The new plan contemplates abolition of certain of the latter with the rest taken over by city, town, village and ward offices and branches thereof. A plan for the transfer of these functions is now under preparation by the Home Ministry and will be reported herewith when completed.

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SUMMARIES OF PARTY PLATFORMS

Brief summaries of the platforms of various political parties will be published in this and in succeeding issues of the Political Affairs Bulletin.

In this issue are published the platform of the Liberal party, which, with the Progressive party, represents the existing government administration, and the platform of the Social Democratic party, the major opposition party.

Japan Liberal Party

The platform of the Japan Liberal party (Nippon-Jiyu-to) has remained unchanged since the end of 1945. The manifesto preceding the platform records the five articles of the charter oath issued at the time of the Meiji Restoration as the guiding principles of democratic government in Japan. The manifesto also states the need for fundamental and thoro educational reform and stresses the importance of respecting basic human rights.

The platform provides for the construction of a new Japan by full compliance with the terms of the Potsdam Declaration, by establishment of responsible democratic government, by rehabilitation of the nation's economy, and by the elevation of ethical standards, both political and social, to "purify the national life". The platform asserts the need for preserving the nation's character.

The Emergency Measures of the Japan Liberal Party (November 1945), the Liberal and Progressive Parties Agreed Political Measures Concerning Foodstuffs (May 1946), the Liberal and Progressive Parties' Agreed Political Measures Against Inflation (June 1946), and Emergency Measures for Industrial Reconstruction (February 1946) which comprise the remainder of the platform, are in most cases out-of-date and do not apply to current issues. These will all be supplemented by a new up-to-date platform which the Liberal Party plans to draw up during the coming month.

Japan Social Democratic Party

The Social Democratic party platform lists as its most important and characteristic policy the socialization of industry. It provides also for a gradual "constructive revolution".

It likens the present course of the Japan Social Democratic party to that of the English Labor party.

The stated aims of the party are: 1) establishment of democracy; 2) the realization of socialism; and 3) the achievment of lasting peace.

The party also announces specific industrial, financial, labor, and social policies.

(Cont'd in next column)

Constitution (Cont'd)

The Meiji Constitution, so called, did no more than loosely describe the framework of government and vaguely proclaimed a set of principles borrowed from continental sources. The actual constitution of pre-surrender Japan was unwritten, made up of laws and Imperial Rescripts enacted or promulgated before the Meiji Constitution. This basic law was an amalgamation of feudalistic customs and archaic traditions.

Clearly, such a condition offered no guarantee of permanence to any change in the structure of organization of the Japanese Government. Consequently, the Supreme Commander advised, first the Higashi-Kuni Cabinet and, subsequently, the Shidehara Cabinet, that no progress could be made without embracing thorough-going constitutional revision. During the fall of 1945 many bodies, both in and out of the government, were independently discussing the same subject.

The entire question was freely discussed on all sides. Within the government considerable difficulty was encountered because of the strong traditional tendencies of certain members of the cabinet. Finally in January 1946, the advice and assistance of General MacArthur was sought. In answer to this request for assistance, the resources of GHQ were made available. For over a month there was close consultation between the Japanese Government and the Headquarters.

The work progressed slowly and in due course the Japanese Government finally agreed upon a draft which they felt they could present to the Japanese people. General MacArthur gave his unqualified approval to this draft, stating, however, that it was for the Japanese people to decide what they desired in the way of constitutional revision, that he would not interfere with the normal processes of government.

The drafted Constitution was presented to the newly elected Diet in June and it was only after months of debate and discussion, during which time substantial revisions in the original draft were made by the Japanese themselves that the present Constitution was adopted by the Diet and on 3 November promulgated by the Emperor.

Party Platforms (Cont'd)

In January 1947 an "emergency program" to cope with the "impending national crisis" was formulated by the left wing of the party. The program outlined measures to stimulate the resumption of production, anti-inflation measures, and measures "to stabilize the people's livelihood".

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12065 SECTION 3-402/NNDG NO.

FARMERS HOLD NATIONAL CONVENTION AT WASEDA UNIV.

The most outstanding development of the three-day national convention of the Farmers' Union, held at Waseda University Feb. 13, 14 and 15, was the opposition between the right and left wings, which became very intense.

The approximately 1200 representatives who attended may be classified into five groups:

60% Democratic Front Left
Communist

25% Neutral
Anti-Communist Left

15% Right.

It was noteworthy that the Communist and Democratic Front Left groups took the same attitude, and, as they formed a majority, they led the assembly. The Neutrals endeavored to lessen the opposition between right and left as best they could and acted as arbitrators.

Many important problems such as policy of action, of organization, land reforms, rice delivery system, etc., were to be discussed, but due to riotous confusion in the assembly hall, there was not enough time and reports of the headquarters were accepted without much discussion.

The following was written into the adopted policy of action:

"We cooperate with the democratic political parties in order to realize the aims of this union", but it was made clear that the "democratic political parties" in this sentence meant Socialist and Communist parties, that it was not intended to cooperate with the Liberals and Progressives, and that the Union opposed a coalition cabinet.

The sentence "not to admit fraction activity of Communist party in the union" in the headquarters' draft of proposed policy was stricken out, as fraction activities of not only the Communist Party but also the Socialist party have been continuous.

Rikizo Hirano, ultra-conservative contender for presidency of the Union, was expelled by delegates who had become angry at his actions in opposition to the stated policies of the Union. After his expulsion, he and a few others formed the new National Farmers' Union Reform League.

On February 15th the Central Committee elected Kuroda Hisao as chief and Nomizo Katsu as vice chief, both Diet members of the left wing Socialist Party.

WOMEN AND THE ELECTION

The April elections will mark the first time in the history of Japan that women have taken part in municipal, prefectural and national elections. It will also mark the first time that they have been able to run as candidates for prefectural governors, mayors, chiefs of towns, and villages, prefectural assemblies, municipal councils, and the House of Councillors.

As they have been increasingly active since their first political experience last April when they elected 39 women to the Diet, it is anticipated that they will play an important part in the approaching elections. They out-number men voters by almost 2½ million. In view of this, it is important that political parties give them every opportunity to become thoroughly acquainted with party policies and platforms and that they be given responsibility commensurate with their voting rights.

In line with this, women leaders of national organizations are occupied now with the implementation of plans to do everything possible to educate women voters in the belief that it is not enough to vote. The vote must be based, they are saying, on:

1) A knowledge of what the political parties stand for.
2) A knowledge of the new election laws.
3) A knowledge of the responsibilities inherent in the offices to be filled.
4) Some definite information about the candidates and their abilities.

TRADE UNIONS PLAN VIGOROUS DRIVE TO ELECT PRO-LABORITES

Representatives of the All-Japan Council of Labor Unions, at a meeting in Tokyo on February 17, adopted a policy of seeking the election of organized labor's friends and the defeat of its enemies in the approaching General Election. The group approved the basic policy of urging union members and other democratic organizations to vote for any candidate, irrespective of party, who will fight for the interests of labor both within and out of the Diet.

Labor Unions, now estimated to number 4,500,000 members, also are making plans to wage vigorous campaigns in the prefectures where assembly members and governors are coming up for election.

The Unions are inviting the support of all democratic organizations in Japan including farmers, cultural societies, cooperatives and others, in their campaign to elect PRO-LABOR candidates.

NCIO is urging establishment of a Democratic Front Council, including the Communists, to work for the election of Diet members and other public officials friendly to labor.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12065 SECTION 3-402/NNDG NO.

SCREENING AND ELECTION SCHEDULES FOR CENTRAL, PREFECTURAL AND MUNICIPAL SCREENING COMMITTEES

CENTRAL SCREENING COMMITTEE

1 - 15 February; Screening of local screening committee members.

5 Feb - 11 March; Collecting for forwarding to the Cabinet of questionnaires of candidates for members of House of Councillors, Prefectural Governors and Mayors of five principal cities.

16 - 25 February; Screening of present holders of principal public offices.

25 Feb. - 1 March; Screening of present principal public office holders of political parties.

25 Feb. - 11 March; Collection of questionnaires for candidates for House of Representatives.

2 - 16 March; Screening of candidates for members of House of Councillors, Prefectural Governors and Mayors of five principal cities

12 - 17 March; Issuance of Certificate of Eligibility to candidates for members of House of Councillors, Prefectural Governors and Mayors of five principal cities.

12 - 16 March; Screening of present principal public office holders in public information media.

16 - 25 March; Screening of candidates for mmbers of House of Representatives.

17 March; Announcement of election date of Prefectural Governors.

22 March; Announcement of election date of House of Councillors and Mayors.

25 March - 4 April; Collection of questionnaires of candidates for Prefectural Assemblymen and five principal cities Assemblymen.

26 - 30 March; Issuance of Certificate of Eligibility to candidates for membership in House of Representatives.

26 March - 15 April; Screening of present principal public holders of public information media, political parties and economic organizations under Paragraphs 12 and 13.

1 April; Announcement of election date of candidates for members of the House of Representatives.

(Cont'd in next column)

SCHEDULES (Cont'd)

*5 April; Election of Prefectural Governors and Mayors.

10 April; Announcement of election date of candidates for Prefectural Assemblymen and five principal cities Assemblymen.

15 April - 10 May; Screening of principal public office holders of organizations under Paragraphs 7, 8 and 9.

*20 April; Election of members of House of Councillors.

*25 April: Election of members of House of Representatives.

*30 April; Election of Prefectural Assemblymen and Assembly men of cities, towns and villages.

10 - 20 May; Screening of successful candidates for Prefectural Assemblymen and five principal cities Assemblymen.

*Election dates.

MUNICIPAL SCREENING COMITTEES

24 February; Collection of questionnaires of Electoral Administration Committee members and present holders of municipal principal public offices.

25 - 26 February; Screening of the above.

27 February; Forwarding of the above questionnaires to the Prefectural Screening Committee.

28 February; (Review by the P.S.C.)

5 - 7 March; Collection of questionnaires of heads of polling stations and ballot opening stations and presiding officer of election.

8 - 14 March; Screening of the above.

15 March; Forwarding of the above questionnaires to the Prefectural Screening Comittee

16 - 17 March; (Review by the P.S.C.)

1 - 7 April; Collection of questionnaires of present holders of principal public offices in organizations of the municipal level.

10 - 17 April; Screening of the above.

18 - 19 April; Forwarding of the above questionnaires to the Prefectural Screening Committee.

20-26 April; (Review by the P.S.C.)

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PREFECTURAL SCREENING COMMITTEES

10 Feb - 11 March; Collection of questionnaires of Mayors, Ward, Town and Village Headmen; and Superintendents of poll and ballot opening stations.

20 - 28 February; Screening of Electoral Committee members and present holders of principal public offices in local public organizations.

8 - 17 March; Screening of candidates for Mayors (excluding five principal cities), ward, town or village Headmen; Superintendents of poll and ballot opening stations.

18 - 20 March; Issuance of Certificate of Eligibility to candidates for Mayors, and Ward, Town and Village Headmen.

21 March; Announcement of election date of Mayors and ward Headmen.

26 March; Announcement of election date of town and village Headmen.

26 March - 26 April; Screening of present holders of principal public office in organizations of local level.

29 March - 7 April; Collection of questionnaires of municipal and ward assembly candidates.

*5 April; Election of Prefectural Governors, Mayors and ward, town or village Headmen.

10 April; Announcement of Election date of municipal and ward assemblymen.

11 - 20 April; Collection of questionnaires of town and village Assemblymen.

*15 April; Decisive election of Prefectural Governors, Mayors, and ward, town or village Headmen.

23 April; Announcement of election date of town and village assembly.

*30 April; Election of local assembly.

7 - 27 May; Screening of successful candidates for municipal, ward, town and village assemblymen.

*Election dates.

DON'T FORGET...your suggestions and your questions are welcome. We are anxious to know if and how you are able to use this bulletin and what ideas you have for making it of more use to you.

REGISTRATION DAYS BEGIN MARCH 18

Beginning March 18 and continuing for one week, all repatriates and all demobilized military personnel who have arrived in Japan since March of last year and all other persons who have resided in a locality for six months prior to this special week of registration can make special application for registration.

Each person must apply; registration is not automatic. Widest possible publicity should be given to this special registration in order to enable some additional four to six million persons to vote in the April Elections.

SCREENING PROCEDURES ARE AMENDED

The Government on 22 February approved a plan for amending the screening procedure in connection with the coming election of Assemblymen of Prefectures, municipalities, cities, wards, towns and villages. Only the successful candidates will be formally screened. However, all candidates will be required to file questionnaires in accordance with previously announced procedures before they will be issued a certificate of eligivility authorizing them to engage in campaign activities. Special bulletins listing the names of all candidates for above assemblies will be published and widely posted.

Concurrently the questionnaires submitted by these candidates for assemblies will be available for public inspection. These questionnaires will be made available not only at the location of the screening committees, which may later screen them, but will also be made available at the office of the chairman of the Election Administrative Committee in each city, town or village from which the candidate is standing for election. The special bulletins, in addition to listing the names of candidates, will indicate where and when questionnaires are available for inspection.

According to the presnt schedule of elections, the questionnaires for all candidates for assemblymen of prefectures and the five principal cities will be available for public inspection after the 10th of April, and those of the candidates for assemblymen of all other municipalities, cities, wards, towns and villages will be available after the 23d of April.

Full use should be made by the public of their prerogative to examine the questionnaires of candidates which are made available for their inspection.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12065 SECTION 3-402/NNDG NO. [illegible]

Attached are translations of selected articles from POLITICAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN, No. 2, dated 1 March 1947.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12065 SECTION 3-402/NNDG NO. [illegible]

LOCAL ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE IN APRIL

地方選擧

日本に於ける終戰後最初の地方選擧の日程が内閣に依って次の様に發表された。

四月五日　知事市長町村長選擧

四月十五日　　仝　決戰投票

四月三十日　都道府縣、市町村議員選擧

これらの選擧は勿論中央最初の地方選擧であるから特に重要であるばかりでなく、日本の政治は新しい段階に進むのである。最近の地方制度の改革により、日本に於てはじめて次の事が實現した。

(1) 地方公共團體の長は地方の直接選擧によって選ばれること。

(2) 地方議会は直接選擧によって構成され、議員は單なる名譽職以上のものとするために充分の權限を與へられること。

(3) 地方選擧は官吏によってでなく、選擧民に対して責に任ずる選擧管理委員会によって管理されること

地方選擧に関する詳細な指令は既に「地方選擧 1947年」といふ冊子で事務部の人に手渡された。

四月迄には地方選擧法、官吏は無いと見込まれるが、地方選擧に関係がある衆議院議員選擧法の一部の條文が改正されたり、地方選擧に加えて一、二の内閣令乃至内務省令が発せられることが考へられてゐる。

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之等の情報は入手次第集めて註釋を施し正規の手續を以て軍政部に送るつもりである。

現行法の下に於ては各投票人は四月五日の選擧に於て二票を投ずる。四月十五日の決戰投票に於ては一票か場合によつては二票を、四月三十日の選擧に於ては二票を投ずる。

最初の選擧に於ては都道府縣知事に一票を、市乙町村長に一票を投ずる。四月十五日の選擧は全く四月五日の選擧の結果如何にかかつてゐる。現行法の下に於ては知事並に市乙町村長に当選するには全有効投票の過半以上をうる必要がある。該当者がない時は最多數を獲得した二人の候補者の間に決戰投票を行はねばならない。

故にある選擧区に於ては知事と市乙町村長との両方の決戰投票を行うこともありうる。

ある選擧区では決戰投票の必要がないところもあり、知事或は市乙町村長の何れか一人の決戰投票をする必要のあるところもあるであろう。

四月三十日の地方議会議員選擧には二票投票する、即ち一票は都道府縣會議のため、もう一票は市乙町議員のためである。

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12065 SECTION 3-402/NNDG NO. [illegible]

SUMMARIES OF PARTY PLATFORMS

政綱

各政党の政綱の簡単な叙述が本号並に次号以下にとりあげられるであろう。

本号に於ては自由党 — 進歩党 と共に與党を構成するものであるが — と最大の野党である社会党の政綱を紹介する

日本自由党

日本自由党の政綱は1945年11月発表になつて以来変更されてゐない。政綱の前文は宣言は明治維新の時に発せられた五箇條の御誓文を日本に於ける民主政府の指導原理としてとりあげてゐる。全宣言は根本的教育改革の必要と基本的人權尊重の重要性を述べてゐる。

政綱は民主的責任政府の設立 國民経済の回復、國民生活の明朗化のための政治並に社會道徳の昂揚により、ポツダム宣言條項完全履行により、新日本建設を期してゐる。尚政綱は国体の護持の必要を唱へてゐる。

日本自由党の緊急対策（1945年11月）、[illegible]決定食糧対策（1946年5月）、全じく インフレ対策（1946年6月）、及び自由党の産業再建緊急対策（1945年2月）— 之等は何れも他の政綱をたすけるものであるが — は多くの場合時代後れのものであり目前の問題を解決するのに適しない。之等の政綱は自由党が未だ中に作成しようとしてゐる新しい政綱によつて補充される筈である

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日本社會党

社会党の政綱の中最も重要であり特色のある政策は産業の社會化である。と同時に漸進的革命が規定されてゐる

日本社会党の行き方は英国労働党の行き方に似てゐる。党によって明らかにされた目標は (1) 民主主義の建設 (2) 社会主義の実現と (3) 恒久平和の達成である。

党は又産業、財政、労働、社会にかんする特別の政策を発展してゐる。

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12065 SECTION 3-402/NNDG NO.

故に總司令部は最初に東久邇内閣に次で幣原内閣に対し憲法の劃期的改正を行はなければ國の発展は期し難いといふ事を忠告した。1945年の秋に、政府の内外諸團体は夫々同じ問題について審議を重ねてゐた。全ての問題はあらゆる面から自由に論議された。政府内に於てある閣僚の強い傳統的考へ方の為に相当の困難が生じた。最後に1946年1月にマッカーサー元帥に対し忠告と援助を求めてきた。此の要求に対して司令部の智識と資料とが利用された。一ヶ月以上の間、日本政府と司令部との間に緊密な審議がつづけられた。

此の仕事はゆっくりと進んだ。そして其の中に、日本政府は最後に日本國民に示しうると思はれる草案を採択するに至った。マッカーサー元帥は、之に対し全面的承認を与へ日本國民が憲法改正について彼等の希望する事を決定する事は、日本國民のする事であり又政府が政治を普通に行つてゆく事に干渉し度いと述べた。憲法草案は6月に新議會に提出され、何ヶ月にわたる論議一其の間、日本人自身によって草案のある部分は本質的に改正をうけたが一の後、はじめて現行憲法は議會を通過し、11月3日天皇によって公布された。

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12065 SECTION 3-402/NNDG NO.

SOURCES OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION

新憲法起草について

新憲法について屢々聞かれる質問の一つは其の出所についての事である。多くの日本人は其れがマッカーサー司令部に於て起草され日本政府と日本国民に与へられた外国のものであると本気に考へてゐる。日本に於る民主主義の敵は、其の様な疑ひを擴げるのに躍起となつた。此の事についての眞の事実が了解されることは重要である。

始めに聯合軍総司令部は日本に於て自由な民主的な政府の建設を奨励するにあたり基礎構造——憲法をかへなければ永久的な効果はないと云ふ事をよく知つてゐた。日本が降服した時に日本は天皇以外には責任なく、如何なる基本法に依つても制束されない絶對的な行政官によつて治められてゐた。所謂明治憲法は政府の構造を漠然と想定し、大陸法から借り入れた少しばかりの原理を漠然と宣言してゐるにすぎなかつた。降服前の日本の眞の憲法は書かれてゐなかつた。それに明治憲法以前につくられ公布された法と詔勅とから成り立つてゐた。此の基本法は封建的慣習と古い傳統との混合物であつた。

かゝる状態は明らかに日本政府の機構乃至組織の変革に對して永久的な保障とはならない。

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12065 SECTION 3-402/NNDG NO. [illegible]

Attached are translations of selected articles from

POLITICAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN, No. 2, dated 1 March 1947.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12065 SECTION 3-402/NNDG NO. [illegible]

LOCAL ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE IN APRIL

地方選擧

日本に於ける終戰後最初の地方選擧の日程が閣議に依つて次のやうに發表された。

四月五日　知事市之町村長選擧

四月十五日　　仝　決戰投票

四月三十日　都道府縣、市之町村仝議員選擧

これらの選擧は戰時中以來最初の地方選擧であるから特に重要であるばかりでなく、日本の政府並に政治を新しい段階に導くものである。最近の地方制度の改革により、日本に於てはじめて次の事が實現した。

(1) 地方公共團体の長は地方民の直接選擧によつて選ばれること。

(2) 地方議会は並通選擧によつて構成され議員を單なる名譽職以上のものにするために充分の權限を擧へられること。

(3) 地方選擧は官吏によつてではなく、選擧民に対して責に任ずる選擧管理委員会によつて管理されること

地方選擧に関する詳細な情報は既に「地方選擧 - 1947年」といふ冊子で軍政部の人に手へられた、四月迄には地方選擧法に変更は無いと見はれるが、地方選擧に関係のある衆議院議員選擧法の二・三の條文が改正されたり、地方選擧に加入して、一・二の内閣令乃至内務省令が発せられることが考へられてゐる。

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12065 SECTION 3-402/NNDG NO.

之等の情報は入手次第集めて註釋を施し正規の手續をふんで軍政部に送るつもりである。

現行法の下に於ては各投票人は四月五日の選擧に於て二票を投ずる。四月十五日の決戰投票に於ては一票か場合によつては二票を、四月三十日の選擧に於ては二票を投ずる。

最初の選擧に於ては都道府縣知事に一票を、市之町村長に一票を投ずる。四月十五日の選擧は全く四月五日の選擧の結果如何にかかつてゐる。現行法の下に於ては知事並に市之町村長に当選するには全有効投票の3/8以上をうる必要がある。該当者がない時は最多数を獲得した二人の候補者の間に決戰投票を行はねばならない。

故にある選擧之に於ては知事と市之町村長との両方の決戰投票を行うこともありうる。

ある選擧之では決戰投票の必要がないところもあり、知事或は市之町村長の何れか一人の決戰投票をする必要のあるところもあるであらう。

四月三十日の地方議会議員選擧には二票投票する、即ち一票は都道府縣會議のため、もう一票は市之町議員のためである。

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12065 SECTION 3-402/NNDG NO. [illegible]

DISSOLUTION OF CHONAIKAI AND BURAKAIKAI

町内會部落會解散について

戰時中、國民の生活に関し、細々と規律してゐた人口万をこえる町内會、部落會を解散する案が最近内務省に依て発表された。戰時中の力を取りあげられたとは云へ、終戰以来配給機関として残ってきた之等の機関は四月一日迄に解消しおはるであらう。前内相大村氏は次の如く云つてゐる。

「戰時中大政翼賛会と密接な関係にあつた事から町内会、部落会は戰争から生れた機構の延長と考へられた。戰時中の統制並に敵愾心を思い起せる面がある。かくの如く我々は町内会、部落会における会員の強制的加入といふ概念の中に軍国的性格を観取すべきである。

現在までは配給と云ふ急務のために人事の機構を変更する事は行政的に賢明でなかつた。しかしながら今や現在の機構を存続させることは地方自治の原理に反するのみか好ましからざる人物が選挙に不当な影響を及ぼす事を許すことにもなる。

町内会部落会の廃止により市民がその必要をみたす為に自由に自発的に色々の組織を作る為かつこれる様になるであらう。日本の將来は個人の発意に依る自由な融通性のある組織を発達させることにかかつてゐる。戰時中の全体主義的制約を一掃する事に依り市民は日本を新しい地盤の上に再建しうる様になる。

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今回の手段は新憲法の基本原理であり、日本人の誰しもが現在迄関心を上せてゐた国家機構の民主化を実現するためにとられたものである。」

一九四〇年九月十一日内務省訓令第十七号に依てつくられた町内会、部落会の組織は東洋の支配者達によく知られてゐる相互責任を利用した諜報組織を日本に適用したものであり、以前台湾・朝鮮・満洲を平定するために日本人自身によって使用され後には支那ビルマ、マレイ、フィリッピン及び蘭印に於る軍政部に附属したものとして使用された。

それらの会員になることは強制的であり、又それらの指導者は上から任命させられるか、それらの人々は選挙されるかされたかくして此の組織は政府の手先に対する支配を直接的なものとし、政府は常に命令をおしつけ宣伝をしかり情報を集めたりする事が出来た。

戦争の高潮時には、町内会部落会の数は二一五〇〇に及び、市民の生活に深い関係を持ってゐる為に驚く程多くの仕事をおしつけられた。終戦と共に其の多くのものは除かれたが残ったものも少しある。新しい案は此の残った仕事のあるものを廃止し、その他のものは市区役所、町村役場及び其の支所にひきつかれる筈である。これらの仕事の移転の事については目下内務省で準備中である。

完了次第通知する。

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SUMMARIES OF PARTY PLATFORMS

政綱

各政党の政綱の簡単な叙述が本号並に次号以下にとりあげられるであらう。

本号に於ては自由党 — 進歩党 と共に與党を構成するものであるが — と最大の野党である社会党の政綱を紹介する

日本自由党

日本自由党の政綱は1945年11月発表になつて以来変更されてゐない。政綱の前文は宣言は明治維新の時に発せられた五箇條の御誓文を日本に於ける民主政治の指導原理としてとりあげてゐる。之宣言は根本的教育改革の必要と基本的人權尊重の重要性を述べてゐる。

政綱は民主的責任政府の設立、國民生活の回復、國民生活の明朗化のための政治並に社會道徳の昂揚により、ポツダム宣言條項完全履行により、新日本建設を期してゐる。尚之政綱は国体の護持の必要を唱へてゐる。

日本自由党の緊急対策（1945年11月）、自進協党制定食糧対策（1946年5月）、之じく インフレ対策（1946年6月）、及び自由党の産業再建緊急対策（1946年2月）— 之等は何れも他の政綱をなすものであるが —は多くの場合時代後れのものであり目前の問題を解決するのに適しない。之等の政綱は自由党が来月中に作成しようとしてゐる新しい政綱によつて補充される筈である

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日本社會党

社会党の政綱の中最も重要であり特色のある政策は産業の社會化である。と同時に漸進的革命が規定されてゐる

日本社会党の行き方は英国労働党の行き方に似てゐる。党によって聲明された目標は (1) 民主主義の建設 (2) 社會主義の実現と (3) 恒久平和の達成である。

党は又産業、財政、労働、社会にかんする特別の政策を発展してゐる。

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POLITICAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN

No. 1 15 February 1947

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FOREWARD

Presented herewith is the initial issue of POLITICAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN, a combined effort of the Civil Information and Education Section and Government Section to get more information to the Military Government Officers in the field and get it there as quickly as possible.

The BULLETIN will be distributed every two weeks, at least up to and through the period of the local elections.

It will endeavor to discuss political events and issues of particular significance to Military Government Officers at this time, as it becomes increasingly important to foster the development of political participation and consciousness in the Japanese.

The contents of the BULLETIN is intended for dissemination to the Japanese public through the Military Government officers as an aid to the democratization of local communities thru better knowledge of the aims and purposes of current programs and policies.

Questions and suggestions from the field will be welcomed.

DEMOCRACY DAY

Saturday, 3 May 1947, will be a landmark in Japanese history. On that day the new democratic Constitution becomes the law of the land. Long discussion and consideration by the Japanese government, by the Japanese people and by the freely elected representatives in the Diet preceded its almost unanimous adoption.

Both the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers and the Emperor of Japan have welcomed this Constitution as a charter of democracy. The day upon which it becomes effective should become a national holiday in Japan comparable to Independence Day in the United States.

This issue of POLITICAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN is principally devoted to those activities which are designed to make the new Constitution an effective weapon of Democracy in Japan. The topics covered here are:

I. The Constitution
II. The Purge
III. The Democratization of Local Government

These articles, and others to come in future issues, will show the way by which Democracy Day can be made by the Japanese a symbol of liberation and peace for all the future.

WHAT DOES THE NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEAN TO SUZUKI SAN?

Local government reform means more than the right to vote. It means the liberation of local government from domination by the national bureaucracy. It means that the voter gains control over the conduct of his own affairs and that Tokyo can no longer interfere in matters of purely local concern.

New revisions which the Japanese government is understood to be preparing for submission to the Diet will give greater local control over police, educational systems, health and sanitation services, finance and labor matters.

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THE PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THEIR RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

Heretofore, Government in Japan has issued orders and regulations affecting every phase of life. It has been a lofty authority over which the people have had no control. It has looked upon itself as far above the common people, operating in a field of affairs in which the general public had no right to participate.

That certain rights are guaranteed to the individual by fundamental law and that every public official, however lofty, should be fully responsible to the electorate have been concepts unknown either to Japanese bureaucrats or to those who controlled the Government.

The old feudal days are over now. That is why much has already been said concerning the new democratic Japanese Constitution and why much more will be said. The idea that the people shall control all their public affairs is new to Japan and should be brought home to every individual in the nation. Only when the general public casts off feudal thinking and accepts the democratic way of life can Japan take best advantage of the fact that sovereignty now rests in the people.

Political education leads to political maturity but the process is not always rapid. Often it must be nurtured. The individual must not only be shown his new rights and his new responsibilities, but he must also be led toward a full understanding of them.

Thus he will gain faith in them through an understanding of their principles. Enthusiastic appreciation of the new rights and the new responsibilities of free men will make the citizen a fully free citizen in a new Japanese democracy.

For this reason a Committee for the Popularization of the Constitution is planning a series of orientation courses to be given in a dozen centers of Japan. This will be followed by a nationwide lecture campaign and by other methods of publicity. The goal is to make every person in Japan realize the value of the democratic freedom that is now available to him.

The new Japanese Constitution provides the machinery for complete establishment of true democracy and safeguards that machinery against tampering on the part of enemies of freedom. The adoption of the Constitution, however, does not achieve all objectives; a full and thorough knowledge of the contents of this important document must be spread throughout the nation.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Cont'd.)

The task of the central government, as far as local areas are concerned, will be limited generally to the establishment of national standards, coordination and the collection and dissemination of information. All this is in conformity with the terms of the new democratic Constitution whereby local autonomy is guaranteed.

As a result of the contemplated revisions important changes will be made in the pattern of the Japanese Govt.

1. The governor will be responsible to the people who elect him to office rather than to the central government at Tokyo. He will no longer be an official of the central government nor a member of the civil service. Only in a few, very exceptional, cases will he be responsible to the Home Ministry.

2. Within the pattern of democratic government, local communities may select for themselves the form of government which they desire. Provisions for this choice will be made by law so that citizens of cities, towns, and villages, may choose for themselves the type of local government best suited to their needs.

3. The democratically elected local assemblies will have far more freedom than they now have regarding the budget. They will have the right to approve, or to reject, the appointment of many new officials of local governments.

4. Assemblies will choose their own officials. Except in very extraordinary cases, assemblies may not close their sessions to the general public. They must meet frequently and they must regard themselves as answerable to the voters for their actions.

5. By the initiative, the referendum and the recall, the people can control the officials whom they have elected. The people may demand new elections to replace local officials who have proved to be incompetent and citizens may take definite action on issues affecting their local affairs.

6. All local government officials will be paid.

7. Local officials may no longer be dismissed by order from Tokyo nor can local assemblies be dissolved by the central government.

8. Local courts, rather than governmental ministries, will make judicial decisions affecting local governmental matters.

9. Non-partisan committees will administer fair and impartial elections.

10. Kenkai, shikai, and chosonkai will receive more power so that they may be fully independent.

11. The entire personnel problem is to be studied and necessary revisions recommended in the Civil Service.

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PEOPLE'S RIGHTS (Cont'd)

The extent to which the general public exercises its newly won powers for the development of a free, responsible government will largely determine not only the measure and the success of that government but will also determine the limits and the duration of the Occupation itself.

LOCAL SPEAKERS TO BE TRAINED FOR CONSTITUTION LECTURES

A course of special training for speakers who will lecture in the towns and villages of their respective prefectures prior to the enforcement of the Constitution on 3 May is being sponsored by the Society for the Popularization of the Constitution in nine different district centers of the country.

The training will be given by various scholars, Diet members, and journalists. Between 30 and 50 trainees will be selected by each prefectural chapter of the Society. The selection will be made from among members of the local assemblies, bar association, labor union, women's organization, youth organization, economic and commercial body and other organizations as well as from among educators and newspaper men.

Following is the schedule of training courses to be held during the next six weeks:

Feb. 20-24	KANAZAWA
Feb. 21-25	YAMAGATA
Feb. 25-Mar.1	KUMAMOTO
date unset	NARITA (CHITA)
Mar. 1-5	TAKAMATSU
Mar. 6-10	OKAYAMA
Mar. 12-16	KYOTO
Mar. 18-22	NAGOYA
Apr. 1-5	SAPPORO

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (cont'd)

12. All existing laws, Imperial Ordinances and other instructions affecting local government will be thoroughly examined and, when necessary, revised, in order to assure the effectiveness of the reforms to be made in local governmental matters.

All these reforms are extensive in themselves but they are only preliminary steps toward complete democratization of local government.

For this reason, voters should give serious consideration to the important role which each individual may now play in the new and democratic Japan.

If the voter is active and eager and intelligent in the enjoyment of his new political rights and in the execution of the civic duties that devolve upon him in consequence of those rights, stabilization of the people's livelihood will be enhanced and the road smoothed for the further progress of a democratic, progressive nation.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW PURGE ORDINANCES

Recent ordinances issued by the Japanese Government not only extend the purge to local government but also hit certain influential political and economic posts.

The term "public service" now includes members of the Imperial Diet, all personnel of the National Government, members of prefectural and municipal assemblies and personnel of the local governmental bodies and specified positions in particular companies, associations, media of mass communications and other organizations.

For the purpose of screening, the positions in the public service have been divided into <u>principal</u> public office and <u>ordinary</u> public office.

Principal public office in the case of the National Government is limited to those persons who hold or who are candidates for appointment or election to positions of the three highest civil service ratings or their equivalent. Principal public office in local government is limited to specified positions.

Ordinary public office in the National Government service means any position other than principal public office. Ordinary public office in local government service means certain specified positions secondary in importance to the principal public offices.

The new ordinances include a penalty clause providing for a maximum ¥15,000 fine or three years' imprisonment for violation of various injunctions of which the following are of particular importance:

1. Prohibition against a purgee's continuing his influence or power through any other person in public service.
2. Prohibition against any person in public service seeking or accepting advice or guidance from a purgee.
3. Prohibition against any purgee's occupying a position in any newspaper, magazine, or other publishing company, broadcasting corporation, or company controlling any media of mass communication.
4. Prohibition against a purgee's entering into the premises of the governmental office or organization from which he has been removed or specifically barred.

The penalty provision also applies to persons who falsify entries in or who omit information from their questionnaires or who otherwise fail to obey official instructins.

Two other provisions of the new ordinances are significant. One is the "non-succession provision". This means that persons who have held the position of mayor or deputy-mayor, headman or deputy headman consecutively from or prior to

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HIGHLIGHTS OF PURGE (Cont'd)

1 September 1945 shall be barred, (even though they do not fall under any other provisions of the purge ordinances), from being candidates for election or appointment to these positions. They may, however, run for, or be appointed to, any other office from which they are not specifically barred.

The second important provision is that any person who is a relative within the third degree of relationship by blood, marriage or adoption of any purgee, shall be ineligible for ten years to succeed or to be appointed to any position from which the purgee has been removed.

REVISED SCREENING SYSTEM IS PROVIDED

A revised screening system is provided by the new ordinances, namely, a central committee responsible to the Prime Minister and 46 prefectural committees, including the metropolis of Tokyo and the five principal cities of Osaka, Kobe, Yokohama, Kyoto and Nagoya responsible to the prefectural governors and 128 municipal committees in cities with a population of 50,000 or above who are responsible under their respective mayors to the governors of the prefectures in which they are located.

The membership of the central and Prefectural committees is set at nine and the municipal committees at five permanent members with no limitation on the number of temporary commissioners. Temporary commissioners may not vote on any action before the committee as a whole.

A quorum of seven permanent members is required for formal action by the central and prefectural committees and a quorum of three permanent members is required for similar action by the municipal committees.

The chairman must vote on all issues. In the event of a tie resulting from the absence of one member, the chairman is required to cast a second and deciding vote. The results of screening action will be posted in bulletin form and the questionnaires of all persons on whom final action has been taken will be made available for public inspection.

NATIONAL SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY GIVES WOMEN PROMINENT ROLE

A number of women assumed new important responsibilities in the Social Democratic party when a recent national convention went on record in support of giving women true representation and participation in party affairs.

(Cont'd next column)

WOMEN (Cont'd)

It is unfortunately true that in some areas women's sections in the political party branches are still headed by men. In others, the women's sections are treated more as separate women's club groups rather than as integral parts of the party. In some cases they have been so independent and uninformed of party policy that they have even campaigned for issues opposed to party interests.

The National Convention of the Social Democratic party has led the way in correcting this situation. Miss Tsuneko Akamatsu was chosen to head the women's section of the national committee and Mrs. Hisako Yonevama was elected as a member of the Central Executive Committee.

Military Government officers can do a great deal in their conferences with local political leaders to see that women are included in party activities and given their rightful opportunity for leadership, especially as the heads of women's sections.

TIME SCHEDULE SET FOR VARIOUS SCREENING COMMITTEES

Approximately 2500 permanent and temporary commissioners of the prefectural and municipal committees will be screened by the central committee by approximately 15 February. Prefectural and municipal committees will begin their screening about 20 February. The approved screening schedule for the committee is as follows:

1 Feb.	Members of Screening Committees
15 Feb.	Holders of Principal Prefectural Public Office
20 Feb.	Holders of Principal Municipal Public Office and Election Administration Committee Members
25 Feb.	Candidates for Governor and Mayor of 5 Principal Cities and Members of House of Councillors
20 Feb.	Candidates for Prefectural Assemblymen Candidates for Mayor and Headmen of Town and Village, Superintendents of poll stations and of the vote.
20 Mar. to 15 Apr.	Holders of Principal Public Office in special organizations
25 Mar. to 15 Apr.	Candidates for Assemblymen of City, Town, and Village
16 Apr. to 30 Apr.	Holders of Principal Public Office in special organizations

Furthermore, all new appointments to the public service must be screened on the basis of the new questionnaire and under the provisions of the new ordinances.