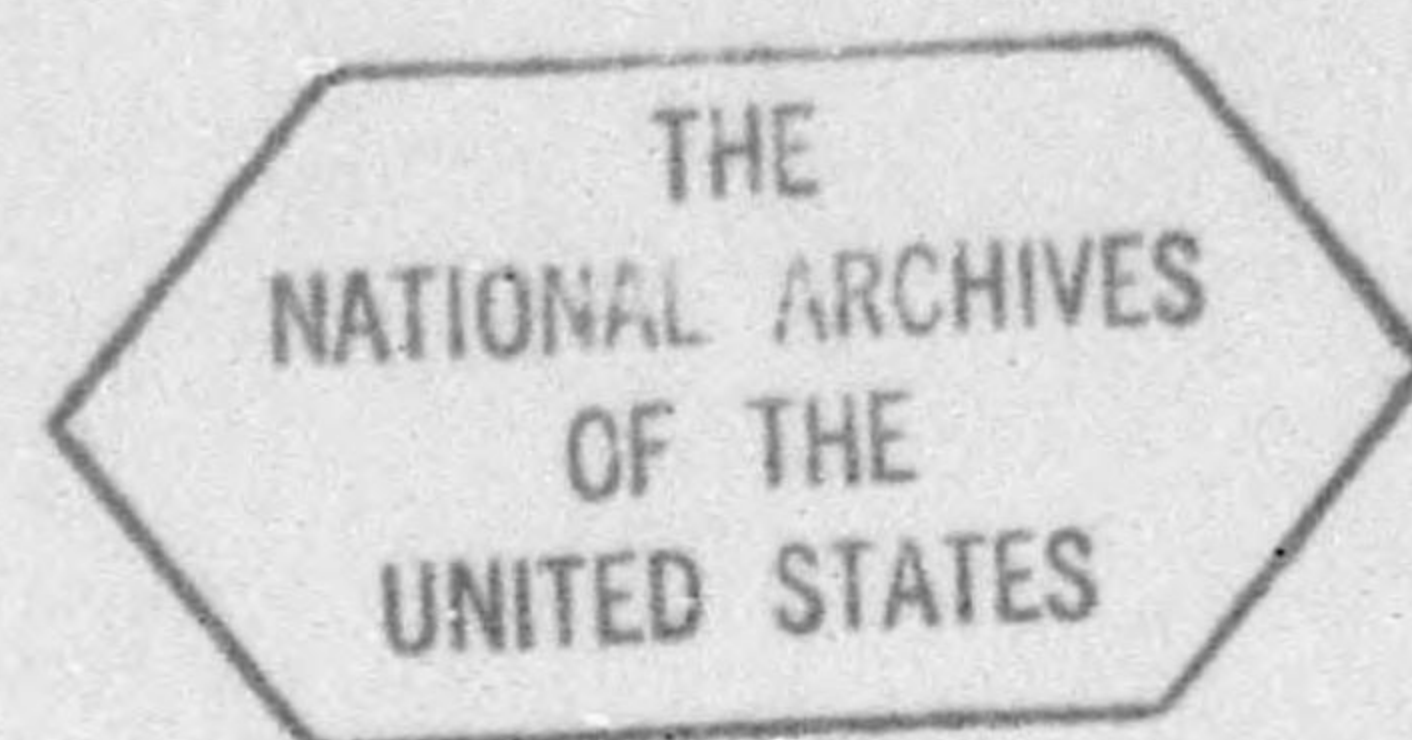


**GHQ/SCAP Records(RG 331)**  
**Description of contents**



- (1) Box no. 3425
- (2) Folder title/number: (7)  
404
- (3) Date: Nov. 1945 - July 1947

(4) Subject:

Classification	Type of record
324	S

(5) Item description and comment:

(6) Reproduction:  Yes  No

(7) Film no. \_\_\_\_\_ Sheet no. \_\_\_\_\_

404  
e. Start of New Cabinet: An unprecedented feature of the selection by the new prime minister is that no conference was held with "senior statesmen" (an ill-defined but influential group composed of ex-premiers and other influential statesmen), only the home minister and privy councillors conferred." 9/1-36 conf

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d. Selection of Cabinet: "In selecting the new cabinet members, various unusual factors were taken into consideration and it lacks freshness; however, Shidehara, Yoshida, Horikiri and Tsugita are trustworthy. The only thing needed is speed of action.

"Above all, the most important thing for the new cabinet is to carry out the general election immediately. Thus, we will be able to know the will of the people and to establish a cabinet representative of the people.

"We must build New Japan through our own power. Of course, the Allies have rights of command in various fields. But we must reduce the necessity for the exercise of these commands by fulfilling the Potsdam Declaration". 9/1.36

404  
b. The Shidehara Cabinet: The vernacular press welcomes the new cabinet in lukewarm but mildly hopeful fashion. The consensus of opinion is that it represents another caretaker regime. Probably of brief duration. One general criticism is that as the cabinet was appointed and not elected it consists of individuals rather than a group with any agreed policy.

In a statement issued by the Socialist Party Headquarters, disappointment in the Shidehara Cabinet was expressed. It was admitted that men holding office in recent years had been largely eliminated, but said that without introducing progressive elements the cabinet could hardly be expected to cope with the grave problems of today.

The New Liberal Party, through Masazumi Ando, was less critical of the cabinet, because it thought Shidehara would cooperate with the Allied Forces. Its tone was non-committal. 9/1-36 conf

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ITEM 3 Regular Cabinet Meeting On Nov 20 - Yomiuri Hochi - 21 Nov 45. Translator: H. Kato.

Full Translation:

A regular cabinet meeting was held at the residence of the Prime Minister at 1300 on 20 November. Prime Minister SHIDEHARA and other ministers brought up the following points at the meeting.

1. Organization for examining the Far Eastern War.
2. Settlement of the Cabinet Deliberation Office.
3. Revision of the Registration Bureau Organization.

They closed the meeting with a discussion of the revision of the Agrarian Land System. 931.6-141

404  
ITEM 6 Deliberation Chamber of The Cabinet - Asahi Shimbun - 21 Nov 45 - Translator: H. Takahashi.

Extracts:

The Cabinet Investigation Bureau set up by former Prince HIGASHIKUNI's Cabinet will soon be supplanted by the Cabinet Deliberation Chamber. The Sub-chief Secretary of the Cabinet will preside over the Chamber, whose job will be to unify and arrange the assigned duties to each ministry of the government. 931.6-137

ITEM 5 The Prime Minister's Reply is Unjustifiable - Mainichi Shimbun -  
4 Dec 45. Translator: S. Ota.

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Full Translation:

Premier Shidehara, replying to the query of Mr. KAWAZAKI at the Budget Meeting of the House of Representatives, stated, whether or not the Cabinet will resign en masse as the result of the coming general election depends upon the circumstances at the time, and I cannot give an opinion on this at present. This is an astonishing reply. The entire Nation hopes that the general election will be held as soon as possible, merely because they expect that it will result in replacing this bureaucratic, transient Cabinet with a new one based upon the people's will. The Nation is not entirely optimistic about the results of the coming general election; they doubt whether any new Cabinet will be an ideal one. Nevertheless, the people long for a general election and a new Cabinet because they believe that our policy necessitates such a course for our improvement. Moreover, the people believe that general elections should be held several times, and the Cabinet changed often, before it is possible to have an ideal election or an ideal cabinet.

inet regarding the manner in which political powers are to be given to the next Cabinet. It has only to carry out the general election as soon as possible and give the political powers to the next Cabinet, composed of the political party which has its roots in the Diet.

The Premier cannot recognize even such simple matters. He might well be accused of desiring to preserve the privileged bureaucratic Cabinet and to protect the ruling classes which have led us to ruin. Assuming that the Premier does not have such reactionary intentions, if he wants to be authoritative on politics until such time when a better election will be held and a better Cabinet will be born, then his self-centered ideas are incomprehensible. We can only imagine that he supposes such results as: 1. The coming general election will not reflect the true will of the people; or, 2. Many minor parties are born as the result of the election, and the majority party is not sufficiently strong to take the reins of Government; or, 3. The SHIDEHARA Cabinet will not lose the confidence of the Diet after the general election.

In regard to the first case, it is probable that the Premier assumed this, for he once stated that he would dissolve the Diet as many times as might be required if a "good" election were not held. But the election should be held as a responsibility to the Nation; we need not be influenced by a bureaucratic Cabinet any more. As to the second case, it is possible that many minor parties will be elected. But the next Cabinet need not always be formed by the majority political party; that is, the associated Cabinet should also be taken into consideration. Moreover, it is irrational to imagine that the political situation will be stabilized by the coming general election; it should be considered as only a start toward democracy. What is necessary is that it should be started as early as possible. The Premier must know that the stabilization of the political status will be delayed as long as he holds to his present position. As for the third case, the Premier stated that if the Government proposes certain important bills in the Diet after the general election, and the Diet opposes these bills, it may be possible that this body will be dissolved again. But the Cabinet will be requested to resign before the Government proposes such "important bills." These are the necessary results of the constitutional political system. Moreover, if we take into consideration what measures the Government has taken to relieve the masses of people in distress, we think the attitude to be taken by the Government is self-evident.

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## A Starting Point Toward Recovery

To judge from foreign press comments and from the views of foreign correspondents in Tokyo, it would seem that the Katayama Cabinet enjoys wider respect among foreign circles than among many Japanese circles. Particularly is the Katayama Cabinet being praised abroad for its courage and honesty in making known the true economic situation confronting the nation at this most critical stage through the publication of the economic White Paper.

The forthright announcement of this document which pulled no punches in laying bare the actual condition of the nation has been hailed in foreign circles as a new departure from the traditional pattern of past Japanese Governments which, as a matter of course, hid the truth from the people.

But while foreign reaction has been favorable to the Katayama Cabinet's courageous, precedent-breaking acts, the Japanese who should have been most pleased with this true accounting of their economic assets and liabilities have shown only indifference or antagonism. The significance of the White Paper as an accurate measure of the Japanese nation's strength and weakness as well as the sincerity with which the Government presented the document were entirely lost upon the people.

Many voiced suspicions that the White Paper was announced to provide the Katayama Cabinet with a convenient excuse should it fail to overcome the crisis. Some labor union leaders cynically declared that the publication of such dire facts will not induce workers to strive any harder to increase production.

Needless to say, the gravity of the situation as revealed by the White Paper was a surprise to a vast number of people who were totally unprepared to face the facts. In another sense, the unfavorable criticisms voiced by the people to the White Paper can be cited as an example of their gross misunderstanding of how a democratic government should operate. If someone must be blamed for the failure of a government popularly elected to office, it should be the people themselves, for otherwise, the government cannot be a government for, by, and of the people. A government elected by, representative of, and working for the people does not need to make any excuse for its failure.

For the same reason, the attitude of labor union leaders that the workers see no added incentive to work harder because of the White Paper must be considered a fundamentally mistaken notion. The workers are no mere onlookers in the task of reconstructing Japan in face of this unparalleled crisis. The White Paper has presented a true picture of the tremendous odds confronting the nation and these obstacles must be overcome not by the Government alone but by the workers and the masses of the people as well.

In this new era of democratic self-government, the tasks of the Government are the tasks of the people and there must be absolute unity and cooperation between the Government and the people. This is no longer the time for the people to leave everything up to the Government as in the past. The bitter experience of being led into a senseless war should have been lesson enough. Communism and fascism—the extreme left and extreme right—breed best in a land where the people leave everything in the hands of their leaders.

In this respect, the people should have more than a mere passing interest in the various measures now being undertaken by the Government such as to reform the bureaucracy, to control key industries, to exterminate the black market, to eliminate luxurious living by the few, to promote a "new life" movement, and to stabilize prices and wages. These are steps deemed necessary in the light of the dire conditions outlined in the economic White

Paper. Foreign circles are particularly impressed by the speed and dispatch with which the Katayama Cabinet undertook these measures which previous Cabinets did not have the courage nor the sincerity to attempt. But the real evaluation of these measures will be possible only after the response of the people themselves has been properly assured.

One foreign observer has presented a realistic view of the situation with regard to the generally unpopular price and wage stabilization program by declaring that the step may have come a bit too late, and that at this stage it may only serve as a temporary check on inflation at best. With reserve supplies completely exhausted, prices may not be kept down and new waves of demands for wage boosts may be made, he has predicted.

While this view may be taken as a true prediction of things to come, the Japanese people, nonetheless, must make the attempt now to better their economic fortunes. That common saying, "better late than never," is most apropos at this time, for it cannot be said with certainty that all has been lost. Through perseverance, patience, and hard work, the Japanese people can yet regain all that has been lost by the "do-nothing" policy of past administration and lift the nation out of the economic morass which was set forth with such grave clarity in the White Paper. This will require, of course, an even wider respect for and confidence in the Katayama Cabinet by the Japanese people. Only thus will the White Paper have served its true purpose as a starting point for Japan's rehabilitation.

NIPPON TIMES JUL 28 1947

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ITEM 2 Responsibility for Breaking the Crisis - TOKYO SHIMBUN - 25 Dec 45.Translator: K. Takahashi.

Full translation:

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It is well known, both by the Government and by the people, that the present SUDEFARA Cabinet is destined to attend to state affairs only temporarily. Although it is a most important task for the Cabinet to help form a new government according to the will of people in the coming general election, its responsibility for state affairs is not necessarily limited to that. The general election should not be merely taken as a matter of course. The election law has already been promulgated and we can have confidence in the people's good sense, which is expected to attain some achievements in the election. Therefore, leaving this matter temporarily in the people's hands, the cabinet should work on other impending problems and do its best to solve them. Putting aside the matter by the general election, the very foundation in reviving JAPAN, we need not look far to find problems on which the Cabinet must concentrate its energies with more enthusiasm. Food, housing, coal, unemployment, reconversion of inflationary industries, etc are matters interwoven to make our country face an unprecedented crisis. Still further, the present unrest in the political world is going to spur economic restlessness so poignantly that the social order may approach the brink of confusion. The crisis threatens daily to assume more serious proportions.

What is the attitude of the present Cabinet toward this situation? There is no reason that the present Cabinet cannot be earnest in state affairs merely because it is an interim one, but in reality such an impression has been created. It is rather natural that the repeated Allied directives take the initiative, but, to our intense resentment, enforcing those directives, the Cabinet often fails to satisfy Supreme Headquarters.

The Cabinet, though it is not supported by the people, lacks the seriousness to meet the crisis. We never placed too much confidence in the SUDEFARA Cabinet's ability, but, if possible, we expect it to tide over present difficulties. We hope it will earnestly consider impending problems at least in time to pass on some solution to a new Cabinet. Then, the present Cabinet may be able to make some preparation to tide over the crisis until that time.

It is desirable for the Cabinet to solve the complicated problems over a period of time, but its present attitude, trying to settle every matter at once without confidence, may be blamed on leaving matters half done. It also arouses the suspicion of the people in regard to its sincerity. Under the present circumstances, the Cabinet should solve problems in order, as the occasion demands, with radical and thorough measures.

Thus, the structure of organic society will surely show the effort of readjustment which will ameliorate the crisis. We think that all the wheels in our country's political machinery are afraid of being stopped now, so half measures can do nothing. If only one wheel works perfectly, it is one step away from the ruin of our fatherland. It can readily be imagined what role this wheel will play. If the SUDEFARA Cabinet is full of confidence, it should prove itself really capable of the full operation of all the wheels. If not, let it stop sitting on the fence and, instead, concentrate its energies on solving the food problem. Whatever the nature of the Cabinet may be, in order to accomplish this aim, it must always keep in mind that the responsibility for attending to state affairs definitely transcends all external problems. 9316-541 30 Dec

ITEM 3 The Responsibility of the Cabinet Ministers - Yomiuri Hochi - 29 Nov 45. Translator: S. Fukuda.

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Full translation:

Along with constitutional revision, the problem of the responsibility of the Cabinet Minister is at present the main point at issue. Viscount OKOCHI, Teruko, a member of the Upper House, has presented a written inquiry regarding the responsibility of the Cabinet Ministers to the Government, and the inquiry is to be placed on the agenda of the plenary session of the House on 29 November. The gist is as follows:

1. The system of responsible Cabinet Ministers is a fundamental principle of constitutional government. I say that if any other organ of government should interfere in a responsible cabinet system, it not only becomes difficult to assign responsibility, but it becomes difficult to administer the affairs of State. What is the Government's opinion of it?

This matter should be cleared up by proper measures. What is the opinion of the Government on this? *931.6-188*

ITEM 4 The Cabinet is on the Brink of General Resignation - Yomiuri Hochi - 6 Jan 46. Translator: K. Murakami.

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Summary:

The Cabinet meeting, which was expected to open on 5 January, was adjourned until the following day. Foreign Minister YOSHIDA, who was expected to visit General Headquarters in order to clarify the intention of the Allies could not meet the authorities on that day, and there is now time for the legislative bureau to investigate the legal procedures in the execution of the directive.

It is said that Premier SHIDEHARA's intention is to maintain his Cabinet until the coming general election by changing five or six members who are affected by the directive. It is doubtful, however, whether he can carry out the difficult reorganization of the Cabinet. Furthermore, the Premier himself is ill, and must rest for a week or so. In such circumstances, the most general opinion is that even if he tries to maintain his Cabinet by partial reorganization, or dares to bring about a general resignation in the hope he may be called on to take control. The Cabinet will, after all, be compelled to break up. *931.6-667 Jan 46*

RA PART TWO

PD SHIDEHARA CABINET DECISION TO CONTINUE AFTER INTERNAL REORGANIZATION

*912-12 Jan 46*

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NECESSITATED BY SUGAR CHARLIE ABLE PETER DIRECTIVE ON PERSONNEL NOT ELIGIBLE FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE OR PUBLIC OFFICE

404  
**SHIDEHARA FORMS  
NEW JAP CABINET;  
5 ARE HOLDOVERS**

10-9-45  
**U. S. Seizes Navy Ministry  
for Concealing War Loot;  
Koreans Strike**

By RALPH TRATSON  
TOKYO, Oct. 8 (UP)—Premier-designate Baron Kijuro Shidehara formed a 15-man liberal cabinet today.

He was immediately confronted by two major crises—American seizure of the Navy Ministry for concealing war loot and a strike of 6000 Korean coal miners in Hokkaido.

The ministry building was surrounded by armed members of the 1st Cavalry Division. A terse announcement said "precious metal," presumably stolen in foreign conquests, was believed stored there.

**Records Showed Loot?**

It was assumed hiding places had been discovered in the perusal of records seized when troops closed 29 Japanese banks.

Dispatches from Sapporo, Hokkaido, said 6000 Korean miners staged a general strike at the vital Yubari coal mines. Eighty percent of the workers there are Koreans. It was the first strike in a generation.

Shidehara's "stop-gap" cabinet was assailed by Socialists and some sections of the Japanese press, but other Japanese said it was considerably more liberal than the fallen Higashi-Kuni government.

The new Cabinet:  
Premier Baron Kijuro Shidehara, 73.

Foreign Minister Shigeru Yoshida, 73, holdover; veteran diplomat, former Ambassador to Italy and Britain; arrested in June and charged with leading peace movement through British channels, released at surrender.

Home Minister Zenjiro Horikiri, 61, member of House of Peers, home office career man; former Mayor of Tokyo, Vice Minister of Overseas Affairs; headed Reconstruction Board after '23 quake.

War Minister Gen. Sadami Shimomura, 58, holdover Minister, to whom the Allies might object. Had command in China 17 months before being named commander of home islands de-

Agriculture and Forestry Minister Kenzo Matsumura, 62, Minseito party member of House, veteran political economist, former Parliamentary Vice Minister of Agriculture and Industry.

Welfare Minister Dr. Hitoshi Ashida, 58, member of House, veteran newspaperman and diplomat, regarded as one of Japan's ablest politicians and expected to be a leader in the new liberal movement.

Transportation Minister Takeo Tanaka, 57, manager of Minseito party since 1936, six times member of the House, former Vice Minister of Overseas Affairs.

Information Minister Tatsuo Kawai, holdover, president of Japan Times from 1933 to 1940, career diplomat, Minister to Australia before war.

Minister Without Portfolio Jiji Matsumoto, 68, member of Peers, businessman, industrialist, commercial law expert, Minister of Commerce and Industry, 1934.

Cabinet Secretary and Minister Without Portfolio Daisaburo Tsugita, former Home Office Secretary and Vice Minister of Home Affairs.

President of the Legislation Bureau Wataru Narahashi.

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**CABINET COLLAPSE IN AIR**

404  
**Failure to Get Nashimoto's Reprieve Given as Cause**

Rumors was circulating in political circles here on Thursday that the Shidehara Cabinet may resign en bloc shortly as a result of its failure to obtain reprieve of the recent Allied order for the apprehension of His Imperial Highness Prince Morimasa Nashimoto as one of the 59 war criminal suspects, according to Jiji.

These rumors were, however, virtually denied by a Cabinet minister, who, while admitting that the Cabinet is in a more or less shaky state, told Jiji that up to now there are "no definite indications of an imminent collapse of the Cabinet," as far as he knows.

"The Government did ask for reprieve of the Allied directive ordering apprehension of Prince Nash-

**Shidehara Visits Ministry**

Prime Minister Baron Kijuro Shidehara, now concurrently head of the First and Second Demobilization Ministries, visited the First Demobilization (former War) Ministry Saturday afternoon, states Kyodo. Following the formal handing over of business from former War Minister General Sadamu Shimomura, Shidehara delivered an address to the entire personnel of the ministry.

930.2-778

**Cabinet Said Shaky  
As Collapse Hinted**

**Shidehara Regime Is Under  
Fire for Inability to Cope  
With Major Problems**

404  
Premier Shidehara's cabinet is now in an "extremely delicate" position, which might lead to its downfall, it was reported in political circles Saturday, according to Jiji.

Jiji learned from well-informed sources that the present cabinet is admittedly in a shaky state because of its lack of ability to tackle major problems of the moment. Certain circles within the cabinet itself are said to hold the view that the cabinet might have to quit in the event of further aggravation of the current situation, according to these sources.

It was pointed out by these sources that the Shidehara cabinet is now called upon to do something about its pension policy in view of the new Allied instructions, ordering the suspension of payments of pensions to ex-servicemen, suspected war criminals and officials responsible for the outlawed special

**Resignation Urged**

**Written Advice Filed With  
Shidehara Cabinet**

404  
Takayuki Miyahigashi and Yoshio Kimura, president and adviser, respectively of the Shin Nippon-to (New Japan Party), handed over the party's written advice for the resignation en bloc of the Shidehara Cabinet to Chief Sato of the general affairs section of the Cabinet at the Prime Minister's official residence on Thursday afternoon, January 3. 930.3-160

present a serious problem to those of advanced age and unfit for work as well as to destitute families of the war dead, unless the government works out some measures to take care of them, they pointed out.

Therefore, these sources added, the Government is now called upon to map out some policy to cope with the question without loss of time, subsequent to the execution of the Allied pension instructions.

According to these sources, however, the Shidehara Cabinet is so far known to have no concrete measures to be taken vis-a-vis the question and is in a hurry not knowing what to do about it. This utter lack of administrative ability on the part of the Shidehara Cabinet is now under heavy fire of criticism even by those within the government, they said.

**Cabinet Lamentably Weak**

In this connection, these sources revealed, the Shidehara Cabinet, unable to pursue its own course of policy, has been literally "pushed about" by some remnants of the military clique in coping with the demobilization question. The Cabinet is described by these sources as still following a time-serving policy in tackling all these important questions.

All in all, they declared, it has now become crystal clear that the

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War Minister Gen. Sadami Shimomura, 58, holdover Minister, to whom the Allies might object. Had command in China 17 months before being named commander of home islands defense March, 1944. Active in militaristic developments, former director of army staff college.

Navy Minister Adm. Mitsumasa Yonai, 65, holdover. Premier from January 16-July 21, 1940, commander-in-chief of the combined fleet and 1st Fleet, 1936-37, first named Navy Minister, 1937, serving until 1939; member of High Military Council in 1939 and 1940. Appointed Navy Minister in Koiso Cabinet 1944, retained in Higashi-Kuni Cabinet.

Justice Minister Dr. Chuzo Iwata, 70, holdover, international lawyer, member of Peers.

Education Minister Tamon Maeda, 62, holdover, director of Japanese Cultural Institute in New York, former Japanese representative to International Labor Conference, Deputy Mayor of Greater Tokyo, 1920.

Finance Minister Viscount Keizo Shibusawa, 49, financier, president of Bank of Japan.

Commerce and Industry Minister Sankuro Ogasawara, 60, member of House of Representatives, industrialist, mining and fisheries.

businessman, industrialist, commercial law expert, Minister of Commerce and Industry, 1934.

Cabinet Secretary and Minister Without Portfolio Daisaburo Tsugita, former Home Office Secretary and Vice Minister of Home Affairs.

President of the Legislation Bureau Wataru Narahashi.

## CABINET COLLAPSE IN AIR

### Failure to Get Nashimoto's Reprieve Given as Cause

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These rumors were, however, virtually denied by a Cabinet minister, who, while admitting that the Cabinet is in a more or less shaky state, told Jiji that up to now there are "no definite indications of an imminent collapse of the Cabinet," as far as he knows.

"The Government did ask for reprieve of the Allied directive ordering apprehension of Prince Nashimoto," he said, "but failure in this attempt would not mean anything to the Cabinet, would it? The Allied authorities refused our request and it just cannot be helped. That's all."

The direct cause of the rumors of a cabinet crisis was the new Allied list of additional suspected war criminals, made public last Monday. It included at least six members of the House of Representatives.

## Cabinet Said Shaky As Collapse Hinted

### Shidehara Regime Is Under Fire for Inability to Cope With Major Problems

Premier Shidehara's cabinet is now in an "extremely delicate" position, which might lead to its downfall, it was reported in political circles Saturday, according to Jiji.

Jiji learned from well-informed sources that the present cabinet is admittedly in a shaky state because of its lack of ability to tackle major problems of the moment. Certain circles within the cabinet itself are said to hold the view that the cabinet might have to quit in the event of further aggravation of the current situation, according to these sources.

It was pointed out by these sources that the Shidehara cabinet is now called upon to do something about its pension policy in view of the new Allied instructions, ordering the suspension of payments of pensions to ex-servicemen, suspected war criminals and officials responsible for the outlawed special political police administration.

On top of this, these sources further revealed, the Allied authorities have recently made known their dissatisfaction with the government's plan to appoint demobilized officers as Ministers of the First and Second Demobilization Ministries, which are scheduled to come into being on December 1 following the impending abolition of the War Office and the Navy Ministry.

#### Overbearing Pension Question

The most important of these problems, according to the same sources, is the policy as to how to handle the pension question. While the Cabinet is fully prepared to comply with the new Allied instructions regarding pension, it is at the same time fully aware of the fact that, apart from ex-serviceman pensioners who are below fifty years of age and able-bodied, outright suspension of pension payments would

present a serious problem to those of advanced age and unfit for work as well as to destitute families of the war dead, unless the government works out some measures to take care of them, they pointed out.

Therefore, these sources added, the Government is now called upon to map out some policy to cope with the question without loss of time, subsequent to the execution of the Allied pension instructions.

According to these sources, however, the Shidehara Cabinet is so far known to have no concrete measures to be taken vis-a-vis the question and is in a hurry, not knowing what to do about it. This utter lack of administrative ability on the part of the Shidehara Cabinet is now under heavy fire of criticism even by those within the government, they said.

#### Cabinet Lamentably Weak

In this connection, these sources revealed, the Shidehara Cabinet, unable to pursue its own course of policy, has been literally "pushed about" by some remnants of the military clique in coping with the demobilization question. The Cabinet is described by these sources as still following a time-serving policy in tackling all these important questions.

All in all, they declared, it has now become crystal clear that the Shidehara Cabinet lamentably lacks political power to cope with the situation.

Accordingly, opinion is gaining ground in political circles that the future course of developments in connection with the pension question alone might lead to an "unexpected" political situation, in which, in the opinion of these circles, the possibility of a cabinet change, is not excluded, these sources said.

*Nippon Times*  
26 Nov '45



Grey Stone Building Looks Just Like Capitol, But—

# Plenty Of Hocus-Pocus In Undemocratic Diet

By Cpl. ANDREW HEADLAND, JR.,  
Staff Writer

TOKYO—The Diet Building on a hill overlooking Tokyo's remnants corresponds to the United States Capitol at Washington, and there, for most western minds, similarity is apt to end.

There is, as yet, nothing democratic in the atmosphere surrounding Japan's capitol. Few ordinary Japanese citizens have ever seen the magnificent interior of the Diet Building, completed in the middle thirties at a cost of nearly \$20,000,000.

The huge metal portals at the main entrance swing open only to admit His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor. He has been in the habit of coming once yearly to open Diet Sessions, but business picked up with the war, and this year he came twice. The first time was in September to comply with surrender terms, and the second time was to open the present extraordinary session for carrying out Allied directives.

At his latest appearance Hirohito didn't pause long enough to sit down on the red velvet and golden throne before the exclusive House of Peers. (Above the great, chestnut-hued House of Representatives in another wing is another "royal box." Hirohito has never graced this lower chamber throne on any occasion. Rich brocade curtains hide the

interior of the box from public view.)

No feet except those of the Emperor and court followers ever pass directly beneath the great pyramid-tower, corresponding to the Washington Capitol's dome. A velvet carpet detour is marked out for lesser dignitaries.

House meetings this week disclosed two important facts about the Emperor: (1) that he is considering abdication, and (2) that the western world has "misinterpreted" Hirohito's exact state of divinity. The Emperor was said to be merely representative of divinity and not actually divine, one characteristic the Son of Heaven has in common with the rest of mankind.

Lower House members, like those in Washington, are elected by popular vote and number 466. The House of Peers, with approximately the same number of members, is composed largely of Imperial nominees extending from princes of the royal blood down to plain barons, plus a smattering of wealthy business men, and diplomats. There is also a Privy Council, advisory to the Throne, and a Cabinet. Legislation is tossed around among these four bodies until it is approved or rejected. Until now most legislation carried has been connected with preserving in some way or other royal-tinted prerogatives.

The swallow-tailed, austere Peer members contrast with the informal, breezy attitude in the United States Senate. Formality is only slightly less evident in the Lower House, but Representatives will stoop to heckling an extremely unpopular speaker, whereas the Peers listen impassively and politely at all times.

Until General MacArthur's directive threw Diet meetings open to daylight, all Peer small chamber sessions, frequently history-determining by nature, were closed to the press. More leniency was allowed for Lower House publicity. Today there is no guarantee the title of any meeting indicates its real purpose. For example, "Budget Committee" conversations of the Lower House have ignored financial affairs almost entirely. Discussions have centered on everything from returning stolen Chinese art objects to war guilt.

Since the MacArthur directive, GIs, Allied officials, press correspondents, and even lowly Japanese citizens can gain admission to the Diet providing they possess proper credentials, iron nerves and the ability to cope with oriental ambiguity. Iron nerves are needed for facing row after row of long coated, grim visaged, Japanese guards who take their occupation seriously and look as though they are prepared for anything in the world except a sore thumb.

visitors.

This correspondent has been visiting the Diet daily for some time, without knowing exactly how it is accomplished. One day MPs at a rear entrance (where visitors are expected to go) refused to honor a press pass, saying they were under orders to admit only Japanese. Guards at the front side entrance don't know English. Generally, admission has been through the front door with the assistance of an interpreter and a determined air.

Once inside is where the fun—and guards—really start. Without moving their heads their eyes follow as a visitor moves along corridors. A guard might take after a stranger and interrogate him in Japanese. Lack of knowledge of what he is saying is the best defense. Inside each of the two Houses are 20 or 25 additional guards, and more on the outside. Unguarded House doors are tied shut with green cord. One day Prime Minister Shidehara found the same door he entered by locked when he tried to get out.

Present regulations require a conspicuous white arm band reading "Allied Press" in both English and Japanese for press attendees at House of Peer meetings, and a white and green lapel pin for Lower House meetings. Quite apart from nationality, a correspondent sticks out like a sore thumb.

*Stars and Stripes Tokyo*

## Shakeup in Japanese Cabinet Rumored In Capitol This Week

TOKYO (JNS)—Tokyo buzzed today with undercurrent rumors of an impending major shakeup in the Japanese cabinet under premiership of Prince Naruhiko Higashikuni.

While Nippon public newspapers called for retirement of Japanese war leaders from political, economic and other fields to "make way for men of ability to assume leadership

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By Cpl. PETER GRODSKY  
Staff Writer

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Cabinet Chief Secretary Visited By Justice Minister Also

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main entrance swing open only to admit His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor. He has been in the habit of coming once yearly to open Diet Sessions, but business picked up with the war, and this year he came twice. The first time was in September to comply with surrender terms, and the second time was to open the present extraordinary session for carrying out Allied directives.

At his latest appearance Hirohito didn't pause long enough to sit down on the red velvet and golden throne before the exclusive House of Peers. (Above the great, chestnut-hued House of Representatives in another wing is another "royal box." Hirohito has never graced this lower chamber throne on any occasion. Rich brocade curtains hide the

representative of divinity, and no actually divine, one characteristic the Son of Heaven has in common with the rest of mankind.

Lower House members, like those in Washington, are elected by popular vote and number 466. The House of Peers, with approximately the same number of members, is composed largely of Imperial nominees extending from princes of the royal blood down to plain barons, plus a smattering of wealthy business men, and diplomats. There is also a Privy Council, advisory to the Throne, and a Cabinet. Legislation is tossed around among these four bodies until it is approved or rejected. Until now most legislation carried has been connected with preserving in some way or other royal-tinted prerogatives.

Today there is no guarantee the title of any meeting indicates its real purpose. For example, "Budget Committee" conversations of the Lower House have ignored financial affairs almost entirely. Discussions have centered on everything from returning stolen Chinese art objects to war guilt.

Since the MacArthur directive, GIs, Allied officials, press correspondents, and even lowly Japanese citizens can gain admission to the Diet providing they possess proper credentials, iron nerves and the ability to cope with oriental ambiguity. Iron nerves are needed for facing row after row of long coated, grim visaged, Japanese guards who take their occupation seriously and look as though they are prepared for anything in the world except

ing their heads their eyes, following a visitor moves along corridors. A guard might take after a stranger and interrogate him in Japanese. Lack of knowledge of what he is saying is the best defense. Inside each of the two Houses are 20 or 25 additional guards, and more on the outside. Unguarded House doors are tied shut with green cord. One day Prime Minister Shidehara found the same door he entered by locked when he tried to get out.

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While Nippon public newspapers called for retirement of Japanese war leaders from political, economic and other fields to "make way for men of ability to assume leadership in the new Japan," observers said that the feeling in high places among the Japanese was "not to stick out necks" for fear that they would land on MacArthur's war criminal list when their names are checked against wartime records.

However, they also pointed out that if potential leaders all crawl into shells for fear of allied actions occupation forces will face a tough time administering the country without Japanese heads to lead their own country along democratic lines as outlined by the allies.

The main upheaval expected by many high ranking Japanese will come after Oct. 15 when complete disarmament of all Japanese services is scheduled to be completed.

One of the most serious hurdles facing Higashikuni appears to be the intense popular dislike of some men mentioned for cabinet posts despite their asserted non-affiliation with wartime machines.

*Stars & Stripes 3 Oct 45*

### Higashi-Kuni Resigns In Huff Over Order Allowing Free Speech

By CPL. PETER GRODSKY  
Staff Writer

TOKYO—Japan's cabinet crumbled Friday, less than 24 hours after General of the Army MacArthur issued sweeping orders spelling more freedom for the Japanese people.

Prime Minister Higashi-Kuni submitted to the Emperor the resignation of his cabinet after he reported to his ministers that he "could not be responsible for the course of events arising from the directive issued."

He was reported especially perturbed by the Supreme Commander's order allowing free discussion of the Emperor.

Foreign Minister Shigeru Yoshida called on General Sutherland, MacArthur's chief of staff, to report that the cabinet had resigned and that the Emperor had accepted the resignation.

Speculation among high government officials as to possible successors to the top cabinet post left the liberal Baron Kijuro Shidehara leading the field, with Yoshida and Prince Konoye as close contenders. However, the 73-year-old baron was reported unwilling to assume the office and is said to be supporting Yoshida.

Informed sources insisted that Prince Konoye's candidacy was rejected by General MacArthur.

"My job is finished," Higashi-Kuni commented after disclosing his resignation. "Now I have to leave and return to my official residence and return to my corrugated shack."

Meanwhile, Japanese leaders worked as fast as possible trying to reorganize the government to begin the task of planning relief measures for the coming winter.

Higashi-Kuni's cabinet did almost nothing for 45 days to prepare for

*Stars & Stripes 6 Oct 46*

### Horikiri, Matsumura Confer With Tsugita

Cabinet Chief Secretary Visited By Justice Minister Also

The emergency Cabinet meeting scheduled to have been held on January 5 to cope with the objectives issued by the General MacArthur Headquarters on January 4 was postponed since some period is needed for the translation and studying of the extensive objectives.

On January 5, the movements of Cabinet Ministers were brisk, with Home Minister Horikiri and Agriculture Minister Matsumura calling on Cabinet Chief Secretary Tsugita at the Prime Minister's official residence at 10.20 and 10.40 a.m., respectively.

At 1.30 p.m., Justice Minister Iwata also conferred with Cabinet Chief Secretary Tsugita on the current important problem.

Moreover, Marquis Yasumasa Matsudaira, director of the internal affairs department of the Imperial Household Office, visited Cabinet Chief Secretary Tsugita at 10 a.m.

MAINICHI JAN 7 1946

## The Prime Minister's Address

The address of Prime Minister Kijuro Shidehara before the Diet yesterday was one which will occasion no surprise. It was just about what was to have been expected from him, and it accurately reflects the true characteristics his Government, both in its admirable respects and in its weaknesses.

All due respect must be given to the sober modesty and sincerity with which Baron Shidehara and his associates are attempting to tackle the unprecedentedly difficult situation which confronts the nation at this time. This sober modesty and sincerity are readily apparent in the personal character of Baron Shidehara and in the things which he said yesterday.

All due respect must be given to the good intentions and the proper inclinations of the Shidehara Administration. Certainly it should be apparent that this Government is doing its best to fulfil loyally the obligations which Japan has assumed under the Potsdam Declaration, and certain it is that the Government is doing what it possibly can to push the process of democratization which the country needs. And most important of all, certain it is that this Government is headed in the right direction in basing its policies on the faith that "the ultimate power that controls the minds of men and regulates the internal and external affairs of all countries must be neither the sword nor the gun, but virtue".

All due respect must also be given to the sound conception which the Prime Minister and his Cabinet have of the scope and extent of the problems which the Government must solve. The steps which the Government has already taken and which it is pro-

Government at this time, the situation which confronts the country is inherently so difficult that it is unreasonable to expect performance which will satisfy everyone. No matter who heads the Government, the rank and file of the official bureaucracy, which must after all do the actual work, are so inefficient and held so tightly in a clumsy system that the results are bound to be unsatisfactory. It is not a matter of good faith or willingness or diligence; it is a matter of the standard of efficiency and competence of the entire Japanese official structure.

In addition, it may be questioned whether the Shidehara Cabinet, for all its good intentions and for all its clear conception of its tasks, has a deep enough and broad enough comprehension of the drasticness of the measures it must carry out to fulfil its tasks. Nothing short of a fundamental social revolution can enable Japan to adapt herself successfully to the new age. It is to be doubted if anyone with roots and inspiration in the past, no matter how liberal, is adequate to furnish the leadership for the future. Japan needs new leaders with an entirely new outlook born afresh direct from the new movements which are afoot today. It is no personal fault of the members of the Shidehara Cabinet that they do not meet these qualifications; the leaders with the required qualifications have just not emerged to the fore in Japan as yet. In the meantime, the Shidehara Cabinet is the best possible transitional caretaker, doing the best it can with the best of intentions.

If criticism is to be made, therefore, it should be made against the Japanese nation as a whole which has yet produced the necessary leaders and not against the present

## Cabinet Is Confident As Diet Begins Work

### Head of Legislative Board Blasts View Government In for Tough Time

In spite of predictions to the contrary in political circles, the Cabinet is confident that it will be able successfully to tide over the present Diet session, Wataru Narahashi, director of the Cabinet's Board of Legislation, declared in an interview with Jiji on Monday.

Opinion has been gaining ground in political circles that the Government will have tough going in the present Diet session in view of the fact that a great deal of discussions will center on all Government bills, including these for Election Law revision, land reform and labor union.

In the interview, held at the Prime Minister's official residence, Mr. Narahashi told Jiji that the Cabinet sees no danger signal ahead in connection with the Diet sessions, "only if it succeeds in having the Election Law revision bill passed, even with some amendments."

He admitted that lots of discussions will center on the Land Reform Bill but said that Agriculture and Forestry Minister Kenzo Matsu-mura is absolutely confident of its final passage by the Diet.

When he was told that strong opposition is expected to be raised to the Government bill for revision of the Election Law, the Director of the Board of Legislation said:

"If it became clear that the bill would not be passed by the Diet, the Government would have no alternative but to dissolve the Diet immediately and to hold the general elections under the existing law."

He was further told that the Progressive, Liberal and Social Democratic parties are all against the plural ballot provision. His reply was that even if the provision was dropped, the Government expects to have the bill passed with its new provisions for the major electoral district system, the lowering of age

Suspended payment of war indemnities to industry likewise can be sold to the country, particularly since the directive includes a mollifying clause to industry by specifying government responsibility for these special compensations. They were established by wartime governments who were afraid to increase taxation beyond its already heavy limits.

But the elimination of the pensions hits a people already restless over personal livelihood problems. And these will be more influential in the next election than political philosophy.

Contemplated military pensions under the forthcoming budget would reach as high as nearly ¥2,000,000,000. Pensions were paid last year to 1,083,000 persons, 87 percent of whom were service personnel. Many more expected to benefit next year.

Although the directive gives the government until February 1, 1946, for compliance with pension elimination, the proper machinery for this must be approved in the current Diet session. The measure is expected to precipitate a hot debate on method. Politicians will attempt to show they put up "a good fight" for prospective voters, even though there is no chance of changing the directive.

Responsibility will fall upon the Shidehara government.

NIPPON TIMES  
NOV 28 1945

## JAP CABINET MEETS AGAIN, FAILS TO ACT

Hint Shidehara Hopes To Visit MacArthur's Headquarters For Talk

By Staff Writer

TOKYO—No decisive action was reached Monday by the Japanese Cabinet in its session fol-

the faith that "the ultimate power that controls the minds of men and regulates the internal and external affairs of all countries must be neither the sword nor the gun, but virtue".

All due respect must also be given to the sound conception which the Prime Minister and his Cabinet have of the scope and extent of the problems which the Government must solve. The steps which the Government has already taken and which it is proposing to take are all eminently sound and desirable. There is no one who can take exception to the review of the Government's accomplishments and projects which Baron Shidehara listed yesterday.

After all is said in commendation of the admirable qualities of the present Government as revealed in the personality and the statements of Prime Minister Shidehara, it cannot be said, however, that either the Japanese nation or the world in general will be satisfied. Exactly the same weaknesses of the Shidehara Administration which have been the target of general criticism throughout the past several weeks have been revealed afresh in yesterday's address, and they will no doubt draw further criticisms both in the Diet and out.

The most glaring of these weaknesses are obvious enough. Although the basic inclinations and intentions of the Shidehara Cabinet are above question and in fact most commendable, the actual accomplishments in transforming these intentions and inclinations have left very much to be desired. Although the conception held by the Shidehara Cabinet of its tasks is comprehensive and sound, its actual program has been pitifully vague and general and weak. All these defects are clearly revealed in yesterday's speech which was commendably delightful in tone but woefully weak in tangible particulars.

The reasons for this unsatisfactory situation are easy to understand. No matter who heads the

Cabinet that they do not meet these qualifications; the leaders with the required qualifications have just not emerged to the fore in Japan as yet. In the meantime, the Shidehara Cabinet is the best possible transitional caretaker, doing the best it can with the best of intentions.

If criticism is to be made, therefore, it should be made against the Japanese nation as a whole which has yet produced the necessary leaders and not against the present caretakers who are doing the best they can. Certainly, the present Diet, which is even more a remnant of the outmoded past than the present Cabinet, is in no position to cast any stones, although there will undoubtedly be plenty of Diet members who will criticize in an attempt to improve their own position. Constructive criticisms and practical suggestions are most needed, but it is certainly not appropriate to make the present Cabinet the scapegoat for the deficiencies which are the fault of the whole nation.

What is needed at this time, therefore, is for the Cabinet and Diet and the whole nation, for that matter, to reflect on their own weaknesses, and in the consciousness of their own failings strive together as effectively as their limitations permit to make way for the growth of a new leadership appropriate to the new age. To work together for the speedy construction of a New Japan, rather than to carp against each other, is the duty which is enjoined today upon all sections of the Japanese nation.

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If it became clear that the bill would not be passed by the Diet, the Government would have no alternative but to dissolve the Diet immediately and to hold the general elections under the existing law."

He was further told that the Progressive, Liberal and Social Democratic parties are all against the plural ballot provision. His reply was that even if the provision was dropped, the Government expects to have the bill passed with its new provisions for the major electoral district system, the lowering of age qualification for election and voting and women suffrage.

"If the present Election Law revision bill is passed with three important new provisions, then the Government will consider its main mission fulfilled in this respect," Mr. Narahashi declared.

#### Cabinet Downfall Foreseen By Russell Brines

TOKYO, (AP) Nov. 25.—The life of the unsteady Shidehara cabinet appeared foreshortened today by the Supreme Commander's newest economic directive—which delivered a solar plexis blow with the elimination of military pensions—and its downfall is considered likely after the Diet session.

The pension issue crowns a series of unsolved domestic problems certain to bring sharp criticism of the government from the election-conscious Diet. In addition to the recurrent headaches of food and housing troubles, a new crisis has arisen. The increasing shortage of coal threatens the forced suspension of key industries manufacturing reconversion products and some steel mills already have closed.

Indications were the 89th extraordinary Diet session will open on a critical tone. The Social Democrats have announced they would challenge in organizational meetings the "war responsibility" of some Diet members including Toshio Shimada, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The new directive's order for heavy wartime profits taxes probably will give Premier Shidehara relatively little trouble in selling it to the Diet. This program is certain to win overwhelming public support.

## MEETS AGAIN, FAILS TO ACT

Hint Shidehara Hopes  
To Visit MacArthur's  
Headquarters For Talk

By Staff Writer

TOKYO—No decisive action was reached Monday by the Japanese Cabinet in emergency session following SCAP's far reaching "political purge" directive.

The cabinet session started the past week end when General MacArthur ordered eliminated from public life officials connected with sponsoring Japan's aggressive wars since 1937.

Sources close to the Cabinet said aged Premier Shidehara, who has been conducting deliberations from a sick bed, may stall action on the part of the Japanese Government until after he has recovered sufficiently to visit MacArthur's headquarters.

Meanwhile speculation continued widespread throughout the Japanese press over whether the Cabinet will eventually resign en bloc or attempt to survive piecemeal. As most key cabinet figures apparently come under the sweeping directive, even a cabinet reshuffle may leave unscathed only Premier Shidehara and two or three other figures.

The Nippon Times, English language Japanese newspaper, reported several ministers favor handing the ruling reins over at once to "a coalition government capable of devoting itself to carrying out the political purge directive, and also to holding fair general elections."

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