POLITICAL SERIES: 1973 (Continued)

ITEM 12 Sharp Opposition Expected in Post-Recess Diet - Yomiuri - 15 Sep 47.
Translator: S. Sano. (WM)

Full Translation:

Since the Liberal Party declared its intention on 19 August to become a full opposition party on the grounds that the state coal control bill was contrary to the four-party policy agreement, the opposition parties have been preparing to launch an attack against the Government. Before that time, the only genuine opposition parties were such minor parties as the Dai Ichi Diet Members Club, the Farmers Party, the Communist Party, and some independent groups.

The Liberal Party was obliged by the four party policy agreement to take an unbiassed attitude toward the Government. However, the opposing stand of the government and the opposition parties has become clear-cut with the discussions on state control of coal mines.

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Later, the opposition parties issued a joint statement attacking the speaking tours of Socialist Cabinet Ministers in local districts during the Diet recess as a desertion of their national administrative duties. Immediately after the session went into recess, Liberal Party President YOSHIDA, Chairman HOSHIJIMA, of the Party Directors Council, and other party officials went into the Hokkaido district. They have been stressing the necessity of forming a new party and have revealed the determination of the Liberal Party to take over the next regime, emphasizing the following two points:

a) The Liberal Party has made every preparation to assume leadership of the next regime.
b) In order to stabilize the political situation, it is necessary to have two major parties fight for the reins of Government.

There is no doubt that this anti-Government attitude will grow after the Diet recess during deliberations on such key bills as the State Coal Bill, the various public corporation bills, the National Civil Service Act, etc. It is believed that the minor opposition parties will act in concert with the Liberals, although unanimity of opinion among them may not be possible.

Further, in order to expand its influence or the unorganized masses by establishing lower party organizations in each district and each working place, the Liberal Party formed the All Japan Farmers Union and the National Federation of Medium and Small Merchants and Industrialists, and the party is prepared to form the All Japan Labor Union and the All Japan Marine Products Union.

It is expected that the Liberal offensive against the Government will be further intensified with the support of some factions of the Democratic Party.

Generally speaking, present indications are that the Anti-Government feeling of the people which has arisen since the failure of the Government in the Economic Emergency Program will become clear by November. It seems that the Liberal and other opposition parties have made preparations during the recess of the Diet session to launch a vigorous offensive against the Government at the opportune time.

At the Diet session after the recess, the opposition parties will vigorously attack and criticize the Government on every occasion. In this case, a serious disturbance will be created within the Katayama Cabinet which does not have a solid foundation. Some Socialist Ministers even admit this fact.

ITEM 3 What Has Been Achieved During These Three Months? - Asahi - 20 Aug 47.
Translator: T. Okamura. (TK)

Full Translation:

It has been decided that the State Control Coal Mine Bill which has been disputed for a month will be presented to the Diet, after settling at a cabinet meeting the existing differences since a compromise plan of the three government parties has been settled in principle. If the Government plans to submit such an important bill as the State Coal Control Bill to the Diet, it is highly advisable for it to eliminate the differences among the three parties beforehand. However, since it has become clear that the pivot of antagonism between the Socialists and the Democrats cannot be settled by the three-party negotiations and that if the situation continues as at present it is uncertain when the bill will be submitted to the Diet, thereby delyaing the deliberations of the Diet, the Government seems determined to formulate the bill, leaving aside what has been unsettled in the three-party compromise plan.

If the three-party plan is introduced without settlement of differences to the Mining Industrial Committee including members of the Liberal Party which is declared to be a genuine opposition party and which has been maintaining an antagonistic attitude toward the state coal control plan, the bill in most probability will lose its original meaning. At any rate since the proposed plan is one of the most important policies which the Katayama Cabinet promised, it must be presented to the Diet for a test by all means

EDITORIAL SERIES: 1877 (Continued)

ITEM 3 (Continued)

The current Diet session was convoked on 20 May to be open for 50 days, but with the delay in preparations of the state coal control bill and supplementary budget, the session has been postponed until the end of August. However, the state coal control bill is about ready to be submitted now, while the supplementary budget bill has not yet materialized owing to various circumstances. Another extension of the session is imperative. The Government plans to extend the session until the end of Spetember, on which the Socialists seem to agree, but some of the Democrats, the Liberals and the House of Councillors are likely to oppose such a broad extention.

Originally, the current first session of the Diet is an extraordinary session convoked following the general elections, and different from an ordinary session which lasts five months, it was to be concluded in a brief period. However, the Katayama Cabinet which has been entrusted a heavy mission of surmounting the crisis, seems to require the term comparable to that of an ordinary session, because it plans to expedite various bills necessary for emergency programs to be submitted for approval to the current session. The Diet, responding to this earnest desire of the Government, has approved such a broad extension of the session.

Already three months have elapsed since the Diet was convoked. What has the National Diet done during this period? Needless to say, the Government is responsible for the delay in submission of key bills, but we wonder whether the Diet has rendered its utmost efforts to complete deliberations within the designated period. The new Diet Law provides the extension of Diet sessions subject to the discretion of both Houses. If both Houses agree, limitless extension of sessions is possible. However, since the law admits extraordinary or special as well as ordinary sessions which usually last an extended period, difference must be clearly distinguished between the two. As long as the Diet is granted the authority to decide the term of sessions independently, the decision on the term of sessions must be observed as much as possible. By the drastic change in the system and a conspicuous increase in new members, the functioning of the new Diet was not conducted smoothly, for which reason the delay in procedures may be admitted. However, for such a reason alone, it is not permissible that the National Diet is slow in its function.

What we wish to ask of the Government and the Diet concerns the time element. In his recent statement, Premier KATAYAMA said that the coming six months or a year will be a most decisive period for JAPAN. The Government should have initiated emergency measures to surmount the economic crisis, without losing this precious, decisive time limit.

That the proposed state coal control plan is entitled "extraordinary" means that the plan is urgent. Then is it not necessary to expedite the plan, get it passed by the Diet, and put into force as soon as possible? What the Government submits to the Diet as urgently-needed bills or supplementary budgets must be enforced by administrative offices immediately after they have been approved by the Diet. The Diet is a legislative organization, not an administrative one.

The Diet must take into consideration the time element and discharge its mission of deliberating state administration according to the urgency of the problems. It should not delay or suspend deliberations. Since the position of the respective parties are different, the Diet should give its decisions promptly and promote deliberations. Further, if it believes it is essential to surpass the crisis from a broad State standpoint of view, it should also do its utmost for the establishment of plans.

EDITORIAL SERIES: 1877 (Continued)

ITEM 3 (Continued)

The Diet should clarify its attitude of either compromise or opposition, thereby giving prestige to the organization which represents the people. What the people hope of the Government and the Diet is not waste of time in discussions and resolutions. The general masses are eagerly hoping that economic crisis measures be promptly formulated and put into practice without delay.

ITEM 2 Party Attitudes at Diet Reopening Augur Storms - Tokyo Shimbun - 15 Sep 47. Translator: K. Onishi. (JJY)

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Full Translation:

After a 14-day recess the National Diet resumes session today. Most members returned to their electorates during the interim and heard criticisms on the major bills including the state control of coal expressed by those men who are directly concerned. Consequently, very cautious deliberations are expected on the economic bills which are to be presented at the reopened Diet. Following is our survey of the parties' attitudes toward the main economic bills:

Democrats May Revise National Control Bill

The prerecess problem on the national control of coal still remains unsettled. The difference between the Socialists and the Democrats was to be carried over to the Diet, and the Democrats were awaiting the compilation of the complete text. On receiving the text, they found a wide gap between the government bill and their own. They opened their administrative investigation committee meetings on 12 and 1 September in an attempt to make last efforts to realize their own plan. However, since the government bill has already been approved by a cabinet council there is little hope for any amendment before its presentation. They will demand an extensive revision when the bill is presented to the Diet.

In that case it is questionable whether the Socialists will accept the Democrats' draft. The difference between the two parties surrounding the coal control issue may develop dangerously. As for the four bills on public corporations, the Democrats are not satisfied on the grounds that they will spur bureaucratic controls, and that they cannot depend much upon the operation of the proposed corporations in view of the past experience with the governmental business corporations. They intend to pass the bills with necessary amendments to attenuate bureaucratic influence in the control of the corporations.

Turning to the Livelihood Co-operative Union Bill, they first want to consider how to dispose of the medium and small industries and then to establish the co-operative unions in line with it. They are particularly circumspect in dealing with this bill, because the medium and small industrialists are their sole constituents.

On the other hand, it appears that they are comparatively cool on the Agricultural Co-operative Union Bill. Only some members from farming villages, centering around TERAJIMA, are hastening to establish the Farm Village Democratic Co-operative League, if they are favored with circumstances to be developed along with the discussions of this bill and through support from the Peoples Co-operatives, the Farmers Party,

the Dai-ichi Independents, and the House of Councillors. However, the greatest concern of the members from farming villages is how to control the farming villages' co-operative unions after the dissolution of the agricultural associations. They fell behind the other parties in organizing farmers, and the Democrats' difficulties in the farming village are looming large.

Related to a series of these farm bills, there is the Agricultural Production Adjustment Bill. By this bill the members from farming villages stand against those from consumer towns. Since the difference between the Economic Stabilization Board and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has not yet been bridged, the Democrats intend to decide their attitude slowly, pending the presentation of the bill.

Socialists Strive for Permeation of Party Policy

As one of the ministerial parties, the Socialist Party will naturally support the Katayama Cabinet and try as far as possible to permeate the government measures with the party policies. They evidently see a turning point in the 1,800-yen salary base in November, both in political and economic grounds. They intend to formulate by November a highly Socialist-hued general principle for JAPAN's economic reconstruction.

Previously SUZUKI, chief of the Political Research Committee, interviewed the economic ministers in the House and asked their understanding about their three bills on long-range economic reconstruction. Apparently, this was intended to permeate the policies formulated by the party's Political Research Committee in contrast with the ESB plans.

This also shall be the party's attitude toward the postrecess major bills. However, it expects a big snag underlying the bill on the state control of coal. In view of the recent moves of the Democrats, they consider that they need special attention. They even foresee the necessity of re-examination or of discussions once again.

They consider that the passage of the Anti-economic Concentration Bill is only natural in order to prevent war and as the first step to dissolve the financial cliques. However, they contend that this spirit should be so developed that the enterprises be put under state control with large capital in order to achieve economic reconstruction. Regarding the Public Corporation Bill, they argue that, in view of past experience, the operation should be socialized and democratized.

They look forward to the Agricultural Co-operative Union Bill as one aiming at the modernization of agriculture. But they appear to have many reasons to criticize the Agricultural Production Adjustment Bill, because they fear the possibility of bureaucratic control, which is detrimental to the development of modern agriculture.

Peoples Co-operatives Dissatisfied but Will Ultimately Come to Terms

In the postrecess session, many farm bills await the Peoples Co-operative Party's desperate efforts. However, because of the minority which must kowtow both to the Socialists and the Democrats, some of the party members fear that the party may lack sufficient independence to discuss the bills with due boldness. The Diet committees are now deliberating the four public corporation bills and the Agricultural Co-operative Union Bill, which include the dissolution of agricultural associations -- the party's long-cherished policy. It is expected that the party will have to come to terms in the long run in spite of its grievances against the bureaucratic tint in the proposed bills.

As for the big contention between the Socialists and the Democrats surrounding state control of coal, it is beyond the scope of the Peoples

ITEM 2 (Continued)

Co-operatives, since it is an "adults'" quarrel. The Livelihood Co-operative Union Bill has been agreed upon by the three government parties in place of the Co-operative Union Bill dearly cherished by the Peoples Co-operative Party. The party's discontent is only natural, but for all that it will have to keep pace with the other parties. The Anti-economic Concentration Bill plays a vital role in the reconstruction of JAPAN's economy. The party merely tunes it criticism with those of others by questioning whether splitting of enterprises means a democratization of economy. It seems the party has little concern about this problem.

On the other hand, it is greatly interested in the Agricultural Production Adjustment Bill, including the provisions on the deliveries of agricultural products. The party will pass the bill as an indispensable, emergency measure, but it will show great concern about the operation of the law.

Communists Want to Maintain Formula of Popular Control

Contending that the Diet's scanty fruit was due to its failure in probing the core to surmount the crisis, the Communists had previously presented to the Diet through the House of Councillors a bill on popular control of staple industries. The Communist activities in line with this policy are naturally expected in the postrecess session. The bill was presented under their contention that labor movements would be intensified in November and the 1,800-yen salary base would be inevitably broken, and that since the Government lacks countermeasures they had formulated that plan "to reconstruct economy for the sake of the people by means of state control."

The party foresees a political crisis in November because of intensified labor movements and aggravated inflation. The party advises the Socialists that if the Cabinet will have to resign, the Socialists should not hand over the reins of government to the Liberals, but sever connections with the Liberals and the Democrats and carry out more progressive policies, or, if this is impossible, to hold a general election. The Communists further contend that even if the Socialists fail in the general elections and the Liberals win them, the Socialists can oppose the Liberals who carry out the 1,800-yen base. The result will be to the workers' advantage. It is expected that the Communists will oppose the Anti-economic Concentration Bill and the Agricultural Production Adjustment Bill as prejudicial to industry and agriculture.

Liberals to Oppose Control Bills

Since their opposition statement announced on the eve of the recess, the party has abandoned its stand to extend outside support to the Government, although it signed the four-party agreement. The Liberals have made a great change in their policies toward free economy and to prepare for the coming peace conference. It appears that they are busily engaged in rallying conservative elements into a powerful party to form a strong single-party cabinet centering around them to talk peace. Consequently, they will freely criticize the government and the Socialist policies in the postrecess session of the Diet. They not only will reveal over-all opposition to the state control of coal, to the four public corporation bills pertaining to food, oil, fodder, and alcohol, and to such control bills as the Livelihood Co-operation Union Bill, but will seek a chance to develop their offensives, if other oppositionists and the Democrats' internal situation permit them. They even look forward to general elections if the situation favors them.

With such an intent, President YOSHIDA and a host of the party leaders are now making stumping tours through HOKKAIDO. They will return to the capital on 19 September and the Diet discussions are expected to become active centering about many important bills.

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ITEM 2 Violence in Diet Must Be Stopped - Shin Hochi - 16 Sep 47. Translator: T. Fukushima. (TK)

Summary:

The agenda of the postrecess Diet session disappoints us greatly, because the State Coal Control Bill, the supplementary budget, and other vital bills are slated for deliberation after 20 September. The Government has failed to prepare these bills in time for the reopening of the Diet notwithstanding that the recess was given on the request of the Government for the preparation of these bills.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the Liberal Party who strongly opposed the re-extention of the Diet have not returned from their speaking tour in HOKKAIDO. Such attitudes of both the Government and the opposition party betray the lack of their fidelity to the state administration, which is solemnly entrusted to them by the people.

The Democrats have renewed their opposition to the State Coal Mine Control Bill which they once left unconditionally in the hands of their cabinet members. The change of their attitude seems to be connected with the new party movement initiated by the Liberals. Their wavering between the Government and the Liberals is due to the split of the party into the Ashida and Shidehara factions. Therefore, the party should dissolve itself with pro-Socialist elements going over to the Socialist Party and conservative members forming a new party with the Liberals. Even Lloyd GEORGE, president of the Liberal Party could not prevent radical elements from seceding to the Labor Party and conservative members to the Conservative Party. This fact will encourage the new party movement.

Finally violence in the Diet must be stopped by all means. Brutal crimes have recently increased in number in spite of the improved food situation due to food release. It would not be too much to say that such social deterioration reflects the boorish behavior of the Dietmembers. Democracy cannot be hoped for so long as statesmen like to use force to carry their point. They should be reminded of the lesson of the late INUKAI, Takeshi, who said calmly at the point of assassins' pistols, "You will understand, if you let me speak."

ITEM 8 The National Diet and Violence (Letter to the Editor) - Asahi - 8 Sep 47. Translator: E. Sato. (TM)

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Full Translation:

Newspapers report that on 31 August, when the extension of the Diet session was under discussion in the plenary session of the House of Representatives, the four Opposition parties and the three Government parties actually came to blows.

Needless to say, democratic government does not come into being until violence ceases. The mission of the National Diet is to make decisions on State affairs not through violence but through discussion. The people did not vote for the Diet members because of their physical strength or loud voices.

The Diet members who resorted to violence, denied democracy and betrayed the people in the first session of the democratic National Diet. The incident seems trifling, but grave consequences will follow.

During the period covering the end of the Taisho Era and the beginning of the Showa Era, violence prevailed in the National Diet. Even as a child, I thought that the Diet was a place for fistfighting. Reason yielded to violence, causing the people to lose confidence in party politics and the basis for military oligarchy was thus found. This fact clearly shows the terrible results which the tolerance of violence can produce. It is similar to the destruction of a huge dike by an out hole.

The National Diet under the new democratic Constitution is being closely watched not only by the Japanese people, but by the whole world as a barometer of the democratization of JAPAN. Furthermore, the peace conference for JAPAN is now close at hand. From these viewponts, the problem is of increased importance. Violence must be quickly and completely eliminated from the National Diet. The National Diet should impose heavy punishment on members who resort to violence and publish the cases. Also, the people must not vote for these men again. The Diet members must not forget that the Criminal Code permits violence only in cases of self-defense. (OGAWA, Yasuo, A Government Official TOKYO)

ITEM 4 Activities of the Diet Session - Tokyo Times - 5 Sep 47. Translator: F. Mitsuhashi. (DD)

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Full Translation:

The first half of the first National Assembly session has passed without any serious mishaps, although troubles arose over such issues as the state control of coal mines, food, exposure of hoarded goods and the Labor Ministry Bill.

The new National Assembly is quite different in many ways from the

old Diet. The reading system (DOKKAI SEIDO) was abolished and a new committee system created. In principle, the bills are to be finally approved at the plenary session after deliberations in the standing committees. For this purpose, there are 21 different committees on administrative affairs. Moreover, there are other committees which each House has seen necessary to establish.

The remarkable characteristic of the current Diet lies in the strengthening of the authority of the committees. As in the "Special Committee on the Revision of the Election Law and on the Political Party, the committee can present a bill on the matters with which it deals. Further, like the Special Hoarded Goods Investigation Committee, a committee can call witnesses for investigation through its chairman and dispatch its members to investigate on the spot. In the past, only the Diet committeemen and government committeemen could participate in the committee meetings. However, the present committees can invite men of learning and experience to the public hearing of meetings, as in the Judicial Committees of both Houses and in the Cultural Committee of the Lower House. Moreover, as stipulated in Article 78 of the National Diet Law, free discussions on national policies are held once in every two weeks. There is a petition system, under which a petition, is to be referred to the proper committee. Thus, there can be seen a remarkable democratization of the Diet.

Actually, however, although the authority of the committees has been strengthened, almost all the bills which were presented are ones which have been brought over from the former Cabinet. The presentation of important economic bills, which were the core of the policy of the Katayama Cabinet, was delayed repeatedly, and the Diet went into unofficial recesses several times. So far, only the Labor Ministry Bill, four distribution corporations bills, the State Reparations Bill, and the Judges Impeachment Bill have been presented. It was expected that the State Coal Control Bill would cause the stormiest discussions. In drafting this bill, there had arisen a disturbance among Cabinet Ministers and members of government parties. At one time, it had been observed that the fate of the Cabinet depended upon this bill.

Delay in Presentation of Bill Dulls Deliberations in Diet

The Labor Ministry Bill first passed the Lower House without being amended, but later, it was revised by the Accounts Committee of the Upper House, thus causing antagonism between the Upper and the Lower Houses. Finally, however, a revised draft of the bill was approved. The scope of the investigation of the Seko Issue, which had been the target of public attention, was narrowed after the establishment of the special committee. The special committee on the revision of the Election Law, which had many advantages and disadvantages to the respective political parties, was set up and commenced drafting the Political Party Law. It was regrettable that concrete deliberations in the Diet were very dull owing to the delay in the presentation of bills by the Government.

The Government, aiming at the establishment of round finance, has further strengthened the regulations on finance. But, since it has calculated the supplementary budget at 69,000,000,000 yen, it is making every effort to find a new source of revenue. Earlier, the ESB decided to establish a new commodity price system in line with the basic wage of 1,800 yen and revised the commodity prices several times. At the same time, it announced emergency food measures in rapid succession, but these measures were not based on actual conditions, and, since the delay and suspension of food distribution became acute, the atmosphere of a labor offensive was created. Fortunately, however, owing to the release of food by the Allied Forces, the Government was able to break this crisis. Meanwhile, in opposition to the plans of WADA, NISHIO, and

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ITEM 4 (Continued)

MIZUTANI, other Cabinet Ministers expressed dissastisfaction with the present policy of the Government, and this antagonism not only caused delay in presentation of the State Coal Control Bill and of the supplementary budget, but also necessitated the re-examination of the emergency food policy. Further, the clumsy maneuvers of KATAYAMA and ASHIDA concerning the jurisdiction of labor accident insurance was revealed. Thus, the poor political ability of the Government gave rise to public criticism.

On 14 Aug, a 500,000,000 dollar foreign trade credit fund was established, on 15 Aug foreign trade was reopened, and on 20 Aug, 600,000,000 tons of food for September and October was released. In this way, the political circumstances of the Katayama Cabinet were improved by external conditions. However, being a coalition cabinet, the Katayama Cabinet endures various restrictions and difficulties both in actual politics and in political theory. The movements within the current Diet may develop into political issues, hereafter. The Liberal Party has already broken away from the policy agreement and declared that it would criticize the Government as a pure opposition party. Moreover, a joint statement of the four non-government parties was issued.

When the Diet enters the latter half of the session, such important bills as the State Coal Control Bill, the supplementary budget bill, the public corporations bills, the Political Party bill, the Livelihood Co-operative Union bill and the National Civil Service bill will be presented. No one knows what will come out of the heated discussions on these bills. The movements within the Diet cannot be neglected.

ITEM 6 League for Democratic Political Education Formed - Provincial Paper: Shinano Mainichi (Nagano) - 2 Sep 47. Translator: I. Kuniko. (WI)

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Summary:

The League for Democratic Political Education was successfully formed in the Diet some days ago. It seems that the future of Japanese politics will depend entirely upon the action of the League. We hope, therefore, that it will begin active operations.

It must first be noted that the new political forces have not yet united themselves so strongly, that they can truly replace the old political powers. Through the general elections twice held since the surrender, the Socialist Party has risen to power by overwhelming the old parties, but judging from the elements composing the internal structure of the Party, we cannot regard it unconditionally as representative of the democratic forces. The reason is that the Socialist Party, in order to expand itself hastily, has allowed false democrats to participate. Since the Socialist Party is still far from being a true democratic party, it goes without saying that other parties have not democratized themselves completely either.

Although these parties verbally advocate "democracy" or "a cultural country," we doubt if they have developed in a suitable manner.

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ITEM 6 (Continued)

This is well demonstrated by the amendment of the Labor Ministry Establishment Bill recently deliberated upon by the Diet. At the deliberation of this bill, this matter exposed the lack of political sovereignity among the representatives.

Thus, judging from the fact that the members of the Diet have not yet reached maturity in the matter of political sovereignty, we keenly feel the necessity of democratic political education.

It must be further noted that some foreigners conversant with Japanese affairs fear that if control is removed from JAPAN, she may revert to totalitarianism. This is because they have misgivings about the democracy now prevailing in JAPAN. A makeshift democracy cannot spread deep roots.

Since the surrender, we have seen a number of revolutionary changes and those changes have moved us so strongly that we cannot think calmly of their significance. Thus, our democratic consciousness is so unstable that we cannot stabilize JAPAN politically.

It may be natural, therefore, for the foreigners to fear that JAPAN will revert to totalitarianism.

We expect, however, that the League for Democratic Political Education will succeed in realizing the anticipated result by educating the public actively and democratically.

ITEM 9 Plan to Expand Business Affairs Bureau of Diet - Seiji - 9 Sep 47.
Translator: M. Ota. (GBS)

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Full Translation:

The first session of the National Assembly entered into a two-week recess from 1 September after deciding on a re-extension. Judging from the progress of discussions covering 100 days from 20 May, a fundamental reinvestigation was demanded on the role of the National Assembly and its operation policy. The Lower House intends to make an attempt at revising even the National Assembly Law by setting up the Diet Functions Execution Sub-committee within the Diet Steering Committee.

It was strongly mentioned that though the Constitution stipulates that the National Assembly is the highest organ of the State and the sole law-making authority of the country, it relied too much on the Government to draw up the bills, resulting in very few bills being drafted by the National Assembly itself. Therefore, one opinion goes so far as to say that the Legislative Board should be transferred to the National Assembly. However, the Government regards it necessary to retain, in the Cabinet, a law-making organ which has a thorough knowledge of the actual conditions of all the ministries and their relations. So under the present circumstances, the only practical measure is to expand and strengthen the Investigation Section and the Legislative Section.

Unless the existing system of ranking the chief of the Legislative Section below the chief and the assistant chief of the Business Affairs Bureau is reformed, it is impossible to find a competent person for that post. For instance, former chief IIJIMA of the Legislative Board flatly rejected the proposal to take over the post after MOROHASHI was transferred. Therefore, the Lower House had to appoint MIURA who is only in the assistant class.

In order to complete the Diet functions which will enable the Diet itself to draw up at least as many bills, as the Government, it is necessary to engage men of talent and reform the systems. Then, the Assembly will be able to stand up to the Legislative Board. A drastic reform is demanded on the structure of the Business Affairs Bureaus of both Houses because it is hopeless to execute fully the mission of the National Assembly under the existing system.

ITEM 3 Vital Bills Awaiting Diet Discussions - Mainichi - 1 Sep 47.
Translator: J. Paasche. (GBS)

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Summary:

On 16 August the Government discussed the problem of state supervision of coal mines with representatives of the three government parties, whereupon the matter was shelved. Owing to clashing opinions advanced by the various Cabinet Ministers and party headquarters, a political solution is sought through negotiations so that after the required Cabinet discussions and other proceedings, the final draft of the bill can be laid before the Diet when it reconvenes. It will then be handled by a special Diet committee.

Because the question of state supervision has, since the beginning of July, caused violent disputes, these will probably continue within the said committee. No doubt the Ashida faction within the Democratic Party will put up a stubborn resistance concerning the extension of the time of the control and the qualifications of the "Production Councils." Other debatable questions are the functions of the Production Councils and the powers of the Chief of the Coal Office. Since the attitudes of the House of Councillors seems to be rather firm, some fear that discussions there will bear no results.

Discussions Favor Changes

The discussion, in both houses of the Diet on the four public corporations for foodstuffs, oils etc are still devoid of results. Both houses are opposed to pressure brought to bear upon medium and small

businesses and industries and the resulting strengthening of bureaucratic controls, as well as to the right of the Chief of the Economic Stabilization Board to give directions to the competent Ministers. The Democratic and Liberal Parties recognize the need for such corporations in the case of basic productions but deem it excessive to turn all vital materials over to corporation management. The Peoples Co-operative Party favors one big corporation instead of the four now under review. There is some criticism of the fact that a bill that was drafted by the foregoing Yoshida Cabinet is now being rushed through by the Katayama Cabinet. The government, however, is aware of the bill's shortcomings and favors considerable changes.

In view of this attitude on the part of the Government, a conference took place on 30 August in the House of Representatives in which the Chief secretaries of the government parties and the heads of the Political Affairs Investigation Committees took part. The following was finally agreed upon.

a) The powers of the Director of the Stabilization Board are limited to general planning and supervision and will not extend to execution.

b) To guarantee the democratic functioning of the Public Corporations, a special supervisory committee will be set up.

c) The financial affiliations of the corporations will be extended to private financial institution in general.

Parties to Draft Bill

The Political Party Bill was originally drafted by the Home Ministry but since it laid down rules for the parties, it was felt that the parties themselves should have a large part in drafting it. With this end in view, a committee of 17 Diet members was set up under GOTO, Tetsuo of the Democrats which has been discussing the bill since 22 August. The bill will probably be ready by the end of September since the Communists and other opponents have become more conciliatory. The drafting is not easy because there are few like it in the world.

The Livelihood Co-operative Unions Bill is designed directly to link the producers and the consumers. It was originated by the Socialist Party's Political Affairs Investigation Committee and is strongly criticized by the Democratic and Peoples Co-operative Parties. While the Socialists want to set up Co-operative Unions in all of the intervening links between production and consumption, including insurance and finance, with a strong, independent unit devoted to distribution, the Democratic and Peoples Co-operative Parties fear that too great a field of activity for the Co-operative Unions may bring on a far reaching economic revolution. According to these parties, the Co-operatives should,, in the main, be limited to consumption. Hence the Democratic Party has readied a bill of its own, entitled, "Consumers Co-operatives." By and large, the Liberals agree with the Democrats from a desire to protect the small and medium industrialists and businessmen.

Advocates New Ministry

The Diet Committee on the Construction Board has advocated the establishment of a Ministry for Construction by co-ordinating the corresponding sections of various Ministries or by fusing the Construction Board with certain sections of the dissolved Ministry of the Interior. However, since the Government is now busy with other matters, an unskillful handling of this problem may lead to "bureaucratic sectionalism." The Government, furthermore, is against changing the Construction Board into a Ministry in the future. Such a Ministry will be established at a future date within the framework of a sweeping administrative reform. However, the said Diet Committee will continue its activities for bringing about the desired full-fledged Construction Ministry.

POLITICAL SERIES: 1949 (Continued)

ITEM 3 (Continued)

The National Civil Service Bill is disliked by some of the parties for various reasons. It is felt that the concept of a special profession lacks clarity and smacks of feudalism. Appointment and dismissal would have to be entrusted to a special committee whereas the people should be able directly to discharge public officials. Hence, passionate discussions may be expected in the Diet. On the other hand, the Government has conducted exhaustive research on the matter and is, accordingly, sure of itself. It is likely that the bill will finally be passed after certain changes have been effected.

Expected to Pass

The Unemployment Insurance and Unemployment Allowances Bills will be applied, without delay, to relief for unemployed; their passage by both houses is taken for granted. In the fall, they will be followed by a more specialized bill concerning allowances for unemployed.

The Damage Relief Bill has been under discussion by the House of Representatives Welfare Committee since 6 August. It is designed to provide for quick government relief in cases of emergency through public bodies in the districts, the Red Cross, etc. This bill, too, is attacked from certain quarters. The Peoples Co-operative Party, for example, goes so far as to say that it resembles the former National Mobilization Law. Furthermore, certain articles of the bill seem at variance with the Constitutional guarantee of private property and give too much authority to officials. Because of the recent Seko Case, there is not much opposition against giving the officials too much power in dealing with private property. Even too great powers for the Red Cross are viewed with distrust. Thus, the bill will probably undergo some changes before it is passed.

EDITORIAL SERIES: 1925

ITEM 1 Government Should Execute Its Policies More Forcefully - Mainichi - 15 Sep 47. Translator: T. Okamura. (JJY)

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Full Translation:

The National Diet has been resumed. Thus far the session has been quiet, because most key bills had not been submitted or were under committee deliberation. Many twists and turns are foreseen when these bills are presented at the reopened session.

Prior to the resumption of the session, Premier KATAYAMA revealed his determination to tide over the reopened Diet. It is only natural that he, as a premier, should say this. However, apart from the Premier's confidence, what is the objective political situation? He also insisted upon dealing with the peace conference on the responsibility of the present Cabinet. Whether or not this policy will be supported will be decided by the policies which the Cabinet will take henceforth. Is the Katayama Cabinet an administration whose tenure is being supported?

The first obstacle for the reopened Diet will be the state coal control plan. Though a tentative compromise has been reached among the government parties, the issue has not arrived at a final understanding. The Democrats are still presenting obstacles to the proposed plan. The tendency of the House of Councillors, it seems, does not permit optimism. On the other hand, the Socialists are sticking to the state coal control plan as if it were their life-line. This situation itself is a problem. But we will not take it up at present.

The nucleus of the problem is simply how to increase coal production. We do not agree with the Socialists if they adhere to the state coal control plan from the standpoint that state management of key industries is the demarcation which distinguishes the Socialists from the conservative parties, if they lack confidence in increased production. The reason we point out this is that the Socialists' concept of a life-line does not always include the afore-mentioned ideology. What is important is the discovery of the best means for increased production, to mine at least 30,000,000 tons of coal at all costs. If the Socialists and the Democrats grasp this chief objective, they will inevitably find a compromising point. The Premier's confidence in surmounting the controversial coal control plan should be advanced in this direction.

The Anti-economic Concentration Bill is another difficult problem. Decentralization of economic power is essential for economic democratization. However, the dissolution or readjustment of large scale industries will inevitably be followed by a decline in productive power. In the terms of the Premier's former statement, the next half a year or year will decide the stabilization or collapse of our economy. In such a particular situation the decline in production caused by economic deconcentration will have a great effect, although temporarily. Accordingly, the question is how to find the best compromising point which minimizes production decline and labor unrest while maintaining the fundamental spirit of decentralization. In other words, concrete measures in decentralization of respective industries are most important. The Government seems to have such a policy.

The huge supplementary budget is a still more important issue, checking inflation and promoting economic reconstruction depends largely upon financial problems. The so-called 1,800-yen wage basis is entangled with this issue. The Premier who advocates the maintenance of a sound financial policy insists upon the maintenance of the 1,800-yen level, although this amount is not necessarily pegged. We think this fundamental policy is right. It is politically easy to change the basis to 2,000 yen or 2,500 yen. However, with the present inflation, the effect of the elevation of the wage standard will prove fruitless in less than a couple

EDITORIAL SERIES: 1925 (Continued)

ITEM 1 (Continued)

of months. It is malicious politics to choose an easy going means to satisfy the present hope of the general public and gain favor. Livelihood hardships must be eased by other means. As the emergency economic policy indicates, the means to maintain a realistic livelihood is by eliminating blackmarketeering, observing official prices, and increasing rations. What we regret is that the Government is extremely meek in executing its policies, although its fundamental policy is justifiable.

Four months have passed since the present Cabinet was organized. In the past, expectations of what the Government will do have been our primary concern, but hereafter the criticism of government policies and its ability will be more important. Generally speaking, the fundamental policy of the Government is reasonable. The remaining problem is its ability to execute it. We cannot support the Government if its power of execution is weak, no matter how novel its policies are. The Premier's "stubborn honest policy" must be put into practice vigorously with more courage and sincerity.

ITEM 4 Opposition between Hirano and Nishio Becomes Stronger - Jimmin - 1 Sep 47. Translator: A. Kawamura. (AH)

Full Translation:

Difference in opinion regarding state affairs between NISHIO and HIRANO, Socialists, has recently become stronger; rumors are growing of a possible ousting of Agriculture and Forestry Minister HIRANO and the formation of a new political party under him.

Furthermore, HIRANO and WADA, ESB Director-general, are divided in their respective attitudes toward bounties for delivery of wheat and potatoes beyond the set quota and in the problem of a new rice price.

It would be interesting to trace these rumors to their origin. In the middle of July this year, a mystery document entitled "Worthless NISHIO, Suehiro, is guilty of war crimes" was distributed. Following this, a second document describing in detail alleged misuse of political funds and denouncing his political colleagues, was distributed. It is believed that these documents were originated by the party's right-wingers.

Next, since a rumor of a new political party headed by HIRANO was circulated, opposition between HIRANO and NISHIO suddenly came into the open, and it has become stronger with time.

Forming New Party Policy

In the latter part of July, the MUMEIKAI (composed of about 20 Diet members of the HIRANO faction) members met Cabinet Secretary-general NISHIO at a certain restaurant in KUDAN. At the meeting, Diet member TAKASE urged him to establish a rightwing line within the party and assume a definite attitude toward the left and right wings. They, however, failed to come to an agreement.

POLITICAL SERIES: 1949 (Continued)

ITEM 4 (Continued)

On 5 August, HIRANO asked for his political colleagues' support, revealing that NISHIO had conspired with WADA to ostracize him. Meanwhile, MATSUOKA, Speaker of the House of Representatives, assumed the burden of mediating between HIRANO and NISHIO, but in vain. Then, Diet members KANO (OSAKA) and YOSHIKAWA (CHIBA), members of the Hirano faction, exerted their utmost efforts to settle the matter. HIRANO, however, gave a flat refusal to their offer, declaring that it was not possible for him to become reconciled with NISHIO, nor did he have any desire to do so.

Second Document Appeared

In this way, opposition between the two has gradually become stronger and an unbridgeable gap has existed between the two. Around 20 August, the second mystery document attacking NISHIO was distributed to some limited quarters. The majority of the Social Diet members were convinced that a certain MISHIMA, an official of the SHAKAI-SHIMPO had issued them as before.

Well, when did the two politicians become inimical? It is believed that this began at the time they had participated together in the attempted reorganization of the former YOSHIDA Cabinet, but the discord has become considerably aggravated lately. This arises largely as a result of the fact that when the Socialist Cabinet was formed, NISHIO secured the Cabinet secretariat post in which position he is a representative of both his party and the Cabinet. In this position he allied himself with ESB Director WADA, and won leftist SUZUKI and KATO over, who submitted to the party's rightwing policy and were appointed members of the Party Political Investigation Committee. Thus, a rightist, himself, he sits astride the leftists and the rightists and is successfully fending off HIRANO's attempt to enhance his political influence within the party through the formation of the National Farmers' Union.

Results Were Unexpected

Further, HIRANO's formation of the NFU has not produced the expected results. He has garnered farmers' ill-feeling since he, as Agriculture and Forestry Minister, broke with the All-Japan Farmers' Union. Moreover, being actually under the control of ESB Chief WADA, he, an extreme dogmatist, is now helpless within the Cabinet. When HIRANO proposed that the nation disburse an estimated 4,000,000,000 yen in bounties for the delivery of wheat and potatoes beyond the set quota, aiming to expand the influence of the National Farmers' Union, WADA charged that his reckless act would destroy the Government Price Structure. On top of this, Finance Minister KURUSU is now co-operating with WADA in denouncing HIRANO, and now there are even rumors of replacing HIRANO with NOMIZO, Masaru, on the Cabinet.

Lately, NISHIO has strengthened his relations with WADA, and he has also contributed 500,000 yen to the Party Political Investigation Committee headed by leftist SUZUKI, Mosaburo. This has led the Hirano faction to believe that NISHIO, through the mediation of WADA, his staff, and the professors' group, has entered into closer relation with the left-wing.

Settlement Appears Doubtful

In short, it is believed that an amicable compromise cannot be reached after all, since the rift is so serious that it might possibly lead to a fatal blow to either of them. It is said that the forthcoming party general meeting scheduled for November will be featured by an anti-HIRANO movement, since the party leftwings have exerted themselves in conciliating the Nishio faction and the party rightwingers since their surrender to them.

ITEM 5 Implementation of Diet Decision - Mainichi - 20 Aug 47. Translator: K. Onishi. (TK)

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Summary:

Although SCAP goodwill has relieved the food shortages for August, we have to face the between-crop season of September and October. We must not expect Allied indulgence too often. Wheat and potato crops were far less than expected due to the low temperatures in April and May. JAPAN's granaries in the northeastern districts have suffered flood damages, and the rice crop estimate is considerably lower than the average crop of the past five years. The food condition for the coming rice year, beginning 1 November, is not improving in the present circumstances. The game is drawing to a close. The only way left for us is to carry out equitable distribution coupled with a complete tapping of food resources.

The Diet has resolved to demand that the Government take powerful measures for surmounting the food crisis. This is the voice of the people. The Government can do whatever it believes should be done. The people, who have made this demand of the Government, should extend their co-operation. Criticisms should not degenerate into nonco-operation, but censure for private aims is still worse. If the people play hide-and-seek with the government measures, no government can be successful.

The vegetable distribution from 16 August has been placed on the new registry system. The amount arriving in the metropolis suddenly dropped to about one fourth the next day. It is said that vegetables are lying in the yards and warehouses, while farmers hope that this system will not last long. The Government should listen to the voices of the people, but excessive change of policies must be avoided.

ITEM 6 Mail Your Miseries to the Diet - Sekai Nippo - 13 Aug 47. Translator: S. Hamada. (AH)

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Summary:

With the control on staple foods, the difficulty in obtaining vegetables and fish, the soaring of transportation fares, and the skyrocketing of commodity prices, our privations are being daily intensified. At the same time, the funds of almost all enterprises have reached the bottom and the firms are obliged to resort to mass dismissal or both capital and labor will be involved in common ruin.

Confronted with such actualities, what should we who eke out a scanty living in anxiety, irritations, indignation, and resignation, hope to do?

It is two years since our surrender and yet our economy is making little progress. Among many reasons, domestic and international, the fundamental one. I believe is that the Japanese are too hasty and lack the positive will for construction. The Japanese must awaken to the fact that the outbreak of war, the defeat, and the present miseries are for the most part due to our negative nature. Without the people's efforts to correct our defect, we fear that the reconstruction of JAPAN cannot be realized.

For instance, the present-day housewives must waste a lot of time standing in line to buy rationed goods. Although all grumble over it, no improvement is carried out because none of them try to find a rational way. Today, the people of all classes are discontented, and most of their complaints cannot be solved without considering social problems. Therefore, these problems should be solved through the Diet and the Government.

We ourselves elected the Diet members and we entrusted them to form the present Government. We must criticize and encourage our Diet members, and express our opinions in a more positive manner. We must try to write letters to them instead of complaining among ourselves.

The Americans write letters to their Congressmen, and the latter sort and arrange hundreds of these letters which are delivered daily and write replies, thus respecting the opinions of the constituents. By the positive efforts of both Congressmen and constituents, true democracy can be practised. In JAPAN, we should also cultivate a habit to write our opinions to our Diet members. It is our important duty to contribute to the reconstruction of JAPAN.

ITEM 8 Prolongation of the Current Diet Session - Shin Hochi - 1 Sep 47. Translator: T. Naruse. (AH)

Summary:

The current Diet session has been prolonged another 50 days. Including the first prolongation of 54 days, this session, which was originally scheduled for 50 days, will last 154 days or just five months, which is a new record. The present extension is partly due to the Government's delay in introducing bills to the Diet, but it was inevitable that it be extended. At this opportunity, however, we want to give a few words of warning to the members of the Diet and the Cabinet.

The first point is that they must have a broad outlook. During elections they discuss domestic and international situations, but upon once becoming Diet members or Cabinet ministers, they are apt to handle affairs of State by giving first consideration to personal or party interests. Let us take the problem of the state supervision of coal mines as an example. In EUROPE today, there is a general trend of employing state ownership or state management as the basis of economic rehabilitation. Unless JAPAN's economy is also considered a part of world economy, its sound recovery cannot be expected. The Cabinet ministers and Diet members concerned, however, are considering the coal mine issue as limited to JAPAN alone and are involving private or party interests. This fact reveals that they lack an international outlook.

Of course, the proposed state supervision system must not result in the so-called bureaucratic control. In deliberations on the coal mine problem or the plan to establish various public corporations, however, no concrete measure to prevent a possible bureaucratic control has been proposed. Although the Government greatly fears the revival of war time bureaucratic controls, the bureaucrats seem to have the upper hand. The bureaucrats should limit themselves to administrative work, and leave politics to statesmen.

The second point is the maintenance of the authority of the National Diet. The people cast their votes in the April elections with great expectations of the first Diet under the new Constitution. At present, however, there is no sign of improvement in the conduction of deliberations in the Diet, although new systems such as free discussions and public hearing have been adopted. The Diet has now many bills on the agenda which will take a full month for deliberation. The Diet's neglect of duty as well as the Government's delay in introducing important bills must not be disregarded. The Diet members must work and study harder than the rest of the people.

The last point is the respect for public opinion. With the establishment of a democratic government, the people have been given freedom of speech, but they are not always organized. We wonder how many Diet members made a report of the proceedings in the Diet to their constituencies during the first recess. The Diet will have another recess of two weeks from 1 September. They must realize that if they fail to use this opportunity to fulfill their duty as the representatives of the people, it will be the end of their political career.

ITEM 5 Member of Upper House Again on Demonstrative Fast - Provincial Paper: Kyushu Times (Fukuoka) - 6 Sep 47. Translator: T. Kitayama. (GBS)

Full Translation:

Mr HOSHINO, member of the House of Councillors, who conducted a 21-day fast at the foot of TOKYO's Sukiya Bridge last February as a demonstration to urge speedy repatriation of Japanese from overseas, started a new fast at the same spot shortly after noon on 5 September.

He stated that this time he will not give up fasting until he succeeds in getting the signatures of 10,000,000 persons. He said, "This time I fix no time limit for the attainment of my objective. The Diet resumes its session on 15 September so I will stay here until that day. After that I will continue my fasting in the lobby of the National Assembly building. Though I fix no time limit, I believe I shall be able to attain my objective within two months. I should not like to die yet, you know."

Quite different from the miserable condition in which he practised fasting in an extemporaneous shanty in the midst of the coldest season last winter, Mr HOSHINO is, this time, provided with a large tent, in which there are several desks.

ITEM 7 The Future Course of the Present Diet Session - Tokyo Shimbun - 16 Sep 47. Translator: H. Machiyama. (AH)

Full Translation:

After a two weeks recess the National Diet reopened its session today.

In view of the numerous important bills, the activities of the Diet members are being closely watched.

The coal mines state control in question is predicted to be highly controversial in the Upper and Lower Houses. The supplementary budget will not be submitted to the Diet session until after the middle of this month, due to the recent fire which partly razed the Finance Ministry building. The main plays are yet to be staged since important bills such as the Coal Corporation Bill, and the Anti-Economic Concentration Bill, are on the agenda of the coming session.

How did Government authorities grasp the people's attitude toward the present Cabinet during their recent speaking trip throughout the country? What position will the Liberal Party take as an open opposition party, now that it has held general meetings both in the Northeastern districts and in HOKKAIDO? When considering these points, the past long session of the Diet has been no more than a prelude to the reopened Diet session.

The factor which most benefited the present Cabinet, we say, is the food release under SCAP's special favor. The present Cabinet should have utilized this advantage to the utmost, but it seem that the Government failed in this respect.

When the blackmarket price of rice suddenly fell, the people entertained very bright hopes. But subseququent overall raises in official prices have checked the tendency of blackmarket prices to fall. This is most clearly shown by the opposition to the 1,800 yen standard wage that has arisen even within the Cabinet.

However, the Government will probably announce after all that the wage basis of 1,800 yen will be maintained. The majority of other bills will be somehow or other approved by the Diet session. Therefore, the Coal Mines State Control bill will become the biggest issue.

Since the opposition parties can fight over this bill, animated debates are expected in both the Upper and Lower Houses. Furthermore, the behind the scene movement developing in and around KYUSHU must not be lightly dismissed.

In case this bill fails to pass the Diet, a political disturbance is certain to arise. If it passes after drastic amendments, the prestiges of some Cabinet members will be injured. In this sense, no one can assuredly say that the political situation will not become stormy after the closing of the session.

The reopening of the session coincides with the forcast of a typhoon. Is there something more to this prediction?

ITEM 3 Steering Committee Supports 50-day Diet Extension - Mainichi - 29 Aug 47. Translator: K. Hirato. (FST)

Full Translation:

The government parties, on the one hand, and the Liberal and minor parties, on the other, had been split over the prolongation of the present Diet session. However, at 1100 hours yesterday, the Steering Committee of the House of Representatives met and decided to adopt the Democratic Party's plan for a session re-extension of 50 days (two weeks starting from 1 September) by a majority vote. Meanwhile, the Steering Committee of the House of Councillors met at 1400 hours on the same day and also supported the re-extension. Thus, the plan will be presented to the plenary session for approval tomorrow.

Whether the Liberal and other parties will oppose the plan in tomorrow's plenary session will be decided in interparty negotiation conferences scheduled for tomorrow morning.

ITEM 2 Leaders Return to Capital as Diet Session Resumption Nears - Mainichi - 11 Sep 47. Translator: B. Ishibashi. (TK)

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Full Translation:

With the reopening of the Diet a few days away the Government is steadily preparing its Diet policy. Finance Minister KURUSU and State Minister WADA are expected to return to the capital today from their trips in the provinces. The pending issues of economic decentralization and the supplementary budget seem assured of settlement within a few days.

Chief Cabinet Secretary NISHIO yesterday stated that the economic decentralization issue had taken a slightly favorable turn, and its formal settlement would be made after the return of WADA to the capital. According to the statement, general figures for the supplementary budget will be worked out today and will be discussed at the cabinet meeting tomorrow. In any case, the original framework of 70,000,000,000 yen cannot possibly be maintained, and the figure will unavoidably top the 100,000,000,000 mark. Accordingly, the last line for maintenance of sound finance based on the emergency economic measures within the framework of a 100,000,000,000-yen expenditure will be seriously threatened.

The state control of coal mines was approved by the 5 September cabinet meeting without amendment. However, it is certain that heated discussions will take place over this problem in the Diet. Chief Cabinet Secretary NISHIO expressed the Government's firm determination by stating: "The state coal control issue has now turned into a life-or-death problem for the Cabinet." However, in view of existing conditions the Government is expected to limit enforcement of state control to coal mines alone, postponing that of electric industries. The Government, on the other hand, has plans for formulation of a long-term plan to replace its emergency economic measures in order to demonstrate its determination to remain in power before the Diet.

As regards the Economic Stabilization Board, Director-general WADA is inclined to ward off the bitter attack on the board by keeping close liaison with political affairs research committees of government parties on the occasion of negotiations on the economic decentralization issue. This will result in rapprochement of NISHIO and WADA, thereby furthering the feud of NISHIO and WADA on one hand, and HIRANO on the other.

When these moves are considered in conjunction with attitudes of ASHIDA and KURUSU displayed in the course of deliberations on economic decentralization and the opposition between KIMURA and HAYASHI centering around establishment of the Reconstruction Board, it can be said that the Government will have to cope with the Diet session with many problems unsettled.

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ITEM 12 Difference Between Houses On Labor Bill to be Ironed Out - Asahi - 24 Aug 47. Translator: A. Kawamura. (UG)

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Full Translation:

The Upper House has not changed its attitude on its amendment to the Labor Ministry Establishment Bill. In the Lower House Socialist members stress the unconditional acceptance of the proposed amendment since the establishment of the new ministry should commence as early as possible.

The Democrats are of the opinion that since the Bill has already been passed in its original form by the House of Representatives, if there be any more differences, it should be settled at a joint meeting of both Houses.

In this case, the compromise plan will be taken up deleting Paragraph 2, Article 3 of the bill, but with the proviso, "When necessary the Government can change the administrative structure of the new ministry with an administrative order" added.

Thus, the opinion of the House of Representatives as of 23 August has been divided into whether to accept the proposed Upper House amendment unconditionally or settle the issue at a joint meeting of both Houses. It is observed that the solution of the problem will eventually fall in the hands of the Diet Steering Committee.

ITEM 1 Diet Reopens as Budget and Coal Issues Monopolize Interest - Mainichi - 15 Sep 47. Translator: T. Fukushima. (FST)

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Full Translation:

The Diet, which has been in recess since 1 September, resumed its session today. In an effort to turn the situation to its advantage, the Government dispatched cabinet members to various prefectures to ask for co-operation, and did its best to prepare many vital bills and the supplementary budgets.

The controversial State Coal Mine Control Bill and Anti-economic Concentration Bill will be submitted to the Diet as soon as possible. Of the bills already presented to the legislature, 19 have been carried. More than 40 bills, including the Local Autonomy Bill, the Public Order Board Bill and the Reconstruction Board Establishment Bill are under consideration while upwards of 30 bills will be introduced to the Diet. It would be difficult for these bills to pass both Houses smoothly by the end of the session without the active collaboration of Government parties.

Needless to say, the Katayama Cabinet considers the State Coal Mine Control Bill most important. All ministers, including Chief Cabinet Secretary NISHIO, are resolved, even at the risk of the Cabinet, to pass this bill. In this connection, the internal situation of the Democratic Party has changed considerably since the Diet went into recess. The executives of the Political Research Committee of the party showed strong opposition to the Government bill at their meeting on Friday. Under such circumstances, Foreign Minister ASHIDA and Transportation Minister TOMABECHI have found themselves in a very awkward position.

The Public Corporation Bill is incurring severe criticism even from the Government; hence, the necessity of its fundamental reconsideration. However, since the bill is based on the Government's policy of regulating the circulation of supplies, the establishment of at least the Food, Oil and Fat, Liquor, and Fodder Public Corporations will be approved with amendments in spite of opposition from both Houses, which denounce the bill as an instrument to strengthen bureaucratic control.

The supplementary budgets for the 1947 fiscal year, amounting to 140,000,000,000 yen, is troubling the Government. A considerable portion of the budget should be slashed or carried forward to next year, if the Government wants to put its finances on a sound basis. A decision on this point requires the good judgment of the Katayama Cabinet.

The Government believes that the Anti-economic Concentration Bill will not encounter much criticism in spite of its great effect on economic circles since it is an essential requirement for the democratization of Japanese economy.

The Socialists have decided to support the Government unanimously on these bills, but the Democrats will not always follow their example. In addition to this loose unity of the ministerial parties, an all-out offense against the Cabinet is anticipated from the Liberals, who have recently clarified their antigovernment stand. Furthermore, there is a move for the formation of a new party among Liberal and Democrat Diet members. In view of such circumstances, prospects for the Katayama regime are by no means favorable in spite of its ambitious desire to deal with the peace conference.

Whether the Government can steer through the current Diet session successfully or not will greatly affect the future development of the political situation. Therefore, Premier KATAYAMA will endeavor to coordinate his cabinet colleagues in an effort to tide over the Diet session.

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WORK OF DIET STANDING COMMITTEES LAUDED BY SCAP OFFICIAL

Standing committees of both houses of the Diet, of which there are 42, are doing more to assure the ultimate supremacy of the legislative branch of government than was accomplished in 56 years under the Meiji Constitution, a SCAP Government Section representative asserted today.

"They are making thorough investigations of many matters, both within and without the Diet," he said. "Witnesses are being subpoenaed, experts are being hired to provide information in special fields, and, what is more important, the committees are talking back and down to bureaucrats.

"The impotent special committees of the past, on the other hand, were afraid of their shadows, stood in awe of government officials and received scant attention and little respect," the official added.

For the first time in Diet history, he said, sub-committees are making on-the-spot studies of national conditions, inspecting coal mines, rehabilitation centers, hydro-electric power sites, hoarded commodities, the police system, and the like. These sub-committees report to the whole committees, in the presence of appropriate state ministers, and suggest remedial action to be taken by the government.

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"The time may not be far distant," the official declared, "when standing committees, by becoming as expert on public problems in their respective fields as government officials, will become the instruments for making parliamentary government a reality in Japan."

The SCAP officer said the two public hearings recently conducted by Diet standing committees, allowing the people to participate in the legislative process for the first time in Japan, were in all respects equal, and in some respects superior, to their prototypes in the United States. He added, however, that the transition from interpellations to debate would be easier if the respective political parties had definite policies and principles for their members to defend.

The dispute between the two houses over the Labor Ministry Bill, the spokesman explained, demonstrated that the fear that the House of Councillors might become just a puppet body subject to the House of Representatives, is groundless."

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READERS IN COUNCIL

Quality in the Diet

To the Editor:

It is needless to say that the improvement of the quality of our Diet members is essential for the speedy democratization of our country Since the main reason why few able people run for the Diet is that they cannot afford large election expenses, I would like to suggest the following remedial measures.

1. That all electors make at least a minimum contribution (say some ¥20 or ¥30 a year) to any political party they like. Nobody should be forced to make any more than the minimum sum of contribution. Those who have no party they favor should contribute to an independent or neutral party or a new party they choose to organize.

2. Candidates recommended by political parties should have their necessary election expenses paid by political parties.

3. Candidates for the Diet not recommended by a party, who want to have their necessary election expenses paid from a public election fund, should sit for a qualification examination held in a democratic way.

4. The treatment of Diet members should be improved to make membership to the Diet more attractive to talented people, and steps should be taken to eliminate their illegal incomes.

5. Party revenues and expenditures should be made public. Hitherto the expenditures and election expenses of political parties have been met by donations of financiers of blackmarketeers, and party policies and platforms have been swayed by these people. This is one of the main factors which has retarded Japanese democratization. The political parties' lack of abilities is also one of the main causes why bureaucratic influence is still retained intact in spite of frequent purges. It is hoped that the measures suggested above will eliminate these evils and improve and democratize Japanese politics, which of all things Japanese are most backward.

It goes without saying that democracy is the best form of government of a peace-loving people. No government would be less inclined to take an aggressive policy, which even if victorious, profits only a few limited people at the expense of the majority of a people, than a democratic government supported by the majority of a really free people. Because since anybody will naturally favor a policy which benefits himself as well as others, a policy supported by a majority of a really free people cannot fail to be beneficial to the majority of the people.

A READER

NIPPON TIMES SEP 28 1947

DIET TODAY

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Plenary session opens at 1 p.m. and will hold free discussion on the coal State control bill, approve the revision of the railway operation law as recommended by the chairman of the committee. Committees on budgets, mining industry, aquatic products, labor, culture, Justice, and land planning will meet at 10 a.m., and one on accounts settlement at 1 p.m.

HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS—Meeting in a plenary session at 10 a.m. the House of Councillors will hear the report of State Ministers on the flood damage relief measures and then discuss the flood problem. Bills on the disposal of ships left on Japanese coasts and on the relief of damages caused by natural calamities are expected to be approved as recommended by the chairmen of respective committees. Committees on finance and commerce, transportation, mining industry, labor, culture, accounts settlement, and communication will meet at 1 p.m.

SEP 30 1947
NIPPON TIMES

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DIET TODAY

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Plenary session at 1 p.m. to hear "free discussions" on promotion of medium and small industries. Committee hearings on judiciary, agriculture-forestry, transportation, public finances and the Construction Board at 10 a.m.; on marine products at 10:30 a.m. and welfare at 1 p.m.

HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS: Plenary session at 10 a.m. to approve the State Indemnification Bill. Committee meetings on agriculture-forestry and labor at 10 a.m.; judiciary and public peace, electricity and the Political Party Bill at 1 p.m.; accounts settlement and Diet steering following the plenary session.

NIPPON TIMES SEP 20 1947

DIET TODAY

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—No plenary session. Committee meetings on foreign affairs, justice, education and culture, welfare, House steering and communications from 10 a.m. and one on the Political Party Bill from 1 p.m.

HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS—No plenary session. Committee meetings on marine products, justice, labor, welfare and transportation from 10 a.m. and those on House steering, culture and agriculture and forestry from 1 p.m.

NIPPON TIMES SEP 22 1947

Diet Members To Study Peace Confab Problems

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Japanese Diet members decided to study various problems connected with the impending peace conference in view of talks of a preliminary meeting to be held soon among the Allied nations.

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lower House formally decided Thursday to carry out extensive research into the general outlook of the peace conference; problems connected with Japan's future security; reparations problems; and foreign trade problems.

NIPPON TIMES SEP 22 1947

DIET TODAY

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Plenary session at 1 p.m. to hear "free discussion" on promotion of medium and small commercial and industrial enterprises. Committee meetings on judiciary, culture, mining industry, commerce, labor and public finance at 10 a.m. and on electricity at 11 a.m.

HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS: No plenry session. Committee hearings on mining industry, public finances, transportation, communications and repatriation at 10 a.m. and culture and account settlement at 1 p.m.

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NIPPON TIMES

DIET'S WORK HAILED BY SCAP SPOKESMAN

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Standing Committees Doing More Today Than Under Meiji Constitution

Standing commitees of both Houses of the Diet, of which there are 42, are doing more to assure the ultimate supremacy of the legislative branch of Government than was accomplished in 56 years under the Meiji Constitution, a SCAP Government Section representative asserted.

"They are making thorough investigations of many matters, both within and without the Diet," he said. "Witnesses are being subpoenaed, experts are being hired to provide information in special fields, and, what is more important, the committees are talking back and down to bureaucrats.

"The impotent special committees of the past, on the other hand, were afraid of their shadows, stood in awe of Government officials and received scant attention and little respect," the official added.

For the first time in Diet history, he said, sub-committees are making on-the-spot studies of national conditions, inspecting coal mines, rehabilitation centers, hydro-electric power sites, hoarded commodities, the police system, and the like. These sub-committees report to the whole committees, in the presence of appropriate state ministers, and suggest remedial action to be taken by the Government.

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NIPPON TIMES

DIET TODAY

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Today being the Shuki Koreisai (Equinoxical Festival), both Houses of the Diet will remain adjourned.

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NIPPON TIMES

DIET TODAY

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Plenary session at 1 p.m. to hear "free discussions" on plans to promote medium and small enterprises. Committee hearings at 10 a.m. on foreign affairs, culture and education, agriculture and forestry, transportation and traffic, commerce, publice finances and banking, and account settlement; and at 1 p.m. on judicial affairs.

HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS: No plenary session. Committee meetings at 10 a.m. on labor, welfare, public safety, agriculture and forestry (subcommittee) and Diet steering (subcommittee); at 1 p.m., on Diet steering, agriculture-Forestry and transportation-traffic; and at 1:30 p.m. on Diet steering (subcommittee on Political Party Bill) and account settlement and labor (joint meeting).

SEP 25 1947

NIPPON TIMES

Another Prolongation Of Diet Is Proposed

Prime Minister Seeks Understanding Of 2 Houses

TOKYO, Sept. 25.—Prime Minister Tetsu Katayama, speaking at both Houses today, hinted his intention of prolonging once again the current National Assembly session, seeking understanding of both Houses on conditions leading to the Government delay in the introduction of bills.

With some 57 weighty bills still awaiting deliberations, meanwhile, political observers are of the opinion that it will be quite impossible for the National Assembly to complete the deliberations by October 20 when the session is expected to end.

Stern objections are expected since this is the third time for the session to be prolonged.

Some political quarters, however, are of the opinion that the prolongation is inevitable in order to complete deliberations on such weighty bills as the Coal Mine State Control bill, the Economic Power Decentralization bill, and the bill for the Liquidation of the Home Ministey.

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The Diet's Inquiry Committee

Ever since July 25 the special committee of the Diet conducting an inquiry into the Seko Case has been in almost continuous session, calling witnesses to testify, sending out investigators for on-the-spot inquiries, and sorting out the mass of information at hand. Such activity is undoubtedly justified, for the Seko Case may well turn out to be the greatest of the post-war scandals to rock this country.

Allegedly billions of yen worth of hoarded goods formerly held by the Japanese military have been illegally disposed of, and sensational charges are being hurled and counter-hurled concerning the supposed complicity of some of the leading political figures of the nation. Much of the furor has undoubtedly been whipped up consciously for political purposes and needs to be discounted, but inasmuch as "where there is smoke there is fire," there must be some basis to the common belief that fabulous sums of money have illegally passed through the hands of certain highly placed individuals in connection with the mysterious disappearance of the hoarded goods.

The most serious of the accusations is that Government officials themselves have been strangely uncooperative in the investigation and have even gone so far as to interfere with the work of uncovering the hoarded goods. If this accusation is true, the fault must be completely exposed and rooted out. So great has been the public clamor that the Procurator's Office has been moved into investigating the allegations with the view of instituting criminal charges.

In some ways the investigations of the Diet committee seem to duplicate the investigations of the Procurator's Office and have tended to cause some confusion in the minds of the public. In the interest of a proper functioning of both these agencies, the relation between the Diet committee and the Procurator's Office needs to be made perfectly clear to the general public.

This power of the Diet to carry out investigations is a concept which is new to this country. It stems from Article 58 of the new Constitution which stipulates that "each House may conduct investigations in relation to national affairs, and may compel the presence and testimony of witnesses and the production of records." This may be interpreted to mean that the Diet may investigate almost any matter "in relation to national affairs."

The Constitution, however, has at the same time established the principle of the division of power among the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the Government. Thus it may seem that the Diet may not infringe upon the spheres determined for the Cabinet and the Supreme Court.

On the other hand, it is a recognized fact that the legislature has been made the most powerful of the three branches of Government, and Article 58 of the Constitution may be cited as one proof. The Diet may thus investigate the activities of the Cabinet and the Supreme Court. As a rule, however, this power should be used sparingly.

The Diet cannot thus over-rule the judiciary and seek to oppress the human rights of individuals. Likewise, the legislature cannot over-ride the police and other administrative organs without due cause. The power of the Diet to investigate may be said to be limited thus to inquiry of acts performed in the past and to check known misdeeds.

In such cases as the alleged Seko scandal, however, positive action by the Diet may be considered highly necessary, since charges have been hurled against the bureaucracy for being insincere, irresponsible, and unco-operative. Inquiry in such allegations can be best handled by the Diet members as the representatives of the people. It cannot be left to the bureaucracy to look into its own case. But inasmuch as the Procurator's Office is legally the body specifically responsible for prosecuting violations of the law, the final disposition of the case, of course, should be left up to this body, subject to a check by the Diet committee.

In the final analysis, it is to be hoped that the Diet will not disperse too much of its energy in investigatory activity at the expense of its main legislative duties. While inquiry is necessary at times, it behooves the Diet to look to more fundamental measures such as the conduct of thorough reforms on the basis of reports submitted by such bodies as the Procurator's Office. The National Diet must before all else carry out its duties as a legislative body.

SEP 7 1947

NIPPON TIMES

DIET TODAY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Plenary session at 1 p.m. to hear outlines of relief measures for flood-ravaged areas from Agriculture-Forestry and Home Ministers and vote for dispatch of a House inspection party. Committee hearings on foreign affairs, public peace, land planning, judiciary, welfare and transportation at 10 a.m., on flood damage at 1 p.m. and on accounts settlement and land planning at 2 p.m.

HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS: Plenary session at 10 a.m. to approve the Bill for Enforcement of the Imperial Household Economic Law and nominate dispatching of members to flood-ravaged regions. Committees to meet on electricity, culture, land planning and labor at 10 a.m. and on Diet steering at 1 p.m. The Agriculture-Forestry Committee to meet following adjournment of the plenary session.

SEP 1 7 1947

NIPPON TIMES

Diet Begins Work On Important Bills As Session Reopens

Coal State Control, Economic Dispersion, Budget On Agenda

TOKYO, Sept. 15.—After completing a 14-day recess, the National Assembly session was reopened this morning to begin full-fledged deliberation on the long-mooted Coal Mine State Control bill, Economic Power Decentralization bill, supplementary budget and other important bills.

On the reopening day, no plenary session was held for the House of Representatives. At 10 a.m., three different consultation meetings were convened on matters pertaining to peace preservation, local administration and operation of the National Assembly. In the afternoon, the labor committee meeting was held from 1 p.m.

The House of Councillors sat in the plenary session at 10.05 a.m. to carry out the fifth free discussion on the improvement of the administrative structure.

After conclusion of the free discussion, committee meetings on justice and overseas residents were held. At 2 p.m., the budget committee held a consultation meeting.

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DIET TODAY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:—No plenary session. Committees on justice, labor, communications, account settlement, and library operation will meet at 10 a.m. Aquatic products committee will open its session at 10:30 a.m., and hoarded goods committee and oversea residents repatriation special committee at 1 p.m.

HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS:—No plenary session. Oversea residents repatriation special committee will meet at 1 p.m.; educational and cultural committee at 1:30 a.m.; and political party law committee at 1 p.m.

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Numerous Knotty Problems In Store As Reopening Of Diet Approaches

By Staff Political Writer

TOKYO, Sept. 11.—With the reopening of the National Assembly scheduled for next Monday, September 15, the Government has begun moving in full gear to complete all preparations so that it can meet squarely an outright offensive by the Opposition.

The strongest opposition is believed to come from the Liberal Party against the Socialist-advocated state control of coal mines.

To forestall Opposition's attack, Suehiro Nishio, Chief Cabinet Secretary and one of the top Socialist leaders, already has evinced a stiff Government attitude, stating "the Cabinet's fate now is at stake on the state control of coal mines."

Decentralization Bill

Also controversial will be the economic power decentralization bill and supplementary budget estimates in the general account for the fiscal year 1947-48.

To put final touches on them, Finance Minister Takeo Kurusu and Dr. Hiro-o Wada, director-general of the Economic Stabilization Board, presently on speaking tours to local districts, will return to the capital within a couple of days.

The present indication is that "within a few days" drafts of the decentralization bill and supplementary budget estimates will be compiled.

Supplementary Budget

A draft of the supplementary budget will be laid before Cabinet Ministers at their meeting September 12, but it is feared that the total estimate originally fixed at less than ¥70-billion by the Finance Ministry will run to the appalling sum of ¥100-billion however hard the Finance Ministry authorities try to pare it down.

Two days ago, Commerce Minister Chozaburo Mizutani, now canvassing through coal mines in Kyushu, created a stir by stating he planned to nationalize the country's electric enterprises.

But, the Government, in view of the present situation, wants to refrain from tampering with such a risky scheme. It appears to have already made up its mind that the state control shall be limited to coal industry only.

The Government will not move merely on socialist doctrine. By slow but steady manner, the Katayama Cabinet is evidently intending to continue in office as long as possible.

Taking advantage of the case of the decentralization bill, the ESB headed by Dr. Wada has begun cooperating with the Political Affairs Inquiry Committee of the Socialist Party.

This means that all programs and drafts made by the policy-making ESB will be made public through the Socialist Party.

The reason for this sudden change of ESB's attitude is that the ESB which recently was termed "the

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Diet Reopening Nears

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third bureaucrats" by the Opposition and many other politicians is trying to parry the stormy attack from these quarters.

Nishio-Wada Tie-Up

But if this tendency goes on further, it is most likely to bring about a tight Nishio-Wada tie-up in the Cabinet, causing Rikizo Hirano, Agriculture Minister, to stand in a rival position against the two.

In addition, two serious splits are reportedly developing within the Cabinet, one between Foreign Minister Dr. Hitoshi Ashida and Finance Minister Kurusu regarding the decentralization bill, and another between Home Minister Kozaemon Kimura and State Minister Heima Hayashi in connection with the establishment of a Construction Board.

With these unsettled questions, the Government must face the stormy session of the National Assembly on and after September 15.

DIET TODAY

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—The holding of a plenary session undecided. Committees on labor, communications, account settlement, construction board and national examination law will meet at 10 a.m. Committees on justice, agriculture and forestry and aquatic products open session at 11 a.m. Committees on the political party law, and agriculture and forestry will meet at 1 p.m.

HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS—No plenary session. Committees on peace preservation and local administrative system, land planning and culture will meet at 10 a.m. Committee on mining industry opens its session at 11 a.m.

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NIPPON TIMES

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MAINICHI

National Assembly Reopening Today To Tackle Important Legislation; Katayama Is Confident Of Passage

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'Present Government Intends To Carry On Until Peace Parley'

TOKYO, Sept. 14.—The National Assembly session which has been in recess since the beginning of this month will be resumed Monday, September 15, to tackle the Coal Mines State Control bill, supplementary budget, Economic Power Decentralization bill, and other weighty measures.

No plenary session will be held for the House of Representatives, but the House of Councillors will sit in plenary session at 10 a.m.

TOKYO, Sept. 14.—Prime Minister Tetsu Katayama yesterday expressed his firm determination to lead his Cabinet on to the peace conference for Japan.

He also asserted that the Cabinet is fully confident on the passage of various important draft legislations during the current National Assembly session.

Speaking at a press interview held on the eve of the reopening of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister further stated the Government would exert further efforts to maintain the ¥1,800 basic wage level.

Against Reckless Merger

Commenting on the recent report that a movement is being launched for the creation of a big conservative party, Mr. Katayama said reckless merger and unification of political parties would poison the sound development of parliamentary politics.

The Prime Minister, refuting another report that career bureaucrats in the Economic Stabilization Board have dominant power in the policy-making of the Cabinet, declared that the Cabinet is the sole and highest executive organ of policy.

"The ESB director-general has absolutely no commanding power over other Cabinet Ministers." Mr. Katayama added.

Other important points of his interview follows:

1. The Government is confident that a sound financial policy can be successfully followed. Administrative adjustment will not be carried out.

2. The Government is not contemplating a general election in the near future.

3. Technique and experience in diplomacy will not be a vital factor in meeting the peace conference. The problem is whether the Government is really representing the general will of the people or not.

To Attain National Unity

4. The present Administration will further strengthen its unity to meet the conference. In selecting the nation's delegation to the conference, the Government will seek the cooperation of political parties now out of power in an effort to attain national unity.

5. The Government is not contemplating a reorganization of the Cabinet.

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National Assembly Enters 2-Week Recess

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TOKYO, Sept. 2.—The first session of the National Assembly, which was opened June 23, went into a two-week recess yesterday after three-month deliberations, but many important bills are still left undecided.

Among them are the controversial coal mine state control bill, supplementary budget estimates in the general accounts for the 1947-48 fiscal year, political party bill, unemployments insurance and unemployment allowance bills, and others.

They will be laid before the As-

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National Assembly

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sembly after it reopens September 15.

During the two-week recess, both Government and Opposition parties are scheduled to launch nationwide political campaigns to sound out the people's opinion and seek their support.

MAINICHI SEP 3 1947

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Traitors in the Diet

While there are plenty of encouraging evidences of the growth of democracy in most phases of Japanese life, it must be admitted that there are also a few discouraging evidences to the contrary. One example of the latter was provided in the Diet last Saturday when members of the House of Representatives, in debating on the extension of the Diet session, resorted to heckling, to booing and shouting, and finally to physical grappling. It is sad indeed that the elected representatives of the people in the highest deliberative body of the land should resort to such disgracefully tumultous conduct.

It is not only that such disorderly conduct is unseemly. It is frightening because it reveals that some of the legislators have no real understanding of the basic principles of democratic government. Democracy requires that the will of the majority should prevail. But it also requires that the rights of the minority should be respected. It requires that the views of all should be accorded a courteous hearing and the decision between the majority and minority determined by a fair and orderly vote.

But apparently in the House of Representatives there were members who were not willing to accord a fair hearing to their opponents, but sought to shut them off by a barrage of noise and finally main force. Apparently, instead of leaving matters to a fair vote, there were some members who tried to force their views through by physical coercion. This is not democracy; this is political gangsterism.

The rule of force is the exact opposite of democracy. Whether the force is simply rowdy and unorganized, as in the House of Representatives last Saturday, or highly organized and systematized, as under the old fascistic-militaristic regime, it is, in principle the same and is equally incompatible with democracy. Through her bitter experiences of the recent past, Japan should have learned by now what tragedy the rule of force eventually leads to.

Members of the Diet who have not yet learned this lesson are traitors to the cause of democracy to which the nation has now committed itself. Such traitors have no right to be in public office. The people will not be doing justice to themselves unless they turn these traitors out of office at the next election.

SEP 3 1947

NIPPON TIMES

Nishio Trip Postponed

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TOKYO, Sept. 5.—Suehiro Nishio, Chief Cabinet Secretary, was absent today from the regular Cabinet meeting due to a cold. He postponed his Kansai trip scheduled for September 6.

MAINICHI SEP 6 1947

EDITORIAL

Reopening Of Diet And Katayama Government

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The Diet has resumed its session after a two-week recess. It has been sailing smoothly until now because most of the important bills were yet unintroduced or still in the committee stage. They will soon come up for active deliberation. Stormy Diet days lie ahead.

Prior to the resumption of the session, Prime Minister Katayama has expressed his determination to steer the Cabinet successfully through the Diet session. It is quite natural for him as Prime Minister to say so.

But, apart from his determination, how about the objective situation which the Prime Minister is confronting?

Furthermore, the Prime Minister has declared that the Cabinet will deal with the peace conference also. Whether such an expectation will be supported or not depends on what policies the Cabinet will work out in the future. In short, the crux of the situation is whether or not the continued existence of the Katayama Cabinet is still desired.

The first difficult issue for the Diet is the Coal Mines State Control bill. It is true that some sort of a compromise has been effected among the three Government parties, but they have in no way reached a final understanding.

The kernel of the solution to the question is very simple, namely, how can Japan produce 30-million tons of coal annually?

If the Socialist Party is adhering to the state control plan for the reason that the policy of state operation and control of key industries is the party banner and is not necessarily confident of a production boost, we are definitely opposed to it.

The point is to discover the most feasible measure for increased coal output. As long as both the Socialist and the Democratic parties firmly grasp this objective, we believe that they should be able to find a compromise. The Prime Minister should direct his attention toward this angle of the question.

The bill for the decentralization of economic power is another problem before the Diet. Decentralization of economic power is indispensable for the democratization of Japan, but the dissolution and reorganization of big industries are inevitably accompanied by decline in productive capacity.

Consequently, it is incumbent on the Government to find the best accord which will minimize the decline of production and labor unrest while realizing the fundamental spirit of decentralization.

Another important question is the huge total of the additional budget. Failure or success of Japanese economic rehabilitation is dependent upon this budget. It is also closely linked with the question of the ¥1,800 basic wage.

Just as pointed out in the Government's emergency economic program, there is only one way to boost the income of the worker, that is, through the elimination of the black-market, the maintenance of the official price level, and increase of rations.

What we regret is that the Government's execution is still very low in tone, though the basic principles are valid. Judging from the results of the four-month administration, the Governmetnt should carry out more boldly what the Prime Minister calls the "too honest policy."

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Diet Plans Weeding Of Minor Parties

Two Per Cent Minimum Of Total Vote Required To Enter Ballots

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By RUSSELL BRINES
Chief of Tokyo AP Bureau

Japan's 1,500 political parties are going to get a shakedown and bolting politicians will be put in harness if the legislation now being prepared finally passes the Diet.

Minimum standards of popularity will be established which all minor organizations including the Communists must meet in order to continue as functioning parties with slates of candidates. Under present tentative provisions Communists have room to spare but a loss of 400,000 votes in any election would threaten temporarily to put them out of race for offices.

A special Diet committee is scheduled for final meeting tomorrow to complete working draft of the political party bill. It may be presented to the Diet next month if SCAP authorities approve.

The measure which has been under consideration several months would mark the first effort to curb confusing and frequently corrupt practices of fly-by-night parties. Many are merely two-men organizations, others are organized primarily for shakedowns or bargaining.

Details are uncompleted but the legislators are considering a provision that organization must poll two per cent of the total vote in the House of Representatives election to win recognition as a party. Otherwise it would not be permitted to enter canditates in the campaign but could continue to lobby, formulate a program or criticize the government.

The Communists polled slightly over one milion votes or 3.7 per cent of the total in the last House of Representatives race.

Any organization failing to win requisite electoral support could be reinstated as a party by collecting a specified number of names on petition.

The measure also will contain restrictions against a current practice by which politicians elected to office on one party ticket bolt to a stronger organization after the election.

Japanese officials said the bill would restrict campaigning to "serious" candidates, minimize political corruption and clarify issuess for a confused public. In the last election 116 "parties" entered candidates.

Many minor parties are opposing the bill but the Communists reportedly will accept it on the present basis.

STARS & STRIPES SEP 24 1947

DIET TODAY

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:—No plenary session. Committee hearings on land planning, judicial affairs, culture and transportation at 10 a.m. and mining industry at 1 p.m.

HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS:—No plenary session. Committee meetings on judicial affairs at 10 a.m., marine products, culture, land planning and account settlement and labor (joint meeting) at 1 p.m., commerce and education at 1:30 p.m. and budget at 2 p.m.

NIPPON TIMES SEP 26 1947

May Extend Diet Session Again; New Party Rumors Still Persist

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As a third extension of the current Diet session seemed inevitable in view of the mountain of work still remaining on the legislative agenda, rumors of the formation of a new political party are again gaining ground.

With less than a month left of the present session, the Diet still has 57 bills on hand while highly controversial measures including the coal mine state control bill, the economic decentralization bill, and the supplementary budget bill have yet to be introduced to the Diet.

Observers believe that the Diet will not be able to complete deliberations on all outstanding bills before the Diet adjournment scheduled for October 20.

Meanwhile, new party talks which have been in the political background for the past several months are again coming to the fore. The rumors of the amalgamation of Liberal and Democratic party members into a conservative party have been put forth in connection with the coal mine state control plan and with the coming peace conference.

A group within the Democratic

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Diet Session May Be Extended Again

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Party, disgruntled over the state control bill, has been flirting with the idea of bolting their party, although political circles do not believe they will take such a drastic step when actually faced with the choice of quitting their party or approving the coal plan.

The Liberal Party has spoken out bluntly of its hopes of heading the Government when the peace treaty is signed. Several meetings have reportedly been held among veteran diplomats in the Liberal and Democratic parties and in the Upper House for the purpose of discussing international problems.

Significance is thus being attached to the meeting of some 50 members of the Democratic members headed by ex-Prime Minister Kijuro Shidehara and Vice-Speaker Manitsu Tanaka of the Lower House in Nakano Ward this evening. Observers believe the question of establishing a conservative party with the Liberals will be discussed.

Upper House President Tsuneo Matsudaira, who was once prominently named as a possible head of the Liberal Party, and Councillor Naotake Sato will also attend the Democratic meeting.

NIPPON TIMES SEP 25 1947

DIET TODAY

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Plenary session from 1 p.m. to hear the report of chairman of petition committee; expected to adopt Disaster Relief Bill. Committee meetings will be held on justice, public finance and money, Political Party Bill, settlement of accounts, agriculture and forestry and mining and manufacturing from 10 a.m. and electricty from 11 a.m.

HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS—No plenary session. Committee meetings on labor, public finance, commerce, agriculture and forestry, Political Party Bill, settlement of accounts, justice, local public safety system, welfare, and transportation from 10 a.m. and agriculture, forestry, commerce and public finance jointly from 1 p.m.

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Diet Resumes Labors Tomorrow --Stormy Session Is Seen Likely

Liberal Party Expected to Make Determined Bid to Oust Katayama Government

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The National Diet which resumes its session tomorrow after a two-week recess will be faced with a mass of controversial bills and a determined Liberal Party bid to oust the Katayama Cabinet.

Forty bills are still pending and more than 30 bills are expected to be introduced in the 35 days which remain. Diet circles have revealed that a further extension of the legislative session beyond October 20 is out of the question.

The Katayama Cabinet will find the going rough during the forthcoming session, since strong opposition from non-Government parties is expected over the economic decentralization bill, the coal mine state control bill, the supplementary budget bill, and other disputed measures.

The Liberal Opposition earlier announced its open hostility to the Government. And President Shigeru Yoshida's speech at Asahikawa, Hokkaido, where he said that Japan should be represented at the peace conference by a "strong, single Cabinet" and not by a "weak, coalition Cabinet" presaged determined efforts by his party to wrest the Government from Socialist leadership.

Mr. Yoshida also attacked the Cabinet by describing it as "a mixed family of dogs and monkeys." To the Japanese, this means the height of internal dissension.

During the two-week Diet recess, Cabinet Ministers toured the nation on speaking jaunts in an effort to rally regional support for the Government in the expected struggle over key bills.

The keys to fate of the Katayama Cabinet in the coming month will rest on the economic decentralization plan and the coal mine state control bill. The Cabinet on Friday decided to present the decentralization measure to the Diet, despite strong industrial opposition.

The coal mine control program is still being opposed in some Democratic Party circles and Chief Cabinet Secretary Suehiro Nishio declared earlier last week that the plan has become a "life or death problem" for the Katayama Cabinet. Mine operators are lobbying strongly against the state control formula.

NIPPON TIMES SEP 14 1947

DIET TODAY

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:—No plenary session. Consultation meeting on peace preservation and local administration, and Diet operation law bill will be held at 10 a.m. Labor committee meets at 1 p.m.

HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS:—Plenary session will be opened at 10 a.m. Free discussion on the improvement of administrative structure is scheduled during the day. Committees on justice, and overseas residents will meet after the conclusion of the plenary session. Chairman and directors of the budget committee will hold a consultation meeting at 2 p.m.

SEP 15 1947

NIPPON TIMES

DIET TODAY

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: No plenary session. Committee hearings on hoarded goods scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. and on labor at 1 p.m.

HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS: No plenary session. Committee sessions on agriculture-forestry, Imperial Household Economic Law, labor and land planning at 10 a.m. and on education at 1 p.m.

SEP 17 1947

NIPPON TIMES

DRAFT OF KEY BILLS STILL UNCOMPLETED AS DIET RECONVENES

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Little Activity Marks Reopening of Sessions—Stormy Meeting Expected

The National Diet resumed its sessions yesterday after a two-week recess but with little activity since the Cabinet has not as yet completed the final draft of key bills which are expected to become the focal points of stormy legislative meetings.

While committee meetings were held in the Lower House, the Upper House went into plenary session at 10:37 a.m. and mooted the reorganization of the administrative structure in its fifth "free discussions."

Less than 100 Councillors were present in the Diet building.

Communist Katsuji Itano, Okayama, and Socialist Makoto Hori, nationwide district, agreed in urging the establishment of a Supreme Economic Council to replace the Economic Stabilization Board and to map out a long-range economic plan for national reconstruction as well as coordinating all economic activities.

Mr. Hori furthermore advocated the separation of present state offices into the political and administrative spheres.

Liberal Kohei Nakagawa, Ishikawa, criticized the creation of numerous local agencies of the central government which conflict with the activities of the provincial administrations. He urged the complete reorganization of local agencies. All bureaucrats thrown out of jobs should be mobilized into food production, he said.

Democrat Mitsuji Nakai, Osaka, also agreed that the number of local agencies was far too large and suggested their rationalization.

Observers predict heated debates on the floors of the Diet toward the end of the month when controversial bills, such as the coal mine state control bill, economic power decentralization bill, civil service bill, and supplementary budget bill, are submitted to the Diet.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet had troubles of its own over the final draft of the coal mine state control bill among other bills. Democrats are working for a further revision of the measure. Socialists, on the other hand, are dissatisfied with the lukewarm nature of the Government draft.

Prime Minister Tetsu Katayama, Foreign Minister Hitoshi Ashida, and Chief Cabinet Secretary Suehiro Nishio are endeavoring to effect a compromise. Observers believe that this measure is a "life or death" matter to the Katayama Cabinet.

The original plan to discuss the coal mine bill at today's Cabinet meeting is most likely to be revised and postponed to a later date.

No decision on the supplementary budget bill is expected by the Cabinet today. It is believed that the Cabinet is considering a plan of explaining the nature of the budget measure to the Diet and requesting Diet deliberation before submitting the bill formally.

NIPPON TIMES

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ITEM 8 Upper, Lower, Diet Houses Enter Competitive Politics - Nihon Keizai - 25 Sep 47. Translator: S. Ono (AH)

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Summary:

With the reopening of the Diet session, public attention has been centered on the activities of the House of Councillors, which is becoming more and more critical of decisions of the government and the House of Representatives.

The Upper House consists of 91 Green Wind Society members, 48 Socialists, 44 Democrats, 42 Liberals, 14 members of the Independent Club, four Communists, and one non-partisan, and has a varied political composition. Yet, as Upper House revisions of the Labor Ministry and State Indemnities Bills revealed, it seems to be determined to act as a super-party organ maintaining a critical attitude towards the government and the House of Representatives.

The attitude of the House of Representatives which tends to disregard the existence of the House of Councillors, and the fact that the latter cannot be dissolved like the Lower House by the government, have tended to strengthen this determination of the House.

The Green Wind Society represents the super-party nature of the House. Under the leadership of SATO, Naotake, SHIMOJO, Yasumaro, TAKAHASHI, Ryutaro, NODA, Shunsaku, HIGASHIURA, Shoji, and YAMAMOTO, Yuzo, it includes the representatives of various circles including former members of the defunct House of Peers, career officials, businessmen, scholars and men of letters. Due to the principle of the Society to permit complete freedom of action to its members, its members are allowed to decide their position on various problems from an impartial viewpoint. However, with a plurality in the House, the Society is gradually taking on the nature of a party and it is beginning to assume the role of the defunct Kenkyu-kai of the former House of Peers. It has come to the point where the government can no longer disregard it.

Watchful Eyes On House Actions

The Independent Club, the Socialists, who are led by MATSUMOTO, Jiichiro, YOSHIKAWA, Suejiro and OKADA, Soji, and the Democrats, led by SAKURAUCHI, Tatsuo and KIUCHI, Shiro, are not altogether pro-government, to say nothing of the Liberals who are controlled by ITAYA, Junsuke. Regardless of their party affiliation, all the members of the House are determined to keep a watchful eye over the action of the government and, especially, the House of Representatives.

Examples of the antagonism of the Upper House against the one-sided decision of the House of Representatives are not rare. When the government nominated KAWAKAMI, Kaichi, member of the Green Wind Society, an ex-officio member of the Administration Investigation Section, the House unanimously rejected the nomination on the ground that the principle of the distinction

ITEM 8 (Continued)

between the legislative, executive, and the judicial branches should be maintained. Later it rejected the provision approved by the House of Representatives in the Labor Ministry Bill which gave authority to the government to establish subordinate offices in the Labor Ministry by decree and successfully amended it so that such offices could be created only by legislative action. Furthermore, the Green Wind Society and the Independent Club showed an example of non-partisan cooperation when they jointly maintained that the members of the Upper House should be freed from the regulations of the political party law, which will soon be presented to the Diet.

The Feud Between The Houses

To fight the House of Representatives, the House of Councillors has excellent theorists such as HIGASHIURA, Shoji, SASA, Hiroo, FUJII, Heigo, ONO, Tetsu, HOASHI, Kei, members of the Ryokufu-kai, OKADA, Soji, KIMURA, Kihachiro, HORI, Makoto, HATANO, Kanae, Socialists, KINOSHITA, Morio, Liberal, SASAKI, Ryosaku, Independent, and HOSOKAWA, Karoku, Communist. Then there are also veteran politicians with long years of experience such as MATSUDAIRA, President of the House, and others who will strengthen the stand of the House in politics.

Regarding the bill for the state supervision of coal mines, the attitude of the House, except for a part of the Green Wind Society and most of the Socialists, is against it. With the Democrats opposed to the bill, there is danger that even the Socialists will disapprove it, if the House of Representatives should make one-sided decisions as was the case in the Labor Ministry Bill. The members of the Upper House seem to hold the view that the fate of the Anti-Economic Concentration Bill, Public Corporations Legislation, Political Party Bill, and the supplementary budget depends upon its attitude. At any rate, without further prolongation of the Diet session, the deliberations on these bills will not be completed.

Green Wind Society Wields Influence

As for the movement to create a new party, the House of Councillors is considerably behind the Lower House. The participation of the powerful Green Wind Society is a pre-requisite towards the formation of a new party. And without the formation of a new party which combines the liberals and the Democrats, the dissolution and the consequent participation of the Society is highly improbable.

As a result of the provisional exclusion of the House of Councillors from the regulations of the Political Party Bill, it can even be regarded that it will attain a position as an overseer of the government and the House of Representatives.

Further its super-party nature will be enhanced. As a result the moves of the Upper House cannot be regarded lightly.

ITEM 4 Huge Assortment of Bills Slated for Diet Consideration - Jimmin - 23 Sep 47.
Translator: F. Mitsuhashi. (AH)

403

Full Translation:

It was expected the Provisional Coal Industry State Control Bill and other important bills would be presented at the beginning of the reconvened National Assembly, but, since the Government's program did not make smooth progress, only the Coal State Control Bill was formally approved at the Cabinet meeting after the Assembly reopened, and the presentation of important bills was postponed to the second week and later.

The Coal State Control Bill, on which the fate of the Katayama Cabinet depends, was sent from the Cabinet to authorities concerned, after being revised on two points, according to the assertion of the Democratic Party at a provisional Cabinet meeting on 18 September. As soon as the adjustment of these authorites was finished, the bill went to press. It is expected that this bill will be presented to the National Assembly at the end of this week, at the latest.

The Anti Economic Concentration Bill, on which heated discussions had been held as to whether it should be made a law or a Government's ordinance, was finally made a law at a Cabinet meeting on the 12th. Since then, the ESB made strenuous efforts to examine its contents and finished drawing up a draft. This draft was adopted as a bill at a Cabinet meeting on the 20th. It is expected that this bill, after being adjusted by the authorites concerned, will considered at a Cabinet meeting on the 26th.

The officials, concerned with the supplementary budget bill, are still examining the estimates, but, since they are to finish the compilation of the entire budget estimates by the end of this week, the bill will be decided at the Cabinet meeting early next week. The government, hoping that, if possible, it present the bill to the National Assembly at the end of this month, is urging Finance Ministry authorities to speed up negotiations with other ministries.

Other Important Bills Listed

Besides the above-mentioned important bills, the Political Party Bill, the Farmers Mutual Insurance Bill, the Local Self-Government Law Revision Bill, the bill for the revision of the civil and the criminal procedure laws, the Non-War Victim Special Tax Bill and other bills relative to tax laws, and the six bills for revision of the Mail Law, the postal annuity, the post office insurance and other laws pertinent to the Communication Ministry are scheduled to be presented to the current National Assembly. It is expected that these bills, after undergoing necessary procedure, reach the assembly by the end of this month.

Although the first week of the reconvened assembly has passed without any effective work, in the second and the third weeks, the provisional Coal Industry State Control Bill and the Anti Economic Concentration Bill will be presented, and all the bills, scheduled to be presented to the current National Assembly, will be presented by the end of this month, except for the supplementary budget bill.

Only One Month To Go

Now, only one month remains before the current National Assembly closes on 20 October, and it is observed that deliberations on important bills will be exercised in about three weeks, because of the delay in their presentation.

Although the government says that it does not consider the further extension of the Assembly session, it may be inevitable the session be prolonged at least by a week or 10 days.

Since the convocation of the National Assembly, the Government has presented 68 bills by 20 September. Of them, the Labor Ministry Bill and 20 others have been approved by both Houses and the National Civil Service Bill and 46 others are now under deliberation in both Houses.

ITEM 11 Premier Feels Further Extension of Diet Session Unnecessary - Seiji - 26 Sep 47. Translator: A. Kawamura. (DD)

903

Full Translation:

In view of the reigning state of affairs wherein still another extension of the current Diet session may be demanded due to the delay in the presentation of such key bills as the Supplementary Budget Bill, the Coal Mine State Control Bill, the Anti-Economic Concentration Bill, the Agricultural Production Adjustment Bill, and the National Civil Service Bill, the Upper House invited Premier KATAYAMA to its House Steering Committee meeting held on 25 September, and sought from him the Governments' view as to a third extension of the current Diet session.

The Premier said: "I do not know what excuse to offer, but I do regret that the presentation of bills has been thus unexpectedly delayed. As for the Coal Mine State Control Bill, after considerable discussion of the matter, we decided to submit it sometime on the 25th. The Anti-Economic Concentration Bill and the Enterprise Reconstruction and Readjustment Bill, I feel, will be ready for presentation to the National Assembly sometime next week. The budget bill, also, should be ready for presentation sometime next week or the week after.

Consequently, it is necessary that considerable speed and deligence be applied when these bills come up for deliberation in the National Assembly. With the session already having been extended 50 days, I believe that, unless some unforeseen problems arise, the time remaining is sufficient to complete the job.

"The Government is of course, responsible for the delay in the presentation of the bills, but I hope you will take the various circumstances into consideration."

ITEM 6 Is the Diet's Attitude Justifiable? - Shin Hochi - 25 Sep 47. Translator: H. Arai. (UG)

403

Full Translation:

In order to cope with the flood disasters in the Kanto and Tohoku Districts, the Government and local governments are co-ordinating their flood relief projects. However, we must pay attention to the fact that protests have been raised againt the Diet for taking an indifferent attitude toward the matter.

The Government administers the affairs of state in accordance with the principle of mutual independence of the legislative, the executive and judicial branches.

The Diet in which the people's will is reflected should not confine its activities to mere law-making. It should urge the Government to execute countermeasures thoroughly in such an emergency as the present. Nevertheless, against the people's expectation, the Diet seems to have no intention of taking such a course.

First, no practical measures have been formulated though the Special Flood Policy Committee has already been established in the Diet. It is desirable to put the collection of relief funds for the flood sufferers under systematic control. Diet members should have the courage to raise relief funds in the streets instead of leaving the matter to local governments and charities.

We realize they are now busy compiling a supplementary budget for the rehabilitation of the affected districts; however, this matter alone should not occupy all of their time. They should make positive efforts to administer the collection of relief funds.

The Diet has dispatched inspection parties to the damaged areas. Accordingly, local governments are busy with the reception of these parties rather than the execution of emergency measures. Indeed, an inspection is good, but the Government should preferably encourage the Government to carry out measures in good time.

This can also be applied to the activity of the Diet itself. At this time when only 26 days remain before the closing of the present session, the Diet Steering Committee has become conscious of this defect and is trying to correct it. This is insincerity and inefficiency on the part of the Diet which took a two weeks recess. Public opinion calls for more flexible functioning. The people must closely observe the future actions of the Diet.

ITEM 2 The Grave Political Situation - Provincial Paper: Kobe Shimbun (Kobe) - 20 Sep 47. Translator: T. Unayama. (GBS)

403

Summary:

The resumption of the Diet session was made an occasion to air views on the current political situation. The views all expressed the belief that the Katayama Cabinet will face a crisis in November, the underlying cause being the average wage level of 1,800 yen which threatens the workers' livelihood, and, thereby will bring about the labor offensive. Will peace prevail over the political situation until November?

According to our view, the present cabinet is now approaching a serious crisis. However, this crisis will not be caused by the labor offensive as is generally believed. In these days when the people's livelihood has been straitened to the utmost, the Katayama Cabinet is bravely playing a role to eliminate all obstructions to minimum production. However, aside from the present cabinet which mainly consists of Socialists, what kind of cabinet will be close to the people and be competent enough to retain international confidence? From this point of view, it is presumable that the people's good judgment will not desert the present Cabinet, for effective medicine often tastes bitter.

The fate of the Cabinet will be sealed by another matter --the political situation centering around the Coal Mines State Control Bill. The public thinks this a simple problem, but there are only two directions that the Cabinet can take: One leads to the suicide of the Socialist Party, and the other is a shameful compromise.

As we have frequently stated, the Coal Mines State Control Bill contains nothing socialistic to bring about an increase in production. At the same time, for a yearly output of 30,000,000 tons, such an ostentatiously styled measure as "State Control" is unnecessary. Nevertheless, the Socialists have brought the Coal Mines State Control Bill to the fore, and are in the predicament of having to make heavy concessions to the Democrats. Furthermore, it is expected that the bill will be bitterly attacked by the Liberal Party, and even the Democratic Party will join the Liberals in this respect at the resumed session of the Diet. Thus the Socialist Party will be the target of severe criticisms with its odd socialistic policy. Therefore, we doubt whether the Socialist Party can maintain the confidence of the people under such circumstances.

Accordingly, there is a very fair possibility of the emergence of a new conservative party. On the other hand, the ominous moves of great political figures such as YOSHIDA, SHIDEHARA, MATSUDAIRA and SATO making preparations for the coming peace conference for JAPAN, loom on the scene, and the Liberal Party, as the genuine Opposition, has begun to show its offensive attitude clearly. The Liberal Party boldly asserts the rationalization of enterprises and the curtailment of surplus labor, in defiance of the people's ill-feeling. Compared with the hesitant attitude of the Socialists, this is worthy of praise. The Socialist Party must face the public verdict and, in this sense, it can be said that instead of the November crisis, the Socialists are now confronting a political crisis.

ITEM 4 Councillors Review Case of House Members' Unpaid Bill - Yomiuri - 26 Sep 47. Translator: Y. Sato. (AH)

403

Full Translation:

The House of Councillors RYOKUFUKAI attached importance to the case involving Mr OYAMA and other members of the House of Councillors who allegedly did not pay their hotel bills and demanded spirits while staying in Ibaragi Prefecture.

The Society held its secretaries meeting on the 25th. They took a serious view of the attitude assumed by the Ibaragi Prefectural Assembly which rejected men who had been sent out with the approval of the House of Councillors and ignored its authority.

On the other hand, Councillor OYAMA and other members of the party will make statements soon.

403

DIET TODAY

403

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: No plenary session. Committees on foreign affairs, judicial affairs, welfare, agriculture and forestry, public order, and local administration, and the Steering Committee will meet at 10 a.m. Committees on transportation and labor, and the joint committee of inquiry into settlements of accounts will meet at 1 p.m.

HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS: Plenary session at 10 a.m. The chairman of the committee dealing with the matter of resolutions of the Diet under Paragraph Three, Article 39 of the Diet Law is expected to make his report.

The Steering Committee will meet when the plenary session is over.

NIPPON TIMES JUL 28 1947

403

403 Both houses of Diet in brief plenary sessions 3 June elected chairmen and members of standing committees and immediately recessed until 23 June when Emperor will conduct formal opening ceremony. House of Representatives elected nine Social Democrats, nine Democrats and three People's Cooperatives to head standing committees. House of Councillors named seven members of Green Wind Society (Ryokufu-kai), four Social Democrats, four Liberals, four Democrats and two independents. 4 JUN 1947

403 Cabinet decided 17 June to request National Diet to extend present recess until 1 July to allow government more time to prepare its bills for presentation to legislature. Diet reopening originally set for 23 June. 18 JUN 1947

403 Komakichi Matsuoka, Speaker House of Representatives, and Tsuneo Matsudaira, president House of Councillors, issued joint statement 17 June denying the right of the Cabinet to decide whether or not Diet session should be extended; further, that recent press accounts reporting Cabinet had decided on extension resulted from misunderstanding and that any such statement gave false impression of dignity and authority of Diet. Statement issued following Cabinet announcement that Government would extend session at least three weeks after 8 July, present scheduled closing date. 19 JUN 1947

403 Diet rejected Cabinet request to postpone opening of Diet until 1 July and will open on 23 June as previously scheduled. Chief Cabinet Secretary Sushiro Nishio announced that Government will have individual bills ready for submission to Diet immediately following convocation, but that bills will not be correlated. 20 JUN 1947

403 Diet, in recess since 24 May, will reopen 23 June. Opening ceremony which is sponsored by National Diet and not Imperial Court, will include invitation of Emperor to attend ceremony as "guest" with Speaker of House of Representatives, rather than Upper House President as host; no reply will be made to Emperor's message.

Komakichi Matsuoka, Speaker of House of Representatives, announced Diet will recess immediately following opening ceremony with session to be resumed on or about 1 July when Prime Minister Katayama will make scheduled address on administrative policy. Matsuoka said standing committees of both houses of Diet ready to begin deliberations at any time proposed legislation is submitted. 23 JUN 1947

Part II.

403 Each House of Diet will meet in plenary session 28 June to enact rules of procedure. 26 JUN 1947

Part II.

403 On 28 June House of Representatives and House of Councillors adopted house rules embodying following features:

Delegation of power to Speaker and President, making them responsible for protecting speaking rights of majority and minority members, and for efficient management of respective Houses;

Emphasis on standing committees which examine and report on all bills introduced, hold public hearings and investigate affairs of nation; and

Requirement that at least one plenary session every two weeks be set aside for free and informal discussion of subject of national importance, with Houses permitted to register opinions by record vote. 2 JUL 1947

403 Komakichi Matsuoka, Speaker, House of Representatives, in address to first session of National Diet stated in part:

24 JUN 1947

"The Constitution of Japan, founded upon rightcousness, humanity and the universal principles of mankind, is dedicated to the lofty ideal of building, by the will of the people and through respect for the fundamental rights of man, a truly democratic nation of peace and culture and, thereby, of contributing to the establishment of enduring world peace.

"The National Diet, under our constitution, is the supreme organ of State and the sole lawmaking body of the land. The mission of the Diet is thus greater and weightier than ever before. As such, the people should understand fully and respect the Diet. On the other hand, we members ourselves, deeply conscious that ours is a Diet of the people, should always strive to understand and reflect faithfully the trends of public thought...

"We, the members of both Houses, are resolved to do our best, acting in harmony with the people, to fulfill our mission and to attain our country's goal."

The Emperor included in his message:

"I am very much pleased to attend the opening ceremony of the First Session of the National Diet and to meet with you who represent the entire nation.

"As set forth plainly in the Constitution of Japan, the National Diet is the highest organ of State power and the sole lawmaking authority of the State. The future development of our nation depends, therefore, entirely upon the proper functioning of the Diet..." 24 JUN 1947

403 Subjects of interpellations in both Houses also included unemployment, black-marketeering, maritime transportation, finance, taxation, functions of the Foreign Office, food, education, women's political movements, establishment of Labor Council, and reparations. 4 JUL 1947

Part II.

403 Diet recessed on 12 July to resume session on 24 July. Three bills were enacted into law during this session: amendment of the Anti-Monopoly Law, Property Tax Proceeds Special Accounts Law and Government Mint Special Accounts Law. 14 JUL 1947

403 MINPO censured Diet for recessing for six weeks since its convocation on 20 May. 17 JUL 1947

Part II.

403 Diet reconvened 25 July. 25 JUL 1947

403 House of Councillors objected to House of Representatives' approval of Lower House Speaker Komakichi Matsuoka and Upper House member Kaichi Kawakami as advisors to Cabinet's Administrative Research Department on ground that Article 39 of National Diet Law forbids Diet members to participate in administration. 29 JUL 1947

403 House of Representatives on 2 August appointed ten members to inter-house Joint Legislative Committee, which will advise Diet and Government on introduction of new legislation, revision of laws and ordinances and regulations governing Diet. Lower House will be represented by ten members and House of Councillors by eight members. 4 AUG 1947

Part III

403 Cabinet on 26 August requested Diet to extend its present session from 31 August to 10 October. 27 AUG 1947

403 Diet voted to extend current session until 20 October. In Lower House, Liberal Party representatives opposed extension; members of government parties insisted on extension so Diet could complete deliberation on important legislation. 31 AUG 1947

403 Current Diet session recessed until 15 September. 3 SEP 1947

403 Diet resumed its deliberations 15 September following two-week recess. 15 SEP 1947

403. Liberal Matsusuke Kawamura was elected on 8 October to fill vacancy in House of Councillors in Iwate Prefecture. 13 OCT 1947

403 Chief Cabinet Secretary Nishio on 15 October sent to President Matsudaira of the Upper House and Speaker Matsuoka of the Lower House a Government request that Diet approve a one-month extension of current session. 16 OCT 1947

403 House of Representatives and House of Councillors, on 15 and 18 October respectively, voted to extend Diet session to 29 November. 20 OCT 1947

403.1 In House of Councillors Socialists and Democrats hold 89 seats while non-Government groups hold 161. Number of non-Government members of each House who will constitute official opposition not known. 3 JUN 1947

403.1 Two more Independent members of House of Councillors joined Ryokufu-kai (Green Wind Society) giving this group, chiefly composed of former House of Peers members, 95 seats and reducing Independent Club to 16. 6 JUN 1947

403.1 Parliamentary Councillors' posts abolished. 18 June 1947

403.1 Jungoro Nishikawa, Liberal, was elected to House of Councillors from Shiga on 11 August to succeed Seiroku Igai, a purgee and member of Ryokufu-kai. 14 AUG 1947

403.1 House of Councillors on 15 August unanimously approved rules as drafted by House of Councillors Management Committee for emergency sessions of House of Councillors. 17 AUG 1947

Part III.

403.1 Japanese press reports that two Democrats, Kikuji Okada in Tochigi Prefecture and Kiyoo Sakaino in Gumma Prefecture, were elected to House of Councillors in by-elections on 15 August. 18 AUG 1947

403.1 Mitsu Koro, Democrat, Tokushima Prefecture, Kiichiro Maezano, Democrat, and Gijin Okamoto, independent, Kagoshima Prefecture, were elected to House of Councillors in by-elections on 15 August. 19 AUG 1947

Part III.

403.1 MAINICHI commented on the Upper House winning success and public esteem and its steering committees' excellent management of free discussions 12 SEP 1947