

ITEM 3 Government to Issue Antistrike Statement Today - Jiji - 12 Dec 47.
 Translator: N. Miwa. (RBH)

146
 Full Translation:

The Government has decided to accept the Central Labor Committee's mediation plan for demands of the All Japan Communications Workers Union, thus paying livelihood allowances equal to 2.8 months' wages to the workers. At yesterday's Diet session, a budget bill regarding the allowances was approved.

The Government intends to present a formal answer to the CLC's mediation plan immediately after the answer is discussed together with the various future problems at today's cabinet session. At the same time, the Government is expected to issue a statement to clarify its attitude. The details of the statement are:

1) Workers affiliated with private industrial groups who are now demanding higher wages through collective bargaining will not be permitted to ask for additional livelihood allowances, taking advantage of the Government's acceptance of a plan to pay allowances equivalent to 2.8 months' wages.

2) There is no other way to raise funds for the payment of livelihood allowances except through the imposition of taxes upon the public. Therefore, if members of the National Council of Government and Public Office Workers Unions go on a wildcat strike that would exert a serious influence on the people's livelihood, the Government will take punitive measures against these members.

3) Government officials will not be permitted to undertake collective sabotage because of the "day off with pay" as adopted in accordance with the Labor Standard Law.

4) In view of the present aggravated situation of inflation it is impossible to establish a minimum wage system.

ITEM 7 Government Employees Postpone Leave Tactics - Nihon Keizai - 6 Dec 47.
 Translator: T. Ogawa. (RL)

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 Full Translation:

The National Council of Government Employees Unions held a committee meeting on 5 Dec at the Education Ministry to discuss the question of leave of absence.

After considering various recommendations, it was decided to refrain from carrying out leave tactics pending the co-operation of workers unions of the War Damage Rehabilitation Board, state hospitals and sanatoriums, the pension bureau, and the statistics bureau with a "no overtime work" movement.

ITEM 9 Osaka Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Workers Conducting Strife - Akahata - 8 Dec 47. Translator: K. Shinoda. (RL)

146
 Full Translation:

(TAKEDA Pharmaceutical Company cell-correspondent dispatch) The TAKEDA Pharmaceutical Company Workers Union in OSAKA Shi, numbering approximately 5,000 members, has been demanding 4,500 yen as average net wages and a marriage allowance of 10,000 yen.

Because of the lack of sincerity on the part of the management in meeting these demands, the union issued a strife declaration on 1 Nov, and on 25 Nov, all members of the union participated in a mass meeting of workers, farmers, and citizens of the OSAKA area. At the same time the union held a general meeting to carry out its demands.

The following plans were formulated by the union:

Workers of the 13 factories of the TAKEDA Pharmaceutical Company, assuming leadership, will carry out a joint struggle with the Osaka branch of the All-Japan Chemical Workers Union. They will also join forces with an organization of Osaka citizens, including small and medium sized industrialists engaged in an electric power strife under leadership of the North-Osaka Workers Union.

ITEM 6 Japan Cold Storage Workers End Strike - Jiji - 8 Dec 47. Translator: K. Noda. (RL)

146
 Full Translation:

(SENDAI) The Japan Cold Storage Workers Union, which went on a 24-hour strike on 4 Dec, demanding a wage increase, reached an agreement with the management on 7 Dec and ended the strike on the same day. The 15 factories in the TOHOKU district are now operating as usual.

ITEM 1 Labor Ministry Starts Probe into Strike Settlements - Mainichi -
18 Dec 47. Translator: H. Miyoshi. (FST)

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Full Translation:

One of the characteristics of recent labor disputes is that unions have entered the strike phase insufficiently prepared and were in many cases counterattacked and defeated by management. Seizing this opportunity, management generally pressed labor unions. However, the management went too far and many cases of violation of Article 11 of the Labor Union Law or Article 40 of the Labor Relations Adjustment Law have been noted; over 200 cases were presented to the labor commissions from April last year to November this year. Attaching importance to this fact, the Labor Ministry, while starting direct investigations into local cases which may have violated the above laws, is now discussing the operation and interpretation of the laws along with the Justice Ministry and the Central Labor Commission.

As an example, the ministry took up the strike of the Kawanami Shipbuilding Workers Union of NAGASAKI Ken in mid-November which ended in defeat on the part of the union. Observing that settlement conditions are suspected of having violated Article 40 of the Labor Relations Adjustment Law, the ministry wired Governor SUGEYAMA of NAGASAKI Ken as follows:

"It is reported that in the settlement of the Kawanami dispute, the company demanded the resignation of responsible members of the union. Since, this is a violation of Article 40 of the Labor Relations Adjustment Law, order the local labor commission to probe into the case and to take prudential steps to obtain the action of the local labor commission."

According to a Labor Ministry survey, the Kawanami dispute made the following progress:

The Kawanami dispute was participated in by 3,200 workers. Presenting such demands as conclusion of collective bargaining contracts on 26 August, the workers union continued negotiations with management until the following day. However no agreement was reached. As a result, the union went on strike on 6 September. The strike ended on 27 November.

The problematical settlement conditions were that: "The company shall not call strike leaders to account. However, they shall resign voluntarily by tacit agreement. Their resignations, all obtained by 26 November, shall be presented to KAWANAMI, Hosaku, ex-president of the Kawanami Shipbuilding Company. After presentation of the resignations of strike leaders, all other workers shall return to work. Those who resigned shall be granted the stipulated retirement allowance and added funds." The Labor Ministry interpreted this demand of resignation as violation of Article 40 of the Labor Relations Adjustment Law which stipulates that no handicap be given to strikers.

The following is the statement issued by Director KARAI of the Labor Ministry's Labor Affairs Bureau:

"Many labor unions have recently gone on strike without the support of the masses. Consequently, their demands were not accepted, and their collapse was brought about in many cases. However, the management has run to extremes and the number of violations of the Labor Union Law or the Labor Relations Adjustment Law has increased. Therefore, close investigations are being conducted."

ITEM 5 Machine-tool Capitalists Resort to Novel Tactics - Akahata - 11 Dec 47.
Translator: H. Nakajima. (UC)

146
 Full Translation:

An enterprise adjustment offensive by capitalists was reported at the National Enterprise Adjustment Policy Convention held by the Machine Workers Union on 7 Dec.

Hiyoshi Industrial Company (Aichi Branch)

Nine new companies have been established in the former factory area, but the best equipment has been removed and the rest of the factory has been closed down. Workers in these new companies are people from farming districts, who have been forced to promise not to organize a labor union.

Arai Manufacturing Company; Aichi Branch
 (A factory designated for reparation)

Although this company announced it would reduce its personnel by half, pay wages daily instead of monthly and pay discharged personnel a retirement allowance in excess of the regulations, the union retorted by insisting on full employment and opposing low wages.

The Oji Casting Company (subsidiary
 of the Oji Paper Manufacturing
 Company)

When this company advised its employees to buy its stocks, the union applied to the Holding Company Liquidation Committee for them, but an investigation by a branch of the Machine Worker's Union revealed the company intended to regain these stocks after it had impelled the workers to buy them by advancing the union a loan.

Tokai Radiator Company (Shizuoka Branch)

The lockout of this company has been announced twice since October.

The union, however, will not be able to gain anything through negotiations with the president, since it is the Toho Industrial Company in TOKYO that actually controls the company and at present the union has no one with whom to carry out negotiation.

In USAKA, the electric power crisis and soaring prices are continuing to compel such medium and small industries as are composed of about 100 members, such as the Japan Knitting Company (NIPPON KIRIYASU) and the Japan Industrial Company (NIPPON KOGYO), to close down.

ITEM 2 Government Workers Begin Administrative Strike - Mainichi -
18 Dec 47. Translator: C. Pham. (FST)

146
 Full Translation:

In response to the request for 2.8 months' salary by all government workers, the Government decided to pay 0.8 months' pay next year. As a reaction to this policy, employees of the Commerce-Industry Ministry and the Central Liaison Office asked to be paid this year and, under the pretext of leaves of absence and private jobs, started an administrative strike on 16 December. With the exception of the Coal Board, only one-third of the employees were present yesterday at the various bureaus; of these the electric power bureau and the survey and statistics bureau had almost no workers.

In other bureaus, crowds of petitioners were seen merely trampling back and forth in the corridors. Some were practicing shoe shining as in the premises of the Patent Bureau and some were selling tooth paste, toothbrushes, calendars, soap, etc in the streets. At the Reparations Bureau employees were sewing sacks of tea. The Coal Board workers will begin similar vacations today.

ITEM 5Government Workers Sabotage Surveyed - Shin Hoshi - 18 Dec 47.
Translator: Y. Akabane. (JJY)146
Full Translation:

The "no overtime" drive which was started in connection with the demand for a livelihood subsidy by the All Japan Communications Workers Union and the National Federation of Government Railway Workers Unions has been continued more than ever, even after the government acceptance of the mediation proposal of the Central Labor Committee.

hours, the regular office hour. Offices with direct relations with the general public are causing delay in business dealings, though they are open to the public.

The following is the picture of business stagnation, picked up by this reporter in some of the government offices in the Metropolis yesterday, which graphically depicts the existing conditions in these offices whose workers are demanding wage increases, with cries of economic crisis, production expansion, and increased efficiency.

Commerce-Industry Ministry: In a section of the Import Bureau at 0940 hours documents were piled up on every desk, with no one present. Only a few women employees were cleaning the room. In response to a question "Why is no one here?" one of the women said coolly, "Even if they come earlier, they do not begin work until about 1030 hours."

Going around to the Fiber Bureau at 0950 hours, I found only about half of the staff at their desks, whereas office work was said to begin at 0930 hours. Several businessmen were seen occupying empty chairs while waiting for the officials concerned.

Education Ministry: More than one month has elapsed since the Ministry's personnel announced the "exact hour departure" operation. Their departure has been remarkably punctual but their attendance in the morning has been considerable irregular. No one was seen sitting at his desk at the fixed time, 0900 hours. From 0920 to 0930 was said to be the usual time of attendance. Many of the staff did not appear in certain sections of the Science and Investigation Bureau until 1000 hours.

Home Ministry: Since the enactment of the Local Autonomy Law, the Home Ministry has been forgotten by the people at large. Probably reflecting this situation, the efficiency of all bureaus and sections has been gradually declining. Especially is this the case these days. The attendance of the staff is chronically tardy, and the morning is spent in reading papers, drinking tea, and indulging in gossip. In the afternoon they start their work from around 1330 to 1400 hours, only to stop at about 1530 hours to prepare for their departure. They are so observant of the office hour as to be outside the office gate at exactly 1600 hours.

The chief of the General Affairs Bureau commented: "Since they leave the office at the fixed hour, they should strictly observe the hour of attendance. But in view of the prevailing conditions, it would be very difficult for them to be punctual in both cases, unless their way of thinking can be changed."

Price Board: The board has been notorious for its strict observance of the appointed hour of departure for quite some time. Since the presentation of the demand for wage increase, the exact-hour operation has become more regular than before, so far as leaving the office is concerned. In sharp contrast to this, the morning attendance has by no means been improved, keeping traders and industrialists waiting. "We are always kept waiting," complained a group of businessmen, who are said to come often to appeal for price boosts.

Central Postoffice: The condition of its window business clearly represents the employees' frame of mind, which seems to think, "We are unable to get enough nutrition to use a pen with only 1,50 calories at 1,800 yen." Their manner of dealing with the public is horribly dilatory and provoking.

SOCIAL SERIES: 1896 (Continued)

ITEM 5 (Continued)

Senders of telegrams were lined up in a long queue. No clerk was seen in the window to accept parcels. A woman inquiring about the nonarrival of a parcel sent her from FUKUSHIMA one month before received the reply, "..... because severe snowstorms are raging in the Northeastern district", at the Parcel Acceptance and Delivery Section, and she burned with indignation.

ITEM 10 Labor Unions Utilize New Tactics - Tokyo Tomin - 16 Dec 47.
 Translator: I. Hotta. (IHL)

Summary:

New forms of strike tactics such as the strict observance of the working hours and the "leave of absence" tactics are now being utilized by the labor unions of Government offices. Even the TOKYO Federation of Metropolitan Office Workers' Union has been caught in the vortex of these tactics. Such tactics are without parallel in the history of the labor union movements of the world.

The strict observance of business hours is fine, for the Japanese are very lax about time; moreover, there are many good lessons to be learned from the foreigners' efficient and punctual way of doing things. If the Government and the TOKYO Metropolitan Office Workers Unions want to make their new strike tactics effective, they must first induce their workers to report to work on time, devote their time to work during business hours, etc.

As for the "leave of absence" tactics, we doubt if the person or the persons who initiated such tactics are blessed with common sense. The tactics may be justifiable as one of the rights of members of a labor union. However, leave of absence always requires the permission of a higher official and it should never be granted if it should interfere with the execution of business. This does not change under any circumstances. The recent "leave of absence" tactics can be regarded as a strike. A strike is admitted by the Labor Union Law, but it is doubtful whether such strange forms of tactics as those mentioned above are also included. Recently, there have been many labor tactics which are actually unlawful though they appear lawful in form. To those who are aware of their position as people of a law-governed country, the recent labor tactics in our country are quite incomprehensible.

ITEM 3 Paper Allocation Office Employees Stage Struggle - Tokyo Shimbun - 23 Dec 47. Translator: U. Futonaka. (FST)

Full Translation:

The personnel of the Paper Allocation Office of the Premier's Board has reached the strike stage over failure to conclude a collective bargaining agreement and the allegedly forced resignation of an official who is one of the union executives. The employees held a mass rally to form a union on 6 December, and, immediately joining the National Council of Government and Public Office Workers Unions, took action to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement. Delay on the part of responsible bureau chiefs, however, deterred the signing.

Meanwhile, since a member of the union executive committee was ruthlessly urged to resign his post, the union passed a resolution denouncing this as outrageous oppression, pressing hard for the immediate signatures of the contract. The stage of struggle was thus entered with the support of the NCGPOWU, the Press Workers Union, the ALL Japan Printing and Publishing Workers Union, and others.

In the meantime, such issues as opposition to the incumbency of provincial representatives on the Paper Allocation Committee, the removal of bureau and section chiefs, and nonconfidence in the present leading officials of the Executive Offices of the Japan Newspaper, Publication, and House Organ Paper Associations have arisen. Responsible State Minister TAKEDA's action on the matter in question is being watched.

ITEM 10 Condition for Acceptance of Mediation Plan - Asahi - 14 Dec 47.
Translator: S. Fujiwara. (RL)

146 Full Translation:

The Federation of Metropolitan Office Workers Unions held a Central Struggle Committee meeting at its headquarters on 14 Dec. The union decided to accept the mediation plan submitted by the Metropolitan Labor Relations Committee. The following conditions were proposed by the union:

1. The supplementary allowance equal to a 2.8 months' salary should be exempted from taxation.
2. A 1,000 yen allowance given in August should not be deducted.
3. The sum should be paid on 18 Dec.
4. The union's resources should not be covered by mass taxation. Personnel dismissal should be avoided.
5. The minimum wage system and regulations regarding payment of retirement allowances should be effective by next January.

ITEM 9 Increase in Cases of Violence against Labor Unions - Akahata - 19 Dec 47.
 Translator: S. Sakata. (RL)

146
 Full Translation:

(Kyushu District Headquarters) -- Cases of violence against labor unions recently occurred throughout KYUSHU. The most outstanding cases in FUKUOKA Ken were the Central Fishery Association, FUKUOKA Chapter of the Japan Express Company Workers National Union, and the Sanyu Colliery. In NAGASAKI Ken, the most outstanding case involved the Kawanami Dock Yard.

It was recently reported that followers of KITASHIRO, Gunichi, of IIZUKA Municipal Assembly, committed assault against members of the Japan Electric Power Workers Union

On 15 Dec, a joint statement opposing violence was issued by the Kyushu Congress of Labor Unions, Kyushu Congress of Industrial Organizations, Fukuoka Ken Democratic Front Council, and other organizations in FUKUOKA Ken. The organizations urged the ousting of "bosses", and filed a protest with the prefectural government against the inadequacy of the drive to expose gangsters. The organizations demanded that popular representatives should participate on the Public Security Committee.

ITEM 6 Chugoku-Shikoku Construction Workers on Strike - Jimmin - 14 Dec 47.
 Translator: T. Tsukazaki. (DD)

146
 Full Translation:

(HIROSHIMA) -- The Chugoku-Shikoku General Chapter of the All Japan Construction Workers Union of the Home Ministry, on 28 Oct, filed a four-point demand with the Central Labor Relations Committee for arbitration, asking for the immediate payment of a livelihood assistance allowance of 2,000 yen per month per worker and 1,000 yen for his family and establishment of a substantial wage system. All the workers belonging to the chapter who, since 1 Dec, have resorted to on-the-minute departure from office at closing time announced a one week's absence simultaneously, and began to stay away from the office on the 11th.

The chapter is composed of employees of the Home Ministry Chugoku-Shikoku Construction Works Branch Office in HIROSHIMA and 1,200 workers of the 25 construction offices in the nine prefectures in CHUGOKU and SHIKOKU.

ITEM 2 Securing Right to Exist Is Prerequisite - Mainichi - 29 Dec 47.
 Translator: K. Hirata. (TK)

146
 Summary:

The Government intends to take strong action in regard to strikes by nonoperating government workers in view of their grave responsibilities as public servants. This step is based on Article 38 of the Labor Relations Adjustment Law. The said article forbids policemen, firemen, prison personnel, and administrative and judicial office workers, excluding enterprise employees, to strike. In this case, to strike means to hamper the normal operation of business as a means to achieve strike aims.

It is important for the people to sympathize with the government and public officials since they will be prohibited by law from striking despite the fact that they have been more severely hit by inflation than private company workers. To this end, it is the first prerequisite to prevent such disputes by finding out rational ways and means to solve them and protect the employees' right to exist.

ITEM 8 Labor Union Ethics - Provincial Paper: Kahoku Shimpo (Sendai) -
 13 Dec 47. Translator: H. Konishi. (DD)

146
 Summary:

The Government declared the mass absenteeism carried on by some parties of the Government labor unions to be wild cat tactics not ordered by the executive committee, whereas the unions say that these are not strike tactics.

Sendai Railway Bureau Director ISHIDA, warned about the food problem and the granting of holidays for services in the Aomori railway division. He stated that however destitute the present livelihood is if it is for the establishment of a pleasant country all must equally bear the burden as a member of the nation. He further stated that public opinion is usually harsh, but it must be remembered that society will not give support to demands, no matter how justified they are, if the conduct of the strikers are at fault. This statement of Director ISHIDA contains many complicated problems. JAPAN's labor movements, since the general strike of 1 Feb, has greatly affected the public. The public's sense of justice and ethics have always been expressed public opinion. However, there seems to be a misunderstanding and an incorrect disposal of the problem.

It is not natural for even a public organ when hungry, to stress its Union rights. Livelihood security is demanded because it is necessary to carry on the smooth operation of public organs. The people who cannot understand the essential qualities of the labor movement believes that anything is permissible to satisfy their hunger. Herein lies the first problem.

The second problem is that the Government will be likely to propagate that the labor unions are making unreasonable demands, which a public organ for the sake of rehabilitation should not make. The people are unable to ascertain which is right.

It is well-known that labor movements will not succeed or progress soundly without the support of public opinion and yet in coping with actual problems, we find that a wide gap may exist between union movements and public opinion. Now and then, these differences are used as malicious propaganda, and mismanaged tactics by the union leaders may aggravate these differences.

Public opinion is harsh in a way and the self-seeking interest of the general mass is extremely sensitive. However, on the other hand, there is a warm sympathetic feeling towards the weak.

At present there is a strong tendency to confuse JAPAN's weakened economy with the course of the labor movement. The bad results of the Government or the enterprisers' policies are confused with the results of the labor movement. It is most difficult to explain concretely and lucidly all the various confusions and contradictions.

It is also a known fact that the general opinion of the public has strong convictions on social justice held by the labor unions which are constituted by the workers. The public anticipate that the workers alone will establish, in the future, a new social justice. The Japanese people actually understand personal morals but are not acquainted with modern social morals. Personal morals is extremely feudalistic stressing a morbid love of cleanliness. It rather compels personal sacrifice. In the first place, it is unreasonable to criticize modern labor problems with such a narrow sense of morals. Nevertheless, it is essentially necessary that the ethics of the people are satisfied

to win their support.

In view of these facts, the labor unions are pressed by necessity to show in practice morally and vividly a new and clear ethical character. This moral character must be established despite all obstacles.

ITEM 14 Metropolitan Governor Accepts Labor Relations Committee Proposal - Asahi - 18 Dec 47. Translator: T. Ogawa. (GBS)

144 Full Translation:

In regard to the mediation plan of the Metropolitan Labor Relations Committee for making the 2.8 months payment as a livelihood assistance grant to Metropolitan Government workers, a raise in the Metropolitan Citizen's Tax, which will serve as funds to cover one month's payment, was, first of all, approved at a session of the Metropolitan Assembly held on 16 December.

As a result, Metropolitan Governor YASUI on 17 December submitted a reply of acceptance to the Metropolitan Labor Relations Committee as follows:

1. Two months' pay will be paid during this month, and the remaining 0.8 month pay will be paid in line with government action,
2. In return for 1,000 yen per capita advanced in August as an emergency fund to tide over the workers' financial crisis, 400 yen will be deducted from this month's payment, and the remainder will be deducted separately from various allowances by March next year.

It is expected that the metropolitan government will provide one month's pay in a day or two, and the remaining one month's pay around 26 or 27 December after the sources of revenue, including the Metropolitan Government bond is deliberated at a regular session of the Metropolitan Assembly. Chairman SHIGEMORI of the Federation of Tokyo Metropolitan Office Workers Unions, however, notified the Governor on 17 December, of his dissatisfaction because the total sum is not going to be paid on 18 December as demanded.

ITEM 1 Government to Issue Antistrike Warning Friday - Jiji - 24 Dec 47. Translator: F. Hagiwara. (JJY)

146 Full Translation:

The National Council of Government Employees Unions was discontented with one point in the Government's recent reply on the livelihood subsidy issue. The Government set up four classes of subsidy payments according to term of service. Representatives of the council were scheduled to ask the Premier today for equal payment of the subsidy as well as for full payment within the year, which matter had been withdrawn earlier. However, owing to circumstances the meeting was postponed to this afternoon.

At yesterday's ordinary cabinet conference Labor Minister YONEKUBO explained that the Government, at the request of the National Federation of Public Office Employees Unions, will pay reconstruction funds without regional differentials to government and public officials by tomorrow. This remodifies the decision of the labor ministers round-table conference on 20 December. However, the payment will probably come on 26 December, since tomorrow is a holiday.

Meanwhile, a government policy decision against strike activities of enterprise and nonenterprise workers was postponed, since there remain some doubts as to interpretation of the Labor Relations Adjustment Law.

Government to Issue Antistrike Warning

Although livelihood subsidy payments for the National Council of Government Employees Unions, including the All Japan Communications Workers Union, have been decided, scattered strike activities continue. In view of this situation, at yesterday's cabinet conference the Government discussed official discipline in the light of the Labor Relations Adjustment Law and the Civil Service Regulations. Although failing to reach a conclusion, the Government is scheduled to publish a statement, following decision of its attitude, by 26 December.

ITEM 2 Mitsubishi Workers Begin Production Strife - Rodo - 12 Dec 47.
Translator: T. Ogawa. (RL)

146

Full Translation:

The Mitsubishi Heavy Industry Company's Qi Chapter of the Kanto Metal Workers Union held an extraordinary meeting recently to demand payment of funds to provide assistance at the end of the year. Increased production is essential for restoration of JAPAN's industrial economy, it was brought out at the meeting. To achieve increased production, it is necessary to stabilize the workers' livelihood.

The union chapter demanded that the Mitsubishi Company pay 2,000 yen net to a worker, 300 yen net per capita for one to five dependents, and 100 yen net per capita for six or more dependents. Considerable difficulty is anticipated in realizing the demands because of the profit-seeking motives of present capitalists and the interference by financial capitalists.

The union chapter decided to show, in a practical manner, that the reconstruction of JAPAN's economy can be achieved by laborers. Plans were also formulated to start a production strife simultaneously with the union's demands.

The production strife differs from destructive sabotage or a strike, adopted recently by leftist unions. The production strife aims at launching a constructive increased production campaign, setting the goal of the present reward system, which consists of 1,200 yen, at more than 150 percent. Through the production strife, the union hopes to realize the demand for funds to tide over the end of the year by utilizing the combined power of union members. Great hopes are entertained for the success of the proposed campaign.

ITEM 11 Kansai Electric Power Workers Threatening Wild Cat Strike - Nihon Keizai - 17 Dec 47. Translator: M. Fujiyama. (DD)

Full Translation:

The headquarters of the Kansai district of the Japan Electric Power Workers Union which presented to the management three demands for a supplementary allowance, an emergency measure for tiding over the month of December, and a new years allowance, held negotiations with the management from 1300 hours, 15 Dec, at the building of the Kansai Electric Power Distributing Company.

The Union was dissatisfied with the management's reply that the thoroughgoing wage slide will be taken into consideration after the Central Labor Relations Board has formulated a conciliatory plan. The Union, therefore, will reopen negotiations with the management on 16 Dec.

The headquarters of the Kansai district of the Japan Electric Power Workers Union is threatening a wild cat strike in concert with the movement of the Kanto District Union.

ITEM 10 Labor Ministry to Give Financial Aid in Founding Workers' Clubs - Asahi - 27 Dec 47. Translator: K. Shinoda. (DD)

Full Translation:

In view of the current financial conditions of most workers' unions, the Labor Ministry considers it difficult for them to establish their own workers' clubs by themselves. It has, therefore, decided to aid them financially by setting aside 26,000,000 yen of the budget for the next fiscal year as expenses for founding such clubs, in an attempt to offer appreciable service to the workers.

According to the Labor Ministry's plan, the projected workers' clubs will vary in size. One on a national scale in TOKYO and one in each prefecture will be founded first. Eventually there will be a total of 436 clubs throughout the country. Each club is to be equipped with an auditorium, classrooms, a conference room, a reading room, a recreation room, a night-duty room, a dining room, a bathroom, a medical treatment room, a labor problems consultation room, offices for rent, etc. The planning of such clubs is under way in AICHI, CHIBA, TOCHIGI, and YAMANASHI Kens.

ITEM 13 Railway, Communications Workers Reject Labor Minister's Proposal - Asahi - 18 Dec 47. Translator: Y. Inouye. (GBS)

146 Full Translation:

Labor Minister YON. KUBO interviewed Chairman DOBASHI of the All-Japan Communications Workers Union and Chairman KATO of the Government Railway Workers Union at 1400 hours on 17 December and requested that

the state of strife be discontinued with regard to the payment by 25 December of the one month's allowance remaining out of the 2.8 month's allowance. Both chairmen rejected the request for the reason that the problem is still unsettled except for the two items covered in the Central Labor Relations Committee's mediation plan.

ITEM 15 Engine Shed Workers Refuse to Work - Nihon Keizai - 16 Dec 47. Translator: Y. Sato. (FST)

146 Full Translation:

Information received at the Sendai Railway Division revealed that when two locomotives were derailed by hardened snow which had accumulated on the tracks in the Aomori marshalling yard on 14 Dec, 120 workers of the engine shed were called out to restore the tracks to normalcy by the order of a responsible official. However, the workers refused to perform outdoor labor in the blizzard because they had not been provided with protective garments against cold such as rubber boots, gloves and raincoats. Staff members were forced to complete the restoration work by mobilizing assistant station masters and workers in charge of car inspection.

Sendai Railway Division authorities, however, expressed a desire to refrain from making a public issue of the matter since they do not wish to further incite the already roused workers. Moreover, the incident was satisfactorily disposed of through the efforts of assistant station masters and other workers.

With mass absenteeism of workers under the Aomori Railway Sub-division seriously worsening, other cases of mass-absenteeism has developed in the Takasaki first and second engine sheds, Yokokawa and Minakami engine sheds. Information received at the Tokyo Railway Division revealed that a workers' rally was held on 12 Dec by more than 100 workers of the Takasaki engine shed, and only two men reported for work on that day. At the Takasaki first, Yokokawa and Minakami engine sheds, workers are making preparations to hold a workers' rally.

Although a state resembling sabotage reigns, it has as yet not seriously affected transportation operations.

ITEM 10 Finance Ministry Enterprise Workers' Third Mediation Plan - Tokyo Tomin - 26 Dec 47. Translator: K. Shinoda. (RL)

146 Full Translation:

The Central Labor Relations Committee held a committee meeting on 24 Dec to mediate the dispute between the Finance Ministry's Mint Printing and Monopoly Bureau's Workers Unions and authorities of the ministry.

The chairman of the committee presented its second mediation plan to the negotiations committee representing the ministry. The mediation plan contained the following three points:

1. The Finance Ministry will pay transportation expenses for workers.
2. Overtime pay after January should be at the rate of the current provisional additional allowance.
3. Abolition of the rank system and establishment of a pay scale.

With regard to the claim presented by the union for abolition of the cabinet decision made on 20 Aug against the Government and Public Employees Union, the mediation committee judged the claim improper for inclusion in the mediation plan. "The cabinet decision is nothing more than an agreement reached on the part of the employers, and the union need not be bound by its provisions," the mediation committee declared.

ITEM 14 Forcible Resignation of Strike Leaders Contrary to Labor Union Law
Nihon Keizai - 28 Dec 47. Translator: A. Segawa. (DD)

Summary:

A noticeable feature in recent labor disputes is the fact that compulsory resignation of union leaders and the return to work of strikers on condition that the walk-out leaders resign are presented as terms for the settlement of disputes. Considering that these terms are contrary to the Labor Union Law and Labor Relations Adjustment Law, the Labor Administration Section of the Nagasaki Prefectural Government assembled the prefectural Labor Relations Committee to investigate methods of settling the dispute in Kawanami Dockyard. They discussed the following points, but came to no definite conclusion:

1. The responsibility of walk-out leaders will not be pressed. However, their voluntary resignation should be effected on tacit understanding.

2. KAWANAMI, Toyosaku, ex-president of Kawanami Dockyard was connected with the company as mediator of the dispute, despite the fact that he is a purgee.

It was decided that further deliberations will be made on 26 and 27 Dec. As things stand now, the voluntary resignation of 200 leaders of the dockyard was unconditionally accepted by the union. The company is now paying retirement allowances to these persons, while strikers have now returned to work.

Chief of the Labor Administration Section, TANABE, states, "The walk-out case of the Kawanami Dockyard contains various labor questions. In view of the fact that the resignation of leaders appears to have been effected forcibly, more detailed investigation is deemed necessary. Even if the dispute is settled in favor of the union, should the company limit its responsibility to the execution of legal duty and retard the return to work of union members or neglect guaranteeing their livelihood, there is no other way of handling the case legally because of defects in the existing labor law."

PRESS COMMENTS

Friday, December 12

WE HOPE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS WORKERS

ASAHI—The Government has decided to pay 2.8 months' supplementary living allowances in accordance with the arbitration plan of the Central Labor Relations Board based on the demands of the National Communications and Government Railways workers' unions. As the union leaders have expressed their conditional agreement to the arbitration plan, the basis for an agreement with Government workers may be regarded as provided.

Since delays in payments and payments not all at once but in parts are inevitable in view of the prevailing situation of public finance, it would be asking too much to have the workers' demands accepted in toto. As may be seen from the White Paper recently published and the state of the national budget, it is no easy matter that the Government has arrived at the decision it has. The people will have to bear an additional burden of ¥9,000,000,000 in order to enable the Government to keep its promise to its employees.

The Communications Workers demand that a minimum wage system based on stabilized prices namely 2,400 calories and pay sufficient to cover those calories plus 40 per cent for whatever is needed may be theoretically justifiable but it is an unshakable fact that the general state of national economy is not such as to warrant immediate enforcement of such a scheme. This is clearly shown in the arbitration proposal of the Central Labor Relations Board. What we desire of all the unions demanding a minimum wage system is that they bear definitely in mind the boundary between their theoretically just demands and the realm of what is actually possible.

By this we do not mean that they should compromise with realities and abandon their just claims. What we wish to emphasize is that they should not lose sight of this boundary and thus bring on the destruction of the foundations of national economy themselves.

When the Government Railways, National Communications and other unions make their demands, we hope that they will exercise the good sense not to be blinded only by the justness of their claims but to survey the whole field of national economy and public finance and adjust their claims to the whole pattern.

NIPPON TIMES DEC 13 1947

A NEW STRIKE TACTICS



Operators at the Shiba Telephone Office abandoned their work and spent their office work hours in cleaning the coal dump as the National Communications Workers Union launched an undeclared "invisible strike" Thursday. (Kyodo Photo)

GOV'T. INSINCERITY SCORED BY UNION; STRIKE CONTINUES

Emergency Appropriations to Pay Workers Allowance Passed by Diet

Strike tactics of the Communications workers showed no signs of abatement yesterday as union leaders charged the Government with insincerity and voiced their intentions of continuing their nationwide strife.

The decision of the Communications Workers Union came after the Diet on Thursday night had passed a ¥3,474 million appropriation to pay each Government employes a supplementary allowance equivalent to two months' salary within the year. The Government promised to pay 0.8 month's allowance early next year.

With Diet approval of the appropriations, the Government is expected to pay the allowances on December 15 and 25.

Diet action on the emergency appropriations followed the warning by Communications workers that they would take "decisive action," if their demands were not met.

In a statement to the Prime Minister and other Cabinet Ministers concerned with labor affairs, the Central Struggle Policy Committee of the Communications Workers Union pointed out the following:

1. The Government by relying on new taxation on the masses for revenues to cover the payment of the special allowance is deliberately creating ill-feeling between the people and the Communications workers;

2. The Government has decided to pay only two months' pay within the year, regardless of the difficult living conditions of its employes; and

3. The Government has shown no sincerity in establishing the minimum wage system.

The Committee has therefore agreed that the regional struggles now under way should be carried on even more vigorously, the statement said.

"If the Government continues its insincere attitude," the Committee warned, "the present struggle will not be halted."

Meanwhile, reports from all parts of the nation revealed that varied strike tactics as absenteeism, vacation, "invisible," mass meetings during office hours, no overtime and strict observance of hours, and the like are being carried on.

In Hiroshima, 1,200 workers of the Chugoku-Shikoku Chapter of the Home Ministry's Public Engineering Workers Union told authorities in charge that they would take a one week vacation.

A strike threat was hurled at officials in the Government's Osaka Mint by 1,700 workers.

Will Not Up Rail Fares

Meanwhile, as rumors spread that the Government would increase rail and postal rates by 75 per cent in order to pay allowances to its workers, Finance Minister Takeo Kuruu declared that "the Administration is not contemplating the raising of railway and communications rates at the present time."

Chief Cabinet Secretary Suehiro Nishio also pointed out that the proposed committee on the new wage system will establish a new pay structure free from the existing ¥1,800 wage base.

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GOVERNMENT ACTS TO PREVENT STRIKE

Emergency Talks Held to Find Way to Advance Loans to Mine Workers

In a last-minute effort to avert the threatened walkout of 150,000 coal mine workers belonging to the Japan Federation of Mine Workers Union, the Government Friday and yesterday held emergency conferences to facilitate the granting of loans to coal mining companies so that they may advance loans to their workers.

Observers late yesterday afternoon believed that the threatened walkout would not take place as scheduled.

The emergency steps approved call for the Bank of Japan to extend "red-ink" loans to coal mining companies under a Government guarantee for repayment in order to advance loans of ¥1,500 a month to clerical employes and ¥1,200 to miners, as demanded by the union.

It is recalled that the JFMWU started the so-called "production struggle" tactics on December 2 to mine 100 per cent of their quota for five days pending the settlement of the dispute. In the event no settlement could be reached, the miners said they would walk out en masse.

Meanwhile, Kyodo reported from Fukuoka that 1,700 members of the Mineji coal mine workers union early Friday morning stopped work as the management failed to meet their demands for a monthly loan of ¥200 each to make up the differential caused by the hiking of the official price of rice.

The dispute is being settled by the coal mines inspection party, consisting of officials of GHQ, Economic Stabilization Board, and the Coal Board, which arrived at Mineji Friday. Peace settlement is believed possible.

In the meantime, the Coal Board announced yesterday that coal production during November totalled 2,477,900 tons, or 90.1 per cent of the output goal of 2,750,000 tons. It was revealed that each miner averaged six tons of coal. Output in Hokkaido dropped off.

NIPPON TIMES DEC 7 1947

Ability Of Unions, Operators, Govt. Will Prevent Coal Strike This Winter

By A. M. Goul, United Press Staff Correspondent

TOKYO, Dec. 9.—Belief was expressed by the Labor Division of GHQ there will be no coal strike in Japan this winter and at the same time let it be known GHQ has confidence in the ability of the unions, the operators, and the Government to reach agreement on major issues.

J. S. Killen, chief of the Labor Division, who returned from Washington where he conferred with

top labor and other Administration leaders, said that he is confident and optimistic there will be no strike.

"I believe," he said, "that the miners will carry out the orders of their officers and we do not expect any wildcat walkouts. It's true that there were threats of a crisis in September, in October, and through November, but none has developed as yet. We do not think they will. We feel there will be no strike in the coal mines at this time."

300% Wage Increase

At the present time the two principal miners union federations, Sodomai and Sanbetsu, are demanding approximately a 300 per cent increase in wages for the workers.

The operators have responded with an offer of about one-third of what the miners are asking and, in turn, the operators have asked the Government to increase subsidization. As a result, any final decision depends on the outcome of the three-way negotiations.

Killen said the unions and operators alike are apparently making every effort to follow the machinery established for mediation purposes.

"Of course," he said, "our friends of the extreme left are trying to incite the miners to quit work. It is in the interests of the Communist Party to call for a combination of shortages, distress and dislocations of the Japanese productive processes, because without those conditions, its revolutionary and totalitarian program cannot and will not receive the support of any substantial number of people in Japan."

Reds Will Not Be Successful

"I am confident though, the Communist Party will not be successful in its efforts to forestall the economic, social and political reconstruction of Japan. All three elements are involved because the Japanese worker is becoming increasingly aware of the fact that totalitarian Communism as we know it today has no community of interest with trade unionism in a free community."

The railroad question, he added, is one that the Labor Division feels requires very delicate handling. Killen declined to make any comments on the problem of the so-called "surplus" workers, not only on the railroads but in other sections of Japanese labor.

However, it is known that the Labor Division is devoting considerable study to the question because of the impact on the entire economic and political situation.

The main issue, on the railroads as well as in other public and private industries, is whether to continue having three or four men doing what one worker can do, or relegate the surplus workers to the ranks of the unemployed while at the same time bringing more stability to the economic structure of the industries involved by reduction of costs of operation.

MAINICHI DEC 11 1947

Mediation Efforts Fail

Mediation by the local fact-finding committee of the Central Labor Relations Committee for a dispute between the Osaka regional chapter of the All-Japan Communications Workers Union and local government authorities went aground Tuesday, December 9, when Director Tachibana of the Osaka communications bureau replied he has no authority to deal with the matter single-handedly and that negotiations should be carried out through the Communications Minister.

The dispute, which is now before the local arbitration committee, arose out of the union's demands calling for Government disbursement of living subsidies amounting to ¥3,000 per worker and ¥1,500 for each dependent aside from the 2.8-month allowance which the CLRC recently recommended that the Government disburse.

MAINICHI DEC 11 1947

To Take Strong Measures Against Mass Absenteeism

TOKYO, Dec. 8.—In case it is clearly recognized that workers are staging a mass absenteeism, strong measures must be taken to maintain discipline, declared Tokutaro Kitamura, new Transportation Minister, at the House of Councillors' plenary session yesterday.

He revealed that wages are not being paid to recalcitrant workers who refuse to obey orders to return to work.

He also said that although he does not believe that the intensive labor dispute is so far causing a big snag in the transportation business, he is determined to take proper measures as occasion demands.

His statement was made in reply to Naoto Suzuki, Ryokufu-kai, who interpellated the Government on four points: (1) actual state of the so-called "wildcat strike" in the Tohoku and Hokkaido districts, (2) transportation authorities' counter-measures against it, (3) prospects for the clearance of backlogs of coal and firewood, and (4) whether or not this labor stratagem will exert wide influence on other industries.

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**ELECTRIC WORKERS
REMAIN DEADLOCKED**

**95,000 Union Members Fail
To Agree on Mediation
Plan of CLRB**

The 95,000 members of the Electric Workers Union remained deadlocked with their managements as their Central Struggle Committee failed to agree on the mediation plan announced by the Central Labor Relations Board late Friday evening.

The EWU Committee decided to continue its deliberations today and arrive at a decision Monday.

Points raised in the mediation plan, including the democratization of the electric industry, the enforcement of a minimum wage system on a sliding scale, and the conclusion of a collective agreement, were discussed by the Committee.

Committeemen on the whole decided to take a watchful attitude toward the reception of the plan by the managements.

In its arbitration plan, the CLRB generalized on the union demands and admitted that it could not arrive at an unanimous agreement because of the "complexity" of the issues involved. Ichiro Nakayama chairmanned the CLRB mediation committee.

The CLRB said both the workers and managements were generally in agreement on the need to democratize the industry. It urged the Government to take "some drastic measures" to reform the machinery of management in view of the public criticism of the evils of bureaucratic controls.

On the question of the sliding scale system, which is considered most significant in all circles, the CLRB urged that "a more or less rational" wage set-up be adopted on the basis of cost of living. It warned, however, that such an arrangement should not bring about the total collapse of the existing price structure.

It recommended the following:
1. To discontinue the present system of giving allowances which is in effect a sliding scale arrangement; 2. To determine new wage standards, effective next January, on the basis of consumer price indices; 3. To provide for appropriate regional differentials; 4. To revise the wage standard every three months; 5. To obtain necessary funds for operating the wage standard by rationalization of management, improvement of efficiency, and collection of taxes from "black-market" consumers of electricity; and 6. To set a limit of rational management under which personnel expenditures shall not exceed 50 per cent of all operating costs.

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**Electric Workers
Remain Deadlocked**

(Continued from Page 1)

appropriate regional differentials; 4. To revise the wage standard every three months; 5. To obtain necessary funds for operating the wage standard by rationalization of management, improvement of efficiency, and collection of taxes from "black-market" consumers of electricity; and 6. To set a limit of rational management under which personnel expenditures shall not exceed 50 per cent of all operating costs.

The CLRB said that it would present a draft agreement to the union and management on the question of collective agreements.

Meanwhile, Cabinet Ministers and Vice-Ministers in charge of labor affairs, including Premier Tetsu Katayama and Labor Minister Mitsusuke Yonekubo, formally agreed yesterday to pay supplementary allowances equal to one month's wages to all Government and municipal employes by December 25.

They also approved zonal differences, ranging from 70 to 130 per cent, in the allowances, as proposed by the Finance Ministry.

Other major labor dispute developments were:

The rejection by the Government Railway Workers Union of the CLRB advise to dissolve its "dispute set-up."

The settlement of the dispute between the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Workers Union and metropolitan authorities over the payment of supplementary allowances.

The decision of the newly organized All-Japan Coal Industry Labor Union to end negotiations with the Coal Mine Operators' League and to instruct its locals throughout the nation to start struggles on local levels for collective bargaining.

Finance Ministry workers decided to take "holidays" for an indefinitely period from Monday, thus threatening virtually to suspend the business of the Ministry.

NIPPON TIMES DEC 2 1 1947

**500 Govt. Workers
Walk Out In Tokyo**

Kyodo

TOKYO, Dec. 19.—The Metropolitan Government workers dispute worsened this morning when all of the 500 workers of the Welfare Bureau walked out "on leave of absence."

Streetcar and bus workers reduced the number of vehicles in operation by 10 to 20 per cent today.

Last night's negotiations between Governor Seiichiro Yasui and the workers' representatives failed to reach any agreement.

Earlier, in the evening, the workers' delegation saw high officials of the Metropolitan Government under the good offices of Chairman Itsutaro Suehiro of the Labor Relations Board.

In the meeting, the workers' demand for immediate payment of 2.8-month allowance without deducting tax was turned down.

MAINICHI DEC 2 1 1947

**Aomori Railwaymen
Returning To Work**

Kyodo

AOMORI, Dec., 2.—The Aomori district chapter of the Government Railway Workers Union, whose members have been resorting to "absenteeism" tactics to win their demand, suddenly began to return to their work as from yesterday with operation of train service in the district being restored to normal.

The improvement in their attendance rate came as a result of the abolition of the "food-purchasing holidays" recently announced by the union.

MAINICHI DEC 3 1947

**WALK-OUT IS DECIDED
BY HOKKAIDO RAILMEN**

Employes of Many Unions Have
Already Started A Strike

An increasing number of locals in Hokkaido of the Government Railway Workers Union is on a strike independently against its headquarters' orders.

The Kitami Control Section chapter adopted a resolution calling for a strike from next Monday noon; the Nakawakubetsu Station local also from Monday; and the Tookaru Locomotive Section local from next Wednesday.

At the Kushiro Engineering Section, workers with dependent families demanded a 20-day vacation to work temporarily in coal mines.

Sixty employes at the Ikeda Track Maintenance Section and 13 at the Ikeda Communications Section have quit their jobs.

NIPPON TIMES DEC 6 1947

**LABOR RIFTS CAUSE
LOW OUTPUT IN OCT.**

Fund Shortage Also Blamed
For Decline of Major
Goods Production

The production of major goods during October was at a low ebb due to labor disputes and shortage of funds.

The Commerce and Industry Ministry announced that out of a total of 126 major goods surveyed by the Ministry, 48 went up in prices, 43 declined and 35 remained unchanged.

Of the total surveyed, the production of 25 articles attained their planned production level, while 62 failed to realize their goals.

Conspicuous was the increased output of paper, pulp, oil and fat. There was a wide decline in the production of iron and steel and fertilizers.

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Operation 'Turtle' On Keihanshin Line As Workers Oppose Allowance Plan

Workers of the Keihanshin (Kyoto-Osaka-Kobe) Electric Railway line resorted to what may be described as "turtle speed operation" tactics from early Tuesday morning, December 16, following failure to reach an agreement with the management on a sum demanded as "winter allowance."

Owing to this, various stations along the Kobe, Takarazuka, and old Keihan (Kyoto-Osaka) line were thrown into utter confusion, being jammed with commuters and ordinary passengers.

At Korien station on the old Keihan line, Warder Hiramoto of the Osaka Detention House was pushed out of the platform by the surging crowd and killed.

Passengers Injured

Another passenger was seriously injured when his chest was suddenly pressed against the wicket at the Umeda terminus. Several others

were also injured by broken glass splinters.

All this is ascribed to the sabotage of workers, as well as the electricity economization program that was put into force on that day.

Because of this, the Takarazuka line canceled 14 ordinary trains between Umeda and Toyonaka and 17 expresses between Takarazuka and Umeda.

The operation of 14 other trains was also suspended on the Kobe line and the sale of tickets was stopped from 4.30 p.m.

Half Day Wait

The old Keihan line and the Otsu line were no better and many passengers were obliged to wait for cars almost half a day exposed to the shivering cold wind.

In this connection, Yoshinori Okachi, member of the Keihanshin Electric Railway Workers Union's Executive Committee, asserted that the union has ordered neither strike nor sabotage.

"We demanded a winter allowance of ¥47-million, but the company replied it will pay only ¥23-million," he said. He explained that although the union refused the company's proposal at 10.45 a.m., negotiations are still under way and added that the union has no intention of causing trouble to passengers by suspending the operation of an important transportation organ.

Appeals For Arbitration

The management, attributing the day's disordered operation to sabotage on the part of workers, appealed for arbitration to the Osaka chapter of the Central Labor Relations Committee at 4 p.m.

It also issued a statement entitled "Appeal to Passengers" at 7 p.m., apologizing for the trouble resulting from its dispute with the union and expressing its intention to restore operation to normal as quickly as possible.

MAINICHI DEC 18 1947

Kyoto Tram Operators Adopt 'Go Slow' Tactics

KYOTO, Dec. 18.—The employees of the Kyoto municipal tram service resorted to "go slow" tactics this morning after their year-end collective bargaining with the city officials failed last night.

Citywide transportation service was in a congested state today with only 155 of the usual 247 coaches running.

"The street car employees have defied union orders to continue work as usual," Secretary-General Nakamae of the municipal tram workers union said. He said the union fears the general resentment of the Kyoto citizens.

MAINICHI DEC 20 1947

Radical Elements Blamed For Keihanshin Dispute

Director Eiji Suzuki of the Osaka prefectural police department, at a press interview, branded the "turtle speed operation" of the Keihanshin Express Electric Railway as an "act of sabotage directed by a group of radical elements," stating that the police have already secured evidence thereof.

Suzuki also said such an act evidently disturbed public tranquillity and can be regarded as constituting interference with business.

It is learned the Sonezaki police station, which has started investigation, has already obtained definite evidence and that it will shortly summon those concerned with it.

Although the labor union stated that the recent sabotage occurred "naturally" and was not premeditated, police investigation has discovered that the slow-down operation of trains was directed by telephone.

During the two-day turtle speed operations, the Sonezaki police station mobilized 250 policemen and the Umeda station 200 employees to clear the congestion, but more than 20 passengers including Deputy Station Master Shoichi Kobayashi suffered injuries.

Damage done to station wickets and other facilities is estimated at over ¥100,000.

MAINICHI DEC 20 1947

RAILMEN DESERTING WORK

The tendency of deserting work in protest against low wages is said to be mounting among members of the Government Railway Workers Union in Hokkaido, with some already preparing to go on strike.

The Asahi reported that such a tendency was conspicuous among the chapters at Kushiro, Nakashibetsu, Ribetsu, Ikeda and other districts in eastern Hokkaido, while Kitami and Rubeshibe chapters in northeastern Hokkaido are preparing for a general walkout around the end of this month.

The paper also reported that the Aomori prefectural chapter of the Union has already started preparations to strike in protest against the management, who recently rejected a mediation plan handed down by the prefectural labor mediation board.

DEC 3 1947

NIPPON TIMES

Union Ignores Gov't. Reply

As Communications Minister Takeo Miki asked all employes in his Ministry to end their dispute, the Communications Workers Union yesterday decided to ignore the Government reply accepting the mediation plan proposed by the Central Labor Relations Board.

The Union stood pat on their statement issued last Friday which contained the following points: 1. The fundamental points of the workers' demands have not been answered; 2. The present "struggle formula" should be maintained; and 3. The struggle for the attainment of a minimum wage system should be continued.

Railway workers, meanwhile, asked that the Government refrain from taxing the supplementary allowances equivalent to 2.8 months' pay which will be given all Government workers.

In the meantime, the Tokyo chapter of the Electric Workers Union entered a state of dispute Monday because of the failure of the management to answer demands for the adoption of a sliding wage scale, and payment of a special winter allowance, and a supplementary deficit-covering allowance.

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**LABOR BOARD MOVES
 TO SETTLE DISPUTE
 OF ELECTRIC UNION**

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**Sabotage by Workers Threatens
 To Spread Throughout Nation
 As Unrest Worsens**

The Central Labor Relations Board yesterday stepped up mediation efforts as the dispute started Monday by the Tokyo Chapter of the All-Japan Electric Workers Union threatened to spread throughout the nation.

The AJEWU controls 95,000 workers in the highly important electric power industry.

Dr. Ichiro Nakayama is heading the committee drafting the arbitration plan. A conference was held Tuesday among the representatives of the CLRB, the Government, management and union.

The new mediation efforts by the CLRB came as labor unrest in various parts of the nation continued with communications and railway workers still technically deadlocked with the Government despite the latter's acceptance of the CLRB mediation plan.

Meanwhile, reports from Kansai and Kanto locals of the union "wildcat" tactics carried out sabotage and walkouts in Ibaraki, Yamanashi, and Numazu. Workers in the Kanto Power Distribution Company head office ordered a walkout. The Osaka headquarters of the union threatened to walkout.

The Ishikawa Chapter began sabotage Tuesday, as the management failed to answer demands for an year-end allowance of ¥4,000 for union member, ¥1,500 for his wife, and ¥1,000 each for family members.

The Government, meanwhile, faced another problem as a meeting between Chief Cabinet Secretary Suehiro Nishio and representatives of the Government and Public Employees Union held yesterday under the auspices of the Central Labor Relations Board broke up without result as the workers refused to accept the open shop system for labor contracts with the Government.

The Government decided last August to substitute the open shop contract for the union shop arrangement which had governed the labor agreements between various government agencies and their employes.

In the meantime, the proposed Temporary Wage Commission to be established within the Cabinet to study the new wage standard for Government workers is expected to begin deliberation around December 24.

Members of the new commission will be selected on recommendations of the Central Labor Relations Board and it will consist of three representatives from the CLRB, and two each from the Government and labor unions, totaling seven.

Iwao Ayusawa of the CLRB is expected to head the commission.

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**Japan Electric Workers
 Dispute Adds To Wide
 Industry Labor Unrest**

By ESTHER CRANE, Staff Writer

Adding to the mounting unrest caused by year-end labor disturbances of both Government and private industries throughout Japan is the present dispute initiated by the Tokyo Chapter of the All Japan Electric Workers' union which threatens to tie up the nation's critical electric power industry.

The Central Labor Relations Board, which already has its hands full with the problem of dissatisfied government employees, is now putting all its efforts into an immediate settlement between labor and management of the electric power industry, large numbers of whose employees are already on strike.

The Electric Workers' Union presented demands early in December for the payment of special year-end allowances to supplement family budget deficits, giving the management a December 15 deadline. With the management's failure to reach a decision, union members have adopted the same "wildcat" tactics for regional disturbances as are still being followed by the government communications and railway workers.

The railway workers' union has submitted a statement to the Transportation Ministry, expressing its dissatisfaction with the government's recent mediation agreement to pay the demanded 2.8 months' salary year-end allowances on the ground that no decision has been reached on the minimum wage basis. The union also objects to the proposed methods of raising funds to meet the additional wages, claiming that these should come from blackmarketeers' profits, rather than mass taxation.

The communications workers are continuing their regional demonstrations; through hunger strikes by telegraph workers in Osaka and Miyagi prefecture; sabotage in the Aomori telegraph office, mass absenteeism in the Moji post office and a general post office walkout in Gifu prefecture.

DEC 18 1947

STARS & STRIPES

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New Labor Tactics

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**Kagawa Electric Workers
 Threaten Full Power Supply**

MARUGAME, Dec. 17—The Kagawa chapter of the All-Japan Electric Industry Workers Union announced it would resort to a new labor tactics—unrestricted supply of electric power for general consumers now troubled by daily suspension of power—in case the union demand is rejected by the management.

The new labor tactics is expected to be followed by four chapters of the AJEIWU in Shikoku.

The union demand at present consists of raise in standard salary by 330 per cent, payment of ¥3,000 winter allowance per worker and ¥1,000 per dependent, and disbursement of ¥19,000 for each worker as a subsidy to cover the deficit during the period from April to November, this year.

MAINICHI DEC 19 1947

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**'Turtle Speed' Order
 Directed By Woman?**

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**Sonezaki Police Station
 Questions Union Leader**

Miss Kimiko Noda, 31-year-old deputy chief of the women's department of the Keihanshin Express Railway Workers Union, was summoned by the Sonezaki police station Saturday, December 20, at 2 p.m. on a suspected charge of secretly directing the recent "turtle speed operation" of the Keihanshin Express electric trains.

Two other women union leaders—Yoshie Kishida, 25, and Shizue Inoue, 32—were also subpoenaed, but they were released after questioning.

At 8 p.m. a warrant was issued for the detention of Miss Noda for further inquiry. She has so far denied that she instigated the sabotage.

According to police investigation, however, evidence already was obtained from a passenger that she told several employees December 17 at 1.30 p.m. at Umeda station that more train cancellations should be directed by telephone.

Miss Noda entered the Keihanshin Express Electric Railway Co. as a ticket examiner January 26, 1944, and is now a conductress on the Takarasuka line beside being deputy chief of the union's women's department. From April, 1941, to September, 1919, she was an employe of the Osaka Central Telephone Bureau.

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Teachers' Dispute Settled

The labor dispute between the Osaka municipal chapter of the Teachers' Union and municipal authorities was settled Saturday, December 20, at 2 p.m. when the union conditionally accepted a compromise plan presented by the latter on winter allowances.

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Mass Walkout Threatened By 150,000 Coal Miners

Enter 5-Day 'Production Struggle' to Up Output;
Will Quit If Demands Not Met

Another difficult facet was added to the nation's generally complicated coal picture when the Japan Federation of Coal Miners Unions yesterday launched a five-day "production struggle" campaign as a preliminary step to a full-dress walkout scheduled for midnight, December 7.

Controlling approximately 150,000 members, the JFCMU will be able to strike a hard blow at the coal production goal of 2,700,000 tons for December which Commerce and Industry Minister Chosaburo Mizutani disclosed Monday before the Mining and Industry Committee of the Upper House. The controversial coal control measure is now being deliberated by the Upper House after its passage in hectic Lower House plenary sessions.

The "production struggle" begun by the JFCMU hinges upon the acceptance by the coal mine operators of the demand for loans of ¥1,200 for miners and ¥1,000 for office workers. The JFCMU members will step up coal output to a 100 per cent level during the five-day period to demonstrate their ability to work efficiently if provided sufficient funds. If a settlement is not possible within the time limit, the workers will stage a walkout. The coal mine operators are offering maximum loans of only ¥700.

The JFCMU, an affiliate of the General Federation of Trade Unions, seceded from the National Council of Coal Miners Unions in October because of the latter's do-

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Miners Threaten Mass Walkout

(Continued from Page 1)

mination by the National Congress of Industrial Unions.

Since November 4, the JFCMU has been in constant negotiations with the Coal Mine Operators' Federation for the grant of loans to member workers.

Commerce and Industry officials were confident of preventing a mass walkout of JFCMU workers. They failed, however, to clarify how this would be brought about.

Meanwhile, the Commerce and Industry Minister told the Upper House Mining and Industry Committee that the Government will not compromise further on the coal control measure. "You will understand," Mr. Mizutani said, "that the bill in its present form is the last defense line for the Commerce and Industry Minister who is directly responsible for the increased production of coal."

COMPROMISE AVERTS COAL MINERS STRIKE

New Transportation Minister
Reports Railway Situation
Well in Hand

The threatened walkout of 150,000 coal miners throughout the nation was narrowly averted Sunday afternoon when executive officers of the Japan Federation of Mine Workers Unions accepted the compromise proposal of the Coal Mine Operators Association.

A "call-off" order was dramatically broadcast over the nation-wide radio network the same day by JFMWU Chairman Takeo Muto.

The operators offered the following: 1) a graduated scale of bounties for quota and over-the-quota production of coal; 2) a pay increase of ¥273; and 3) payment of ¥1,000 to each miner and ¥1,250 to each office worker for the months of October and November as "funds to prepare for increased production."

A walkout in the Mineji coal mine in Fukuoka Prefecture at the same time was successfully settled by the Japanese Government and GHQ inspection team visiting the district.

In Aomori, employees of the Government railways returned to work after carrying out "mass absenteeism" tactics since December 4. Government orders to that effect were instrumental in bringing the situation back to normalcy.

New Transportation Minister Tokutaro Kitamura reported on the Aomori situation to the Upper House plenary session Sunday and said that the situation was well in hand. He expressed his determination to operate the railway service in cooperation with the Government Railway Workers Union.

The GRWU, meanwhile, notified

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Compromise Averts Coal Miners Strike

(Continued from Page 1)

the Central Labor Relations Board of its acceptance of the Board's mediation plan whereby the Government would pay a supplementary allowance equivalent to 2.8 months.

The Government, however, has signified its intention to pay allowances totaling only one month's salary. This decision was reiterated again yesterday by Cabinet Ministers concerned with labor problems.

Government Cannot Pay

Chief Cabinet Secretary Suehiro Nishio declared the Government was willing to pay the amount stipulated by the CLRB, but was not able to find the source for such appropriations.

Meanwhile, Communications workers were preparing themselves for "decisive steps" on December 10, if the Government's reply to their demands prove unsatisfactory.

It is understood the Communications workers will carry out the following steps: 1) mass meetings during office hours; 2) group absence through mass "vacations"; and 3) "safety" or "invisible" tactics to slow down the business by strict adherence to the letter of the rules.

DEC 9 1947

NIPPON TIMES

EWU POSTPONES REPLY

Electric Workers Defers Action
On Mediation Plan

The Electric Workers Union, which has been in dispute with the management decided to defer its reply to the mediation plan offered by the Central Labor Relations Board until next year. The EWU's Central Strike Policy Committee in making the decision said the committee members will return to their respective locals and discuss the arbitration plan with union members.

The formal attitude of the union toward the plan will be left until the next meeting of the Central Strike Policy Committee scheduled for early January.

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Keihanshin's Labor Dispute Settled; Both Parties Accept Mediation Plan

The labor dispute of the Keihanshin Express Electric Railway marked by a "turtle speed operation" of trains was settled Thursday, December 18, at 11 a.m. when both management and union decided to accept a two-point mediation plan presented by the Osaka local labor relations committee.

It was a sweeping action by the six-man arbitration panel which sat in a night-long conference for more than 14 hours continuously from 9.20 p.m. December 17.

The stormy conference continued throughout Wednesday night, however, for union leaders accused management of their insincerity while the company charged the union responsible for the chaotic state of transportation.

In the 11th hour attempt at amicable settlement, the arbitration panel called for separate meetings

of the contending parties.

At 11.30 a.m. Thursday, the committee succeeded in letting both parties compromise by submitting the two-point mediation plan which provided for the following:

1. Management, without delay after acceptance of this mediation, shall extend ¥23-million including the already-paid ¥10-million to union members as winter allowance.

2. Management shall advance a total of ¥5-million to the union on December 27 as a year-end loan.

Train operation, meanwhile, was restored virtually to normal earlier Thursday morning except a part of the new Keihan (Kyoto-Osaka) line and Otsu lines.

Against 'Slow-Down'

Torayoshi Yabutani, director of the Osaka Railway Division, Wednesday morning, December 17, sounded warning regarding the two-day "slow down" operation of the Keihanshin Express trains, urging both management and labor to restore the normal run of trains.

In his verbal statement given President Otagaki of the company, Director Yabutani stated:

"Although the union contends that it did not issue any directive formally, the result was that the time required for train operation on various lines was doubled and that transportation capacity, decreased to 20 to 50 per cent of the normal time.

"It is, indeed, regrettable that a death and injuries resulted from the congestion and that the matter turned out to be the butt of public censure.

"Though employees explained to passengers that it entirely depended on the saving of power, it is unexcusable since no slash is being made in the number of trains at the rush-hour.

"The matter has brought about the same result as sabotage. The union must realize the public utility of transportation organs and restore the normal operation of trains."

GOV'T AND WORKERS REACH AGREEMENT

Regional Differences to Be Abolished; Employees Withdraw Demands

The lengthy dispute between the Government and its employees was scheduled to end tomorrow as an amicable compromise was reached on the payment of supplementary allowances.

The Government agreed to abolish the regional differences ranging from 70 to 130 per cent for the special allowances to be paid on December 25. The communications and railway unions, on the other hand, withdrew their demands for the payment of the entire allowances equal to 2.8 months' pay in one lump sum within the year.

Struggles for the establishment of a minimum wage system "based on a stabilized price," however, will be started anew in January, union spokesmen revealed.

Meanwhile, reports from Aomori revealed that approximately 600 mail-bags containing parcels for Hokkaido were reported as of Tuesday to be bogged down at the Aomori Railway Postal Bureau due to the dispute tactics in the Aomori railway zone. The volume of tied up mail-bags is equivalent to 15 freight carloads.

Although postal authorities are seeking to transport the mail-bags by chartering passenger space on the Aomori-Hakodate ferry, there appears to be little prospect that this will be realized. Indications now point that steps may materialize for chartering a 150-ton vessel of the Kuribayashi Coastwise Shipping Company for clearing the bogged down mail.

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PRESS COMMENTS

Monday, December 29

SECURITY OF RIGHT TO LIVE IS PREREQUISITE

MAINICHI—Taking cognizance of the gravity of the responsibility devolving on Government officials as public servants, the Government is reported to have decided to announce its renewed determination to eliminate acts of sabotage or strike among non-field workers in the civil service. Government officials have been guilty of "wildcat strikes," collectively absenting themselves from offices, leaving them on the exact minute, or resorting to other virtual strike tactics, in order to induce the Government authorities to grant them living allowances and the like.

The Government had already warned them against such maneuvers and this time it apparently will invoke Article 38 of the Labor Arbitration Act in order to put a stop to them. Under this article, policemen, firemen, prison officials and other administrative and judicial personnel except field workers are prohibited from taking part in labor disputes.

Article 7 of the same law provides that by acts of labor dispute are to be understood strike, sabotage, closure of places of work and other acts calculated to force the will of workers on their employers which are prejudicial to the normal fulfillment of their duties. Thus all acts that tend to impair normal Government functions for the sake of securing aims of a labor struggle must be considered acts of labor dispute.

That administrative and judicial officials other than field workers should resort to such tactics to gain their ends, regardless of its cause, can only be condemned as violation of the law. Government railways and communications workers, unlike the non-field workers in Government service, are differently placed but even in their case they are not justified in resorting to such tactics as local disputes disowned by the central union headquarters or conducted by local union headquarters against the instructions of central headquarters, which harm public interests and are vicious and underhanded.

Right criticisms of such conduct are demanded of the people but, on the other hand, the Government should take note of the fact that non-field workers in the civil service are barred from resorting to strikes and other labor tactics to gain their ends so that the authorities should see to it that causes of dispute should be removed by providing adequately for the security of their living right with proper zeal and effort.

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146 Ministry of Welfare reports 57 labor disputes involving 25,385 workers, occurred in April, lowest level since January 1946, as unions continued to emphasize collective bargaining and recourse to conciliation and mediation. Strikes, slowdowns, lockouts and production control accounted for 45 disputes with 11,250 workers involved; disputes in which negotiations had broken down and third party intervened to assist adjustment accounted for 12 disputes and 14,135 workers. Strikes and lockouts caused 108,726 man-days idle representing .05 percent of available working time compared with .19 percent in March and 1.21 percent at October 1946 peak of strike activity. 19 JUN 1947

146 Ministry of Welfare reported 72 labor disputes involving 107,310 workers in May, including two disputes in major metal-mining and processing establishments which involved 87,000 workers and lasted through most of May. Strikes, slowdowns, lockouts and production control accounted for 50 of disputes and 7,437 of workers involved; disputes where negotiations had broken down and third party intervened to assist adjustment accounted for 22 disputes and 99,673 workers. 12 JUL 1947

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