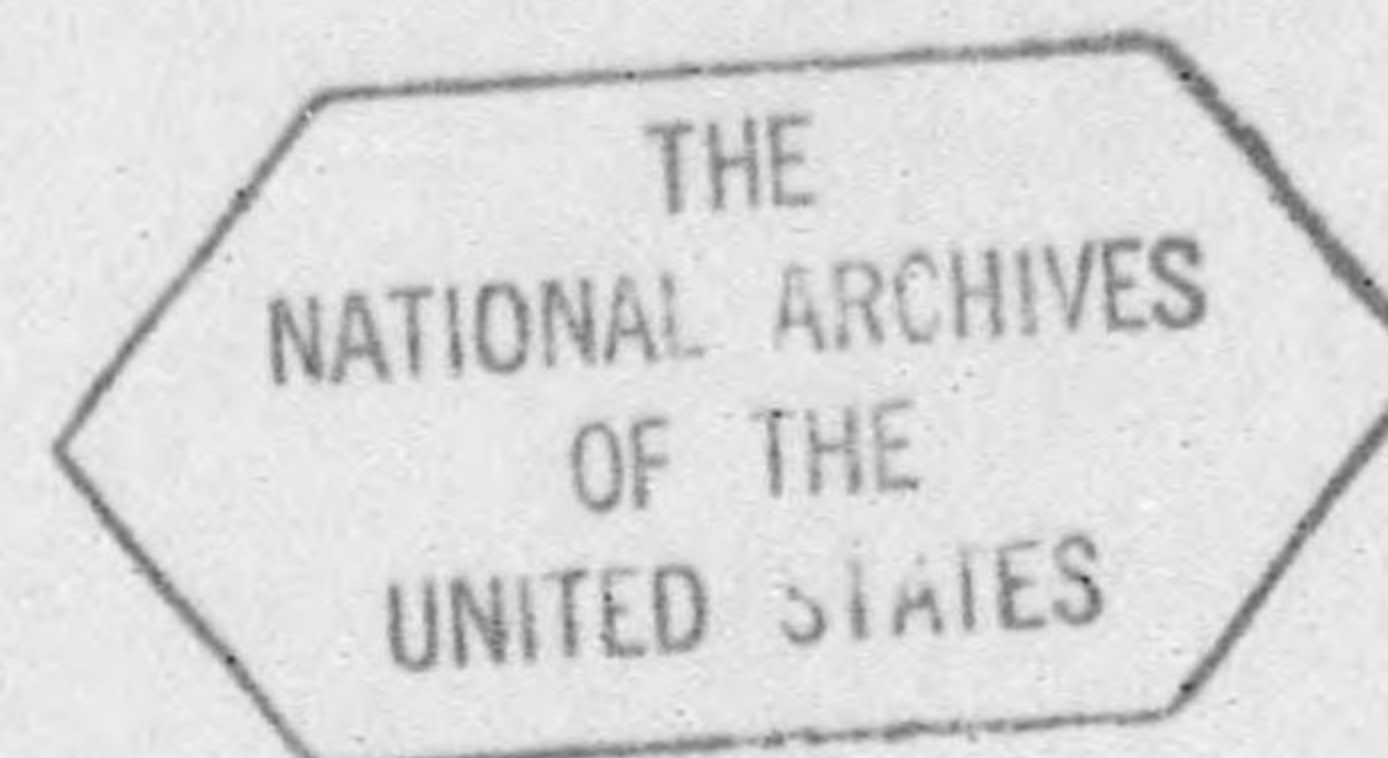


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ITEM 9 Women Take Active Part in Organizations - Akahata - 27 Feb 47.
 Translator: Y. Sakaue.

Full Translation:

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The women on the farms are lagging far behind the working women of the cities in their emancipation movement. However, the former have also begun to show signs of considerable activities, even though in part, with the expansion of the Japan Agricultural Association (NICHINO KAI). For instance, women members of the farmers' association in HIROSHIMA Ken, MIHARA Shi, have taken charge of the distribution of reward commodities, while in FUKAYASU Gun women are holding active discussion meetings. In OKAYAMA Ken, the Farmers' League has set aside the fifteenth day of each month as Women's Emancipation Day. On this day, the women quit their work and hold social amusement gatherings or meetings for the study of cooking and the up-bringing of their children. In YAMAGATA Ken, when the tenant-farmers conducted joint cultivation during the strife of protest against the attempts of the landowners to take up their land, the women co-operated by cooking meals. In YAMASHI Ken, TAMAIORO Wura, last April, the women led the men in a demonstration march to the prefectural office and the governor's residence in protest against the use of administrative force. The systematic organization of these activities was discussed at the second general rally of the Japan Agricultural Association. On the second day of the rally, a preparatory meeting for the establishment of a women's department was held and the following agreements were concluded:

- (1) To confirm at the meeting the fact that all the farm wives of the 1,300,000 families affiliated with the Japan Agricultural Association are members of the farmers' association and women's department of the JAA.
- (2) To always elect women members to the executive committees of the farmers' association.
- (3) To elect responsible persons for the local chapters of the women's department to the central committee, who shall represent the central and prefectural headquarters, and to grant them voting rights. The representatives of the prefectural headquarters shall not be selected by recommendation of the central headquarters, but by the popular vote of association members.
- (4) To hold a women's department rally in early May to decide general plans for future activities.
- (5) The responsible persons of the local chapters of the women's department shall preferably be women members of the executive committees.
- (6) The farmers' associations shall encourage and aid the organization of local chapters of the women's department.
- (7) A substantial budget will be set for the women's department by the central and prefectural headquarters.
- (8) To conduct active movements for the enlightenment of rural women during the general and local elections and to further the development of the women's department thereby.
- (9) The above agreements shall be approved and supported at the rally.

YAMASEIRO, Tomoe, standing secretary of the Hiroshima Prefectural Headquarters and newly appointed to the central committee was elected director of the women's department at the standing central committee meeting of the Japan Agricultural Association on 17 February. Her appointment was made on the basis of the agreements mentioned above.

ITEM 1 Women Workers Getting Political Minded - Akahata - 27 Feb 47.
Translator: .Y. Inouye.

Full Translation:

The attitude of working women towards the coming general election is altogether different from that of last year. Strife has strengthened their spirit, and the coming general election will reveal that fact.

I interviewed Miss SHIMIZU, Teruko, member of the branch office of the Government Railway, and Miss MIYABE, Ayako, member of the Technical Laboratory, regarding the attitude of women who are fighting for the cause of the working people.

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 Replying to my question, What do you think about the general election? the two girls stated as follows: "Those feelings that we did not sense at the last election are strong within us now. The experiences of the two strikes by the Government Railway Workers taught us many things. We must build a government of the people, and each one of our votes is important. None should support the Liberal and the Progressives. We must exterminate all the reactionary elements."

How firm their resolution is!

Question: "What do you think of the Social Democratic Party?"

Answer: "I think many want to support it, but we, the workers of the Government Railways declare that we will remove all the rightist leaders of the Social Democratic Party."

Question: "What kind of work do you do in the union?"

Answer: "The same as the men. We attend meetings as officers, and work as members of the Youth Movement, but we are chiefly engaged in cooking and relief work. At home, we take lessons in flower arrangement and cooking. Sometimes we hold discussion meetings with Mrs MIYAMOTO, Uuriko, to discuss the improvement of women's position."

Question: "Is the cultural movement very active?"

Answer: "Yes. We keenly feel the necessity of a cultural movement in the union. Though we want to participate, we cannot, as our duties as union officials keep us busy."

Question: "Do you have any interest in political movements?"

Answer: "Yes, we do. We realize that the lives of women cannot be improved without the aid of political movements. That is why we want to send supporters of the working people to the Diet. However, our lives cannot be improved by woman representatives who attend the Diet to display their holiday attires. If someone from our own ranks were to represent and fight for the working women in the Diet, how

ITEM 3 Women Members for Prefectural Assemblies - Provincial Newspaper
Miyako Shimbun (KYOTO) - 22 Feb 47. - Translator: T. Nakano

Summary:

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 Since the dissolution of the Diet is near at hand, the people are now keenly interested in the coming general election. Several women will be running as candidates. It may be natural for people to concentrate their attention on the Diet. However, it is incomprehensible why women in general are indifferent to local elections. We should be more interested in local politics because they are closely connected with our life. With the strengthening of prefectural self-government, our livelihood has also been ameliorated. The opinions of the people must be expressed in local government. For this purpose, women must participate in local government. Now is the time for women to solve the livelihood problem by their own hands. If they leave the matter to men, it will never be settled. As it is a question of vital importance, the people must appeal to the prefectural assemblies to arrive at some solution. Under a democratic government, women must not be idle spectators. If the women do not express their opinion in coming local elections, prefectural assemblies will never play an active part in JAPAN's politics, and the living conditions of the people will be aggravated.

Women governors and mayors will be desirable in the near future, but now it is absolutely necessary to send women representatives to the Diet and the prefectural assemblies. In this regard, the task of various women associations throughout the country is important. Women assembly members who have wide experience in local government, will be able to become competent Diet members.

ITEM 20 Women Representatives by Washinuma Tomie - Magazine: Seikai Jeep
(Monthly) - Feb 1 issue. Translator: M. Ohno.

451
Summary:

Though 39 women were elected to the Diet in the general election held last April, it has been commonly said that this by no means points to the capability of the women but is rather the fault of the plural electoral system. Regrettable though it may be, there has been no activity in the Diet on the part of the women representatives to prove that this viewpoint is erroneous.

Therefore, there are no grounds for the public opinion that women will not be elected so easily in the next election if the Election Law is revised.

Women representatives of the Liberal and the Progressive Parties were fiercely opposed to the single entry medium electoral district system adopted by these Parties. The major electoral district system seems to hold a great fascination for them.

An accurate estimate of how many women will be elected in the the coming election is impossible without proving how the Election Law will be changed. Consequently, we can only base our estimates on how greatly the general public is interested in them and how much the women recognize their real ability. On the whole the general public is disappointed in them. The question now is whether the fault lies with the women representatives or the general public for ignoring their real ability. Some of them showed considerable ability throughout the Diet session. In general, however, they are extremely lacking in political common sense. I was surprised by the fact that a certain woman representative did not know the term "terrorism". I do not believe there is a single male representative who does not know this word.

It is natural that the general public should be disappointed in the women representatives as long as they lack the spirit of sacrificing themselves to bring about the birth of new politics and political knowledge. The political parties, apparently, are not sincere in making use of them. Although the women are diligently studying politics, this does not necessarily indicate the fundamental development of their political sense. The problem depends on the extent to which they, who advocated and promised the realization of "politics of love" to the general public, fulfill their pledge. None of them, with the exception of a few who belong to the more progressive parties and realize that they are representatives of the general public, are supported by the masses. At first, the women representatives had the feudalistic idea

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that they should only represent the women. However, they have become aware of their true mission to fight for the democratization of JAPAN.

The local election will influence these representatives in the coming general election. Although it is essential that women make their appearance in the present corrupt local administrations to participate actively in local politics, actually, they are extremely hesitant in running for local offices. Women representatives should now reconsider to what extent they were able to fulfill the pledge they made in the last election. They should also become aware of the fact, that not personal ability alone, but the voice of the masses wields a great influence in actual politics.

According to an announcement made by the Home Ministry, the plural entry medium electoral district system will be adopted if the bill passes the coming regular session of the Diet. Though the single entry electoral system opposed by all women representatives was rejected, the Political Party Law will have a great bearing on their success or failure in the coming general election.

ITEM 18 Women and Politics (Sub-editorial) - Asahi Shimbun - 18 Mar 47.
Translator: S. Yokoyama.

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Summary:

How many of the 39 women Diet members will survive the coming election? Some even venture to say that they will number less than 10 if the medium electoral district system and the single ballot system are adopted. However, this is not a regrettable situation because the present women Diet members have not shown much activity. Political parties now manifest less enthusiasm for women candidates.

Many elderly women agitators, such as ICHIKAWA, KAMICHIKA, KAWASAKI, AKAMATSU, HIRABAYASHI, and KORA, have declared their candidacy for the House of Councillors. Only two women, on the contrary, have announced their candidacy for local governor.

ITEM 17 Women's Emancipation - Jimmin Shimbun - 27 Jan 47. Translators:
T. Nakano and M. Bokura.

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Summary:

We received two letters censuring the article about the round-table conference on the subject of "Women's Emancipation", which was published in this paper on 15 December last year. The omission of many details due to lack of space created the impression that the purpose of the conference was to attack housewives. The second letter by Mrs MORO stated, "It is true that the housewives have lagged behind working women, but it is unreasonable not to consider the cause of this condition scientifically."

The progress of working women during the last year was remarkable; however, they still lack the ability to give concrete criticism. As Mrs MORO stated, under the state of affairs in present society, the home is no longer a place of security for women. Inflation has economically destroyed the family system. The housewives are the ones who suffer most.

A newspaper account reported that the majority of the housewives who came to receive medical treatment for tuberculosis were past cure. The cause of the marked contrast between the condition of women and men patients is the lack of time and money.

At the time of the general election last year, women were merely interested in immediate problems, but now they have started to consider the causes for their present miserable existence. In order to improve women's position, the working women must assist the housewives. The working women must convince the housewives of the inefficiency of the neighborhood association in handling the rationing of commodities. The working women must take the initiative to form housewives' associations and to teach the housewives that even trifling problems must be solved systematically. The democratic front of working women and housewives can be started by solving daily problems.

Aroused by the roundup of streetwalkers, various women's associations, at the end of last year, formed a united front. The united front must be enlarged and strengthened during this year.

Men and women have hitherto hesitated to discuss women's problems because they are feudalistic and troublesome. Even the most democratic labor unions evade women's problems. Therefore, the democratization of women must be achieved by their own efforts by union of the working women and housewives. Otherwise, the democratization of JAPAN will be impossible.

ITEM 6 Women in Postwar Japan (by Nii, Itaru) - Magazine: Sozo (Month'ly)
1 Jan 47 Issue. Translator: H. Hasegawa.

Summary:

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With the acceptance of the POTSDAM Declaration, JAPAN took upon herself the task of re-establishing herself as a democratic state. As a consequence, the various postwar changes which took place have greatly affected and are still affecting the life of Japanese women. However, since the Japanese have retained feudalistic ideas for so long, the lives of the Japanese women are still encumbered by some old and conventional ideas. It is true that our women's political consciousness regarding freedom and equality has been intensified but, as long as they remain flexible by nature, like grass bending before the wind, we fear that they will again become bogged down by conventionality. This is especially true of women living in the farm villages, where I cannot find any great change from prewar days. This cannot be realized until deep-rooted feudalistic customs, the mode of life, and way of thinking are eliminated. The task of democratizing the farm villages will require a great deal of time. However, there are some signs that a change is taking place among women living in farm villages. For example, city residents who evacuated to the country to avoid air raids during the war have made their influence felt, whether it be good or bad. Those who have come to farm villages to purchase food have exerted a bad influence upon the women living there.

At present, the Japanese people, especially the city dwellers, are laboring under exceedingly trying circumstances, and urban women are suffering much more than those on the farms. Let us observe some aspects of the everyday life of women living in big cities.

One day, I went to GINZA and found a long queue of young women in front of the JAPAN Theater (TN: NIPPON GEKIJO), where a favorite movie actor was being featured. Do these young women have an intense desire for amusement because their lives are gloomy and desolate, or do they have too much time for leisure? I believe that both may be correct. A middle-aged woman criticized such action by young women as being stupid. This may be true, but it is also said that it is the result of the nihilistic tendency brought about by the post-war confusion.

The moral decadence which prevails after a war is apparently reflected in the women's lives. In the case of Japanese women, the excessive nature of this deterioration is the result of their mistaking the meaning of freedom for license. I believe that this is because their individuality has not been sufficiently developed.

It has been said that the amount of reading by women always increase after a war. As an example, note the enthusiasm for reading among the Japanese women in the postwar period. They are doing this in order to acquire the knowledge necessary for fitting into the new scheme of social life. However, the difficulty in obtaining books hinders their progress along this line.

The clothes worn by the women on the streets reveals a complicated phase in the lives of women who live in the big cities. Generally speaking, the number of women wearing MOMPEI (TN: Japanese wartime style of clothing) has decreased greatly, while those dressed in Western style dresses have increased. A Japanese woman wearing a Chinese dress might be a repatriate. The reasons for the various styles of dress can be viewed from two points - material and mental. It is difficult for women to replace the clothes through air raids, and every woman likes to wear clothes which suit her own taste. Despite this, it is said that there is little tendency to veer towards cosmopolitanism among them in their daily lives.

In the future, now that the Japanese women have been given the rights of freedom and equality they must strive for efficiency and, in this way, improve the conditions surrounding them. The future duty of all conscientious Japanese women is to create a better life through exercising their new-found rights in their daily life.

ITEM 3 Women's Part in the Coming Election - Provincial Newspaper Shimane Shimbun (Matsue) - 14 Jan 47. Translator: M. Bokura.

Summary:

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When woman suffrage was granted, some women clamored that rice is more important than elections. Rice is a necessity to be sure. These women probably meant that suffrage would be meaningless if it fails to bring any material results. However, it can be said that suffrage is the initial step towards obtaining rice. In other words, we must first establish a fixed political system in order to obtain a stable government.

Women are said to be realists. This is a good characteristic. But, on the other hand, they are at times narrow-minded and opportunistic, unable to judge the general situation objectively, and lacking in the dauntless spirit so necessary for making progress. However, women are not to be blamed since they have always been taught that obedience is their sole virtue. They were told in childhood that they must obey their parents; when married, their husband; and when old, their sons. Talking politics was something beyond the scope of their imagination.

Times have changed, however. Individual rights and the equality of the sexes have been guaranteed by the new Constitution. This is an age when they must make real progress to keep up with the times. The percentage of women who abstained from voting in last year's general election was comparatively small. Many women representatives were elected. These facts proved the remarkable awakening of women in political and social affairs.

Urban women now have the opportunity to train themselves according to the trends of the times. However, the majority of rural women are still dominated by feudalistic ideas. Some of them have never left their home villages. Work in the fields and household duties have kept them very busy, giving them no time even to think. Under such circumstances, it is natural that they should be narrow-minded and unable to keep up with changes.

Fortunately, spring will bring many elections. If rural women can be educated in political and social affairs during these elections, it will be fortunate for them and even more so for the democratization of JAPAN.

During the war, Japanese women were promised rice, sugar, and salt when the war was over. In exchange, they sent their husbands, brothers, and sons to war. What they actually received in return we need not mention. Do they realize that the Government was behind this? Farmers are in need of fertilizers, farming implements, and working clothes. This problem, too, remains in the field of politics. We must teach our women and make them realize these facts, encouraging them to utilize the opportunity offered by the forthcoming elections.

PROFILES

Yuriko Miyamoto, A Feminine Fighter of Strong Convictions

No sooner had perfect freedom been guaranteed for the expression of thought after the war than there was a promiscuous emergence into the foreground of a number of leftist women, new and old, who had been lying low. Some of these women may be of good stuff and some may not, but it is difficult to distinguish which is which. So far as Yuriko Miyamoto is concerned, however, it can safely be said that she towers above all others. She is a clear-headed woman fighter of strong convictions. I have lately been an eye-witness of many tragic scenes at meetings of strikers or the like in which so-called women fighters were heard whining and screaming from the platform. Yuriko Miyamoto is too good a fighter to be bracketed with such women.

During the war, there were many women fighters, though in a different sense, who, being dubbed "women storm-troopers," were known to stand in a specially intimate relation to members of once popular death-defying corps, though in what capacity, whether as their servants, as their friends or as their sweethearts, I do not know. Not a few of these women I understand went to the bad after the war. There cannot be such a bad lot among the women on the democratic front. But there seems to be no saying out that superficial democrats who are easily moved by emotion may turn "storm-troopers" at any moment, once a change comes over the circumstances in which they are placed. Yuriko Miyamoto falls under an entirely different category. A woman of firm character, she makes a refreshing contrast with those who drift with the current.

Yuriko Miyamoto is as staunch a member of the Communist Party as her husband, Kenji Miyamoto. They are at once fellow-thinkers, friends and man and wife. Few couples are so well matched as they. The only flaw, if flaw it can be called at all, is that the wife is older than the husband. However, if her seniority makes her love her husband both with wifely affection and motherly tenderness, Kenji Miyamoto can have no cause whatever for complaint.

Some years ago, Yuriko Miyamoto made her meteoric debut in the literary world with her novel, "A Group of Poor People," and caused her surprised mother to declare that she had never dreamt of her daughter being such a genius. I cannot help wondering what she would have achieved by now had she continued her literary work. Instead of remaining long in literary circles to give full play to her literary genius, she thought fit to devote herself to the work of fighting for the Communist cause. As to which was a wiser course for her to pursue, even God would be unable to tell, if there does exist God, which Yuriko and her Communist friends deny.

(Translated from "Kaizo")

STARS & STRIPES DEC 20 1947

WOMEN POLITICIANS LAUDED BY LT. WEED

Making Voices Heard in Local, National Affairs, Says SCAP's Representative

The contrast between political thinking of Japanese women now and a year ago is amazing, Lt. Ethel Weed, Civil Information and Education Section women's information officer of Information Division, said at the press conference, Monday, in summing up her observations on a 17-day tour which took her more than 3,000 miles through southern Japan for conferences with over 5,000 women leaders.

"Women now see the direct connection between politics and daily living," she said, "and they see the necessity for organizing their energies in order to make their voice heard in local and national affairs."

Lt. Weed reported that "a tremendous task remains to be done," but women are hungry for information on how to democratize their organizations and are willing to undergo hardships to find out.

At Yamaguchi rural women got up in the middle of the night and walked four and five hours to attend meeting of representatives of a women's organizations in that area. At Fukuoka, when a blizzard swept through the open windows of the bomb-damaged meeting hall, the women resisted a motion for adjournment in order to finish their conference.

Development of new capable leadership among women is the chief business of many of the organizations with whose representatives Lt. Weed talked. Inexperienced women will learn the fundamentals of parliamentary procedure and public speaking in classes conducted by officers of the organizations and other qualified people in the community.

In preparing for participation in the forthcoming local elections, women are analyzing their position in the political parties to establish themselves on an equal footing with men before devoting time to campaigning and making other contributions to the party effort, Lt. Weed found.

"Some enlightened Japanese men realize that political education for everybody is possible only through participation in politics," the CI&E officer remarked. She praised the men at Fukuoka who are welcoming women's active membership on all committees in one of the political parties.

Caring for destitute repatriates is the number one project of many of the organizations which have begun to recognize their social responsibilities, Lt. Weed said. Orphans and other homeless people are receiving aid from public welfare committees established within the organizations. Some are planning programs to combat juvenile delinquency, while others are sponsoring cooperative nurseries to permit mothers more freedom from household duties and more time for civic affairs.

Lt. Weed was at Kochi City when it was hit by the tidal wave following the earthquake, but escaped through flooded areas in a truck to return to Tokyo. She had previously visited Fukuoka, Kagoshima, Kumamoto, Moji, Ogori, Yamaguchi, Hiroshima, Okayama, Utsunomiya and Takamatsu.

WOMEN STRIVE FOR EQUALITY IN JAP POLITICS

Lt. Weed Reports New Trend During 1946 Has Changed Ideas Radically

There has been "amazing" growth in the political thinking of Japanese women during the past year, Lt. Ethel Weed, Civil Information and Education Section women's information officer, told newspapermen yesterday in summing up her observations of a 17 day tour which took her more than 3,000 miles through Southern Japan for conferences with over 5,000 women leaders in women's organizations, labor unions and political parties.

"Women now see the direct connection between politics and daily living," she said, "and they see the necessity for reorganizing their energies in order to make their voices heard in local and national affairs."

Big Job Ahead

Lt. Weed, who made a similar trip a year ago, reported that "a tremendous task remains to be done," but women are hungry for information on how to democratize their organizations and are willing to undergo hardships to find out.

At Yamaguchi, rural women got up in the middle of the night and walked four and five hours to attend a meeting of representatives of all women's organizations in that area. At Fukuoka, when a blizzard swept through the open windows of the bomb-damaged meeting hall, the women resisted a motion for adjournment in order to finish their conference.

Analyze Position

In preparing for participation in the forthcoming elections, women are analyzing their position in the political parties to establish themselves on an equal footing with men before devoting time to campaigning and making other contributions to the party effort, Lt. Weed found.

In one town the women's section of a political party had been completely reorganized with a woman at the head, an innovation for a country where men usually have controlled all organizations.

JAN 9 1947

STARS & STRIPES

JAN 8 - 1947 NIPPON TIMES

POLITICAL SERIES: 1502 (Continued)

ITEM 11 First Step to Emancipation of Women - Mimpe - 3 Jan 46.
Translator: M. Ota.

Summary:

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 The most remarkable event in the women's circle last year was the formation of a women's democratic front. Ever since the mass meeting for the protection of women was held on 15 Dec 46, women members of various organizations, such as the Social Democratic and Communist Parties, CIO, Federation of Labor Unions, Women's Democratic Club, New JAPAN Women's League, League of JAPAN Co-operative Unions, JAPAN Women's Christian Temperance Union, Japanese League of Democratic Culture, Women's Workers' Union, and Youth Communist League have begun to discuss all the problems concerning women for the purpose of emancipating women. Among these associations, the Women's Democratic Club and the New JAPAN Women's League are organized on a nation-wide scale and carry on their movements for the improvement of the status of women.

The Women's Democratic Club

The Women's Democratic Club was organized in March 1946, through the efforts of Mesdames MIYAMOTO, Yuriko; AKAMATSU, Tsuneko; KATO, Shizue; YAMAMOTO, Sugi; HANI, Setsuko; MATSUOKA, Yoko; and KUSHIDA, Fuki and Misses SATA, Ineko and YAMAMURO, Tamiko. These members were expected to take an active part in their movements, but only a few lecture meetings were held. The weekly newspaper "Women's Democratic Paper" has been issued since September. In order to obtain the desired result, the leading members of the club were re-elected in accordance with the agreement made at its first plenary meeting held on 10 November. The leaders are MATSUOKA, Yoko (chairman); YANAGIDA, Fuki (secretary-general); ATSUGI, Taka (member of the Scenario Department of the ASAHI Movie Company); SATO, Sachiko (poet); KAKUDATE, Yoshiko (member of the Women's Problem Research Institute); OZEKI, Chie (clerk of the KANTO Democratic Food Conference); OKABAYASHI, Kiyoko (housewife); NAGAKURA, Ai (reporter of the "FUJIN KORON"); TANNO, Setsuko (editor of the "Women's Democratic Paper"); SUGIMURA, Yuki (teacher of the Third Metropolitan High School); and TANAKA, Yoshiko (clerk of the Association for the Promotion of Labor Movements). The planning section of the club intends to hold lecture meetings, private showings of films, concerts and plays put on by amateurs once a month. The livelihood section is to provide women for work and establish day nurseries for the benefit of women's living conditions. The culture section intends to raise the cultural standard of the women. The inquiry and research section is expected to collect material and statistics necessary for the studying of the women's problem from every view-point. It is also one of its plans to co-operate with other democratic associations. The club has a membership of only 500 at present, but the members of its branches have taken the lead on the practical side of the movements in TOKYO and other districts. The leading women reporters in TOKYO have participated in the editing of its paper since December 1946. The paper is on the market.

The New JAPAN Women's League

The New JAPAN Women's League was organized last November under the leadership of Miss ICHIKAWA, Fusae, who is the most prominent figure in the movements for emancipating women. Since women now enjoy suffrage, which has been their long-cherished desire, the league aims at the political enlightenment and the solution of their living problems. There are about 3,000 members in the league and 30 branches,

POLITICAL SERIES: 1502 (Continued)ITEM 11 (Continued)

with more than ten branches to be organized shortly. Members of the standing committee are OTSUBO, Hideko (Liberal); KARUBE, Kiyoko (clerk of the KANTO Democratic Food Conference); SAITO, Kie (director of the league); SANO, Chie; SUZUKI, Sadako (member of the Labor Problem Research Institute); TANAKA, Kineyo (the Society for the study of Law); TORAYA, Kieko (member of the Nihon Co-operative Union League); NAGASE, Takie; HARADA, Kiyoko; FUJITA, Taki (teacher of the TSUDA English College); TSUCHIDA, Sadako; YOSHIOKA, Mariko and WAZAKI, Haru (Independent Diet member). They intend to start movements to enlighten women on the local elections and to support democratic candidates in these elections. Furthermore, the league expected to cooperate with other associations.

Other Women's Organizations

The Friends Association and the Women's Christian Temperance Union are well known. Many number of minor women's societies have been formed in various districts. The Metropolitan Women's Club was organized under the leadership of YAMATAKA, Shigeri, who was an influential leader of the JAPAN Women's Association during the war. Members of the association were mostly former members of the Women's Co-operation Association, which was dissolved as the result of the purge directive. The old TOKYO Women's Club League which was called the Great Asiatic Livelihood Society during the war has started anew under the same leading members such as YOSHIOKA, Yayoi and MURAKAMI, Hideko. The Society is now called the 'New Livelihood Association'.

Women leaders began to appear in the co-operative unions and women's sections of various labor unions and all the political parties, and they took the initiative in the movements for the emancipation of women. In order to organize housewives, the KANTO Democratic Food Conference advocated the formation of the 'Mothers' Association', and the Federation of TOKYO Co-operative Purchasing Association has started to organize family associations.

ITEM 11 Emancipation of Women - Tokyo Times - 10 Dec 46. Translator:
Nobunaga.

Summary:

The establishment of sexual morality is one of the most important problems for JAPAN which is turning from militarism to democracy. Emancipation of human beings includes freedom and the equality of the sexes. The recent revision of the Constitution and the Civil Law placed primary importance on the equality of the sexes. Not only in politics, economics, domestic problems and in law, but also in love and marriage, new views of equality are required.

In our militaristic days, romance was generally regarded as immoral. However, in the democratic JAPAN of today, we should sincerely think about it for the young people. A new standard of sexual morality should be given to them. The standard should be based on the idea of human rights as a gift from Heaven. Careless emancipation, in which the standard of sexual morality is not given, will drive the young people into sexual indulgence. Sexual immorality has already been produced. The increase in street-walkers proves this trend. The chief cause of their ruin is the ignorance of sexual morality and the misunderstanding of freedom. Most of them were released from labor services in military factories at the end of the war and found freedom on the streets or in the dance halls. At the same time, they were tempted by the pleasures of indulgence and from the ignorance of sexual morality.

On the other hand, girls who returned home from factories are now suffering from the difficulty of getting married. Neither pure love nor proper marriage is permitted to them. To prevent them from ruin, a new standard of sexual morality for proper love and marriage should be established. Otherwise, a true emancipation of women cannot be expected. The co-education system has been established in universities.

The women have already been given suffrage. The "wife" in the Civil Law has become an individual with legal rights. Unless sexual morality is democratized, the complete emancipation of women will be impossible. Are the leaders thinking about this seriously?

ITEM 1 New Age for Our Women - Provincial Paper Osaka Nichinichi Shimbun (Osaka) - 8 Jan 47. Translator: I. Kuniko.

Summary:

This year may be rightly considered the dawn of a new age filled with hope for the women of JAPAN. Last year our women were given the right to vote as the first step towards their emancipation. Because of the result of the election, they were criticized for having cast a large number of blind votes. Despite their failure in the initial exercise of suffrage, the small number of non-voters definitely proved their interest in politics.

This year the new Constitution will become effective and the equality of the sexes will be legally recognized. Our women who have awakened to their new rights earnestly desire a democratic Government due to their antipathy to the autocratic Governments of the past. In our prefecture (OSAKA), there are about 20 independent women voters' societies including the women's divisions of various parties. Up to now, these societies have endeavored only to improve the political consciousness of women. We expect, however, that this year these societies will start vigorous political movements. About 90 per cent of the members are housewives. They are planning to purify the political world and to tie in livelihood directly with politics by electing true representatives of the home in the coming local elections.

On the other hand, the organized women laborers have rapidly matured politically and have greatly surpassed the housewives in political consciousness. Meanwhile, there are still many women whose political sense is undeveloped. However, they are not a majority. The women are uniting into strong organizations based on social organizations based on social progress. However, the women leaders of OSAKA who have contributed to the women's movements in the past must gravely reconsider before they lead the newly organized societies through the difficulties of a democratic age.

The new age will probably produce new leaders who will listen to the voice of the people. The leaders must show us the correct course to follow. The women who follow them must continually reconsider and develop. In a word, the fate of our women will depend upon their determination and proper action.

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ITEM 13 The Path Women Must Follow - By MIYAMOTO, Kenji (TN: Chief editor of "The Vanguard" (ZEN-SEI), an organ of the JAPAN Communist Party.) - Magazine: Fujin Koron (Monthly) - 1 Jan 47 Issue. Translator: K. Koike.

Summary:

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 Last autumn, I made a tour of the SHIKOKU and KYUSHU Districts. At KOCHI-Shi, I heard of the women workers of the GUNZE Silk-Manufacturing Company. Most of them are girls ranging from 16 to 20 years of age, and are accommodated in the dormitories of the company. Until quite recently, it was difficult for them to leave the factory after working hours and letters to them were inspected by the company authorities. Moreover, they were told not to see movies, lest they should come to know 'love'. These women held a meeting to discuss this maltreatment with the aid of the KOCHI Democratic Front Council and then demanded that the company abolish the letter inspection system and recognize their fundamental human rights. Nevertheless, the higher officials of the company who control the company labor union which is affiliated with the National Federation of Labor Unions, told them that the company would close the factory if they should call a strike and that the company would not accept their demands unless they negotiated through the NFLU. I was surprised that such a company or such a corrupt labor union still exists.

Also, in a town in YAMAGUCHI-Ken, I heard that a woman teacher of a boy's school had been reprimanded by the principal because she was affiliated with the Communist Party. The Provincial Committee of the Party in this town protested the principal's actions and made him recognize the right of teachers to join any political party. I know of many other principals, who insist on such an attitude toward political movements on the part of teachers.

The two examples cited above show that we have not yet completely thrown off the feudalistic suppression of the popular masses and especially of the women as described in "The Pitiful History of Woman Workers". Many unpurged "overnight democrats" who co-operated with the militarists and the other despotic leaders until the end of the war still remain in power. So long as such men remain in important posts, we cannot hope to find happiness for the workers, especially the women.

The status of the Japanese women was far below that of the men and even now it has not improved much. Women, except for those of the privileged class, should awaken to this fact. Progressive women are working in their offices, homes, towns, villages and even political parties, to break the irrationality which has existed in the differentiation of status according to sex. Of course, there are at times women who are opposed to this view. A woman teacher of an elementary school said, "education is a holy profession; therefore we should have no connection with the labor movement." Those who hold such an opinion do not understand the position they occupy in society and the relationship that exists between society and the working masses.

If the women abandon their old customs and seriously think of their future, they will easily understand the following points:

First, in order that they can live, not as chattels of men, but as independent individuals, feudalism must be abolished. The new Constitution still retains a feudalistic taint by leaving hereditary position of the Emperor and the regulation concerning status of women purposely vague.

SOCIAL SERIES: 1353 (Continued)ITEM 13 (Continued)

Secondly, women will not be emancipated merely by exchanging feudalism for modernism. They must be liberated from capitalistic exploitation as well. Of course, our present-day society is a capitalistic one, so they must try to extend their rights within the limits which capitalism imposes on them. The new Constitution stipulates nothing concrete in this regard. Only the draft Constitution proposed by the Communist Party provides that the State and the employers give special consideration to the working conditions of women workers. However, the improvement of women's status under capitalism is limited. The final goal must be socialism, under which factories, mines, railways, land and other social facilities will be placed under the direct management of the people, and the women, through utilizing the convenience of public dining rooms, laundry equipment, etc, will find the time to cultivate their personalities without the interference of domestic tasks.

All of these problems are serious ones, not only for the working women but also for everyone. The significance of these problems may be easily understood, if the women will study them with a liberal and progressive mind unprejudiced by the past and without being swayed by temporary fashions or irresponsible rumors. Some of the young women still seem to lack the common sense to study social problems, though they may be well informed on personal adornments or new fashions. Such types of women are morally repulsive. During the war, the authorities interfered even in matters pertaining to women's dress, but now the women must beautify their minds. The case the GUNZE Silk-Manufacturing Company shows the contempt held by our society towards working women. Women must unite to free themselves from their bondage.

ITEM 15 Way to Liberation of Women (Letter to Editor) - Mainichi Shimbun -
30 Dec 46. Translator: S. Yokoyama.

Summary:

Two young girls working in the DAI NIPPON Cinema Company were caught on their way home by the police who took them for street girls, and sent them to a hospital for a medical examination the other day. The appeal made by them to all the working women has developed into a women's movement for the protection of working women.

I was happily surprised, on several occasions, that I could talk freely with working women in various places and find that they are awakened to their true worth by surmounting difficulties of living which they had experienced most severely during the war. Their serious attitude toward life with an ardent desire to live as members of society as well as women, has already made them far advanced in the path of progress.

However, the popular attitude toward women is still at a very low standard, and is liable to produce a serious reaction at the first opportunity. The incident mentioned above was the result of the base position of women in the eyes of Japanese men.

The difficulty of liberating women lies in the lack of culture in either men or women. Unless everybody learns to respect the personality and character, of others, and to live in peace with others, there can be no true society; nor any worthwhile individual life.

The epochal storm of war which raged in the ORIENT has liberated women of the Oriental countries from their home to the streets, in work, in society and in politics. It seems to be the common desire of women to attain the proper way of living in present society, which is undergoing revolutionary changes, and to realize a strong will to live. They have realized through the experiences of war that women are not fundamentally inferior to men either mentally or physically. They are awakened to the boundless joy of life which can be made lasting by analysing and studying the deeper meaning of life, and by appreciating the unlimited preciousness of the human intellect. They are now possessed with an ardent will to live with the idea of attaining happiness in the human world. This kind of will toward life is indeed a protest against men with their low conception of women.

(YAMAMOTO, Sugi, a doctor, member of the Women's Democratic Club)

ITEM 8 Women Diet Members (Sub-Editorial) - Asahi Shimbun - 6 Jan 46.
Translator: Y. Eblike.

Full Translation:

We sent 39 women members to the first Diet session after women had been given franchise and eligibility for election. This fact was favorably noticed by the world as if it were the symbol of JAPAN's democratization. However, we think we do not deserve the world's praise, for we cannot deny that we cast our votes for female candidates out of curiosity, though we were conscious of it not being a beauty contest. Yet it was a surprise that so many women members were elected to the Diet. In view of their achievement in the Diet, the best five are expected to be reelected in the next general election. The rest did nothing but "create an amicable atmosphere in the Diet," taking no essential part in the course of the session.

We expect many women to win success in the election of prefectural assemblies and in local self-governing bodies, which are going to be held in the coming spring. No matter how eloquently a women member may make a speech at the Diet, it will prove fruitless. It is in the assemblies of prefectures, cities, towns, or villages where women's activities are expected and their views adopted to the best advantage. These assemblies have a lot of problems which await women's decisions, for they are now concerned with the difficulties of living more directly and painfully than men. The former's experience accompanied by their tender sentiments will surely brighten every corner of the administration of cities, towns, and villages. The agrarian committee in every district, we hear, contains several female members. Women's contribution to the local administration, will do much toward the democratization of actual life. We must, however, remember that there are war criminals among women as well as men. We want women who have lived honestly to take active roles in politics.

ITEM 7 An Obstacle to Women's Cultural Life - Dai-ichi Shimbun - 14 Dec 46. Translator: I. Hotta.

Summary:

As my niece was a doctor, undertook the care of children and mothers in a village which had no doctor and submitted scientific reports. Meanwhile, she married a doctor and became attentive to her husband as it is always customary in the everyday life of JAPAN. Moreover she helped her husband devote himself to his study and to complete a thesis for a doctor's degree. She also performed her duty as the mother of two children born within a year of each other. She brought them up herself in a scientific and healthy way.

As a housekeeper, she stood in line before a shop with other housewives during and after the war to buy rationed goods. She also went through many hardships to tide over the scarcity of food and inflation. In addition to these troubles, she took care of her baby and her husband, drew water from a well with a bucket, cooked with firewood three times a day as most of mothers in our country do. Although she was as busy as this, she called on even the poor, taking her children with her whenever some one needed her, even at night. How heavy is the burden of Japanese women's everyday life, compared with that of men.

Such being the case, most of the women in our country get old with overwork and die at an early age. They are the most short-lived persons in the world, with 42 as the average age of death. Worse still, most women are so busy in the kitchen that they have no time to read newspapers, listen to the radio, or go see a good movie or a play, to say nothing of listening to a lecture. They cannot help being stranger to the world of scientific and spiritual culture based on literature, music, and fine arts. It is therefore quite clear that they have no time to plan their life and to think of improving it. Women are pushed far away from culture. Only the wealthy can taste it while their servants do their work. Women's natural talents have been nipped in the bud.

My niece suddenly died at the age of 32 after her third baby was born. I would like people to become aware of the fact that women are not without talent but have been separated from culture. The obstacle lies in the unscientific life in JAPAN, lack of co-operation between men and women, and in feudalistic thinking among men. The new Constitution has taken every legal burden from us, but women cannot take part in a cultural life unless the burden of their life is removed. We must improve our way of living for the sake of women's cultural life.

(KAWASAKI, Natsu, a critic)

ITEM 1 Dance Parties To Encourage Love and Marriage (Sub-Editorial) - Akahata - 20 Jan 47. Translator: M. Bokura.

Full Translation:

It would be a good idea to hold dances at the office during lunch hours, and if various firms would give reciprocal dance parties on days when electricity is suspended. Moreover, a public consolation dance party would help a great deal in comforting the unions after a struggle has passed its crisis. The public is indifferent to the labor unions. However, if the men and women can mingle and dance together, unions would become more friendly and pleasant. Furthermore, it would strengthen their unity.

The Japanese women, who have long been confined at home, do not mingle with men at the office. Their feeling that women should associate with women only is still prevalent. Therefore, there are no love affairs and naturally, marriage is delayed. This is the very reason why so many women are still single at the age of 30 or 40. There are many social reasons for the lack of sound love affairs and marriages. However, the encouragement of dance will at least abolish the feudalistic relationship between men and women.

Love affairs at the office and in the unions for youths are fine. When we unite to fight, our souls must also unite. However, love between the workers must not end in flirtation. It must lead to marriage. The romance of young clerk and opposition from their parents forced them to commit suicide together. Love affairs and marriage are for the sake of existence. Any other objective would be unsound. Still worse, it would be abnormal love if it should destroy our existence.

WOMEN EXHORTED TO REALIZE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL POLLS

They Must Try to Elect Proper Persons to Posts Of Governor, Mayor, Assemblyman

By DR. YOSHIO HONJEN

II

Hitherto 70 per cent of the dwelling-houses have been tenant-houses. In view of the present cost of building and rents, few tenant-houses will be built in future. With a small subsidy, few people can build their own houses, either. Besides, the scarcity of materials and the need for making cities incombustible will force the construction of iron-and-concrete communal houses and impose limitations on the building of single dwelling-houses. Municipalities and other local governing bodies must try and build single houses and make them available to the masses at low rents.

This is a task at present assigned to the Housing Corporation, but the corporation is literally so big as to be unwieldy, and besides, its monopolist role is retarding, rather than expediting, housing reconstruction. This organization ought to be broken down to separate local units that would work hand in hand with local government organs. The latter, in turn, should help and, if necessary, may compete with the corporation.

The pace of reconstruction is entirely up to each municipality. Whether or not houses will be built to the masses and made available to the masses will depend on whether the right choice will be made of governors, mayors and assembly men. On the reconstruction of the cities will depend the future well-being of the nation. The outcome of the forthcoming elections will show whether the work of reconstruction will be in the hands of capable and dependable men. The significance of the elections cannot be over-emphasized. In a statement issued recently, the Allied Supreme Headquarters expressed itself keenly interested in the reform of local government and the gubernatorial elections.

Claim Greatest Attention

Local government has a great deal to do with the consumer population. Consumer problems are problems of every man and every home. The omnipresence of the consumer population makes it imperative for local governments to act in every consumer economic problem. The extent of their action will differ with the nature of each problem, but no consumer economic policy can be pursued without the medium of local governments. With every member of the nation a consumer, problems of consumer economy claim more attention on the part of local governments than other economic questions.

The starting point of consumer economy is the household, and household economy is in the charge of the housewife. Consequently, she cannot be indifferent to local government which has such a close bearing on consumer economy. Men are producers and so they may perhaps be indifferent to local government,

but women, being consumers, must have genuine interest in it.

The smallest and most basic unit of local government is the neighborhood association. (Editor's note: This article was written in October. The neighborhood and street associations will be abolished at the end of March.) Having as it does the most immediate and closest relationship to kitchen economy, the institution is, in act, a debating society of housewives and is, therefore, presided over by a housewife. Its general meetings are nearly always attended by women only. This is partly because men, being producers, have no time for that, but the principal reason is that the meetings can get nowhere without the presence of women.

But women are shut out of the street or block association which is superior and anterior to the "tonarigumi." The superior institution has traditionally been run by men only. It often acts without regard to the actuality of our everyday life because it is out of touch with the neighborhood association or, more exactly, because it excludes women.

Now that women have been granted franchise, they should be admitted into the street association as a matter of course. The present custom under which only family-heads have the right of voting in street association elections should be changed. With women included, the street association could, no doubt, be operated more in accord with the actuality of life. In fact, to respect the voice of women is a key to the reform of the street association.

Hitherto the voice of women has been transmitted through the neighborhood association, street associa-

tion, municipal and prefectural assemblies in that order. The order has been reversed. Women have been given the right to take part in the national assembly first of all and are now due for participation in local assemblies. Consequently, they lacked deliberate judgment in casting their votes in the last general elections, thus prompting doubt as to their political intelligence. However, if they are made aware of the inseparable bearing which local government has on the life of consumers, they will no doubt feel called upon to take a positive part in local administration as they do in the neighborhood association.

They Only Grumble

Speaking of the neighborhood association, this institution cannot be said to have enhanced the political intelligence of women. During the war, many women thought that their sole duty as members of the institution was to take part in air-defense drills and to handle the distribution of rations. Even now they look on the institution as little more than a ration distribution agency. They do not think of making it an instrument for rationaliz-

ing their consumer life. If they find fault with the policy of the street association, municipality or the Government, all they do is to grumble among themselves. They are in no mood to cry for reform. This passive attitude of theirs is due partly to the fact that they have been denied a part in government and largely to lack of consciousness on the part of the neighborhood association as a cooperative unity of society. In order to arouse political awakening on the part of women, the political significance of the neighborhood association must be brought home to them and, at the same time, women must be heard by the street association.

Reform of our consumer life inexorably demands renovations in local government which has been relegated to the background up to now. There can be no reform of national government without the reform of local administration. This is obvious from the single fact that economic control measures decided on by the Government have very often failed when enforced locally. In order that there may be indivisible unity between the government and those it governs, local administration must be reformed. There can be no reform, I reiterate, of national government unless local administration can be renovated.

The democratic form of government in the United States has developed out of the autonomous government organized by the pioneer settlers in the New England days. The socialization of government in England is traceable to the progress of local autonomous bodies following the granting of woman suffrage. The political movements in our country during the Meiji era (1868-1913), however, were aimed solely at the democratization of central government, with local government left out of the picture, thus weakening the foundation of democracy. Inasmuch as democracy in our country today has not arisen of itself from below but is something that has been given from above, it may end in the democratization of central government in form only. For the real democratization of government, local administration must be democratized, to begin with.

At the risk of repetition, I call attention to the fact that local government has more to do with consumer economy than with any other phase of economy. Accordingly, women as administrators of household consumer economy owe it to themselves to take positive interest in local government. In order that their experience with the neighborhood association may be used with profit or their convictions gained from that experience reflected in government, there must be more candidates of the fair sex and more votes from women than there were in the last general elections.

Voters must scrutinize the platform of every candidate and make sure that they vote for those who can be trusted. Since the candidates will be people we see at close range, we shall be able to judge them easily. Local government, because it is related more directly to our everyday life, is easier to understand than high politics.

The degree of interest to be shown in the forthcoming local elections will be a faithful barometer of the degree of their political awakening. (End)

Want Succession by Woman and Freedom Of Marriage Permitted in New House Law

Succession to the Throne by a woman and freedom of marriage should be permitted in the new Imperial House Law, it is proposed, in the Liberal and other party circles with the bill scheduled to be introduced in the House of Representatives Thursday.

The Imperial House Bill was to have been taken up in Tuesday's plenary session of the House of Representatives but owing to the fact that the interpellations on the Prime Minister's administrative policy address had not yet been concluded the matter has been postponed until the plenary session on December 5.

The Social Democratic Party is opposed to the stipulation in the Government bill that only the legitimate son and heir of the Emperor shall be recognized as successor to the Throne, regarding it as a vestige of the undemocratic tradition. The Liberals also are taking a similar view, which is as follows:

(1) The clauses that the marriage of the Emperor must be decided by an Imperial House Conference and that no woman may succeed to the Throne both repudiate the freedom of marriage by mutual choice between the two sexes and the equality of the sexes.

(2) That the composition of the Imperial House Conference has been fixed as two members of the Imperial Family, Director of the Imperial Household Board, President and Vice-President of the House of Councillors, Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Prime Minister, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and other judges militates against the spirit of interdependence of the three departments of government.

On these grounds they are unsatisfied with the bill as in discord with the spirit of the new Constitution. Keitaro Kitaura, Liberal, and other members of the Government parties are expected to pose sharp interpellations to the Government regarding these stipulations of the bill.

The questions on the new bill are expected to end by December 5 and the law project to be turned over to a committee of 45, composed of 15 Liberals, 12 Progressives, 10 Socialists, 5 Kyodo-ites (Cooperative Democrats), 3 Kokumin men (People's Party) (the Progressive Party yielding one member to the Non-Partizan Club and the Socialist Party another to the Communist Party). Senzo Higai, Liberal, is slated to be chairman.

Cabinet Bill Approved

The Cabinet Bill, one of the laws relative to the new Constitution to be deliberated in the current extraordinary session of the Diet, was approved by the Privy Council's investigation subcommittee Monday. The bill is expected to be placed on the agenda of the Privy Council's plenary session slated for today for approval, and immediately will be presented to the Lower House.

Among four other bills, the Imperial Household Bill has already been submitted to the Lower House, and the Councillors Election Bill is scheduled to be placed on the Upper House's floor for discussion today. The Imperial Household Economy Bill is also expected to be presented to the Diet by the end of this week, while the State Assembly Bill, the only bill drawn up by the Diet members, will be placed on the Lower House's agenda about December 10.

WOMEN'S NEW ROLE IN JAPAN STRESSED

Feminine Sex Here Forging Ahead, Says Mrs. Uyemura Touring in U.S.

WASHINGTON (USIS). December 12.—The first Japanese civilian to visit the United States since the war, the Reverend Mrs. Tamaki Uyemura, told a recent Young Women's Christian Association meeting here that "At last Japanese women are being awakened to a consciousness of what God has given them to do in the world."

And while women are forging ahead in Japan, Mrs. Uyemura declared, the Church, too, is making great strides. Two of the 39 women in Japan's legislative body are Christians she reported. She added that in 1941 the then existing 34 separate denominations united under one Church of Christ and that the YWCA, the Women's Department of the Church, and the Women's Christian Temperance Union joined forces to work for the goal of three million converts to Christianity within three years. According to Mrs. Uyemura this group publishes a weekly newspaper in Japanese and English entitled "The Women's Press."

Mrs. Uyemura, who is Chairman of the Women's Department of the Church of Christ in Japan, President of the YWCA and Vice President of the World YWCA, expressed the great desire on the part of Japanese Church and YWCA leaders to be taken back into the fellowship of religious groups in the United States.

She told the gathering that "There have always been many liberal thinking people in Japan, but until recently they dared not speak out. Now the time has come when they can speak freely. This is the time of our lives."

Mrs. Uyemura is touring the United States at the invitation of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions and as a member of the East Asia Christian Fellowship Mission from China, Japan and the Philippines.

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TRUMAN RECEIVES 1ST JAPANESE SINCE WAR



The first Japanese civilian to visit the United States from Japan since Pearl Harbor, Mrs. Tamaki Uyemura, secretary-general of the Japanese YWCA, was received by President Harry Truman at the White House December 3. The veteran Christian worker, who has been touring the United States since early this summer, transmitted to the President oral messages from the Japanese Emperor and Empress. Photo shows from left: Mrs. Uyemura with President Truman and Dr. Josefa Slano, physician of the Philippine Evangelical Church.

(Sun Acme Photo)

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MAY EXPEL WOMAN SOLON

Love Affair Between Miss Miki and Kawanishi Seen as Cause

Expulsion of Miss Kiyoko Miki, 27-year-old Diet member from Osaka, from the Liberal Party was recommended at a general meeting of the Osaka Branch of the party held in Osaka last week, said Jiji Press. The conferees passed a resolution accusing the Diet's "glamor" girl Kiyoko as lacking in "moral integrity."

The action was taken, it was believed, because of a parliamentary confirmation of the widely publicized love affair between her and Kiyoshi Kawanishi, 28-year-old Liberal member from Hyogo Prefecture, heir to the Kawanishi aircraft fortune and a married man.

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Weekly Roundup
Women's World

By TSUGI SHIRAISHI

American women will continue to work in industry, probably at the rate of one out of every three, says Dr. Anna Baetjer of John Hopkin's School of Hygiene and Public Health in her book, "Women in Industry." This authority on women's problems further estimates that more than 16,000,000 women will be employed in industry in the United States by 1950 and points out that this will create new problems for industry.

Expressing her impression of the Diet and women's roles as Diet members, Mrs. Ochimi Kubushiro, head of the women's section of the Liberal Party, said that she witnessed that women were active everywhere in the Diet building, at plenary sessions, committee as well as executive meetings whereas the legislation house was closed to women one year ago. Some day she stated she would like to see women sit side by side with men at Cabinet meetings.

Regarding the anticipated all-out railway workers' strike, Mrs. Satoko Tokano, Nippon-Minto (People's Party) said that the dispute must be solved through negotiations and not by resorting to a strike. She declared it was not right on part of the authorities to propose the discharge of women as the first step of mass discharge of railroad employees as it infringes the rights of women.

Under the joint auspices of Kanda Ward and the Tokyo YWCA, the Danish Evening was held at the Ogawa-machi National School on August 30 for working girls. Those who participated in the evening recreation program learned Danish folk dances and songs.

Policewomen to whom matters concerning the preservation of peace and order and sanitation duties were entrusted have been inspecting the sanitation conditions of the city, often visiting orphanages where homeless children are sheltered, while on their inspection tour.

The Women's Society inaugurated in May of this year at Yokosuka is successfully conducting a relief campaign for those who have returned from overseas. With a membership of 60,000, the society now plans to obtain the former navy employes dormitories in the port city to accommodate repatriates. While giving vocational guidance in sewing, laundry and manufacturing simple toys, the society intends to take care of war orphans and homeless children in cooperation with religious groups.

Mrs. Elizabeth Vining of Philadelphia who was recently reported to have been chosen as tutor to Akihito, Crown Prince of Japan, will arrive in Japan at the beginning of October to stay for one year. While in Japan she will also teach at the Boys Middle School Department of the Peer's School. A graduate of Bryn Mawr College, she is the author of many children's books including, "William Penn," "Young Walter Scott" and "Adam of the Road." In 1940 she received the

Newspaper prize and later the Spring Books Festival Prize was given her by the New York Herald Tribune in recognition of her book "Sunday, for older boys and girls. Besides being a bachelor of arts she holds the bachelor of science degree.

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Study Democratic Politics

Some 400 local women workers held a meeting Wednesday morning in the Shiba Public Hall to study democratic politics and listened to lectures made by three women Diet members. This meeting was sponsored by the woman division of the local chapter of All-Japan Chemical Industry Workers Union and was attended by Mrs. Shizue Kato, Social Democrat, Miss Toshiko Karasawa, Communist, and Mrs. Keiko Sugita, Liberal.

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READERS IN COUNCIL

Supports 'V.D. Roundups'

To the Editor:

Several of Japan's major women's organizations have protested against the compulsory physical examination which all women, caught out late, have to undergo during the periodical police roundups of suspected carriers of V.D.

And they protest in the name of Democracy!

Everyone, whether man or woman, should gladly submit to any measure found necessary to insure the progress of the fight against communicable diseases, and thus promote the health of the nation.

I admit that it is extremely unpleasant to spend hours at a police station or hospital when one is hungry and cold on the way home after long day of honest work, as probably many of the women who were rounded up were.

If there were any way of ascertaining who is a street walker and who is a decent working woman just by looking at them or by questioning them, then obviously the innocent girls would not have to undergo annoying examinations. But there is no such way. So, in order to stamp out those diseases that destroy the health and happiness of our families, let's without selfish reservations, endure what is necessary for the good of the nation.

In a democratic country everyone must voluntarily do what is right. Narrow-minded selfishness is a danger to the healthy growth of the community and has no place where democracy rules the lives of men.

A JAPANESE WOMAN
Nagoya.

JAN 15 1947 NIPPON TIMES

Weekly Roundup
Women's World

By TSUGI SHIRAISHI

Offers of employment for women greatly exceed the number seeking jobs. In January there were 15,000 women seeking employment as against 7,000 offers, and all those looking for work in the same month found employment. In April, while there were 105,000 offers, only 70,000 women were seeking jobs, of whom 46,000 were employed. Investigations conducted by the Labor Bureau of the Welfare Ministry revealed that 25 per cent of women job-seekers desired office work, while 16 per cent preferred factory labor.

Regarding the revised Civil Code, Mrs. Shizue Kato, Social Democrat, Shigeo Tanabe housewife, and Miss Michiko Watanabe, lawyer, unanimously pointed out the complicated provisions regarding succession to property, and urged the setting up of special courts to deal with domestic troubles in order to put the new Civil Code into practice successfully. The staff of the new court must consist of civilians, women judges and women lawyers, and should be independent of the jurisdiction of the Justice Ministry, they further opined.

About one-sixth of the visitors to the Diet is composed of women, most of whom are between the ages of 18 and 19, followed by those over 40 years of age, with those between the ages of 20 and 30 constituting the smallest number. This shows that housewives who have children are tied down by housework.

In order to vest policewomen with judicial power, the Metropolitan Police Board, on September 1, started a two-month re-education program for 61 policewomen. Upon completion of the training, they will become qualified government officials empowered to apprehend culprits and criminal suspects.

Some 100 graduates and students of the Japan Women's College have been working side by side with women workers at the relief printing factory at Koishikawa Ward, Tokyo, since the beginning of July, when the school closed for vacation. The understanding and friendship fostered between the students and workers have developed into the formation of a glee club and "Recreation Day," which has been held once a month.

At the Children's Home, Saginomiya, Nakano Ward, Tokyo, 15 orphans are being taken care of by Mrs. Sadayo Ishiwata and her daughter, Tomoko. The living, education and other expenses, which Mrs. Ishiwata said totaled ¥400 a month per person, are paid out of her own private funds, while an allowance of ¥1.60 per person a day is provided by the Metropolitan Government. Happy and healthy under the motherly and sisterly care, the 15 children show no shadow of loneliness on their innocent faces. "Orphans can be brought up only when taken care of with such profound love as a mother's love," Mrs. Ishiwata stated.

NIPPON TIMES
SEP 9 1946

Meanwhile, the Arunta is standing by and will accompany the Marine Falcon into port.

The home address of Lt. and Mrs. Pinaud is 1235 Rockdale, New Bedford, Mass.

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JAPANESE WOMEN DO MUCH MORE POLITICAL THINKING NOW

THAN IN PAST, INFORMATION OFFICER DECLARES

451 There has been "amazing" growth in the political thinking of Japanese women during the past year, Lt. Ethel Weed, Civil Information and Education Section women's information officer, told Japanese newspapermen today in summing up her observations of a 17 day tour which took her more than 3,000 miles through southern Japan for conferences with over 5,000 women leaders in women's organizations, labor unions and political parties.

"Women now see the direct connection between politics and daily living," she said, "and they see the necessity for reorganizing their energies in order to make their voices heard in local and national affairs."

Lt. Weed, who made a similar trip a year ago, reported that "a tremendous task remains to be done," but women are hungry for information on how to democratize their organizations and are willing to undergo hardships to find out.

At Yamaguchi, rural women got up in the middle of the night and walked four and five hours to attend a meeting of representatives of all women's organizations in that area. At Fukuoka, when a blizzard swept through the open windows of the bomb-damaged meeting hall, the women resisted a motion for adjournment in order to finish their conference.

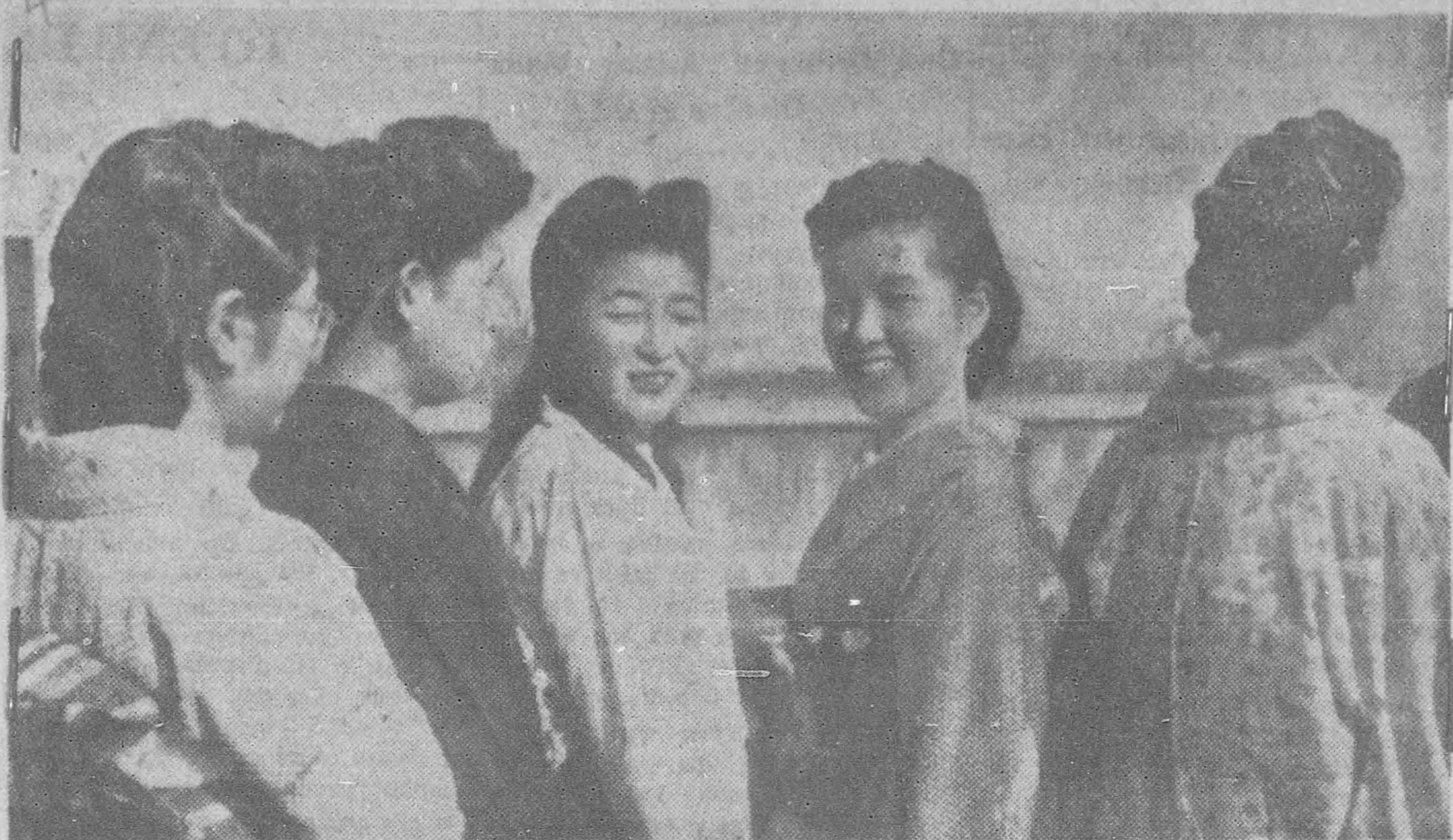
Development of new capable leadership among women is the chief business of many of the organizations with whose representatives Lt. Weed talked. Inexperienced women will learn the

the fundamentals of parliamentary procedure and public speaking in classes conducted by officers of the organizations and other qualified people in the community.

In preparing for participation in the forthcoming elections, ^{of} women are analyzing their position in the political parties to establish themselves on an equal footing with men before devoting time to campaigning and making other contributions to the party effort, Lt. Weed found.

In one town the women's section of a political party had been completely reorganized with a woman at the head, an innovation for a country where men usually have controlled all organizations. * 6 JAN 1947 PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC

WOMEN ALSO CHANGING WHAT'S OUTSIDE THEIR HEADS



The vast changes that have taken place in the minds of the women of this country, as a result of the democratization of Japan, are also reflected in what is happening outside their heads. The picturesque but cumbersome headdress which one sees in Japanese color prints has practically given way to the permanent wave. Only at weddings and possibly at New Year's are the women of this country wearing their hair in the traditional manner now, and even then, most brides are renting wigs. This photograph shows the creations of some of Tokyo's leading hairdressers who will vie for honors at a contest to be held on December 17. (Sun Photo)

NIPPON TIMES DEC 11 1946

Korea Women Beginning Suffrage Revolution

By SGT. FRANK EMERY, Staff Writer

SEOUL, Korea, Dec. 16—When Susan B. Anthony described American women as "no better than slaves," while campaigning for American women's suffrage, a revolution began which today is beginning to reach Korean women.

A 53-year-old American woman attorney is aiding Korean women in a chance at careerism.

Ida Lippman, who arrived in Korea three weeks ago, and is civilian advisor to Gladys Koh, chief of Korean policewomen, is paving the way for one of the most revolutionary female law enforcement groups ever to be placed in connection with Korean jurisprudence.

The bespectacled woman lawyer who says, "Korean women are more than anxious to get out from under male Korean domination," explains that Korean policewomen are slated to number more than 500 when her present plan is completed.

Briefly outlining her ideas for a well trained woman's police force, the American attorney pointed out that Seoul is presently being used as an experimental city for Korean policewomen.

The bespectacled American lawyer, who was recently admitted to the Korean bar as the first American woman civilian granted rights to practice Korean law, explained that already a detention home and a venereal clinic for Korean women has been established.

Recalling former Korean prison practices of mixing men and women in the same cell, she said, "our new plan enables women to handle women instead of overcrowding both sexes in the same space."

Asked to give her opinion of Korea as a location, she added: "Although it seems like the last outpost, there are many things to be done here concerning police work."

The Michigan attorney plans to remain in Korea for one year and then to return to her Detroit law practice.

6 Women Enter Today

Machiko Hayashi, 30, wife of Kentaro Hayashi, professor of occidental history at the First Higher School, Tokyo, passed the entrance examination to the College of Economics, Tokyo Imperial University, with five other women.

She is a graduate of the Tsuda College. The Hayashis are living in the alumni hall of the First Higher School with their two sons.

MAINICHI MAR 28 1947

STARS & STRIPES
DEC 17 1946

Too Many Girls

Jap Women Outnumber Potential Male Suitors

By PVT. LAURENCE STERN, Staff Writer

Too many girls. . . .

Such a situation, an ideal one as far as most males are concerned, prevails in Japan today according to census figures taken last April.

Marriageable females between the ages of 20 and 24 outnumber potential suitors in the same age bracket by 142 to 100. Young ladies in their waning twenties outscore their male age counterparts by 57 per cent.

A similar, but tremendously more acute condition, exists in post-war Europe, notably Germany, where the war-depleted male population and super abundance of frauleins in that country created a drastic upswing in sexual promiscuity and consequently, a boost in venereal disease rates.

Many suggestions have appeared in the Japanese press to cope with the situation and save the Japanese maiden from the harem or a dubious career on the streets.

One writer proposed an alternative "School for Brides" program for Japan's male of the species.

would considerably raise the marital stability of the nation.

A shortage of males is inevitable after a war, said one fatalist. The livelihood of unmarried women should be protected with offers of employment in firms and factories, he declared.

He advises that a nation-wide orientation program be introduced for men of "the proper ages." Such a movement would awaken potential family men to the "beneficial aspects of married life." Even "elderly bachelors should give this matter consideration," he opined.

From the same quarter came the suggestion that speed-up in the repatriation of Japanese nationals

FEB 8 1947

STARS & STRIPES

TAKE TIME OFF DURING DIET SESSION



It's lunch time for the women Diet members after attending the reopening of the 92nd session Friday morning. In the Diet dining room they enjoy what they can't have for heaven or earth outside —juicy beefsteak at ¥20 with 120 grams of rice for 60 sen, a cup of coffee at ¥4 and wind up their mid-day repast with a mandarin orange costing ¥2.

NIPPON TIMES FEB 1 6 1947

Large Number of Women Expected To Run For Diet Seats in Next Polls

By EARNEST HOBERECHT
United Press Staff Correspondent

A large number of Japanese women are expected to run for Diet seats in the coming elections which General Douglas MacArthur has ordered the Japanese Government to hold but Japanese observers predict they will have a tough time getting votes.

Thirty-nine women now hold seats in the Diet—for the first time in Japanese history—and it would seem logical to assume that a greater number would be swept into office by the second democratic election in Japan. However, things may not work out that way.

It seems that the present women members of the Diet have not been spectacular enough. They have not created a sensation. They have done their job, just as the male members have done their job, but they have not given the voters a "Hollywood finish."

It has been repeatedly pointed out in Japanese circles that these feminine members of the Diet have not done anything outstanding. However, their critics have to admit that the women have done as good as the men. Even so, it appears that the women were expected to produce miracles the very first time they had a chance to make themselves heard in the government of this country.

Allied officials and many observers have been very pleased with the efforts of the women who admittedly are new at law making and who probably are entitled to play only a moderately active role until they get the feel of the situation. Numerous Allied officials are hoping that the number of women Diet members can be greatly increased by the next elections.

Most of the Japanese men who criticize the feminine members of the Diet are vague in their charges. Generally they say: "We thought they were going to do so much. We heard them say they would improve the plight of the Japanese woman."

To give credit where credit is due, it must be recalled that Japan's new Constitution which goes into effect May 3, has been put together during the tenure of these current lady Diet members and was approved by them. The new Constitution, which they had a hand into bringing into being, will give women in Japan equal rights with men for the first time.

But this still does not seem spectacular enough for the voters. The consensus is that the women candidates are going to have to do some excellent campaigning if they want to get back in office.

JAN 1 2 1947 NIPPON TIMES

WOMAN LEADS DISPUTE AT OSAKA DRUG FIRM

34-Year-Old Feminine Chairman Demands Increased Wages

Under a woman's leadership, 7,000 workers of the Takeda Drug Manufacturing Company in Osaka launched into a dispute with the management over the question of a pay increase.

Miss Fumie Saruwata, 34, was

electd chairman of the policy section of the executive committee of the union, and has to become chairman of the policy committee.

She is a pharmacist who was graduated from the Imperial Women's Pharmaceutical College, a private educational institution in Osaka, in 1934.

FEB 2 2 1947
NIPPON TIMES

Women Candidates May Face Tough Time In Securing Votes

Many Will Run Again; Record To Date Good But Nothing Spectacular

By Earnest Hoberoch
United Press Staff Correspondent

TOKYO, Feb. 10.—A large number of Japanese women are expected to run for Diet seats in the coming elections which General Douglas MacArthur has ordered the Japanese Government to hold, but Japanese observers predict they will have a tough time getting votes.

Thirty-nine women now hold seats in the Diet—first time in Japanese history—and it would be logical to assume that a greater number would be swept into office by the second democratic election in Japan. However, things may not work out that way.

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Record Good As Men

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Approval Of Constitution

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MAINICHI FEB 1 3 1947

Woman Painter Succumbs

Mrs. Chigusa Kitani, 52, noted woman painter, died at her residence at Takawashi-mura, Minami Kawachi-gun, Osaka prefecture on January 24.

MAINICHI JAN 1 2 1947

DIET WOMEN LACK CALIBER TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE

Most Have Narrow and Shallow View—Few Have Intelligence to Understand Problems

By SHIZUE KATO

How well Japanese women will use their newly acquired right to participate in government will have an important bearing on the democratization of their country. In this sense, our Diet women should not be judged by their personal merits or demerits. The basic point of any judgment to be passed on them should be whether they realize their rights and obligations and whether they can become a factor in the democratization of Japan.

Many of the criticisms that I have read about our women solons stray far from this basic point. Some are mere stories for amusement. Some misrepresent facts. Some even stoop to the level of personalities. I wish these criticisms were more to the point and more penetrating.

An exception is an article entitled, "Diet Women in the National Assembly Hall," appearing in a recent issue of the magazine *Josel Kaizo* or Reconstruction of Women. The article comes from the pen of Kotaro Wakamiya, staff writer of the political and economic department of the *Asahi Shimbun*. His opinion is, for the most part, unbiased and constructive.

He attributes the incompetence of our Diet women to the fact that "with negligible exceptions, they are lacking in knowledge, character and caliber becoming representatives of the people." "As representatives of the people," he writes, "they ought to be able to grasp a situation from a high, broad viewpoint and form broad, comprehensive views. Their utterances and actions at plenary sessions and committee meetings show that many of them have a narrow and shallow view."

True of Diet Men Also

Criticism about knowledge and character holds true of our Diet men as well, but the narrowness and shallowness of view is, I am constrained to admit, a fatal defect of our Diet women. In fact, the few who have even a "narrow and shallow view" on a given problem belong to the better class. No few of them have not the intelligence to understand the problem they were called upon to tackle!

If anyone should seek a seat in the Diet for the sake of his family honor or out of curiosity, he would be committing an outrage to democratic government and a parody to the people. Yet the regrettable fact is that some of our Diet women were actuated by such insincere motives. I think that the people who voted for such women are more to blame than the winners of the votes themselves. Too many womenfolk cast their votes for candidates of their own sex from mere motives of sentiment. Proof of this predilection is to be found in the fact that many of the women candidates scored over their male competitors by a wide margin without so much as publishing a platform.

"Hitch politics to the kitchen" was the slogan used at the time of the last general elections to enlighten women who had acquired the voting right for the first time in the history of our country. This slogan was understood too literally. One candidate won by promising in her campaign speech that, if she was elected, she would see to a prompt and smooth supply of cooking utensils, sewing thread and needles.

Stock Phrase of Women

"Sentiment of women" was a stock phrase used by the women candidates and it appealed strongly to voters of their own sex. One candidate was elected with a maximum of votes in her constituency by declaring in her campaign speech, "I have eight children and I know how necessary it is to put motherly love into government."

A none-too-welcome tendency on the part of the majority of the Diet women is to stick to what they fondly call the "standpoint of women." This tendency is pointed out by Mr. Wakamiya. He observes, "The worst thing about the Diet women is that they confine themselves within the domain of the weaker sex and are making capital out of the 'standpoint of women.' I, for one, have observed that most of my colleagues do not and will not interest themselves in problems other than those which affect the mother, the wife, children and the home."

Why is it that our Diet women harp so noisily on the "standpoint of women"? Why can they not rise above the "standpoint of women" and stand on the standpoint of human beings? Many reasons can be thought of but the chief reason is that they have not the intelligence to take an objective view of the standpoint of women. They take only a superficial, subjective view of it. One Diet woman betrayed her gross misconception of the "standpoint of women" and the "rights of the mother" by asserting at a meeting of the Constitution committee

that the war renunciation clause should be amended to read, "We, the people of Japan, renounce war . . . in order that we may exercise our rights and perform our obligations as mothers!"

Cannot Understand Bills

Most of our women law-makers evince little interest in, and have not the intelligence to understand the various bills introduced to the Diet except those which have a direct bearing on the home, especially on their private life. Recently our Diet women were asked what they knew about the forthcoming reforms in local administration. One of them, a Conservative, replied, "We are not at all concerned about that subject, because it has nothing to do with women," and left the questioner open-mouthed.

Diet women should transcend sex. The American Congresswomen once declared, "We are Congressmen, not Congresswomen." True to their word, the nine American Congresswomen stand shoulder to shoulder with their male colleagues.

Now that equal rights for both sexes are recognized under the new Constitution, our women may as well stop thinking that they have a "standpoint" exclusively their own. Of course, women's problems arising out of biological characteristics may be studied and discussed as a specific subject. Such problems are not always better understood by women, however. In the interests of the fair sex, such problems had better be tackled by experts of both sexes. But inasmuch as the Diet is a political assembly and not a university research institute, women's interests can be better served if we have experts on the subject among the Diet women.

Not Prepared for Task

Looking back, I find that the first postwar general elections were held without enlightening our womenfolk on the significance of the woman suffrage that has been granted for the first time in our country. Nor were the women who were returned to the Diet well prepared for the task which was to devolve on them. Self-criticism is called for on the part of both the voters and those who were voted for.

Before concluding, I should like to say that not all our present Diet women are nonentities. There are exceptions, though negligible. Some of them have an expert knowledge of certain specific subjects, while some have a distinct record as fighters for the freedom of their own sex. Due credit must be given these exceptional women solons for the good work they have done in the Diet. Some of them are doing good work out of the Diet also.

Only when the day comes when only those women are elected to the Diet who qualify as stateswomen will democracy in Japan take firm root.

FEB 18 1947 MANICHI

22 Women to Seek Seats In House of Councillors During Election in April

Twenty-two women, up to March 8, will seek seats in the House of Councillors in the coming election of April 20. Belonging to the so-called democratic camp, they include Miss Tsuneko Akamatsu, Mrs. Taiko Hirabayashi, Mrs. Ichiko Kamichika, Miss Natsu Kawasaki and Miss Fusae Ichikawa, all known as leaders of the women's movement, said Kyodo. Mrs. Shigeyo Takeuchi and Mrs. Ochimi Kufushiro, both Liberals, and Mrs. Kyo Kiuchi, Progressive, have also applied for screening to become Councillors. Mrs. Takeuchi presently has her seat in the Lower House. Both Mrs. Kufushiro and Mrs. Kiuchi were defeated in the last April's general elections.

NIPPON TIMES

451

452 New election regulations requiring all federated labor organizations to file reports of their political activities in Diet election campaigns put into effect on 15 March. Regulations limit registration to groups of unions engaging in national political activity. Home Ministry directive to prefectural governors regarding enforcement of Imperial Ordinance No. 101 divides political activity of groups of unions into putting up candidates of their own and supporting candidates of other political organizations. In latter case no registration will be required unless campaign is at least region-wide. In either case only responsible body or committee at top has to register; not individual local unions. Safeguards introduced against arbitrary government action by: designating time for registration (immediately after organized action has been formally decided); giving official warning and 48 hour grace period where organization has failed to register; distinguishing between individual action of union leaders and corporate action of their organizations; insuring that registration shall be only for period of political activity concerned and need not be kept up-to-date thereafter. 8 MAR 1947

Daily Radio Conf

452 Following resolution, proposed by Yukio Ozaki, advocating elimination of corrupt election practises, was adopted by House of Representatives on 13 March:

"Whereas forthcoming elections of officials to take charge of the reconstruction of Japan are matters of grave consequence affecting destiny of the state, and whereas the election of members of the House of Representatives is of primary importance, be it resolved that we members of the House of Representatives, by the very nature of our posts, are duty bound to cooperate and to strive to eliminate past evils from elections. Be it further resolved that the House's zeal and good faith to this end be hereby expressed."

15 MAR 1947

Daily Radio Conf

452 Prefectural governors notified by Home Ministry on 5 March that they must resign their posts by 14 March if they plan to run in coming gubernatorial elections. To date 29 prefectural governors have resigned. 8 MAR 1947

Daily Radio Conf

452 Imperial Ordinance issued 13 March bars purges from electioneering or from any other form of political activity. It provides, moreover, persons engaged in political activity may be subjected to screening if reasonable evidence exists to indicate they may be subject to terms of directive. Even those persons not engaged in political activity may be required to submit to screening procedures providing reasonable evidence exists to indicate applicability of purge. 14 MAR 1947

Daily Radio Conf

452 According to TOKYO SHIMBUN, majority of union-sponsored candidates in coming elections running for membership in House of Councillors. 7 MAR 1947

Daily Radio Conf

452 House of Representatives 30 March approved government parties' proposals to create single-vote, medium-sized electoral districts replacing present large districts in which voters may cast up to three votes for lower house candidates. Amendment scheduled for introduction in House of Peers 31 March. 31 MAR 1947

Daily Radio Conf

452 MAINICHI reports Government has decided to declare April election days as half-holidays to enable all electors to vote. 29 MAR 1947

Daily Radio Conf

452 Home Ministry announced that labor unions running candidates on union tickets must be registered in accordance with existing election laws. 9 MAR 1947

Daily Radio Conf

law but in actual fact, there should be a corresponding enhancement of the intellect and economic strength of women. Then, only then, can they exercise their newly acquired rights and perform the obligations that go with those rights. Mothers of young women of today sought to live on their own resources, but were confronted with so many obstacles at every turn that they had to give up. Young women of this new age, on the other hand, are called upon to be independent, and all obstacles to their independence have been removed. What a joy! The pity is that all this has been achieved not so much by our own labor as through an external influence. Of course, we have a price to pay for the newly got freedom, but what of it? Let us make the best and fullest use of this freedom which is ours and, united as one, work for laying the foundation of a new Japan.

(End)

NIPPON TIMES JAN 19 1947

Weekly Roundup

Women's World

By TSUGI SHIRAIISHI

For the purpose of enlightening women on politics through party activities the women's section of the Liberal Party recently published a pamphlet entitled, "Democratic Politics and Women" edited by Mrs. Ochimi Kubushiro, head of the women's section. Articles were contributed by the Finance, Education, Agriculture and Forestry, Welfare and Commerce and Industry Ministers and 10 women Diet members. Plans for the revision of the Civil Code drafted by the Liberal, Progressive and Social Democratic Parties are introduced.

With the aim of introducing politics to housewives who have been hitherto indifferent to politics, the Housewives League was recently organized at Yokohama City, with Mrs. Toshiko Matsuo, Social Democrat, as its head. The league will see to it that it will remain non-partisan in order to carry out its specific mission of acquainting housewives with politics without prejudice.

With skill and understanding Miss Kimiko Hashimoto, one of the Metropolitan's 65 policewomen, deals with various problems between men and women, mostly of love, marriage and divorce which have been handled by the livelihood consultation station at the Metropolitan Police Board. Unless women realize their newly-won status and strive to consolidate their position, men will forever take advantage of their prerogative and the feudalistic family system will never be changed, declared Miss Hashimoto.

NIPPON TIMES JAN 27 1947

Rally Held In Tokyo

International Women's Day was commemorated March 9 by 1,500 Japanese women in a rally sponsored by the Society for the Protection of Women, says Kyodo. The rally was held in the plaza fronting the Imperial Palace.

CONDUCTRESS WILL RUN IN METROPOLITAN POLLS

25-Year-Old Communist Will Fight For Women's Rights

Perhaps the youngest candidate running in the coming election of the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly election will be 25-year-old Miss Fumiko Yajima, a Communist and a bus-conductress in the Metropolitan Bus-System, Mimpo reported.

Director of the Women's Section of the Tokyo Transit Workers' Union, Miss Yajima has been a bus-conductress for some eight years.

She told a Mimpo reporter that she was running in the Metropolitan Assembly election because she realized that campaigning for liberation of women in the unions alone did not bring satisfactory results.

NIPPON TIMES MAR 11 1947

WOMAN GETS SIX MONTHS

A Japanese woman, Sumie Sugiyama, was convicted and sentenced Tuesday to six months imprisonment by the Yokohama Provost Court No. 1 for having in her possession a fire-arm which she had been hiding for a member of the occupation forces.

The same court also convicted two Japanese for illegally possessing sugar and gasoline. Masanori Hosaki was sentenced to one year imprisonment for having illegally sold sugar while Yoneski Yano was given 18 months for possessing seven drums of gasoline.

NIPPON TIMES FEB 22 1947

Women Candidates Few; Applications Total 524

Applicants for the qualification examination, as of February 22 at 6 p.m., numbered 524 for the House of Councillors, 288 for prefectural governors, and 30 for the mayorship of the five major cities of the country.

Although February 25, the closing day for applications is near at hand, the number is still far less than the Home Ministry's expectations—1,000 for the House of Councillors and 500 for governors and mayors.

In striking contrast to the last general election, women candidates for the coming elections are very few, less than 10 applications having been received so far.

MAINICHI FEB 24 1947

The women representatives were addressed by Yoko Matsuoka on American women, Ryuko Nosaka on Soviet women, and Kin On Jun on Korean womenhood.

Following the adoption of slogans, the women marched to the Diet building.

MAR 12 1947 MAINICHI

PRESS COMMENTS

Tuesday, March 18

EXPECTATIONS IN WOMAN REPRESENTATIVES

MAINICHI—Last year the people of Japan elected 39 woman Representatives to the Diet at one stroke and created quite a subject for comment in the world. Outwardly it was a spectacular show of democratization but what actually have been the results?

It happens that the results have not offered a topic for the world's comment. As this is the first time in Japan's history that we have woman legislators it would be asking too much to demand that they make a good showing from the start. Yet they have done so little so far that the masses have received very little impression of their very existence. Have there, then, been no fields in which woman Representatives as such could have made a showing? Yes, there have been quite a few.

New Japan requires women's hands in many ways. In the first place, Japan must make a new start as peaceful and cultural nation. In times of armed states and feudal nations, women's hands were not much needed. Women, however, have always gone with peace and culture.

There is also the question of the splendid moral strength of women. Historical instances are not lacking where the moral conduct of a woman based on chastity has cleared the air of corruption in a decadent age and played a big role in social revolution.

Women are liable to be regarded as conservative but it should not be forgotten that much credit must go to them for the breakdown of feudalism. It was a woman, Elizabeth Fry, who caused the British Government to effect reforms in the inhuman, mediaeval prison system and great impetus was given by "Uncle Tom's Cabin" of Harriet Beecher Stowe. The late Ellen Wilkinson was called Home Secretary Morrison's right arm during the war and became President of the Board of Education after the war. From her humanitarian point of view she also did very significant work in India, Spain and Abyssinia policies. For Japan to make a new start in foreign relations as a peaceful nation, we need the services of such woman statesmen.

As men and women are to be equal in everything, we do not propose to continue their activities to such humanitarian fields. But if women are to make the fullest use of their capacities beyond the reach of men, they should specially devote themselves such fields.

Finally, we wish to point out that woman Representatives are not representatives of women. Our woman Representatives often say: "As a representative of all the women of Japan" but it should be remembered that Mary Norton, who had been chairman of the United States House of Representatives Labor Committee until last year, has said: "There is no such a thing as a Congresswoman. We are all Congressmen." This is a dictum well worth mulling over. Just as a Representative is not a representative of a constituency, a woman Representative is not a representative of women.

MAR 19 1947 NIPPON TIMES

WOMEN URGED TO MAKE USE OF NEWLY GAINED FREEDOM

Education and Independent Attitude Said Key to A New Life for Young Girls of Today

By KIKUYE YAMAKAWA

II

World War I saw women's movements in the belligerent countries in the West in progress up to that time brought to a head. The socialist revolution in Russia brought about a sweeping change in the status of the women of that country and impelled the institution of thoroughgoing facilities for the protection of mothers and children. In other countries, too, women's suffrage, freedom of education and work for the fair sex and equal rights for both sexes in the home were realized almost completely. The advance of women into men's spheres of work in those countries during the war served to reveal for all to see various social and racial problems. Every country attached great importance to the problems of women and children, introduced improvements in social facilities for them and otherwise did much for the elevation of their living standards and culture.

Japan would not follow suit. Instead, with the advent of the present Showa era, increasing pressure was brought to bear on all progressive tendencies and every attempt made to confine women in the shell of the feudalistic convention and in the home and thereby subject them to callous exploitation.

The scarcity of labor after the outbreak of the China Affair drove women without number into work out of home. Weak and unorganized, they were put to fatiguing toil for low wages and, what was worse, exposed to air-raids. Many lost their lives and many others were maimed. But through these sacrifices Japanese women have acquired experience in work out of home. They are no longer "box-enclosed daughters," as young girls in our country used to be called. They now take it as a matter of course to get work out of home. This is a matter of great social significance. Ironically, the Wartime Labor Mobilization Law has had the effect of arousing our women to consciousness as a unit of society.

Similarly, women of the home have been awakened. Throwing off all pretensions, they now talk seriously about the problems of everyday living. The failure of the bungling economic control, which was calculated to serve the interests of the military and munitions makers, and the consequent economic chaos could not fail to set the meek and submissive housewives and young girls alike to thinking seriously about the relationship between government and everyday life. The food shortage and other pressing problems of everyday life have broken down the barriers of class difference and brought all people, young and old, men and women, high and low, to get together and discuss in earnest a matter of vital common concern to them all—the relationship between government and everyday life. At no time has there been such a major opportunity for political and social education in our country.

The war has rendered the majority of our people penniless. What is left them is the ability to work and think. With this as their only resources, both men and women have to live, let their families and their country live.

Waifs, prostitutes and the unemployed glut the cities in ruins. The number of the sick and maimed must be incomparably greater than before the war. Heavy taxes, high prices and the reparations obligations weigh heavy on us all. But the redeeming feature of the defeat is that we have been freed from the oppressive rule by the military. We have become free individuals. No longer shall we be imprisoned for calling a spade a spade. No longer shall we be kept in ignorance of facts about our own country which are known to the rest of the whole world. We are now permitted to follow our own instincts. We have won the right to have our country as our own, to criticize it freely and to make it a good country.

Recalls Persecution

I recall an incident concerning myself at the time of the first campaign for the defense of constitutional government after the war with Russia. One day a campaign speech meeting was held at the Young Men's Association Hall at Kanda, Tokyo, with a Diet member as the speaker. I slipped into the hall among the male audience. In the middle of the speech, however, I was desecrated by a policeman. I begged him to connive at my insignificant presence, assuring him that I was causing no one any trouble. The policeman would not listen and ordered me out. Today women are found among the audience at every political speech meeting; women join political parties; 39 women have seats in the Diet.

Around the same time, I made an application for admission into the night school of Tokyo School of Foreign Languages. The application was rejected because of my sex. Several years later, I asked to attend lectures at Tokyo Imperial University. Again I was turned down for the same reason. Today co-education is recognized.

What women today would look back yearningly over those days, a golden age for Japan, when women were barred by the law from political speech meetings, when opportunities of education were denied them?

The way for women has been opened. I want our young girls to pursue learning, get work and strive to enhance the cultural level of their country. Their mothers expect them to do so.

Let me offer a few suggestions to our young girls about love and marriage. I advise them to act boldly in these matters. By bold

action I do not mean reckless action. What I mean is resolute action based on cool, deliberate judgment. Utmost circumspection is called for in the selection of life mates. In order that they may foster the faculty of judgment, young women should make use of the newly got freedom of education and work and broaden their breadth of view.

Hitherto the remuneration and working conditions for employed women have been so wretched that they could not love their work and turned to marriage, whether they liked it or not. In most cases, the husband, held down out of home, would play the tyrant at home, while the wife had to negate and sacrifice herself completely. Any work she could get out of home would bring a remuneration so poor that she could not live decently, however hard she might work. Hence, no matter how ill treated, she would cling to the home, just because it guaranteed her living and, in some cases, put her in the enjoyment of some wealth and social standing. Such has been the lot of most married women in our country.

A woman with a low level of intellect and without means of self-support, makes her man conceited and despotic on the one hand and, on the other, makes him a nonentity. So may be an obedient wife and a devoted mother, but she cannot enlighten her husband or collaborate with him in a worthy cause. If the man ever wants to work in the cause of society, chances are that she will implore him in tears to desist for the sake of their home, which to her is the only world. He is dissuaded, loses the zeal to work for social advancement and eventually degenerates into a family man of the common run, pusillanimous and calculating.

Should Evaluate Herself

Hitherto the advancement of the wife's position in the home could hardly be hoped for. There has been no collaboration between husband and wife as equals. In most cases, the wife has been ignored. Hereafter, she should evaluate herself properly and strive for the enhancement of her level of intellect. For this purpose, household work should be rationalized through mechanization.

Young women should know their prospective consorts well before taking the matrimonial plunge. They should see whether the men are above reproach in their public life and also make sure that they are the kind of men they can live with for life. Married life should be based on respect for each other's individuality. In these days of rapid transition, conflicts of thought are apt to occur between a newly wed couple, and the wife will have to suffer the more for the consequences of such conflicts. Young women should be prepared for that.

With the promulgation of the new Constitution and the revision of the Civil Code, the status of Japanese women has been raised to the same level as in other civilized countries. But in order that this elevation of their status may be realized not only in the letter of the

451 (Z-36030) Newspaper Representatives: Conference was held 13 February to enable personnel of Womens Bureau to meet American newspapers representatives and their party. Dr. Evelyn Coh, Chief of Womens Bureau, presided. 23 FEB 1947

451 Womens Bureau: To afford Korean women opportunities to learn of international developments, first of series of meetings on international affairs sponsored by Womens Bureau held on 10 February. Central group includes the four women legislators, professional women, home makers and women leaders of Military Government. 19 FEB 1947

JAPANESE WOMEN DISCUSS PART THEY CAN PLAY IN DEMOCRACY

451 HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH ARMY, YOKOHAMA - Leaders from 26 women's organizations of Western Kanagawa Prefecture discussed current problems concerning the part played by Japanese women in postwar Japan during a meeting at Odawara Tuesday and Wednesday, G. J. Jones of the Tokyo-Kanagawa Military Government office announced today.

The Military Government District sponsored the program to impress on Japanese women the important part they can play in both civic affairs of their communities and the international affairs of their country.

The women heard lectures and saw films on organizing democratic groups, on women's education, women in politics, and health and welfare work. They saw exhibits of women democratic organizations and of the Parent Teachers Association.

Among those who addressed the Japanese women were Mrs. Byron Slottery, daughter of Michigan's governor, Kin Sigle; Maj. G. J. Jones of the Tokyo-Kanagawa Military Government, and Lt. Ethel Weed, Women's Information Officer, Civil Information and Education, GHQ. 26 MAR 1947 PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC

WOMEN LEADERS OF KANAGAWA TO HOLD INSTITUTE ON "DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION"

451 More than 2,000 women leaders of Kanagawa Prefecture will participate in a "Democratic Organization" Institute in Yokohama on April 1 and 2 to review the importance of getting women to the polls in the April elections and learn more about how women can work together for social betterment, SCAP's Civil Information and Education Section announced today.

To be held in Fryar Gymnasium under the auspices of the Tokyo-Kanagawa Military Government District, the institute will feature discussions by SCAP and MG speakers in such fields as public health and welfare, education, labor and politics. Combined women's organizations of Yokohama and city and prefecture social education departments are cooperating in the arrangements.

Delegates at the Yokohama sessions are expected from 14 representative organizations in the Tokyo-Yokohama area, including cultural groups, farm organizations, political parties, religious groups, teachers associations and labor unions.

The institute is the third in a series of meetings to promote usefulness of women's organizations in a democracy. A conference of women's leaders at Kyoto's Doshisha University last week attracted 2,000 women leaders from the Kansai area. Another meeting was held recently at Odawara. 31 MAR 1947

PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC

WOMEN EXHORTED TO REALIZE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL POLLS

They Must Try to Elect Proper Persons to Posts
Of Governor, Mayor, Assemblyman

By DR. YOSHIO HONIDEN

I

(Note: An exhortation to women to be alive to the significance of the forthcoming local elections is given by Dr. Yoshio Honiden in the following article translated from the January (maiden) number of the magazine Fujin-no-Kuni or Women's Domain. The author recalls the keen interest manifested by women in the general elections of last year and hopes that no less keen interest will be evinced by them in the approaching local elections. After dwelling at length on the close bearing local government has on national life, Dr. Honiden urges the female populace to take a positive part in the gubernatorial votings and lend a hand in the reform of local administration. The article suggests ways and means for renovating such aspects of our everyday life as the rationing system, housing and the neighborhood associations. A Doctor of Economics, the author was a professor at Tokyo Imperial University and is a member of the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly. —THE EDITOR.)

The election of local public office-holders from gubernatorial governors down to town and village assembly men, will take place shortly. How much interest will be manifested in the forthcoming local elections by our women who have newly acquired franchise?

In the last general elections, not only did they exercise their newly acquired voting right with unexpected eagerness, but as many as 39 women were returned to the Diet. The number set a record in the world. Marking as it did the inception of democratic government in our country, the last general elections whetted public interest to an unusual degree and even excited a sort of fanfare.

Admittedly, not all of the successful candidates had been thoroughly scrutinized by the public, and some of them laid themselves open to criticism later. Nevertheless, the eager interest displayed by women in the last general elections was a matter for congratulation as evidence of their political awakening.

Will Be Quiet Affair

The local elections, though they will be held throughout the country, will be a relatively quiet affair and, for this reason, it is feared that they may fail to evoke as much public interest as the national election. The degree of interest to be evinced by our womenfolk in the gubernatorial votings will reflect the degree of their political awakening. Even allowing for the passion of women for pomp, it will cast a reflection on their political intelligence if, while keen on the pompous general elections, they should be indifferent to the local elections.

The importance of local government is not fully understood by people at large. The rates of voting in local elections in the past have very often been lower than in national elections. One reason for this is that those who run in local elections are men in obscurity and, therefore, are little known to the voters. Another reason is that, in recent years, national policies have invariably been decided by the Diet and executed by the central govern-

ment, thus obscuring the importance of local administration.

To be sure, with communications developed and with the organism of state administrative machinery consolidated into a single unit, the scope of central government has expanded and the field of local administration has narrowed down. Take, for instance, electric power supply. In former days, if an electric power company should get high-handed, the prefectural or municipal government could take over the business. Today electric power is under control by the central government, which is enforced through Government-appointed generation and transmission companies, thus relieving local governing bodies from responsibility in matters connected with electricity. The distribution of the staple foods is likewise under control by the central authorities, with local governments having little say in the matter. Today the only major issues brought up before prefectural assemblies are such questions as where to establish a middle school and what to do about the prefectural or village highways. No wonder people should become indifferent to local government.

This centralization of government has led to dormancy and inefficiency. Government must be built on indivisible unity between the government and the governed. Under bureaucratic government, all administrative organs from top to bottom are subject to, and act on the orders of a supreme authority. Under democratic government, the character and independence of each component part must be respected insofar as the unity of the whole is not affected. Hence the necessity of choosing local governors by popular vote. In the United States, for instance, the form of government differs markedly with each state or city. Centralization of government in disregard of local conditions, as has been the case in Japan hitherto, is a mistaken policy.

In order to democratize government and put life-blood into it, local government must be reformed first of all.

An Important Factor

The most important part of government today is economic administration in general and the distribution of controlled commodities in particular. This matter seems to be practically outside the province of local governments, but in many cases, the central government only makes policies and outline plans, the details being left to the discretion of governors, mayors, town or village headmen.

Economic control does no good unless it is enforced well. It has invariably been the case heretofore that men in the bureaucratic Government make control plans and think their responsibility ends with the issuance of regulations, caring little whether the regulations are enforced properly and less about the undesirable effects arising therefrom. Because they can get off with that, they want to try more and more control measures without giving the slightest thought to their feasibility or their possible effects.

This evil, it is feared, will persist as long as we depend solely on the central government, the expanded power of the Diet notwithstanding.

If a local governor allows himself to be influenced by seekers after concessions or sticks to convention so as to play safe, the living of the people will never be improved. Policies concerning control over fish and vegetables is determined by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, but the details are left entirely to local administrators. Such matters as what system of shipment from the producing district system should be adopted, how many consignee organs and how many wholesale markets there should be in the consuming area and who shall handle the final stage of distribution are all left to the decision of governors or mayors. Whether distribution will be smooth or otherwise depends entirely on how these distribution organs are made and how they will be operated. In Kansai district, good teamwork is maintained between agriculture associations in the producing area (consigners) and consumers' cooperatives (consignees), with the result that the supply of vegetables is rationalized. Up in Tokyo, there is no such channel of supply and vegetables are scarce. This is all because the Metropolitan Assembly is influenced by a group of concession seekers. In the recent designation of "miso" (bean-paste) and soy-sauce distribution stations in the capital, consideration was given not so much to the convenience of the consumers as to the interests of ex-merchants.

Popular election will do little good if the elected governor allows himself to be controlled by political bosses or if the voters are careless in the choice of men they veto for. The same may be said of the election of local assembly men. It is often the case that fear of opposition from assembly men deters a governor or mayor from doing what he believes to be right. Part of the blame for this must be laid at the door of the electors. We must vote for men who will speak for us.

The Housing Problem

Now that the food problem has been alleviated, the major task before us is the reconstruction of housing. Practically half the houses in every city were demolished. Only 300,000 houses have been built in the past year. Particularly slow has been reconstruction in the major cities, with shops, restaurants, cinema houses and other establishments of amusement constructed and few, if any, dwelling-houses built. In these days, only those people can build who can afford to buy construction materials on the black-market. The ordinary masses cannot. The jerry-built afford no shelter from the cold. Decent housing for the masses must be provided with all possible speed.

With 50 per cent of every city throughout the country in ruins, reconstruction is a colossal task, one that will entail an outlay of 3,000 billion yen. The State must guarantee the supply of funds and materials, but the actual work of reconstruction will devolve on local governing bodies. The State will lay down a basic policy, but municipalities must do planning and decide on their own initiative what type of housing to construct and how. The pace of progress is up to each municipality.

(To Be Concluded)

WOMEN URGED TO MAKE USE OF NEWLY GAINED FREEDOM

Education and Independent Attitude Said Key to A New Life for Young Girls of Today

By KIKUYE YAMAKAWA

(NOTE: A classic call for Japanese womanhood to make the best and fullest use of their newly-won freedom is given by Mrs. Yamakawa, one of the most outstanding woman critics. Wife of Hitoshi Yamakawa, noted Socialist politician, Mrs. Yamakawa has written several books including "Modern Life and Women," and "Socialism and Women" (in Japanese). The following article was translated from the magazine "Sekai" or "World."—THE EDITOR.)

Japanese women now in their forties and fifties grew up in an age when the star of their country was in the ascendant, with her territory expanding and her prosperity rising after each war—the Sino-Japanese War, the Russo-Japanese War and World War I. Naturally, they enjoyed easy circumstances. Their daughters—young girls of today—have gone through the long, troublous years of the Manchurian Incident, the China Affair and the Pacific war and are now suffering the consequences of defeat in all their severity.

But do the mothers wish they could swing back the pendulum to their young days and let their daughters go through the life they led in their youth?

It is true that Japanese women of the Meiji (1868-1913) and Taisho (1913-1926) eras were happier than their predecessors. The few women who fought for the emancipation of their sex were permitted to follow their own instincts, although they had to face some persecution and scorn. They were given encouragement by males of a progressive turn of mind. On the whole, however, women of those days were placed in a humble status, with opportunities of education and employment closed to them. Chances of self-support for women were very limited. Only a few fought for and secured a breathing space for themselves against great odds. The majority of women were condemned to thralldom in a dark, oppressive world.

After the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905), a natural movement arose in the literary circles of our country to challenge the feudalistic convention. In the political world, a campaign for the defense of constitutional government was initiated by Yukio Ozaki and the late Tsuyoshi Inukai in opposition to the reactionary Diet-ignoring administration by the Katsura cabinet. The campaign stirred the people. In the world of women, a movement for the emancipation of the weaker sex was started under the leadership of Raicho Hiratsuka. She published a campaign magazine, the Blue Socking, in which she asserted the independence and dignity of her sex. There was also a socialist movement, then in embryo, led by Denjiro Kotoku and Toshiko Sakai. The socialist leaders published a campaign daily, the Heimin Shimbun, or the Commoners' Newspaper, which, however, was banned soon after publication. The socialist movement was vigorously suppressed following the Red Flag and the Treason Incidents and petered out eventually.

Aroused Young Women

These movements could not fail to arouse young women, directly or indirectly, and to excite their revolt against the feudalistic family system and the feudalistic canons of society. It is no mere coincidence that we have today women Diet members who are now in their fifties and sixties. They were among the few who, in their young days, had come under the influence of liberalism that rose after the Russo-Japanese War, fought convention and pre-

judice, secured education and employment in the face of innumerable difficulties, married of their own free will and followed their own instincts—the pioneer women in their times.

It is true that the rise of capitalism after World War I created a demand for female labor in every branch of industry and that, as a result, the weaker sex won a measure of economic independence and awakened to consciousness as a unit of society. But the majority of our female laborers did not. They were daughters of poverty-stricken peasants in communities where feudalistic traditions were deeply imbedded and the living standards were the lowest. They were not in a position to enter into employment contracts as independent workers with their employers. They were, to all intents and purposes, sold by their parents to their employers for a niggardly lump sum down. And who can blame their parents, ignorant, destitute, who had to toil and mull day and night to keep the wolf from the door, having no time for thinking? Bound by employment terms little better than apprenticeship in the feudal ages, the girls lived like caged birds in wretched quarters furnished by their employers. Practically all their meager earnings were either made savings compulsorily or remitted by the employers to their parents, who paid tenancy farm rentals and interest on their long-standing debts and supplemented their income by the remittances. The raw silk and spinning industries, the bulk of Japan's exports industry, were enabled to compete favorably with foreign industries by the exploitation of the backward, ignorant and destitute peasants and their daughters.

These girls supplied the bulk of female labor in our country. Young, ignorant and without freedom of action, they were far from organized, and their level of intellect was far below that of their male confederates. They were looked on by male laborers as an encumbrance to the labor movement and were often left out of it. As long as the farm villages, where feudalistic economic life and the feudalistic family system were deeply rooted, furnished cheap female labor without limit, the labor movement in our country could make little headway.

38-Million Voters; Women Outnumber Franchised Men

Kyodo

TOKYO, Feb. 26.—The Home Ministry announced that, as of October 10, last year, 38,340,358 persons will be eligible to vote in the forthcoming general elections.

Of this total, 17,957,078 are men while 20,383,280 are women. Women voters thus outnumber the men by almost two and a half million.

The present figure shows an increase of 1,503,868 over the number of those who were eligible to vote at the general elections in April last year.

MAR 1 1947 MAINICHI

WOMAN SENTENCED FOR PROFITEERING

Gets 3 Years, Fined ¥75,000 For Operating Blackmarket Ring in Kawasaki

In an effort to smash and discourage blackmarket rings in the Tokyo-Yokohama area, the Provost Court in Yokohama on Wednesday convicted and sentenced Mrs. Shigee Watanabe to three years imprisonment and a fine of ¥75,000 for allegedly operating a blackmarket ring in Kawasaki, Major J. F. Fritz of the Provost Court announced.

Mrs. Watanabe, mother of three children, was taken into custody on January 30 after a search of her house by CID agents revealed vast quantities of foodstuffs and GI clothing, stolen from the 202 Signal Company the previous day. The items confiscated from her house included 320 pounds of sugar, 24 cans of tomato juice, 40 mattress covers, 120 bars of soap, comforters, blankets, and other GI clothing.

Upon questioning, Mrs. Watanabe admitted having operated in the black market ring on a small scale since last summer, but denied having dealt with any other items besides cigarettes and other small items received from soldiers of the 202 Signal Company up until she received the stolen goods on January 30.

The two GI's involved in the case, both guards at the Signal Base, have been taken into custody and are now awaiting court martial trial.

7 Japanese Convicted

Accused of illegal possession of U.S. Government property and PX goods and operating a house of prostitution, Kumao Oshima was sentenced by the Yokohama Provost Court to six months imprisonment on Tuesday.

Up in Sendai, two Japanese were convicted by the IX Corps Provost Court of breaking into a PX warehouse and stealing commodities. Iwao Ouchi, 18, was sentenced to two years in a reformatory, while Takeo Iwamatsu, 21, was given two years imprisonment.

For violating traffic regulations, four Japanese employed by the Miyagi Military Government team were fined ¥300 with sentence suspended.

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ITEM 2 Emancipate Women in Farm Villages - Provincial Newspaper, Saga
Shimbun (Saga) - 27 Jan 47. Translator: B. Ishibashi.

Summary:

Though the Farm Land Adjustment Law is bringing revolutionary reforms in farm villages, the life of the farmers has not actually changed. Particularly, the position of women in farm villages has not been improved at all. No effective measures have been carried out to elevate their slave-life low standards of living. In addition to the drudgery of household care they must also work in the fields. Women have no time for leisure and relaxation. They are not given equal individual rights with men in family life or in society. Their newly granted voting rights were not fully exercised in the last general elections because of their lack of political knowledge.

Women's only diversion seems to be in buying clothes and other personal items from black marketeers coming from urban areas. With their cultural standard at such a low level, no truly enlightened farm village can be realized. Elevation of the cultural standard of women is, therefore, a prerequisite to the establishment of new villages.

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 Despite this, educational facilities for women in farm villages are far from satisfactory. This fact is also responsible for the widespread tendency of young men in farm villages to seek only pleasure. Heretofore, various campaigns have been carried out to regiment women by government controlled programs or to awaken them to their social position. However, none has been concerned with raising the position of women. In short, the need for elevating essential qualities of women has been utterly neglected. The elevation of political, economic, and cultural standards of the Japanese women is necessary. The formal redistribution of farm land and the reform of civil law can do little in elevating the standards of farmers. In view of the important role women will play in future farm villages it is hoped that many women's organizations with high ideals will come into existence.

ITEM 10 The Election and the Position of Women - Provincial Newspaper:
Shimane Shimbun (Matsue) - 23 Feb 47. Translator: K. Sato,

Summary:

451
 In the last general election, many women candidates were successfully elected to the Diet. Although much was expected of this action, it did not serve as proof of the real advancement of the Japanese women. Since it was unprecedented in our history, people voted for women much more out of curiosity than out of confidence.

In TOTORI and SHIMANE Kon, no woman candidates have yet announced their candidacy, except one Communist. Women must choose their appropriate representatives with judgment and foresight. With the inflation becoming more aggravated and the productive capacities steadily declining, it is necessary that women take a positive interest in political problems.

Can the present Government really overcome the impending crisis? What political party holds the most rational as well

as the most practicable policies? What is the real state of local politics? Women must study these questions in order to make proper judgments. Also, women's organizations are requested to help women enlighten themselves.

ITEM 1 Report of the International Women's Conference by Ishigaki, Ayako. Magazine, Sekai (Monthly) - Feb 47 Issue. Translator: S. Inoue. (BS)

Summary:

1/5
The International Women's Conference (KOKUSAI FUJIN KAIGI) attended by representatives from 54 countries was the first chance for JAPAN, GERMANY and ITALY to make a postwar debut in the international arena. This opportunity resulted mostly through the efforts of American women. As a representative of Japanese women, I endeavored to fulfill my duty to the best of my ability, and this is my report.

I was thankful to realize that the women of the world were sympathetic toward us. I can remember with deep emotion how we, 200 woman delegates, took four buses from the Headquarters of the Young Women's Association at LEXINGTON Street, NEW YORK on the afternoon of 12 Oct, 46 for SOUTH KOTORAIPO (TN: presumably COURTWRIGHT), a little village 165 miles northeast of NEW YORK. We were going to have a 10-day heart-to-heart talk at the grand mansion of Mrs Alice McLEAN.

The Conference was sponsored by 19 leading American Women's Associations such as the League of Women's Clubs, the Women Collegiates Society, the Women Voters Association, Business and Professional Womens Association and the National Federation of Women Workers Unions. Mrs ELEANOR ROOSEVELT led the conference composed of 135 foreign delegates and 50 American representatives. The leading feature of this gathering was that each of the delegates was able to express her own opinion.

It was in the bus which made its way in the dark against a heavy rain that I became acquainted with Madame ANN RESTOREPO, dean of a woman's college in COLOMBIA South AMERICA, and felt a strong mental tie develop between us. Friendship, the greatest of the results achieved at the conference, began to appear at the start.

SOCIAL SERIES: 1455 (Continued)

ITEM 1 (Continued)

In 10 days of living together, friendship welled up among the delegates who were anxious to bring about the betterment of life for tomorrow, despite the differences in thought, religion and language.

During the conference, we were lodged in a little town on a nearby mountain, 3,500 feet above sea level. Every morning, in the chilly mountain air the buses reserved for the delegates carried us 12 miles along the foot of the mountain to SOUTH COURT-WRIGHT, and it was always midnight before we could return to our lodging for rest. Every moment was so precious to us that we tried to utilize, not only every conference session, but also every meal time intermission for the development of friendship. Most of the delegates were educators, social workers, writers, lawyers, judges, politicians and leaders of women's movements. Some of them had positions in the UNO but most of them were selected from among civilian circles in order that their opinions might not be affected by the policies of their own governments. In this sense, ARGENTINA was represented by Mrs M GUIRRERO whose husband had been imprisoned by the fascist PERON Government for his anti-government movement, while GERMANY sent Mrs G STRECKER, a doctor and mother of two children, who, despite her puritanical belief, insisted that any fascist traces left in the German people must be completely eradicated, even if it meant that the cruelest of measures had to be used.

I can well understand how the history of a nation might develop through the speeches and expressions of the delegates of a country. In this respect, the delegates may be placed in four categories. The delegates of the NAZI-trodden European countries were so passionate and realistic that their speeches utterly overwhelmed me, and I saw a group of heroic people who must suffer further agonies after their long and toilsome journey. On the contrary, the American delegates were generous and serene in their speeches. Although their speeches lacked the fervor and acuteness of reality, they were filled with sound thought based upon the proper distinction between responsibility and freedom. Those from SOUTH AMERICA and Eastern ASIA displayed the sufferings they felt under the oppression of the greater powers. With high expectations for tomorrow's freedom, they had so sagacious an insight that they were not a bit moved by empty compliments.

The Chinese and Indian delegates seemed to be groaning in the abyss of confusion. However, their groans were not those of despair, but of birth. Mrs PIN YU-Hsiang, wife of a Chinese General, told me, with distress written on her face, one twilight evening while we sat on the porch of the dining hall, of the current crisis in CHINA. As it was just before the evening meal, there was no one to disturb our heart-to-heart talk. She herself was a war victim who escaped from PEIPING to CHUNGKING for safety, where she worked among the war orphans. While we were absorbed in deep conversation, Mrs STRECKER spied us and said in surprise, "You are Chinese and Japanese, are you not?" "Yes" replied the general's wife, putting her hands--- what cold hands they were! -- upon mine. "we are good friends".

SOCIAL SERIES: 1455 (Continued)

ITEM 1 (Continued)

I was sure that this simple speech was not due to lethargic generosity common to the Oriental peoples, but due rather to the deep affection she held for the Japanese women who are undergoing the same suffering for feminine emancipation that her's are. Here, I felt the heavy responsibility that lay with me, and this was accentuated whenever I saw Madame M EVANGELISTA, the Philippine delegate, who still suffered from the sickness contracted during 20-month period of torture inflicted by the Japanese invaders. However, she held hatred for only the military clique for perpetrating atrocities, never condemning the Japanese people who had undergone the same sufferings as the people of the invaded nations. For this deep affection and generosity in her attitude, I could not help feeling ashamed of myself, since I felt obliged to bear the responsibility as a Japanese for conducting an aggressive war. I promised myself down in my heart that we would never again repeat such follies, but that we would build with courage and endurance a good country, where the freedoms will always be secured as the most fitting tribute to the numerous victims of our atrocities.

The conference came to an end with a closing address by Mrs Eleanor ROOSEVELT which gave us added inspiration. Although there are no place to hold other International Women's Conference in the future as yet. Lady READING, of BRITAIN was successful in her efforts to have an information service department established with headquarters in LONDON. The Oriental delegates agreed to hold a women's conference for the Oriental countries in the autumn of 1947 at MANILA.

Returning to NEW YORK we held a meeting on 24 Oct to report the progress of the conference to the members of the associations and unions which sent their representatives to the conference. When I took the platform as one of the 27 honored speakers, I expected nothing but cold looks from the 1,500 women who attended the meeting. However, to my great surprise, I was wrong. What a great enthusiastic ovation I was given! I am sure that this was meant for my fellow women I represented for their determination to build a new JAPAN upon the ruins of the war.

ITEM 19 Women's Opinions on the Coming Elections - Yomiuri Shimbun -
25 Mar 47. Translators: F. Noda & M. Ota. (VM)

Full Translation:

Question I: Did you vote for women Diet members in the last election?

Answer: Yes 1,881 -- 40%
 No 2,776 -- 60%

Question II: Did women Diet members meet your wishes?

Answer: Yes 302 -- 7%
 No 4,156 -- 89%
 Undecided 199 -- 4%

Question III: Are you going to vote for women members in the coming various elections?

Answer: Yes 2,222 -- 48%
 No 2,143 -- 46%
 Undecided 292 -- 6%

Note: Voted for women members last year but will not vote this year 723 (38%).

Did not vote last year but will vote this year 1,138 (40%)

With coming April elections, women are to enter the second stage of women's participation in politics after one year experience. More than 100 women sent in their application blanks of qualification examinations in order to run for the second elections. What do women think of women's participating in the second stage of women's politics? How did women Diet members behave during the past one year? Did their actions meet the wishes of women in general? What do women think of the women politicians who are going to run as candidates in the coming various elections?

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ITEM 19 (Continued)

In an effort to answer these questions, the Yomiuri main office made a survey of the opinions of women of various classes in TOKYO on the coming elections during the period from 7 to 16 March.

The office distributed 8,799 questionnaires containing the aforementioned three questions. Of the 4,747 answers, 90 were invalid and 7,657 were valid. The office collected 54 percent of the questionnaires distributed.

The rate of collection from actresses, dancers, housewives, students, writers and women who are following liberal professions was less than 50 percent. The poor rate of collection was partly due to the fact that students were occupied by examinations or they were having a holiday. However, it can be said that this fact apparently showed indifference on the part of women toward politics.

In question I, there were 20 percent more who answered 'no' than 'yes'.

In question II, there were 89 percent who answered 'no'. However, in question III, although there were only two percent more who answered 'yes' than 'no', it showed that women were counting on the future efforts of women members. The following is the outcome for each question:

Over 80% Disappointed in Women Diet Members

In answer to question I, "Did you vote for women Diet members in the last election?", 60 percent answered "no" against 40 percent answering "yes". However, this number includes those who did not have the right to vote in the last April election because the list of answers which is classified according to ages, indicates that 1,839 women who are less than 25 years old, answered "no". The number goes higher than 60 percent of 2,776 "noes".

This fact is clearly shown in the answers made by students in the list which is classified according to occupation. After all, judging from these various results, about half of the women have voted for women candidates.

In answer to question II, "Did women Diet members meet your expectations?" only seven percent stated "yes" and an overwhelming majority said "no". Thus they criticized the role women Diet members played in the Diet during the past year. This is a warning to women candidates in the coming elections. The answers to question II are omitted from the answers which are classified according to age, because "noes" and "yeses" differ greatly. It is noteworthy that among the "yeses" dancers accounted for 24 percent and actresses and artists for 20 percent.

In answer to question III, "yeses" are more numerous than "noes" in answer to the question, "Will you vote for women candidates in the coming elections?". This indicates that though the present women Diet members have fallen short of their expectations, women in general want women Diet members to participate in politics. Among the "yeses", writers with

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58 percent strongly support the women politicians. On the other hand, housewives with 63 percent are to be found among the "noes". Among those who have voted for women candidates in the last election, 38 percent stated that they will not vote for women candidates in the coming election. Forty percent are in direct opposition to them, but this includes those who have not been enfranchised in the last election.

According to the opinions attached to the answers, many women reproach the women Diet members for not taking an active role in the Diet and for lacking sincerity and ability. Many of those questioned regard women Diet members as incompetent and lacking in political knowledge. According to the opinions of those who answered "yes", women Diet members are inefficient, but they are pioneers in their own right and are, therefore, not entirely to blame. We must criticize the indifferent attitude of women in general towards politics. Many of them wish the women politicians to do their best in the future. Among the "noes", there are many extreme opinions which are abusive toward the lady politicians. However, most of them believe that male Diet members can do without women Diet members and that they should play an active role in various other fields. Judging from the present standard level of women's political knowledge, those who answered "no" were unjustly critical of the women candidates who will run for office in the coming election.

ITEM 16 Women Representatives and Woman's Suffrage by Mogami,
Eiko - Newspaper: Fujin Shimbun (Bi-weekly) - 24
Mar 47. Translator: F. Tsuneishi. (FST)

451
Summary:

It is a year since I became a woman Member of the Diet. Little as I could do, I strove to study and to fulfill my duty to the best of my ability, but now as the end of the session nears, I wonder how much I have accomplished.

The fact that women representatives, who entered all too gaily into their tasks in the Diet, are entirely new has not been taken into consideration and too much has been expected of us. Therefore, now as we close the first year of our tenure in office we have been labelled, "inefficient" by the journalists and the world.

Maybe we were inefficient, but we, who wanted to work hand in hand on the problem of woman's suffrage and to learn from the women who are the pioneers of this movement, were treated very coldly, and received with biting criticisms from them. We may have been inefficient, but we regard our treatment as a deep wound to the cause of woman suffrage and women's problems as a whole.

Publications full of sarcasm and jealousy by these women who embarrassed us in the presence of foreigners are too numerous to count. I wonder why they did not help us and give us hints, if they thought we were so inefficient as representatives. If this had been done and we are still remain inefficient, it cannot be helped, for a part

of the responsibility in electing inefficient people lies with the people.

These pioneers of woman suffrage have repeatedly said that woman's suffrage cannot be realized without the co-operation of the women, but their acts betrayed their own words and their feudalistic disposition will remain as a stain on the history of woman suffrage in JAPAN.

I have heard that such women are planning to run for seats in the House of Councillor. As a political power, everyone knows that the House of Representative is the higher authority. As another woman, who is also working for the realization of woman suffrage, I desire self-reflection on the part of these women.

ITEM 6 Democratic Elections And Women - Provincial Newspaper: Oita
Godo Shimbun(Oita) - 28 Mar 47. Translator: I. Kuniko. (FST)

Summary:

45
SCAP instructed the Japanese people on 25 March in the proper procedure for democratic elections. Let us quote a part of that instruction:

"No country in the world has won a victory for democracy. The fight is continuing even now. The reason for this is that everywhere there are persons who think of their own power or people who are ignorant enough to blindly obey a few selfish leaders."

Democracy is an eternal fight for the enlightenment of ignorant peoples. Democracy has its enemies--inside and out. The enemy inside is either a desire for power, ignorance or tradition.

Among the democratic countries of the world, there is no country which is as spiritually unprepared for Democracy as JAPAN. The reason for this is that JAPAN has experienced no spiritual revolution such as the European nations have undergone.

Meanwhile, the Japanese women who are still feudalistically inclined may become strong enemies of democracy. Only a short time has passed since they were emancipated from a long and blind obeisance to men. The political consciousness of the Japanese women may have been considerably improved during the year since the last general elections, but it is also true that the greater part of the unenlightened Japanese are women.

JAPAN's democratization cannot be accomplished unless the Japanese women are enlightened. It is due to the family system that they are still feudalistic. According to the system, womanhood means an absolute obeisance to man. If their obeisance were only for order in the homes, it might be necessary even in these days. But in the coming elections, the housewives who think little of suffrage may cast their votes only by obeying their husbands. Such servility is not consistent with the new age.

Today, the housewives must not think of government for others, but for themselves. The women in needy circumstances must be aware of this. In the coming elections, they must play an important part in the democratization of JAPAN by seriously understanding their political responsibility.

ITEM 10 Election and the Women - Yukan Miyako - 11 Mar 47. Translator:
T. Fukizawa.

Summary:

451
The Japanese women who acquired suffrage last year will show their political progress through the coming eight central district elections. In these elections, women voters will directly elect the central and prefectural representatives as well as the heads of local administrations. In view of last year's general election, we expect a considerable number of women to be elected. In accordance with the establishment of equal political rights for men and women, the prejudice against women will be gradually removed. We must point out that the women voters outnumber men electors as the result of the war. Therefore, I emphasize the serious responsibility of women voters in the coming elections, which aim at thorough political reform.

In last year's election the so-called political experts anticipated that a high rate of women would abstain from voting, and only a few women would be elected. However, contrary to expectations, few abstained from voting and 40 women were elected. The experts accepted this phenomena as a result of curiosity and the plural balloting system. They are apt to overlook the increased power of the new generation. We cannot disregard the birth of political interests on the side of the emancipated woman. There is no doubt that some among the 40 women representatives were quite unworthy. But, so were some men representatives. In the past year women representatives exerted their efforts for the hastening of repatriation, purification of the Diet, welfare of women and children and legislation. Although these tasks are excluded from the main political activities, the sincere efforts of women are commendable.

In the general election last year, women candidates succeeded with the slogans, "Women from women's standpoint" and "Woman who understands woman". However, the true merit of woman's suffrage is not acquired by sending representatives from the stratum of women to the Diet. Neither the Diet nor the administration requires "womanliness". The true merit of woman's suffrage exists in political liberty and equality beyond sex determination. Now is the time when women must vote from a broader viewpoint, free from sexual limits. Especially, in the election of representatives who must have wide experience and knowledge,

women electors must abandon the narrow view as women. If women representatives decrease by the better discrimination of women voters, woman's advance in responsible government will gain merit for woman's suffrage, in the future.

ITEM 3 More Women for Local Assembly Members - Provincial Newspaper -
Saga Shimbun (Saga) - 10 Mar 47. Translators: Hayashi and
Hamada.

Summary:

451
Although 39 women were elected in the last general election, their activities during the past one year were contrary to the public's expectations. One of the major reasons for the poor showing is that women participated directly in state administration without first gaining experience in local administration.

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It was no wonder that women who had hitherto been bound only by household management stood at a loss when faced with state affairs for the first time. In order to advance women's political activities systematically, we advocate that they must first get familiar with local administration and then apply their practical experiences in the Diet.

It is significant in this sense that the members of the Women's Association of FUJITSU Gun agreed to run as candidates for town and village assemblies. Since most political problems for women are directly connected with the daily lives of the people such as problems of food distribution, nutrition, etc women must attempt to gain their point in local assemblies. When women's political experiences from local administrations are reflected upon central administration, their social status will be raised. Especially, in relation to women in farming villages, it is more effective to enlighten them politically through local organizations than central one.

ITEM 3 Women in Politics (Sub-editorial) - Tokyo Shimbun - 27 Mar 47.
Translator: M. Bokura. (RBH)

Full Translation:

It is a well-known fact that women have a vital role in politics and in the reconstruction of JAPAN. However, merely being aware of this fact would be of no use unless it is put into practice.

In the last general election, 39 women representatives were elected to the Diet, creating a worldwide sensation. Indicating the political awakening of Japanese women, it was the initial step of the women's political progress, but in a bad sense, the numerous women representatives may have been elected due to the fact that the majority of women voters had the mistaken idea that women had to vote for women candidates. Furthermore, the activities of women representatives in the past year showed that women are still not fully awakened in politics. The public must not lose interest in women representatives because they did not meet our expectations. Their work during the past year was certainly poor but we must give them more time.

New women candidates representing different classes, especially the working class, are desirable instead of the usual celebrities, but probably they are impeded by the high election expenses.

It is quite natural that women want to vote for women candidates since the latter understands their situation best, but if there are no capable female candidates, they should cast their votes for trustworthy male candidates. Women should bear in mind that men also vote for women candidates and that there is no law that women must vote for women candidates alone.

ITEM 20 The Meaning of Freedom (Sub-Editorial) - Akahata - 21 Mar 47. Translator: S. Yokoyama.

Full Translation:

In 1864 LINCOLN said: "There is no appropriate definition of the term 'freedom' in any language of the world. American people are particularly in need of it now. Everybody says that he is an ally of freedom, but the connotation is different according the speaker. Obviously, sheep and wolves cannot agree on the definition of 'freedom'.

Now, we must reconsider what meaning the term freedom really has, because the elections, which will decide the struggle between the democratic and the conservative elements, are now approaching. The governing class possess many power-

ful newspapers by means of which they expound illusions to the working people daily, while the workers have no satisfactory newspaper; as a result, they are reading the newspapers of their enemy.

Everybody is given a vote impartially, disregarding their social standing. Many working people are forced to go on purchasing trips due to the delay and suspended distribution of rice; then they have it confiscated after having gone through much difficulty to purchase it. However, the rich do not share such bitter experiences.

Anatole FRANCE, an eminent writer of FRANCE, once said cynically, "Democracy means to give equal rights to the rich and to the poor who sleep under bridges."

FEUTWANGER said, after he travelled through the USSR and saw that freedom was enjoyed by laborers and farmers there, "Bourgeois freedom is more or less a weapon to carry out the will of the rich."

Evidently there are two kinds of freedom as long as there exist the governing class and the governed, or wolves and sheep. LENIN criticized the freedom of the wolves, and said, "Freedom is a prejudice cherished by the bourgeoisie."

With the elections close at hand, the working people must re-examine the meaning of "freedom" in order that they can discriminate between the freedom of wolves and of sheep.

ITEM 2 Duties of Diet Women - Mainichi Shimbun - 18 Mar 47. Translator:
T. Okamura.

457
Summary:

JAPAN presented a topic for discussion to the world by electing 39 women to the House of Representatives in last year's general election. Superficially this was an expression of the democratization of JAPAN, but what were its practical results?

Needless to say, the results have never been discussed by the world. Some women members strived to solve industrial and agrarian problems, while others merely attempted to get publicity. Generally speaking, the majority of them seem to have done nothing in particular beyond merely enjoying the novel but empty name of woman representative. It is unreasonable to expect much from women members, because the election of women members is unprecedented in JAPAN. Nevertheless, the existence and achievements of the Diet women have made no special impression on the minds of the people. It is not true that there was no field for their activities.

JAPAN owes much to the efforts of women. First, JAPAN has made a new start with a peaceful and cultural state as its goal. Militaristic or feudalistic states do not rely on the services of

457 women. However, peace and culture have had much to do with women from ancient times. The role women have played in preventing war and establishing peace is amply illustrated by world history. It goes without saying that contributions of women are an indispensable element in the development of culture. In view of the nature of new JAPAN, the responsibility and mission of women in reconstructing JAPAN are indeed extremely grave.

The second element is the excellent ethical character of women. There are many instances in world history where women's high moral acts, based on their sentiments, played important roles in social renovation. It is not too much to say that women are better qualified than men in ethics. Accordingly, JAPAN cannot be reborn without women's sincere and strong assistance, under the prevailing moral and economic conditions.

Furthermore, women are apt to be regarded as conservative, but we should not forget that they rendered meritorious service in eliminating feudalistic systems. Elizabeth FREE, by advocating reform of the medieval prison system, played a motivating part in the realization of the present system, and Harriet Beecher STOWE contributed much towards the abolition of the slave system. Many feudalistic systems, manners, and customs still exist in JAPAN. Formal reform of systems may be carried out by mere desk plans, but the crushing of feudalism in human hearts will be impossible without the assistance of women.

During the war the late ELLEN WILKINSON, of ENGLAND, was called the right hand of Home Secretary MORRISON, when she devoted herself to national air raid defence.

We do not want to limit the activities of women, because men and women are now on an equal footing. However, in order to make good use of the merits of women, we would like to ask them to make special efforts where they are uniquely qualified. With the general elections at hand, all the voters should consider once more what types of women are most qualified as representatives and what types of work they should do.

Lastly, we would like to point out that women representatives do not represent the fair sex alone. MARY HORTON, who until last year was chairman of the Labor Committee of the House of Representatives in the UNITED STATES, said, "I am a Representative, not a woman." Female Diet members are not solely representatives of the fair sex, just as members of the Diet are not merely representatives of designated districts.

ITEM 8 The Quality of Women Representatives - Provincial Newspaper:
Bocho Shimbun (Yamaguchi) - 18 Mar 47. Translator: T. Fukizawa. (WM).

Summary:

It is reported that women candidates for the House of Representatives are expected to appear from our prefecture. Although there were no women candidates from our prefecture last year, 39 women out of 81 women candidates throughout the country gained seats in the Diet. Such a high percentage of women won the election last year were partly because of mere curiosity and the double balloting system. However, we were not altogether disappointed with the activities of women representatives during the past year. We should not expect extraordinary political activities from women candidates as some people do. If they can correctly represent the voters' will in the Diet, that is sufficient for any representative, regardless of sex.

Party affiliations of women representatives, last year were; five Liberals, six Progressives, eight Social Democrats, and one Communist, while 19 were non-partisan. Because these 19 representatives were not affiliated with any political party, their policies and principles were not clear and their activity in the Diet was obscure. As a result, they did not earn the confidence of the public.

It is a good indication that the novelty of women candidates is wearing off. The voters of our prefecture must not yield to frivolous curiosity or slogans like "Woman for Women", this year. The voter must be careful to choose a candidate who has wide political knowledge as well as practical ability, because to vote, is to delegate his part of the right to live to the representative. The Civil Administration Section of SCAP announced in April 1947 that the election is not to select a person, but to select a candidate on the basis of the party and the policy which he represents.

Women candidates for the House of Representatives would do well to remember this statement. No women should be a candidate unless she has enthusiasm for administration as well as firm confidence in her own practical ability. Although we welcome women candidates, it is absolutely necessary for both candidates and voters to be fully aware of all factors which hinge upon the above mentioned points.

ITEM 8 Women Workers Request WFTU Participation - Jimmin - 19 Mar 47.
Translator: Y. Inoue.

Full Translation:

The Joint Reception Committee of the All Japan Labor Unions is busily engaged in making preparations for the impending arrival of the representatives of the WFTU mission. On the morning of the 16th, five young women visited the office on the fifth floor of the Transportation Ministry. They were representatives of the women's sections of the Electric Industrial Labor Union and Communications Workers Union.

Said their spokesman: "As we wish to join the World Federation of Trade Unions, we planned to offer this present to Mr Louis SAILAN." So stating, they presented a wall flag decoration with red embroidery of WFTU initials, and a letter requesting their participation in the world organization. The delighted Reception Committee accepted their request at once.

Mr OKAKURA, Koshiro, the Chairman of the Public Relations Section of the Committee stated: "To participate in the World Federation of Trade Unions is our constant and fundamental policy. Accordingly, I want to hold a general meeting with representatives from every labor union throughout the nation to draw up a formal request for joining the WFTU and to present it to its representatives. I would recommend also that each one write a letter to Mr SAILAN and express his earnest desire for such participation. As the plan formulated by the women workers of the Election Industrial Labor Union and Communications Workers' Union is very significant, I wish every labor union would follow their example."

ITEM 14 Calling Women Candidates - Provincial Newspaper Hyuga Nichinichi Shim-
bun (Miyazaki) - 5 Mar 47. Translator: S. Ohashi.

4/51
Summary:

There are only a few women who have applied for candidacy in the coming general election. In our prefecture KOBE, Tama is the only woman who has applied. The appearance of many women candidates in the coming general election was anticipated due to the fact that the women achieved a favorable record in the election of representatives, which was held last year. It is surprising that there are not many women candidates. The Government Section of SCAP, in its statement regarding the importance of the April elections, declared that this is the first time in the history of JAPAN that the Japanese women will vote in a rural election. Furthermore, it declared that it is most important that Japanese women make themselves essential to the government.

In view of the coming rural election it is necessary for both men and women to give serious consideration to the importance of women's political position. The administration of cities, towns, and villages is especially important to women. Such problems as the disposal of local taxes, the improvement of the rationing system, relief for the war sufferers and repatriates, aid to the families of war widows, education problems in the light of the new education

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system are all of vital concern to women, who can play an active part in solving them.

During the war, local women's organizations were active. Women replaced men and took charge of important positions. Through war time activities women have become aware of the fact that the ability of women is equal to that of men. Accordingly, it is imperative that the women employ their ability for the realization of democratic politics. After the end of the war women were forced to return their positions to the men they had replaced. However, this must not be the reason for the women to refrain from continuing their social and political activities.

However, the actual situation, at present, is that cumbersome domestic tasks, which are caused by the stringent food shortage, give the women no time for political activities. The position of the women cannot be elevated as long as they are forced to give all their time to domestic problems. The women must surmount the present harrowing conditions and endeavor to take an active part in politics. For this reason, we look forward to the participation of more women candidates in the coming election for city, town and village assemblies. Members of the women's organization must elect competent people from their group as candidates in order to improve their living conditions. If these candidates truly realize the importance of women's political position and co-operate, several women will be elected as assembly members in every city, town, and village. No matter how few the number may be, the participation of women in local assemblies is of deep significance.

It would be a great mistake to discourage the political activities of women merely because the first women assembly members did not live up to our expectations. It is hoped that the women of the prefecture will realize their important political position and participate in politics.

ITEM 4 International Women's Meeting - Akahata - 20 Mar 47. Translator: Y. Inoue.

Full Translation:

The International Women's Meeting of the Kanagawa

district was held at the Yokohama Commercial School in YOKOHAMA MINAMIOTA from 1300 hours on 8 March. More than 1,500 representatives from the Women's Sections of the Japan Congress of Industrial Organizations, the Machinery and Tools Labor Union, Electric Engineering Labor Union, Electric Industrial Labor Union, Communications Workers Union, Construction Works Labor Union, Government Railways Labor Union, Transport Workers Union, Farmers Union and the General Federation, and the Social Democratic and Communist Parties took part. IWAI, Moto of the Machinery and Tools Labor Union was recommended for the post of president and ITOKAWA, Nobiko of the Japan Farmers' Union as vice-president.

The meeting decided on seven slogans. Some of them are "Opposition to delay in distribution of staple foods", "Give us dwelling houses and establish public nurseries," and "Establish a people's Government by democratic elections". Opinions were also expressed that votes to the Liberal, Progressive, and other reactionary parties and right wing members of the Social Democratic Party should not be given. After the meeting was adjourned, the representatives proceeded to the Sakuragicho Station for a demonstration. The Communist Party gathered 2,500 yen for its election fund by this meeting.

ITEM 10 Political Education for Women - Provincial Newspaper
Ehime Shimbun (Ehime) - 13 Mar 47. Translator: T.
Fukizawa.

Summary:

451
 The political education of women must be undertaken since they have acquired political rights. But Japanese women lack sufficient knowledge to make efficient use of their political rights because they were unexpectedly thrust upon the politically inexperienced women. Therefore, women must quickly gain political knowledge and interest if they are going to acquire a respectable social position equal to men.

We may assume that women lack interest in politics because they do not have sufficient political education. Recently many organizations have been formed by women in various localities. Is it not advisable then to start political education movements within these organizations? Now is the time to arouse the political consciousness of women because elections for prefectural governors, heads of cities, towns, and villages, House of Councillors, and the House of Representatives are close at hand.

Although women showed considerable interest in the general election last year, it was partly due to mere curiosity for the newly acquired suffrage. Some fear that the women's political enthusiasm will soon decline. At present there is only one woman candidate for the House of Representatives being screened for her qualification, and there are only a few women candidates for the prefectural assemblies. We wonder why there are so few women candidates this year. However, we cannot very well jump to the conclusion that women have lost political interest. Will they vote this year with greater zeal than last year? The authorities of the prefecture have sent election education committees to various localities to prevent abstention from voting. They should start a political enlightenment movement instead of merely endeavoring to prevent abstention from voting.

We cannot expect the women to obtain thorough political knowledge in a short time, but it would be relatively simple to teach them the proper way of using their political rights while their minds are still free of evil political practices. Therefore, we emphasize the grave importance of the political education of the women.

ITEM 11 Women in Politics - Provincial Newspaper: Ise Shimbun (Tsu) -
10 Mar 47. Translator: M. Bokura.

Summary:

451
 Many women Representatives were elected in the last general election; but this year, only a few women candidates are running for the House of Councillors, local executives and local assemblies. As for the House of Representatives, the number of candidates remains to be seen, but a similar situation is expected.

In the UNITED STATES, GREAT BRITAIN and FRANCE, women ministers of education, labor, and welfare are common and they have been active for some time. Last year, JAPAN elected an unprecedented number of women Representatives and surprised the world. There is no reason why a woman cannot do the work of the Welfare Minister or of the Education Minister, not to speak of the local executives and local assemblies. What is wrong with a woman governor and a woman mayor? If they can do their work successfully, it will be a sign that a true democracy has been established.

The custom of disregarding women's opinions is still quite prevalent in JAPAN. This evil habit must be completely abolished in order to construct a truly democratic JAPAN. At the same time, women must not be too conservative. They should be constantly fighting to elevate their social position.

ITEM 11 Plural Ballot System and Single Ballot System - Seinen Shimbun -
26 Mar 47. Translators: Hayashi & Hamada. (FST)

Summary:

450
 Battle lines are still drawn in the House of Representatives over the election law amendment bill. The Social Democrats, the Peoples Co-operatives and the Communists, supporters of the large electorate, plural ballot system, are lined up in furious fight with the Liberals and Progressives, backers of the medium electorate, single ballot system.

From a viewpoint of the basic principle of democratic politics, the large electorate, plural ballot system is more appropriate than the medium electorate, single ballot system, but the proportional representation system is the most ideal. However, due to the low political sense of the people and the immaturity of the political parties the large electorate, plural ballot system is preferable to the proportional representation system at present.

It is natural that the large electorate system should have defects as were apparent in the last general election. For instance, the names of NOZAKA, a Communist, HATOYAMA, a Liberal and YAMAGUCHI, a Social Democrat, were written side by side on many ballots. Also many unknown candidates were elected as the result of the plural ballot system.

Under the medium electorate, single ballot system, personal consideration and money are more influential than party affiliation and policies. In short, the Liberals and Progressives are relying on money and their old influence while the Social Democrats and the Communists are depending on policies to win votes in the coming elections.

ITEM 14 Compromise Plan on Election Law Amendment Rejected - Asahi
Shimbun - 28 Mar 47. Translator: C. Akashi. (TK)

450
 Full Translation:

The Social Democratic Party, which has daily worked against the Election Law Amendment Bill, somewhat regrets that it resorted to violence at the Election Law Amendment Bill Committee meeting on the 26th. At this juncture, a compromise plan has been proposed by some Progressives, including INUKAI, and consequently, the Social Democratic Party has decided not to discuss the election law amendment problem at the committee meeting.

INUKAI, ISHIGURO, and NARAHASHI considered that their compromise proposal suggesting the adoption of the four-to-seven-men medium constituency and two-entry ballot system would be accepted with no trouble. However, since they had failed to confer with President SHIDEHARA on the question beforehand, such action on their part resulted in incurring the displeasure of State Minister SHIDEHARA and other Progressive cabinet officials.

On the afternoon of the 27th, the Diet members' secret meeting was held. INUKAI, ISHIGURO and NARAHASHI urged the necessity of coming to an understanding with the opposition groups at this phase of the issue for the sake of the future development of party politics. However, President SHIDEHARA who took the rostrum six times fervently called for the adoption of the single-ballot system. State Minister SATTO referred, as usual, to the normal course of constitutional government, declaring that it may contradict the principle of constitutional government that a majority yields before a minority's violence. Thus, the compromise plan was finally turned down by these stubborn ministers.

The "New Party" which was about to take a new course seems to have been forced to return to its old Yoshida-Shidehara line.

party than to fight against the proposed bill at the plenary session. Against the Liberal and the Progressive Parties' policy to have their single-ballot system proposal pass the plenary session by all means, the Social Democratic Party intends to deter the session from reaching a decision by raising a non-confidence move against the Speaker of the House of Representatives. However, the government parties are proposing to advance the Lower House Speaker confidence motion prior to any action on the Social Democrats' side, thus attempting to frustrate their plan. With the opening of the plenary session approaching, an extremely tense atmosphere is prevailing in the Diet.

ITEM 5 Justice Authorities Confer to Discuss Election Control -
Asahi Shimbun - 26 Mar 47. Translator: Y. Akabane. (UG)

450
Summary:

For the maintenance of strict supervision over the various elections, the Ministry of Justice, yesterday at 0900 hours, opened a conference of the chiefs of judicial affairs at the First TOKYO Lawyers Building. Following the instructions given by Justice Minister KIMURA, Prosecutor-general FUKUI and Director SATO of the Criminal Bureau, discussions were carried on regarding election supervision. The following is a gist of the Justice Minister's instructions:

"In order to conduct the elections freely and impartially, the proper exercise of prosecution rights and the smooth operation thereof are highly desirable. Besides, in view of SCAP's deep concern toward the election, you are requested to supervise the personnel under your respective supervision, so as to clarify the responsibility in exposing illegal deeds. Supervision must be exercised strictly and justly, disregarding party affiliations or personal feelings.

"For the enforcement of a free election, stress must be laid on the vicious cases infringing the freedom, of the voters, such as buying votes, malfeasance, government intervention and

The instructions of the Prosecutor-general FUKUI include:

1 - As the regulations relative to election campaigning by literature have been revised, necessary measures should be taken to prevent crimes and to carry on proper guidance.

2 - It is expected that there will be infringements of the ordinances governing monetary measures, and various other controls, such as the cornering of staple food-stuffs and paper, etc, during the course of the election campaign. Strict control must be exercised in arresting offenders and preventing such ominous occurrences.

3 - Since the political circles are divided into the factions - left and right - it is possible that this rivalry might reach the dangerous point. Special attention is required to be paid to the election campaign conducted by labor unions. Compulsory balloting, illegally suppressing the free will of union members by their leaders and the like must be thoroughly investigated in order to weed out the agitators behind-the-scenes.

4 - It is preferable to arrest offenders after the election, but if clear cut evidence is obtained, the arrest must be conducted at once, without regard to the election date.

ITEM 3 Minority Parties Oppose Election Law Revision - Yomiuri Shimbun - 20 Mar 47. Translator: N. Miwa.

Full Translation:

4/20
In connection with the proposed revision of the present Lower House Election Law, the Social Democratic Party together with the Peoples Co-operative Party have formulated strong measures against the Liberal-Progressive sponsored single ballot-medium constituency system. At a meeting of the Diet members of the same parties on 19 March, it was proposed that in the event the Election Law Revision Bill is presented to the Diet, they will attempt to shelve that bill by obstructive interpellations.

They denounced the proposed amendment to the Election Law as a "political conspiracy of the non-constitutional Liberal and Progressive Parties". From this standpoint, they are determined to prevent the passage of the Election Law Revision Bill as a preparatory measure for the forthcoming general election. If this bill is brought up for deliberation by its committee, the Social Democratic Party and the Peoples Co-operative Party will wage a last-ditch offensive against it, and will propose the Social Democrat-sponsored revision plan which provides for a single transferable ballot proportional representation system.

In addition, when the Election Law Revision Bill is introduced to the House plenary session, they will propose an emergency motion for impeaching Home Minister UEHARA (as a political conspirator) and Justice Minister KIMURA (as a purgee). Should the circumstances permit, they will introduce a non-confidence resolution against the Government. The deliberations on the Election Law Revision Bill will continue for at least one week for various reasons such as printing, etc.

Approval of the government parties' attempt to revise the present election system will exert a serious influence upon the general election. Such being the case, the development of the strategy of the Social Democratic and Peoples Co-operative Parties is being watched with keen interests.

ITEM 1 Medium Constituency-Single Ballot System Reasonable - Jiji Shimpo - 20 Mar 47. Translator: T. Okamura.

450
Summary:

Despite the opposition of Social Democrats and Peoples Co-operatives, the Liberals and the Progressives have reportedly decided to revise the election system along lines of medium constituency and single ballot in lieu of the large constituency-plural ballot system currently in effect. With the general elections at hand, such a drastic revision of the election system incurs the people's doubts.

We cannot easily determine which of the three constituency systems is superior, because each system has its own merits and shortcomings. Examples of such systems in foreign countries indicate that FRANCE ranks first in the frequency of alternation between the major and minor electoral district systems. In this respect, JAPAN will rank next to FRANCE with its novel medium constituency system. In the light of the practices in these countries, it is impossible to determine which constituency system is the most appropriate. Since the major constituency system has been adopted for the House of Councillors election, it is desirable that the medium-sized electoral district system be revived in the election of the House of Representatives, so that the Upper House may not become a facsimile of the Lower House.

In view of the apparent failure of the three ballot system in last year's elections, it seems most reasonable to abolish all plural ballot systems, restricted and otherwise. The adoption of the restricted plural ballot system last year was disappointing to those who had expected some progressive action. The Progressive-proposed dual ballot system is impractical. The plural ballot system will either render the elections meaningless or will result in mere meddling with elections. It can thus be foreseen, that in spite of its peculiarity, the adoption of the medium constituency-single ballot is inevitable.

~~ITEM~~ 10 Election Measures of the Metropolitan Police Board - Mainichi
Shimbun - 15 Mar 47. Translator: T. Kitayama.

Full Translation:

At 1000 hours on the 14th, the chiefs of the detective and crime-prevention sections of all police stations under the supervision of the Metropolitan Police Board were called together to take measures for the coming elections of members of both Houses, Governor of the Tokyo Metropolis, heads of wards, etc and as a plan for its control, they were given the following instructions:

Notorious Offences - Arrests should be made chiefly in cases of notorious offences, such as bribery, entertaining voters at dinner, interfering with elections, etc. Arrests should also be made in cases in which the regulations are violated in movements before the fact,

Formal Offences - In the past those who have conducted election campaigns, taking advantage of their positions as teachers over their minor students and pupils, have been punished by fines up to 5,000 yen, but henceforth they shall be sentenced to an imprisonment of less than one year. Wages for workers in the election are set at 27 yen for adult males working eight hours a day and paying for their own meals during the month of March, and 25 yen 50 sen for other workers, provided that 10 yen a day can be given each worker as a seasonal allowance. In April and after, these wages are expected to be raised to 50 yen and 45 yen each.

ITEM 18 Adoption of the Medium Electorate System and the Single Ballot System - Tokyo Shimbun - 17 Mar 47. Translator: T. Samukawa.

450
Full Translation:

It is recently reported that the Government will propose to revise the Election Law and adopt the medium electorate system and the single ballot system. When Mr. UEHARA was appointed Home Minister, it was reported that he supported these systems. Therefore, it was advisable for him to declare at his appointment that he would propose the revision of the Election Law.

However, it seems to be too late now to revise the Election Law, because many candidates have already prepared for the election campaign, expecting that the election would be carried out without revision. For this reason, it may reasonably be assumed that this motion for revising the Election Law must be the plot of the Liberal Party for election campaigning. In this connection, it is interesting to know that the Government and the Liberal Party are now discussing which of them is more fitting to submit the bill for electoral reforms to the Diet.

Needless to say, the opposition groups are denouncing the suggested electoral reforms. Among them, the Communists and the women Diet members are most strongly opposed to reform measures. However, this does not mean that woman Representatives are all progressive.

Especially interesting is the attitude of the Progressives. They must be supporting the proposed reforms, but seem to be hesitating to clarify their attitude definitely. As is shown by the fact that they have been advocating the medium electorate system and the plural ballot system, it is clear that they are inviting the proposed electoral reforms.

ITEM 1 NCIO Opposes Election Law Revision - Mimpo - 28 Mar 47. Translator: K. Sasaki. (JJY)

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Full Translation:

The National Congress of Industrial Organizations decided at its leaders meeting on 21 March to oppose the medium electorate single ballot system. SAITO, Ichiro, a member of the NCIO election committee, accompanied by other leading members, interviewed representatives of each political party in the Diet Hall on Wednesday and presented a declaration of the organization.

The following is the gist of the declaration: "The plan to revise the election law to adopt the old medium electorate single ballot system, is a conspiracy to preserve the old "boss influence" by means of bribery and personal considerations and to check the growth of progressive elements. We are resolved to co-operate with all democratic organizations to fight against such conspirators."

ITEM 8 Pigeon-holing of Revision Bill Believed Likely - Yomiuri
Shimbun and Mainichi Shimbun - 26 Mar 47.

160
Summary:

The possibility that the Election Law Revision Bill will be pigeonholed with the label "Deliberation Not Completed" now looms large, with the filibusters of the opposition parties showing promise of succeeding. Since the committee deliberating on the Election Law Revision Bill sat on 20 March, heated discussions have continued between the pro-Government parties and the opposition. Against the policy of the pro-Government parties to force the bill through by numerical strength, the opposition parties have adopted "stalling" tactics. Yesterday there was still no sign that the bill would be passed.

The committee meeting for deliberating on the Election Law Revision Bill met at 11:50 hours yesterday in the budget committee chamber. The chairman of the committee demanded that the audience take their seats in the gallery. This at once

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ITEM 3 (Continued)

led to opposition by the Social Democratic audience, which demanded a withdrawal of the request. SHIIKUMA, Progressive Party, cried, "Get out! Get out!" The angry audience closed in on SHIIKUMA. The meeting was thus thrown into utter confusion, making it necessary for the meeting to be recessed for a short while. Upon resumption, SUZUKI, Social Democrat, explained the objective of the proposed amendments to the Election Law Revision Bill. The sitting recessed at 1210 hours.

The meeting reopened at 1350 hours. SUZUKI, Social Democrat, explaining the reasons for introducing the amendments to the revision bill, pointed out the shortcomings of the single ballot-medium electorate system. He spoke strongly in favor of the major electorate-single ballot proportional representation system, as proposed by the Social Democratic Party. At 1520 hours NAKAMURA, Social Democrat, motioned for a recess, but the committee chairman rejected the motion. This led to an uproar, and the meeting was again adjourned. The sitting was resumed at 1605 hours. SUZUKI, who was to continue his explanations, took the floor to state that he had to leave because he had to attend a radio round-table conference. The sitting recessed once more, at 1610 hours.

The committee meeting deliberating on the Election Law Revision Bill since 24 March recessed at 1700 hours. It resumed the session at 2130 hours, with SATAKE, Social Democrat, explaining the objectives of the following amendments: (1) Clause 3 of Article 79, which reads, "Within one year from the date of election", shall be amended to read, "Within one month from the date of election"; (2) Article 96 shall be amended to read, "Any and all persons shall be prohibited to conduct election campaigns, by taking advantage of their teaching profession, through school boys less than 18 years of age, and no person is allowed to employ students in election campaigns; (3) Article 102 shall be amended to read, "The cost of election campaigns shall be borne by the State"; and (4) Clause 2 of Article 100 shall be deleted.

The MAINICHI reports that the indications are that the deadlock reached in the deliberation on the Election Law Revision Bill, presented by the pro-Government parties, will be removed, and that a compromise will be reached between the Government parties and the opposition parties within the next few days. Although no conclusion was reached, the journal reported yesterday that all the political parties began to consider the necessity of breaking the deadlock, since many bills are still awaiting deliberation.

According to the MAINICHI, NISHIO, Social Democrat, and MIKI, People's Co-operative Democratic Party, conferred on the issue yesterday in the Diet building. YAMAGUCHI, Kiichiro, Liberal Party, and NAKAMURA, Koichi, Social Democratic Party, also conferred in order to break the stalemate, the journal said. The Government yesterday held a special Cabinet meeting within the Diet building to discuss the situation concerning the

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Election Law Revision Bill. Premier YOSHIDA and all Cabinet members were present. Others participating in the Cabinet meeting were ONO, Liberal Party, and ISHIGURO, Progressive Party. Home Minister UYEHARA, following his report regarding the situation centering on the Election Law Revision Bill, the MAINICHI said, stated that if an attempt were made to force through the single ballot-medium electorate system, the Diet session would again have to be prolonged. This would affect the election dates. HAYASHI, Chief Cabinet Secretary, at 1700 hours requested the presence of YAMAZAKI, Speaker of the House, at the Cabinet meeting. With the Speaker's presence the meeting was continued. It was then decided to request the House to deliberate on other pending bills, apart from the Election Law Revision Bill, the MAINICHI reports.

ITEM 3 Underhanded Revision of Election Law Should Be Spurned -
Mimpo - 29 Mar 47. Translator: J. Ide. (JJY)

Full Translation:

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When the Liberals and the Progressives decided to introduce the Election Law Revision Bill, calling for a single-entry ballot and a medium electoral district, we were strongly opposed to such a shameful maneuver, on the grounds that it would nullify the Diet's function of free deliberation and that it was nothing but an undemocratic intrigue to aid the reactionary elements in the approaching election. The unchanged bigoted attitude since demonstrated by the Government parties has now prompted the labor unions and other democratic bodies outside the Diet to launch a mass protest movement. Inside the Diet, the opposition parties headed by the Social Democrats and the Communists are taking joint action to prevent the passage of the amendment at all costs. The sharp antagonism finally caused an excited scuffle, which mars the transition of JAPAN into a democratic nation. Needless to say, the responsibility for this alteration should be shouldered solely by the government parties, which are trying to defy the public by their numerical superiority in the Diet.

The common people does not yet understand the reason why the Election Law amendment proposal was presented so suddenly. With many important bills awaiting deliberation, is it necessary to waste precious time in a useless

world trend is towards more democratic electoral systems, which will reflect the will of the people as much as possible, there is no substantial reason for our conservatives' views to run counter to this trend.

Even if the government parties' proposal should be proper, we can never consent to their tactics of railroading the bill through by violence. Their action is little better than that of thugs. The opposition's demand for a democratic discussion of the revision bill is quite reasonable, whereas the attempts of the Liberal and Progressives to impede their opponent's move is a discredit to a democratic system.

Furthermore, the amendment of the Election Law concerns not only the Diet members. As SCAP has often pointed out, the Diet is to represent the people's sovereignty; therefore, the revision of the procedures by which our representatives are elected directly concerns the people. It would be disastrous if these methods should be arbitrarily amended by the reactionary majority.

Since the people are to elect governors and Diet members, not to mention heads and members of local organizations, the forthcoming elections can be called a peaceful revolution. However, unless the public will is fully represented, the approaching elections may fail to become a "peaceful revolution." In this sense, the most democratic way to adjust electoral districts, if necessary is to postpone the controversial discussions till the next Diet session.

It was rumored yesterday that both the Social Democrats and the People's Co-operative Democrats may agree to the double entry ballot and medium constituency system considered by some of the Progressives. However, the Progressives could not convince the Liberals, and it seems that the single entry-medium constituency system will still be supported.

If such a deceptive measure should materialize the working class can never approve the attitude of the two major parties. What the people are demanding is a democratic amendment and not this reactionary revision. On the other hand, if the Social Democrats should withdraw their opposition, they will not only becloud the general elections but will have failed completely as a people's party. We sincerely hope that both the Social Democrats and the Communist will form a joint front to fight for the common goal, representing the people's will. It is also hoped that the people themselves will actively oppose the revision in the interests of democracy.

ITEM 8 Unions Strongly Oppose Election Law Change - Mimpo -
27 Mar 47. Translator: J. Wada. (GS)

Summary:

The Liberal and the Progressive Parties are defying all opposition to pass the medium electoral district-single ballot system bill. All organizations connected with the National Liaison Conference of Labor Unions have agreed to pay individual protest visits to the Liberal and the Progressive Parties. The NCIO, JFL, and NCLU presented the following reasons for their opposition:

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 HOSOYA, Matsutaro (NCIO) -- The proposed amendment to the election law is an open challenge for our election struggle. The amendment bill was introduced so late and so suddenly that there is little time left for the public to oppose it and for the democratic camp to make preparations for it. Since it will mean the revival of corrupt politics, the proposed medium electoral-single ballot system must be opposed.

MATSUTANI, Shigeo (NCLU) -- The smaller the electoral district, the more influential are private connections. The proposed election system will make it extremely difficult for new candidates and women to be elected. The democratization of Japanese politics will thus be greatly hindered. The conservative parties must be blamed for sabotaging the democratization of JAPAN.

YAMABANA, Hideo (JFL) -- The proposed system will prevent the advance of democratic forces, and it will dampen our ardent desire for a democratic government. We shall expose the ulterior motive which prompted the conservative camp to introduce this amendment bill, and we will enlighten the union members so that they will refrain from casting even a single vote for the conservative camp.

ITEM 7 Controversy over Election Law Revision - Shin Yukan -
28 Mar 47. Translator: H. Miyoshi. (JJY)

Summary:

150
 The Election Law amendment issue is now creating confusion in the Lower House. In this connection, both the Social Democrats and the Communists asserted that the proposed revision of the Lower House Election Law is nothing but a plot of the Liberal Party to maintain "boss politics" and that it is the last-minute effort by the Liberal and Progressive Parties to win a majority in the Lower House through the medium electoral district system.

The Liberals and Progressives retorted that they support that system because they believe they can now wage only limited campaigns, since the number of campaign posters has been limited and the use of gasoline prohibited. On the other hand, the opposition parties disregarded the necessity of electioneering, saying that votes can be won as long as large labor organizations are under their influence.

As it is, the reason why the opposition parties oppose the medium electoral district system is that their organizations have strength only under the large electoral district system. The reason why the government parties support the medium electoral district system is that since they have no such organizations, they must depend solely upon popular support.

The controversial Election Law revision issue has been caused only by their self-centered attitudes. Their assertions have no connection with the propriety of the systems of electoral districts and balloting.

Voters can judge the propriety of the policies of a political party. However, it is important to select the proper persons to execute these policies. In this respect, it is problematical whether or not the large electoral district system will influence voters in selecting suitable candidates. At any rate, the revision in the Election Law should be effected in accordance with the political judgment of the people.

ITEM 14 Women Diet Members Preparing for Coming Election - Daiichi Shinbun -
1 Mar 47. Translator: M. Yasutake.

Summary:

451
 A year has passed since 39 women were elected to the Diet in the last general election of 11 April 1946. The new election, scheduled to be held on 25 April, is of great importance because it will show how much JAPAN has been democratized. The whole world is now closely watching the results of women members in the coming election because they will be the barometer used in measuring Japanese democratization.

All the present women members of the Diet stated in unison; "The people expected too much of us women members who were elected for the first time in Japanese history. The Diet is called a democratic Diet, but it is still a world of men due to a deep-rooted feudalism. It is up to us women members to clear the Diet of its dark and vicious aspects and liberate women from the shackles of the past."

These 39 women members made brilliant achievements in the salvation of the extremely poor children, the expediting of repatriation, the protection of repatriates, the food problem and the clarification of the women's stand on the new Constitution. When the amendment of the election law of the House of Representatives was taken up, they strongly opposed the small electoral district and the single ballot systems because they were unfavorable to the women members. All of the present members except MORIYAMA and MIKI are making preparations to run as candidates in the coming election.

SUGITA, Keiko, of the Liberal Party expressed her political view by stating that through her firm political convictions she wished to connect actual living with politics. YAMASHITA, Harue, of the Progressive Party stressed that the thorough understanding of financial problems was closely related with "kitchen politics".

OHASHI of the Co-operative Democratic Party advocated co-operative socialism by asserting: "It is impossible to save JAPAN from the present crisis without establishing a new party of a co-operative society."

Representative OISHI, Yoshie, commented on her colleagues: "All the present women members of the Diet are performing their duties very well. KARASAWA and YAMASHITA of the Communist and the Progressive Parties respectively must always represent Japanese women in the Diet in order to divest it of its feudalistic aspects."

At any rate, the women members have carried out their duties without a great mistake in their new careers and it is necessary for the people sympathetically understanding them for their further growth.

ITEM 16 Single Ballot Disadvantageous to Women Candidates -
Asahi - 1 Apr 47. Translator: Y. Sakaue. (WIM)

Summary:

451
 Amendments to the much debated Election Law have resulted in a medium constituency single entry ballot system, as the curtain is raised on the election race for a democratic Diet under the new Constitution. The last minute revision has driven the candidates into a flurry of changing constituencies and posters. An uphill battle is predicted for the women candidates as the result of the single ballot system. Pessimistic observers think that the number of women parliament members will be reduced to half. The political parties themselves are inclined to shun women candidates as they must make every candidate count. Notwithstanding these disadvantages, however, 37 out of the present 39 female members are running for the Diet again.

The following electioneering tactics are employed by the weaker sex to overcome the disadvantages of the single ballot system:

(1) A woman candidate, whose constituency is located in the inter-mountain region, will hold a six-hour conference, for women only, in each community. She will have heart-to-heart talks with them on the election and will offer advice on personal problems at the same time.

(2) Another Diet candidate will team up with women candidates for the prefectural and municipal assemblies. They will use the same posters and campaign office and will make recommendation speeches for each other.

ITEM 5 A Request to Women Voters - Provincial Paper: Ehime Shimbun
(Matsuyama) - 21 Mar 47. Translator: T. Fukizawa. (TM)

Summary:

951
The dates of the six elections for the House of Councillors and Representatives, prefectural governors, mayors and village heads, members of prefectural and other local assemblies are rapidly approaching. Elections like this occur only once in 12 years. Therefore, we advise the voters to re-examine their attitudes towards the coming elections. They are doubly important since the new Constitution will go into effect this year and women have acquired political rights.

In the election for the House of Representatives last year, there were 80 women candidates, and 37 of them were elected. It was a pleasant phenomenon, and we anticipate further political progress by women in the future. However, the activities of the women representatives in the past year were unsatisfactory in spite of their brilliant start. Their principal proposal was the distribution of milk for babies. In view of the unsuccessful role played by women representatives in the past year, we believe that in the entire nation there are many more capable women who could be elected as representatives.

Although women obtained their political rights as the result of the defeat in war, the change was so great that most of them were quite unprepared to exercise their new rights fully. Some people voted for women candidates because they were a novelty. These votes resulted in unexpected success for women candidates last year. Even in the democratic countries of Europe and in the UNITED STATES, women candidates for the House of Representatives are comparatively few. The fact that 37 women candidates were successful in the first election after they acquired their political rights is a phenomenon unprecedented in the world.

Women possess a hero-worshipping characteristic. German women, particularly had deep admiration for heroes. They were keenly attracted by HITLER's dramatic sort of leadership and, therefore, supported him firmly year after year until he established the Nazi Government. It is no exaggeration to say that the hero-worshipping tendency of German women ruined their country. This is a good lesson for Japanese women.

In the coming general election as well as in the local election we sincerely hope that the women voters will exercise all of their political rights. We cannot expect women to make rapid advances in the field of politics for, to them, it is an unfamiliar and difficult subject. This condition can be alleviated, however, if women can arrange their domestic lives so that they will have more time to study political issues.

For these reasons, women must elect reliable candidates who will devote themselves to the reform of Japanese home life in addition to the improvement of the people's economic condition. We hope that all women voters will bear the above-mentioned points in mind when they cast their votes.

ITEM 17 The General Election and Women (By a Private Contributor) -
Yukan Miyako - 8 Mar 47. Translator: I. Hotta.

Summary:

451
 An election is an important function for a nation which stands for democratic administration. We are required to think of politics and election earnestly from a cultural point of view. Especially we women must reflect upon the results of the last general election, which was our first experience, so that we will not repeat the same errors. For this purpose, we must understand the candidates perfectly and judge them ourselves. In this sense, we electors should first ask their opinions on various matters, such as the revision of the Civil Law, national education, co-education, the relationship between inflation and education,

sanitary and social problems, so that we may criticize them correctly.

Women should ask more questions at campaign meetings, and they should elect the ones whose answers can satisfy them. Otherwise, their public promises will turn out to be nothing once they are elected as it has been proven in the last election.

Next, we must not choose those who stand as candidates at the cost of too much money for such people make politics a profitable job once they are elected. We cannot but blame the Government for its irresponsibility in letting large quantities of paper go to waste for election campaigns while school textbooks and notebooks are now really scarce, and permitting Liberals and the Progressives to talk unreservedly of spending 1,000,000 yen for the coming election campaign. Women who are conscientious must not vote for those who scatter gold freely, for they cannot be considered to have the power to save the people from present difficulties.

Serious people should stop dealing with persons who boldly announce their candidacy, and start a movement to recommend the ones who they believe are really hopeful. It is especially necessary in local elections to remove feudalistic bosses and secure a sound and bright future for the people in respect to distribution, relief work, enterprises, and education. Then, for the first time, we can have candidates who really represent good housewives.

(Signed by HANI, Setsuko)

ITEM 4 Qualification For the Women Diet Members - Provincial Paper:
Miyako Shimbun (Kyoto) - 21 Mar 47. Translator: Nobunaza. (WM)

Summary:

951
 Many women were elected as Diet members through the first woman suffrage election which was held last year. Woman voters, in particular, must have noticed what a part woman members played in the Diet and they must have learned what sort of women were really qualified for Diet membership.

In KYOTO, three candidates were selected as Diet members last year. We should make an effort to determine whether or not these members were good representatives before the time of the elections. We have emphasized that many capable women should be selected as members of the Diet or of local assemblies; however, this does not mean merely that a great number of women members must be elected. It is most important to us that women representatives have high political ideals.

In AMERICA, the women members of Congress have many experiences in political affairs and are making a continuous study of politics. Our Diet women can learn much from them. Furthermore, these women should represent social or professional organizations.

In this sense, they are required to follow professional careers.

A woman who wants to become a Diet member should have an unflagging interest in public opinion, especially that of women. They should gain support by co-operating voluntarily with other women. They must be far-sighted and highly cultured and, finally, they should not be selected just because they are women but because of their leadership and political ability.

ITEM 5 Social Democrat Candidates Lead in Women Representation to the House - Jiji Shimbun - 22 Mar 47. Translator: H. Sato.

Full Translation:

The application for candidacy to the House of Representatives in TOKYO was closed on the 25th. As of noon of the 20th, there were 550 applicants, with 23 women in all. As the Tokyo applicants include some local applicants, the exact percentage cannot be calculated.

From the First District of TOKYO are the following four: Social Democrats - YAMAGUCHI, Shizue (age 31) and MOTOJIMA, Yuriko (41); the New Government of Japan Party (SHINSEI-NIPPON TO) - SAITO, Yoshi (57); and from the Communist Party-KOMATSU, Katsuko (35).

From the Second District of TOKYO are the following five women candidates: Liberal Party - TAKATANI, Tome (46); Communist Party - OMACHI, Yoneko (46); Social Democrats - KATO, Shizue and MATSUTANI, Tenko (29); Independent Party - MOTODA, Toyo (54).

The following are the 14 local candidates: from IWATE - HIGUCHI, Yone (32) of the New Government of Japan Party and SUGAWARA, En (48), Progressive Party; AKITA - NAGA, Fujie (57), Liberal Party, and ONUMA, Hana (43), Communist Party; TOTORI - TANAKA, Tatsu (56) Peoples' Party; YAMAGATA - YONEYAMA, Fumiko (46), Peoples' Party; KYOTO - KIYURA, Chiyo (58), Liberal Party, and OISHI, Yoshie (51), Social Democrats; KUMAMOTO - YAMASHITA, Tsune (49), Social Democrats; CHIBA - TAKEUCHI, Utako (33), Progressive Party; SAITAMA - TANAKA, Kineko (33) Independent Party; the First District of FUKUOKA - MORIYAMA Yone (48), Progressive Party; WAKAYAMA - SAITO, Tei (41), Progressive Party; IBARAGI-SUGITA, Kaoruko (40); Liberal Party.

If a total count should be taken according to parties, the Social Democrats lead with six; the Progressives and Liberals have four each; the Communist Party three; the New Government of Japan Party (SHINSEI NIPPON TO) and the Independent party with two each.

ITEM 7 Election Measures of New Japan Women's League - Mimpo - 14 Mar 47. Translator: A. Kido.

Full Translation:

The new Japan Women's League, an enlightening body for women franchise-holders and not one to support candidates, has decided to support candidates from among its own members. Chairman ICHIKAWA, Fusae has decided to run for the House of Councillors. Headquarters Standing Committee Members SUZUKI, Sadako, of FUKUSHIMA, and TANAKA, Kinuyo, of SAITAMA, and Central Committee Member IIDA, Kinuo, of AICHI, have applied for their qualification examination for the House of Representatives. In the local elections, KARUBE, Kiyoko of the Headquarters Standing Committee has decided to run for the Metropolitan Assembly, while TERAYA, Kaeko, also of the Headquarters Standing Committee, is determined to stand for the Kichijoji Town Assembly.

ITEM 11 Women's Participation in Election Stressed - Asahi Shimbun -
2 Apr 47. Translator: S. Sakata. (VM)

Full Translation:

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 With the approach of election days, movements for enlightening women on politics have become widespread. The Tokyo Headquarters of the New Japanese Womens League (SHIN NIHON FUJIN DOHEI) has issued the following notices to its 30 branches throughout the country:

- (1) The league recommends its members to run for elections.
- (2) The league will initiate a nation-wide movement to enlighten the people on elections by means of lectures.
- (3) The league will publish the "Hand-book on Election," which will shortly be sent to each branch.

A recent general meeting in KYOTO under the sponsorship of one of the league branches was attended by 2,000 people. On that occasion, the First Division of the American Army staying there exhibited, for the benefit of the Japanese, books including "Democratic Organizations," "Elections in ENGLAND" and "The Constitution", all edited by SCAP's Civil Information and Education Section.

The American Military Government Team in the Tokyo-Kanagawa area is also contemplating a two-day class which will stress the importance of women's votes.

ITEM 5 Elevation of the Women Laborers' Social Position - Jimmin Shimbun -
16 Mar 47. Translator: I. Hotta.

451
 Summary:

The Labor Standard Act has been written, and the Welfare Minister is so proud of it that he declares it one of the most progressive laws in the world. As an act itself it is far more progressive than the existing ones such as the Factory Law. Even though the new Constitution assures security of standard human rights, the people are as indifferent as when they are going through the list of official prices.

We demand that this act will pass the Diet with none of its progressiveness changed as a weapon to secure labor conditions which respect human rights. The women laborers should demand the

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 Government to abolish discriminating treatment between men and women in every respect, permit them to take special rest for their health, and establish more maternity hospitals and public nurseries so that even mothers can work.

A number of labor unions have already been formed, and women laborers have demanded the same wages as men and special rest days. Against their demands, the capitalists, while logging production, attacked them saying that they cannot be treated equally with men for they have to be protected and that women are not physically able to work among men by nature. It is really deplorable, however, that only a few women workers are conscious of the fact that they have to be protected for future motherhood.

Besides working in the same capacity as men, women are responsible for bringing successors into the world. This is undoubtedly one of women's greatest tasks in society, but can men be quite indifferent to it? In other words, the burden is put only on women although it is the duty of both men and women to society. It is very natural, therefore, that society should place them under due protection for motherhood. Women are not "unable to work among men" but there are many occupations suitable to women and which need their help. That women have work and become economically independent of men is the very key to elevate women's social position. Accordingly, all who prevent them from coming out into the world are against the new Constitution which admitted equal rights for men and women. Women should first do their best to realize the Labor Standard Act, and they should, moreover, fight against the capitalists with this act as its bulwark.

ITEM 19 Women Hold Meeting To Air Political Views - Jiji Shimpo -
17 Mar 47. Translator: U. Futcnaka.

Full Translation:

457
 With the second general elections in sight, a meeting to air political views was held at the Yamasaki National School from 1300 hours on 16 March. The meeting was sponsored by the Mother's Societies of the Yamasaki, Wakabayashi and Kyodo National Schools as well as by the Umezawaoka Women's Cultural Club in order to make the attitudes of political parties thoroughly understood.

Mr HANAMURA, Shiro (Liberal); MATSUTANI, Tenkoko (Social) and OMACHI, Yoneko, alternately took the platform as representatives of their parties and addressed an audience consisting of mothers and sisters of students gathered together in the lecture hall of the institution. They gave their interpretations of political measures and answered various questions posed by the women which indicated their keen interest in a democratic election.

ITEM 14 Women and The House of Councillors - Fujin Shimbun (bi-weekly)
- 24 Mar 47. Translator: H. Hasegawa. (FST)

Full Translation:

85
 The basic reason for adopting a bicameral legislative system is to administer the affairs of state amicably and moderately by having one House check radical or despotic actions of the political parties of the other. In the sense that the dominant position of the House of Representatives is assured under the new Constitution, the bicameral legislative system in our country cannot be said to be a typical one. Accordingly, the nature of the House of Councillors must differ from that of the House of Representatives and should represent the professions and vocations.

In a recent editorial of this paper, we advocated that women Diet members should not, as a principle, represent only their sex, but the people as a whole. However, if they cannot fully understand this spirit at once, we advocate that, they participate in administration through the House of Councillors as representatives of the vocation of housewife.

Furthermore, during the last session of the Diet, I have keenly felt the lack of legal knowledge among the representatives in general, especially the women members. The fact that, in the legislative organ which enacts laws indispensable for democratic administration, there are a large number of women who are lacking in legal knowledge, is ridiculous. The equality of sex means that men and women have equal rights, not in the actual social life, but before the law since the ability and function of the women in social life naturally differ from those of the man.

For these reasons, women should become members of the House of Councillors which will represent the special interests of one section of the people unlike House of Representatives, which represents the general interests of the community. If necessary, we should even consider the emergence of a women's political party to realize this objective.

ITEM 1 Some Politicians Experiencing Difficulties - Provincial Paper Hokkoku Mainichi Shinbun (Kanazawa) - 26 Feb 47. Translator: M. Ota.

451
Summary:

Thirty nine women representatives have appeared in the Diet for the first time in our history. However, only five women out of 200 candidates for the ISHIKAWA Prefectural Assembly have applied for their qualification examination. These five women are OKUNO, Nobu and former elementary school teacher KASHIDA, Misao, Liberals; YOSHIDA, Chie, dentist and NISHIKATA, Tokiko, missionary of the OTANI sect, all of KANAZAWA Shi and AOKI, Miyako, of HOSHI Gun who applied for the examination on 25 February.

It was also rumored that FUKUKAWA, Kura, Social Democrat, and wife of manager FUKUKAWA of the Kanazawa Branch of the Domestic Savings Bank; HOTTA, Tomoko, Progressive, former head of the ISHIBIKI Machi Young Women's Association; KAJII, Yukiyo, Co-operative Democrat and wife of KAJII, Shigeo, who ran as candidate for the Diet in the last general election, and KITA, Hisako, Communist, would run in the coming election of the prefectural assembly.

The reason why many women will not run in the coming election is that it is difficult for them to raise the necessary funds for the election campaigns which will amount to 100,000 or 200,000 yen. They cannot find supporters who will lend them money in the current situation. Furthermore, women politicians hesitate to run in the coming election because the people have severely criticized the actual ability and results of women politicians whose first appearance was warmly welcomed in the last election. Another reason is that it will be difficult for women candidates to be elected under the single ballot system.

According to KOMAI, Shizuko, who made a politician out of YONEYAMA Hisa, Diet member from ISHIKAWA Ken, the economic problem is vital for women candidates, because they cannot raise the money by themselves. Therefore, no one but very benevolent person will lend them campaign funds. Moreover, political parties are not sympathetic to women candidates. Although half of the Japanese people are women, it is unnecessary to have women occupy half of the Diet seats. Four or five women candidates for the ISHIKAWA prefectural assembly are enough and proper in view of the current situation in JAPAN.

ITEM 2 Local Elections and Woman Suffrage - Provincial Newspaper - Too Nippo (Aomori) - 10 Mar 47. Translator: T. Fukizawa.

451
Summary:

The Japanese women who voted in the general election for the House of Representatives last year have had a year of political experience. However, they were unable to study politics seriously because they were harassed by the food crisis.

The considerable number of women candidates expected in the election for the prefectural, city, town, and village assemblies, which will be held on 30 April, is a promising trend.

The local government is more closely connected with livelihood than the state government. Women can play an important part in education, sanitation, social work, and rationing of commodities. Women have sufficient power to improve their towns or villages because the right of self-government has been increased greatly due to the new prefectural system.

Politics is a difficult subject for most women. Therefore, an educational movement is required to increase their political consciousness and teach them the proper method of voting. Although 39 women were elected in the general election last year, the political critics pointed out that the quality of the representatives was low. In order to avoid a similar result in the local elections, women must study how they can reconstruct their life through the local government.

ITEM 8 Women Diet Members Vehemently Opposed to Election Law Revision - Akahata - 27 March 47. Translator: A. Kawamura. (WM)

Full Translation:

Unscrupulous plan of the Government parties to change Election Law has come as a shock to the women Diet members. All women members of the Social Democratic, Communist and People's Cooperative Parties and a part of the women representatives of the Liberal and Progressive Parties have taken a firm stand

against the proposed amendment and have issued the following freedom and democratic rights for the first time since the end of the war. Nevertheless, the Liberal Party, by proposing the adoption of a medium constituency and single-entry system of balloting, is plotting to deprive women and young men of these precious rights. This reminds us of the old party politics.

"If this plot succeeds the majority of the so-called "new men" and women Diet members would inevitably be shut out of the political world. It is extremely regrettable that the Liberal Party is acting unconstitutionally, and is resorting to violence and unjustifiable interference in committee proceedings, as witnessed on 20 March, in order to realize the party's brazen aim.

"Therefore, we women members of the Diet are uniting to oppose such a villainous change.

ITEM 12 Women and the General Elections - Provincial Newspaper Osaka Shinbun (Osaka) - 14 Mar 47. Translators: S. Hamada & W. Hayashi. (FST)

Summary:

Women will again be able to assert their voting franchise in the coming elections. When we recall that 37 women representatives were elected in the last general elections, we can readily predict that many female candidates will again be elected as members and heads of various Government posts. Since the number of women voters is larger than that of men voters at present, the role of women in the coming elections is unprecedentedly great.

Contrary to the sceptical anticipation of the political circles, women displayed their strong enthusiasm in the last elections and sent 37 women representatives to the Diet. Many politicians attributed this amazing result to women's curiosity and the plural ballot system. However, we wish to interpret this success as evidence of the sincere political enthusiasm of the liberated women and the success of woman suffrage.

There are some women representatives with uncertain character, but this is nothing when compared with the fact that so many dubious male representatives have also been elected to replace the purged politicians. Furthermore, the women members worked during the three sessions of the Diet to expedite repatriation and legislative laws relating to women and juvenile affairs. We must recognize these sincere efforts.

Many slogans such as "Solve women's problems from the female standpoints", or "Women alone can understand women" were used by female candidates in the last elections. However, woman suffrage does not mean representatives of women to the political world, nor does parliamentary politics require women to manifest womanhood. The real objective of woman suffrage is to put women on equal footing with men politically and guarantee their political freedom without sexual discrimination. All women must strive to shake off the shallow conception that they are the weaker sex by bearing this point in mind. From this point of view, we hope that capable female politicians and administrative heads will be elected in the April elections.

ITEM 10 Need for Qualified Women in Local Government - Jimmin Shimoun -
26 Mar 47. Translator: Nobunaga.(DD)

Summary:

951
The conservative political parties are not enthusiastic, at present, in putting forward women as candidates in the coming elections. The fact that in the last general election, 39 women were elected as Diet members proves the deeply rooted feudalism of JAPAN rather than the advancement of JAPAN's democratization. It was due mostly to the faults of the double entry ballot system, the narrow-mindedness on the part of women who felt that they should champion women and the curiosity-seekers who wanted to place women in the Diet. But, now, we are sincere about elections, upon which depends democracy or conservatism in JAPAN.

Many women voters were disappointed in a speech made by a certain woman member of a conservative party. She said, "Two meals are enough for women." She further said, "Women laborers do not need official sick leave."

This time, the number of women candidates for the Diet is exceedingly small. Even in small numbers, women who can render great services to JAPAN's democratization should be elected. Especially in the cities, towns, and villages, that is in local self-governing bodies, we anticipate the activity of women in politics since they are closely connected with home life.

Let us select qualified women for city, ward, town, and village assemblies. Let us create female heads of cities, wards, towns, and villages so that the blackmarketing administration may be eliminated.

ITEM 16 Women's Self-Reform and the April Elections - Provincial Newspaper - Gifu Times (Gifu) - 8 Mar 47. Translator: S. Ohashi.

Summary:

The coming general election in which the equal rights of men and women will be manifested in politics for the second time, is gradually drawing near. The Japanese women, who obtained the right to vote for the first time, achieved a favorable record in the election of representatives last year.

At that time, only two or three women candidates were expected to be elected, but 40 gained seats. A large number of absenteeism from the polls among women voters was anticipated, but on the contrary, it was surprisingly low. There were a few impudent persons within the elected women representatives, but there were also many insolent men representatives so this problem is not limited to the women alone. During the past year, most of the women representatives have been active in such matters as promoting speedy repatriation of Japanese people still overseas, purification of the Diet and framing of legislations which will protect women and children. For their first year in politics, their activities have been satisfactory.

However, in last year's election, women candidates used slogans such as "persons who understand women are women" or "women must regard matters from a woman's standpoint." These slogans recieved considerable support from the women. However, the aim of having women participate in politics is not for them to elect only women representatives to the Diet nor is it to feminize politics and the Diet. The aim of women participation in politics is to establish political equality and freedom.

Women who are elected must become experts on politics by abandoning their idea of being a women. They must possess a broad and high knowledge which will enable them to comprehend the entire political situation. The same thing is requested of women who vote. Up to now women have occupied a lower position than men. For this reason they have not been regarded equals in matters regarding politics. This sentiment has not yet been completely abolished. However, the lack of political ability is not the fault of women. Women must eradicate this lack of political ability, as soon as possible, with their own efforts and with the co-operation of the men.

Women must boost the standard of their political knowledge to that of the men by reading books, attending lectures and debate meetings. On the other hand, they should be careful of their appearance so as not to lose their femininity and they should not bicker among themselves over trivial matters. If they do not reform themselves by their own efforts and abandon the old conceptions of women, it can be said that their right to participate in politics was given to them as a favor. For this reason, the coming general election is the starting point of women's self-reform which will enable them to become really equal with the men.

ITEM 11 Diet Activities of Women Representatives Reviewed - Yomiuri
Shimbun - 1 April 47. Translator: Y. Sakaue. (RBH)

Summary:

451
The women members of the Diet waved a sentimental farewell to the Diet building on the evening of 31 March, when their one-year term as parliamentarians was brought to an end. The 39 women representatives made their sensational debut a year ago, confident with the warm expectations of the nation. Since then, however, popular opinion has turned a cold shoulder towards them. Even members of their own sex have cynically referred to them as "by-products of the plural ballot system." Scandals caused by a few women parliamentarians have not improved their reputation in general. The activities of the women solons during the past year are reviewed below:

Whatever the merits and demerits of the women members might be, the public has taken an indifferent attitude as proven by the dwindling of their fan mail to practically none. A certain woman Diet member rationalized with the statement that recent letters had become fewer in number but more substantial in quality, but a survey has revealed that 89 per cent of the voters have been disappointed with the female members.

An outstanding project was the organization of the Women Diet Members Club to facilitate the procurement of their daily necessities and solve their problems of child upbringing. Only two months after its inauguration, the club was dissolved as the result of internal squabbles. The joint petition to a woman member of Britain's Lower House, concerning the repatriation problem, was a creditable proof of their capability to transcend party differences.

Numerous propositions have been presented by the women representatives. The only one which has materialized so far was the proposition regarding the Family Affairs Arbitrary Court, advanced by YAMASHITA, Harue of the Progressive Party. As many as 15 propositions have been presented by a single woman, the majority of which deal with problems of particular interest to the feminine sex, such as the establishment of public nurseries, social welfare institutions, measures for the prevention of moral deterioration of women, etc.

The women parliamentarians all claim that they have exerted "painstaking and serious efforts." It is true that at the outset they studied diligently, but their interest subsequently lagged. At any rate, criticism towards them has shown no mercy.

TOKANO, Satoko, Diet member of the Social Democratic Party said: "Women representatives have contributed a great deal

towards placing women on the same footing as men. ROME was not built in a day. Likewise, the complete emancipation of women will require some time. Depend on us to achieve our objective which is a government of love."

TAKEUCHI, Shigeyo, representative from the Liberal Party, remarked: "The majority of the women members have displayed unimpeachable effort. The male sex has had a head start in politics. The female sex must elect women representatives in order to catch up with the men."

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ITEM 2 Women Must Exercise Their Rights - Provincial Newspaper:
Tokushima Shimbun (Tokushima) - 28 Mar 47. Translator:
Y. Ebike (FST)

Summary:

With the quadruple elections near at hand, campaigns are now in full swing. We wonder how many women have actually noted the political achievements of Diet members and parties which they elected in the last election. At that time, it was emphasized that daily livelihood is inseparable from national politics. The women are supposed to have chosen by their own fair and free judgment the representatives who they believed were capable of stabilizing the people's livelihood.

An example of women's sense of inferiority is shown in their request for separate sections in the theaters because the men are often ill-mannered and vulgar. However, instead of taking a negative measure or only blushing with shame, why cannot the women be courageous enough to take the offensive against indecent men by scolding them? This problem concerns not only individual women but also the status of all women in general and the future of JAPAN. When women reach the stage where they can demand the right to protect their honor at any time, then for the first time, the equality of the sexes will be actually realized and their status improved. Women must possess this degree of self-respect to be able to act positively in politics. Otherwise, they will vote for candidates suggested by their husbands or friends.

Since a democratic election is intended for the people's interest and at the same time for the construction of an ideal state, every one must exercise his own voting right. For this purpose, the women, must be prepared to make their own decisions in the coming elections.

ITEM 3 Were Women Diet Members Really Incapable? - Jimmin Shimbun -
20 Mar 47. Translator: S. Yokoyama.

Summary:

Women candidates will probably not be successful in the coming elections. Although people voted for women candidates in the last election because of curiosity, they were disappointed with them afterwards. It is true that some of the women Diet members are inactive, or that they attend the Diet only because they are striving for publicity, or to kill time, but it does not mean that all of them are incapable. Some have been striving to learn how to become good politicians. These sincere and hopeful women representatives must be permitted to develop their abilities in the course of years. There must be excellent women who are suited to become Diet members among those who were unsuccessful in the last election, and also among those who did not run for the Diet. The people must try to persuade these women to become candidates, and then vote for them.

Able people who are qualified to participate in state affairs, representing the people, are not easily found either among men or women. A Diet member must be experienced and have high ideals. He must be trustworthy, too. Electors must realize their responsibility to vote correctly. It is necessary that people conscientiously recommend excellent candidates. The people must be responsible for

to overcome the approaching political and economic difficulties and to create a peaceful JAPAN, in which we can live in safety, it is absolutely necessary that the people face the elections seriously, try to overthrow the government which sanctions black-market transactions and inflation at the sacrifice of the people, and vote for excellent candidates who will fight for the happiness of the people. Capable representatives of the people must be admitted to every organization in order to democratize our country thoroughly. In this connection, the attitude how the women, who constitute half of the nation's population, will assume towards politics is an important problem. Through all the elections and political phases, women must train themselves in cooperation in order to liberate themselves completely.

RE-ORGANIZATION OF KOREAN WOMEN'S ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION BEGINS

451 HEADQUARTERS XXIV CORPS, SEOUL, KOREA--Girls' organizations and other women's groups met here last week to make plans for the re-organization of the Korean Women's Athletic Association, Lee, Byung Hac, Chief Executive of the Korean Athletic Association, announced here today.

One of the first activities of the new organization will be to bring all rules and regulations up to date so that Korea can meet international standards in women's sports. The Association will be an official member of the Korean Athletic Association and will be represented on their Board of Directors.

PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC JUN 27 1947

MRS. OVETA CULP HOBBY, MRS. OGDEN REID INVITED TO ATTEND IMPROMPTU FORUM WITH JAPAN'S WOMEN LEADERS TOMORROW

451 Japan's women leaders have invited two of America's outstanding women, Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby and Mrs. Ogden Reid, to an impromptu forum to be held in Radio Tokyo at 3 p.m., Thursday, it was announced today by SCAP's Civil Information and Education Section.

Mrs. Reid, President of the New York Herald Tribune, and Mrs. Hobby, Executive Vice President of the Houston Post and former Commander of the WAC, are scheduled to arrive at Haneda airbase with a group of editors and publishers at 11:30 tomorrow morning.

Women members of the Japanese Diet, labor leaders, writers, and other feminists will meet the American women to exchange notes and query the visitors on women's affairs in the United States.

The meeting, it is hoped, will add impetus to Japan's suffrage drive.

Mrs. Hobby and Mrs. Reid are on a round the world flight with the Pan-American Airways as host. They will be in Japan about 30 hours.

PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC JUN 25 1947

PROBLEMS OF JAPANESE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS TO BE DISCUSSED

451 A series of meetings devoted to problems facing women's organizations in Japan will be held June 9-10 at Yamagata where both SCAP and Military Government representatives will speak, the Civil Information and Education Section, SCAP, announced today.

Speakers and discussions will emphasize the democratic techniques in making the women's influence felt in education, politics and public health.

Similar meetings which Japan's women leaders are expected to attend, are scheduled later for Niigata and other centers in the Tohoku and Hokkaido districts.

The meetings will open with a discussion of "What is a Democratic Organization," and will include seminars on "What Women Can Do to Promote Equal Educational Opportunity for Men and Women" and a "Public Health Program for the Community."

"The Proposed Revisions of the Civil Code as They Affect the Family System" will be the subject of the final session, with Miss Michiko Watanabe, one of Japan's 15 women lawyers, as speaker. The Civil Code discussion will be sponsored by the Yamagata Press.

JUN 5 1947 PRESS RELEASE - AFPAC