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communist infiltration in the local areas it would seem that politics and government on the local level will be considerably retarded. This is no particular brief for political parties and their activities but these and other conferences which I attended have convinced me that either the major Japanese political parties or some equivalent local political club had better step into the local political vacuum which generally prevails so as to give the people good candidates and some substantial organization upon which they can rely for presentation of the issues. The advent of such groups would also substantially prevent the fairly wide-spread bossism in Japanese local politics. Such bossism is not on a political party basis (where it is also not to be condoned) but rather on a local vested interest basis more or less completely divorced from any sense of responsibility to the people. To the extent that such practices continue democracy will be retarded in Japan, for while the super-structure may be democratization in form the basis will continue to be rule of the few with no effective political representation of the views of the many in organized and responsible fashion in the finer tradition of our own political parties.

As a result of this situation Mr. Yamamoto, active in the national mayors association and former career diplomat in the Japanese Foreign Service, told me that serious minded Japanese were not taking as much interest as they should in local politics. He confirmed that the scene was shared by the bosses and the communists. As one means to bring in good blood, he suggested that the purge should be reevaluated. He said that a number of mayors had been elected to office from pre-war days and continued in office during the war. Their role in support of the war effort had just been that of any patriotic citizen when his country is at war and little more. Admittedly some had directly assisted in Japan's aggressive intentions and the war, but the majority of mayors were in the category just mentioned. Lifting of the purge in such cases would bring much needed political experience and acumen to the local scene. Yamamoto said that this feeling was widely held among the Japanese people. In this connection it should be noted that there is apparently a certain amount of control by purged political leaders. In my memorandum reports forwarded under cover of Yokohama's Despatch No. 168, subject, Analysis of Recent Changes in Military Government Structure in Japan, September 7, 1949, I related how the Legal and Government Officer of the Shizuoka Military Government team told me how his investigation had substantiated charges that the purged mayor of the large city of Numazu still indirectly ran the city. He said that he had forwarded his report through channels but nothing was ever done about the situation. I

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have also had a reliable report of such situations existing in the rural areas of Nagasaki prefecture.

While questions asked me had little to do with Communism, Nolan told me that he encountered a number of them in his meetings with the four groups. Most of these he considered to derive from a healthy interest in getting behind communist claims and stopping them. One questioner asked him about Communist papers and pamphlets which stated that Japan was actually being placed in a position of serfdom to the United States through accepting so much United States aid. Nolan replied that everyone realized that Japan could not furnish her own people enough to eat at present. At such time as the Communists put rice into the people's rice bowls instead of paper propaganda slips, serious Japanese would take note of what they said.

In addition to these questions others were asked Nolan showing a concern on the part of the people about the weakness of their police force in coping with Communist violence. This concern is probably related to news of the Mitaka derailing trial now prominently printed in the press. In this trial it is alleged that certain leftist union leaders derailed a train at the Mitaka station near Tokyo thereby killing or injuring a number of persons. Nolan told me he felt that the police were as yet unskilled in learning about and preventing this type of illegal violence. Some persons thought that the tonari-gumi (neighborhood association system) should be revived to combat such a menace. (For more detailed discussion of the pros and cons of this wide spread request for revival of the tonari-gumi see my memorandum report on the conference at Nobeoka, dated November 23, 1949.)

Miss Alice Burke who handled the discussion group relative to the assembly told me she obtained a number of questions about the extent of women's activities in politics in the United States. It should be noted that very few women were present at the meeting in Beppu. As far as I could ascertain there were about 25 or 30 in the 1300 persons assembled. The same tendency was noticed in Nobeoka, so it may be that the women in Kyushu are having a more difficult time asserting their equality, than in Honshu. At least that is so in my own experience with these conferences.

In addition Miss Burke received a number of technical questions about the assembly and whether it is party-elected in the United States. She said she also had some about improvement of the schools, and throughout the country had received questions about birth control.

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