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Special Report

1 March 1950

SUBJECT: Seikatsu Shido-in of Yamanashi Prefecture.

The Seikatsu Shido-in (Livelihood Guidance Instructor) system appears to be a special project of the Welfare Department of Yamanashi Prefecture. It became effective through a prefectural regulation in August 1948. At that time it was not considered a permanent system but it was felt to be necessary to have a full-time paid worker to assist and train the Minsei-iin and to act with official authority. The length of time the project should be in effect was not considered at that time, but at such time as the Minsei-iin's desired efficiency might be reached the Seikatsu Shido-in's functions might well cease. However, the appearance of Sha Hatsu #72 somewhat changed the attitude of the officials toward the Minsei-iin program and modifications of the Seikatsu Shido-in system are being considered in the minds of the officials.

One Seikatsu Shido-in has been assigned to each of the 8 Gun. All have been teachers (men) and are over 50 years of age. They are considered field workers and are not expected to do any clerical work. They are considered Grade 7 - Class 4 employees and receive base salaries of ¥6,000 per month plus allowances. The Prefecture receives no subsidy from the National Government for this project. It is claimed that the Seikatsu Shido-in handles about 10 recorded cases a month with about 20 out and out consultations which are not recorded. Once a month there is a conference of the Seikatsu Shido-in in the Prefectural Office at which time a general review and discussion of cases is held.

As no one could or would give a definite statement as to the specific activities of a Seikatsu Shido-in, a study was made of the log kept by Seikatsu Shido-in, Takita Takeshi of Kitakoma Gun. The following is a general outline of the record:

Case 1. Two children of a family of 8 (6 children and parents) had been kept out of school to black-market rice in order to raise household expense funds because the father had been confined to his bed with Tuberculosis since the summer of 1949. The record states that the Minsei-iin was unable to obtain the co-operation of the parents in regard to the children's schooling so took the matter up in conference with the Seikatsu Shido-in who "immediately settled the matter with authority".

Case 2. A younger married brother had been responsible for a family while his elder brother was at war. After demobilization the elder brother returned to his home at which time he was urged by other members of his family to marry a widow who had been befriended by the family. The elder brother was opposed to this arrangement. The Seikatsu Shido-in

was called in to settle the family discord. He and the M.I. contacted factories and employment agencies in an endeavor to put the elder brother on his own.

Several other cases involving employment for repatriates were recorded together with reports of meeting and conferences attended by the Seikatsu Shido-in. The following were selected as example:

"14 Jan. 1950 - Hinoshiro Children's Club, Hozekamire
Attendance: 65 children - 40 adults (There are 800 of these clubs in the prefecture.) The program consisted of talks on juvenile delinquency, crime prevention, good citizenship, self-government of the club and a recreational hour.

"17 Jan. 1950 - Seikatsu Shido-in monthly conference at Welfare Department of Prefecture.

Conference agenda:

1. Report on 1949-50 Community Chest collections.
2. Welfare Plans for Repats to return on next ship.
3. Introduction of Seikatsu Shido-in system at Aanto Welfare Conference in Kofu on 25th & 26th Jan.
4. Housing project (150 houses) for use of Repats.
5. P.A. to bereaved families that have not been given due consideration.
6. No necessity for replacement of M.I. (2400 now - approved number 2143).
7. The Welfare Chief delivered a message in which he praised the work of the Seikatsu Shido-in and advisedly suggested that they should be constantly searching for criticisms as there are many people who do not speak freely and openly.
8. Visit to the Kofu City Old Age Home. (The management was approved by the Seikatsu Shido-in but more bedding and better food was recommended.)

December records followed a pattern which was similar to the above in so far as conference reports were concerned. A special feature of this month was the investigation of workshops which were classified A, B and C. 24 workshops were classified into 9A, 7B and 8C. Livelihood consultations were only listed according to clients' names and addresses and case decisions were often "deferred to the next M.I. meeting".

November records showed in addition to the usual, the ten localities visited by the Seikatsu Shido-in. Conference classifications were as follows:

Child Welfare	2	Repatriates	1
Border-line Cases	2	Educational	2
Institutional	1	Social Work Problems	1
Children's Club	1		

In September, the Seiketsu Shido-in spent the entire month in contacting and checking 104 P.A. cases in 14 villages. This is believed to have been in connection with the general review of cases held at that time.

The record over a period of a year (Feb. 1949 to Jan. 1950) were practically the same throughout.

In summary, it would seem that the functions of the Seiketsu Shido-in are duplications of the responsibilities of the Minsei-in. The imposing of this system appears to be an open admission of the fact that the M.I. are either incapable of or unwilling to contribute their efforts to the type of case work generally considered to be a necessity in the operation of fair and adequate public assistance program.

E. K. CALLOW