

The recommendation was incorporated in a Liberal-sponsored resolution which was supported by the People's Democratic Party, but opposed by the Social Democrats and Communists. Liberal Kosaku Shimoda was elected chairman of the new committee at its initial meeting on 9 February. Shimoda had formerly held the same position on the Special Examination Committee. Political representation on the committee included 19 Liberals, 5 People's Democrats, 3 Social Democrats, 2 Communists and 1 Farmers' Cooperative.

The Administrative Inspection Committee on 19 February approved a resolution for commencing with an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of the eight Communist Central Committee members who went into hiding following their designation as purgees in June 1950. The Committee's approach to the investigation called for a preliminary study by a sub-committee followed by full-dress hearings of witnesses representing the nation's law enforcement agencies.

#### Government Criticized for Amendment Bill on Postal Insurance Funds

The Government on 25 February was subjected to sharp criticism by the House of Representatives' Postal Services Committee over a proposed bill concerning management of Postal Insurance and Annuity Reserve funds which was in violation of a Diet resolution passed in May 1949. The legislation in question was a Bill Concerning the Funds of the Funds Operation Division which had been prepared for introduction to the Diet by the Finance Ministry and which would authorize the Finance Ministry's Funds Operation Division to invest Postal Life Insurance premiums and Postal Annuity Reserves and deprive the Ministry of Postal Services of this right, as stipulated in Article 70 of the Post Office Life Insurance Law (Law No. 68 of 1949) and in Article 42 of the Post Office Annuities Law (Law No. 69 of 1949). However, a "Resolution Concerning the Use of Postal Insurance and Postal Annuity Reserves" adopted by both Houses of the Diet during the 5th Diet session stated



in part: "Investment of Reserve Funds of Postal Life Insurance and Postal Annuities has been carried on since the inception of the two enterprises by the Ministry of Communications, with utmost emphasis being placed on the principle of returning funds to the originating localities and of advancing the welfare of the interested masses in consonance with the intrinsic character of both enterprises. Due to the fact, however, that these reserve funds, together with Deposit Bureau funds, are presently invested by the Finance Ministry, smooth management of the enterprises is being obstructed and local entities are finding great difficulty in securing loans at low interest rates, which accounts for the mounting nationwide demand that investment of these reserve funds be resumed by the operating body of the two enterprises. Whereas, at the 2nd and 3rd Diet sessions the House adopted the petitions pleading for return of investment power over these reserves to the operating body and transmitted them to the Cabinet with the recommendation that the government act favorably thereon, and whereas, the House regrets that its advice was not taken, the government is now requested to take appropriate measures without delay to restore the investment formula of these reserves to its original shape."

Director Funayama of the Finance Ministry's Banking Bureau in defending the Ministry's action stated: "Acting upon the Resolution, we took the matter up with the Ministry of Postal Service, but in the meantime the Dodge Memorandum was issued. This Memorandum stresses the importance of using the utmost care in employing funds entrusted to the State, the underlying principle of the projected bill." However, Liberal Ishihara stated: "Since the Resolution of both Houses at the 5th session is to be regarded as the reflection of the will of the people, it is a very serious matter that a bill running counter to the will of the people, such as the Bill Concerning the Funds of the Funds Operation Division has been decided upon by the Government" Liberal Tokuya



Furuhata then proposed: "It is desired that Article 70 of the of the Postal Insurance Law and Article 42 of Postal Annuity Law remain in force. It is also desired that securities acquired, and loans made from Postal Insurance and Postal Reserves, be kept in the Special Accounts as in the past. It is also strongly desired that when the Bill in question comes before the Finance Committee, the Chairman of the Postal Services Committee advise the Chairman of the Finance Committee as to our absolute adherence to the foregoing two points, and that a joint meeting of the two Committees be convened to deliberate said Bill." The Committee then unanimously approved Furuhata's proposal whereupon Liberals Takahashi and Ishihara and People's Democrat Yoshida commented: "The Diet will never approve a bill which runs counter to its Resolution such as the Bill Concerning Funds of the Funds Operation Division."

Meanwhile, the House of Councillors' Postal Services Committee had decided to support its counterpart in the House of Representatives by also voicing its opposition to the projected Bill Concerning Funds of the Funds Operation Division. This action was taken despite Postal Services Minister Bunkichi Tamura's expression before the Committee on 24 February that although his Ministry was the proper agency to control these funds, "in light of present conditions, it is necessary to follow the recommendations of the Dodge Memorandum."

#### Second Criticism Levelled at Government for Disregard of Diet Resolution

The Government on 26 February for the second time within a week was subject to criticism for disregarding a Diet resolution when the House of Representatives' Construction Committee charged the Government with having failed to observe the Resolution for Expediting Fire-Proofing of Urban Buildings, a resolution which had been adopted on 30 April 1950 during the 7th Diet session.



The resolution had read in part: "Resolved that the Government should emphatically....enact....concrete measures for fire-proofing and execute them as early as possible, in keeping with provisions of the Building Standards Law...which calls for construction of modern fireproof cities...." Committee member People's Democrat Maeda stated: "Fires in large cities have increased considerably recently. Though not a law, the Diet Resolution should have been respected and complied with by the Government. House of Representatives members will draft a bill calling for construction of fire-proof buildings." Finance Ministry official Funayama, Director of the Ministry's Banking Bureau, replied on behalf of the Government: "In appreciation of your enthusiasm for such construction, the Government attempted but could not find the money in the fiscal year 1950. I presume funds for the purpose may be obtained from the Deposit Bureau funds in the fiscal year 1951."

House of Representatives Approves Resolution on Merchant Fleet

The House of Representatives in plenary session on 6 February approved the Resolution Concerning Urgent Replenishment of Ocean Navigation Vessels, a resolution which had been introduced to the House on 31 January with the support of all the nation's political parties except the Communists. (For the text of this resolution, see Review of Government and Politics in Japan for January 1951).



## POLITICAL PARTIES

### Liberal Party

The Liberal Party's Executive Board on 7 February reversed a decision of January by accepting an application for party membership submitted by Ken Inukai, Independent member of the House of Representatives, former leader of the defunct Democratic Party. The Liberal executive officers accepted Inukai after a switch had been made in his sponsors. The names of Deputy Prime Minister Joji Hayashi, Economic Stabilization Board Director Hideo Sudo and Jiro Hoshijima were substituted for those of Labor Minister Shigeru Hori, a former associate of Inukai in the Democratic Party, and Agriculture and Forestry Minister Kosen Hirokawa. This action served to alleviate the strong opposition which had been voiced to Inukai's membership by such party leaders as Speaker of the House of Representatives Kijuro Shidehara, Banboku Ono, Naomichi Inada and Isamu Murekami. It was reported, however, that Inukai was accepted into the party by the Executive Board on condition that his sponsors would be held responsible for his future political conduct.

The opposition voiced by Shidehara and Ono to the acceptance of Inukai represented a long-standing personal antagonism towards Inukai on the part of the two Liberal leaders. At the time of the controversy in 1949 over the proposed merger of the then Democratic Liberal Party with the faction of the Democratic Party under the leadership of Inukai, both Shidehara and Ono were bitterly critical of the projected action largely because of their deep-seated resentment of Inukai and the fear that he might assume a position of leadership in the Democratic Liberal Party. So bitter was this feeling that Ono on one occasion had gone to the extent of threatening that he would disrupt the entire Democratic Liberal Party should it conclude a merger agreement involving the acceptance of Inukai. Rather than see the progress which had been



achieved towards a merger go by the wayside, Inukai had on 9 February 1950 resigned his post of presidency in the Democratic Party and reverted to the status of an Independent. Immediately following this action, Shidehara and Ono conceded to the merger permitting twenty-seven coalition Democrats to join the Democratic Liberal Party and the ultimate designation of the party as the Liberal Party. Prime Minister and concurrently Democratic Liberal President Shigeru Yoshida hailed Inukai's "self-sacrificial" spirit by giving him full credit for making the merger a reality and stated that the amalgamation had meant an important achievement towards the stabilization of the nation's political establishment. Shigeru Hori, Inukai's colleague in the Democratic Party and later to become Minister of Labor in the Yoshida Cabinet, cited Inukai's decision as "extraordinary" and declared that he had permitted an important "milestone" to transpire with the merger of the two conservative parties. Subsequently, numerous attempts were made, chiefly by Prime Minister Yoshida, Hori and Kozen Hirokawa, to obtain Liberal membership for Inukai, but all proved fruitless until final acceptance was granted in February 1951.

The Liberal Party on 8 February named election campaign managers for the nation's nine regional areas. The step taken in obvious preparation for the local elections to be conducted in April resulted in the naming of election managers including Deputy Prime Minister Joji Hayashi for the Shikoku area, Banboku Ono for the Tokai area (including Shizuoka, Aichi, and Gifu Prefectures) and Jiro Hoshijima for Chugoku district.

The special party election campaign committee established by the Liberal Executive Board in January on 23 February announced the names of sixteen prefecture gubernatorial candidates the party would support in the April elections, and on 28 February named two additional gubernatorial and two mayoralty candidates. These candidates were:



| <u>Prefecture</u> | <u>Candidate</u>   |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Hokkaido          | Terizo Kurozawa    |
| Yamagata          | Michio Murayama    |
| Tochigi           | Jukichi Kodaira    |
| Tokyo             | Seiichi Yasui      |
| Kanagawa          | Iwataro Uchiyama   |
| Mie               | Wataru Aoki        |
| Shiga             | Ikakichi Hattori   |
| Osaka             | Eunzo Akama        |
| Hyogo             | Yukio Kishida      |
| Nara              | Mansaku Nomura     |
| Wakayama          | Shinji Ono         |
| Kumamoto          | Tsukasa Jezuka     |
| Miyazaki          | Fusami Yoshino     |
| Yamaguchi         | Tatsuo Tanaka      |
| Tottori           | Aiji Nishio        |
| Shimane           | Fujiro Hara        |
| Yamanashi         | Katsuyasu Yoshie   |
| Okayama           | Hirokichi Nishioka |
| <u>City</u>       | <u>Candidate</u>   |
| Osaka             | Koji Nakai         |
| Yokohama          | Ryozo Hiranuma     |

### People's Democratic Party

Chairman Gizo Tomabechi of the People's Democratic Supreme Committee on 27 February was reported to have dispatched a personal letter of goodwill to Prime Minister Nehru of India through Takizo Matsumoto, a People's Democratic executive officer, who was traveling to India to attend the Asian Olympic Games. Simultaneously, it was disclosed that a second party member, Hideji Kawasaki, a member of the House of Representatives, had sent Nehru a letter asking for Indian views concerning the questions of Japanese rearmament, the substitution of an overall peace settlement for Japan with a "multiple" treaty, the possibilities of Japan signing a peace treaty with India during 1951, and India's feelings regarding Japan's future role in Asia. It was understood that the People's Democrats were particularly anxious to obtain a detailed reply by Nehru as to why he had been voicing such consistent objections to any form of Japanese rearmament.



### Social Democratic Party

There were recurring reports during February that the dispute between right and left-wing Social Democrats over the party's three-point Japanese peace settlement program had not been settled during the party's national convention of January, but continued to be an issue which at some future date might again threaten party unity. Right-wingers were apparently prepared despite their defeat of January to continue their advocacy for amendment of the party's fundamental three points on peace--final settlement of the Japanese peace treaty question by all of the victorious Allied Powers, permanent Japanese neutrality and opposition to the leasing of military bases in Japan to any single foreign power or group of powers. Notable among the accounts on the Social Democratic dispute was a report of 27 February revealing that a group of right-wing Social Democrats had recently concluded a statement of opinion expressing their opposition to the three points. This right-wing group--those named included Komakichi Matsuka, Eiichi Nishimura, Kanae Hatano, Aiichi Kamiyo, Kanji Kawashima, Hidekichi Koizumi and Katsumasa Amada--reportedly held the conviction that Japan would be unable to continue with its hoped-for neutral role in the worldwide struggle between the democracies and communism, and that therefore Japan should side with the Western democracies. They also were reported of the viewpoint that Japan should side with those who had been advocating the stationing of military forces from a "designated nation" in Japan following a peace settlement in order to prevent Japan from becoming a military vacuum open to external aggression. Furthermore, they expressed a desire that the United Nations be approached for a guarantee to insure Japanese security. This group of right-wingers also asserted that although they were opposed to Japanese rearmament and were hopeful of an early return to friendly relations with the Soviet Union and Communist China, they were not in favor of having this inter-



puted that they were in any way tolerant of communist totalitarianism nor reluctant to cooperate with the world's democratic nations.

The Social Democratic Party's Control Committee on 6 February elected Koze Inomata, a member of the House of Representatives, as the committee's new chairman. This action, left over from the party's national convention of January, placed Inomata, regarded as a neutral, in the difficult position of attempting to iron out all controversies expected to arise among the committee's right and left-wing members.

The Social Democratic Party on 6 February submitted a note with the Government voicing bitter opposition to Government plans for lifting controls on all staple foods with the exception of rice. The Social Democratic note warned that the result of removed controls would be increased food prices and a rise in speculative buying. The note cautioned that a change in the already tense international situation would seriously effect the Japanese economy and might result in the nation being unable to depend on imported foodstuffs.

#### New Social Democratic Party Established

Some 500 delegates and well-wishers on 10 February attended the inauguration of a new Social Democratic Party (Shakai Minshu-To) headed by depurged Rikizo Hirano, a long-time leader in agrarian circles and a former Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. The new Social Democratic Party absorbed the entire membership of the Social Renovation Party and on 15 February registered its four members in the House of Representatives as Social Democrats. The inauguration of Hirano's Social Democratic Party saw the convention delegates electing party executive officers, including Hirano as party chairman and Haruki Satake as secretary-general. Satake, a member of the House of Representatives, had held a comparable post in the dissolved Social Renovation Party. The new party on



the day following its establishment issued a statement urging the Government to promote the conclusion of a peace treaty with a majority of the Allied nations. The statement gave passive approval for future Japanese rearmament, declaring that the party will, if not willingly, allow Japan to be rearmed for the sake of self-defense. The predominant opinion among members of the new party's Central Executive Committee which drafted the statement was that although an overall peace treaty would represent the ideal, such a treaty would be very difficult, if not impossible, to conclude and that, therefore, the party would be satisfied with an overall or majority settlement. For the sake of self-defense against foreign aggression, the Committee agreed, the nation should be permitted to rearm.

#### Farmers' Cooperative Party

The Farmers' Cooperative Party at its second national convention concluded on 6 February elected Representative Rokutaro Matsumoto from Hokkaido as the party's new chairman. The convention also resulted in the elections of Representatives Torata Nakamura and Tadashi Kodaira as secretary-general and treasurer, respectively. It was decided that no change would be made in the party title nor would the party participate in the new social democratic party being planned by Rikizo Hirano and followers of the Social Renovation Party.

#### Political Party Strengths

The nation's four ranking political parties in complying with Cabinet Order No. 64 (Organizations Control Order, promulgated on 4 April 1949) by registering with the Special Investigation Bureau of the Attorney General's Office reported a combined party membership totaling 261,885 as of 28 February. The complete breakdown of party organizations and registered members reported follows:



| <u>Party</u>              | <u>No. of Or-<br/>ganizations</u> | <u>Registered<br/>Members</u> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Social Democratic Party   | 1,729                             | 95,781                        |
| Liberal Party             | 975                               | 80,378                        |
| Communist Party           | 6,074                             | 63,378                        |
| People's Democratic Party | 343                               | 22,348                        |



## LABOR RELATIONS

### Tanro Coal Strike Successful

Throughout February virtually all national private industry unions were engaged in the formulation or presentation of demands in keeping with labor's intention of initiating an "offensive" during March. Only the National Federation of Coal Mine Workers Unions (Tanro) and the National Federation of Electric Industry Workers Unions (Densan), however, reverted to large scale strike activities in pressing their wage demands during the month. Of these strikes, the nationwide walkouts of the coal mining workers which, according to the Japan Coal Mining Association, resulted in a decrease in February's coal production by 800,000 tons, drew most attention.

Negotiations on various demands for wage increases by workers of Japan's coal industry, conducted since mid-January, ended in rupture early in February as management turned down demands of unionists averaging ¥500 for pit workers and ¥300 for surface workers plus allowances and production bonuses. With management's refusal to reconsider the miner's demands, Tanro headquarters prepared to issue strike directives to some 148,000 miners of Japan's "big four" collieries, the Mitsui, Mitsubishi, and Seika Mining Companies, and the Hokkaido Colliery and Steamship Company, producers of some 40% of the nation's coal.

The tense situation and the prospects of a dwindling coal stockpile resulted in SCAP's Labor Division Chief, Robert T. Amis, summoning Takeo Noto, Chairman of the National Coal Mine Workers Unions and six representatives of the joint struggle committee of the "big four" mines' unions on 6 February. At this meeting, Amis suggested that a request for mediation of the dispute be made to the Central Labor Relations Commission. The labor representatives, however, voiced their preference for continued direct negotiations with management and, at an executive committee session later the same day reaffirmed their stand. In view of the adamant opposition of the mine operators to the wage demands, the union's strike



slated for the following day was not likely to be averted in the opinion of most observers.

On 7 February the workers of the "big four" collieries walked out for an indefinite period as scheduled and independent unions throughout the country were seen preparing to climb aboard the Tanre bandwagon in an effort to realize similar wage demands. (As early as 5 February, 2,500 miners of the Meiji Mining Company in Hokkaido had gone on strike. This strike, of 3 days' duration, was resumed with the walkout of the "big four" miners.) Meanwhile, increasing signs that the strike would spread to all coal fields were seen as unions of 9 mining companies in Kyushu, after forming a joint struggle committee, held an emergency meeting to discuss the strike situation. In view of an earlier pledge to "big four" unionists by the committee that Kyushu unions would support the wage demands of their sister unions, a "sympathy" strike in Kyushu mines was shortly expected. On 8 February these expectations were fulfilled as the joint struggle committee representing some 48,000 Kyushu miners scheduled a walkout for 13 February.

Negotiations between "big four" operators and their workers continued, but by 9 February, as three of the four striking Tanre locals flatly rejected overtures of the managements, no sign of an end to the strike was in sight. The following day an additional four mines in Kyushu's Joban fields informed their operators of an intention to strike for an indefinite period from 13 February. This additional enlistment would bring to 63 the number of mines either engaged in, or planning to carry out, strikes.

On 12 February, Labor Division Chief Amis again urged an early settlement of the strike at a conference with union representatives, operators, and Government officials as increased enlistments in the coal strike were noted. As some 56,000 Kyushu miners walked out on their scheduled strike the following day, Labor Minister Shigeru Heri notified representatives of the four major collieries of the Government's intention to intervene through the Central Labor Relations Board in the dispute and urged these



those parties to accept a mediation plan to be offered by that body. Immediately following this announcement CLRB Chairman Nakayama discussed the strike situation with Amis and Labor Minister Hori after which it was announced that "positive action" would be taken by the Board if continued negotiations between labor and management ended abortively. (The most pertinent point of disagreement in the management-labor talks was reported to be union demands for wage hikes based on living costs as opposed to management's merit system of wage increases. In addition, a considerable gap existed between wage raises amenable to the management and the ¥560 to ¥640 for pit workers and ¥318 to ¥331 for surface workers demanded by unionists of the "big four" mines.)

Fully aware of the gravity of the situation, the Government stepped in again on 13 February to urge the disputing parties to settle their dispute speedily. This action was taken as Labor Minister Shigeru Hori and Minister of International Trade and Industry, Yokoo Shigami, invited management and labor representatives of the Mitsui, Mitsubishi, Seika and Hokkaido collieries to the Prime Minister's official residence to confer on strike settlement means. Indications were evident that should the disputing parties fail to heed advice toward settlement of the dispute, the Government would intervene in line with provisions of the Labor Relations Law. Mine operators immediately voiced objections to Government intervention on the grounds that such intervention would only delay a settlement which they felt was near. Though admitting that a wide gap existed between their latest mediation proposal and demands of the unionists, the operators were adamant in that no further concessions could be made and gave as their reasons: (1) existing income of coal miners was higher than that in other industries and (2) the companies were paying ¥2,000 to ¥3,000 a month per worker in housing and fuel allowances plus medical and other welfare facilities thereby enabling coal workers to live better than urban laborers in general.



Despite management's claims that no further concession could be made, prospects of settling the "big four" strike appeared favorable on 15 February following collective talks in which Mitsui officials offered to raise the pay of pit workers to ¥442 and surface workers to ¥260. Their offer also included a ¥3,000 special bonus. Meanwhile other mine operators were making new concessions; Joban mine operators offering to cut working hours from nine to eight hours daily, and Furukawa mine operators offering a wage base of ¥6,250 for surface workers plus an efficiency bonus of ¥50 per ton. At the same time, collective talks were reopened by the Mitsubishi Company. Seika and Hokkaido operators were closely watching developments of the Mitsui talks and by 16 February labor-management talks were in progress in each of the "big four" collieries.

First to reach an accord with management were the unionists of the Mitsui Mining Company who accepted the company's ninth mediation proposal early on 17 February. The settlement plan provided for: (1) payment of ¥272 per day for surface workers and ¥459 per day for pit workers, (2) a ¥2,400 quarterly production efficiency bonus per worker and, (3) the fixing of the standard work volume at 98% of the October-December 1950 average. A meeting of the Joint Struggle Committee of the "big four" miners unions was called immediately after the Mitsui accord was reached to discuss future courses of action. Most observers felt that an overall settlement of the strike was near.

The Mitsui settlement spurred negotiators of the remaining unions to greater effort and, following an all-night mediation effort, the Mitsubishi Coal Mine Union directed its workers back to the pits on 18 February, thus terminating its 11-day walkout. Terms of the agreement accepted by the union were: (1) daily wage of ¥455 for pit workers (2) a ¥267 daily wage for surface workers, (3) a production bonus of ¥300 per worker if the production goal



were reached with a ¥30 increase or decrease of that bonus for every 1% variation from the goal.

Following the return of Mitsui's 45,000 workers and Mitsubishi's 33,000 workers to the coal pits, an agreement was reached between labor and management of the Seika Mining Company which, on 19 February ordered its workers back to work. The union accepted a wage level of ¥456 per day for pit workers and ¥267 per day for surface workers and a provision calling for a ¥400 daily production bonus upon reaching the output quota. Signs that the Hokkaido collieries might also reach an early agreement were evident following negotiations on 18 February which ended in disagreement only on the point of output standards. At this point, Hokkaido unionists changed their strike strategy--alternate 24-hour strikes among the several mines of the union taking the place of the concerted effort of all mines. Meanwhile, disagreement on standard working hours and output goals continued to block negotiations with management and, vis-a-vis the apparent deadlock threatening to block the return of the industry to normal output, Director Kaku Saijire of the Labor Ministry's Labor Administration Bureau called upon the Hokkaido unionists and operators on 21 February to settle their strike at the earliest possible moment.

While attention of all labor observers was focused on the Hokkaido negotiations, strikes among the Kyushu collieries continued sporadically and on 21 February nearly 100,000 miners were either on strike or planning to strike. In addition, several mines of the Meiji Mining Company in Hokkaido were carrying on a concerted strike effort.

On 22 February, the 14-day strike of the Hokkaido Mining and Steamship Company came to an end as the union accepted a compromise formula calling for daily wages of ¥452 for pit workers and ¥267 for surface workers, a special bonus of ¥500, and the fixing of the output goal at 97% of the July-December 1959 average. Bereft of



the support of the "big four" unions, Kyushu strikers hastily accepted generally satisfactory wage compromises and began their return to work shortly after the Hokkaido settlement. By 27 February activities in the nation's coal fields had returned to normal.

The settlement of the coal strike was hailed in all circles as a step forward in the conduct of labor relations; its successful termination without interference of the Government or other parties was seen as precedent-setting in most quarters. Reviewing the nationwide walkout, Labor Administration Bureau Director Eaku pointed out that nearly 200,000 miners, with no political motives, had staged and settled a strike for economic advantages calmly and fairly and that a willingness to compromise had been manifested by both labor and management. This new trend in the conduct of labor-management relations was also hailed in the press, but a warning that the Government should act to halt any wage-price spiral was also seen in a Nippon Times editorial of 1 March:

"A so-called March labor offensive for higher wages is in the offing. With prices rising steadily for the past half year, the workers want more money in their pay envelopes. The fear is felt that the vicious price-wage cycle may again be initiated to harass the nation's economic well-being.

"While the Government is letting matters run their course, the workers can see daily evidence of rising prices. The salaries of only a few wage earners can readily handle the upswing of prices; for the vast majority the only recourse is to ask for higher wages to meet the new situation. This condition is abetted by the indecision of the Government as to its policy towards price control and future supply of necessities.

"The wage dispute in the coal mines has been settled but the electric workers are reportedly poised for a strike if necessary to put through their wage demands. Unions belonging to the National Federation of Industrial Unions are also asking for pay hikes amounting to anywhere from 25 to 40 percent of their pre-



sent wage and negotiations are now under way. The railway workers, both private and national, government officials, seamen, chemical workers and metal miners are likewise preparing themselves for similar action.

"The one encouraging thing in this potentially dangerous situation is that labor's demand for higher wages is entirely free of ideological and political factors. For the first time in the postwar labor history, the workers are taking action from a purely economic standpoint.

"This was seen in the amicable settlement reached between the workers and the management in the coal mine strike. The coal miners finally went on strike after negotiations were deadlocked, but both parties showed a willingness to solve their dispute around a conference table. It was a far cry from the confused and chaotic conditions which the Communist leadership and agitators invariably tried to insert in past strike actions.

"It is expected that the general sentiment toward a reasonable and fair solution to the wage question displayed in the instance of the coal mine dispute will prevail in the coming wave of labor demands. As the final settlement was reached in the coal mines, the employers expressed satisfaction because they are now assured of greater efficiency and greater production since the pay will depend on individual effort. At the same time, the coal miners claimed a victory in having their pay checks boosted substantially and in raising their wage level for the first time since December 1948.

"But what both workers and management must not forget is that as encouraging as were the signs of a new labor-capital relationship revealed in the coal dispute, the nation's coal production dropped by 800,000 tons during the 11 to 14 days in which more than 200,000 miners were on strike. A strike is an expensive affair not only to the operators and workers directly involved but



also to the economy as a whole. The iron and steel industry, for instance, was one of the chief victims of the walkout in the coal pits.

"A strike is an action to be taken as a matter of last resort, and both the employers and the employees owe it to themselves and to the nation as a whole to settle their differences without allowing negotiations to become so tightly deadlocked that a walkout must result.

"It is thus to be hoped that in the coming months both the unions and the management will use their utmost discretion in amicably settling their disputes over wages without damaging the national economy or the welfare of the citizens. The Government, on the other hand, must take positive action to remove the causes for the skyrocketing prices which are giving the wage earners a feeling of insecurity and are laying the groundwork for future wage demands. The absence of Communist agitators at this time is no reason for the authorities concerned to treat lightly the so-called March Offensive."

#### March Offensive of Labor Gets Underway

Numerous other national unions were laying the groundwork for their entry into the heralded "March Offensive of Labor." The All Japan Electric Industry Workers Union (Densan) followed the lead of the coal miners in taking overt action against management during February to initiate its wage raise struggle.

Wage negotiations with the electric industry management had been stalemated since December last year with the unionists demanding a revision of their existing wage base of ¥8,500 to ¥12,400 retroactive to 1 October. The dispute was finally referred to the Central Labor Relations Board. With management remaining adamant on its offer of a ¥1,000 wage base raise on condition of personnel rationalization, the central headquarters of the workers' union on 18 February issued a strike directive to its member unions through-



out Japan calling for them to refuse overtime work and do their utmost to harass employers without actually resorting to power shut-off. Basically a clerical strike, response to the directive was forthcoming immediately. On 21 February, electric workers in the Kansai area announced their refusal of overtime work as directed and were followed by Hokkaido electric workers on 23 February. By 27 February, electric workers throughout Japan were engaging in the clerical strike as ordered and, though actual interruptions of power service had not occurred by month's end, observers saw the strike situation worsening if an agreement were not shortly reached.

Earlier in the month, the All Japan Seamen's Union formulated plans for a wage struggle to begin in early March. The seamen would demand the Ship Owners Association boost the current ¥10,639 monthly wage base to ¥16,637 and ask an increase in allowances ranging from 50 to 100 percent of that currently paid.

Indications that national and private rail workers, and chemical and steel industry workers would also join the "March Offensive" were evidenced throughout the month, but activities of those unions were limited to the formulation and presentation of their demands.

#### Employment Outlook Improving, Says Hori

Speaking before the Lower House Budget Committee on 5 February, Labor Minister Shigeru Hori stated that the employment picture in Japan had improved steadily during the past twelve-month period, with the greatest improvement being noted since the outbreak of the Korean War.

The August figure of 900,000 unemployed decreased to 739,000 during November, the Labor Minister noted, and simultaneously, a 60,000 reduction in the number of day laborers took place during the same period. An increase in the demand for labor was especially marked in the spinning, metal, construction, transportation, and other "war procurement" industries, the Cabinet Minister concluded.



Labor Issues Involve 1,040,000 in December

Approximately 1,040,000 workers participated in some 270 cases of labor disputes during December 1950, according to a report of the Ministry of Labor on 22 February. Of the 270 cases, 101 were accompanied by strikes and work slowdowns in which nearly 190,000 persons took part.

The Labor Ministry report noted that the number of labor disputes, which declined sharply after the outbreak of the Korean conflict, rose sharply in December in line with annual worker demands for higher wages and the payment of year-end allowances. The figure of 190,000 participants in December, however, compares favorably with the 240,000 participants in strike activities during the same month of the preceding year and the record 480,000 registered in March 1950.

December's strikes numbered 65 with some 50,000 persons participating and resulted in the loss of approximately 80,000 man days of work, an increase of 30,000 over the preceding month.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Matsudaira Elected to House of Councillors From Fukushima

Liberal Party candidate Isao Matsudaira on 12 February was elected to the House of Councillors in a by-election conducted in Fukushima Prefecture by a margin of more than 115,000 votes over his closest rival, Social Democrat Tshikatsu Tanaka. The by-election conducted to fill a seat left vacant by the death of Liberal Menemon Hashimoto on 27 December marked an easy victory for Matsudaira, the 43-year old nephew of the former President of the House of Councillors, Tsuneo Matsudaira who had passed away in November of 1949. Most political observers had predicted Matsudaira's victory in spite of the intensive campaign conducted by the Social Democratic Party. These predictions were largely based on the fact that Fukushima had always been a conservative stronghold. During the House of Councillors' election of 1950 the Liberal Party had garnered 443,543 of the total 711,327 votes cast in the prefecture; the Social Democrats, 204,487; the Communists, 37,143; and Independents, 26,153. A great deal of attention prior to February's by-election had been focused on the "personalities" involved, chiefly Matsudaira and People's Democrat candidate, Miss Harue Yamashita. Miss Yamashita, a former Democratic member of the House of Representatives, was remembered for her part in the November 1948 incident involving former Finance Minister and Director of the Economic Stabilization Board, Sanroku Izumiyama. Subsequently, she had been defeated in the House of Representatives' election of 1949 largely as a result of her part in the unsavory affair of two months previous.

A summary of the election statistics compiled by the National Election Management Commission on the Fukushima by-election follows:

| <u>Registered Voters</u> | <u>Voting Statistics</u> | <u>% of Participation</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
|                          | <u>Actual Voters</u>     |                           |
| Male: 483,005            | 395,875                  | 82.0                      |
| Female: 543,211          | 392,749                  | 72.3                      |
| Total: 1,026,216         | 788,624                  | 76.9                      |



Vote by Candidate

| <u>Candidate</u>  | <u>Party</u>      | <u>Votes Rec'd</u> | <u>% of Total Vote</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Isao Matsudaira   | Liberal           | 386,322            | 49.43                  |
| Toshikatsu Tanaka | Social Democrat   | 270,923            | 34.69                  |
| Harue Yamashita   | People's Democrat | 115,292            | 14.76                  |
| Fujio Orikasa     | Communist         | 8,645              | 1.12                   |

Summary of Local Elections, February 1951

During the month of February a total of 68 elections (local) were held in Japan to fill 392 vacant seats in local public bodies. Of these elections, 16 were "no poll" contests in which 53 candidates secured seats unopposed. In the remaining 52 elections 201,901 voters cast ballots for an average voter participation rate of 93.07 percent.

The percentage of the total vote accorded each party was:

|                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Social Democratic Party   | 4.41  |
| People's Democratic Party | 0.53  |
| Liberal Party             | 10.11 |
| Communist Party           | 0.48  |
| Minor parties             | 0.08  |
| Independents              | 84.39 |

The number and percentage of seats won by each party was:

| <u>Party</u>              | <u>No. of Seats</u> | <u>% of Total</u> |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Social Democratic Party   | 6                   | 1.5               |
| People's Democratic Party | 1                   | 0.3               |
| Liberal Party             | 15                  | 3.8               |
| Communist Party           | 1                   | 0.3               |
| Minor parties             | 0                   | 0.0               |
| Independents              | 369                 | 94.1              |

The following tables compiled on the basis of statistics forwarded by the National Election Management Commission summarize the results of the local elections conducted in February:

TABLE I

Schedule of Local Elections, February 1951

| <u>Type of Election</u> | <u>No. of Seats Contested</u> | <u>No. of Voting Elections</u> | <u>No. of No Poll Elections</u> | <u>Total No. of Elections</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| City Assembly           | 36                            | 1                              |                                 | 1                             |
| Town Headman            | 10                            | 7                              | 3                               | 10                            |
| Town Assembly           | 129                           | 5                              | 1                               | 6                             |
| Village Headman         | 38                            | 29                             | 9                               | 38                            |
| Village Assembly        | 179                           | 10                             | 3                               | 13                            |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>392</b>                    | <b>52</b>                      | <b>16</b>                       | <b>68</b>                     |



**TABLE II**

Percentage of Participation, Local Elections, Feb. 1951

| <u>Type of Election</u> | <u>% of Participation</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| City Assembly           | 95.54                     |
| Town Headman            | 92.49                     |
| Town Assembly           | 91.89                     |
| Village Headman         | 94.52                     |
| Village Assembly        | 90.91                     |
| Average                 | 93.07                     |

**TABLE III**

Number of Candidates According to Political Party, Feb. 1951

| <u>Type of Election</u> | <u>SD</u> | <u>PD</u> | <u>L</u> | <u>C</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>Ind</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|------------|------------|--------------|
| City Assembly           | 3         | 2         | 32       | 2        | 1          | 56         | 96           |
| Town Headman            | 2         |           |          |          |            | 19         | 21           |
| Town Assembly           |           | 1         |          | 2        |            | 163        | 166          |
| Village Headman         | 5         | 2         | 2        |          |            | 73         | 82           |
| Village Assembly        | 2         |           | 3        | 1        |            | 215        | 221          |
| Total                   | 12        | 5         | 37       | 5        | 1          | 526        | 586          |

**TABLE IV**

Seats Won by Parties in All Elections, Feb. 1951

| <u>Type of Election</u> | <u>SD</u> | <u>PD</u> | <u>L</u> | <u>C</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>Ind</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|------------|------------|--------------|
| City Assembly           |           |           | 12       |          |            | 24         | 36           |
| Town Headman            | 1         |           |          |          |            | 9          | 10           |
| Town Assembly           |           |           |          |          |            | 129        | 129          |
| Village Headman         | 3         | 1         |          |          |            | 34         | 38           |
| Village Assembly        | 2         |           | 3        | 1        |            | 173        | 179          |
| Total                   | 6         | 1         | 15       | 1        |            | 369        | 392          |

**TABLE V**

Seats Won by Parties in 52 Voting Elections, Feb. 1951

| <u>Type of Election</u> | <u>SD</u> | <u>PD</u> | <u>L</u> | <u>C</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>Ind</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|------------|------------|--------------|
| City Assembly           |           |           | 12       |          |            | 24         | 36           |
| Town Headman            | 1         |           |          |          |            | 6          | 7            |
| Town Assembly           |           |           |          |          |            | 126        | 126          |
| Village Headman         | 3         | 1         |          |          |            | 25         | 29           |
| Village Assembly        | 2         |           | 3        | 1        |            | 135        | 141          |
| Total                   | 6         | 1         | 15       | 1        |            | 316        | 339          |



TABLE VI

Seats Won by Parties in 16 No-Poll Elections, Feb. 1951

| <u>Type of Election</u> | <u>SP</u> | <u>PD</u> | <u>L</u> | <u>C</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>Ind</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|------------|------------|--------------|
| City Assembly           |           |           |          |          |            | 3          | 3            |
| Town Assembly           |           |           |          |          |            | 3          | 3            |
| Town Headman            |           |           |          |          |            | 9          | 9            |
| Village Headman         |           |           |          |          |            | 38         | 38           |
| Village Assembly        |           |           |          |          |            |            |              |
| <b>Total</b>            |           |           |          |          |            | <b>53</b>  | <b>53</b>    |

TABLE VII

Percentage of Seats Won by Parties, February 1951

| <u>Type of Election</u> | <u>SD</u>  | <u>PD</u>  | <u>L</u>   | <u>C</u>   | <u>Min</u> | <u>Ind</u>  |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| City Assembly           |            |            | 33.3       |            |            | 66.7        |
| Town Headman            | 10.0       |            |            |            |            | 90.0        |
| Town Assembly           |            |            |            |            |            | 100.0       |
| Village Headman         | 7.9        | 2.7        |            |            |            | 89.4        |
| Village Assembly        | 1.1        |            | 1.7        | 0.6        |            | 96.6        |
| <b>Percent of total</b> | <b>1.5</b> | <b>0.3</b> | <b>3.8</b> | <b>0.3</b> |            | <b>94.1</b> |

TABLE VIII

Votes Obtained by Parties in 52 Voting Elections, Feb. 1951

| <u>Type of Election</u> | <u>SD</u>    | <u>PD</u>    | <u>L</u>      | <u>C</u>   | <u>Min</u> | <u>Ind</u>     | <u>Total</u>   |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
| City Assembly           | 798          | 368          | 19,084        | 722        | 159        | 29,411         | 50,542         |
| Town Headman            | 3,891        |              |               |            |            | 25,986         | 29,877         |
| Town Assembly           |              | 154          |               | 185        |            | 37,849         | 38,188         |
| Village Headman         | 4,004        | 543          | 929           |            |            | 58,155         | 63,631         |
| Village Assembly        | 203          |              | 417           | 50         |            | 18,993         | 19,663         |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>8,896</b> | <b>1,065</b> | <b>20,430</b> | <b>957</b> | <b>159</b> | <b>170,394</b> | <b>201,901</b> |

TABLE IX

Percentage of Votes Obtained by Parties, Feb. 1951

| <u>Type of Election</u> | <u>SD</u>   | <u>PD</u>   | <u>L</u>     | <u>C</u>    | <u>Min</u>  | <u>Ind</u>   |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| City Assembly           | 1.6         | 0.7         | 37.8         | 1.4         | 0.3         | 58.2         |
| Town Headman            | 13.0        |             |              |             |             | 87.0         |
| Town Assembly           |             | 0.4         |              | 0.5         |             | 99.1         |
| Village Headman         | 6.3         | 0.9         | 1.5          |             |             | 91.3         |
| Village Assembly        | 1.0         |             | 2.1          | 0.3         |             | 96.6         |
| <b>Percent of Total</b> | <b>4.41</b> | <b>0.53</b> | <b>10.11</b> | <b>0.48</b> | <b>0.08</b> | <b>84.39</b> |



### Cabinet Approves "Kambe" Report

The Cabinet on 23 February gave its approval to the "Recommendations on Redistribution of Administrative Affairs" submitted by the Local Administration Investigation Committee in December and announced that it would "do its utmost to carry out the purport contained therein and to establish a concrete plan in accordance with the measures mentioned." The "Recommendations," commonly referred to as the "Kambe" report after Committee Chairman Masao Kambe, were concerned with the underlying philosophy of greater local autonomy in the nation's administrative affairs, including the distribution of governmental administrative responsibilities among the various levels of government--national, prefectural and municipal. The Cabinet decision, although affirmative, provided for the maintenance of a status quo in administrative affairs; i.e., the national government would be discouraged from encroaching upon the areas of jurisdiction delegated by national law to the prefectures, cities, towns and villages until such time as a definite formula had been agreed upon for redistribution of administrative functions. The Cabinet also stated that it would coordinate such amendment legislation as would be drawn up by the various national ministries and agencies in the interests of greater local autonomy. It was expected that this legislation could be prepared in time for the next Diet session. The Cabinet declared that in carrying out the projected governmental decentralization, special attention would be paid to carrying out the reorganization in as thorough a manner as possible while at the same time giving the most careful scrutiny to the establishment of new fields of administrative jurisdiction. Attention would also be paid, said the Cabinet, to a greater simplification of the nation's administrative establishment as well as to provisions for safeguarding local finance.



The complete text of the Cabinet decision on the "Disposition of the Recommendation Concerning the Redistribution of Administrative Affairs" follows:

"With regard to the recommendation for the redistribution of administrative affairs submitted by the Local Administration Investigation Committee, the Cabinet shall expect to do its utmost to carry out the purport contained therein and to establish a concrete plan in accordance with the measures mentioned as follows:

"1. With regard to the distribution of the affairs between the State and the local public entities as well as the method of participation of the State for local public entities before the enforcement plan of redistribution of the affairs has been determined, the Cabinet shall do its utmost to avoid such things as to make the State take the affairs disposed of at present by the local public entities, or to make To, Do, Fu or prefecture take the affairs disposed of at present by a city, town or village, or to encourage the participation of the State for local public entities.

"2. With regard to the measures to be taken by various Ministries and Agencies relating to the enforcement plan for redistribution of the affairs, the Cabinet shall adjust them and then make the various Ministries and Agencies concerned prepare for amending the related laws with the object of submitting the said plan probably to the next Diet session.

"3. In case of enforcing the redistribution of the affairs, special care shall be called to the following items:

"(1) The present administrative affairs shall be adjusted and curtailed as thoroughly as possible, and at the same time an establishment of new administrative affairs shall be deliberated upon specially carefully;

"2. Special attention shall be called to the furtherance of the simplification of the administrative organization throughout the State and the local public entities;



"3. Sufficient attention shall be called to the security of the local finance."

Prior to the Cabinet decision on his Committee's "Recommendations," Chairman Kambe had appeared on 19 February before the House of Councillors' Committee on Local Administration to give a general explanation of the need for decentralization of administrative functions. Kambe also requested that the Diet reconsider such legislation currently under study, that might be in conflict with the principles of increased local autonomy. Kambe stated: "We have asked that those bills which are in conflict with our recommendations be revised, even though they are already under Diet deliberation."

(For further information concerning the "Kambe" report, see Review of Government and Politics in Japan for December 1950.)

Okano Subject to Criticism for Advocating Reduced Local Assemblies

State Minister Kiyohide Okano, Director of the Local Autonomy Agency and concurrently Chairman of the Local Finance Commission, on 16 February was subject to criticism by Social Democrat Suejiro Yoshikawa at a meeting of the House of Councillors' Local Administration Committee for having issued a recommendation to local public entities that they reduce the size of their assemblies. Yoshikawa in attacking the recommendation declared: "It is reported that a notice recommending a decrease in the number of local assemblymen was sent to local bodies. This is a mistaken idea and should be cancelled." However, State Minister Okano replied: "The notice does not bind local bodies and I have no intention of cancelling it." In replying to interpellations of the House of Representatives' Budget Committee on 24 February, State Minister Okano added: "The Government's policy is to promote amalgamation of financially-weak towns and villages....Concerning the number of local assemblymen, I do not insist that they be reduced by law; the Government will leave the matter to the independent action of the self-governing bodies."



LEGAL AND JUDICIAL AFFAIRS

Supreme Court Justice Tsukazaki Resigns

Justice Naoyoshi Tsukazaki of the Supreme Court on 10 February tendered his resignation to Chief Justice Kotaro Tanaka. Justice Tsukazaki on 14 May was to reach the statutory age limit for members of the Supreme Court. Among those who were being prominently mentioned as his replacement were Teshizo Kobayashi, President of the Tokyo Higher Court, and Tadaichiro Tanimura, former Vice-Minister of Justice.

Parliamentary Committee Questions Foreign Witnesses of Repatriation

The House of Representatives Committee on Repatriation on 24 February questioned the leaders of three organizations which had dispatched written objections to the United Nations concerning the efforts to facilitate repatriation of Japanese nationals being held in the territories of the Soviet Union. These three witnesses were reported in Review of Government and Politics in Japan for January 1948: Saburo Suga, Chairman of the Soviet-Japanese Friendship Council; Kazuyasu Ogawa, Chairman of the League of Repatriated Servicemen of Japan or the Japanese Repatriates Alliance; and Toshiaki Kato, Chairman of the League for Protection of Democracy and Human Rights. The three witnesses disputed the Government's figure of more than 370,000 Japanese still in the hands of the Soviet Union and satellite nations and that the issue was of any concern of the United Nations. Rather, they argued, the repatriation problem remained one to be settled through an agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union. On the basis of these points, they concluded, they had, following mutual agreement, dispatched their written objections to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chairman of the United Nations General Assembly, and to the United Nations representatives of the United States, the Soviet



## REPATRIATION

### Increase Reported in Soviet-Held Japanese Prisoners

Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Ryen Kusaba on 9 February reported to the House of Representatives' Committee on Repatriation that the Government had added an additional 7,600 names to the list of Japanese prisoners-of-war being detained by the Soviet Union. Kusaba stated that as of last December (1950) there were still 323,973 prisoners remaining to be repatriated by the Soviet Union. Previously the Government had reported the figure as 316,339.

### Repatriation Committee Questions Three Witnesses of Pro-Soviet Organizations

The House of Representatives Committee on Repatriation on 16 February questioned the leaders of three organizations which had dispatched written objections to the United Nations concerning its efforts to facilitate repatriation of Japanese nationals being held in the territories of the Soviet Union. These three witnesses were as reported in Review of Government and Politics in Japan for January 1951: Makoto Suga, Chairman of the Soviet-Japanese Friendship Council; Tsunejiro Ogawa, Chairman of the League of Repatriated Ex-Servicemen of Japan or the Japanese Repatriates Alliance; and Toshiaki Wada, Chairman of the League for Protection of Democracy and Human Rights. The three witnesses disputed the Government's figure of more than 370,000 Japanese still in the hands of the Soviet Union and satellite nations and that the issue was of any concern of the United Nations. Rather, they argued, the repatriation problem remained one to be settled through an agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union. On the basis of these points, they concluded, they had, following mutual agreement, dispatched their written objections to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chairman of the United Nations General Assembly, and to the United Nations representatives of the United States, the Soviet



Union, Great Britain and France. A copy of the letter had also been sent to the Allied Council for Japan.

A portion of the Repatriation Committee's proceedings of 16 February follows:

Liberal Committee member Mrs. Masa Nakayama: "You place great faith in the Tass News Agency released (on repatriation). We have no such faith in them. That Tass does not publish the number of Japanese dead makes us all the more suspicious. We believe that the true official statement about repatriation is that released by General MacArthur."

Chairman Ogawa of the Japanese Repatriates Alliance replied: "By combining all Tass reports, the number of dead becomes known. According to this data, those unaccounted for are 10,244; the dead are included in this figure."

Nakayama: "Do you think that besides those you mention as unaccounted for, there are no other Japanese left in Soviet territory?"

Ogawa: "I returned to Japan aboard the last (repatriation) ship and I believe there are no other Japanese still left there."

Liberal Sasaki inquired: "The Japanese Repatriates Alliance is reported to have membership of about 80,000. What is the membership fee?"

Ogawa: "¥20 a month."

Sasaki: "Were you an 'active,' as reported, during your detention in the Soviet Union?"

Ogawa: "I see no need to reply."

Sasaki: "Does the Japan-Soviet Friendship Association (or Soviet-Japanese Friendship Council) believe in the Communist ideology?"

Suga, Chairman of the Soviet-Japanese Friendship Council, replied: "The Association transcends ideology."

Liberal Committee Chairman Wakabayashi: "Explain the circumstances surrounding the request sent by your organization to the United Nations."



Ogawa: "Last October, when the Government decided to dispatch representatives to the United Nations, the three organizations immediately conferred and decided to send a request to the United Nations. A copy was submitted to the Allied Council for Japan."

Chairman Wakabayashi: "We and the families of unrepatriated persons were surprised to learn that your request was sent to the United Nations. What is your opinion regarding the sensation it has created?"

Ogawa: "We never have obstructed repatriation. Newspaper criticism of our request is nothing more than abuse of us."

Sasaki: "What do you think about the Soviet Union's refusal to allow an investigation mission to study the matter?"

Ogawa: "When a peace pact is concluded, the Soviet Union will agree to such a mission."

Social Democrat Umeta: "How do you account for the differences between the first and second announcements by Tass?"

Ogawa: "The difference amounts to little more than 10,000; it is supposed that these might be among the dead."

#### Diet Adopts Resolution of Appreciation to the United Nations

Both House of the Diet by a majority vote on 10 February adopted a joint "Resolution of Deep Appreciation to the United Nations for Accelerating Repatriation of Unrepatriated Japanese and for Undertaking Fact-Finding Studies." The only group opposing the Resolution was the Communist Party which charged that it constituted "arbitrary anti-Soviet, anti-Communist propaganda in violation of Article 107 of the United Nations Charter," and was timed to take advantage of the Dulles Mission to Japan. The only basis for dealing with the problem of repatriation, the Communists argued, was for the conclusion of a United States-Soviet Union Agreement signed by both General MacArthur and Lt. Gen. Derevyanko, former Soviet Member of the Allied Council for Japan.

The complete text of the Diet Resolution to the United Nations follows:



"Whereas, we, the people of Japan, appreciate the everlastingly kind efforts made by the United Nations in the past five years for settlement of various problems regarding repatriation of unrepatriated Japanese, and

"Whereas, we were deeply impressed by the prompt action of General Headquarters, SCAP, in transmitting to the United Nations the 'Resolution of Entreaty for Accelerating Repatriation of Unrepatriated Japanese and for United Nations Fact Finding Studies', which was adopted in the 7th Diet Session, and whereas we appreciate the fact that three Japanese observers were permitted to attend the U. N. deliberation sessions on prisoners-of-war problems; and

"Whereas, all the people of Japan renewed their hopes when steps were taken at the U. N. Fifth General Assembly to settle the prisoners-of-war problem peacefully and internationally from a humanitarian viewpoint; and

"Whereas, believing these steps taken by the U. N. Assembly are the sole way to settle the prisoner-of-war problem peacefully, and expecting much from future developments, the Japanese people heartily desire that fact-finding studies be made in the future on unrepatriated persons and those who died during internment, and that repatriation of those unrepatriated persons be completed as early as possible, now therefore

"Be it Resolved, that the House, on behalf of the nation, hereby expresses its deep appreciation to the United Nations for its efforts based on the lofty ideal of safeguarding world peace, fundamental human rights, and freedom."



### THE PURGE

During the period from 1 to 28 February, the Japanese Government screened 388,281 persons. Of these, 387,711 were screened prior to appointment to public offices; 511 were candidates for elective offices; and 59 were screened for other reasons. Of the total, six, including two career army and navy officers and four former Kenpei Tai officials, were disqualified for public service.

There were three organizations dissolved during the month in accord with the provisions of Cabinet Order No. 64 of 1949 and Imperial Ordinance No. 101 of 1946. These organizations were: Nagano Gumi, Oshima Gumi and Yoshikawa Gumi.