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POLITICAL SERIES: 1379 (Continued)

ITEM 12 Records of the 90th Diet Session (5) Comments on the Revised Constitution - Daiichi Shimbun - 21 Oct 46. Translator: H. Ota.

Full Translation:

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Chapter 7

Article 13 provides that the power to administer national finances shall be exercised as the National Assembly shall determine. Thus, the revised Constitution is remarkably more progressive than the existing Constitution in the respect. Furthermore, the revised Constitution provides that no expenditures going beyond the appropriations set forth in the paragraphs of the Budget or that are not provided for in the Budget shall not be approved by the National Assembly. It is a specific feature that national finance shall be strictly supervised by the National Assembly. In accordance with the existing Constitution, when the National Assembly cannot be convoked, owing to the external or internal condition of the country, and in cases of urgent need for the maintenance of public safety, the Government may take all necessary financial measures by means of an Imperial Ordinance. However, according to Article 67 of the revised Constitution, the Government cannot take the so-called emergency financial measures. Consequently, those already fixed expenditures, based by the Constitution upon the powers belonging to the Emperor, or such expenditures as may come under the legal obligations of the Government shall be cancelled or reduced by the National Assembly without the consent of the Government. Although the present Constitution allows the Government to use the budget of the preceding fiscal year when the National Assembly has not yet worked out the new budget, the revised Constitution puts an end to this practice. The Cabinet must submit the Budget to the National Assembly for approval, thus classifying the fact that the political form of the country shall have for its nucleus, the National Assembly. Article 88 provides that all property of the Imperial Household, other than the hereditary estates shall belong to the State. Naturally, the personal property of the Emperor and other members of the Imperial family are excluded from the scope of this provision. The Emperor may make use of property belonging to the State for the purpose of official expenditure. Article 89 provides that no public money or property shall be appropriated for the use, benefit, or support of any system of religion, or religious institution or association, or for any charitable, educational, or benevolent purposes not under the control of public authority. Thus, the revised Constitution definitely sets the limit on Government enterprises, and at the same time, it is intended that there shall be no state religion in JAPAN. Article 91 provides that, at regular intervals and at least annually, the Cabinet shall report to the National Assembly and the people on the state of national finance. However, it has not been indicated just how this report shall be made.

Chapter 8

The revised Constitution is really epoch-making, since it has provisions referring specifically to local self-government, which does not appear in the existing Constitution. The Local governments must work hand in hand with the central government, and must be the driving force behind the national administration. To be sure, the local self-administration body is a unit of the Constitutional government, and the success of the local self-government produces an immediate effect upon the parliamentary politics of the country. The paragraphs, concerning local self-government, which provides for the chief executive officers of all local public entities, the members of their legislative assemblies and such other officials as may be determined by law to be elected by direct popular vote, will remove the abuses produced by the old centralized administration. The direct participation of the public in local self-government will have an important effect on the decision of the national policy.

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That the participation of the public will, serve as a great restraint to the Government's arbitrary control of administration is not to be taken lightly.

Chapter 9

According to Article 73 of the old Constitution, when it becomes necessary to amend the provisions of that Constitution, a suggestion to that effect is to be submitted to the Diet by an Imperial order. This was one of the characteristics of the old Constitution. However, the revised Constitution provides that amendments to the Constitution shall be initiated by the National Assembly, and come into being through a concurring two-thirds majority vote in each House, and this to be followed by an affirmative majority vote, of the public, cast at a special referendum. Amendments, when so approved, shall be proclaimed by the Emperor in the name of the people, according to paragraph 2 of Chapter 96. The Emperor has no power of veto over amendments to the Constitution.

ITEM 13 Anti-Soviet Moves By Japan - Daiichi Shimbun - 21 Oct 46.
Translator: F. Hoda.

Full Translation:

The International Military Tribunal for the Far East has entered into the examination of JAPAN's anti-SOVIET policy which corresponded with the Russo-German war and was a prelude to the Pacific War. All the secret conspiracies, of which the people were uninformed either from reports or documents, were brought to light. The violation of a treaty by the KWANTUNG Army was also disclosed.

Starting from this week, heater has replaced the cooling system in the court. The American prosecutors and foreign correspondents have changed their attire. The light of the chandeliers creat a somewhat cool atmosphere.

It is a well known fact that the relations between JAPAN and the SOVIET UNION became serious since the famous October Revolution. In April, 1941 the RUSSO-JAPANESE Neutrality Pact was concluded. After the conclusion of this pact, however, serious affairs occurred swiftly between the two countries. GERMANY then attacked the SOVIET UNION. On 25 November, 1941, JAPAN agreed upon a five-year extension of the anti-Comintern pact. On 8 December, the Japanese Army initiated the Pacific War by attacking the naval bases of the UNITED STATES and ENGLAND. Hereupon, the relations between JAPAN and the SOVIET UNION became tense. In April, 1945, the SOVIET UNION issued a notification that she would denounce the RUSSO-JAPANESE Neutrality Pact, and at last in August of the same year, declared war against JAPAN.

Now, in the court, the disputes between JAPAN and the SOVIET UNION before the conclusion of the Neutrality Pact and the infidelity of JAPAN's foreign policy are under examination. The fact that JAPAN had been working out a conspiracy against the SOVIET UNION regardless of the Neutrality Pact and that she clearly attempted to attack the latter when the RUSSO-GERMAN War began, were attested to by the documentary evidence introduced by the Russian Chief Prosecutor S.A. COLUNSKY and prosecutors IVANOV and VASILIEV. Included in the evidence were affidavits of the KWANTUNG Army leaders including Lieutenant-general KAWABE. Both the CHANGKUFENG and NOMONHAN Incidents, the reinforcement of the KWANTUNG Army and the Tripartite Agreement of 1 December, 1941 were considered the planned preparations for attacking RUSSIA. JAPAN, which was attracted by the NAZI's blitzkrieg, implicitly and explicitly tries to incite RUSSIA and intended to open hostilities against her at the beginning of the winter of 1943. However, this attempt failed due to GERMANY's collapse.

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ITEM 3 Looking Back Over Past Extraordinary Diet Session (5) by Reporter Kamata. - Mainichi Shimbun - 19 t 46. Translator: J. Tsumura.

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Summary:

The Diet session lasted over 100 days with the arduous task of taking adequate measures to cope with inflation, industrial paralysis, and the serious unemployment problem. In the course of the session, a budget appropriations bill totalling 120,000,000,000 yen was approved and the taxation of special wartime indemnities amounting to 66,900,000,000 yen and of property tax reaching 44,500,000,000 yen was decided upon

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ITEM 3 (Continued)

by the Diet. It is regretlable, however, that as far as deliberations on economic problems are concerned, no view was presented which was convincing enough to make a strong in pression upon us. The facts that the present cabinet is formed of the Liberal and the Progressive Parties which had no fixed economic policies of their own and that the opposition parties lacked full preparations for the discussion of economic problems was chiefly responsible for the low standard of the deliberations made on economic problems in the last Diet session.

However, the efforts made by Finance Minister WADA for the democratization of the agricultural system of our country are well worth our praise. Aside from the justifiableness of their views, Finance Minister ISHIBASHI and Home Minister ZEN gave us the in pression that they had their own judgment and programs based on their own ideas.

The taking up of the problem of economic reconstruction must always be accompanied by the present ation of a detailed plan regarding the form of the reconstructed economy and the measures to be taken to attain this end. Mere establishment of a rehabilitation finance bank and on industrial revival corporation or the enactment of the Commodity Demand and Supply Adustment Law are not enough for the stablization of our unsettled economy. Not only the opposition of the Social Democratic Party but also the governmental parties bitherly accused the Governemtn of its lack of adequate plans or definite views regarding economic reconstruction.

The Government always tuied to wade the accusation by replying that it does not stick to one particular "ism" or that the establishment of a fixed economic policy will be impossible and meaningless because the present economic conditions of our country include too many unknown elements to permit the drafting of a definite economic plan. This evasive attitude on the part of the authorities aroused a cry against the failure of the Economic Stabilization Board to fulfil its proper functions and Home Minister ZEN had no alternative but to state that an economic stabilization conference will be held by experts representing various fulds to solve fundemental economic problems.

It is true that the Government's lack of policy and insight regarding the future form of economy was one of the chief causes of the low standard of economic discussions in the Diet, but we must remember that the Social Democratic Party was also to blame. The interpellations posed by the members of the Party were too abstract and lacked cogency to fully analyze the contradictions and illogical points included in the views held by the Governemtn. Take, for instance, the problem for the cancellation of war londs. The Social Democratic Party took every opportunity to insist upon the cancellation of war londs to tide over inflation. The Party's insistance was always not with the counter-offensive by Finance Minister ISHIBASHI who stated:" The cancellation of war londs, 90 percent of which are in the hands of financial organs, will mean the cancellation of deposits, Cancelling war longs without cancelling deposits will require an ecormous amount of money to protect the deposits. This would result in aggranating inflation in stiad of checking it."

The Social Democratic Party failed to argue down the Finance Minister. This is not the only incident which indicates the lack of preparation on the part of the Party. As the Diet session neared its end, there even appeared members who began their interpellations with the introductory remark:" Though it is impossible to reach a compromise because of the difference in views, etc." It is true that socialism is fundomentally different from capitalism in its stand, but as long as problem dealing with the reconstruction of the people's livelihood is taken up for discussion, both the Government and the Social Democratic Party should be more frank and sincere in their efforts for the solution of the problem.

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ITEM 7 Review of the Extraordinary Session of the Diet (1) - Mainichi Shimbun 17 Oct 46. Translator: J. Weiller.

Full Translation:

Before the opening of the Diet, it was commonly believed that the YOSHIDA Cabinet would be forced to resign before the Session was over. This belief persisted because of the Premier's weakness in politics, the loose bond among the Cabinet members and the frail tie between the two Government Parties, the Liberals and the Progressives. It was predicted that even if the Government managed to pull through the session, they would emerge staggering from the blows they would receive. The result, however, was contrary to general expectations and the Cabinet tided over the tremendously long session of 114 days without losing a single member. There have been many contributing factors to this success. For example, the political parties, being immature, were not well versed in the operation of Diet tactics and they were faced with such imperative bills as the Constitutional Revision Bill. In any case, everybody concurs in the opinion that this success was not due to the ability of the YOSHIDA Cabinet itself.

This Cabinet was formed for the revision of the Constitution and the surmounting of the food crisis, etc. as its objectives, but there is no denying that they were lacking in a consistent policy, which means that politically they had no character. This can be seen from the various bills introduced to the Diet, such as the Farmland Reform Bill, Social System Reform Bill and the Economic Reconstruction Bill; the Constitutional Revision was simply an inheritance from the SHIDEHARA Government. Besides, in view of their inability to propel their own parties' policies, we can hardly presume that the relations between the Government and the Liberals and Progressives were anything near perfect.

No stormy event worth mentioning occurred during the long session. However, as was expected from their character, the Government often exposed weak points, and it was only due to the objective circumstances that those weak points did not prove fatal to the Government.

A reconstruction of the Cabinet is always rumored during any Diet session and the present Cabinet was no exception. Rumors sprang up, two or three times, on re-shuffling, and attention was focussed on Agriculture Minister WADA and Finance Minister ISHIBASHI. Disunity of opinion among the Cabinet members on the questions of price of rice and unemployment and underhanded harassing maneuvers by the parties against the bureaucratic Ministers came to the surface during the latter period of the Session. In order to avoid a Cabinet re-shuffle, Premier YOSHIDA did his utmost and succeeded in preventing the weak points from appearing in the limelight. The question which remains to be answered is whether or not there will be a ministerial change after the Diet session.

It is true that the Premier, at the recent press conference, declared that he would not reorganize the Cabinet because he disliked doing so. Nevertheless, it is doubtful whether the objective circumstances will permit the Premier to realize his intention. Persistent rumors were broadcast during the session about a coalition cabinet with the Social Democratic Party, interwoven with the report of a cabinet reconstruction, but it appears that the Premier had already made up his mind from the very beginning. Shared by State Minister SHIDEHARA, his idea was that JAPAN's politics should follow the course of that of ENGLAND, or in other words, that he is looking forward to a political arena where two major parties, conservative and labor, confront each other. Hence, in his opinion, the Social Democratic Party should continue being the opposition while the Liberal and Progressive Parties amalgamate. He made a clear statement on this point at the Press Conference.

In carrying on the government the Cabinet is expected to show intentions of adopting a progressive policy on political economy, with close co-operation between the two parties, the Liberals and Progressives, as the premise. In order to carry out the government as the Premier intends, it is thought necessary to shift to a progressive policy, in view of the inevitability of labor aggravations which will arise from the cancellation of war indemnities, of the important questions on economic rehabilitation and the measures against unemployment which are hanging ominously over their heads. With the Extraordinary Diet Session of November, the Regular Diet Session and the approaching Local Elections before them, their future path will by no means be an easy one.

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POLITICAL SERIES: 1383 (Continued)

ITEM 6 The Corner-Stone Laid for Democracy - Provincial Newspaper - Nishi-Nippon Shimbun (Fukuoka) - 10 Oct 46. Translator: T. Fukushima.

Summary:

The three great achievements of the last Diet are: (1) Approval of the new Constitution defining the foundamental principles of the democratic national structure; (2) Consolidation of the democratic foundation by passing the Local Administrative Reform Law bill (CHIHO SEIDO KAISEI HOAN,) Agrarian Systen Reform Law bill (NOCHI SEIDO KAIKAKU HOAN,) War Indemnity Cancellation Special Measures Law bill (GUNJU HOSHO UCHIKIRI TOKUBETSU SOCHI HOAN,) etc., which are political and economic prerequisites to the democratization of our country; and (3) Realization of parliamentary government by having the Ministerialists and Opppositionists contend with each other from their respective stands.

Of course, the Diet was substantially imperfect, but the conservative and progressive forces constituting it have gained a kind of stability and have distinctly realized their own peculiar political stand through their experiences in the past session. This is of a great significance to the history of our parliamentary government.

The Realization of the Constitutional Diet

The main task of the 90th session of the Diet was to deliberate on the draft Constitution. The three extentions of the session were necessitated by the deliberations on the Constitution. This shows how deliberately the draft was reviewed. An interpretation of the Constitution that may be referred to by all the Japanese people has been established through the deliberation of the Upper and Lower Houses. The House of Representative has enhanced the democratic character of the statute by various important revisions such as revising the preamble and Article I so as to express distinctly that the sovereignty lies with the people, mentioning clearly national ideals underlying the renunciation of war, abolishing the peerage system, and elucidating on the rights to livelihood and labor as among the fundamental human rights. Having been enacted by the freely expressed will of the Japanese people, the new Constitution can be said to be a people's Constitution, though it is formally a revised version of the one grantly the Emperor. In this sense, the last Diet has fulfilled its mission as a truly democratic legislature.

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At the same time, constitutional discussions in the Diet betrayed the low level of political knowledge on the part of both the Government and the political parties. For instance, the insertion of the passage expressing the sovereignty of the people was decided on at the last stage under the pressure of public opinion. Meanwhile, Premier YOSHIDA, emphasized that the national structure would not be altered, and the Liberals and Progressives agreed with the Government, asserting that the present national constitution should be preserved, and some quarters of the parties even suggested that the sovereignty should rest with the Emperor. The Social Democrats asserted from the beginning that the sovereignty rests with the people, but could not emphasize the point strongly on account of the circumstances in and out of the party. Therefore, it can be said that the revision was the result of reflection on the parts of both the Government and the Diet. Meanwhile, the House of Peers, comprising many authorities on constitutional problems, delved deeply into the problem, to reach the conclusion that there is no alteration of the national structure from a jurisprudential viewpoint. In short, the Upper House put the finishing touch to

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the Constitution with its expert knowledge.

It is also noteworthy that the revolutionary significance of the statute was emphasized by the House. MINAMIHARA, MIYAZAWA, and other members declared that the Government's conservative conception of the Constitution was detrimental to the democratic development of JAPAN. The Government should accept this comment without prejudice, and exercise care in enforcing the new law of the land.

The Foundation For Democratization

All laws must be revised according to the democratic principles embodied by the new Constitution. At the same time the economic and cultural phases of the country must be democratized. In order to attain these aims, the Government introduced the Local Administrative System Reform Law bill, Agrarian System Reform Law bill, Livelihood Protection Law bill (SEIKATSU HOGO HOAN), and the War Indemnity Cancellation Law bill to the last Diet. These bills can be said to be heralds of democratization.

The Diet, well recognizing the democratic meaning of the laws, pointed out that the Government's bills lacked progressiveness. Particularly, in the case of the Local Administrative System Reform Law bill, even the Ministerialists attacked the Government, because the bureaucrats attempted to preserve their influence by avoiding radical reforms in the local administrative mechanism.

This law and the Agrarian System Reform Law will go hand in hand to democratize the remotest parts of our country. The Social Democrats advocated the socialization of agricultural management and the adoption of socialistic policies in the reconstruction of war-ravaged industries, and asked the general public to criticize their views.

Party Politics Established

The records of the last Diet show that party politics are going to be established. The minority factions were so ineffectual that the Co-operative Party (KYODO MINSHU-TO) and People's Party (KOKUMIN-TO) were organized. The majority of the non-partisans joined the Liberal or Progressive Parties, and the remaining independents have become so ineffective as to lose their worth as bargaining groups. Minor parties without their own policies and substantial backing are gradually being disposed of, for they often become the hot-beds of political intrigues.

At first the Government did not get on well with the Liberals and Progressives, but later, because of the offensive of the progressive forces led by the Social Democrats over the Labor Relations Adjustment Law (RODO KANKEI CHOSEI HOAN). The two parties swing over to the side of the Government. Simultaneously, the relations between the two parties became more intimate. As a result of the close collaboration between the Government and the two parties, the last session was dominated by the conservative forces. In spite of this fact, the two parties endeavored to refrain from adopting reactionary policies. However, there was the danger of their bulldozing their will through sheer force of numbers, as was the case of the Labor Relations Adjustment Law.

The Government and the Ministerialists should pay scrupulous attention to the trend of public opinion at home and abroad. The same can also be said for the Oppositionists. Party politics should be developed with the just criticism of the people.

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ITEM 17 Major Discussions In the Diet (Part III) Labor Problems - Yomiuri Shimbun - 14 Oct 46. Translator: Y. KURATA.

Summary:

The so-called food securing movement among the masses of the people reached a peak in May this year. After that mass movement seemed to have entered the stage of self-reflection until the advent of the statement made by Mr. ATCHESON in regard to the Japanese labor movement. However, the recent cancellation of war indemnities has resulted in a series of strikes including the seamen's strike, and the general strike of the Government railway workers. The tense labor situation has ended in the so-called October Labor offensive which presents the aspect of a general political strike. Hence the necessity of political consideration in settling labor problems which have been dealt from technical standpoint alone has been brought about.

Is there any ground for criticism that the Government takes the pro-capitalist stand in carrying out the enterprise readjustment and the unemployment measures? Mr ZEN, State Minister, favored the drastic enforcement of enterprise readjustment by wiping out all surplus labor. It seems that he should also take the stand of those who are to be subjected to the enterprise readjustment into full consideration. Meanwhile, Mr KAWAI, Minister of Public Welfare, maintained that the present unemployment situation could be relieved by developing civilian industries and a thorough-going enforcement of the social insurance system. However, it is still doubtful whether such a statement can prove successfulin persuading the masses of the people to trust the Government in the current labor situation.

Although, the much-mooted Labor Arbitration Bill (RODO CHOAN) was passed by the House of Representatives, it is regrettable that most major political parties lacked zeal in exchanging thorough discussions on how to consider compulsory arbitration. The Social-Democrats ended up in opposing the bill without touching any of the following key-points:

(1) Not a single effort was made to prevent the Government's attempt to bring about disunity among labor unions by setting the maximum term of strikes by public utility workers at 30 days in the Labor Arbitration Bill.

(2) Social Democrats made no mention of the general voting system for adopting or rejecting the agreement reached between labor union and employer, although it seems quite preferable to adopt that system.

(3) The wage problem which has been among principal causes for labor disputes was not taken up throughout the sessions.

(4) Social-Democrats did not refer to the characteristics and structure of the employers' union which is stated to be established.

Thus, the Labor Arbitration Bill has been regarded as nothing but a prelude for the coming mass dismissal and criticized as such.

The Unemployment Insurance Bill which is to be presented to the Diet next week will not be put into immediate effect because of the difficulty in obtaining funds for this purpose from the budget. The bill provides the following unemployment measures:

(1) To absorb jobless into public utilities.

(2) To give jobless necessary living funds under the Livelihood Protection Law.

(3) To make a loan of 3,000 yen to the jobless for the purpose of business funds.

(4) To set up public pawn shops, thereby, saving the masses from further degeneration of their living condition.

(5) To establish public consignment institution in every town and village, thereby, removing illegal interests in the transaction of commodities.

The Government seems convinced that public works and utilities are enough to bring about a thoroughgoing solution to the present unemployment problem. But it must be borne in mind that the public utilities serve only to aggravate inflation and that the economic crisis threatens to crop up unless all the unemployed are absorbed into the reproduction process of our industry. As may be clearly understood from the above, the Government may well show more consideration for the present political aspect of our labor situation.

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90th Diet Session Adjourning Today; Sets New Record

History's Longest Deliberations Ending With Closing Ceremony at Peers House

The longest Diet session in Japan's Parliamentary history will close today.

Having wound up 114-day deliberations Friday, the 90th Extraordinary Session of the Japanese Diet will adjourn today with a formal closing ceremony, which is expected to take place at 11 a.m. at the House of Peers.

Called primarily to study the Constitutional amendment bill, the budget bill and a few other essential measures, the momentous session dragged on and on necessitating extensions as many as four times since many other important bills were submitted for legislative processing in the course of the sitting. These bills included those on provincial administrative reform, adjustment of capital labor relations, agrarian reform program and a series of measures revolving around the cancellation of war loss indemnities.

Budget bills approved in the course of the session involved some ¥120,000,000,000—the largest peace-time budget ever appropriated by the Japanese Government.

Of utmost importance and with far-reaching effect among the bills was the one providing for the new democratic Constitution, on which both Houses spent greatest energies. After intensive deliberations, both chambers made significant amendments to the original text formulated by the Government, making the charter better in shape and more progressive in its purport.

The session was held amid increasing labor squabbles and foaming tide of popular agitation, culminating in the contemplated October labor offensive engineered by the National Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Just how the Yoshida Government will tide over the post-Diet political situation which foreshadows mass unemployment and rising tide of currency inflation remains to be seen.

With the passage of the new Constitution, the Government is now face to face with the arduous task of writing some 100 relevant laws, being called upon, at the same time, to carry out the series of policies, including the collection of property taxes, designed to rehabilitate the crippled national economy.

The Emperor will not be present at today's closing ceremony of the Diet, but he will receive in audience the members of the Cabinet and both Houses at the Akasaka Detached Palace at noon. He is expected to grant them words of appreciation for their legislative labors during the three-month session.

Following the function, Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida will be host to the Diet members and Government officials concerned with the legislature at a luncheon party at his official residence.

The plenary session of the House of Peers Friday passed the Special Smallholders Establishment Measures Bill and the Farmland Regulation Act Amendments Bill.

The session was held from 10:17 a.m. when the Foreign Trade Funds Special Accounts Bill and Industrial Restoration Corporation Bill, which had been passed by the committee on those bills, were reported on by Viscount Iyeharu Uemura, chairman of the committee, and duly passed.

Next in order came the Special Smallholders Establishment Measures Bill and the Farmland Regulation Act Amendments Bill, the committee proceedings regarding which were reported on by Baron Masatane Ineda, chairman. In the course of debate on these bills, Yahachi Kawai, Dowakai, said:

"I consent to the enactment of these measures but I think that there will be considerable difficulties in enforcing them. For instance, there seem to be many tenant farmers who would rather remain tenants than become smallholders or land proprietors. It is

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hoped, therefore, that the authorities concerned will undertake the difficult tasks with a clean slate, without prejudice and with sympathy."

With this the bills were put to vote and passed.

The House took a recess at noon and met again at 1 p.m. when the Special Wartime Compensations Measures Bill and seven other bills were brought up for discussion at once. Chuzo Mitsuchi, Kenkyukai, chairman of the committee on the bills, reported on the proceedings so far. Junesuke Itaya, Kenkyukai, expressed approval and the bills were put to vote and passed.

Acting rapidly the House took up the Bill concerning Loans to defray 1946 47 Expenditure in the Imperial Railways Accounts or Special Communications Accounts, Bill pertaining to Bond Issue for covering Investments in the Reconstruction Finance Treasury and the Industrial Restoration Corporation and Special Smallholders Establishment Measures Special Accounts Bill. After the commiteee chairman had explained the proceedings on the bills they were put to vote and passed.

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Diet Session Ends

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the rejected and another left over.

Through the current Diet session, a line of political demarcation between the conservative and socialistic parties became increasingly clear. Moreover, various minority parties and a large number of independent Diet members are being absorbed by major parties.

Although a proposed merger of the Liberal and Progressive Parties failed to materialize during the current session, it stands to reason that the political parties are on the right way toward healthy development.

Post-Diet Political Situation

However, how the Yoshida Cabinet will deal with the post-Diet political situation is the biggest problem remaining for the future.

In particular, what kind of counter-step the Cabinet will take for the pending major problems, that is, unemployment and inflation issues, is worthy of keen attention.

MAINICHI
OCT 13 1946

114-Day Diet Ends; 97 Bills Including New Charter Passed

Cabinet Still Facing Big Problems Such As Jobless And Inflation

The 90th extraordinary session of the Diet which lasted 114 days, setting a record in Japanese Parliamentary history, was finally closed with due ceremony at the House of Peers on Saturday October 12.

His Majesty the Emperor was not present at the ceremony. At 11 a.m. the ceremony began with Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida reading the Imperial Rescript specially granted for the occasion.

Those present at the ceremony besides the Prime Minister were all the Cabinet Ministers, president and vice-president of the House of Peers, speaker and vice.speaker of the House of Representatives, and all members of both Houses.

Audience Is Granted At Akasaka Palace

His Majesty the Emperor visited the Akasaka Detached Palace on October 12, leaving the Imperial Palace at 11.45 a.m.

On arrival, His Majesty granted an audience to Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida, other Cabinet members, members of both Houses of the Diet, and various Government committee members, numbering 850 in all.

His Majesty left at 12.10 p.m. and returned to the Imperial Palace.

Great Work Accomplished

The 90th extraordinary session of the Imperial Diet which was convened in June, this year, after the general election and the subsequent formation of the Yoshida Cabinet was brought to a successful conclusion yesterday, October 12.

Prolonged four times, the term of the current Diet session lasted 114 days, the longest in Japan's parliamentary history.

Epochal Constitutional Draft

During this period, the Diet approved 97 legislative bills including the epoch-making Constitutional draft.

Of the total number of bills submitted, 55 were legislative bills presented by the Government, 12 were budget estimates, two were Imperial ordinances, 14 were drafts calling for ex post facto approval, and one was the bill introduced by Diet members.

The House of Representatives, furthermore, passed 14 resolutions out of 19, of which one was turned down and four were withdrawn, while the House of Peers adopted four resolutions.

Motion's Approved

In addition, the House of Peers gave consent to one motion and the Lower House approved 159 motions exclusive of 15 motions yet to be adopted and one rejected.

Meanwhile, 65 petitions were adopted by the House of Peers excluding one petition still left in abeyance. The Lower Chamber also took up 746 petitions, excluding 12 which were referred to the Government for reference, three withdrawn

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POLITICAL SERIES: 1371 (Continued)

ITEM 5 From the Diet (by Nakamura) - Daiichi Shimbun - 13 Oct 46. Translator: H. Kuwata.

Full Translation:

The 90th extraordinary Diet session, which established a new record for length, ended on the 11th. The closing ceremony was held on the 12th. It is to be rejoiced that all important bills, including the Constitution and the war indemnities cancellation plan, were safely passed. Now, let us look back upon the other bills that were unfortunately killed in the field of political battle in the Diet.

Unfinished: The prohibition bill for youths (House of Representatives); the farmers union bill (House of Reps); the revised bill for the silk-reel industry (House of Peers).

Withdrawn: The co-operative union bill; the revised tax bill for horse races; the fishermen's co-operative union bill; the revised bill for the horse association; the bill for the abolition of the Army and Navy penal codes.

It is very ironical that all these unsuccessful bills were presented by Diet members. In the present Diet session, among the nine bills presented by Diet members, only the local horse race bill managed to pass both Houses. The other eight bills failed to win the Diet's approval. Is it that the bills made by them are so powerless and clumsy or what? All the lobbies on the last day of the session look very busy. On the walls are various reports, railway time schedule and other notices, rendering the representatives conveniences in their private business. I saw many of them take notes busily about those matters noted on the walls. Ironically, they were all representatives who never took a note throughout the Diet session.

On this day, at the beginning of the plenary meeting, Mr IKEGAMI, Takasuke (People's Party) made an emergency proposal on the general strike. This was supported by the Progressive, Liberal, and other parties, but was opposed by the Social Democrats, who are said to be taking a special political view. This tendency of the Social Democrats has recently become quite conspicuous, suggesting the party's future trend.

Interesting was the fact that in the meeting of the representatives of the Social Democratic Party, Mr NISHIMURA, Eiichi objected to a proposal, presented by a party executive, which would have the party act in accordance with the government currency stabilization policy and elect about 10 persons to engage in enlightening the local people on the currency problem. NISHIMURA stated that it shows political inconsistency of the party that they should move to co-operate with the government in its stabilization work when the fundamental discrepancy between the currency policies of the government and the party was so obvious. Mr MIZUTANI obscured the point at issue, answering, "We see no reason to oppose the currency stabilization. It can be carried out only by our policy. Therefore, as long as the present cabinet is in power, currency will never be stabilized. It is necessary that a new cabinet under the leadership of our party should be formed." We may guess at the somewhat complicated intra-party situation from this single incident.

Autumn is far advanced. The extraordinary session is to be called on 20 November. We hope for yet greater efforts from all the representatives.

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ITEM 13 Movements Behind the Democratic Diet - Shin Yukan - 13 Oct 46.
Translator: S. Sano.

Full Translation:

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A, B, C, and D are journalists in the Diet.
A: Finally, let us talk about the activities behind scenes of the Inter-party Negotiation Committee.
B: Generally speaking, the members of the committee are selected in proportion to the numerical superiority of the parties. It seems that the reduction in the number of party members will not always affect the members of the committee. For example, three members are on the committee on the cancellation of war indemnities from the Independent Club, which does not have the required number of members fixed by the inter-party negotiation body.
A: Was it the members of the governmental parties of the Inter-party Negotiation Committee who prohibited the voice of the Communist Party?
B: At first, they intended to allow the Communist Party to participate in all the committees in view of the spirit of democracy. But becoming annoyed with the active movements of the Communists, they restricted its movement in the Diet. Therefore, it might be said that the active movements of the Communists outside the Diet have come out in the form of the general strikes recently in various circles.
A: The Diet was thrown into a great confusion in the case of the non-confidence vote of speaker HIGAI.

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A: Speaking of hecklers, how is HARA, Susumu?
B: Still heckling the same as before. However, as his heckling is strictly amiable, no trouble has occurred. The interruption caused by HARA, Kenzaburo of the Progressive Party at the vote of non-confidence of Speaker HIGAI, however, was something else again.
A: How was that?
B: Do you remember the cunning tactics resorted to by the Social Democratic Party in deliberately designing the manner of voting to consume time at the balloting held the night before the day the non-confidence vote of Speaker HIGAI was to be taken? On the following morning, however, it was decided by the Inter-party Negotiation Committee that the Social Democrats shall not resort to such means for the vote of non-confidence. Therefore, every member of the Social Democratic Party cast his vote without wasting any time. When the leaders such as KATAYAMA, Tetsu, NISHIO, Suehiro and KATO, Kanzu were casting their votes, HARA jeered: "What happened to your 'slow-motion' tactics?" Taking offense at this hooting, KATO drew close to HARA and declared: "Why did you say that when we are casting votes in this manner only because you requested us to do so? We are ready to resort to our 'slow-motion' tactics if you want to do so". This properly squelched HARA, but all members of the Social Democratic Party were offended by his hooting. When it appeared there would be another outburst of trouble, ONO, Bansei and others of the Liberals apologized to the Social Democratic Party. That was showing bad form in heckling.
A: What did you consider clever heckling?
B: When ISHIDA, Ichimatsu, the famous singer of NONKI (TN: happy-go-lucky) songs, hesitated in the middle of the dis enting speech at the general budget committee meeting because of some obscure figure in his notes, some one quipped: "You really are NONKI" (TN: careless).
A: Clever?
B: Everybody laughed, but ISHIDA seemed displeased. That, I thought was a masterpiece.
C: Who was it that made that remark?
B: I didn't ask, but it was really good. Another witty bit of heckling was heard at the plenary session. A certain state minister connected with economic affairs, in his speech, was saying: "For the stabilization of the people's livelihood 8,000,000 yen, etc.", someone loudly remarked: "The 'exaggerated 8,000,000 yen'?" (TN: "Exaggerated 8,000,000 yen" is an old saying in JAPAN). This was another clever quip.
A: Polished gibes like these are rather pleasant to hear, but nothing is more unpleasant than the heckling for heckling's sake. A certain Diet member has said that he felt ashamed when rowdy heckling happens in the Diet, especially when foreigners were present. He is absolutely right. Abusive heckling, or physical violence should

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ITEM 13 (Continued)

B: The confusion took place because the governmental parties were too eager for the solution of the problem. The parties should have made a little more effort to seek out a common meeting-point in the problem. The stubborn tactics taken by SHIIKUMA, Saburo of the Progressive Party offended the members of the non-governmental parties and independents who maintained impartial positions. SHIIKUMA is a man of strong emotions.

D: However, the pointed and passionate report made by SHIIKUMA at the Inter-party Negotiation Committee was one of the best ever made in the present Diet. Remember the time when ONO, the chief secretary of the Liberal Party, on behalf of all the factions put forth an urgent question concerning the maintenance of public order? Well, just a short time before that, SHIIKUMA gave a violent speech at the Progressive Party Diet members' meeting denouncing the high handed attitude of the Chinese and Koreans in JAPAN towards the Japanese. This speech produced a great impression upon the listeners.

B: It is because of his violent passion that he heckles so, and he once interrupted the speaker in the Diet by running up on the platform.

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A: Polished gibes like these are rather pleasant to hear, but nothing is more unpleasant than the heckling for heckling's sake. A certain Diet member has said that he felt ashamed when rowdy heckling happens in the Diet, especially when foreigners were present. He is absolutely right. Abusive heckling, or physical violence should

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not be allowed in view of the spirit of a democratic Diet. It is most desirable that the Diet members should behave in a manner befitting their position as the representatives of the people. Let us adjourn our conference here.

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ITEM 14 Looking Back Over the Extraordinary Diet by Reporter Naka - Mainichi Shimbun - 15 Oct 46. Translator: M. Yasutake.

Summary:

The 90th Diet session is worth cherishing in our memory, because it was held in a transitory period from the defeat of militarism to the restoration of democracy. Social chaos brought about by our defeat in the war was reflected in the political world. The new Constitution was brought into existence with the unstabilized political situation as its background, but it is far from warrantable to hold a pessimistic view of the future of the amended Constitution.

The Liberal Party won the position of a leading party as the result of the general election, but Mr HATOYAMA, its president was ousted from office by the political purge directive with the result that the Party was unwillingly content with its position as a governmental party of the YOSHIDA Cabinet. At first there was a strong opposition inside the Party to the assumption of the presidency by Mr YOSHIDA, but the surrounding circumstances forced the Party to have Premier YOSHIDA as its president play an important role in the political world.

The problem regarding the merger of the Liberal and the Progressive Parties was brought into the limelight several times while the Diet was in session and accompanied by various political developments. It is worth noticing that the Progressive Party took a more positive attitude than the Liberal Party toward the merger problem. Immature objective circumstances were chiefly responsible for the failure of the merger operations. Aside from the merger problem, the Liberal and the Progressive Parties must give more consideration to the management of the parties, to their policies and organization if they are to fulfil their missions as healthy, conservative parties based on democracy. Mr INUKAI of the Progressive Party indicated, in his speeches and actions, his intention to orientate his party in the above-mentioned direction, and the development of the conservative camp is one of the most important tasks assigned to the future political world. The cry raised by the young members of the two conservative parties for the democratization of their parties made the holding of a public election of their leading members inevitable. Leading members who are chiefly in charge of the mahagement of their parties should not be appointed by the designation of a president or of one absolutely influential member alone. The Liberal Party took the initiative to remedy the system along democratic lines, and this is an event of great significance in the history of the development of our political parties.

At its rally held some days ago, the Social Democratic Party set a commendable precedent by selecting the chief of its Central Executive Committee, and other managing officers in a public election. There is a cry for further democratization of the Social Democratic Party among some members, but they must remember that there is a limit to the democratization of political parties. The Social Democratic Party holds a leading position among all opposition parties, and showed fairly satisfactory activities under difficult surrounding circumstances. Mr. KATAYAMA was appointed the first chairman of the Central Executive Committee at a rally, winning 95 per cent of the total votes. The adoption of the public election system has not only strengthened the ties between managing members and party members, but given the former confidence as well. The right wing of the Party which is formed of practical politicians proved victorious in the election and what course the Party will take in the future deserves our attention.

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The Co-operative Democratic Party failed in the merger with the SHINSEI-KAI with the only result that it dismissed the KITA brothers from its membership. The SHINSEI-KAI developed into the People's Party and there are only a few Independents left at present. It is still too early to predict the future of the Co-operative Democratic Party and the People's Party, but it is likely that they will be amalgamated into major parties. Small parties with no definite principles are always short-lived.

There is a rumor that a coalition Cabinet of the Liberal, the Progressive, and the Social Democratic Parties will be formed after the adjournment of the Diet, but judging from the present political situation, no possibility is recognized of the formation of a coalition Cabinet. There is an opinion that the Social Democratic Party should form a Cabinet of its own after the resignation of the YOSHIDA Cabinet, if it wants to carry out its policies. Coalitionists of the Social Democratic Party who belong to the right wing of the Party are all practical politicians. They know the time to go forward and the time to retreat, and there is every reason to believe that they know their party is faced with a crisis at present.

ITEM 15 Self-Criticism of Each Political Party - Part 1 - Mainichi Shimbun - 15 Oct 46. Translator: K. Murakami.

Full Translation:

The political parties had to face the extraordinary Diet session soon after the last general elections when their systems and party combinations were still poor and immature. Now, what has each political party learned from its experiences during this session? Or, to what extent has it grown up through these experiences? The session is over, and the leaders of the five big political parties, Liberal, Progressive, Social-Democrat, Co-operative-Democratic, and Communist Parties, make these critical comments on their own parties:

Liberal Party: Mr. YAMAMOTO, Katsuichi, vice-chairman of the Political Investigation Committee: "Main problems taken up during this session concerned the revision of the Constitution, readjustment of the agrarian system, bills relative to the cancellation of war indemnities, enactment of the Labor Readjustment Law and the establishment of the Commercial and Industrial Co-operative Union. All these things seem, at first sight, so socialistic that we wonder if we'll have a controlled economy. However, it is my impression that the Japanese economy is tending steadily towards liberalism. At the same time, however, I could not help feeling that we also have a great self-contradiction within us, over which we should deeply reflect. Now, let me look back upon this session in relation to these two kinds of impressions.

1. "The democratization of the Diet is not yet complete. As far as the Diet is concerned, democratization is still a word. For instance, both the Diet and the political parties were managed by a minority of "boss" politicians. Any party decision was also made on the authority of a few at the top, although even among our party members there are those who strongly oppose such an undesirable tendency. This we see in the revision of the party regulations. The new system will have the executive staff selected by means of public election.

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ITEM 6 Several Review of Current Diet Session - Asahi Shimbun - 14 Oct 46.
Translator: T. Kitayama.

Summary:

The Diet session opened at a time when the worst period of the food crisis was threatening to set in and closed at a time when the people were beginning to congratulate themselves on the abundant autumn harvest of rice. The Government authorities had been confronted with great dif-

the release of additional food for July, thereby giving not a little sense of relief to the people in general.

As expected, the Constitution and the food problem constituted the two major problems of the present Diet session and discussions on the latter were quite active at the beginning of the session. In the course of his interpellation, HIRANO, Rikizo of the Social Democratic Party, on the Premier's opening address, made an inquiry as to the nationalization problem of fertilizers. The Agriculture Minister created a new problem when he answered that he would place fertilizers under State supervision and establish an organization to investigate in nationalization problem. The ex post facto approval bill of the food emergency measure, which included regulations for exercising coercive authority for food delivery, was so hotly discussed that it took nearly two months to pass the House of Representatives. In short, the food problem was the center of criticism on the bureaucratic control of foodstuff.

Many of the representatives made interpellations on the food problem, but most of them dealt with the problem, some from the producers' side and others from the consumers' side, but all independent of each other. Very few of them were fully conscious of the relations between supply and demand, and of the best means of compromise for overcoming the food crisis. While the representatives were perplexed as to how the complicated food problem could be met, the solution came in the form of aid from MacARTHUR's Headquarters.

By the end of September, about 650,000 tons of imported food had been released, and there was no delay or absence of food distribution as there had been in May and June; thus, setting the mind of the people at ease. To add to this happy news, the weather was fine and warm enough to increase the certainty that there would be rich agricultural harvest throughout the country. In the latterhalf of the Diet session, the food problem was not discussed as heatedly as before, and the importance of the bill for the State supervision of fertilizers subsided. In order to tide over the food crisis, a joint food measures committee of all parties was established in the House of Representatives. At first, the committeemen were discussing the price of rice for the new rice year, but eventually its function turned to not more than referring to the opinions of the authorities of the Agricultural Ministry and the Commodity Price Board or facilitating the liaison between the Government and the Diet. As we came to depend directly upon the occupation policies of the Allied Nations for our food, our food policy has come to be established upon a scientific basis, so that it could easily be understood by Allied personnel. The output of rice for the new rice year is estimated by the Agricultural authorities at less than 58,000,000 KOKU. From the viewpoint of fine weather, increase in labor power and productive will, this apparent scarcity of rice production is to be attributed to the conservative reports of the rice producers. There is a loud clamor among the people, and especially among the consumers, for the publication of reasons for this great under-estimation of rice output. Why is it that there was no cry heard in the Diet, asking for a scientific investigateing into the matter and for the publication of accurate figures on this year's rice production?

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ficulties in bringing relief rice from producing districts to consuming centers for alleviating the food crisis; when, on the 22nd of June, immediately after the opening of the 90th session of the Diet, permission to release 22,000 tons of imported flour was issued by the Supreme Command of the Allied Powers. This was the first normal release of imported food by SCAP. Following this, Agriculture Minister WADA declared that he would request the Allied authorities for the release of additional food for July, thereby giving not a little sense of relief to the people in general.

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The new food year commences with November, and yet the problems of the delivery of new rice, the price of rice for distribution and the increase in principal foods have only been roughly settled. This year we have been favored with fine weather and supply for the next food year is expected to be greatly improved. But, we must also depend upon imported food for our existence. We must depend upon improvement in equipment and increase in coal production for the production of fertilizers necessary for greater output of rice next year. Moreover, will materials for agricultural use and industrial products for the use of farmers' livelihood be sufficiently increased next year? When we take these matters into consideration, we must not rest satisfied even with the increased output of rice this autumn.

ITEM 7 Comments on the Women Diet Members - Daiichi Shimbun - 14 Oct 46. Translator: C. Akashi.

Full Translation:

IMAI, Hatsu (49 years old), Liberal from FUKUI; 50 points. Although the passionate, enthusiastic attitude of this woman Diet member is appreciated, she is still far from a perfect legislator. Earnest as she is, she remains on a low level as a Diet member.

MIKI, Kiyoko (28 years old), "True Independent" from OSAKA: Difficult to state definitely her point value. She is a 28-year-old beautiful Diet member whose love affair with a certain Diet member has become the talk of the Diet. She, having got sick of the Independent Club, applied to the Communist Party for membership, but was rejected. Then, she attempted to join the diametrically opposed Liberal Party, but she was flatly refused again. She is now the Independent in the true sense of the word, as she cannot return to her former club. We don't know whether it is due to the love affair or not that no party has cared for this lonely legislator. It is very difficult to give her definite points as a legislator because of her ill-famed conduct in the Diet.

A51

HONDA, Hanako (38 years old), Liberal from OSAKA: 50 points This close-mouthed Diet member is moderate in all things and very seldom causes trouble. We can neither praise nor dispraise her as a legislator. She has been given 50 points.

TOMITA, Fusa (54 years old), Liberal from KYOTO: 65 points She is too delicate to take part in a complicated political campaign conducted openly or behind the scenes. If she can overcome this weak point, she may become a parfect Diet member. She is a good woman doctor as well as an affectionate mother rather than a politician.

KIMURA, Chiyo (57 years old), Liberal from KYOTO: 70 points We cannot recommend her as an ideal politician, but she has plenty of common sense and also has the makings of a politician. She rates as one of the average women Diet members with 70 points.

TAKEDA, Kiyo (51 years old), Liberal from HIROSHIMA: 80 points. Her speeches are often criticized as being too long. She, as a member of the Constitutional commitee, pressed the Government hard, interpellating, "In view of the equality of the sexes, which parent's right should be regarded as having more authority, the paternal right or maternal?" and thus attracted the attention of the other Diet members. She may be charged with her way of overdoing everything. But the Liberal Party is regarding her as an able woman member and expecting much of her.

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ITEM 3 Two Representatives Comment On Diet - Tokyo Times - 13 Oct 45.
Translator: K. Yasutake.

Full Translation:

The 90th Extraordinary Session of the Diet, whose constructive work for the rise of a new JAPAN had been keenly watched by all the nation, was closed on 12 October. Extended four times, the session ran along the democratic highway for 114 days. Headed by the revised constitution bill, it has passed many other important bills which will develop a new phase in the political, economic and cultural fields of this country. More than 460 Diet members, of both sexes, have seen through their first democratic session of the Diet. They have shed the primer of democratic science which they, whether newcomers or old-timers, have borne on their shoulders for these past four months, and now are fieling relief. The editor chose two new Diet members, male and female, of unique character, and learned what they are thinking at the present moment:
YAMAGUCHI, Shizue, (Socialist) - "I entered the Social Democratic Party because I sympathized with its ideology. What I was concerned about most was, to what degree could this ideology be reflected on the House after all. I presume, we have happily been successful to some degree, so that I am fully convinced I was right in entering this party.

You ask me what has impressed me the most in my first attendance at the Diet, but I know nothing about the old order of the House. I had visited the old Diet in session two or three times. That was the most I know of it. But senior members say that the house has become refined with the entrance of women members. I think they mean by this that our barbarous habits have become civilized. But, it seems to me that there remains much to be done for a real democratic House. As Master OZAKI says, the construction of the House itself is too old fashioned. I cannot agree with such a construction that enables a discussion to go on with the Government Committee looking down upon the Diet members from a high place. It is absurd that the Government should introduce any measures which they had prepared as they like and ask our discussion on them. Some Diet members are experts in their own fields. Let them join the Government Committee in laying down and deliberating a measure before hand and then submit it to the House to be approved. I think this is the most reasonable way.

A03

Are you asking about the lady Diet members? The press is always too cruel in their treatment of them. From what I have observed, they are all earnest and thoughtful. Their percentage of attendance is very good. They know they are keenly watched with a critical eye and are therefore careful in their actions, lest they should disappoint the nation. They are studying well, too, though I do not know of those in other parties. I am following their good example. The woman problem of new JAPAN has legally been solved. The Women have been emancipated on the principle of equal rights for men and women. Thus, the first step in the female situation and direction has been gained. Lady Diet members will, hereafter, begin their campaign of enlightenment all over JAPAN. They must first be cut off from the old customs like true democratic women. At present, our women are far below the level of men because of traditions and education. I am going to study hard and have a large visual field to render what service I can to our women, whose number occupies one half of this nation. Such is my present frame of mind. From this motive I shall read over again all the stenographic records of the Diet in order to review, until the next session of the Diet opens. I think it will educate me. I am scheduling a tour throughout JAPAN to grasp its actual state."
ISHIDA, Ichimatsu,(KOKUMINTO) says: "Like one in a delirium, I was elected a Diet member, attended it, and somehow managed to get through my first session of the Diet. The session might have looked worthless to the nation, but it really taught me many things. Quite different

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from singing MONKI-BUSHI on a stage and attracting audiences (TN: This man is well-known for his MONKI song), the duties in the Diet are the most difficult. I organized, with 32 Diet members who are in perfect agreement with me in their political opinion, the KOKUMINTO, on 25 September, and a grand program is scheduled for us. (TN: This man uses big words out of humor.) To express briefly the idea of the reason why we formed the KOKUMINTO, it is centered on the realization of a humanistic and socialistic society. It may sound mediocre, but what our comrades want, is to carry out peacefully a social revolution based on humanism. I am now the propaganda agent in my party. I will do my best in the House upon this principle, and outside the House, with my MONKI-BUSHI, which is my speciality, for the establishment of a moral and social society. I shall propagate my idea of reason, working for my bread on the entertainment stage. This shall be my privilege."

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ITEM 10 The 90th Extraordinary Diet Session Ends - Mainichi Shimbun - 12 Oct 46. Translator: H. Naoji.

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Full Translation:

After an unprecedented term of 114 days, the 90th extraordinary Diet session ended on 11 October, and the closing ceremony will be held today, the 12th. Besides the important duty of discussing the revision draft of the Constitution, many other important bills, such as the bills for the cancellation of war indemnities, the Farmland System Reform Bill, the Local System Reform Bill, the Labor Relations Adjustment Bill and the Emergency Material Supply and Demand Adjustment Bill, were introduced to the Diet. Though some were somewhat revised, nearly all of them were approved. Thus, for the first time, since the end of the war, there will appear various bills which are to be the basis for the reconstruction of our country.

The opposition between the conservative parties and the socialistic parties became more evident during the Diet session. The scope of influence of the political parties has become quite clear with the minor political parties and independents being absorbed in the major parties. However, there still remain many problems, with the amalgamation of the Progressive and the Liberal Parties at the top of the list. During this Diet session, the political parties grew, though slowly. It is believed that by the time the extraordinary session of the Diet is convened in the latter part of November, these parties will show some improvement.

The Government had to extend the Diet session as many as four times due to the difficulties which arose in deciding the method of introducing various important bills. At any rate, the Government managed to complete the long drawn out Diet session without any undue trouble. The Government is being watched on how it will manage the political situation after the session and how it will handle the two most important problems of unemployment and inflation. The total number of bills which were introduced by the Government and the Diet members was 106. Out of these, five were withdrawn and four remained unfinished. The other 97 were approved. The bills approved are as follows:

Bills introduced by the Government:

1	Constitution
55	laws and ordinances
12	budget bills
2	Imperial ordinances
14	ex post facto Imperial ordinances
14	ex post facto bills

Bill introduced by the Diet:

1	law bill

The House of Peers approved four resolutions while the House of Representatives approved 14, rejected one and withdrew four. The House of Peers approved one motion while the House of Representatives approved 159, withdrew one and has 15 left unfinished. As far as petitions are concerned, the House of Peers adopted 65 and has 11 left unfinished. The House of Representatives adopted 746, referred 129 for reference to the Government, withdrew three, rejected one and has one left unfinished.

The closing ceremony of the 90th extraordinary Diet session will be held, on 12 October at 1100 hours, in the House of Peers. Later, the members of both Houses and the cabinet members will gather at 1140 hours, at the AKASAKA Detached Palace, and be granted an audience by his Majesty, the Emperor, at 1200 hours. At 1300 hours they will attend a luncheon party, sponsored by the Premier at his official residence.

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ITEM 8 Economic Reconstruction - Asahi Shimbun - 12 Oct 46. Translator: K. Murakami.

Full Translation:

Several bills concerning economic readjustment, which had been ignored during the enthusiastic Constitutional deliberations, were passed by the Lower House as soon as they were presented. In spite of the Social Democratic Party's view that the bills should have been more carefully deliberated, since they entail the future of Japanese economic rehabilitation, they, headed by the cancellation of war indemnity bill, were approved by a forcible majority. As for the budget, provisional budget and additional budget passed this Diet session, and the total revenue and expenditure amounted approximately to one hundred and twenty billion yen, greater than the war-time budgets.

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ITEM 8 (Continued)

The focus of the debates on economic reconstruction and the budget was the inflation problem. The Social Democratic Party opposed these bills on the ground that the first aim of the property tax bill changed into appropriating for State revenue, and that the Government has no proper inflation policy fit to meet this new situation. "JAPAN's economic condition today", Finance Minister ISHIBASHI, at one time stated, "being based on only partial employment, is not inflation in the sense of KEYNES's theory, that true inflation is caused when excess currency is still issued even after there is full employment. Today there is deflation. Therefore, we must adopt an inflation policy". Later, ISHIBASHI repeatedly emphasized, "As the figures in red ink can be made good with the income of the property tax, the finance in this fiscal year will be sound. Difficulties are left rather to the next year".

Concerning the disposal of national bonds for war-time deficit, which was the key problem of the financial discussions, held during this session of the Diet, some person questioned Mr ISHIBASHI, "Since fictitious capital is to be cancelled, why doesn't the Government suspend the payment of war loans?" To this, the Finance Minister firmly kept to his opinion that the cancellation of the whole national loan, 90 per cent of which was with the banking organs, would inflict a loss upon the general depositors. To this answer, the interpellator, who should have inquired further as to the actual classification of the accounts or the amount of deposited money and whether it was really the "general" depositors who would suffer a loss by the suspension of payment of war loans, did not do so. Of the various questions on economic matters, those by Messrs SUZUKI, Mosaburo and MIZUTANI, Chozaburo, were prominent. At the outset of the plenary budget session, Mr MIZUTANI, in his scathing interpellation to the Finance Minister, asserted, "By such measures, the Government is plotting to protect the profits of the capital class at the sacrifice of the general masses". To this, Finance Minister ISHIBASHI only said, "We never think so", using the same manner as when he answered the Communists' interpellations. At a meeting of the Committee for War Indemnities, conducted at the latter part of this session, Mr INAMURA, Junzo, after prefacing, "Although I'm on a different standpoint....", expressed his opinion on the value of labor. Only through these immaterial opinions, we saw a difference of standpoint between socialism and new capitalism. This was a noticeable tendency, with the late opposition of ideology between the Liberal and Progressive Parties and the Social Democratic Party on the theory of economic liberalism by Mr YAMAMOTO, Katsuichi.

The quarrel on State management of such things as coal-mining and banking, held between the opposing Commerce and Finance Ministers and the Social Democratic Party, was nothing but a more repetition of ideology which has no substantial content. On the other hand, isn't it to be taken as an illustration of the delicate relations between the Government and political parties, that the Government, which, at first, barred party members from membership in the Banking Rehabilitation Committee or the Banking Rehabilitation Treasury, with a view to maintaining the neutrality of banking organs, later changed its policy and admitted any member of both Houses, whereupon even the Social Democratic Party seemed in favor of the opening of this door?

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As to the criterion of revaluation, which is the key for carrying out the adjustment of enterprises, Finance Minister ISHIBASHI clarified his attitude, stating, "In the first place, we must take into consideration JAPAN's economic rehabilitation, headed by the re-opening of foreign trade. From this point of view, the equal bearing of credits and liabilities is rather a secondary question". By this statement, he suggested that the appraisal of assets will be elastic but not so lenient.

Concerning unemployment following the adjustment of enterprises, President ZEN of the Economic Stabilization Board, in answer to the contention of the Social Democratic Party to increase the workers

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ITEM 8 (Continued)

per unit of apparatus, expressed the attitude of the Government, saying, "If we are to make the condition of enterprises sound by cancelling the over-swollen capitals, it is inevitable that the adjustment of enterprises would result in some unemployment". By this statement, too, it was not made clear to what extent the industry of this country, which cannot afford to enforce the low-price policy, can cope with other nations on the assumption that questions, such as economic blockade and over-population, are not solved.

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Despite the fact that the Finance Minister repeatedly emphasized, "Whoever the Finance Minister may be, I believe, that currencies will never be freezed again", there were a lot of questions voicing anxiety over the re-blocking of the "new yen" currencies. Mr HASHIMOTO, Tatsujiro, member of the War Indemnities Committee of the House of Peers, analyzing the mental attitude of the "New yen hunters", stated, "The reason why they conceal their new yen notes is not that they trust the new yen but that they fear possible taxation upon them." Finance Minister ISHIBASHI, illustrating the relation between the issue of currencies and the rise in prices by using a graph, asserted that the increased issue of currencies was not always the criterion of inflation. Yet, admitting that hoarded new yen currencies would become a purchasing power in action at any time from a certain, psychological motive, he suggested the intention of the Government toward the all-new yen policy if it succeeds in a national movement to absorb deposit and savings, which the Government is planning in response to a resolution on the stabilization of currencies proposed jointly by the various parties including the Social Democratic Party.

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In the collection of property tax, the success of the adjustment of enterprises and banking organs and the revaluation of assets depends on the results in the latter half of the year. More expenditures will be added to the additional budget. The present upward trend in the issue of currencies will not change for the time being also. This, even ISHIBASHI admitted.

There are still various difficult questions left undecided, such as the reparations and overseas assets. ISHIBASHI said that difficulties are left for the next year, Yet, sorry to say, even ISHIBASHI himself seemed not to have enough data to convince the Diet of the prospect for the next fiscal year.

ITEM 9 Impression of the Current Diet By Women Members - Mainichi Shimbun - 12 Oct 46. Translator: F. Noda.

Full Translation:

What did the 39 women Diet members, who attended the democratic Diet, learn during the 114-day session? The following is their impression of the Diet as expressed on the closing day.

MOGAMI, Hideko of the Progressive Party: "From now on I intend to make a special study of the relations between control and distribution. Through this session, I became fond of politics".

TAKEDA, Kiyo of the Liberal Party: "Through the current session, I learned how separated women had been from actually being a citizen. I acquired the confidence to see through this great social change as a Diet member. I have learned that women are having an influence in politics greater than I had imagined."

NIIZUMA, Ito of the Social Democratic Party: "State Minister without portfolio UEMURA said that politics aims at perfecting national unity. That is what I learned from the current session. For instance, the recent frequent outbreaks of general strikes is not attributed to insufficient administration and to the country's defeat, but rather to the lack of administrative power necessary to put the whole nation in harmony. The same situation prevails in the food problem. The reconstruction of JAPAN cannot be achieved without solving these matters".

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ITEM 2 Record Making Democratic Diet - Asahi Shimbun - 12 Oct 46. Translator: M. Ota.

Summary:

Since the installation ceremony was held on 20 June, the 90th extraordinary session of the Diet had been extended four times and only recently the longest session in our parliamentary history was closed on 12 October. A remarkable characteristic of this democratic session of the Diet is the appearance of women Diet members and Communist Diet members. The Communists were very quiet; they did not

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heckle nor use violence contrary to our expectations. This is because most of the Diet members are freshmen and because the women Diet members were keeping a sharp watch over them. Another topic of this Diet session was the use of a bell. Speaker of the House of Representatives, HIGAI, one of the freshmen Diet members, used a bell at the plenary sessions since it was used by the late Speaker MOTODA, Hajime. During these 114 days, plenary sessions were held 56 times, breaking the existing record. The total number of public visitors amounted to 33,410 by 10 October. That means that an average of 596 persons visited the Diet sessions every day. This average is less than that of visitors who attended the 80th extraordinary session of the Diet (976 visitors a day). About one-fifth of the total were women. Although women enjoy equal rights with men there was no marked increase in women visitors.

From the beginning of this session, the Diet members were not able to eat unless they brought rice or rice tickets to the restaurant in the Diet building. Therefore, at the restaurant, between 200 and 250 Diet members took their meals everyday in exchange for rice tickets, while only 20 or 30 members took their meals in exchange for a certain amount of rice. Consequently, the amount sold by this restaurant was only 4,000 or 5,000 yen a day in view of the present high cost of living.

Those Diet members who came to TOKYO in their summer clothes had to go back to their homes in order to change clothes and to bring foodstuffs because of the long extended sessions. There were 252 written items including 80 telegrams introduced to the Diet by 7 October. Naturally, there were many requests for an increased distribution of staple foods. They were almost equal to the demands for building railways or providing new stations. However, it is not to the credit of the Diet that the bitter demand for an increase in food caused the rice distribution to be increased to 0.96 pints (3 Go).

Propositions amounted to 175, and 15 of them were not discussed. There were 746 written petitions introduced to the Diet. Contents of these petitions were much the same as the representations. A motion on the Government's policy against the collapse of the moral sense of women revealed the real situation in the defeated country. The Government's 56 bills including the epochal draft of the revised Constitution passed both Houses and the Provincial Horse Race bill introduced by the Diet members was also approved.

The Government's bill on the motor-car transportation enterprise was not discussed during this session. Twelve budget bills, 14 Imperial ordinance bills which demanded ex post facto approval, and 12 reserve fund bills respectively passed the Diet.

The closing ceremony of the 90th special session was held on 12 October as the cool autumn winds blew over the ruins as the result of the raids by B-29's.

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ITEM 4 Review of the Democratic Diet - Nippon Keizai Shimbun - 8 Oct 46.
Translator: K. Higashikawa.

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Summary:

The 90th extraordinary session of the Diet, which recently passed the revised Constitution after a sitting of more than 100 days, is now drawing to a close. At this juncture, let us see if the present session has left traces worthy of democracy, for it was supposedly a symbol of some.

With the closing of the present Diet session close at hand, there is a strong impression among journalists and the general public that the Diet has not lived up to expectations, that the discussions were on a low plane, and that democracy is still to be attained. The reasons for this impression may be traced, first, to the fact that first-class representatives were replaced by tyros, due to the "purge" directive and that, therefore, they were of inferior quality; second, to the fact that representatives were not armed with accurate political or economic data, since they were not in responsible positions during the war, and since there was only a short interval between the general election and the convocation of the Diet, they did not have sufficient time to make studies; third, to the fact that most of the women representatives were elected by women voters, simply because the candidates were of the same sex and women representatives are lacking in knowledge of state affairs. However, since the political, economic, and social structures of our country have not as yet been consolidated, extreme care must be exercised in measuring the Diet with the same yardstick that was used in the days of unshackled party politics.

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POLITICAL SERIES: 1354

ITEM 1 New Constitution Accepted by Nation - Mainichi Shimbun - 8 Oct 46. Translator: K. Yasutake.

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Full Translation:

At the 7 October plenary session of the House of Representatives YAMAZAKI, Speaker of the House, read the Imperial rescript ordering the extension of the current session of the Diet four more days. Then the House at once began deliberating on the amended draft of the Constitution which was sent back by the House of Peers. Speaker YAMAZAKI proposed, "Will each member who supports the bill amended by the House of Peers rise?" Thereupon, everyone but four Communists, TAKAMURA, HOZAKA, NAKANISHI, and KAWASAWA, and one Independent, HOSOZAKO, Kanemitsu, stood up. Thus, the bill was passed by an overwhelming majority of 342 to 5. It was a historic moment, the acceptance of a new Constitution by the Nation. Subsequently, Prime Minister YOSHIDA took the floor and thanked all the House members for their long and difficult task of deliberation.

ITEM 2 Extraordinary Session of Diet to Convene - Tokyo Shimbun - 8 Oct 46. Translator: K. Yasutake.

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Full Translation:

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The present session of the Diet, which was called upon to revise the Constitution in order to establish democracy in JAPAN, by keeping in close touch with the United Nations and to take measures to rescue the people from their present state of poverty and hunger, originally planned to last 40 days. After 110 days, however, it was found necessary to prolong the session a fourth time. This is the longest Diet session since the adoption of the parliamentary system in this country. The first session held in 1891-92, lasted 99 days, and it was the longest until now.

The present session deliberated on the Constitution Bill, 56 legal bills, two Imperial Ordinances, 14 ex post facto bills, 12 budget bills, 12 ex post facto bills for appropriations from reserve funds, and nine bills presented by the representatives, making a total of 106 bills. Of these, 81 have already been passed, with practically all the rest expected to be passed shortly. These bills include many important political, economic and social pieces of legislation.

Premier YOSHIDA declined several times to become the president of the Liberal Party on the ground that he was a poor speech-maker. To him, the Diet was what the entrance examination of a school is to a child. Accordingly, he tried to eliminate the necessity of making speeches in the Diet as much as possible. He induced KITA, Gingo, liberal, to forego interpellations regarding the administrative speech of the Premier. The Premier also succeeded in inducing INUKAI, Ken, Progressive, to forego his interpellations. The administrative speech of the Premier lasted only nine minutes. In almost all cases in the past, the administrative speeches of Premiers contained the policies of the various ministries, but YOSHIDA's did not. The miserable speech of the Premier was relentlessly countered by KATAYAMA, Tetsu, a Social Democrat. The younger liberals and progressives who were disgruntled by the fact that KITA and INUKAI were gagged, heckled and catcalled in the Diet, by way of satisfying their pent-up dissatisfaction. This has led to a free-for-all from the first day of the democratic session of the Diet.

On the second day, Agriculture and Forestry Minister WADA declared, "I agree with the State management of the fertilizer industry as an ideology." Liberals and Progressives cried that WADA was a bolshevik minister with policies opposing those of the Government parties. At the earlier stage of the Diet, the bond between the Government and the government parties was so thin that it was easy for the opposition parties to deal a heavy blow to the Government. However, they turned out to be very tame.

Intrigues of the Social Democratic Party and the Communist Party.

The fact that the Communist Party has sent five representatives to the Diet, as a lawful political party, forms a brilliant page in the history of the proletarian movement in JAPAN. However, the maiden interpellative speech of TOKUDA, Kyuichi, although covering a wide range of topics, was not so brilliant as to be called historic. NOZAKA, Sanzo's speech on the Constitution was not clever enough to show his determination to deal a "coup de grace" to the Government.

Within the Social Democratic Party, the biggest opposition group, the influence of the rightist elements, including NISHIO, SUEHIRO, and HIRANO, Rikizo, had its say, and the party sincerely compromised with the Liberal and Progressive Parties regarding difficulties that arose among the three parties. Throughout the Diet, the policies of the Social Democratic Party were decidedly rightist.

At a meeting of the Central Standing Executive Committee held on 14 July, the Social Democratic Party decided to deny to the Communist Party participation in the League for National Salvation. At the

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national convention of the party held a few days ago, KATAYAMA, Tetsu, the new president of the party, declared, "The party will walk the middle road of socialism without turning to the right or the left." NISHIO, the new secretary-general of the party said, "Now is the offensive period of democratic forces, and we are assuming the offensive." He added, "Regarding the coalition cabinet problem, I interpret it to mean wrestling with the conservative party on the ring called 'Cabinet'". These words have deep meaning, and the Social Democratic Party seems to be awaiting an opportune moment.

Negotiations for the Merger of Liberals and Progressives

The dim hopes for the return of HATOYAMA, KONO, and MIKI to political circles were lessened due to SCAP's directive banning political activity by the "purged", issued on 19 August. On the other hand, Premier YOSHIDA became accustomed to his work in the Diet, and his replies in the Diet were getting better as the session drew to a close. These two factors served not only to stabilize the Premier's position within his party, but also to stabilize the political situation. A merger of the Liberal and Progressive Parties - the desire of both SHIDEHARA and YOSHIDA - has been discussed seriously. At the end of August, backstage movements became active, with Welfare Minister KAWAI and TSUJI, Karoku, having frequent conversation. The leaders of both parties are now agreeable to the fusion, but some opposition is still smouldering among the rank and file. INUKAI, progressive, is about the only leader who is critical of the merger.

YAMAMOTO, Sanehiko, president of the Co-operative Democratic Party, prior to the opening of the Diet manouvered for sponsoring a MATSUDAIRA, Tsuneo (TN: Imperial Household Minister during wartime) Cabinet, but this plan was rejected by SHIDEHARA. Having a treasure in the form of the KAIZO SHA (TN: monthly review publishing company), YAMAMOTO attempted a coalition of the Co-operative Democratic Party and SHINSEI TO (New Political Party), but the plan failed. Later, the Liberal Party approached YAMAMOTO regarding a merger with the Co-operative Democratic Party. On the other hand, with the understanding of YAMAMOTO, some of his men are carrying on negotiations with the Progressive Party for a merger. To use the words of KITA, Katsutaro, who left the Co-operative Democratic Party, this party is trying as a fledgling, to become full-fledged.

Immediately following the general election in April, the Liberal Party had 140 seats; the Progressives 94; the Social Democrats 92; the Co-operative Democrats 14; the Communists 5; minor parties 38; and independents 81. Now the Liberal Party has 148 seats; the Progressives 110; Social Democrats 100; the Co-operative Democrats 45; National Party 33; Communist Party 6; the Independent Club 23; and pure independents 5. From this it can be easily seen that independents are busy trying to infiltrate into the larger parties.

Rumors of Cabinet Changes and Reshuffling of Cabinet Members

Cabinet changes are closely related to the Diet session. Since the present Cabinet is like a mosaic work, and since Premier YOSHIDA was not self-confident at the beginning of the present session of the Diet, a rumor to the effect that the present Cabinet would not be able to "steer the ship of the Cabinet safely through the Diet storm" was extent. The reason was that the YOSHIDA Cabinet would not be able to carry out successfully the economic "surgical operation" desired

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by SCAP, due to the political character of the Cabinet. This rumor became persistent as the presentation of the revised budget for the fiscal year 1946-47 was delayed.

Since the YOSHIDA Cabinet came into being for the explicit purpose of revising the Constitution and of overcoming the food crisis, it could not have a consistent policy. The Premier's statement that the Government would pursue policies without being enslaved by "isms" or political ideologies only goes to show that the Government is without a policy. Therefore, as the deliberation on the Constitution reached a climax, the economic ministers became an issue. Ironically enough, as the confidence of the Premier in himself became stronger and his desire to hold on to the reins of power increased, the necessity to strengthen his Cabinet increased. The Agriculture and Forestry Minister, the Finance Minister, and the president of the Economic Stabilization Board were at loggerheads on the question of rice. It became difficult for the Economic Stabilization Board, which is actually the planning board of the present Cabinet, to maintain close liaison with the various ministries. State management of the coal industry, inflation, and unemployment are all problems which may throw out any one of the Cabinet members, The position of Finance Minister ISHIBASHI looked especially shaky.

It is now reported that the YOSHIDA Cabinet has decided to remain in office until the Peace Conference is held next year. However, since economic circles now require a "camphor injection", and since the labor offensive has switched from pink to red, unless the YOSHIDA Cabinet adopts some progressive economic policies and draws some socialistic elements into the Cabinet, it will be very difficult for the Cabinet to steer safely through the autumn storm.

(By MUTO, Naoyoshi, staff writer.)

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ITEM 11 Government Party Avoids Debate Upon Bills - Daiichi Shimbun - 8 Oct 46. Translator: N. Miwa.

Full Translation:

Each of the two Houses held a plenary session on 6 October regardless of the fact that it was Sunday. In the House of Peers, the Constitution Revision Bill has reached its final stage and in the House of Representatives, the War Indemnities Special Measure Bill and eight other bills are also being concluded.

At the plenary session of the House of Peers, both MITSUCHI, Chuzo and MATSUMOTO, Gaku, supported the Constitution Revision Bill. MITSUCHI was of the opinion that the national polity would not be changed even though the Constitution was amended. On the other hand, MATSUMOTO was of the opinion that the control of sovereignty was not a trait of national organization but a trait of administrative organization and therefore the popular sovereignty would not mean the changing of the national polity. MATSUMOTO reached a conclusion that the national polity would not be changed juridically or philosophically because the revised Constitution clarified the spirit of a limited monarchy.

At the afternoon plenary session in the House of Peers, two measures for amending the Constitution Revision Bill were presented by TAKAYANAGI, Kenzo, MAKINO, Eiichi and others. However, the two measures were rejected by open votes. State Minister KANAMORI rose from his seat to cast his vote. Thus, the Constitution Revision Bill amended by its committee meeting was presented and passed the House of Peers with the approval of two-thirds of the members. Thereupon the Constitution Revision Bill was given to the House of Representatives.

The plenary session of the Lower House carried out debates upon the War Indemnities Special Measures Bill. NAKAZAKI, Toshi, Social Democrat, and NAKANISHI, Inosuke, Communist, supported nine bills including the War Indemnities Special Measure Bill. On the other hand, HOZUMI, Hichiro, member of the Democratic People's Party (KYOMINTO), and AKITA, Daisuke, Cooperative Democrat, opposed the nine bills. It is said that the Liberal and Progressive Parties did not participate in the debates upon the nine bills because they, as the Government party, had completed the questions on the bills in the war indemnities committee meeting. If it is true that the Liberal and Progressive Parties are the Government party, why did they participate in the debates upon the bills in the plenary session?

A storm of applause from the seats of the Liberal and Progressive Parties arose the moment HOZUMI said, "We should carry the revised Constitution into execution!" However, with the passing away of the applause there seemed to be a feeling of loneliness.

ITEM 12 Gubernatorial Meeting to be convened Shortly - Jiji Shimpo - 11 Oct 46. Translator: J. Weiller.

Full Translation:

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The 90th Extraordinary Session of the Diet will be brought to a close on 12 October. In order to enforce the various laws which were approved by the Diet and also to disseminate the import of the various pledges that the Government has made during the Diet session, it has been decided that a gubernatorial conference will be convened on the 28 or 29th this month. The formal decision is to be made at the regular Cabinet meeting on 11 October. The conference is to last two days, and the agenda will be mainly expounding on the purports of the bills recently passed by the Diet; but in view of the so-called labor offensive now prevalent, the Government also intends discuss certain countermeasures based on its own view of the situation and to make clear the attitude it will take in dealing with labor disputes. A vigorous discussion will probably take place in the coming conference.

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ITEM 2 Change in Post-Diet Political Situation Expected - Yomiuri Shimbun - 10 Oct 46. Translator: J. Wada.

Summary:

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A change in the political situation, to cope with the new conditions which will arise after the close of the Diet session, is strongly advocated in many circles. Premier YOSHIDA, who has been seriously considering this problem, by studying the political and economic moves suggested during the present session, and by sounding the opinions of the political parties and official circles, seems to have reached such a conclusion.

The acceleration of the labor offensive, which was brought about by the projected industrial reorganization and the increased social unrest, due to aggravation of inflation, is pressing the Government to change its policies. Particularly, the recent general strikes, which had political motives rather than economic ones, have increased the necessity for a change of Government's policies. Furthermore, the enforcement of the important measures will necessitate the strengthening of party politics. In this connection, the opposition parties, which have played only negative parts in the formulation of policies, because of the peculiar conditions of the "occupation", will play very active parts in the execution of these policies. The relation between the Government and the opposition parties will be far different from that in existence during the Diet session.

For the successful execution of the economic reconstruction measures, the co-operation of the working classes is absolutely necessary. Therefore, a coalition with the Social Democratic Party, and the adoption of socialistic policies are advocated. The Premier seems to be willing to abandon his conservatism and to strengthen the political power of the Cabinet. Naturally, the proposal for the merger of the Liberal and Progressive parties has again reached a deadlock, and the moves of the Social Democratic Party are secret. It is too optimistic, however, to expect that Premier YOSHIDA's intentions will be realized without difficulty. The YOSHIDA Cabinet will encounter many difficulties before the goal of the conclusion of the peace treaty is realized.

ITEM 15 Closing Ceremony of Diet will be held on 12 October - Asahi Shimbun - 11 Oct 46. Translator: K. Naoji.

Full Translation:

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With the end of the current session now at hand, the House of Peers has held Committee Meetings daily and discussed such important bills as the nine bills for the cancellation of war indemnities, the Farmland Adjustment Revision Bill and Industries Rehabilitation Corporation Bill. It completed discussions on the afternoon of 10 October and will introduce the bills to the plenary session on 11 October.

Trade Fund Special Accounts Bill and the Industries Rehabilitation Corporation Bill will be reported by Mr UEMURA, Teji (KENKYU-KAI), chief of the committees on these bills, the Farmland Adjustment Bill and the Owner Farmer Establishment Special Measures Bill by INADA, Uemasa (KOSEI-KAI), chief of the committees on these bills and the War Compensation Special Measure Bill and eleven other bills by MITSUCHI, Chuzo (KENKYU-KAI), chief of the committee on these bills. Following this, Mr KAWAI, Yaichi (DOSEI-KAI) will make a speech in support of the Farmland Adjustment Bill. All of these bills will be approved as reported by chiefs of the Committees. Thus deliberations on all the bills introduced by the government, with the exception of the Automobile Enterprise Revision Bill, will have been completed. The Diet's closing ceremony is expected to be held on 12 October at 1100 hours.

Deliberations on the Sericulture Industry Land in the House of Peers and the Prohibition Law For Minors and the Farmers Union Law in the House of Representatives (all of which were introduced by members of the Diet) have been left unfinished.

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POLITICAL SERIES: 1369 (Continued)

ITEM 14 New Members' Impression of the Diet - Shin Yukan - 12 Oct 46.
Translator: T. Fukushima.

Full Translation:

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Having done much to expedite the democratic revolution of JAPAN by enacting the Constitution and other vital laws such as the Local Administrative System Reform Law, the Labor Relations Adjustment Law, the Agrarian System Reform Law, the Livelihood Protection Law, the Property Tax Law, and the War Indemnities Cancellation Special Measures Law, the historical 90th Extraordinary Session of the Diet will formally come to an end with the closing ceremony on 12 October. It has left the associate laws of the Constitution and other important bills for the coming extraordinary session.

Does the session deserve the name democratic Diet? What have the new Diet members, two-thirds of the total members, learned from this session? What have they thought of this Diet? The new members who played outstanding roles in the democratic Diet express their views on these points.

NISHIMURA, Eiichi (JAPAN Social Democratic Party):

Looking back upon this session, I, first of all, keenly feel the necessity of improving the character and ability of the Diet members. Politicians are required to be educators, scientists and scholars, but our Diet members are too incompetent to be any one of them.

At present the greater part of the bills are submitted by the Government, but it would be better for the Diet to present the bills, and when they are approved by a majority vote, they should be enforced with the help of the Government. In order to realize this, political parties must have a well-equipped investigation organ. I would suggest that the Government provide political parties with a subsidy, at the rate of ¥ 10,000 per member, to aid their investigation chambers.

The striking contrast between the magnificence of the Diet Building itself and the sad lack of reference books in the Diet Library, particularly in economics, betrays the actual substance of the Japanese Diet. Much time is wasted due to the inefficiency of the present procedures. Nothing encourages us to study, yet the results of our studies are directly reflected upon national policies. The inefficiency of the present proceedings robs us of the time and energy to investigate and study.

It is not advisable to become an executive in the Diet. Our character and ability would be improved if we stopped seeking better positions and devoted our time to cultivating ourselves.

YOSHIDA, Yasuyo (JAPAN Progressive Party):

Throughout this session, prolonged to more than one hundred days, I have devoted myself exclusively to the deliberations on the draft Constitution. Of course, food and inflation problems are extremely important, but the revision of the Constitution surpasses them in vital significance. It is a matter for congratulation that this great task has been successfully accomplished despite the many upheavals and disturbances.

At the historical moment when the Constitution was passed, I was moved to tears. It is my earnest desire that all the people of the nation combine their efforts to realize the real spirit of this statute.

KONDO, Tsuruyo (JAPAN Liberal Party):

Women participation in the deliberations is one of the benefits derived during the session. At a meeting of the committee on the Postal Savings Law, I pointed out the fact that the reserve fund had heretofore been disproportionately invested for the construction of roads and reclamation of woodlands instead of for the installation of public health facilities. This shows the tendency of our sex to observe minute details. In view of the fact that women's interests have come to be safeguarded under the new Constitution and the Livelihood Protection Law, I believe that we Diet women have contributed a little to this Diet.

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KONO, Kinsho (Co-operative Democratic Party):

To be candid, both the operations of the Diet and the movements of political parties in this session have not differed much from the opportunism of the TOJO regime. Since most of the Diet members joined their parties haphazardly, the spheres of influence of the two great ideologies, conservatism and progressivism, are not clear. This is evident from the appalling fact that the Liberals, Progressives and even the Social Democrats have some members who appear to have joined them by mistake.

I expect that a great reshuffle will take place among the political parties about the time of the Peace Conference, and the conservative forces will clearly stand out from the progressive ones.

Since many of the members are new and since there exist special foreign circumstances, there were not very many thoroughgoing discussions made at this session. Therefore, there appears to be a growing discontent among the people toward the Government and political parties.

NAKANO, Seigo, my benefactor, once said that a country is not ruined by a defeat in war or by an economic collapse, but falls when its leaders have lost their self-confidence and the people are at a loss to the direction they should move in. We should give deep thought to his words.

NAKANISHI, Inosuke (JAPAN Communist Party):

Japanese Diets have never reflected the opinions of the masses. Therefore, they cannot be called democratic Diets, however noisily democracy may be voiced by the Diet members. Under the sway of reactionary conservatism and numerical superiority, laws have been determined, behind the scenes, between the majority party and the Government, completely disregarding the interests of the general public. However, compared to sessions in the past, at this session, the Social Democrats and Communists have fought to some extent with the conservative front for the benefit of the masses. Though we have done little to shatter the conservative front, our achievements have astonished old members, because we have opened the way for a political renovation. These are the strongest impressions I got from this Diet session.

SUZUKI, Kenichi (National Party):

While I attended this session, I obtained the following impressions:

1. The big parties always monopolized the committee chairmenships.
2. The speaking order used in this session was unfavorable to the minority parties.
3. Debates were generally influenced by sentiment.
4. The studying facilities are inadequate.
5. The Government parties were too narrow-minded to refrain from carrying their points by force of numbers.
6. The members should be more punctual about time. On the other hand, consideration should be given to the transportation difficulties.

The above-mentioned points should be improved as quickly as possible.

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DIET TODAY

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HOUSE OF PEERS—Constitution committee meeting scheduled to begin at 10 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Committees on the war loss indemnity cancellation bill, the bill for establishment of small holders and the trade fund bill are scheduled to meet at 10 a.m.

NIPPON TIMES
OCT 4 1946

SITTING IN ON THE DIET

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Wednesday, October 2

People's Welfare Bank

Only a small part of rights of claim held by the People's Welfare Bank will be cancelled as a result of the projected special measures for suspension of war loss indemnities payment, Chief Miki of the Readjustment Department of the Commerce and Industry Ministry disclosed at a meeting of the Lower House committee.

Among a total of ¥4,022,000,000, rights of claim to be cancelled held by specified organizations other than the Government which include the People's Welfare Bank, Industrial Equipment Corporation, Imperial Mining Copporation, and Japan Coal Company, only ¥728,000,000 will be collected as tax the rest being exempted from taxation according to the provisions of the special measures bill, he said.

He further disclosed that of the total amount of rights of claim held by the People's Welfare Bank which aggregate ¥2,634,000,000, only ¥189,000,000 will be taxed, the balance constituting the sum already paid in cash before the end of the war which will be exempt from taxation. Consequently, he asserted, the readjustment of the People's Welfare Bank will involve no great losses on the part of the masses.

NIPPON TIMES
OCT 4 1946

SITTING IN ON THE DIET

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Thursday, August 3

The Lower House at its plenary session unanimously approved a resolution urging the Government to extend every possible aid in improving and encouraging private educational institutions, which the resoluton stated, is "the true source of a nation's culture."

Kotaro Tanaka, Education Minister, in giving his full support to the resolution declared that the Government will do everything possible to encourage the growth of private educational institutions and "to accord equal treatment to public-operated or private institutions alike."

"I firmly believe that the culture of nation springs from the spontaneous and creative will of the public in general," Tanaka said, "however, it is regrettable that since the Meiji era, Government authorities concentrated their efforts on suppressing the free creative will of the people and encouraged state-sponsored cultural activities."

"Education in its true sense means that of being taught by one's elders whom one admires and respects and wishes to receive advice," Tanaka continued," and it could be said that an ideal education could be made only through private institutions. I can assure you that on the basis of this principle, the Government hereafter will extend whatever aid it can to private educational institutions."

Must Study Bond Scheme

A plan to issue public bonds to be paid back in gold after 10 years was presented before a Lower House committee meeting by Zentaro Kosaka, Progressive, in course of his interpellations upon measures to cope with the current inflationary tendencies.

In behalf of the government, Finance Minister Ishibashi replied that the plan deserves careful consideration on the part of the Government, adding, however, to decide when and how the plan should be put into practice.

NIPPON TIMES
OCT 5 1946

DIET TODAY

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HOUSE OF PEERS:—Plenary session scheduled to 10 a.m. The House is expected to pass the Constitutional amendments bill (if it fails to approve the bill in the course of Saturday's session) and the Horse Racing Law amendment bill. To be brought up on the agenda and referred to respective committees are the bills for establishment of small-holders, trade fund special accounts, industrial rehabilitation corporation, exceptions to the Pensions Law, special accounts of the railroad and communications enterprises, and for the 1946-47 supplementary budget.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:—There will be neither the plenary session nor committee hearings.

NIPPON TIMES
OCT 6 1946

DIET TODAY

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HOUSE OF PEERS—The House will meet in plenary session at 10 a.m. when petitions will be presented to the House. Committees on small farm-owner bill, trading fund law bill, pension law bill, sericulture law bill and budget bills are to meet at 10 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Meeting in a plenary session at 1 p.m. the House is scheduled to approve the constitution revision bill. A 10 a.m., committee hearings will be commenced on youth prohibition law bill, petitions, and farmers' union law bill.

NIPPON TIMES
OCT 7 1946

DIET TODAY

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HOUSE OF PEERS—Meeting in a plenary session at 10 a.m., the House is expected to approve the Constitution Revision Bill as reported by the chairman of the Constitution Revision Bill Committee, and also the Horse Race Bill. The committee on the Sericulture Bill will meet at 10 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—It is undecided whether or not the House will hold its plenary session today. Committee hearing will be started at 10 a.m. on the Youth Prohibition Bill, the Wartime Indemnity Payment Cancellation Bill, and the Farmers' Union Bill.

NIPPON TIMES
OCT 5 1946

Diet Is Prolonged For 3 More Days

The Government on October 4 finally reached a decision to prolong once again the session of the Diet by three days until October 10 after taking into account the views of both the House of Peers and the House of Representatives. The Imperial Rescript commanding the prolongation will be issued on October 7.

The prolongation was necessitated by the delay in the deliberations on the new Constitution at the House of Peers and by the recent successive introduction of bills related with the suspension of wartime indemnifications.

This is the fourth extension since the convocation of the current Diet on June 20. If the prolongation is made, the current Diet session will last 113 days, the longest since the inauguration of the Diet system.

MAINICHI OCT 6 1946

Another Prolongation Of Diet Session Seen; Rescript Likely Today

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The Government, Saturday, informally decided on another postponement of the current Diet session due to expire today, until October 10. An Imperial Rescript calling for the postponement is expected to be issued today. The proposed postponement represents the fourth of its kind for the present Diet session which was opened on June 24, and makes the whole term of the current session extending over 113 days,—the longest session in the history of the Japanese Diet.

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Friday, September 27

The entire Japanese nation, while praying for the earliest possible completion of repatriation of Japanese nationals from abroad, is profoundly grateful to the Allied Powers for their sympathetic consideration toward this problem, State Minister Baron Kijuro Shidehara told a plenary session of the House of Representatives.

Referring to a PRO release of September 26 announcing resumption of negotiations between GHQ, SCAP, and the Soviet Mission in Tokyo concerning repatriaton of Japanese from Soviet territory, Shidehara declared that both the Government and the people of Japan were sincerely grateful for the arrangements.

Prime Minister Yoshida declared that the Government would shortly call upon the Diet and other organs to launch a national movement to augment relief measures for Japanese nationals repatriated from abroad.

Yoshinari Kawai, Welfare Minister, said that the Government's policy centered on stabilization of livelihood of Japanese repatriates as preliminary steps to their direct relief.

Kawai added that the Government was considering lotteries as a means of acquiring necessary funds for instituting relief programs for repatriates.

Peace Conference Hopes

Hope that the peace conference on Japan will be held on her soil was voiced by Gosaburo Omiya, Cooperative Democrat, in his urgent interpellation on rebuilding Japanese culture before the plenary session of the Lower House.

Prime Minister Yoshida declared that he could understand the desire of a peace conference on Japanese soil, but said he naturally could make no statement on the prospects, since it depended upon the Allies who had made no decision on the question that he knew of.

NIPPON TIMES
SEP 29 1946

No Freeze Action On Cash Planned, Yoshida Promises

Also Declares Indemnity Cancellation Bill Vital for Reconstruction

There will be no session in both Houses of the Diet today, Sunday. Deliberations will be resumed on Monday.

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Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida yesterday, assured the harried and anxious nation that the money currently in circulation will not be frozen and no fresh action will be taken against the money deposited in monetary institutions.

Yoshida made the statement in his address before the House of Representatives' full session Saturday afternoon, in which he explained the purport of the bill for cancelling war loss indemnities and five other relevant bills designed to speed up economic recovery of postwar Japan.

The Prime Minister noted popular anxiety over the future of Japan's economic and financial conditions. Wild rumors have been circulated among the masses, he said, and there has developed a tendency to hesitate to deposit cash holdings. Yoshida emphasized, "There is absolutely no cause for such anxiety because no more freezing of money and no new measure against deposits will be effected."

Referring to the indemnity cancellation bill, the Prime Minister declared that the contemplated measure was considered essential for the reconstruction of Japanese economy and for a stabilized livelihood of the people, although, he said, "it was unbearable for the Government to repudiate the payments for war losses to which it had pledged itself during the war."

Yoshida admitted he was gravely anxious about the serious effects which the contemplated measures are bound to exert upon the people, but emphasized that any delay in resolutely taking the action will retard the reconstruction of national economy and the coming of a bright situation will be delayed accordingly.

The bills introduced to the Lower House Saturday were:

1) Bill providing for special measures for wartime indemnities.
2) Bill providing for reconstruction and adjustment of financial institutions,
3) Bill providing for reconstruction and adjustment of enterprises,
4) Bill providing for special measures for disposal of losses suffered by the Deposit Department of the Finance Ministry and others.
5) Bill providing for welfare annuity insurance and special cases in Seamen's Insurance Law.
6) Bill providing for provisional special csaes in the Pensions Law.

Peers Appoint Committee

The House of Peers' Constitution committee yesterday appointed a 15-man subcommittee, to which it entrusted the task of implementing the amendments proposed on Friday at an informal conference of committee members. The amendments suggested were concerned with the preamble, Articles 15, 43 and 66.

In the course of the committee meeting which opened at 10 a.m. Saturday, Viscount Kiko Okochi, Kenkyukai, moved to refer to the subcommittee a proposal to delete paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 in Article 79 (Artscle 75 in the original text), which pertain to the reviewing of the judges of the Supreme Court by the people. This move was approved.

Shinchiro Matsumura, Kenkyukai, then proposed that points of which no clear-cut conclusions were reached in the course of the committee hearings be also referred to the subcommittee so that ambiguities concerning them may be clarified. The points were connected with the question whether or not the national polity has undergone a change with the revision of the Constitution, whether the "people" as provided in Chapter III included the Emperor and whether the "judicial authorities" as provided in Chapter VI included procurators.

The motion was rejected due to opposition raised by Chuzo Mitsuchi, Kenkyukai, and Kango Koyama of the Koyu Club.

The subcommittee held its first meeting immediately following the session and elected Count Saneaya Hashimoto as chairman by mutual vote. The chairman gave brief explanations on the subjects entrusted to the body and it was decided to begin deliberations from Article 15.

The subcommittee is expected to finish its deliberations during the first half of next week.

NIPPON TIMES SEP 29 1946

DIET TODAY

HOUSE OF PEERS—The House holds no plenary session. Committees on the forestry commission bill, the constitution, the sericulture bill and petitions will meet at 10 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—No plenary session. At 10 a.m. committees on the supplementary budget for the 1946-47 fiscal year, petitions, the wartime indemnity payment, and the trading financing fund bill will meet, while the committee on the farmers' union bill will meet at 1 p.m., and the committee on the owner-farmer establishment measure bill at 2 p.m.

NIPPON TIMES
OCT 2 1946

SITTING IN ON THE DIET

Monday, September 30

Claims amounting to about ¥66,900,000,000 will be cancelled by a new Government measure in the projected suspension of war indemnity payments, Finance Minister Ishibashi disclosed at a meeting of the Lower House committee studying the Wartime Compensations Special Measures Bill.

Out of a total of ¥80,900,000,000 involved in the projected suspension of compensations, ¥14,000,000,000 will be exempted, he said.

In addition to the above, Government assurances on liabilities of corporations specified by law as well as loans made by bankers under government orders will amount to ¥19,800,000,000 and ¥5,000,000,000, respectively, bringing the total figure of "fictitious capitals" that are to be cancelled under the projected economic measure to around ¥91,700,000,000, the Finance Minister revealed.

Must Rely on Trade

Commerce and Industry Minister Hoshijima declared that Japan as a peace-loving nation should rely on export trade rather than on self-sufficiency economic measures, at the House of Representatives' plenary session.

Supplementing Hoshijima's statement Rinji Oishi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Commerce and Industry, testified that it would be difficult for Japan to achieve food self-sufficiency owing to the small size of its territory.

When an interpellator expressed fear that the inflationary trend might further rise when normal trade was opened between Japan and foreign countries, Finance Minister Ishibashi asserted that the Government was confident in its ability to prevent vicious inflation through enforcement of proper measures. He added that it was unthinkable that the price would further rise to a great extent.

NIPPON TIMES
OCT 2 1946

DECLASSIFIED E. O. 12065 SECTION 3-402 / NNDG NO. 775015

ITEM 1 Extension of the Diet Session - Jiji Shimpo - 3 Oct 46. Translator: N. Miwa.

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Full Translation:

The present session of the Diet was extended by the Government for ten days past 28 September. This was the third extension. Judging from the nature of the deliberations on 2 October, however, the present Diet session will again have to be extended for four or five days. The general budget meeting in the House of Representatives will be concluded on 2 October and the questions on the Supplementary Budget Bill will be presented to the plenary session on 3 October.

The Farm Land Bill will be presented in a plenary session sometime after 5 October. In the Lower House alone, it will take several days to deliberate on the indemnities for war industries. Even if the two bills pass the Lower House by 5 October, it will take several days for the House of Peers to deliberate on them. Because the Constitution Revision Bill must be amended in the House of Peers, a joint conference representing the two houses will be held after the bill has passed the House of Peers on 5 October. Under such circumstances, a fourth extension of the Diet session will be unavoidable.

ITEM 1 Four Parties Reach Agreement on Policy - Tokyo Shimbun, Mainichi, Asahi - 17 May 47. Translator: K. Higashikawa (TK)

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Summary:

The cornerstone of the envisaged four-party coalition cabinet was firmly laid yesterday when the four-party conference came to a complete agreement of views on the policy issue. The crucial issue of the premiership and the allocation of the ministerial posts, however, were not discussed.

(MAINICHI) - NISHIO, secretary-general of the Social Democratic Party, revealed in a press interview that there is an 80 percent chance of success for the Katayama premiership. ASHIDA, director-general of the Democratic Party, stated that the premiership issue is not so knotty as is generally believed and that, in his opinion, this matter will be decided in the course of next few days.

(TOKYO SHIMBUN) - NISHIO also revealed that KATAYAMA, the head of the Social Democratic Party, is expected today to call on each of the four parties to open negotiations on these difficult problems. NISHIO opines that these issues will no doubt be threshed out following the national convention of the Democratic Party slated to be held on 18 May.

Joint Statement Issued

The joint statement issued by the four parties following yesterday's session of the conference reads:

"The four-party conference was held at 1400 hours on 16 May in the Lower House Speaker's Chamber in the Diet Building. Following the deliberation on the counterproposals submitted by the various parties concerned, an agreement of views was reached on the policy issue. The draft of the revised policy agreement will be reaffirmed following its approval by all the parties concerned. Concerning the premiership issue and other questions it was decided that the representative of the Social Democratic Party will call on the head of each party tomorrow and thereafter to seek their co-operation. The conference broke up at 1600 hours."

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DECLASSIFIED E. O. 12065 SECTION 3-402 / NNDG NO. 775015

POLITICAL SERIES: 1744 (Continued)

ITEM 1 (Continued)

It is generally considered that further sessions of the four-party conference will be held in the future as necessity arises.

Policy Agreement

The draft of the policy agreement drawn up at yesterday's four-party conference reads:

(1) In order to overcome the present economic crisis, necessary State controls shall be exercised on the basis of integrated planning with the present economic system as its objective.

(2) In order to increase production a priority policy shall be adopted for key industries, and State controls shall be enforced on basic key industries. However, the State controls shall be democratized to the exclusion of bureaucratic controls.

(3) A close and voluntary co-operation between capital and labor is desired for industrial revival.

(4) In order to halt inflation, sound and healthy public finance shall be maintained; and necessary financial controls shall be enforced.

(5) In halting inflation, importance shall be attached to the burden to be shared by inflation and black-market profiteers. However, freezing of the new yen or suspension of payment of interest on government bonds shall not be enacted.

(6) Wages and prices shall be placed under rigid controls, and strict rationing of scarce daily necessities shall be exercised under a well-planned basis so as to stabilize the livelihood of the people.

(7) In order to solve the food problem, the supply of fertilizer and farming and fishing essentials shall be secured so as to increase food production and to secure 100 percent delivery of staple foods.

(8) For industrial revival and for the stabilization of the people's livelihood, all conceivable measures shall be taken to eliminate black-market transactions.

(9) Both land and marine transportation shall be improved and strengthened.

(10) In view of the fact that the present crisis shall be overcome by the responsibility of the people and their high sense of national salvation, measures shall be taken to enhance morality and to reform education.

(MAINICHI) - At yesterday's conference NISHIO, secretary-general of the Social Democratic Party, again expressed the desire of his party to get the premiership, but this question was not included in the agenda of the day owing to the fact that the Liberal and Democratic delegates did not clarify the attitude of their respective parties on this thorny problem.

At the motion of NISHIO it was decided that KATAYAMA, chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Social Democratic Party, accompanied by NISHIO, call on Premier YOSHIDA

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ITEM 1 (Continued)

this morning at the latter's official residence and on State Minister SAITO, member of the Supreme Advisory Council of the Democratic Party, at the party's headquarters this afternoon to open negotiations on the premiership issue.

ONO, director-general of the Liberal Party, submitted the counterproposal of his party on the policy issue, which was surveyed in conjunction with the counterproposals introduced by the Democratic and the Peoples Co-operative Parties in the preceding session of the four-party conference. After two hours of debate all parties came to a compromise on the policy issue.

Press Interviews

Interviewed by the press, NISHIO stated:

"By adopting two or three points suggested by the Liberal Party, we came to a complete compromise on the policy issue at today's conference. All the delegates will take this compromise plan to their respective parties to obtain their approval. It is safe to assume that their approval is a foregone conclusion. I proposed to discuss the premiership issue and the allocation of the ministerial posts, but it was considered preferable to have this matter taken up with the head of each party individually. Accordingly, it was decided that KATAYAMA call on Premier YOSHIDA tomorrow morning. Although KATAYAMA will be accompanied by me, I will not be present at the interview between Premier YOSHIDA and KATAYAMA. In the afternoon KATAYAMA will also visit State Minister SAITO."

NISHIO further stated: "I do not think the finishing touches can be made before the national convention of the Democratic Party takes place on 18 May. At present the KATAYAMA premiership has an 80 percent chance for success.

ONO, director-general of the Liberal Party, said:

"As you see, the policy compromise was drawn up as desired by us. Needless to say, the compromise plan is subject to party approval, but I do not think that our party will have any objection to it. The Social Democratic Party reiterated its desire to get the premiership, but as the discussion of this issue will naturally lead to the discussion of the allocation of the ministerial posts, we would like to do the best we can after KATAYAMA sees Premier YOSHIDA tomorrow."

(ASAHI) - ONO said: "At a meeting of our directors to be held tomorrow we want to come to the decision that the premiership issue be entirely left to the discretion of Premier YOSHIDA."

(MAINICHI) - Speaking on the premiership issue ASHIDA, director-general of the Democratic Party, said:

"KATAYAMA is expected to visit us tomorrow afternoon. If KATAYAMA visits us alone, State Minister SAITO will see him, but if KATAYAMA is accompanied by NISHIO, then SAITO and myself will receive them. The attitude of the Democratic Party

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ITEM 1 (Continued)

on the premiership issue will have to be studied further. Before making a formal reply to the Social Democratic Party, we may find it advisable to consult the Liberal Party on this question. In any event, the premiership issue is not so difficult a problem as is generally believed. I think it will be decided in the course of the next few days."

Referring to the question of the presidency of his party, ASHIDA said the matter will be settled in the very near future. The Democratic Party is expected to hold a meeting of its directors today to approve officially the compromise plan.

The Peoples Co-operative Party officially approved the compromise plan at a meeting of its Diet members yesterday following the four-party conference. MIKI, secretary-general of the party, said:

"So far the four-party conference has made satisfactory progress. At today's session of the conference nobody objected to the Katayama premiership. My impression is that there is a possibility of the Katayama premiership. The question of the Lower House speaker is related to the premiership issue, but I think this matter will also be settled before 20 May."

TOKYO SHIMBUN) - The Democratic Party decided to maintain the present system of its Supreme Council without nominating its president until such time as premiership comes to the party. The decision was reached at a meeting of the party's Supreme Council held yesterday afternoon in the Diet building. Present at the meeting were State Ministers SHIDEHARA, the highest adviser, SAITO, and TANAKA, Communications Minister HITOTSUMATSU, Cabinet Chief Secretary HAYASHI, ASHIDA and others.

Speaking on the issue of the party's presidency, State Minister SAITO emphasized the need of putting a final stop to the internal feud by organizing groups within the party, stressing at the same time the importance of settling the present political unrest by the entire unity of the party. The motion was supported by State Minister SHIDEHARA, HITOTSUMATSU, ASHIDA, and other leaders of the party.

Some dozen new Diet members of the Democratic Party, including SAKURAUCHI and NAMIKI, met in conference yesterday morning at the party's headquarters and passed a decision demanding that the party decide on its president by vote at the national convention of the party scheduled for 18 May. The decision was conveyed to State Ministers SHIDEHARA and TANAKA, advisers to the party and to the Supreme Council.

DECLASSIFIED E. O. 12065 SECTION 3-402 / NNDG NO. 775015

ITEM 3 Report on the Recent Diet - Provincial Newspaper Nishi Nippon Shimbun (Fukuoka) - 16 Oct 46. Translator: K. Onishi.

Full Translation:

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Minority political parties, even if they are small, can be better than major parties which are without ideologies. It is not justifiable to disregard small parties as if they were gnarls grown out of this period of political transition, because if these parties have fine banners to hoist they can grow bigger with each election. What is essential to political parties is that they must be based upon the masses. Without popular support, even major parties cannot survive, while small parties with popular support will grow to be great. Representatives supported by the public cannot behave inadvertently.

Since the Co-operative Democratic Party is supported by dependable constituents and has an unique universal principle, its future is very promising. The liberal and the Progressive parties are destined to be merged into one. The present age not only demands foresight but necessitates complicated social and economic organizations. In order to restore the leaning national foundation to normalcy as desired by the people, political parties must gain the power of the people.

Any political party which hasn't the organized support of the people, as the Liberal and the Progressive parties, is doomed to decay, and will finally go out of existence. The separate existence of these two parties is theoretically unreasonable. Since they are both relics of the former SEIYUKAI and MINSEITO, their merger may not be as easy as it appears to be, but in the long run an irresistible current of society will compel them to amalgamate. Both presidents are bureaucrats, and this makes us feel as if they were already one. Their sense of rivalry, inherited from the former parties, appears to have been the greatest cause of their failure in attempts to merge in the past, but in order to form one big conservative party, they should forget this sense of rivalry once and for all.

However, most of the younger representatives of these two parties, because of their prescience of the self-disintegration of the parties, are leaning to the ideologies of the Social Democrat and the Co-operative Democratic parties. We already took notice of this trend in their behavior in the recent session of the Diet. It is doubtful whether all of them will join the new party after the merger. After all, these two parties will have to disintegrate in some way before the next session of the Diet, towards the end of this year.

When a merger was proposed between the Co-operative Democratic Party and the former SHINSEIKAI, the members of the present Co-operative Democratic Party adhered too much to the party name "Co-operative", while the SHINSEIKAI was too narrow-minded and biased. However, since it is favorable for these two parties to proceed in line with the common principle of "co-operation" there is strong probability that they may amalgamate in the future. The members of the SHINSEIKAI Party severely fought the liberals and the Progressives in the last election, and besides, the Conservatives are too reactionary for them to join. Therefore, a merger with the Co-operative Democrats is more probable than with the liberals and the Progressives. The members of the parties should be more frank and start the merger. For both domestic and international reasons, amalgamations of scores of minor parties into a decent number of powerful parties is recommended. This becomes more reasonable when we consider that there are no essential differences in policy or principle of the parties.

The Co-operative Democratic Party is no amphibian; it stands in contradistinction with socialism, and its great intent and purpose are to revise capitalism through the realization of the principles of "co-operation" and "co-operative unions". The principle differs from capitalism in that it holds personality in high esteem.

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ITEM 3 (Continued)

While the co-operatives differ from Socialists in the choice of methods for realizing unified production, and from their despotic insistence on abolition of private ownership, they are opposed to capitalism whose aim is profiteering.

The three main points of the "Co-operative Unions" are: (1) While denying the absolute freedom of individuals, it denies the absolute control of society; (2) It does not necessarily insist on abolition of private ownership to attain the end mentioned in (1); (3) No violence should be exercised in the transition of the capitalistic society to that of the "Co-operative Unions".

These are the iron rules that govern co-operative activities. MARX, insisting that historical materialism admits no compromise, sought only scientific solutions, but in the present JAPAN the practice of this idea will never lead us to rehabilitation, since moral ideas play a very important role. I know that scientific truth in itself is theoretically inconsistent with moral truth, and that this applies also to human society, but the present state of things cannot be improved by any of them alone. It appeared that the railway and newspaper workers' strikes had Communistic ramifications, but the Co-operative Democratic Party strove for the settlements for the peace of our race and the maintenance of national order. In our efforts, we were not shortsighted. We see what the world is going to be, and take necessary measures to cope with it. The world's peace still remains to be completed. We must march on toward the great goal of establishing permanent peace for the world. With such an outlook, the Co-operative Democrats make their way.

(By YAMAMOTO, Sanehiko, Secretary-General, the Co-operative Democratic Party.)

DECLASSIFIED E. O. 12065 SECTION 3-402 / NNDG NO. 775015

ITEM 1 Report on the New Diet by Inukai, Ken - Provincial Newspaper Nishi Nippon Shimbun (Fukuoka) - 15 Oct 46. Translator: M. Ota.

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Summary:

Mr INUKAI, Ken, Chief of the general affairs committee of the Progressive Party gave his views on the 90th session of the Diet. He said as follows:

"The present session of the Diet began under the name of the Constitutional Diet since it undertook the important duty of discussing the draft of the revised Constitution. We wondered whether we could really produce the best finished product with our poor knowledge and culture. Not long after the present session was convoked, the Progressive Party expressed its view on the amendments to the revised Constitution to be made by the House of Representatives. The party's anticipation gave rise to public discussion because it was announced early. However, these amendments made by the Constitutional Sub-Committee meetings clarified the party's view which was mostly correct.

At this session of the Diet, the Progressive Party has given full play to its real ability. However, some say that the party is taking a course, unbecoming a conservative party. What is meant by a conservative party? If those old major political parties, which were influential before the war, were the typical conservative parties, the Progressive Party is, to be sure, taking a different course; and through necessity.

The people who attacked the party because it took a more socialistic policy than the conservative party of ENGIAND, have a false conception. Judging from the fact that the country has no overseas colonies, it is impossible for the party to adopt the policies of the conservative party of ENGIAND. Under the present situation, statesmen cannot take a step in defiance to the equality of distribution. Therefore, it is natural that the advanced policy of the party should incline slightly towards Socialism.

The Progressive and the liberal Parties are the Ministerial parties of the YOSHIDA Cabinet. The Progressive Party acts in concert with the liberal Party and will not change this position in the future. Some say that it is strange that the party has adopted a too radical policy in view of the fact that it is the Government party. However, it is not strange because the policy of the Progressive Party is producing good effects on the YOSHIDA Cabinet just as the differences in the cultures of JAPAN and CHINA serve as a stimulant to the making of the character of Oriental civilization. If the Progressive Party does not adopt such a policy, the political circles would be distinctly divided between the so-called conservative and radical forces. They would struggle against one another. This would disturb the rehabilitation and complete democratization of our country at the time when the Peace Conference is to be held in the near future. The steadying influence of the liberal Party harmonizes with the vigorous activity of the Progressive Party.

"It was very difficult to establish the character of a political party. Through hardships, the Progressive Party fixed upon a united stand which has remained unchanged through the various policies, such as agrarian policy and social policy. My humble wish for the Progressive Party is that it establishes a certain character to become a wholesome conservative party. I wish, above all, that all the members will be cultured men, having a definite critical eye for our life. This culture and knowledge will make the perfect politicians. I believe true devotion comes from intelligence."

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ITEM 7 Report on the New Born Diet Session by Kita, Reikichi, Head of the Political Affairs Section of the Liberal Party - Provincial Newspaper Nishi Nippon Shimbun (Fukuoka) - 12 Oct 46. Translator: R. Ochiai.

A03

Summary:

I observed at least ten points which to me characterized the last Diet session. For example, the newly elected representatives occupied many seats, women were sent to the Diet for the first time in history, the Social Democratic Party became the majority party, the Communists were able to send their representatives, there were many minor parties, etc.

JAPAN's democratic revolution was not acquired by the people's own hand, but it was presented by a third person. It is not real freedom and democracy that we have now. Indeed, the leaders of the political, government service, and financial circles have been done away with by the purge directive. But who are they that occupy the important posts in place of the purged leaders? They are nothing but the inexperienced and incapable persons who were unworthy of holding those important posts during the war. And now that their leaders have been purged, they in turn have become the leaders.

Democracy is, however, attained by neither heroes nor by philosophers, but is attained by the common people through their common discussions. The present representatives of the people who now lack experience and manners, will in the future become true representatives. We must consider the situation as a phenomenon in the light of our surrender, and we should not be discouraged by it.

Since the formation of the YOSHIDA Cabinet, the Liberal Party has been investigating the revision of the Constitution and also counter measures for food and inflation. Mr HIGAI, chairman of the Special Constitution Committee, was appointed President of the Lower House, and chairman of the Food Committee; SHUTO as the Cabinet Vice-Secretary, chairman of the Inflation Committee; ISHIBASHI as the Finance Minister, and I took charge of the Constitution Committee. We have been working with the Progressives on these three above-mentioned problems. With three representatives from each party and Home Ministers SAITO and UEHARA, the Liberals and Progressives met seven times to hold talks on the Constitution. It was to the credit of the Cabinet that its revised bill passed the two Houses almost without amendment. The Social Democrats had also co-operated with us on this problem, although I question their amending ability because they seemed to have only crammed the WEIMAN Constitution into their amendment will.

Concerning the food problem, the Liberals and Progressives laid importance on a measure to tide over the crisis. They held several conferences, and the bill was drafted by Liberal KONO and Progressive HORI. Because of the farmers' negligence in selling their rice to the Government in May, the people were hit very hard during May and June. It was a great joy that we were able to tide over the crisis through the good offices of SCAP. We expressed our hearty thanks for the imported food in our resolution to MacARTHUR's Headquarters.

The Liberals are supporting Finance Minister ISHIBASHI on the problems of inflation and industrial reconstruction, but our plans are different from those of the Government in some points. For example, while we advocated the postponement of redeeming a public loan including principal and interest, the Government is ready to redeem it at the rate of .35 per cent interest. And while the Government intended to make 20,000 yen as the exemption level for property tax, we advocated 100,000 yen. We are absolutely against the Social Democrats' advocacy of nationalization, but we would like the sale of government property and the making of government enterprises into joint-stock companies, in order to let the people have shares. Although the Government is listening to our political ideas, we are not content with just that. It will take much time to do away with bureaucracy in the Government.

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ITEM 7 Extraordinary Session of the Diet - Shin Yukan - 2 Oct 46. Translator: F. Mitsuhashi.

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Full Translation:

On the assumption that an extraordinary session of the Diet will be held one month after the end of the current Diet session, the Government is preparing the revisions and abolition of those laws attached to the Constitution. The session of the present Diet, has been prolonged three times, resulting in a prolongation of 70 days beyond expectations.

The next Diet is to convene around 10 November. If the next Diet session, scheduled to last one month, is prolonged, it will be followed immediately by the ordinary session of the Diet. Therefore, some members of the Upper House proposed to Chief Secretary KOBAYASHI that the extraordinary session of the Diet be cancelled and the opening date of the ordinary session of the Diet be advanced. Even within the Cabinet itself there were discussions on the problem concerning the extraordinary session of the Diet. So the Government, after taking into consideration the intention of the Lower House, will define its attitude immediately after the end of the current Diet.

The bills to be submitted to the next extraordinary session of the Diet are the National Diet Law, the Law for the House of Councillors, and the Imperial Household Law, which are now under deliberation in the Temporary Legislation Investigation Council, the Civil Law, the Criminal Law, many other revised drafts of public and private laws, the Labor Standard Law, the Local Self-Government Law and the Education Foundation Law. However, it is doubtful whether the Government can prepare the presentation of these bills within one month so some of the Cabinet members assert that the extraordinary session of the Diet should be cancelled and that these bills, after being carefully prepared, should be submitted to the ordinary session of the Diet. On the contrary, State Minister, KANAMORI and Director of the Bureau Legislation, IRIE, insist upon the opening of the extraordinary session of the Diet in order to deliberate on those laws attached to the Constitution, and they are preparing the presentation of these bills in the Temporary Legislation Investigation Council on the assumption that the extraordinary session of the Diet will be opened. They fear that if the ordinary session of the Diet convenes in the middle of November, it will closely follow the current Diet session and the deliberations on these bills will become dull, and the procedures necessary for the enforcement of the revised Constitution will be delayed.

The Government intends to open the extraordinary session of the Diet around 10 November, as originally planned, and complete the deliberations on the laws attached to the Constitution in one month. The Temporary Legislation Investigation Council will open its third general meeting around 10 October and will draw up the draft of a report to be presented to the Government. Then the Bureau of Legislation will make the laws based on that draft, within about one month, so as to have it ready by the opening of the extraordinary session of the Diet.

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ITEM 2 Extraordinary Session of Diet to Convene - Tokyo Shinbun - 8 Oct 46. Translator: K. Yasutake.

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Full Translation:

At the 6 October session of the House of Peers, OKOCHI interpellated whether or not an extraordinary session of the Diet would be convened. The Cabinet promised to answer after submitting the question to a Cabinet conference. As a result of the extra Cabinet council meeting on 7 October, where this question, was discussed, it was informally decided that an extraordinary session of the Diet, lasting about a month, would be convened the latter part of November.

At this session, several bills whose enactment will be necessary for enforcing the new Constitution will be submitted to the Diet. The bills for the House of Councillors law, Cabinet organization law, parliamentary regulations, the Imperial Household law, the Imperial Household Finance Law, and the Public Servant law will definitely be put on the agenda at this session.

ITEM 3 Current Diet Session Extended Four Days - Tokyo Shimbun - 8 Oct 46. Translator: K. Yasutake.

Full Translation:

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An extra Cabinet Council meeting convened on 7 October to discuss the fourth extension of the Diet session. According to a schedule of the House of Peers, introduced by Chief Cabinet Secretary HAYASHI, at least three days will be necessary for the discussion in committee meetings of a group of bills connected with the cancellation of indemnities after they are sent to the House of Peers. The 7 October session will be used as a round-table conference. The committee meeting will be held on 8, 9, and 10 October.

All the bills are scheduled to be placed on the agenda at the plenary session on 11 October and are to be approved at that time. The schedule was adopted by the Cabinet council. As a result, the current session will be extended four days. An Imperial edict was proclaimed to that effect on 7 October.

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ITEM 15 To the Members of the Imperial Diet - Shin Yukan - 14 Oct 46. Translator: M. Kawanabe.

Full Translation:

After fulfilling its duty of revising the Constitution which brings a great change to Japanese history, the Imperial Diet at last adjourned. It was a democratic Diet attended by the representatives who were elected by the fairest election the Japanese Diet system has ever experienced. The nation seriously watched the moves in the Diet with the greatest interest.

It is a great merit to the Diet to have accomplished the unprecedented task of revising the Constitution. Nevertheless, we are not at all disposed to express our gratitude to the Representatives. This may seem somewhat strange. Is there anything else, then, that makes us grateful? We dare say, "None." We have many things to say to the contrary.

What is to be done with the problems of the rehabilitation of national economy, the livelihood of the people, the maintenance of minimum standards in food, clothing, and shelter, the grave unemployment situation and the labor dispute which have of late increased? None of them have been settled to the people's satisfaction. We are even inclined to ask the Representatives what they have been doing in the Diet for the last four months.

You Representatives gave promises to the nation when you stood as candidates for the Diet. Has anyone of you fulfilled his promises?

Certainly, it might have been difficult to realize everything you desired, facing the convention of the political parties or keeping aloof from the tide of the times, but at least if you had showed a bit of enthusiasm or sincerity toward realizing your promises, the people would have been moved with gratitude. The union or separation of political parties or internal strife within the party due to differences are welcomed if these bring about progress and development. We are, however, convinced, more than ever, that political parties are still asleep, after hearing of a certain representative who when asked to join a political party demanded 500,000 yen in cash. Though this was done as a joke to mock the other party, it reminds us of the corruption within political parties. Since political parties and members of the Diet are public characters, there should be no shadow cast on their conduct. When everything is done openly, the aim of democratization will be achieved.

You Representatives should make a frank and intimate report to the voters on the Diet, not the formal one made by political parties, but an informal report filled with your own thought. By doing so, you can at least make amends for the past, and it will show you a new path toward your future.

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ITEM 12 Comments on Diet - Daiichi Shimbun - 12 Oct 46. Translator: H. Naoji.

AD3

Full Translation:

The unprecedented long Diet session, which had lasted 114 days since the opening ceremony on 20 June and had since been extended four times finally closed on 12 October. During this period, many bills, including the Constitution revision bill and the Labor Relations Adjustment Bill, which were all the pride of the Democratic Diet were approved, but the manner of discussion was not always satisfactory.

It was regrettable that very few of the bills were thoroughly discussed and that most of them were crammed or signed blindly. This was due to the fact that those bills were too important and too many for the inexperienced Diet members to discuss. Accordingly, it is very regrettable that the lateral duty of the Diet, that is, convincing the people as to the contents of the various bills through the self-understanding of the Diet members, was hardly made use of. Accordingly, it must be a duty and a service to the people on the part of the political parties to compensate for it after the Diet is over. It cannot be the true attitude of new democratic political parties to be engrossed in counter-measures against elections to be held or in defense of their influences. From such a point of view, the Government should enforce various approved bills, while the political parties should also act with prudence.

Replying to the interpellation of Mr IKEGAMI at the plenary session of the House of Representatives on 11 October, the Premier emphasized that the present general strikes of a political nature now in vogue are clearly the abuse of the right to strike on the part of workers. At the same time, he added, that some persons are intentionally causing disorder in economic and social circles, and are going to avail themselves of it, and clarified his intention of adopting a prudent policy in case the irrational movement of unions continues.

Whether this is right or not, it can easily be imagined that the Premier's statement would probably be supported by the people in general. Some persons declare that those persons who criticize union movements are reactionaries; that those persons who secede from union movements according to their conscience, without obeying strike directives, are scabs. The attitudes of all these people together with those who order general strikes, while ignoring public opinion can by no means be called democratic. We cannot help but point out this fact.

At the same plenary session of the House of Representatives, Minister of Welfare KAWAI replied that the Government will shortly enforce the Labor Relations Adjustment Law. However, as a matter of fact, it should be put into force from the standpoint of obeying public opinion. For the sake of developing labor union movements, those persons concerned should endeavor not to alienate public opinion.

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ITEM 5 Comments On Diet Session - Daiichi Shimbun - 5 Oct 46.
Translator: H. Naoji.

Full Translation:

With the approach of the end of the session, the atmosphere of the Diet has become exciting. Since several bills pertaining to the cancellation of the state compensation for war industries are still under deliberation in the House of Representatives, it appears inevitable that the term of the session will be extended for the fourth time.

Often in the past, as the Diet session came to an end, Diet Members or political parties submitted private bills or resolutions. At present there is a tendency similar on the Farm Land Revision Bill. In the original plan of the Farm Land Revision Bill, it was decided that landowners be allowed to lease one chobu (approx. 2½ acres) to tenant farmers. Another view was heard from the Liberal Party several days ago that the one chobu should be raised to two chobu. At the outset, the Liberal Party assumed a strong attitude concerning this opinion, saying that they would not fail to realize this opinion.

The Progressive Party has also agreed with this attitude of the Liberals. Therefore, the opinion has become common to both parties. On the other hand, the Social Democratic Party is insisting that it would never allow landowners to lend even one chobu to tenants. The Communist Party is, on the whole, in favor of this attitude of the Social Democratic Party. If this opinion of the Social Democratic Party is rejected, the Communist Party intends to oppose it categorically. The Cooperative Party seems to agree with the Liberal and Progressive parties, although their attitude is not yet clear.

In his statement at the Diet members conference of the Social Democratic Party, held on 3 October, INOUE, Ryoji insisted on the necessity of clarifying the Party's attitude towards the rationing of staple foodstuffs because the Liberal Party was rumoured to have submitted a resolution for the enforcement of a three-go staple food ration. However, this problem had already been placed formally on the agenda at the recent general meeting of the Party and was decided as impossible. It is regrettable that the party should again deal with this problem hurriedly since they cannot remain aloof while the other parties are considering the matter. If this opinion is based on a scientic investigation, they should have the courage to insist more boldly. However, if his statement was made as a private opinion, it will be of little account.

The plenary session of the Diet held on 3 October received a resolution concerning the development of private schools submitted at the joint suggestion of all the political parties. In explaining the reason why the resolution was introduced, HIROKAWA, Kozen said that the past culture of this country was for the most part fostered by private schools; that private schools were greatly improved even during the Meiji Era-when the practice of putting the government above the people was predominant; that two-thirds of the present education of this country is being carried on by private schools. In addition, he stressed the necessity of the following two points: (1) removal of frozen deposits to rehabilitate those schools which suffered from the war, (2) state compensation for the rehabilitation of those schools and the betterment of the condition of teachers.

If the construction of a cultured nation is essential for this country to exist in the future, education is indeed the basis upon which this country should stand. However, we never expected that such an important problem should be submitted only as a resolution to this historic Diet.

The Constitutional committee meeting of the House of Peers has completed final touches on the revised Constitution. Since the committee men had considerable difficulty deciding how a premier, not being a soldier, should be expressed, they finally decided on a civil person (BUN MIN).

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ITEM 15 Plenary Session of the House of Peers on 5 October - Asahi Shimbun - 6 Oct 46. Translator: S. Sano.

Summary:

The bill on the revision of the Constitution was presented to the plenary session of the House of Peers on 5 October. At the beginning of the session, ABE, chairman of the Constitution committee of the House reported on the result of the deliberation at the committee.

He said, "Because of the international importance of the Constitution bill, the House of Peers did its best in deliberating the bill. Sharp discussions were held on whether the bill would change the national polity or not. A committee member asked if the Government was giving a peculiar interpretation on the national polity because of article 73 of the existing Constitution. However, the Government is of the conviction that the national polity has not been changed although the political structure has been altered. The decision on the status of the Emperor should be based on the general will of the people, including the Emperor. Such ideas of the national polity have existed throughout the history of JAPAN and will last forever.

"With the treatment of the Imperial rescript on education as the subject, another sharp discussion was held on the future policy of the education which will conform with the spirit of the new Constitution. The Government holds that the Emperor can indicate to the people the foundation of human morality in a private capacity, regardless of his official status by a rescript."

"Various comments were made on the draft Constitution. However, the revision of the Constitution is the necessary outcome of the past deeds of JAPAN under the existing Constitution. In this regard, the Government, scholars, and officials cannot claim non-responsibility. All of the people of JAPAN, who blundered in the past, should assume the responsibility for the future realizations of the spirit of the new Constitution. And in manifesting this spirit, JAPAN shall find her future joy and happiness."

After this report various questions were asked.

SONODA, Takehiko:

It appears to me that the sources of various disputes in the country should be removed if we are to exhibit the spirit of the new Constitution in its fullest.

Premier YOSHIDA:

All the people should strive to tide over the present national crisis and drop their unnecessary struggles.

The meeting recessed for noon. In the afternoon session, questions were carried.

SASAKI, Soichi:

The fundamental political structure of the State becomes changed because the Emperor loses the power of sovereignty by the bill. We should not confound the political incompetence of the Emperor with his political non-responsibility. There is a confusion of this nature in the bill.

A stipulation providing for the political non-responsibility of the Emperor should be inserted in the draft Constitution. This change of the fundamental political will, spiritually and morally speaking, effect an international change. This point was not considered in the draft Constitution.

Some articles should be approved, and some should not be approved. However, all articles should be cautiously deliberated in the light of their relative importance in the bill as a whole.

After the speeches of MATSUMURA, Shinichiro; SAWADA, Ushimaro; and OKOCHI, Kiko, the session was adjourned at 1715 hours.

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ITEM 12 Movements Behind Democratic Diet (Round-Table Conference of Parliamentary Reporters) - Shin Yukan - 5 Oct 46. Translator: M. Ota.

Full Translation:

The 90th special session of the Diet which has lasted more than a hundred days as a result of three time extensions, has made an unprecedented record. The discussion on various important bills including the draft Constitution are now in their final stages, but it will be impossible to complete deliberations on the important bills such as the bill for cancelling war indemnities and the Property Tax Bill during the remaining short period. Therefore, rumor has it that the present session will be prolonged again. At all events, the discussions have already passed their height in the present session.

Although the apparent progress of proceedings has been reported in the daily newspapers, movements behind the scene have been kept in secret from the people. Here, in our newspaper office, (SHIN YUKAN) we held a round table conference of parliamentary correspondents on the movements behind the first democratic Diet in our history. We held the discussion under the title of "Scenes behind the Democratic Diet."

A: I believe that parliamentary politics are not restricted to Diet sessions. Of course, it is also practiced outside the Diet, but the main substance of parliamentary politics takes place in various party chambers, the lobbies and through conversations between Diet members as they visit one another. I want you to criticize the epoch-making democratic Diet from this view point. Would you mind telling us your opinion freely and frankly?

First of all, let us discuss the problem of extending this session. Since the Government has referred the bills concerning munitions indemnities all together to the Diet, the question is how will the Diet complete discussions on these important bills in the five days before the present session is dissolved.

B: Of course it is impossible to finish the discussions. Even if the House of Representatives does manage to approve these bills the House of Peers will not be able to complete this discussions. However, if the Upper House intends to pass them without deliberation, it is unnecessary to prolong the present session.

C: Accordingly, opinion has been brought up on the extension of the session. This time, it will be extended for three or five days, but it seems unlikely that the Government will agree to this opinion.

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POLITICAL SERIES: 1356 (Continued)

ITEM 12 (Continued)

D: Generally, the Government's attitude has been too slack and inactive. Although the Government seems to believe that it has been doing its best, the fact is undeniable that the Government is awkward and poor in its parliamentary operation. When the session was prolonged for the third time, some Diet members proposed that the House be adjourned for a while. This proposal has been seriously discussed, but it was finally rejected.
A: What was the aim of that proposal?
D: As the result of the shortage of foodstuffs and hotels, Diet members were too tired to devote themselves to the slow progress of the discussions. Therefore, if the House was adjourned, Diet members would have been able to go home to the various districts to recover their strength. Then they would have done their utmost in discussing bills referred to the Diet. For that purpose, instead of holding the proposed extraordinary session (to be held in November), an ordinary session should have been advanced. Thereupon, the intention was to discuss half of the bills which were to be referred to the coming 91st special session at this 90th special session and to discuss the other half at the advanced ordinary session.
A: It is an excellent plan, is it not?
D: However excellent it may be the Government did not follow the plan. Consequently, plenary sessions and committee meetings have been extremely dull and inactive. Strictly speaking, frequently the members present at the plenary sessions did not make a quorum.
B: It is the same in the cases of committee meetings. Sometimes there were only two members in attendance at a committee meeting. A certain Diet member could not leave his seat until the committee meeting was closed, because he was one of the two attendants who made interpellations at the meeting. This is the worst example.
D: Sometimes we saw notices up in committee members' rooms announcing that the committee meeting had not yet been held. This was due to the small attendance.
B: Generally, meetings could not be held because of the small attendance. The fact revealed the awkwardness of the Government in its parliamentary operation.
A: In spite of making a mess of it, the Government is too imprudent and selfish to demand the approval of unsettled bills as quickly as possible, because the dissolution is near at hand.
B: The Government's attitude reflects on the Government party, the Liberals. When it was decided to discuss the Property Tax bill along with four other bills related to the cancellation of war indemnities, Mr KAWARADA, Iwao, advocated at the Diet member's meeting of the party that such an important bill should not be sent to other committee meetings for discussion. Moreover, he rebuked the Government for being irresponsible in referring the bill at the time when there are only a few days left in this session for discussion. He also demanded that the Liberal Party advocate independently, the establishment of the property tax committee to meet the nation's trust in the first party.
C: I have heard of it. In this case, Mr KAWARADA was unreasonable, for even the first party cannot upset the decision made by the inter-party committee meeting. Though he is a freshman Diet member, he should know more about parliamentary politics.
B: Secretary-general of the Liberal Party, ONO, Bamboku advised him on that point. Then Mr KAWARADA defied the Secretary-general, asking whether he meant that we should approve these bills without discussions. Mr ONO replied that he did not want an approval without deliberation. However, since the matter has been decided by the inter-party committee meeting, ONO said, the Party must carefully discuss them within the limited period. Of course, Mr ONO knew well that actually it is impossible to make careful discussions in such a short time, but as secretary-general of the Government party, he is in a delicate situation.

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POLITICAL SERIES: 1356 (Continued)

ITEM 12 (Continued)

A: Did KAWARADA change his opinion?
B: No, he did not. He became angry with the Social Democratic Party. The reason being that the Social Democratic Party was unbecoming as an opposition party which is trusted by the people and because the party is going to approve these important bills without deliberation as the result of blind obedience to the Government.
D: The party has reportedly supported the Property Tax bill as the means of redistributing wealth.
B: Wait a minute. A Diet member who had sat near me at the meeting said with a chuckle that KAWARADA wished to be chairman of the proposed committee.(all persons present laughed); however, that cannot be true.
A: Since the country is under the control of the occupation army, all parties must have various difficulties in this so-called democratic Diet. We must sympathize with the Government's sincere efforts in its awkward position. By the way, at the secret informal conference of the whole house held in the budget committee room Finance Minister ISHIBASHI was said to have made a moving speech with tears in his eyes.
C: Yes, he did. Since we reporters were prohibited from attending the secret conference, a Diet member who attended the meeting told me that the speech deeply impressed him, no matter the argument. Truth touches the heart of the people in any case.
A: What did he explain?

(To be continued)

ITEM 13 Views on Labor Standard Bill - Nippon Keizai Shimbun - 5 Oct 46.
Translator: S. Hirata.

Full Translation:

Both the Ministry of Welfare and the Council for Studying Labor Regulations are now expediting the final draft of the Labor Standard bill (RODO KIJUN HOAN) to be submitted to the next session of the Diet. Since the arrangement of the all-inclusive views on the sub-committee's draft which was submitted to the general public audition council came to an end, the Council for Studying Labor Regulations will shortly hold a sub-committee meeting and decide on the sub-committee draft in which the opinions of the public audition council are reflected. The draft, will than be referred to the plenary session of the Council and submitted to the Government around the middle of next month.

The fundamental differences of views on the sub-committee's draft between Capital and Labor are as follows:

Capital holds the view that this bill is a regulation for controlling employers. On the ground that this bill is the highest standard for the protection of workers, it is also maintained that the principles concerning obligations, improvement of efficiency, and the sincerity on the part of workers should be provided for by this bill.

Meanwhile, this bill is regarded on the whole as progressive by the workers. However, pointing out that, in regard to the extent of protection, the contents of the draft have merely provided for a minimum standard, workers are demanding the enlargement and intensification of the bill.

This labor-capital confrontation has had an important influence on various political parties. Just as the Socialist and Communist Parties have rapped the Labor Relations Readjustment bill at the current session of the Diet, both the Liberal and Progressive Parties are striving for the emasculation of the draft. The Socialist and Communist Parties, on the other hand, are supporting a plan in favor of consolidating the draft. Under such circumstances, the situation may grow more troublesome and involved in the future. Nevertheless,

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ITEM 12 Another Extension Of The Diet Probable - Daiichi Shimbun - 4 Oct 46. Translator: T. Fukushima.

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Full Translation:

The committee on the war indemnity cancellation bill of the House of Representatives is now very hastily reviewing that bill which is expected to be handed over to the House of Peers on Saturday. If so, the Upper House has only two days to discuss the bill, because the session expires on Sunday; hence another three days' extension of the Diet is being advocated by some members. This session which was scheduled to last 40 days, was first prolonged 30 days, then 30 days, and finally 10 days - thus making an extraordinarily long session of 120 days, a record in our Diet history.

In order to investigate into the case of the general strike scheduled by the newspaper and radio workers, 20 representatives of the political parties in the Lower House called the representatives of the strikers and the so-called reconstruction group (anti-strikers) of the YOMIURI SHIMBUN to the Diet Building at 1400 hours on Wednesday and heard their respective grievances. WATANABE, leader of the reconstruction group, reported on the development of the dispute. When MUTO, chief of the business department of the company, began to state the facts after saying that they were going to come to an understanding with the strikers, ARAHATA, Kanson, Social Democrat, suddenly demanded a secret hearing, and newspaper reporters had the door closed in our faces. Thus we men of the press were excluded from hearing the case of our fellow tradesmen's dispute. The scheduled general strike of the newspaper and radio workers was discussed in the conference of the ministers responsible for public order held in the morning of the same day.

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The Constitutional Committee of the House of Peers has finished its deliberation on the draft Constitution. Two important amendments have been made in the provisions pertaining to the suffrage and to the qualification of the Prime Minister, and the wording has been slightly corrected. The epoch-making new Constitution has been virtually established. This historical committee constantly reflected the vigour and the spirit of a JAPAN struggling to regain her footing.

ITEM 9 Extraordinary Diet Session To Be Convened in the Latter Part of Next Month - Yomiuri Shimbun - 8 Oct 46. Translator: H. Kuwata.

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Full Translation:

Although the opinion favoring the advance of the date of the next regular session instead of the convention of an extraordinary session has been expressed at the Diet, the Government decided at the special Cabinet meeting on the 7th to petition the Throne for the convention of an extraordinary session of about one month's period sometime in the latter part of November, provided that no special difficulties arise.

The Government, through the present session of the Diet, has completed work on as many as 80 important laws, including the revised Constitution thus establishing the foundation for a democratic reconstruction program. In the next special session, the government will attempt to complete the vital work of drawing up a concrete program for the rebuilding of Japan, and to clarify internationally the policy of rehabilitation she is pursuing by completing as quickly as possible the supplemental provisions of the Constitution, such as the House of Councillors Law, the Diet Law, the Cabinet Law, the Imperial House Law, and the Imperial Estate Law.

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ITEM 13 Looking Back Upon the Session (8) Political Parties - Part 2. - Daiichi Shimbun - 24 Oct 46. Translator: K. Murakami.

Full Translation:

The reasons why Minister without portfolio SHIDEHARA, president of the Progressive Party opposes the coalition between his party and the Cooperative-Democratic Party as planned by INUKAI and KATAI are: (1) If the Progressive Party should become the largest party by amalgamating with the Cooperative-Democratic Party, thus overwhelming the Liberal Party, it would be doing wrong by YOSHIDA. (2) Though he has no objection to changing the party name, he does not like the idea of accepting a name proposed by the Cooperative-Democratic Party.

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At any rate, SHIDEHARA has been an advocate of the amalgamation of the conservative elements ever since he became the president of the Progressive Party. YOSHIDA has also hoped for the realization of an immediate coalition when the circumstances of his party permit. Under such circumstances, both YOSHIDA and SHIDEHARA began to take this coalition issue into serious consideration. When YOSHIDA and SHIDEHARA met in the Imperial Palace on 24 September, the day of the Festival of the Autumnal Equinox, SHIDEHARA approached YOSHIDA with a proposal, saying, "Now that the situation is such, I believe our parties should unite at once." YOSHIDA had no objection to this proposal. On the 26th, he visited MAKINO, Nobuaki, his father in law, at CHIBA, to consult him on this issue. MAKINO advised YOSHIDA, saying, "I understand your intention. However, no question concerning a political party should be decided without officially consulting its executive staff." Then SHIDEHARA and YOSHIDA met again on the 27th, when YOSHIDA stated, "Though this question has to be solved sooner or later, we should not be in too much of a hurry. For the present we have no suitable promoter for this coalition. It is also questionable whether or not we should consult the party leaders on this problem right now."

The Progressive Party also held a Supreme Executive Council Meeting on 3 October in the president's drawing-room in the Diet building. On this day President SHIDEHARA did not particularly mention this matter. Strong opposition against the coalition was lodged by Minister without portfolio SAITO. The coalition problem seems to have stalemated there. However, this problem has not thoroughly been given up. As a matter of fact, this problem will often be taken up in the political world, and the "coalition" to come will not always be merely a "cohabitation" as it has in the past.

Immediately after the last general elections, the difference in strength between the Liberal and Progressive Parties was 141 to 94. But now, after the Diet session, it is 148 and 110 or nearly equal. If either of the two parties succeeds in winning over the Cooperative-Democratic Party, or other minor factions, to its side, it is sure to become the absolute majority party. On the other hand, however, there are some quarters that are of the opinion that in order to meet the attack of the democratic elements headed by the Social-Democratic Party, we should have two big parties nearly equal in strength rather than a single overwhelming party. (NAKAMURA.)

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ITEM 6 Diet News - Daiichi Shimbun - 6 Oct 46. Translator: T. Ono.

403 Full Translation:

Just as every political party in the Lower House is gradually forming its respective policy towards the pending bills relative to the cancellation of war indemnities the Social Democratic Party on 4 October decided to oppose the Property Tax Law bill and five other related bills, and it has proposed a resolution to send the bills back. The party asserts that all these bills are, in the final analysis, lacking in thoroughness and should be entirely revised and that if these bills are put into effect as is, successive impositions of the second and third property tax and renewed liquidation of the fictitious capital would become inevitable. However, it is utterly impossible to deliberate on their revision in such a short period as is left in this Diet session. The party, therefore, has finally decided to send them back following a similar step once taken on the occasion of the deliberation for the budget bill.

With the advent of the autumn harvest season, the Foods Measure Committee of the Lower House is sending out its members to every district to investigate the actual crop conditions. Four members of the committee were sent to the KANTO District on 5 October, and they are investigating the crop situation of potatoes in particular. The committee is expected to draw up a concrete plan based upon their findings and is expected to hold negotiations with the Government sometime early next week. Although letting potatoes spoil might be something in the Government's line, we hope that this time it will speedily make appropriate disposition of the potatoes, before they start to rot.

At present the matter of a merger of the two conservative political parties, the Liberals and the Progressives, has been taken up anew both in and out of the Diet. Aside from the question of whether this merger rumor is founded on facts or not, a point to consider is that the clamor this time is being centered around the activities of the presidents of the two parties, SHIDEHARA and YOSHIDA. Baron SHIDEHARA has been in favor of a fusion of the conservative political groups ever since his assumption of office as president of the Progressive Party, and Premier YOSHIDA has also been of the opinion that the conservative political parties should be immediately merged into one party, should the interval conditions of each party be favorable. A chat between the two, therefore, will naturally incline toward the unification of both parties, and the confidential talk they had together while informally proceeding toward the Imperial Palace for the observation of the 24 September Festival of the Autumnal Equinox has been the start of it all. Since then, YOSHIDA has acted as if he were anxiously working on something by paying a visit to Count MAKINO, his father-in-law and by holding a subsequent talk with Baron SHIDEHARA.

On the other hand, the views of the members of the respective parties have reached no agreement. INUGAI and his faction of so-called reformists in the Progressive Party have been strongly opposing the projected merger and are asserting that the party should instead abandon its ideological ecdysis and singly take the lead in meeting the current world situation. In other words, they are trying to consolidate the Progressive Party and to make it the great force in the political world. Furthermore, not only were there no concrete commitments made by the president of the Progressive Party regarding the merger question at the Central Staff Committee held on 3 October, but SAITO, State Minister without Portofolio, flatly expressed his firm stand against the unification. As for the Liberal Party, such party leaders as OKUBO and OHNO are disregarding the question. They are saying that an opinion of the president, is just an opinion, and that as long as the issue is not formally presented to the party organ, it will not be taken up as a subject of discussion.

Although no one knows whether the merger will be beneficial or not, one party member is considering which party would emerge as the leading element when an unified single conservative party is formed. The issue of the parties, after all, appears to be a business of calculating profit and loss.
(NAKAMURA, reporter)

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ITEM 10 Economic Prospects After the Closing of the Diet - Jiji Shimpo - 17 Oct 46. Translator: Y. Kurata.

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Full Translation:

It can be said that the future development of our national economy depends upon curbing the current rampant inflation, while bringing about increased production in our industry. Under the circumstances, it is necessary for our national economy to participate in the Breton-Woods Monetary Agreement, after the Peace Conference, therefore, that the future prospect of our national economy should be forecast from this standpoint.

Among the bills on economic matters, those relating to the cancellation of war indemnities are of great significance. These bills, as worked out from the financial point of view, are regarded as aiming at the abolition of current inflation. However, considering the importance of these bills in checking the present vicious inflation, we can not but admit that they will serve as nothing but a prelude for anti-inflation measures by the Government. Nor can we find any positive features therein. In fact, the cancellation of war indemnities and a series of laws incidental thereto are expected to have no more positive effect in stemming current inflation than to enable all enterprises to carry out their own business readjustment, to say nothing of their importance as fundamental measures to stimulate industrial production.

Anti-inflation measures, truely interpreted in the sense of the word, should be designed to decrease the amount of deficit finance, while trying to increase industrial production. However, judging from the present economic circumstances where a vast amount of Government's expenditures are supposed to be made in the future, it is generally felt that the cancellation of war indemnities will have only sporadic effects on the solution of the Government's red-ink finance.

Such being the case, great emphasis should be placed upon the anti-inflation measures and the resumption of our industrial production in the enforcement of our future economic policy. The same can be true of the Enterprise Reconstruction and Readjustment Law. It follows, therefore, that the business readjustment, as designed from the financial viewpoint alone, under the law, will prove of little effect unless a composite reconstruction plan is worked out, or in other words, definite prospect for reparations, imports and the current inflation are made. Likewise, the Extraordinary Commodity Demand and Supply Readjustment Law has only the negative meaning of how to carry out fair distribution of commodities, the stock of which is fast dwindling. In other words, the Law can have a positive sense only when it is endorsed by increased production of commodities.

It is possible that the present food shortages will be eased to some extent next year. Therefore, a tentative settlement will be brought about to the food problem. Under the circumstances, among problems consequent to the contemplated increased production of our industry, most important consists in how to bring both labor and capital, which are among major elements of production, into the proper relationship. In this sense, the Labor Relations Adjustment Law, which was passed by the Diet, is of great significance.

Meanwhile, the Commerce and Industry Co-operative Law is regarded as a progressive legislation since it admits an autonomous organization of civilian entrepreneurs. However it is still doubtful whether such a legislation can measure up to the present plight of our national economy or not since our industrial circles depend in large measure upon the Government's bureaucratic policy. Hence the necessity of training entrepreneurs in independent collective movement.

Other epoch-making legislations in the present Diet are the Owner Farmer Establishment Special Measures Law and the Farm Land Readjustment Law, all of which are designed to reform the present farm land system. According to these laws, about 540,225,000 acres are expected to be purchased by the Government for the purpose of establishing new owner-farmers. However, it is generally observed

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and thus secure a sure basis for the future development of our national economy as a part of world economy. It is very clear, therefore, that the future prospect of our national economy should be forecast from this standpoint.

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that the scale of our agricultural management will not undergo any change, even after the enforcement of these laws. Herein lies the great necessity of adopting large scale farming and putting it into smooth operation.

It is also feared that the setting up of Farm Land Management Bureaus in every prefecture will prevent newly established owner farmers from being freed of bureaucratic control. Therefore, farmers should team up with each other in fighting for their own independent development.

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ITEM 1 Strife, by Nakanishi, Inosuke (The Communist Party member of Diet) - Magazine Choryu (Monthly) - Oct Issue. Translator: F. Tsuneishi.

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Summary:

The present Diet is a legislative organ based upon the TENNO system and represents the interests of great capitalists and landlords, instead of being an organ for the benefit of the people. On the day the revision of the constitution was adopted, OZAKI, Yukio remarked that this revision was respecting the bureaucrats and ridiculing the people. Because the purge was carried out before the last general election, many seem to think our present Diet is a democratic one, but I doubt if one-fifth of the entire Diet members actually know what true democracy is.

I have had many surprises since I became a member of the Diet. The right of freedom of speech has been ignored and the Diet meeting are as feudalistic as ever. We cannot say anything without being threatened with punishment or being told to retract our statement. Where, in this world, can we find such a democratic Diet as this? I do not believe there is any difference between the present Diet and the feudalistic Diet of the MEIJI era or the fascist-like Diet of the war days.

The success of the Communist party in gaining six seats in the Diet will be recorded in the history of the movements for the emancipation of proletarian farmers. The Social Democrats who had only 16 seats before the war, obtained nearly hundred, and these two parties have combined to form one large progressive democratic camp.

One member, who has been serving for the past twenty years, said that the Diet has recently changed to a battlefield of class strife for the first time in Japanese history. During the war, there were some former Social Mass party members in the Diet who worked in cooperation with the militarists and abandoned their original ideal of class struggle. After the war, they formed the Social Democratic party of JAPAN but did not include class strggle among the objectives of their movements, for they thought that this would be disadvantageous in that it would not appeal to the public.

The Communist party is a party standing for class struggle. Therefore, when this party continued to advocate this principle within, as well as outside, the Diet, it became a threat to the Social Democrats, for they too, as the Communists, called themselves the workers' and farmers' party. Had it not been for the Communist party, the Social Democratic party would have become the third bourgeois political party, side by side with the Liberal and Progressive parties. However, conditions have tended to make the Social Democratic party change its attitude. It has been more or less forced to stand for class struggle with the Communist party in the Diet, as may be seen in their opposition to the Labor Adjustment Law and the large budget. This tendency has made the present Diet a scene of class strife, the outcome of which will lead to the inevitable and gradual formation of a joint people's front by the Communist and the Social Democratic parties.

ITEM 1 Closing Ceremony of the Diet - Mainichi Shimbun - 13 Oct 46. Translator: K. Higashikawa.

Full Translation:

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The closing ceremonies of the historic 90th extraordinary session of the Diet, which passed many important bills and drafted the new Constitution were held in the House of Peers on 12 October. All Diet members were in attendance with the exception of the communists. Following Premier YOSHIDA's reading of the Imperial Rescript ordering the adjournment of the Diet session, the closing ceremonies came to an end.

The Emperor received all the Diet members in audience at the AKASAKA Detached Palace and delivered a statement of appreciation for their arduous labors in the Diet session just ended. Riding in his russet-colored limousine for the first time since the termination of the war, and wearing a morning suit with a soft hat, the Emperor left the Imperial Palace at 1145 hours for the AKASAKA Detached Palace, accompanied by Grand Chamberlain OGANE. After granting an audience to all members of both Houses, including President TOKUGAWA of the House of Peers and Speaker YAMAZAKI of the House of Representatives, the Emperor returned to the Imperial Palace at 1210 hours. Later, the Cabinet members and the members of both Houses were guests of Premier YOSHIDA at a luncheon party.

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ITEM 2 Government Aims at "Peace Cabinet" - Dai Ichi Shimbun - 11 Oct 46. Translator: A. Kawamura.

Full Translation:

When the present Diet session is over, the people will be interested in learning how the government will execute those policies which it has officially promised to carry out during the session. Therefore, the extent of political activities has been defined. The key to success in carrying out its policies lies in the execution of those measures following the cancellation of indemnities, which will throw many workers out of work. It is natural for the YOSHIDA Cabinet to attempt to remain in power until a peace treaty can be concluded. In this connection, the proposed merger of the liberal and the Progressive Parties will be discussed. The prospects for a merger, however, do not look particularly favorable, because each party intends to struggle for the reins of political power. The Government, however, must strengthen its political position in order to carry out those policies which it officially promised. In this connection, the Government's co-operation with the Social Democratic Party is being rumored. Will the people support the Government when it takes joint political measures in concert with the Social Democrats, Liberals and Progressives, in order to strengthen its power?

The important factor in defining the future political movements lies herein. From this, opposition to the present Cabinet from the Communist Party and the masses under its influence has arisen. The Government declared its "opposition to political disputes" in connection with the newspaper and radio workers' walkouts, near the end of the present Diet session. Such a firm attitude on the part of the Government is significant of a conservative Cabinet, and that the people will support it is extremely doubtful. It simply proves that those who hold the reins of power after the end of the Diet session will continue to worry.

ITEM 15 Probable Extension of the Diet Session for 3 More Days - Asahi Shimbun - 3 Oct 46. Translator: T. Kitayama.

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Full Translation:

A fourth extension of the Diet session seems to be inevitable. Already half of the ten-day extension has passed, but deliberations by the respective committees on the present bills for the agricultural land reform and for the war-time indemnification special measures are proceeding very cautiously. Also, because the attitude of the Social Democratic Party for the amendment of the agricultural land reform bill is to be decided at its Representatives' meeting on the 3rd, the presentation of the bill to the plenary session is not expected to be made until the 5th. As for the war-time indemnification special measure, the attitudes of all parties toward it have not yet been decided, so the presentation of the bill to the plenary session is also not expected to be made until the 5th at the earliest. Accordingly, even if these two bills should pass the House of Representatives on the 5th, the House of Peers will have only two days, the 6th and 7th, for its deliberations, which is not enough time to do a thorough job. Therefore, if we take into consideration the Government's desire to have the new Constitution enacted as soon as possible, the Diet session will eventually be extended for three days to the 10th or thereabouts.

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION

PRESS TRANSLATIONS

MORNING EDITION

Date: 16 Oct 46

EDITORIAL SERIES: 1326

ITEM 1 Composition of House of Councillors - Jiji Shimpo - 16 Oct 46.
Translator: K. Higashikawa.

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Summary:

The various clauses concerning the House of Councillors have been passed by the House of Peers without amendment, and it has now been definitely decided that we are to have both Houses, the members of which will be elected by popular vote.

The duties of the Upper House are self-evident, for in a single State there is nothing else to do for the Upper House but to correct the excesses of the Lower House and to fill in what has been overlooked. If so, the House of Councillors should be so composed that it can play the role of the right. In order to control the conduct of the Lower House, the House of Councillors should be given characteristics superior to the House of Representatives. It is useless to copy foreign institutions without tangible reasons, for foreign institutions have their own traditions and peculiarities.

It is said that the number of the members of the House of Councillors will be fixed at 300. We would like to know the basis for this number. We have never heard any opinion which said that 300 is a suitable number for legislation. We know of a scholar who said that the ideal number for a conference is seven, because this number can represent all schools of opinion, there is then a good chance of agreement after discussion, and in voting the pros and cons will not be the same number. This ideal, however, cannot be put in practice, so there is some reason for expanding this number to 300. Of all the democratic countries FRANCE is the only one which fixed the number of members of the Upper House at 300. However, with the recovery of ALSACE-LORRAINE, the number was increased by 14. We have never heard that the Upper House of FRANCE showed any superiority over those of other nations on account of numerical superiority. Of the other democratic nations of EUROPE, the Upper House of SWEDEN is composed of the greatest number of members, but even then the number is one-half that of FRANCE. The total number of the House of Lords of BRITAIN reaches 700, but actually only about 200 are present even when important problems are discussed. The UNITED STATES' Senate, recognized as the most capable Upper House in the world, is composed of only 96 members. It is recognized by intellectuals that the superiority of the Senate is due to this small number.

Fixing the full number of the House of Councillors at 300 is not backed by either theory or experience. One half of this number, or one-third of it, is more reasonable. The percentage of the total population should not be important for the House of Councillors inasmuch as the House of Representatives is in existence. As to the age limit for members of the House of Councillors, it should not be fixed at, say, 30 or 40. Expert opinion should be gathered as to what age will be most suitable.

All the plans for the composition of the House of Councillors so far reported lack faith and positiveness. Of course, improvements can be made with the progress of science and as we gain more experience, but that should be no excuse for us to take only makeshift measures for the present. We must take rational measures and try to adopt such principles for the House of Councillors which we could not adopt for the House of Representatives, thereby making the House of Councillors a worthy legislature in its own right.

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POLITICAL SERIES: 1361 (Continued)

ITEM 9 Attending the Renewed Diet by Sekiya, Katsutoshi - member of the House of Representatives from the Progressive Party - Provincial Newspaper Ehime Shimbun (Matsuyama) - 7 Oct 46. Translator: H. Kuwata.

Full Translation:

I am doing my utmost in order to contribute to the rebuilding of a new JAPAN and thus meet the expectations of the people of this prefecture. The food problem, together with the revision of the Constitution, was the main subject of discussion through the present Diet session. Although every possible step has been taken to ease up the problem, there is no positive way of solving the problem other than importing food from the Allied countries, when the absolute amount necessary to feed the nation is insufficient. The fact that the Allied forces kindly released foodstuffs to cope with this crisis, impressed us so much that the House of Representatives decided to thank General MacARTHUR for his good will shown towards the nation.

I, as a member of the food counter measure commitee of the House of Representatives, made an inspection tour recently in the TOHOKU district.

As to the production of fertilizers, there is the prospect that we can attain a goal of 100 million tons by the end of July 1947, although this amount is yet far below the prewar output. The distribution of farm-tools and other materials for production through regular channels will soon be functioning and will give satisfaction to farmers.

The fishing industry will be supplied this year with a relatively large amount of necessary materials. Fishing nets, for instance, will be distributed through the regular channels as 80,000 bales of cotton yarn - the amount required by the fishing industry in pre-war years - have been produced.

Since I was elected member of the promotion committee of the Rehabilitation Board, as well as the standing director of the League of Members of the House of Representatives for the War Calamity Rehabilitation, I am taking part in expediting the national reconstruction. After the Diet session is over, we are to inspect every war-devastated area, and therefore the public opinions and the air-raid sufferers' desires regarding the housing problem, which we may get through the inspections, will greatly help the government tackle the problem.

I was also appointed a member of the Constitution committee, but here I shall omit the reports concerning the Constitution, because it was decided upon that all members of the House are to make their best efforts towards the popularization of the Constitution after the session is over.

In view of the fact that labor disputes in this transition period are apt to run to an extreme, and that both labor and capital must modify and unite themselves to strive towards the establishment of a new JAPAN, I recognized the necessity of the Labor Adjustment Law and approved it. This law provides minimum restriction and prohibition against disputes in public enterprises, government offices and so forth, which, otherwise, might either deter the reopening of industries or paralyse state affairs. Therefore, this is by no means a law which, as same say, aims at oppressing laborers, or justifies any unreasonable dismissals.

We have already experienced how badly the surprise strikes of public enterprises can affect and threaten the livelihood of the nation. I believe that the management conference which gives the last opportunity to labor and capital of settling the disputes before resorting to strikes, will be spread all over the country with the enactment of this law, and that the participation of labor in the management is a strong desire of the present day and cooperation of

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ITEM 9 (Continued)

laborers and capitalists of progressive ideas alone can encourage the reopening of productions. We must do away with the idea which only wishes labor disputes and consequently destroys our industry.

As to the relief of bereaved families and repatriates, every possible measure including the business fund, as well as the Livelihood Protection Law, is being taken, so that those who are found to be in need can be protected. But since the relief acivities cannot be said to be satisfactory, our efforts are solely centered upon the betterment of the relief systems.

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ITEM 15 Movements Behind the Democratic Diet. Conference (3) - Shin Yukan - 10 Oct 46. Translator: S. Sano.

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Summary:

(EN: This is the third and last in a series of articles. Part one is series 1356, item 12 and part two is series 1359, item 2.)

A) It is said that the son of AKITA, Kiyoshi is very active in

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the Diet as his father was in the past.

C) You mean AKITA, Daisuke of the Peoples Party? He was the originator of the work of the merger of the SHINSEI-KAI with the Cooperative Democrat Party.

D) When YAMAMOTO, leader of the Cooperative Democrat Party was in despair, fearing the exile of the purge directive, Akita of the SHINSEI-KAI called to console him. They planned the work of the merger at this time. It was after his visit that YAMAMOTO and IGAWA, chairman of the Cooperative Democrat Party met secretly on the work of the merger.

C) Dissatisfied with the secret meeting, the AKITA brothers opprosed the merger at first, and it was at length not realized although for a time it appeared that it would. The mere change of its name to the Peoples Party will not bring about unity among members of the party unless there is a capable leader at its head. The wide difference of views held by the members of the new party will make the party difficult to command.

B) Is it true that a certain woman member of the Peoples Party demanded 500,000 yen when she was persuaded to join a major party by a certain councillor?

C) It is said that the councillor was utterly astonished at the demand for 500,000 yen. However, it can be imagined that she had no intention of joining the party from the begining and so for that, reason she demanded such an enormous sum. According to another rumor, the councillor said afterward that he had lost the money for her supper. (The councillor persuaded her to join his party at the supper table.) However, I believe, he is not that narrow minded.

A) What has become of the Independent club which once allegorized to the assembly as "political RUMPEN"?

C) It seems that members who wanted to join other parties have generally seceded from the club. At present, the entire membership does not total in number the fixed seats of the interparty negotiation body. It is expected that the number will be reduced to half of the present number at the time of the next extraordinary session of the Diet.

A) It seems that members of the Independent club have come to realize that the democratic Diet is swayed by the number of the party members.

B) It is irregular form in democratic politics to have too many independent members.

C) The atmosphere of the Independent club is unpleasant. They are too jealous of each other although each is generally a good Diet member. They are always ready to find fault with each other. The smooth operation of a motley assembly like the Independent club can not be expected without the conciliatory spirit in each other.

A) Let us talk about OISHI, Yoshie, woman Diet member among the popular figures.

C) She is good natured and a rather simple woman. She makes a fuss as a blind follower of others without any special evil intention. Some days ago, at another's instigation she spoke snappishly to FUKUDA, Shigeka regarding the inter party negotiation body. FUKUDA is not a person to disregard other's sacrifices for his success. He was advised by her at that time only because he was too prudent for the management of the inter party negotiation body.

A) Quite some time ago, a certain Diet member interrupted the speech of a Diet member and it brought about confusion.

C) Certainly, there was such a confusion. In this conference, we had better not mention the name of the Diet member for his honour, since it is not good to expose other's fault. We do not need to pursue him any more if he will behave himself in the future.

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D) Let us talk about OISHI, Yoshie again.

C) She is certainly an eccentric women Diet members. She heckles speakers at the Diet with her shrill voice. However, there was no way for the speaker to retort her interruption, because, even though she is old, she is after all a member of the fair sex. If the interruption had been made by a man member, it is certain that the Diet would have been thrown into great confusion.

A) She says that she finds it easier to associate with men Diet-members than women Diet members.

C) She speaks to every person in a very friendly way. I was astonished when she first spoke to me using a very friendly manner. She calls Home Minister OMURA by his pet name. She says she has been acquainted with him since his childhood. At any rate, OISHI is an eccentric woman, apart from her ability as a Diet members.

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ITEM 14 Reports of Our Representatives on the Diet - Provincial Newspaper Yukan Shinano (Nagano) - 9 Oct 46. Translator: T. Fukushima.

Full Translation:

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IDE, Ichitaro: "Throughout this session, we four non-partisans from this prefecture have experienced common pains, the labor-pains of creating a new organization under a new political idea. From these throes, the People's Party (KOKU-MIN-TO) has come into existence. When we heard discussions in the Diet from this new political standpoint, we keenly felt that the oppositionists' contentions should be accepted with less bias. While deliberations on the Constitution was on a very high level, the standard of consideration on other bills should also have been on that same high level. In order to establish a true democratic Diet, it is necessary to tie in politics with daily life more closely.

"Having participated in the deliberation on the Agrarian System Reform Law Bill (NOCHISEIDO KAISEI HOAN), the Forestry Law Bill (RINGYO HOAN) and the Emergency Food Measures Law Bill (SHOKURYO KINKYU SOCHI HOAN), I have deeply felt that agriculture in this country now stands at a turning point. When overseas trade is re-opened in the near future, Japanese agriculture will be confronted with a revolutionary change because it cannot escape from the influence of world economy with which it is linked. Therefore, it is necessary for this prefecture, the sericultural centre of JAPAN, to consider means of coping with the changing situation."

TONEKURA, Tatsuya: "It is a matter for rejoicing that bills were reviewed for more carefully at this session than in the past. For instance, the committee on the Local Administrative System Reform Law Bill (CHIHO SEIDO KAISEI HOAN) made forty-two ammendments on the Government's draft. Such a thing had been impossible before, and it was also significant that the Government complied with the revisions made by the Diet with good grace. In the future, we must go a step further and take the initiative in introducing bills, thus developing the Diet along real democratic lines. Though I was directly engaged in the review of only a few of the important bills, I earnestly participated in the deliberations on the Forestry Law Bill (RINGYO HOAN) and the Silk-Reeling Industry Law Bill (SANSHIGYO HOAN), which directly affect the interests of this prefecture. The Forestry Law Bill will set up a new control body, dissolving the existing Provincial Timber Control Companies (CHIHO MOKUZAI TOSEI KAISHA) and the Prefectural Timber Control Companies (FUKEN MOKUZAI TOSEI KAISHA). I approve of the purport of the bill, but not the amendments attached by the committee. As for the Silk-Reeling Industry Law, the partial revision by the Lower House is proper, but the purpose of the law cannot be attained by it alone so long as the present Agriculture Law (NOGYO HO) remains unrevised. Under the Agriculture Law, sericulturists are compelled to join the Agricultural Association (NOGYO-KAI); hence if the Silk-Reeling Law is enforced, they will be doubly controlled.

"A word on the women Diet members inclosing. It seems that they are not popular; but, in my opinion, they have conducted themselves to their credit. Their actions toward SCAP were especially noteworthy."

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POLITICAL SERIES: 1363 (Continued)

ITEM 15 (Continued)

the Farmland Adjustment Revision Bill and Industries Rehabilitation Corporation Bill. It completed discussions on the afternoon of 10 October and will introduce the bills to the plenary session on 11 October.

Trade Fund Special Accounts Bill and the Industries Rehabilitation Corporation Bill will be reported by Mr UEMURA, Ieji (KEMKYU-KAI), chief of the committees on these bills, the Farmland Adjustment Bill and the Owner Farmer Establishment Special Measures Bill by INADA, Uemasa (KOSEI-KAI), chief of the committees on these bills and the War Compensation Special Measure Bill and eleven other bills by MITSUCHI, Chuzo (KEMKYU-KAI), chief of the committee on these bills. Following this, Mr KAWAI, Yaichi (DOSEI-KAI) will make a speech in support of the Farmland Adjustment Bill. All of these bills will be approved as reported by chiefs of the Committees. Thus deliberations on all the bills introduced by the government, with the exception of the Automobile Enterprise Revision Bill, will have been completed. The Diet's closing ceremony is expected to be held on 12 October at 1100 hours.

Deliberations on the Sericulture Industry Land in the House of Peers and the Prohibition Law For Minors and the Farmers Union Law in the House of Representatives (all of which were introduced by members of the Diet) have been left unfinished.

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ITEM 12 Comments on the Diet - Daiichi Shimbun - 2 Oct 46. Translator: C. Akashi.

Full Translation:

On the 30th the Lower House Committee finished its deliberations on the Farm Land Reform Bill, which is one of the important bills now before the Diet. Some parties, such as the Social Democratic Party, may make an amendment proposal to this bill, but it seems very likely that it will pass the Diet almost as drafted. Each political party assumed an extremely definite, clear-cut attitude toward this bill. Both the Liberal and the Progressive parties decisively and openly stood by the landowners, calling for their protection. The Social Democratic Party held it necessary to amend some parts of it, while the Communist Party was against the bill. The stand taken by the Co-operative Democratic and other parties toward this bill lacked consistency, but in general, they were in favor of the Government's original bill. It is worthy of our attention that, for all the different views existing among the various parties, the Government stood firmly by its draft bill, declaring that its enforcement would be prerequisite to the democratization of agricultural communities.

A heated controversy was held centering upon the question as to whether or not a landowner should be allowed to retain his land of 2.45 acres (one Chobu). Regarding this problem, even the Social Democrats held two views in their amendment proposal; that is, some of them insisted that a landowner should not be allowed to retain land in view of the proposed entire abolition of the feudalistic tenancy system, while the others approved the original plan to let a landowner keep his land of 2.45 acres (one Chobu) on the condition that it would be placed under state control so as to prevent the future revival of the vicious influence of landowners. Other major subjects of discussion in the committee meeting were the abolition of the compensation system toward landowners; redating the state purchase of farmland from landowners back to the time of the end of the war; restricting the negotiability of farmland securities issued to landowners, and so forth.

At the beginning of the plenary session of the House of Representatives, KATO, Kanju, Social Democrat, asked an urgent question concerning the press and radio strike, stating that it was giving rise to an extremely serious, invisible social unrest, and he asked the Government's views on it. Then, Prime Minister YOSHIDA answered that the labor dispute should be settled by the capitalists and laborers themselves, and revealed that the Government had no intentions of interfering with it.

On the 27th KOYANAGI, Tomitaro, Liberal, interpellated on the relief for the repatriates from abroad. The Diet has begun to take up this problem in real earnest. On the 30th, a joint bill for promoting the repatriation of the Japanese nationals held in Soviet territories was presented. The purport of this bill was explained by MURASHIMA, Kiichi, Liberal. Then those women members of various parties, such as KONDO, Tsuruyo, Liberal, SAKADA, Hisa, Social Democrat, OHASHI, Kimi, Co-operative Democrat, TANAKA, Tatsu, and MATSUTANI, Tenkoko, Independent, discussed the subject, making it a scene of an oratorical contest of the women legislators. It may be called a proper measure that this repatriation problem was discussed by women. During the war, although it was a cursed aggressive one, women did great service on the home front. The problem of the relief for the poor repatriates may be solved only by virtue of the touching entreaties and exertions of these women and little children. KONDO, Tsuruyo made an impressive statement that she was eagerly looking forward to the early completion of the repatriation. This may also be the urgent desire of all the families in JAPAN who are impatiently waiting for the return of their kinsfolk.

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ITEM 2 Press View of the Diet - Tokyo Shimbun - 6 Oct 46. Translator: F. Mitsuhashi.

Full Translation:

It is autumn. The sky is clear and the breezes, balmy. However, the Diet, deliberating on important bills, is becoming more earnest day by day.

The revised draft of the Constitution was amended and passed the Upper House. There were so many complicated political tactics among various parties on the amendments that the plenary session was held one and half hours longer than scheduled. Attention must be given to the fact that the opinions of Mr SASAKI, Soichi, (Independent) and Mr SAWADA, Ushimaro (DOWAKAI) were quite the opposite of those of the Communists during the discussions in the Lower House, although both of them were opposed to the Government. Mr SASAKI asserted that the fundamental character of politics in our country should not be changed and that the political incompetency of the Emperor was confused with the irresponsibility of the Emperor.

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The draft Constitution was immediately sent to the House of Representatives and will be submitted to its plenary session on the 6th. There is no ground for optimism in the attitude of the Lower House towards the revision of the preamble and the right of the Emperor to ratify treaties. The Liberal, the Progressive and the Social Democratic Parties are discussing the amendments of the Upper House. There are indications that a conference, composed of the delegates from both Houses, will be held. The Government is earnestly studying means to meet such a situation in the Lower House.

The Farmland Reform Bill was submitted to the plenary session of the Lower House today. The amendment, proposed by the Social Democrats, was rejected, and the original draft of the Government approved.

The committees on the bills for cancellation of war loss indemnities intend to finish their deliberations today and, if possible submit these bills to the present session. Furthermore, both Houses will continue their deliberations tomorrow, Sunday, 6 October.

Thousands of petitions have been piled up in the Lower House, but only half of them have been submitted to the Diet because the remaining petitions were not printed. Although the Cabinet Printing Bureau has been urged to speed up the work, it has made little progress. It is regrettable that the democratic and positive political opinions of the people cannot be presented to the Diet because of such a situation. Each party is striving to solve this problem.

ITEM 4 The Coming Extraordinary Diet Session - Asahi Shimbun - 23 Oct 46. Translator: H. Naoji.

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Full Translation:

The Government, at the Cabinet meeting held on 22 October, made the following decision on the convocation of the extraordinary Diet session to be held next month and of the ordinary Diet session. The extraordinary Diet session will be convened on 25 November and the opening ceremony will be held on the following day. The extraordinary Diet session will last thirty days and end on 25 December. The closing ceremony will be held on the following day, the 26th. Immediately after the extraordinary Diet session is closed, the ordinary Diet session will be convened on 27 December and the opening ceremony will take place on the 28th. As soon as the opening ceremony is over, the ordinary Diet session will be recessed. Upon its reopening about 20 January next year, material discussions will begin.

As mentioned above, the ordinary Diet session immediately follows the extraordinary Diet session, so the term of the extraordinary Diet session can never be extended. Accordingly, the number of bills to be introduced to the extraordinary Diet session will be limited, so that they may be discussed thoroughly within the term of 30 days. Consequently, only five of the bills attached to the new Constitution, which require prompt action, and some others, including the special measures for the Parliamentary Law, are scheduled to be introduced to the extraordinary Diet session. The above-mentioned five bills are as follows: The Imperial Household Law bill; the Imperial Household Economy Law bill; the National Assembly Law bill; the Cabinet Law bill; and the Election Law bill for the Members of the House of Councillors.

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ITEM 9 Has the Diet Democratized? by Nozaka, Sanzo - Provincial Paper Shinano Mainichi Shimbun (Nagano) - 22 Oct 46. Translator: R. Ochiai.

Extracts:

The 90th Diet Session had many epoch-making points. The class distinction emphasized by the enlargement of the powers of the Communists and the Social Democrats especially characterized the session. Heretofore, the disputes in the Diet have always been between the SEIYUKAI and the MINSEITO, that is to say disputes were confined within the same controlling class. In the last Diet session, however, we could see class disputes between the governing and the governed classes, represented by the Liberal and Progressive parties and the Social Democratic and the Communist parties respectively. Openly or tacitly, these two classes have fought during the session. The intentions of the former to keep the old conservative way and of the latter to bring forth a new and democratic system were well shown by their respective attitudes on the important bills. For example, concerning the Constitution revision, the conservative parties (the Liberal and Progressive) wanted to give the Emperor as much power as possible, while the Social Democrats and the Communists wanted to reduce or remove his powers. The Labor Relation Adjustment Bill, the Land Reform Bill, and the economic policy were also points of dispute between the two fronts. But the dispute or opposition between the two was not always distinctly expressed, because the Social Democrats sometimes compromised with the Liberals and the Progressives, and did not stick to their standpoint as representatives of the working class.

It is a matter of course that the majority parties, the Liberal and the Progressive, had advantages over the Communist and the Social Democratic parties. But since they did not have power enogh to act on their own authority, they had to pay constant attention to the other two parties, to the other minor parties, and to the general opinion outside the Diet. The decisions of the Diet, therefore, were always made by a compromise between the two fronts. Especially the half-way attitude of the Social Democrats was a cause of the incompleteness of democracy in the last Diet session. And there lies one of the characteristics of the session.

While the clause "the sovereignty rests with the people" is clearly expressed in the new Constitution, it still grants the Emperor a privilege which is against the principle of the clause. It also calls for a House of Councillors which will restrict the authority of the Lower House. These show the victory of the conservative front. The situation might have been different if the Social Democrats had opposed the Constitution bill when their advocations of "the reduction of the Emperor's power on a large scale" and "the establishment of a House of Councillors represented by each function, or else the establishment of the unicameral system" were rejected.

session though the parliamentary laws and proceedings were far from being democratic. It has been made very convenient for the militarists, bureaucrats, and bosses of the political parties to control the Diet. Minor parties have no chance of expressing their opinions. Democracy calls for decision by the majority, but minor parties should be allowed to participate freely in deliberation and to express their thoughts. For example, thirty approvers are required if one wishes to make an interpellation. Therefore, the Communists, who have only six representatives in the Diet, had little chance of taking the floor even though their interpellations may have been useful for the establishment of democracy.

As for the proceedings, it was very undemocratic. Since a bill was unknown to the Diet members until the day before it was submitted to the plenary session, most members had no time to investigate into it beforehand. Also, they did not know about the order of the day till that morning or till the night before. These things were nothing but the strategy of the Government, whose party intended to crush the function of the Diet.

Looking at the management of each party, we also notice the dictatorial positions of the bosses. It is money and influence that control a party, and the members only follow the party leaders. Such an undemocratic thing is being openly done within a party.

It is regrettable that no party has tried to reform itself into a more democratic one. Although a special committee is now drafting a new parliamentary law, it is no more than the present Lower House Law. The Communists alone made a draft suitable for democracy and submitted it to the committee. You will see how the other parties have not awakened to the sense of democracy. It is a long road to democracy. These are my conclusions derived from the 90th Diet Session.

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ITEM 2 Comments on the Diet - Tokyo Shimbun - 4 Oct 46. Translator: F. Noda.

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Full Translation:

While the general strike of the Newspaper Workers Union is drawing the attention of the world and the apprehension of the nation, some interested members of the Lower House, mainly those who were on the Labor Relations Adjustment Law Committee, held a conference on the afternoon of 2 October to study the matter. Four representatives, one respectively from the YOMIURI, the restoration faction, the strike faction of the same company, and the union, were invited to the conference to explain their grievances. However, in the course of the conference, before the representative of the YOMIURI had finished speaking, a motion was introduced to conduct the conference privately. As a result, the representatives were shut out immediately. Although there must have been some reason for holding a secret conference, such a turn of events disappointed the newspapermen, who were directly concerned with the strike problem. We hope that in the future, a talk with the representatives of the Labor Committee will be held openly. Apart from the question of whether this secret conference will settle the dispute or not, the participants of the conference were Lower House Members of a few of the parties, and they did not officially represent anyone. It should have been composed of formal representatives from all parties of the House. The problem of the projected general strike has already been brought up for discussion before the plenary session. It is also the most important topic of debate among the lobbyists. It is, therefore, worth discussing in the Lower House.

Four days before the adjournment, the prolongation of the session has become an issue again. Although the extensions may be necessary in order to complete the discussions, it does not seem efficient to keep extending the session a little at a time. There should be enough administrative officials to affect a close liaison between the Government and the Diet. It is their duty to grasp and to convey the opinions, expressed on the discussed bills by all the parties to the Government and thereby contribute towards the smooth functioning of the Diet. I do not mean that the administrative officials only are responsible for the prolongation of the session; I would just like to see them show a better performance. Even though there should be no legal limit for extensions, the session is actually being carried out in a very slovenly manner. The administrative officials can hardly escape the charge of being indefinite.

ITEM 11 Yamazaki's Views On Politics - Provincial Newspaper Minami Nippon Shimbun (Kagoshima) - 24 Oct 46. Translator: F. Mitsuhashi.

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Full Translation:

YAMAZAKI, Michiko, a member of the Lower House, came to KAGOSHIMA with Mr KATAYAMA, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Social Democratic Party. She made the following statement:

"Generally speaking, women representatives brightened the atmosphere in the Diet. We made the people understand that politics are directly connected with their daily lives. We realized the measures for the equality of both sexes, the relief of war orphans, and the exemption from taxation of those toys and stationery which cost less than 10 yen. Male representatives did not notice such small matters. Therein lies the significance of the presence of women in the Diet. Politics have, heretofore, been undertaken with only a father's touch will be added. The recent Diet session has produced many interesting resolutions."

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ITEM 2 Bureaucracy in Our Political World -(Magazine) Nippon Hyoron (Monthly) October Issue. Translator: K. Koike.

Extracts:

Our Political World by HOSOKAKO, Kanemitsu (TN The writer is an Independent Member of Parliament and was once Secretary-General of the JAPAN Labor-Farmer Party (TN NIPPON RONO TO), in which he was active in the proletarian movement. After his retirement from this sphere, he became Mayor of ONODA-Shi in YAMAGUCHI-Ken, where he was born. His interpellation on the Constitution at the last Diet session was keen, and much is expected from him in the future - T.K.)

Premier YOSHIDA stated in the Diet that the Five-Article Covenant issued by Emperor MEIJI showed that JAPAN was not a despotic country but a democratic one, giving no consideration to the nature of the MEIJI Constitution, which can never be considered democratic. ASHIDA, Chairman of the Constitution Committee, wept on the passing of the MEIJI Constitution. Both are said not to be either impressed or pleased with the new Constitution. Present day JAPAN is led by such types of men. Enthusiasm, such as was caused by the drafting of the Magna Charta, the Declaration of Independence, or the Bill of Rights, is not shown by any of the bureaucrats. According to the revised Constitution , the House of Councillors will be created to function as a conservative organ, and the supreme political power, such as the power to promulgate laws, dissolve the House of Representatives and convene the Diet, will be held by the Emperor.

The revised local administration system provides, as ever, that the prefectural governors, elected by the public, will be government officials and the section chiefs are to be appointed and dismissed by the central Government, showing that the Government is still planning to retain bureaucracy. Democracy, despite its many defects, is welcomed, because it enables the people to correct any mis-government and to criticize their leaders freely. Bureaucracy, nevertheless, is now invading our country. However, bureaucracy is built on a servile populace who flatter officials, even retracting just opinions if they disagree.

I was surprised that the Diet members lacked a spirit of independence. Despite the fact that they had the right to propose bills on their own initiative most of them consulted the Government on every matter. How many times did I hear such words as "I request that the Government ---" or " I ask the Government ---"! Are the Diet members afraid of incurring the displeasure of the Government? They are not fervent enough in acting for the sake of the nation.

In order to overthrow the bureaucrats, the people must awaken and unite. The bureaucrats are envious of each other and quarrel within their ranks, but unite instinctively against outsiders. They are interested only in their positions, not in the duties they are required to perform. Consequently, they want to evade their responsibilities as much as possible. The first thing that comes to their mind when they encounter a question is the regulations and the instructions from their superiors, for they think it safer to obey them rather than to exercise their originality.

In order to uphold the national morals and retain the people's confidence in a Government, that government must enforce official discipline and administer just rewards and punishments. However, the actual situation is entirely different from these ideals, for the officials still insist on the safety-first principle and are reluctant to break away from old customs. It is true that some of the officials are capable and good, but, in general, we regret that the bureaucrats have the above stated defects. We expect the minor Government officials to organize a labor union to overthrow bureaucracy. If they will awaken from their illusory pride as rulers and unite with other workers, bureaucracy, which considers officials responsible only to the Emperor and the Government, will surely be overthrown.

Lastly, since JAPAN's bureaucracy is deeply rooted in the feudalistic system, political democratization is a basic problem which should not be neglected.

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ITEM 5 Recovery of Confidence is the Prerequisite - Provincial Newspaper
Kyoto Shimbun (Kyoto) - 3 Oct 46. Translator: M. Bokura.

AD3

Summary:

Although members of the Diet are supposed to be the people's representatives, it has been the practice until now that once they enter the House, they become entirely separated from the general public. We were hoping that the new Diet would get rid of that trait, but it still retains that isolated existence. They appear to be discussing the various vital bills faithfully, but they did practically nothing to help solve the most talked about problem of food. This helped them lose the confidence of the people. A single resolution cannot solve the food problem. Fortunately, we were able to survive the crisis thanks to the sympathy and understanding of the Occupational Forces and to the unusually good crop. All through that period, the Diet merely expressed their intentions to solve the crisis. Naturally the general public cannot retain their confidence in the Diet. This distrust of the Representatives, their parties, and the Government will have a grave effect upon the various organizations throughout the nation.

The Representatives should endeavor to reflect the just opinions and demands of the public in the Government. For that purpose, there should not be a single doubt between them and the general public. If their conduct and attitude arouse the people's suspicion, they are not qualified as the people's representatives. The irresolute attitude of the conservatives and the disgraceful incident at the convention of the Social Democratic Party would cast a gloom over the nation, but would certainly not brighten the people's mind. Such behavior should not be taken by orderly party members.

It will be difficult to regain the confidence of the people since they neglected to take any step when the people were exposed to danger, but restoring confidence is not altogether impossible. If the representatives and party members follow the right path closely, no doubt, the general public will trust and support them. The facts are simple, but the representatives and party members did not venture to carry out such obvious facts which shows how corrupted they were and that they themselves wanted to construct a barrier between them and the people. Since the future Diets are to have far greater importance than the past ones, if the representatives dare to disregard the people's will, they and their parties should be destroyed.

ITEM 1 Early Opening of Diet Session Contemplated -- Jiji Shimpo - 13 Nov 46.
Translator: N. Miwa.

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Full Translation:

The 91st extraordinary session of the Diet will be convoked on 25 November and will continue for one month. However, it is feared that the bills concerning the new Constitution, the five bills relating to the Imperial Houshold, the Diet law, and the House of Councilors law, cannot be deliberated upon by the Diet in the space of one month.

Since the Diet faces such administrative problems as labor policies, counter-inflation measures and other policies, serious difficulties in Diet proceedings are anticipated.

Under such circumstances, the Government party is of the opinion that the opening of the Diet session should be advanced. Based on this opinion, advance of the date to convoke the Diet session was advocated at the Cabinet Vice-Ministers' Council held on 11 November.

Similarly, Commerce and Industry Minister HOSHIJIMA introduced a plan to advance the Diet session by about five days, at the Regular Cabinet Ministers' Conference on 12 November. No decision on this proposal has as yet been reached.

After serious consideration of the conditions of the Liberal and Progressive Parties and other political situations, the Government will decide whether the Diet session will be advanced.

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POLITICAL SERIES: 1393 (Continued)

ITEM 5 Comments on the Diet by Katayama, Tetsu, Leader of the Social Democrats- Provincial Newspaper, Nishi Nippon Shimbun (Fukuoka) - 13 Oct 46. Translator: C. Akashi.

Summary:

403 The recent Diet session revealed a weakness on the part of the Government, burdened with a number of important problems, in the face of a democratic revolution under way. This weakness also accounts for the extremely slow progress in the reconstruction of JAPAN. In drafting the bill of the greatest importance, the Constitutional Revision Bill, the Government assumed an exceedingly passive attitude, and it failed to make the people understand thoroughly the purport of the Constitutional revision. Therefore, when the new draft Constitution was made public, the people could not fully appreciate the great significance of this democratic statute and its advanced contents. After it was presented to the Diet, a regrettable tendency on the part of the Government to disregard the progressive spirit of the draft Constitution was often witnessed; and, in fact, the Government was forced to amend this attitude by the influence of the surrounding circumstances.

The Social Democratic Party proposed to the Government to provide in the draft constitution for popular sovereignty not only in the preamble, but in the main text as well. In addition to this, it made many amendment proposals including the request for the insertion of the provisions concerning the guarantee of the people's livelihood, the right and duty to work, and the right to rest. The Constitution which passed the Diet cannot be called an ideal statute, but it is commendable as the basic law of a democratic country.

I believe that it will go a long way towards the progress of the future democratic government if it is enforced satisfactorily. The question is how will it be observed and how efficiently will it apply to practical government. When I consider the progressive nature of the new Constitution in view of the attitude of the present Government, I cannot but doubt the Government's competence in handling its perfect enactment.

Our Social Democratic Party extended full cooperation to the Government in tiding over the food crisis. As long as these two important problems, the draft Constitution and the food crisis were concerned, the Social Democrats gave way and took a broad viewpoint, strove to bring about their settlement for the sake of the people.

The primary character of the Social Democratic Party as an opposition party was clearly displayed in the deliberations on a number of economic bills, especially on those regarding anti-inflationary policy, the war indemnity cancellation, the disposal of loans, coal and fertilizer problems, unemployment policy, the Labor Relations Adjustment Bill, and the secondary Farm Land Reform Bill. On these questions, the Government seemed satisfied to merely patch them up for the moment without touching upon the core of these problems. The Government must combat today's crisis in a more active and earnest manner.

Meanwhile, the attitude of the Government parties, the Liberals and the Progressives, was anything but definite. They undertook a sudden change in their Constitution policy; that is, in the course of the Constitution bill deliberation, they unexpectedly began to advocate popular sovereignty in spite of their previous assertion of sovereignty resting with the Emperor. They also attempted to ignore the existence of the Constitution subcommittee with the result that former Speaker of the House of Representatives HIGAI retire from his position. In the discussion of important economic bills, they not only did not clarify their own liberal or capitalistic economic principle, but they tried to heckle the Social Democrats' proposal based on socialism. In a democratic government, a political party should lay its own view before the Diet. This is a prerequisite to parliamentary politics.

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POLITICAL SERIES: 1393 (Continued)

ITEM 5 (Continued)

Our Party policy, based on democracy as well as socialism, was realized to some extent through the recent Diet session. However, this was due to the surrounding situation, and it was not necessarily a proof of our great political power. Through this Diet session, I have keenly felt that the time has at last come for us not only to advocate socialism as a theory, but to work to have it naterialize in this world. We now realize the great role of our Social Democratic Party shall play hereafter as the main driving force in materializing socialism. There are still a multitude of pressing problems before us. However, it is greatly feared that the Government may not take action on them until it is too late.

It goes without saying that such a delay in Governmental action will impede the reconstruction of JAPAN and plunge the people into distress.

I am convinced that these pressing problems can be solved only through socialistic planned economy which our Party is advocating. I am sincerely looking forward to the advent of the new renovated Diet which will really represent the people's will.

ITEM 6 The Political Situation After the Passage of the New Constitution - Provincial Newspaper, Hokkaido Shimbun (Sapporo) - 20 Oct 46. Translator: K. Murakami.

Full Translation:

Participants in the discussion meeting sponsored by the HOKKAIDO SHIMBUN are as follows:

Liberal Party----------KITA, Reikichi
Social Democratic Party--MIZUTANI, Chozaburo
Communist Party----------SHIGA, Yoshio
Progressive Party--------INUKAI, Ken
(To participate in writing)
HOKKAIDO SHIMBUN - Reprotor from TOKYO General Office

Reporter: What type of men do you think is the most ideal statesman? Are there any good examples in JAPAN, AMERICA or EUROPE?

Mr MIZUTANI: I prefer a man who has been brought up among the mass. In this sense, Mr INUKAI is a good example. He is excellent as a party statesman and as a diplomat. I do not understand why both the Liberal and the Progressive parties have old bureaucrats as their presidents. If a political party is to really be a recognized party, its president should be someone who has come up from among its party members. For instance, if the Liberal and the Progressive parties had tried to select their leaders in the same way as we chose Mr KATAYAMA, the two parties would have been able to pick their presidents from among their party members. The party president need not necessarily be a hero, but he should be a man of ability with responsible supporters. Just as TOJO and TONOYE were able to become premiers, so can Mr KATAYAMA be able to hold that office. The Social Democratic Party does not want a special hero. Our only desire is that the boss of our party be a man of the mass and with whom we have shared our fortunes.

Mr SHIGA: In my way of thinking, the virtue of the political leader lies in generosity backed by ability. Indeed, just as Mr KITA mentioned, we Japanese and the Chinese are confronted with the most difficult situation the world has ever known. When I was in prison, a young man asked me, "Mr SHIGA, what will become of this war?". It was early in 1942, not long after the outbreak of the Pacific War. "This will be a '30-year War' in which we Japanese will last only a few years", was my answer. The miserable situation after the so-called '30-year War' in the 19th Century kept GERMANY 200 years behind the other civilized nations in EUROPE. This fact was deplored by both GOETHE and MARX.

In such critical circumstances, I think it is quite natural that the people should seek a genius capable of saving them. A genius, ev

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POLITICAL SERIES: 1350 (Continued)

ITEM 10 Comments On Diet Session of 1 October - Daiichi Shimbun - 3 Oct 46. Translator: H. Naoji.

Full Translation:

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Several bills pertaining to the cancellation of war compensation were referred for deliberations on 1 October to the Committees. At the Committee meeting on war compensation held on the morning of 1 October, Mr TOMABEJI (Liberal) asked the Government if it intended to lower the rate of interest on national loans as the second step in cancelling war compensation. To this, Finance Minister ISHIBASHI replied, "I intend to leave both interest and principal of national loans untouched, because national loans are far the most part being held by banking organizations, or, in other words, by the depositors. Such being the present condition, if national loans are touched, it will directly affect the depositors. As a result of the recent economic measures, depositors have already been affected to a considerable degree. Therefore, such a measure as affecting depositors should be avoided as much as possible." Hearing this reply of the Finance Minister, which seemed the same as his responses since the beginning of this Diet session, Mr TOMABEJI's expression appeared as if he were relieved. It might have been his original intention to have the Government declare this much.

The general meeting of the budget committee held in the morning discussed a way for deliberating the supplementary budget. It was decided that those minor parties which haven't the right to negotiate should, as a rule, reserve their proposals on the ground that the supplementary budget must be drawn up in a brief period. At the same time, it was decided that the interpellations should be finished by 2 October and the question of its adoption should be decided by means of deliberations on the morning of the 3rd. It should then be submitted to the plenary session on the afternoon of the same day.

If they had earnestly discussed various bills, they would have been able to finish them earlier, as the discussion on this budget bill shows.

The Liberal Party issued a statement utterly opposing the newspaper and communications general strike. Everybody can understand what they mean by the absolute opposition, which is often talked of among the people. However, the vital point is how this problem should be solved. If a rational and proper measure for solution were found, who on this earth, would resort to a general strike?

Concerning this problem, Messrs NISHIO, KATO and others of the Social Democratic Party met Premier YOSHIDA and Welfare Minister KAWAI on the 30th in the Diet building after the urgent interpellations of the plenary session were over, and asked them to clarify the attitude of the Government towards this problem.

To this, the Government replied, "At present, the government has no intention of reverting to some other measure. Would you mind if we remained as spectators during the transition of the situation?" Such a response from the Government may well be said to be a merit for the Social Democratic Party.

The attitude of the House of Peers concerning the revision of the Constitution appears to be decided on having the following two points written clearly: that those who are authorized to become Premier shall be persons who were not soldiers in the past, and that all adult men and women should be granted suffrage. As far as these two points are concerned, the House of Representatives seem to have no objection.

The percentage of attendance of the Diet members is very low, probably because the term of the Diet session is drawing near an end. It can be understood how they long to be home during this comfortable season. Can we say that this is a good situation in the Diet?

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EDITORIAL SERIES: 1322 (Continued)

ITEM 6 Urgent Problems for Government and Political Parties - Mainichi Shimbun - 13 Oct 46. Translator: J. Ide.

Full Translation:

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The extraordinary session of the Diet, convoked in succession to the epoch-making general election, was formally brought to an end after 114 days of heated discussions. Among 106 bills submitted to the Diet by both the Government and legislators, 97 were enacted into laws, including the new Constitution and this year's budget, with the remaining nine bills expected to be deliberated on in the next session of the Diet. The present session of the Diet not only approved the new Constitution, which is to lay the foundation for the establishment of a peaceful and democratic JAPAN, but a series of other important bills and budgets designed to rebuild our industry, economy, and society. Thus, the juridical and financial bases for the rehabilitation of our Nation have been laid.

However, such Diet activities established the foundations of national reconstruction only for the sake of formality. The most pressing problems, such as the rehabilitation of our economy, industry, and the people's livelihood, not to mention the basic and democratic renovation of JAPAN, have not yet been completely solved. Under normal conditions, the Government authorities would take a rest with the closing of the Diet session. However, those who are responsible for the administration of national politics, should, at present, have launched a campaign to solve these problems as soon as the Diet session was brought to an end.

The revision of the Constitution was the most important task for the YOSHIDA Cabinet, a task which was handed over to it by the SHIDEHARA Cabinet. Of course, the significance of the recent session of the Diet lay mainly in the enactment of the new Constitution. Therefore, the Government authorities concentrated their efforts on its passage. In this connection, however, the Government attitudes toward all other bills seemed to lack sincerity and readiness. This failure on the part of the Government could easily be perceived in the four extensions of the Diet session. If the present Cabinet has acquired confidence in its own political power by narrowly having tided over the recent session of the Diet, and if it has now made up its mind to cope with the present difficulties with its existing disunited Cabinet membership, the livelihood of the people will be reduced to worse conditions than at present.

The functions of the Economic Stabilization Board, which was to form the center of our economic rehabilitation, have been completely paralyzed from the very beginning. The economic programs of the YOSHIDA Cabinet are least likely to gain the support of our working class. If a radical reshuffle of the Cabinet and a complete change of its economic policies should not be adopted simultaneous with the termination of the present Diet session, the Government would not be able to cope with the present-day economic crisis. Such are our frank opinions concerning the future of the present Cabinet.

On the other hand, sharp contradictions between the conservative and socialistic parties as to the views on the present condition of the Nation, and on the policies which should be taken against such difficulties, have come into the limelight in the course of the discussions in the Diet. Nevertheless, the merger between the Liberals and Progressives, namely, the unification of the conservative front, has been left incompleted, although minor parties and the Independents have been gradually dissolved into larger parties. Through their recent convention, the Social Democrats certainly strengthened their power. Yet, intra-party unity has not been completely established. Under these circumstances, every party is now planning to go canvassing through-out the country. With the

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ITEM 6 (Continued)

local elections close at hand, to be held in the next six months in succession, this planning seems quite natural to every political party. However, if the projected Nation-wide canvassings of each party end in a mere report of the Diet discussions, such actions will be nonsensical under the present situation confronting the Nation.

The National Congress of Industrial Organizations has embarked on its political campaign to overthrow the reactionary YOSHIDA Cabinet and establish a democratic people's Government by resorting to Nation-wide strikes of all industrial branches.

Do the Liberals and Progressives, both ministerial parties of the YOSHIDA Cabinet, really consider the present Government capable of breaking down the existing economic deadlocks with its traditional policies? If they once stop to consider the vital effects of the successive stoppages of our national industry, these two parties should rapidly take concrete measures against these situations in order to seek the support and criticism of the working people. Obviously, the Social Democrats should play a more important part. In the recent convention, Mr. MIZUTANI, spokesman of the Social Democratic Party, said to the effect that they could not defeat the YOSHIDA Cabinet by introducing a non-confidence resolution in the Diet. "However", he continued, "the present Cabinet will be crushed in the coming economic crisis."

It is too hasty a conclusion to regard his statement as proof that the Social Democrats will not launch an anti-Government movement unless they should have time enough to anticipate the rapid formation of the next Government, namely, the establishment of a Social Democratic Cabinet. Nevertheless, according to the ASAHI report of yesterday, he proposed an immediate political truce and the necessity of a Social Democratic Cabinet, saying that the Social Democrats would hesitate to embark on a political campaign, although they were opposed to the NCIO's "October Offensive", under the present circumstances. If the Social Democrats are now capable of taking the helm of State affairs and are convinced of the support of the people, his indication can be said to be timely.

At any rate, under these most complicated conditions, both the Government and the political parties should begin their activities as quickly as possible in accordance with their own political viewpoints.

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ITEM 5 General Account of the Current Diet Session - Asahi Shimbun - 10 Oct 46. Translator: K. Sasaki.

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Summary:

The 90th special Diet session, the current session, has a unique significance, because a new Constitution was adopted then. It deliberated on an economic rehabilitation plan; it gave the State administration a fresh start in the new politics, in which the parliament is recognized as the central power, indicating the character of future parliamentary politics. Has it performed the work well, and has it promised a bright future for the democratic administration of our country?

At the very beginning of the session, the liberal Party was confronted with the purge of its chief secretary KONO and MIKI, Bukichi, who had been elected Diet chairman. In that very instance, their difficult future was foreseen. During the session, Chairman HIGAI became involved in an issue which ended in his resignation. New members have learned facts about the Diet in two months and have become dissatisfied with their leaders, resulting in the approval of the public election bill. The cause may have been that the leaders were slighted by the new members, since the former lacked the ability to lead the Government in formulating new policies.

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POLITICAL SERIES: 1360 (Continued)

ITEM 5 (Continued)

In the Progressive Party, INUKAI, Secretary-General, has been successful in securing the support of new members, but he failed to maintain the amity of elderly MINSEITO clique members. This resulted in an internal dispute, which continued throughout the session. Predominantly, the INUKAI clique played an active part in the Diet.

The Social Democratic Party seems to have wasted a greater part of their energy in continual internal strife between the rightists and leftists. The rightists have completely overcome the leftists and practically destroyed their plan for a "democratic front for national salvation." In July, at the second mass meeting of the party, the rightists tried to secure all the executive seats. Being too deeply absorbed in internal strife, the Social Democratic Party failed to work out a plan to cope with unemployment, which is one of the most urgent problems of the day. This seems to be fatal for the party. The Government and all other political parties must share the responsibility in this matter. One of the reasons why the labor movement is now developing like a surging wave is that people have been disappointed in the Diet, because they did not deliberate sincerely on the unemployment problem.

The Communist Party adopted a policy in which it tried to obtain as many chances as possible to take the floor and to avoid opposing the bigger parties. However, the Cabinet and the conservative parties purposely ignored it and tried not to listen to what it said. The more they oppress the Communists' activities in the Diet, the more the Communists will be driven into movements outside of their organizations. When general strikes became a problem, the people were impressed by the fact that the Communists assumed two different attitudes, one in the Diet and the other outside the Diet.

Another matter which did not give a good impression of the Diet was the merger or non-merger bargaining which was carried on between the Co-operative Democratic and Progressive Parties. In the beginning of August, the former started merger negotiations with the New Life Party (SHINSEIKAI), which ended in failure, owing to the hindrance of the parties supporting the Cabinet. At about this time, HAYASHI, Heima, of the Co-operative Democrats, was trying to negotiate with INUKAI. In September, Welfare Minister KAWAI and his friend OMIYA, Goro, again brought up the merger question.

On 18 September, HAYASHI and OMIYA called on Welfare Minister KAWAI in his official residence and concluded preliminary negotiations on the condition that they would take the name of "NIHON MINSHUTO" (JAPAN Democratic Party), that they would adopt co-operative principles, and that they would make YAMAMOTO, chairman of the Co-operative Democrats' executive committee, one of the standing advisors.

It is generally considered that YAMAMOTO was partially aware that President SHIDEHARA did not agree to this, because he did not like to supersede the Liberal Party by a merger. Nor did he want to change the party name in accordance with the Co-operative Democrats' request.

President YOSHIDA came to TOKYO on 24 September from OISO, having fully recovered from an illness, when President SHIDEHARA reported to him the details of the merger which had not materialized. SHIDEHARA proposed a merger of the two big parties under the condition that the new president would be YOSHIDA, and that State Minister SAITO and SHIDEHARA would be advisors to the new party.

MIKI came up to TOKYO and talked with HATOYAMA. They started working out a plan for them to return to the political world, when the purge that effects them is revoked. HATOYAMA refused this proposal because the Liberal Party's general atmosphere was not so inclined.

The opinion of the Liberal Party and HATOYAMA is that the Liberal and Progressive Parties should merge only when the Social Democrat Party appears to have become a great power. The INUKAI clique also is not against this merger movement. When the deliberations on the revised Constitution were virtually ended, the Diet became less active. Interpellations by various parties with regard to the government policies were merely a formality.

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ITEM 3 Comments on the Diet - Tokyo Times - 4 Oct 46. Translator: C. Akashi.

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Full Translation:

The war indemnities special measure bill and six other bills concerning the cancellation of war indemnities were presented to the plenary session of the House of Representatives on the 28th. At this session, Prime Minister YOSHIDA referred to the current rumors concerning currency and deposits, declaring, "I hear that various rumors are now circulating regarding the future economic measures, so that the people who have been driven by misgivings are showing a tendency to hesitate to place their money on deposit. These rumors are just that and absolutely groundless. The Government has no intention of freezing the present circulating currency or to take any new measure regarding deposits."

Such assurances have already been frequently made by Finance Minister ISHIBASHI, but Prime Minister repeated them again. We realize the unusually serious nature of today's economic situation. The Bank of JAPAN note issue is expected to reach the ¥ 90,000,000,000 mark by the end of this year; and in some quarters, it is even feared that it may swell to ¥ 100,000,000,000. However, industrial reconstruction is progressing at a snail's pace in the face of this fact.

On the 30th, Finance Minister ISHIBASHI stated in the Lower House plenary session that if the Government revenue from the proposed property tax failed to reach the anticipated amount of ¥ 43,500,000,000, the Government would also levy a tax on property assessed over ¥ 50,000 and below ¥ 100,000. Moreover, State Minister ZEN is reported to have stated at a press conference that if the details of the program for the cancellation of war indemnities was published, the people would be surprised at its thoroughness. These two statements both reveal today's critical financial conditions. However, as long as the Government does not completely cancel fictitious capital as well as absorb all surplus currency, it will be impossible to relieve the people of their present anxiety, however hard it may strive in this direction.

The projected press workers' strike is creating a great stir in all levels of national life. The House of Representatives is now watching the development of the dispute with keen interest. In the plenary session on the 30th, Representative KATO asked the Government to help settle the dispute, but Prime Minister YOSHIDA replied to the effect that the dispute had not yet reached the stage where Government interference was demanded, thus clarifying the Government's attitude. Regarding this question, the Inter-Party Committee of the House of Representatives met on the same day and decided to have each Party strive for the settlement of this dispute in order to avert a strike.

In and out of the Diet, we hear quite a few people criticizing the proposed strike as being premature or too drastic. Apart from the contention that the newspaper is a public information facility, it is needless to say that the general strike should be averted as much as possible, because it is the last resort measure of labor and it necessarily entails both the support of the people at large and a complete unity among the participants. If labor is obliged to resort to this last measure, they should first try to have the people understand the circumstances leading to it, otherwise, they can hardly hope for any chance of success. It is earnestly desired that those concerned with the proposed press strike will fully realize the great significance of a general strike and will seek the settlement of their dispute in such a manner as to set an example for future labor disputes.

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POLITICAL SERIES: 1384 (Continued)

ITEM 14 Has Diet been Democratized?..by Royama, Masamichi - Provincial Newspaper Shinano Mainichi Shimbun (Nagano) - 19 Oct 46. Translator: M. Yasutake.

Summary:

The last Diet was of great significance because it was a Diet that had been newly elected after the end of the war, and whose session was extended many times and had had many important bills, including the Constitutional amendment bill and the bills for the land and the local systems, disposed of during its session. We must admit, however, that the last Diet was not a democratic Diet in a real sense. The old Diet Law was still in force and the Diet members who were in charge of the operation of the Diet showed nothing new and progressive which might deserve the name of a democratic Diet.

The purport of the old Diet Law lay in preventing the Diet from acting on its own responsibility without following the Government's policy or consent. The MEIJI Constitution regarded the Diet as an organ which gives approval to the legislative power of the Emperor, and the Diet and political parties were quite content with their role to endorse the Government's policy on behalf of the Emperor. This is because the Diet was not a Diet of the people, but a national organ directed by the Government. A democratic Diet must subject the Government to its policy and place responsibility on it for carrying out that policy. The Diet Law must be a law pertaining to the operation of a Diet as the highest organ of national power and now the Diet has the right to draft such a law by itself.

Judging from present conditions however, the Diet has not yet attained a positive character indispensable to it as the highest organ in order to establish such a Diet law or to operate it in a proper manner. It seems that the national government is substantially under the direction of bureaucratic influences with the Diet directed by the Government. It is to be ascribed to the conventionalism of the members of conservative parties and to the assumption of power by the SHIDEHARA and the YOSHIDA Cabinets which was necessitated by the peculiar conditions of a defeated JAPAN. The present cabinet is a coalition cabinet which is formed not of the Liberal and the Progressive Parties, but of bureaucrats and conservative parties. It still lacks a character essential to a cabinet based on the parliamentary system. This is due to the fact that the Liberal and the Progressive Parties do not stand on the full support of the people and that they still retain some element which only accompany the spokesmen for bureaucrats, landlords and capitalists.

Then how about the opposition parties? We must regretfully admit that they are no better than the opposition parties of the past and have not been active enough to inspire the people, to attract the attention of governmental parties, or to win the Government's consent. The majority of the Social Democratics seem to have a desire to make their party a sound opposition party, but their fundamental policies get confused too often, affected by the mob rule of the Communist Party and by labor movements. An opposition party in a real sense is a party which has the power to take the place of a Government any moment the latter is overthrown by the will of the people. As long as opposition parties are affected by the psychology that they are always voted down because of their numerical inferiority and therefore incompetent, there can be no successful democratic Diet.

It is up to the people themselves to keep watch on the conduct of the Diet including opposition parties. They themselves are in possession of sovereignty. Their judgment is reflected in the election and consequently in the composition of the Diet and in the organization of a Government. The Diet must be conducted in accordance with the will of the people who are the final selectors of the Diet.

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POLITICAL SERIES: 1384 (Continued)

ITEM 14 (Continued)

As long as the people are divided in their political judgment according to the classes, they belong to or as long as they lose sight of the national existence as more valuable than mere class interests, no just parties will be brought into existence and no democratic Diet established. The fact that the Diet has not been democratized is an indirect expression of the failure of the people to democratize themselves. Judging from the present conditions of JAPAN, the establishment of a democratic Diet seems to lie far ahead. The Diet is now guaranteed the highest power by the new Constitution and there is nothing to check it. Nothing is more horrible to think of than the highest organ of the state which is in a state of undemocratic dismemberment. It is the responsibility placed on the people to solve this problem. Many dangers lie on the way and something must be done about them.

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ITEM 8 Diet Controlled by Bureaucrats - Provincial Newpaper - Niigata Nippo - (Niigata) 11 Oct 46. Translator: T. Samukawa.

Summary:

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The historical 90th Diet session, the longest and the most significant one in our history, is over. Through this session, the corner-stone of a new democratic JAPAN has been founded. The epoch-making revised Constitution has been approved. The progressive bills for agrarian law, local, reforms, cancellation of war indemnities and property taxes have been passed.

It is regrettable that the whole session was spent mainly to deliberate the Government's bills, and only very few bills were submitted by the Diet members. In this connection, OZAKI, Gakudo preached the true duty of Diet members twice, but his lecture was in vain. The Diet is a law-making organ, but not an organ only to approve the Government's bills. It is the high duty of the Diet to submit bills and deliberate on them for the people.

Looking back on the history of the Diet, very few bills were submitted by Diet members even through the past 90 sessions. This is the reason why the Diet of JAPAN has been called "an organ only to approve the Government's bills." Actually, the Diet in the past did not deserve the name of legislature. Although the recent 90th session was called the "democratic Diet session", the Diet still remained as an assembly for approving the Government's bills.

The number of bills submitted by Diet members to the recent session was nine, and only four of them were deliberated. Two of them were passed, but the other two bills were postponed to the next session. This demonstrates how powerful the bureaucratic influence in the Diet is. The Diet is still controlled by a few despotic bureaucrats.

The new Constitution defines the Diet as "the highest organ of state power," and "the sole law-making authority of the state." Although the Cabinet can also submit bills to the Diet, the submission of bills should chiefly be made by the Diet. Diet members should first realize this point. Otherwise, JAPAN will not be emancipated from bureaucracy.

In the UNITED STATES, about 75 percent of the bills are submitted by Congress members. The fundamental reason, why the Diet of JAPAN cannot submit bills, is due to the fact that the Diet has no good investigating organ. Such an organ cannot be established in a year or two. We advise that the Diet utilize the Bureau of Legislation as its investigating institution. At any rate, we hope that the Diet will be more aggressive in striking down bureaucracy, so that it can deserve the name of "democratic Diet."

ITEM 1 Social Democrats Ask for Co-operation - Tokyo Shimbun - 7 Dec 46. Translator: H. Miyoshi.

Full Translation:

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The Diet is anxiously waiting for the Social Democratic Party to present a vote of non-confidence in the YOSHIDA Cabinet. At 1730 hours on 5 December, NISHIO, Secretary-General, HIRANO, and YONEKUBO, members of the Central Executive Committee of the Social Democratic Party, met Secretary-Generals IKAWA, MIKI, AKITA, ITO, and MATSUMOTO of the Co-operative Party. They asked for a vote favoring non-confidence in the Cabinet.

On the other hand, the Social Democratic Party is planning to meet HOZUMI of the People's Party (KOKUMINTO) on 6 December, and to start negotiations with Independents on 7 December.

At the meeting, the Social Democrats said to the Co-operations, "In deference to the spirit embodied in the Democratic Front for National Salvation, we call upon the YOSHIDA Cabinet to resign, because it is too conservative, incompetent, and lacking in policy."

In reply, the Co-operatives said "We did not give a formal reply to you, because no decision had not yet been reached. Of course, we are not satisfied with the YOSHIDA Cabinet. However, we are not in a position to agree with you on the methods and the time for the presentation of the non-confidence vote."

In an effort to ask for the co-operation of the People's Party, NISHIO, Secretary General of the Social Democratic Party, had an important talk with HOZUMI, MATSUBARA, and OKADA, of the People's Party on the afternoon of 6 December. It is unlikely, however, that NISHIO will co-operate with the leaders of the Peoples' Party.

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EDITORIAL SERIES: 1342 (Continued)

ITEM 5 (Continued)

minds may be calmed. CONFUCIUS teaches us that there can be no government without the confidence of the people. It takes a long time to restore confidence once lost, either in an individual or in a government. It is hoped that the Government and the political parties will further endeavor to solve the question of stabilizing the currency, which has a great bearing on the economic reconstruction of the Nation.

ITEM 6 Long Addresses in the Diet - Daiichi Shimbun - 15 Oct 46.
Translator: T. Ono.

Full Translation:

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Having taken advantage of the opportunity to hear addresses by various persons in the Diet, the thing that impressed me most was that many of the speeches were too lengthy.

For instance, every interpellation during the deliberations on the draft Constitution in the Lower House took ordinarily more than an hour. The lengthiness of the addresses by learned members of the House of Peers was rather surprising. While one of the member's speeches, which lasted two hours and a half appeared to annoy the audience considerably, another member became the record holder for verbosity in the Upper House, by making an address lasting five hours.

We do not mean to say that all the extended talks were poor, simply because of their lengthiness. Because of the nature of their contents, some addresses must necessarily be lengthy. For instance, the report made by Mr ASHIDA, Hitoshi, as the chairman of the Lower House Constitutional Committee, lasted one hour and a half, but it cannot be regarded as being too long. However, in the case of many lengthy talks, the nature of their contents does not seem to justify their lengthiness.

Speeches are made for the benefit of other people. In many cases, listening to a speaker demands patience. A concise talk is, therefore, proper etiquette for the speaker. An apology to the audience at the end of a speech because of its brevity is ridiculous. Rather, there should be apologies for lengthiness. There is no reason to apologize for brevity. It is unreasonable to say "I have finished my address although my subject is simple", after intolerably annoying the audience with useless talk.

The above criticism was made from the standpoint of audiences, and its validity will be further endorsed from the viewpoint of efficiency in conference proceedings. Although such childish naivete as referring to world-wide literature and documents in a talk is really disarming, it cannot be practical.

We should like to carry out our business more efficiently.

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POLITICAL SERIES: 1359 (Continued)

ITEM 1 (Continued)

Prosecutor ONETO then proved that towards the finale of the Pacific War, JAPAN suddenly changed her policy towards FRENCH INDO-CHINA along the lines of setting up a puppet Government as she had done in other areas. He presented evidences, "Decision No.16", dated 1 February 1945, of the Supreme Council for the Direction of War on the "Policy towards FRENCH INDO-CHINA in response to the change in situation" and the telegraphic report on the progress of the negotiations based on this policy sent from Ambassador MATSUMOTO to Greater East ASIA Minister SHIGEMITSU. These evidences introduced by Prosecutor ONETO were read by Prosecutor HORWITT.

ITEM 2 Movements Behind the Democratic Diet Conference - (2) - Shinyukan - 8 Oct 46. Translator: S. Sano.

Summary:

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C. It is reported that the leftist elements of the Social Democratic Party held a meeting at KAIZAN-SO, in ATAMI, after the convention of the party. It seems that the bigger the Social Democratic Party becomes the greater also becomes the danger of their splitting.

A. The existence of the ASHIDA clan among the Liberals and the INUKAI clan in the Progressives shows the splitting of the party.

B. The clans originated in the merger of the Liberal and the Progressive Parties. If the merger is realized, it is said that INUKAI intends to form a new party which aims at the realization of a policy not as radical as the Social Democratic Party nor as conservative as the Progressive Party by gathering the progressive elements under his command and some independents and non-partisans.

A. Has INUKAI such an ambitious intention?

B. It appears to me that he will not act hastily to form the new party, since he is very clever like his father, the late prime minister. However, he is popular among the younger members of the Progressive Party, and this fact is accepted even by the members of other parties. That is why the rumor is prevailing in the street.

C. Before the People's Party was formed, some progressive leaders of the SHINSEIKAI had invited INUKAI to a certain restaurant and consulted with him. The source of the rumor can be traced to this point.

B. It is said that the SHINSEIKAI intended to invite both, Liberals and Social Democrats, because they were afraid of a misunderstanding in political circles. This shows the absence of a concrete policy by the SHINSEIKAI.

C. Members of the Independent Club were also awaiting an invitation from the SHINSEIKAI at that time.

A. Let us take up the off-stage movements of various parties as a subject.

C. How about the merger of the Liberal and the Progressive Parties?

B. MIKI, Bukichi plays a most important role in the behind-the-scenes movements of the merger. Welfare Minister KAWAI strived at first for the work of the merger and early in September, he called Premier YOSHIDA and invited leaders of both parties to a certain place for the purpose. However, since the merger was opposed by the new members of the party, he was discouraged. Yet, there is an indication that he is still secretly connected with the off-stage movement. It is also reported that he met HAMASHI, Heima at the time of the projected merger of the Co-operative Democrat

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ITEM 2 (Continued)

Party with the Liberal Party.

A. Is there a possibility of the realization of the merger of the Liberal and the Progressive Parties?

B. YOSHIDA and SHIDEHARA agree in the opinion that the conservative parties should be unified. However, the fact that the merger of the both parties is impossible even though both Presidents agree in opinion indicates the complexity of democratic politics. I am of the opinion that it will be advantageous for the conservative parties to unite as early as possible to compete with the Social Democratic Party in the coming local elections.

C. A view is prevailing that, if the two conservative parties unity their powers, it would be more advantageous for them to smash the Social Democratic Party.

B. It is a matter of opinion. It appears to me that the merger of the both parties will be realized by the opening of the next extraordinary session of the Diet.

A. What do you think of the recent successive failures of the Co-operative Democrat Party?

C. The character of YAMAMOTO, Sanchiko is attributed to the failure. He is the chairman imported by the Co-operative Democrats. He is too much of an opportunist and not a genuine co-operative democrat. YAMAMOTO knew very well that the minor party could not obtain any voice in the Diet. Therefore he tried to gather party members to strengthen the stand of his party in the Diet. The KITA brothers, genuine co-operative democrats, strongly opposed the opportunism of YAMAMOTO and they were excluded from the Co-operative Democrat Party.

B. Generally speaking, to expect that the KITA brothers would accept the leading policy of the Co-operative Democrat Party advocated by YAMAMOTO was too much. It was natural for the KITA brothers to get angry because of the merger of the Independent Club with the Co-operative Democrat Party which had been decided in haste during their absence.

C. The KITA brothers are the strong advocates of co-operative democratism although they have been subjected to various criticisms. It appears to me that they are too theoretical about politics to resort to off-stage-movements.

A. I sympathize with the KITA brothers in the case of the confusion. The younger KITA asked his elder brother to call the meeting of all-JAPAN branch heads to check the work for the merger. However, the elder KITA opposed asserting they should fight YAMAMOTO and others openly. Their honesty was the cause of their defeat.

C. I was moved by their firm decision when they demanded that the members of the Co-operative Democrats, including YAMAMOTO who agreed on the merger, secede from the party, insisting that they (KITA brothers) were the only genuine advocators of co-operative democratism. YAMAMOTO and others could find no words to utter at that time.

B. Although the KITA brothers had to retire from the Co-operative Democrat Party since then, they should be satisfied because the merger negotiation with the SHINSEI-KAI was a failure. Furthermore, the merger with the Progressive Party has also been stranded at the present time.

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ITEM 4 Sketches of Some Diet Members - Jiji Shimpo - 7 Oct 46. Translator: T. Kitayama.

Extracts:

The 90th extraordinary session of the Diet which has been loaded with many important bills, suchas the Constitution Revision Bill, Labor Adjustment Law, bills relating to the cancellation of wartime indemnities, etc., has spent more than 110 days with the discussions and investigations of those bills since it was opened on the 10th of June, and is to be adjourned soon. Has the present session of the Diet, at which women representatives and communists have been present for the first time in JAPAN's history and at which over 90 % of whom those present were new faces, gotten rid of its old political shell? Let us here sketch some profiles of these representatives.

At the very outset of the session, jeerings and hootings were repeated day after day. It ended in a scuffle between NOMIZO, Masaru, of the Social Democratic Party and HARA, Osamu, of the Liberal Party at the plenary session of the House of Representatives. This cast an ominous shadow upon the future of the democratic Diet, and since that time there has been no end to the jeerings and hootings. But except for the lobby problem, there has been no cases of violence. Indeed, the new President of the House, YAMAZAKI, has remarked, "But remarks in the waiting room and also in their interpellations in the Diet. Some of them even declare that art is merely a hobby for people of leisure. Others regard politics as if it were a special technique and often resort to "hooting tactics," as they call it. If things go on this way, when will we be able to realize the construction of a cultural JAPAN? The "love affair" between the two representatives, MIKI, Kiyoko and KAWANISHI, Kiyoshi is so well-known that there is no one in the Diet that does not know about it. As has been customary in JAPAN, love is still regarded as an impure thing, and it seems KAWANISHI has now found it somewhat awkward to remain in the Liberal Party.

Probably because of his impatience for the successful realization of this love affair, KAWANISHI, who is 29 years of age and a father of two children, has shown a definite attitude, saying, "If I am driven to the ultimate stage of choosing between 'Arbeit' and 'Liebe', I, of course, will choose 'Liebe'!

He is resolved to secede from the Liberal Party and resign from his job as private secretary to Commerce Minister HOSHIJIMA.

On the other hand, MIKI, Kiyoko is heard to have remarked, "I do not wish to cause any more trouble for the Liberal Party and KAWANISHI's family." In such cases, Japanese women have always been prudent.

Beyond a certain limit, women are often stronger than men. A certain woman representative of the former new Political Party was once asked by the Liberal Party to join it. She replied with a smile on her face, "If I were to be offered, say, 5 hundred thousand yen, ----!" When this condition was proposed, even the veteran campaigner, accustomed though he was to such proposals, was quite taken aback and gave up the case as fruitless.

It is not only women representatives who, when they are approached by various parties to join them and become involved in complicated negotiations, are apt to lose sight of the course they should take. Of those representatives who have entered the Liberal or Progressive Parties, how many are there, I wonder, who joined the one or the other after they had really understood its principles or policy?

On the whole, Members of the House of Representatives seem to have well-lined purses. They have new shoes, light their cigarettes with lighters worth a thousand yen, and so on. On the other hand, members of the House of Peers are mostly hard up. Many of them are clad in faded morning coats which were in style decades ago. Some of the members who are descendants of feudal lords or members of Imperial nomination bring lunches wrapped in old newspapers, which consist of sweet potatoes, probably those grown in their own gardens. This is not the case with members of the House of Representatives. They are too well off to be carrying such food. How times have changed!

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for the women representatives in the present Diet session, it would not have been so calm and quiet." Ex-President of the House KIMURA also said, "Thanks to the presence of women representatives, the Diet has become refined."

The contribution by the women representatives toward the Diet session is being watched with keen interest by the general public.

"It is an undeniable fact," that just as the presence of the communist representatives, though only six in number, gives a sort of impetus to the Diet session, so the mere existence of women representatives, though they have done no special work, has brought about a gigantic change in men's feudalistic ideas of women."

But is is a pity that there should be some members who, despite the fact that they are chosen democrative representatives of the people, are low in culture and education. This is shown in their remarks in the waiting room and also in their interpellations in the Diet. Some of them even declare that art is merely a hobby for people of leisure. Others regard politics as if it were a special technique and often resort to "hooting tactics," as they call it. If things go on this way, when will we be able to realize the construction of a cultural JAPAN? The "love affair" between the two representatives, MIKI, Kiyoko and KAWANISHI, Kiyoshi is so well-known that there is no one in the Diet that does not know about it. As has been customary in JAPAN, love is still regarded as an impure thing, and it seems KAWANISHI has now found it somewhat awkward to remain in the Liberal Party.

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Capital-Labor Tieup Is Advocated in Die

Employes Now Have Chance to Become Capitalists Themselves, Itaya Asserts

A suggestion that capital and labor should forget their past enmity because employes hereafter can become small capitalists themselves by more or less effort was endorsed by the Government in the course of interpellations in the Special Wartime Compensations Measures Bill Committee of the House of Peers Thursday.

The committee was called to order at 10:15 a.m. and questions were continued from the day before. Viscount Kiko Okochi, Kenkyukai, said: "It appears that the Government is seeking to use the revenue from the property tax to amortize the deficit-covering bonds for the reconstruction of public finances but we are not easy in mind as to the actual efficacy of such a scheme. I wish to have the opinion of the Finance Minister on the matter."

Finance Minister Tanzan Ishibashi replied that the amortization of deficit-covering bonds would entail many difficulties but the Government intended to regulate finances with an eye on the budget for the next fiscal year and in close contact with related quarters.

Junsuke Itaya then took the floor:

"The recent frequent outbreak of labor disputes is constituting a serious menace to the economic reconstruction of the country. I'm of the opinion that the compensations cut and the steep property tax will be instrumental in eliminating really big capitalists. Consequently, people who are now employes will have their chance to become small capitalists themselves depending on their own efforts. For this reason capital and labor should draw closer together in sympathy. Why not the Government express its frank opinion on the matter?"

State Minister Keinosuke Zen: "We endorse the interpellator's view on the whole. I think, too, that th

(Continued from Page 1)

relationship between capitalist and worker will be different from now on from what it has been in the past. The big question hereafter, however, is how to build up capital. The Government is also giving serious attention to the question of capital and labor."

The meeting rose for recess at noon.

The House of Peers Special Smallholders Establishment Measures Bill Committee completed questions on a Bill Partially Amending the Farm Land and Regulation Act and the Special Smallholders Establishment Measures Bill at 11:05 a.m. After Baron Hitoki Iwamura, Koseikai, Baron Michiharu Mishima, Kenkyukai, and Shinichiro Matsumura, Kenkyukai, had expressed views in favor of them, they were put to vote and unanimously passed. The committee adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Romaji Issue Arises

The Petitions Committee of the House of Representatives adopted the petition calling for abolition of the modified or Nippon-shiki Romaji system which is now officially in force in accordance with a Cabinet decree.

The petition, presented by Dr. Kiroku Hayashi, President of the Romaji Popularization Association, and Chokuro Kadono, Director of the Standard Romaji Association, was explained to the committee by Juji Kasai, member of the House of Representatives.

The adoption of the petition by the committee followed a debate in which three members of the committee spoke in support of the measure.

In reply to these speeches Education Minister Kotaro Tanaka said the Government would see to the whole question of Romaji being settled in a fair and democratic manner.

Similar petitions were adopted by the House of Representatives on two occasions in the past.

In explaining the petition Kasai said that the modified or Nippon-shiki Romaji was in use in the army and navy for a time during the war, and that the system is unscientific, of no practical use, and not international. The system, established and published by the Romaji Association in 1885, he declared, is inferior to the standard Romaji (reformed Hepburn system) which is used in spelling the names of railway stations and in documents.

NIPPON TIMES
OCT 11 1946

SITTING IN ON THE DIET

Wednesday, October 9

Isando Ikeda, Director of the Taxation Bureau of the Finance Ministry, revealed that of the total amount of ¥43,500,000,000 property tax, ¥24,700,000,000 will be collected in kind before the session of the Upper House committee on the Bills regarding Government suspension of war indemnities.

Of ¥24,700,000,000, stocks represent ¥2,700,000,000, national loan bond ¥7,200,000,000, provincial loan bond ¥800,000,000, estates and other immovable ¥4,000,000,000, Ikeda said.

He also revealed that it is estimated that five or six years will be required to dispose of all the properties paid in as property taxes.

In appraisal of properties to be collected as tax, the current price will be a basis of appraisal, said Ikeda, adding that the current price means the officially fixed price.

DIET TODAY

HOUSE OF PEERS:—Meeting in a full session at 10 a.m., the House is expected to approve the trade fund special accounts bill, industrial rehabilitation corporation bill, the wartime compensations special measure bill and eight other measures after hearing reports by the chairmen of the respective committees.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:—The House, in a plenary session at 1 p.m., will hear recommendations and petitions.

NIPPON TIMES
OCT 11 1946

Report On 90th Diet

With the 90th extraordinary session of the Imperial Diet being completed, Takeshi Yamazaki, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Kozaemon Kimura, Vice-Speaker of the same, made a report to the Throne on procedure and results of the Diet session when they were received in audience by H.M. the Emperor on October 18 at 10 a.m.

MAINICHI OCT 20 1946

JAPANESE CABINET CALLS FOR SPECIAL SESSION OF DIET

By United Press

The Japanese Cabinet decided Tuesday to convoke an extraordinary 30-day diet session on Nov. 25 for the passage of laws implementing the new Constitution which will be promulgated on Nov. 3, taking effect six months thereafter.

Bills will be confined to measures for revising the present Imperial Household Law, for adoption of an economic law governing the finances of imperial families which will be subject to taxes for the first time and for adoption of laws governing the cabinet and the diet, including organization of the new House of Councillors which will be elected to replace the present House of Peers.

STARS & STRIPES
OCT 24 1946

Ministry Introduces Legislation To Diet

Lower House Receives Imperial House Law Bill

The Government introduced to the House of Representatives the bills pertaining to the special exceptions to the Imperial House Law and the Diet Law on Monday, November 25, and a bill concerning the prolongation of the term of office of Upper House members was also presented to the House of Peers the same day.

All the three bills had been duly approved at the Privy Council plenary session held earlier on the day. They will be laid on the tapis of both Houses immediately after the Prime Minister's administrative speech on Wednesday, November 27.

Meanwhile, the Imperial House Finance Law Bill and the House of Councillors Election Law Bill will not be sent to the Diet until they are fully deliberated at the Privy Council plenary session scheduled on November 29 or 30.

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The End of A Memorable Diet Session

The 90th Extraordinary Session of the Diet, which has just adjourned, has been in many ways the most significant session of the Diet in the entire history of the nation. It was the first Diet to have been elected in a truly free election to represent the real will of the people. It was the first Diet in which women have been represented and in which they played indeed a remarkably important role. It was the longest session of the Diet in the nation's history, sitting continuously for almost five months. And it passed some of the most fundamental and revolutionary laws ever to have been enacted in the history of this country.

Among the accomplishments of this Diet, the most important by far has been the adoption of the new Constitution. This work alone is sufficient to give this Diet an immortal place in the history not only of this nation but of the world. For, whereas the replacement of a despotic old order by a democratic new order is a process which in the history of most countries has entailed bloody upheavals, the adoption of the new Constitution by the recent Diet means that this revolutionary process has been accomplished in Japan by peaceful and legal means . To be sure, the instrumentality of the defeat in war followed by the benevolent military occupation cannot be ignored in accounting for this successful peaceful revolution, but due credit must also be accorded to the Diet and to the people which it represents for their part in making his uniquely peaceful revolution possible. The Diet which adopted the fundamental law which puts into effect this peaceful transition from despotism to democracy will always be sure of an honored place in the history of human progress.

But in addition to performing this great and unique work, this Diet has also coped heroically with the more transient but hardly less difficult problems which beset a shattered nation groping its way to regeneration. It is true that most of the measures taken by the Diet were not conceived by the Diet itself in the first instance but were forced upon it by force of inescapable circumstances, but when confronted by these circumstances the Diet did not fail to come through with a fairly creditable performance. The measures taken to further the progress of the agrarian reforms, to safeguard the rights of the working masses, and to curb inflation through a drastic surgical operation on the traditional financial structure of the nation represent an admirable willingness to translate into practical action the democratic principles espoused in the new Constitution.

Noteworthy as have been the accomplishments of this Diet, however, it cannot be credited with having been an altogether commendable one. Balanced against its truly laudable achievements are its inescapably obvious faults. Its lack of experience, the mediocrity of the majority of its members, their concern with petty party advantage rather than with great national interests, their readiness to carp at the Cabinet while showing a paucity of constructive plans on their own part, all constitute factors which discredit this Diet. The turbulent and disorderly method with which it conducted its business evidenced an irresponsibility and a lack of political matureness which are indeed disappointing.

But when the good is weighed against the bad, it must be concluded that on the whole this Diet has made a promising beginning toward the establishment of democracy in Japan. Upon the conclusion of this memorable session the Diet is deserving of the gratitude of the nation. There can be no complaint, for the faults of the Diet but reflect the deficiencies of the still politically immature Japanese public, and the achievements of the Diet represent the promise inherent in the latent possibilities of the Japanese people.

After a few weeks of well deserved rest the Diet will be convened in another session, for there is no end of ever-pressing work to be done in the reconstruction of the nation. It is to be hoped that the Diet will profit by its experience to make of this next session an even greater success than it made of the session just closed. It has already established a record well worthy of living up to, but it should also have learned wherein it can and should do even better.

NIPPON TIMES
OCT 13 1946

Nippon Women Made Good Showing in Diet

Were Particularly Active When Bills on Repatriation, Relief Steps Discussed

Thirty-nine women Representatives whose debut was watched with much interest from all circles, are reported to have been more active than expected throughout the 90th Diet session which came to an end Saturday, says Kyodo.

The women Representatives were particularly active when the bill for speeding up the repatriation of Japanese overseas and relief problems were handled by the Diet. Mrs. Shizue Kato, Social Democrat, took a firm stand when she interpellated on the family system at the Constitution Committee meeting. Mrs. Satoko Tokano, independent, revealed her intelligence and firm resolve when she spoke in opposition to the Labor Adjustment Law.

On the whole, they all learned a great deal and gained self-confidence during the long session.

Miss Toshiko Karasawa, Communist, was one of the active members. When she took the rostrum in the plenary session and spoke in support of the bills for speeding up the return of Japanese overseas and for relief of ex-servicemen, she was bitterly hooted but she bravely completed her address. When hundreds of laborers who objected to the Labor Adjustment Law and also the Communist-sponsored demonstrators paraded in front of the Diet building, Miss Karasawa earnestly exhorted them to organize a people's front and stressed the importance of cooperation among laborers.

Mrs. Michiko Yamazaki, Social Democrat, was always alert. Particularly when the Livelihood Protection Law was discussed, she interpellated in the plenary session and demanded the Government to recognize the right of existence by the Constitution saying that she was speaking for all laborers and especially for those who are receiving Government protection. On top of her Diet work, she visited many places to learn the true aspects of social condition.

NIPPON TIMES
OCT 14 1946

Emperor Opens 91st Diet Session; Yoshida's Speech Scheduled Today

The 91st extraordinary session of the Diet was opened with one ceremony at the House of Peers on November 26 at 11 a.m.

On this day, His Majesty the Emperor arrived at the House of Peers at 11 a.m. where the Emperor was greeted by 700 members of both Houses who stood at attention.

On proceeding to the site of ceremony, His Majesty read the Imperial Rescript submitted by Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida and withdrew after receiving the bows of all present.

The 91st session will be started with the administrative speech of the Prime Minister on November 27.

Following the opening ceremony, the House of Peers was adjourned due to the lack of agenda. On the other hand, the House of Representatives held a plenary session in which members of the committee for drafting the reply to the Imperial Rescript were designated. The reply was then adopted.

After Tomejiro Okubo, Liberal, was nominated chairman of the whole House committee, the election of the standing committee members took place.

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ITEM 11 Hara, Suteshi, Diet Member - Provincial Newspaper Minami Nippon Shimbun (Kagoshima) - 10 Oct 46. Translator: M. Ota.

Summary:

Progressive Diet member, Mr HARA, Suteshi is an authority on marine problems and probably from his experiences on the high seas, has developed a stubborn courage. HARA is a permanent member of the Progressive Party Headquarters and one of the leaders of the Diet.

A03

He has been actively engaged in marine industry problems; participating in various committees such as the Marine Industry Section Sub-committee of the House of Representatives Food Measures Committee and the Liberal-Progressive Marine Industry Conference. He has taken an important role in their negotiations with the Government on the proposed establishment of the Department of Fisheries (SUISAN SHO). He is also exerting every efforts to set up a marine industry department in the Youth Normal School to develop marine industry education. He has succeeded in obtaining the approval of the authorities on the amount of insurance for fishing boats. He approached the authorities with the removal of the Government control, imposed during the war, on fishery materials and shipbuilding.

At the plenary sessions of the Diet, he proved his real ability as a politician. He made a speech as a representative of the Progressive Party in support of the resolution expressing gratitude to SCAP for granting permission for deep-sea fishing. He emphasized that in view of the present food situation, it is impossible for the Japanese people to obtain animal protein without depending on marine products. Again he put stress on the fact that deep-sea fishing is the only means of supplying protein for the country people since the catch of our coastal fishing has yearly decreased. Furthermore, he showed the Government that in order to show our appreciation to the Allied Headquarters for their kindness, we must produce the most satisfactory results in our deep-sea fishing.

At this juncture, the Government should effect a radical reform on marine industry administration. HARA's substantial and consistent arguments revealed the fact that he is really an expert on marine industry problems. His manner is suave and graceful and his speeches were among the best at this session of the Diet.

ITEM 3 Domestic Relations Judgment Law (Sub-Editorial) - Jiji Shimpo - 10 Nov 46. Translator: K. Harada.

Full Translation:

A03

Bills to regulate the people's livelihood hereafter and based on the spirit of the new Constitution will be successively presented to the future sessions of the Diet. The outline of a domestic relations judgment law has been drawn up. It is unreasonable to treat personal laws such as the Relatives Law or the Inheritance law similarly from the first with property laws such as the Realty law or the Obligations law. This situation was caused by the old legal idea of loosely distinguishing private and public laws. This idea is seen in the Roman and German laws 1100 years ago.

Generally speaking, a law is conservative and is behind the trend of the times. When it cannot follow the trend of the times, a revolution occurs. An example is the French Revolution. When a judge becomes restricted by laws, "petrifaction" takes place. English judges are most eminent in the point of always pouring new ideas into old laws lest they should become fossilized. It is good that a law which will solve many household problems will be formed.

In the days of confused household affairs, the marriage of an only son and an only daughter was liable to bring about various tragedies. Particularly, a question of adoption was a source of constant anxiety to a family that did not have a son. A proverb says, "If you have 3 Go (TN: 1.436 pints) of rice-bran, do not become an adopted child." However, it is claimed that there is a mistake in the interprelation of words. The true saying is supposed to be "Even if you are asked three times, do not become an adopted child." (TN: The mistake results from the same pronounciation of KONUKA (Will you not come?) and KONUKA (rice-bran) in Japanese.)

In the coming generation, such an absurd saying may disappear. At the same time divorces based on trivial reasons disappear. "The neighboring family is still having a quarrel and the night is cold" should exist merely as a poem.

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ITEM 8 Comments On The Diet - Daiichi Shimbun - 11 Oct 46. Translator: F. Noda.

Full Translation:

A03

It seemed that the House of Representatives had completed its discussions since all the important bills had been referred to the House of Peers. Yet, the Lower House Committee had to hold hearings on the youth prohibition law bill and the farmers' union law bill. These bills had been introduced by the Diet members in the last stage of the session; therefore, the disucssions on these bills were neglected. Accordingly, the committee meetings are dull and are constantly in recess despite the extension of the session. Even though the Lower House should submit these bills to the Upper House in haste, there is the strong possibility that the Upper House session will adjourn without discussing them. The Lower House committee, therefore, appears to carry out thorough discussions on their own bills rather than to shift the responsibility for the bills not undiscussed on to the Upper House Committee.

The new revised Constitution stipulates that the Diet is the supreme organ of the country. The actions of the members determines the activity of the Diet. Therefore, the formality of the Diet members in introducing their bills to the Diet becomes a regular course. The members must have a sense of responsibility.

For two days after the adjournment of the Lower House session, all the lobbies were quiet. "When do you expect to go home?" became a conventional question following greetings. It is natural that the members should have an irresistible longing for home, since the period of the session was extended to 114 days exceeding the scheduled period of 40 days. One of the Diet members asked his fellow-members to autograph his list of acquaintances.

The movements of the various parties after the dissolution of the current session of the Diet will be of deep interest. The Liberal Party expects to hold a public election of leaders, except the president and secretary-general, according to the new regulations of the Party following the closing ceremony of the Diet scheduled for 12 October. Attention must be called to the new line-up of the Party in various ways.

Contrary to the situation of the House of Representatives, the House of Peers is doing its very best. Two propositions including the budget bill were presented to today's plenary session. HAYASHI, Haruo and NAKAYAMA, Taichi made interpellations on the budget bill. HAYASHI asked a question concerning the investigation of a flour poisoning case occurring in NAKANO Ward recently. NAKAYAMA interpellated on the problems of relief of repatriates and evacuees, minimum wages and war indemnities for over fifty munites. However the Upper House impressed us as being less active than the Lower House.

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Prime Minister Yoshida informed Diet 27 November that speedy economic recovery is essential to reconstruction of Japan as democratic nation. He noted that country has substantially improved production of food and some consumption goods, but production of materials necessary for maintaining or expanding production has registered low rate of increase. Prime Minister expressed hope people of Japan will "march forth together bravely along the path of democratic principles such as are embodied in the new constitution, all their endeavors being focussed upon the single point of national reconstruction. The government will, of course, vigorously pursue appropriate and effective measures to that end."

On 27 November two cabinet ministers addressing Diet uphold Japan's constitutional renunciation of war in answer to question raised by member of House of Peers who noted misgivings of some people concerning Japan's action in depriving itself of right to self-defense.

State Minister Kijuro Shidehara declared: "Only such people who labor under the mistaken idea that humanity can survive another large-scale war still cling to the right to self-defense and belligerency. I believe such a conception should be condemned. We adopted the anti-war provision ahead of other countries for the ultimate realization of the real ideal of mankind."

Education Minister Kotaro Tanaka said: "We declare: Those who aspire to peace, prepare for peace. Japan has learned from her own experience that those who rely on the might of arms fall thereby. Education must be guided by the spirit of peace, the great ideal of humanity." 28 NOV 1946

Daily Radio Cnf

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DIET TODAY

HOUSE OF PEERS:—Committee hearings on the war loss indemnity cancellation bill and the bill for establishment of smallholders to begin at 10 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:—The House will remain adjourned.

MAINICHI OCT 8 1946

DIET TODAY

HOUSE OF PEERS:—Committee hearings expected to begin at 10 a.m. on the bills for the war loss indemnity cancellation measure and four other relevent measures, establishment of small-holders, Pensions Law amendment and budget.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:—Committee on the youth liquor prohibition bill will meet at 10 a.m.

NIPPON TIMES OCT 8 1946

SITTING IN ON THE DIET

Monday, October 7

Importance of the new Constitution was stressed by Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida at the Lower House plenary session following the passage of the Constitutional amendment bill.

Yoshida said the bill was designed to lay the foundation of new Japan and to bring about world peace. He expressed his conviction that the statements made in the Diet by the Constitution Committee members, representing as they did the mass will of the intellectual class of the Japanese nation have given rise to repercussions both at home and abroad and thus served to enlighten the peoples of the world on the special significance and character of the Constitution. The Prime Minister expressed his gratitude, on behalf of the Government to the members of the Diet for the fine and arduous work performed by them.

A joint resolution calling for efforts to stabilize currency was introduced by the Liberal, Progressive, Cooperative Democratic and the Kokumin (People's) Parties at the same session.

The resolution said:

To stabilize economic order, to bring about stable livelihood for the nation and thus to maintain social order are the prerequisites of the day. In order to achieve the ends of the Government's industrial recovery plans including the cancellation of war loss indemnities, public confidence in currency value must be revived, prices stabilized and inflation checked.

"Failure in these measures would prolong public unrest and throttle the Government's efforts to convince the public that no fresh actions would be taken to freeze the 'new yen' and against deposits.

"The Government and people should cooperate in absorbing floating and potential purchasing power if currency is to be stabilized—a prerequisite to reconstructed national economy."

NIPPON TIMES OCT 9 1946

DIET TODAY

HOUSE OF PEERS:—Meeting in plenary session at 10 a.m., the House will approve the supplementary budget bills and the pension law special application law bill as reported by the chairman of the respective committees. A petition bill for establishing a Diet library and a national library is also to be submitted and it is expected to be approved.

Committees on the wartime indemnity payment measure bill, the trade fund law bill and the small-form owner law bill will meet at 10 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—The House will not hold a plenary session, and committee meetings are undecided.

NIPPON TIMES OCT 9 1946

Extraordinary Diet To Be Called In Nov.

The Government has reached a decision to convoke an extraordinary Diet session lasting about a month toward the end of November in order to legislate various bills in connection with the new Constitution.

Among the measures requiring early legislation in connection with the enforcement of the new Constitution are the bills pertaining to the House of Councilors, the Cabinet, the Imperial Household, and the Imperial Household economy.

Above all, the Government will push the legislation of the House of Councilors bill in order to carry out the election of councilors immediately after the public voting for prefectural governors.

MAINICHI OCT 9 1946

Mp's Thanked By Emperor For Escort

OGAKI, Oct. 26 (UP)—Emperor Hirohito yesterday requested a personal interview with 35-year-old MP Lt. Sherman D. Jones, Pocatello, Idaho, and thanked him for "the splendid work" he and the 16 men in his command performed in convoying the Emperor on his five-day tour of southern Japan.

"Hirohito greeted me half way as I stepped into his room and shook my hand heartily," Jones said. "I was surprised by his action. During the interview his character surprised me."

Jones is a veteran of fighting in France, Holland, Belgium, Austria, and Germany.

The Emperor said he was "very gratified" with the work of the MP's, who the day before drew their pistols for the first time to keep back the enthusiastic crowds pressing around the Emperor and his entourage.

STARS & STRIPES OCT 27 1946

SITTING IN ON THE DIET

Tuesday, October 8

The Government will be thorough in its control of the nation's broadcasting system during the radio workers' strike, Communications Minister Sadakichi Hitotsumatsu declared today at the session of the Upper House budget committee.

The Communications Minister's declaration was made in reply to an interpellation posed by Viscount Kiko Okochi of the Kenkyukai on the problem of State control of the broadcasting system as well as on the activities of the All Communications Ministry Workers Union.

Minister Hitotsumatsu said that the radio workers strike is causing social unrest as the general public, deprived of their "ears," is unable to be informed of news regarding the outcome of deliberations on important bills at the Diet which they desire to know as quickly as possible.

Therefore the Government issued an order to continue broadcasting in accordance with Article 8 of the Telegraphic Communications Law, said Hitotsumatsu, adding that the order was disregarded by the radio workers.

As a result, the Government at 8:3[illegible] a.m. on October 6 was forced to issue the State Control Warrant No. 1 and completed taking over the radio broadcasting facilities on the night of October 7, Hitotsumatsu said.

He continued that at 7 a.m. today broadcasting was resumed under State control, adding that he broadcast his address explaining the situation which led to the State control.

The All Communications Ministry Workers Union is opposing State control, said the Communications Minister. However he was determined to be thoroughgoing in the step taken.

Saying that large numbers of employes of the Ministry are supporting the step taken, Communications Minister Hitosumatsu said that he would submit detailed reports on the problem for fair judgement on the part of Ministry employes throughout the country.

Respect of Decision Stressed

Abandoning his former obscure attitude toward the decision of the labor committee, Welfare Minister Yoshishige Kawai today declared that the labor committee decision must be respected for settlement of a labor dispute and be put into practice under the pressure of public opinion.

Replying to interpellations at the meeting of the Upper House Budgetary Committee, Kawai asserted that all of the recent strikes have been more or less involved in political moves with the Communist-affiliated elements "pulling wires" behind the scene. For example, he said, the strike by the newspaper and radio workers is aimed at attaining a fanciful political objective rather than increase of salaries and wages.

In regard to the Government attitude toward the strikes, Kawai said that in principle it will refrain from interfering in the strikes as far as possible, although it will resort to a determined step when they are harmful for the meintenance of the public peace and order.

The Government, he went on to say, is endeavoring to put into force the proposed Labor Readjustment Law as soon as possible, which, he said, is not provided with enough force, but still is serviceable for settlement of strikes.

Pointing out that the strikes now being carried out by workers of the Tokyo Shibaura Electric Appliance Company and the Japan Steel Tube Company have some bearing upon the Occupation forces, Kawai said that the Government is gravely concerned.

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DECLASSIFIED E. O. 12065 SECTION 3-402 / NNDG NO. 775015

POLITICAL SERIES: 1415 (Continued)

ITEM 5 The Diet Should be Dissolved by Iwabuchi, Tatsuo - Magazine Josei Kaizo (Monthly) - Sep, and Oct, 46 Issue. Translator: K. Sugasawa.

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Summary:

(TN: - The writer is a political critic, ex-chief-editor of the YOMIURI, and a member of the House of Peers. He has been active in exposing the secret connivings in our political circles since the February 26 Incident in 1937.)

I strongly advocate the dissolution of the present Diet as soon as the new Constitution is passed. As a result of the new Constitution, many revisions to existing laws and systems will be entailed. Therefore, the formation of a new Government according to the specifications prescribed in the new Constitution is urgent. Some may say that since the new Constitution becomes effective six months hence, there is no necessity for the present Government to resign until that time, but we need not be slaves to the old laws, for a flexibility must exist in actual politics.

The new Constitution provides that a cabinet shall be subordinated to the Diet; that the Premier is appointed from among the members of the Diet with the Diet's approval; and that the majority of the Ministers nominated by the Premier must be members of the Diet. As a matter of fact, some members of the present Cabinet including Premier YOSHIDA and Baron SHIDEHARA are not members of the Diet. At present, when the new Constitution is about to be promulgated, those who desire to play active parts in the political world should be, first of all, elected members of the Diet through the general election. It is therefore held that the present session of the Diet should be dissolved.

With the view of preventing despotic power from dominating the political scene again, the new Constitution includes a new system by which a cabinet will be formed. In the past, since the Meiji Era, our political world has always been dominated by the influence of the militarists and bureaucrats, who ignored the principle of party politics and never listened to the voice of the people. Needless to say, this is one of the causes which reduced our nation to the dire circumstance of today. Yet, the people even now express little surprise at the fact that since the end of the war, non-party Cabinets have been formed one after another under the leadership of bureaucrats. We can see that the people do not yet understand the significance politics in a democratic country. The new Constitution, seems to leave no room for dispotism to rule again over the political world, but, however, thoroughly the Constitution may provide for this, it is necessary for the people to watch the actual administration closely, for benefits derived from any legislative measure are obtained only through wise administration. In order to enjoy the benefits of the new constitution, both Government authorities and people must have an adequate knowledge of, as well as a deep concern for, this Constitution.

As a result of the general election held in April, many independents and members of minority parties were elected who are powerful enough to be able to organize a second or a third party in the Diet. This situation should be improved, for it is contrary to the principle of party politics; a factor most important in parliamentary government. Our politics should be conducted through more clearly defined political parties standing in opposition to one another. From this point of view, I believe, the present Diet should be dissolved and the YOSHIDA Cabinet forced to resign.

One of the most urgent tasks before us in reconstructing JAPAN is to get rid of the old militaristic leaders from important positions. It is doubtful whether the present Cabinet has been too

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faithful to the SCAP directive ordering the purge of the old leaders, despite the fact they are even now performing this task. For instance, the Japanese Government did not include HATOYAMA, ex-President of the Liberal Party among the undesirable's. Moreover, we have heard rumors doubting the judgment of the SHIDEHARA Cabinet concerning the qualifications for candidates in the general election held in April. Actually, some candidates who were elected were soon after purged. Since the people usually are most concerned with the political movements, it is most important that the purge should be more actively carried out in the field of politics. In achieving this end, I believe the dissolution of the present Diet is the most effective measure.

Not only the Diet but also the whole political world should be completely renovated through this dissolution, and the necessary revision of existing laws and systems should be made in accordance with the new Constitution through the constructive spirit of those who are elected in a general election. From now on, we must take the occasions of an election, even if it may be somewhat troublesome and circuitions, to express our political views. Whenever the occasion demands, the Govern ent also should not hesitate to dissolve the Diet in order to listen to the voice of the people.

ITEM 6 Discussion on Future of Yoshida Cabinet (1) - Tokyo Shimbun - 11 Nov 46. Translator: C. Akashi.

Full Translation:

The electric workers' dispute has at last developed into a political issue and its progress is now being closely watched by various political parties. Meanwhile, the Government is in great difficulties, with such important problems as the labor offensive and inflation to cope with. In view of this complicated political situation, the reporters of the Political Section of our News Agency held the following discussion meeting.

A: The Government's announcement of its disapproval of the mediation plan regarding the electric labor dispute served only to develop it into a political issue. What circumstances caused the Government to take such an action?

H: Home Minister OMURA opined that the Govern ent should temporarily withhold expressing its disapproval of the mediation proposal. But, Welfare Minister KAWAI, along with ZEN, insisted on the early announcement of the Government's attitude from the social point of view.

D: In order to curb the growing inflationary trend, the Cabinet officials came to an agreement on the Government's attitude of disapproving the mediation plan. However, Commerce Minister HOSHIJIMA cleverly anticipated that such an action on the part of the Govern ent would stimulate those concerned with the dispute and produce the unfavorable result of delaying the settlement of the dispute.

A: Who proposed to refer the dispute to the Mediation Committee?

E: According to KAWAI, the Commerce and Industry Ministry earnestly desired it.

A: The Govern ent seems to be definitely opposed to the mediation proposal.

C: It is naturally expected that if a wage scale considered to be the highest, is set up in such a basic industry as the electric industry it will have grave effects on the capitalistic camp and the YOSHIDA Cabinet which are pitted against the labor offensive. I think that the Government has decided to assume a firm attitude toward the dispute, taking this into consideration. Furthermore,