DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

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ITEM 15 Discontent of Labor Unions Throws Shadow over Government - Seiji - 13 Jul 47. Translator: J. Weiller. (MK)

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Full Translation:

Since the Katayama Cabinet is that of the working masses with its foothold in the labor and farmer strata,, the extent of the support of the labor unions, it can enjoy influences its fate much more than it did the YOSHIDA Cabinet. Recent policies adopted on the questions of average wages, adjustment of enterprises and commodity price system have resulted in the labor unions' cooling in their sympathy toward the Cabinet.

The mass meeting to encourage the Socialist Party held in the Imperial Palace Plaza on the 6th was a reminder to the Government to act in a manner befitting the Socialist Party. The fact that the address of the Premier's proxy, Chief Cabinet Secretary NISHIO, was received with catcalls and boos from a part of the audience reveals how the wind blows.

A very delicate change of relations is perceptible between the Government and the working classes in that even a delegate of the General Federation of Labor Unions has had to cry that the Government "should come out of the frame of the four party policy arrangement and go back to the true form of the Socialist Party". Such being the situation, the Government may have to prepare itself to face the workers' hostility.

The first sign of opposition between the Government and the workers was seen on the plan of the temporary average wages classifie according to industry. The workmen were fundamentally against the Government policy to fix official prices after the average wage is worked out and were of the opinion that the minimum wage system should be set up after the complete distribution of daily necessaries is assured.

On 28 June, a meeting between the Government and the Labor's committee ended in utter rupture, and the Wage Deliberation Commission backed out of this problem. As a result the Government made up the 1,800 Yen plan on its sole responsibility.

Subsequently, the National Labor Unions Liaison Council, calling a unions' delegates convention on the 3rd, agreed that they would fight for the establishment of a wage system without being bound by the frame of the standard wage and decided to endeavors to acquire a minimum wage and daily necessaries.

The General Federation of Labor Unions is trying to mitigate the friction between the Government and the Unions by proposing the unification of the labor front to the National Congress of Industrial Organizations. In view of the circumstances seen in the recent "Socialist Party Encouraging Rally" it is not thought that these two organizations can very easily come to terms. The outlook is all the more dark when it is recalled that NCIO chairman KIKUNAMI showed his resolution for fighting by declaring, "Pegging wages was the fundamental policy of the Yoshida Cabinet, but the KATAYAMA Government is continuing where it left off. Unless we put up a courageous fight the capitalistic offensive will become too strong and eventually take the right of strike away from us".

Under such circumstances it is inconceivable for the unification of front as pictured by the General Federation to meet with success in the near future. Moreover, it is feared that the movements of the National Labor Unions Liaison Council and the National Congress of Industrial Organization in connection with the Economic Emergency Measure and revision of the commodity price system, will prove a barrier lying accross the Government's path. The situation is such that a September labor offensive is now being rumored in a certain quarter.

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ITEM 14 Hokkaido Newspaper Labor Council to Be Inaugurated - Jimmin - 4 Jul 47. Translator: T. Ogawa. (FST)

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Full Translation:

In order to consolidate the workers' front and to realize the joint protection of the workers' livelihood, newspaper unions in HOKKAIDO will form a single organization which will include both members and non-members of the single Newspaper Union. Representatives of each newspaper, broadcasting station and news agency, held a meeting at 1300 hours on 1 July at the Hokkai Shimbun Office.

At the meeting, it was decided to organize the Hokkaido Newspaper Labor Council and to hold an inauguration meeting in the near future, after drafting regulations at the preparatory conference.

ITEM 5 Labor Union Combats Demand for Resignation of Two Newspaper Employees - Akahata - 1 Jul 47. Translator: H. Nishihara. (MK)

Full Translation:

KONAGISA, Ritoku, president of the NIHON KEIZAI Newspaper Company, at a meeting of its management council, demanded the resignation of YOSHIMURA, Ei chief of the Adjustment Section and treasurer of the labor union and of HORI, Utaro Economic Section Chief and chairman of the Executive Committee of the labor union. The president declared that the two men had wilfully neglected to write in their personal history sheet of their tours in Russaia and of their imprisonment on charges of being Communists.

When YOSHIMURA and HORI were employed in 1939 and 1942 respectively, the political and social conditions forced them to keep these facts from being made public and the management had given tacit approval. The union considering the president's demand as irrational; held a mass meeting to demand his withdrawal of it. YOSHIMURA and HORI have laid the case before the Metropolitan Labor Relations Committee.

ITEM 13 Hitachi Shipyard Workers Call Strike - Jimmin - 10 Jul 47. Translator: H. Suto. (HM)

Full Translation:

The Hitachi Shipyard Labor Unions Federation (9,800 members) which has been demanding improvement of treatment, revision of the existing labor agreement, and a retirement allowance, through the Management Council since early June, called a strike on 6 July.

The Federation had said, that the company showed a lack of sincerity on the plea of its financial situation. A serious deadlock is expected in negotiations because of a wide gap between the claims of both sides.

The workers are demanding an average wage of 2,400 Yen, as compared with the present 1,300 Yen wage while the management says it can give at the most 1,745 Yen. (In all cases, wages are taxable).

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ITEM 1 Nagano Prefectural Workers Conclude Agreement With Governor - Jimmin - 1 Jul 47. Translator: H. Nishihara. (MK)

Full Translation:

The Nagano Ken Federation of Prefectural Government Workers Unions, with a membership of, 4,000 was finally successful in negotiating an agreement with newly - appointed Governor, HAYASHI on 22 June

Salient points of this contract are the recognition of the closed shop system and the provision to prevent the formation of another union. The governor, as the employer, will advise new employees to join the union within two weeks after their date of employment. All employees will be included in its membership.

ITEM 20 Newspaper Workers Single Union Deliberates Stand Toward NCIO - Asahi - 8 Jul 47. Translator: H. Suto (DD)

Full Translation:

The Central Committee Meeting of the Newspaper Workers Single Union was held at the Shibu Hot Spring in NAGANO Ken for two days. On 5 July, it was decided that the dismissal case of the Nihon Keizai Newspaper Company be submitted to the Central Labor Relation Committee for arbitration.

On 6 July, as a result of deliberation over the unification of labor front and the union's stand toward the National Congress of Industrial Organizations, it was agreed that neither the chairman nor the vice-chairman would be elected from the Newspaper Workers Single Union at the forthcoming NCIO general meeting.

ITEM 5 Civil Engineering Workers Union Organized - Jimmin - 3 Jul 47. Translator: M. Higuchi. (FST)

Full Translation:

The inaugural meeting of the All Japan Civil Engineering Workers Union (ZEN NIHON DOKEN IPPAN RODO KUMIAI), which will incorporate all civil engineering workers throughout the country, was held on 30 June from 1000 hours, at the Central Labor Hall in SHIBA. This is the first national labor organization for the civil engineering industry.

The Union embraces a membership of 82,000. Its immediate program was decided as follows:

(1) Centralized control over the distribution of materials.

(2) Establishment of unemployment countermeasures and the promotion of the civil engineering industry.

ITEM 8 Railway Workers Union Issues Statement on Fare Hike - Jiji - 2 Jul 47. Translator: S. Fujiwara. (DD)

Full Translation:

The headquarters of the Government Railway Workers Union held a Central Executive Committee meeting on 30 June and 1 July to discuss the drastic railway fare hike to be enforced in the near future, which was decided without the approval of the Management Council. Clarifying their attitude toward the problem they issued a statement on 1 July on the necessity of the transportation authorities putting into effect without fail the following three items:

1. It must be assured that the railway fare hike will not exercise an adverse effect upon economic circles and above all promote inflation.

2. In order to stabilize the workers' livelihood, the establishment of new prices must be accompanied by the immediate increase in wages.

3. The increased fare rate and the date of its execution must be approved by the Diet.

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SOCIAL SERIES: 1638

ITEM 1 Extraordinary NCIO General Meeting Opened Yesterday - Yomiuri - 11 Jul 47. Translator: K. Sato. (FST)

Full Translation:

The National Congress of Industrial Organizations opened its extraordinary general meeting at 1000 hours yesterday at the Meiji University Hall at SURUGADAI in an effort to revise regulations and to submit the congress' new policy to general debate. Present at the meeting were 650 representatives of 18 member unions from all over the country. Following an opening address by Chairman of the meeting KAMEDA, Togo, Chairman of the Congress KIKUNAMI spoke.

"Nailing down of wages and adjustment of enterprises," said KIKUNAMI, "were the fundamental policies of the Yoshida Cabinet. We should watch the present situation to see if the Katayama Cabinet perpetuates these policies. We must also safeguard collective bargaining rights."

KIKUNAMI Retained as Chairman for Meeting

Then he intimated his intention to resign the posts of chairman and manager in accordance with the decision reached by the Central Committee of the Newspaper Union, a constituent of the Congress. It was agreed, however, that he would continue until the end of the general meeting in accordance with the desires of the representatives attending the meeting. Congratulations were offered by friendly organizations.

Efforts made for congress participation in the World Federation of Trade Unions were reported in detail. Following these, the Electrical Workers Union and the Paper Mill Workers Union made a motion that each union introduce its ideas on formulating a new policy for the congress on the ground that the draft of the new campaign policy mapped out by the Executive Committee was ambiguous as well as negative. This was opposed by the proposal that realization of concrete plans in the committee's program should be made a premise for the whole issue. After debates, it was agreed that a member of the draft committee be chosen from each union to enable the general members to reflect their will on the new policy.

In the afternoon, a general report was made by TSUCHIBASHI, Kazuyoshi (Communications Workers Union), and NAKAHARA, Junichi (Electrical Workers Union) made a detailed report on the proceedings of the managers' meeting and the executive committee meeting. After questions on the general report, the first day's sitting of the general meeting adjourned at 1600 hours.

Eighteen Unions Make Up Congress

Questions regarding the NCIO reorientation program, focal point of the general meeting, and deliberations on the new campaign policy were postponed to the second day's session.

With the recent addition of the Lumber Workers Union, the NCIO now consists of 18 unions, and has a total membership of 1,173,782.

Name of Union	Membership
Newspaper and Radio Workers	26,597
Coal Miners	87,852
Japan Express Workers	96,232
Motion Picture and Theatrical Workers	10,848
Printing and Publishing	17,307
Communications	334,323
Electrical	109,628
Machine Tool	113,024
Physicians Association	18,258
Food Distribution Workers	4,700
Life Insurance "	15,000
Chemical "	63,600
Electrical Industry "	83,799

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SOCIAL SERIES: 1638 (Continued)

ITEM 1 (Continued)

Iron Industry	68,866
Occupation Employees	24,759
Longshoremen	28,000
Locomotive and Carriage Industry Workers	32,000
Lumber Workers	38,999

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ITEM 4 Labor Unions and Co-operative Unions (Commentary) - Yomiuri - 14 Jul 47. Translator: Y. Akabane. (FST)

Summary:

A new trend has become conspicuous in the labor union movement since the suspension of the projected 1 February general strike: the co-operative unionization of labor unions. It is true that labor union movement in JAPAN struck a serious deadlock with the frustration of the 1 February strike attempt, but this fact is not simply due, as some people think, to the suppression of union movement in an unnatural manner by external circumstances. The leaders were responsible [illegible] dent that both may be deemed responsible.

With the exception of a small segment, the level of awareness of Japanese laborers has been exceedingly low or immature since the Meiji Era and it was completely paralyzed during the protracted war. In view of this, I think a larger portion of responsibility rested with union leaders who played an important role after the war's end, especially the intelligent class of leaders who have become conspicuously radical.

It is especially noteworthy that there have appeared two outstanding features since the suspension of the 1 February strike: one is the rapid withdrawal of intelligent leaders of trade unions to the background or their falling out of the ranks of the movement and the other is a trend whereby many labor unions are preparing to throw off their traditional "struggle first" principle and to make the mainspring of their movement, co-operative union activities. The first trend is thought to be an immediate incentive to the second.

Have the intellectual class of leaders already arrived at their destination? Can it be called a fair attitude even as a provisional tactic, to aim at co-operative unionization by placing stress on the promotion of co-operative union activities which are chiefly intended for the distribution of daily necessities? Is it right for labor unions to indulge in co-operative union activities, on the ground that the formula of general strike has been banned and their principle of "struggle first" with a strong political overtone has been deadlocked?

No one can deny that for trade union movements in their early stage of development or among unionists of exceedingly low consciousness, some functions similar to those of co-operative unions were necessary or wise. However, I wonder why trade unions in JAPAN are now intent on or attracted to the operation of co-operative unions which is comparatively easy.

In the Japanese Labor Union Law, no organization carrying on mutual relief activities is recognized as a labor union. In former days, most of JAPAN's labor unions considered co-operative union activities or productive union activities as their mission. Mutual relief activities or welfare works were also considered basic to the labor union and thereby the emancipation of laborers was thought feasible. These were the characteristic conceptions on the part of labor unions in the cradle before industrial revolution in JAPAN.

At any rate, labor unions in JAPAN must reflect deeply on what road they will take at this juncture when the import of foreign funds is imminent and while JAPAN is subject to the supervisory policy of the Allied Powers. The time when labor unions indulged in lively street campaigns and their leaders could be drunk with heroism has already passed. If, however, as a reaction, labor unions are busily engaged in co-operative activities or intend to maintain union membership by means of the distribution of materials, what difference is there between their actions and the old industrial patriotic movements?

Labor unions must, first of all, master management. The method of participation may be a subject for discussion, but unions must participate boldly in the management which is facing a crisis. Needless to say, labor unions are required, at this time of transition, to have political concern to a wide extent and to resort to mass political movements. However, such movements should be based on management firmly grasped by the labor union.

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ITEM 4 (Continued)

most immediate cause lay within the labor unions themselves. There may be some room for discussion whether unionists or their leaders were responsible for the cause of failure but it is evident that both may be deemed responsible.

With the exception of a small segment, the level of awareness of Japanese laborers has been exceedingly low or immature since the Meiji Era and it was completely paralyzed during the protracted war. In view of this, I think a larger portion of responsibility rested with union leaders who played an important role after the war's end, especially the intelligent class of leaders who have become conspicuously radical.

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EDITORIAL SERIES: 1808 (Continued)

ITEM 4 (Continued)

Union leaders must appear not as agitators but as new managers. The mastery of management by labor unions is the most important condition for preventing the nationalization of vital industries, and for guarding JAPAN's "socialization" against bureaucratic control. by OKOCHI, Kazuo, Professor at Tokyo University.

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ITEM 3 Young Men's Dept of Electric Workers Union to be Independent Organization - Seinen - 9 Jul 47. Translator: C. Akashi (DD)

Summary:

The Electric Industry Workers Union has decided to develop its Young Men's Department into an autonomous youths' organization. This program has been prompted by the consideration that young people must unite themselves into a large, self-governing organization in order to play an active part in promoting democratic revolution. This is to be pushed along the following lines:

1 To allow the young union members full play in their executive ability.
2 To establish a self-governing young men's organization.
3 To strive to enlighten opponents of this proposed movement.
4 To seek women's understanding toward the youths' stand.
5 To utilize the activities of the young men's organization in carrying out various union movements.
6 To conduct education of the young in order to elevate their intellectual level.

As to the details concerning the setup and the nature of the projected young men's organization, the Union Headquaters have announced:

1 The young men's organization shall be an independent organization which will no longer be amenable to union regulations.
2 The choice of the name of the organization shall be left entirely up to the young members themselves.
3 It is desirable that the young men's organization be composed of not only the young workers of the Electric Distribution and the Japan Electric Generating Companies, but the young employees of other companies, as well as rural and urban youths.
4 It is hoped that the young men's organization will conduct various movements and take part in the Economic Rehabilitation Council on the same footing with the National Congress of Industrial Organizations and the Japan Federation of Labor Unions.

ITEM 7 Japan Steel Tube Workers Accept Mediation Plan - Asahi - 1 Jul 47. Translator: Y. Inoue. (WM)

Full Translation:

As a result of the mediation efforts of the Central Labor Relations Committee on 29 June, the Japan Steel Tube Workers Union has finally agreed to accept the following proposals of the committee, thus concluding the three month's old dispute.

(1) The company will pay an average wage of 2,300 yen from June.
(2) The increased amount for the month of June, averaging 300 yen per person will be paid on the basis of a rough estimate by 5 July.
(3) About 6,000,000 yen (333 yen on an average per person) will be paid separately by the end of July.

ITEM 15 Kumamoto Women Workers Form Labor Council - Kokusai Times - 1 Jul 47. Translator: S. Sakata. (MK)

Full Translation:

With the aim of unifying the women's labor front in expectation that women will be the first victims of any readjustment of industry, the women's departments of 13 branch unions of the Kumamoto District Federation of Labor Unions formed a Kumamoto-Ken Women Workers Council (KUMAMOTO KEN RODO FUJIN KYOGIKAI). The Council consists of women members of the Government Railway Workers, Electric Industry Workers Union, the Radio Workers Union, etc, numbering approximately 10,000.

The Council is expected to oppose dismissals, to demand equal wages for equal work, to urge the establishment of additional public maternity hospitals, and the expansion of the employment scope for women.

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ITEM 14 CLC Office Workers Form Union - Mainichi - 22 Jun 47. Translator: H. Suto. (DD)

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Full Translation:

Office workers of the Central Labor Committee Office held the inaugural ceremony of their Office Workers Union in accordance with the Labor Union Law (RODOKUMIAI HO) at the Central Labor Hall (CHUO RODO KAIKAN) on 21 June at 1100 hours. Mr IWAYA Ban (Consultation Section) was elected chief. The union at present has a membership of 63 office workers excluding section-chiefs and higher positions.

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ITEM 18 New Newspaper Union Discussed at Meet - Nihon Keizai - 7 Jul 47. Translator: H. Suto (DD)

Full Translation:

As a result of discussions on means of unifying the labor front, held on the second day of the Central Committee Meeting of the Press Communication and Radio Workers Union in NAGANO Ken, SHIMOTAKAI Gun, HEION Mura, on 6 July, it was agreed that the Press Workers Single Union, Mainichi, Yomiuri and all other unions that have seceded or are not affiliated with any newspaper labor union set up a promoters' meeting to organize a new labor union sometime in the latter part of July. Discussion on measures against purge directives of undesirable journalists and the general meeting of the National Congress of Industrial Organizations followed. The committee meeting then took up the problem of the rehabilitation of press and communication activities. It was decided that a Rehabilitation Council under the joint auspices of the Press Workers Union, the Press Workers Single Union, and the management and labor union of the Oji Paper Mill Company be held to promote speedy rehabilitation of newspaper and communication activities. Future policies were decided upon and the meeting was adjourned.

ITEM 7 Mitsubishi Yokohama Dockyard Boasts Highest Production Without Disputes - Seiji - 3 Jul 47. Translator: S. Sakata. (GBS)

Full Translation:

The Yokohama Dockyard of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, a chapter of the All-Japan Shipbuilding Workers Union, is reported to have succeeded in maintaining close harmony between capital and labor since January of last year when a labor union was established in the factory, with the result that workers' wages have been raised without a single labor dispute. Moreover, the factory is now proud of its record of the highest output in the country.

The fundamental policy of the labor union chapter is based on its opinion that "the improvement and stabilization of the worker's life depends solely upon increased production." Therefore, members of the chapter have avoided labor disputes. After establishing a labor union in January of last year, the Dockyard formed a joint management council, consisting of eight representatives each from both capital and labor. As its subordinate organ the joint management council established a Contract Reviewing Sub-Committee whose duty it was to prevent unfair transactions between contractors and superiors of the dockyard and to see that all work was first approved by both the labor union and management. At the same time, the production departments of the union in charge of shipbuilding, machine manufacturing and repairing did their utmost in surmounting all obstacles with the co-operation of the management.

As a result of the sessions of the joint management council held 10 times since February of last year to discuss improved working conditions for employees and increased production, the workers' monthly average salary has been raised to 1,990 yen, or approximately 13 times the former 150 yen. On the other hand, the factory's producing power showed the following commendable results during the period from January of this year to June: 13 new ships built (2,535 tons in all), and 384 vessels repaired with a total tonnage of 836,000. Also, street cars and trucks have been constructed.

The Safety Department of the labor union made a detailed check of all dangerous work being done in the dockyard and improved facilities there in order to prevent accidents. This fact is said to have been instrumental in decreasing the rate of accidents and deaths among workers by about 30 percent. Besides a cultural association and an athletic association, there is a theater and a hospital in the Dockyard, thus adequately satisfying the demand for pastime and welfare facilities for the 6,200 workers.

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ITEM 14 Shinagawa Plant Has Compulsory Rest System - Jimmin - 6 Jul 47. Translator: Y. Asada. (WM)

Summary:

After frequent negotiations with the company authorities the labor union made up of Shinagawa Plant Workers of the Oki Electric Company finally succeeded in laying down regulations for compulsory rest last September. The object of the regulations is to maintain the health of laborers so as to increase their production efficiency.

According to the regulations, all employees are to receive a monthly medical examination. The compulsory rest regulations are to be applied to the employees who have tuberculosis or who are subject to chronic infectious diseases. The employees who come under the regulations can rest for a year, with full pay.

When a case is serious, the patient is to be accommodated in the sanatorium at KIYOSE Mura and all expenses are borne by the company, while slightly-indisposed patients are to receive medical treatment at the consultation office attached to each factory.

In these medical offices, there are many departments, including internal, surgical, dental, etc. Besides these medical offices, there is an Institute of Preventive Medicine where doctors belonging to the institute and the members of the labor union co-operate in the prevention of disease. In this way, the employees began to take an interest in medicine, and its effect upon their health proved very great.

NAGAYA, head of the medical office and KIKUNO, a member of the Research Institute of Preventive Medicine stated:

"Doctors, heretofore, have confined themselves to their rooms without mingling with the people. It is not enough to treat patients; we must assume leadership in sanitation in working places, and we must investigate the private lives of workers to determine the reasons for their lowered resistance. The results of our investigation will offer reference material needed by the labor unions when they demand better treatment from company authorities."

"We advise employees to transfer to other jobs, when we find that their work is too strenuous for their physical condition. Furthermore, we are going to negotiate with the company to extend the term of compulsory rest from one year to three years."

MORITA, a member of the labor union said:

"Co-operation among workers and scientific knowledge of all phases of living are two important factors essential to the laborer's health and safety: We intend to institute a section in the field of welfare wherein services of specialists will be made available within the labor union to fight for the elevation of the laborers' standard of living."

ITEM 17 Tokyo Taxi Drivers Strike - Asahi - 9 Jul 47. Translator: H. Suzumura

Full Translation:

As a result of a taxi strike in TOKYO, one third of TOKYO's "100 yen taxis" have stopped operating and the rest, too, are expected to stop in the near.

The strike developed from a dispute between the management of the Yamato Motorcar Traffic Company and the company labor union, consisting of 914 members, over the question of dividing up of last season's profits and payment of bonuses as stipulated in the contract.

The management rejected the union's demands and on 4 July closed the company's main office and 12 other offices in the city to forestall drivers who had intended to take over the management on 5 July. This compelled the drivers to go on strike because there were neither, motorcars, gasoline nor firewood available, and as a result the company's 50 cars were brought to a standstill. (The total number of taxies in TOKYO is approximately 1,500).

The Tokyo Federation of Motor-car Labor Unions declared on 7 July that they would go on a sympathy strike unless the company complied with the strikers' demands. The Yamato Labor Union declares that the strike is in opposition to the blackmarketing activities of the company directors, and aims at gaining the respect and confidence of the people.

The new official fares of the taxis now on strike are 105 yen from GINZA to SHINJUKU and 60 yen from UENO to ASAKUSA.

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LABOR UNION IS PLANNING TO IMPEACH OFFICIALS

Drafting Plan to Give People The Right to Oust Corruptionists

The Government and Public Workers Union is reportedly drafting a plan to give the nation the right to impeach corrupt officials.

Judgment on corrupt officials will be made by a committee composed of representatives of the Government, labor and farmer unions, and people's organizations.

Upon completion of the plan, the union is expected to start a nationwide campaign for its realization.

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ITEM 8 Occupation Forces Workers Unions Merge - Rodo - 28 Jul 47. Translator: S. Sakata. (AH)

Full Translation:

A labor union composed of workers employed by the Occupation Forces in the Tottori district has recently decided to join the National League of Occupation Forces Workers Unions (ZENKOKU SHINCHUGUN RODOKUMIAI DOMEI) which is affiliated with the Japan Federation of Labor (RODO SODOMEI).

The necessary procedure has been completed. This seems to pave the way for the establishment of a league of the labor unions affiliated with JFL in TOTTORI Ken. The fact that the influence of JFL has thus been extended to the eastern areas, in addition to the western areas may be said to be an evidence of the wholesome development of the labor unions in TOTTORI Ken.

The said labor union with a membership of about 200 headed by AZUMA, Kiyoshi, is located at the billet of the Indian Army in TOTTORI Shi, IWAKURA Cho.

The workers union in the NYK Building held a mass meeting on 5 July, and decided to join the National League of Occupation Forces Workers Unions, affiliated with JFL. The union which has a membership of 357 under the chairmanship of TANNO, Setsuo is located at the administrative office in the NYK Building at CHIYODA Ku, MARUNOUCHI, 2-Chome, No 201.

The workers union in the Teikoku Building at HIBIYA has also decided to join the National League of Occupation Forces Workers Unions. The union, located at CHIYODA Ku, YURAKU Cho, 1-Chome, No 2, is composed of about 200 workers under the chairmanship of MANKIN, Zenkichi.

The Old Kaijo Employees Union in the Tokyo Kaijo Building decided to join the National League of Occupation Forces Workers Unions as the result of a ballot by its members and a meeting of its Executive Committee held on 10 July. The necessary procedure was completed on 18 July. The members of the union number 300 with OKADA, Senzo as the chairman of the Executive Committee.

ITEM 14 Maruko Labor Dispute Ends in Lockout - Nihon Keizai - 30 Jul 47. Translator: S. Kuroda (AH)

Full Translation:

The labor union of the Maruko Steel Material Company at KAWASAKI City TSUKAGOSHI had demanded from the company a monthly average wage of 2,250 yen. The company's reply, however, was a counter-offer of 1,837 yen. Although netotiations were carried out on 17 different occasions, no accord could be reached. Under the circumstances, the company announced the shutdown of the factory from the end of the month. Thereupon, the union appealed to the Prefectural Labor Committee for mediation and at the same time, began preparations for production control by labor. The workers at this factory who total 66 are engaged chiefly in the production of stainless steel, nails etc., which have a monthly total sale of 220,000 or 230,000 yen. The factory which is at present saying a monthly average salary of 1,400 yen has been operating under a deficit since the end of last year. The declaration of a lockout is worthy of attention since it is a manifestation of the management's difficulties now being encountered by small and medium enterprizes.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 1 Labor Unions at Turning Point (By Nakayama, Ichio) - Magazine: Sekai Hyoron (Monthly) - Jul 47. Translator: K. Sugasawa. (WM)

14/5

Summary:

The increasing livelihood and production difficulties have inspired much public speculation about the future of our national economy and the time required to surmount all of the difficulties attendant upon reconstruction.

Since the February general strike was outlawed, labor movements have been called upon to reflect upon themselves. In general, no labor movement is isolated from human society, but is closely related to the actual state of Japanese economy. The working classes, in reflecting on their conduct, must take this into consideration. First they must recognize their important role in our economic reconstruction.

Since the end of the war, the working people have understood that their mission is to take the lead in future industrial production, but our national economy is still confused, and there have been no actual preparations on the part of the entrepreneurs to comply with the workers' desire to increase production. They could find no objective social conditions under which they might fulfill their role in economic reconstruction. The Economic Rehabilitation Conference movement begun during the latter part of last year, was the only ray of hope. It proposed that union movements should strive for industrial restoration through the co-operation of labor and capitalists. The working classes should go a step further along this line, and take the initiative in rebuilding our economy through the labor union movement.

Second, the workers must recognize the close connection between their labor movement and international economy. For instance, the future living condition of the Japanese workers will be determined by the competitive power of Japanese goods on the world market. Henceforth, our labor movement will inevitably be influenced by the slightest change in international economy. The workers should seek the right direction for their labor movement and clearly understand these two points.

Under this situation in what direction are our labor unions moving and what will their characteristics be in the future? In order to answer these questions, we must study the following typical demands presented by our labor unions during this year:

(1) The demand for better living condition based upon the struggle for wage increases.

(2) The demand for full employment in opposition to the capitalists' policy to reorganize management through dismissal of workers.

(3) The demand for participating in management by means of collective bargaining.

on the true recognition of the future scale of Japanese economy.

The third typical demand our labor unions have made is quite different from the first two. Collective bargaining has been recognized and many Joint Management Conferences have been organized, through the strife between labor and capital. Both should be utilized for labor-capital co-operation to increase production. Since labor has a direct voice through these Conferences in the production program, it was expected to play an active role in our economic reconstruction, but in most conferences, the labor unions had no effects in increasing production despite obtaining the right to participate in both management and personnel administraction. The position of labor in management may have been strengthened through this move, but at the same time, it was nothing more than the expression of labors defensive attitude rather than a stimulus to production or labor efficiency.

With our labor union movement, now standing at the turning points, labor must strive to make better use of such democratic organizations. Judging from the objective conditions confronting JAPAN to-day, it seems inevitable that the future course of our labor movement should be based on the economic situation, domestic and foreign; but we must take every precaution against any evil intention to utilize this basis to suppress the movement itself.

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SOCIAL SERIES: 1682 (Continued)

ITEM 1 (Continued)

In their struggle for increased wages last year, workers always tried to obtain the minimum wages necessary to maintain their livelihood. In this, they had to demand a sliding wage system because of the inflation. However, although to the workers wages are income, wages form a part of commodity prices.

Even if the workers succeed in obtaining minimum wages, the whole economic structure will inevitably collapse unless the productive power of our country is restored sufficiently to be able to afford to pay such wages. As a matter of fact, partly because of such facts, the inflation progresses and unemployment becomes worse.

Therefore, in the future wage struggle, workers must go a step beyond the mere division of profits and strive to earn higher wages by increasing production, thus assisting in the restoration of our industries.

The same applies to full employment, the workers' second demand. Such measures as the renunciation of business profits on the part of capital, and the shortening of working hours will probably play an important role in preventing the increase of unemployment, but as long as industrial production remain unchanged, it will be impossible for workers to enjoy full employment in the true sense of the word.

The workers have demanded and secured full employment for this one year, but the struggle played no active role in our economic reconstruction, and, moreover, because of the sense of security in their jobs, workers have been losing the will to increase labor efficiency and have become lax in labor discipline. If full employment is to be realized on the basis of Japanese economy, everyone must be satisfied with a lower living standard. But, it is extremely doubtful that the working classes, although demanding full employment, will be ready to submit to such conditions.

This matter should not be dealt with as a mere domestic problem. As long as there is the possibility that JAPAN will again enter the world market, for cheap labor policy, called social dumping which in the past created a serious international problem, must be changed, for foreign countries cannot remain indifferent to this matter. Workers should give up their defensive attitude in demanding full employment and take the problem into consideration from a more comprehensive point of view based on the true recognition of the future scale of Japanese economy.

The third typical demand our labor unions have made is quite different from the first two. Collective bargaining has been recognized and many Joint Management Conferences have been organized, through the strife between labor and capital. Both should be utilized for labor-capital co-operation to increase production. Since labor has a direct voice through these Conferences in the production program, it was expected to play an active role in our economic reconstruction, but in most conferences, the labor unions had no effects in increasing production despite obtaining the right to participate in both management and personnel administraction. The position of labor in management may have been strengthened through this move, but at the same time, it was nothing more than the expression of labors defensive attitude rather than a stimulus to production or labor efficiency.

With our labor union movement, now standing at the turning points, labor must strive to make better use of such democratic organizations. Judging from the objective conditions confronting JAPAN to-day, it seems inevitable that the future course of our labor movement should be based on the economic situation, domestic and foreign; but we must take every precaution against any evil intention to utilize this basis to suppress the movement itself.

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ITEM 3 Government Employee Labor Unions (Sub-editorial) - Tokyo Shimbun - 26 Jul 47. Translator: I. Kuniko. (AH)

Full Translation:

Labor unions must seriously reconsider their activities. Although labor unions such as the National Congress of Industrial Organizations are now making a fresh start by changing leaders, the Government Employee's' labor unions alone seem to be still inactive and self-satisfied. The Government Employees' labor unions have been bitterly criticized by the public for carrying out the half-day system and for demanding the issuance of railway passes to parents of railway employees.

Despite the fact that the public has bitterly criticized the railway officials for the proposed pass system, and demanded the system be immediately abolished, the Government railway workers have not withdrawn their demand. This only shows how unabashed and unwary these Government Employees' labor unions are and as such, we can never give them our support.

their belts in order to face a harder situation or to exert more effort toward efficiency, is so weak it has permitted its employees to adopt the half-holiday system. We cannot expect any improvements in government administration. If superior officials become slaves of the efficiency rating system and obedient to their subordinates, many evils will be brought about. Therefore, the purpose of this efficiency rating system can only be realized if the superior officials themselves increase their efficiency.

Labor Tyrany Feared

At any rate, the Government Employees' labor unions seem to be drifting away from the people. If things are left unattended, we fear that the labor unions may follow in the wake of the Tojo regime by disregarding the will of the people. Fearing that we may be called "liberals", we Japanese once made a great error by refraining from freely criticizing that nationalistic 26 February Incident. Therefore, caution must be taken to avoid any more failures by keeping a close tab on the activities of some of the Communistic inspired unions of Government agencies.

ITEM 2 Electrical Union Holds National Convention - Tokyo Mimpo - 2 Aug 47. Translator: F. Hagiwara. (FST)

Full Translation:

In view of the fact that legislation relative to enterprise adjustment will exert serious influence upon the future of the labor movement, the All Japan Electrical Workers Union is holding a national conference to formulate enterprise adjustment countermeasures. The conference will be held for five days from 1 August at the Labor Hall in SHIBA Ku. After listening to opinions of the authorities among labor unions and the academic world, the conference will hold a union representatives countermeasure council on the closing day to discuss principles to be adopted by labor unions.

The labor unions to date have placed stress chiefly on wages and collective bargaining in their strife. However, they are now taking up for the first time the comprehensive problem of enterprise adjustment.

ITEM 15 Dissolution of Tokyo Express Company Raises Question - Yomiuri - Translator: Y. Sato. (WM)

Full Translation:

The Tokyo Express Workers Union held a central committee meeting on 3 August and discussed whether the company should be dissolved or not. Opinions were divided concerning the statement which was issued by the Executive Department on 30 July.

However, the proposal made by those against dissolution that the matter be decided by vote caused the four chapters of YOKOHAMA, SHINAGAWA, SHINJUKU and KEIO to leave the meeting. These four chapters have decided to launch a campaign for the dissolution of the company by organizing the League for Dissolution. Opinions are widely divergent among the union members concerning the issue. Public attention is focussed on the development of this issue.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 2 Labor Union Should Play Bigger Role (By Yamakawa, Hitoshi) - Yomiuri - 25 Jul 47. Translator: C. Akashi. (WM)

145

Summary:

The organized laborers of key industries will naturally rise against the capitalistic mass discharge policy. However, it is doubtful that such a struggle on the part of laborers can successfully stem the tide of the industrial rationalization movement led by the capitalistic influence. Insofar as the laborers' struggle remains merely as a fight against the discharge policy, it is not likely to do more than temporarily hamper the progress of the enterprise readjustment program.

If national economy is to be reconstructed with minimum sacrifice on the part of workers, labor unions must elevate their struggle to the level of a class strife. Despite the capitalistic economic reconstruction program, they must work out their own concrete economic reconstruction policy to achieve full employment, the rationalization of industries, the maintenance of higher living standards, and an increase in labor efficiency. Furthermore, labor unions must demonstrate to the people that the laboring classes can represent the interests of the nation better than any other class and also that it is really capable of playing a leading role in the economic reconstruction movement.

The slogan of labor unions is that economic reconstruction must be conducted by workers. However, this does not mean merely that laborers are important collaborators in pushing the capitalistic economic reconstruction program. The working class must lead economic reconstruction.

From this point of view, the participation of labor unions in the Economic Rehabilitation Council is a matter of the utmost importance in the future course of labor unions.

I would stress the following points in connection with the Economic Rehabilitation Council:

First, labor unions must retain their freedom and not be taken in by the schemes of the operators.

Second, labor must not be reduced to a co-operative or lower organ of the Economic Stabilization Board.

Third, it must be led by labor unions.

Fourth, labor unions must win over to their own side as collaborators, the specialists of industrial management.

ITEM 15 Labor Unions Strictly Opposed to Unconditional Redeployment - Mimpo - 20 Jul 47. Translator: S. Iwata. (UG)

145

Full Translation:

In accordance with the establishment of sound enterprise as a major item of the economic emergency measures, the Government has decided to carry-out the redisposition of surplus workers currently employed in Government's enterprises, and to encourage private enterprises to do the same. However, if employment conversion is carried out before the establishment of social welfare measures such as unemployment insurance, it will bring about labor unrest and give rise to the necessity for the rationalization of the discharge of surplus labor.

A case arose in which the workers at a factory of the Chuo Industrial Co. in SAITAMA Ken were to be transferred to another factory of the same company in another city, but the majority of employees were forced to resign from the company owing to the difficulties of moving their domiciles and the impossibility of their living away from home.

On this basis, the labor unions are strongly opposed to redeployment of surplus workers contending that it should not be left to individual enterprisers, and that unless it is carried out after the completion of houses, food-supply and welfare facilities on a joint readjustment basis, it will only favor capital.

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ITEM 3 PCP to Present Co-operative Union Bill - Asahi - 28 Jul 47.
Translator: B. Ishibashi. (TK)

145

Full Translation:

The Peoples Co-operative Party since the end of the previous Diet session has been preparing a Co-operative Union Law which might be called a comprehensive, basic law for various co-operatives to present to the Diet. With the present Diet session opened the party appointed a 20-man committee including Chairman FUNADA of the Political Affairs Investigation Committee and made efforts to blueprint the plan. The plan in final form came to Saturday's meeting of the party executives. It is expected that it will get to the floor of the Lower House within a few days after adequate understanding has been sought with the Socialist and Democratic Parties.

This Co-operative Union Law is to constitute the comprehensive, basic law of a series of co-operative laws: (1) Commerce and Industry Co-operative Union Law (already enacted); (2) Agricultural Co-operative Union Law and Livelihood Co-operative Union Law (slated to be introduced to the present Diet session); (3) Forestry Co-operative Union Law and Marine Industry Co-operative Union Law (slated for presentation to the Diet in the future).

Therefore, when the bill is written into law, other particular co-operative laws are to be regulated by the Government ordinance issued in accordance with this law. Salient features of co-operatives established on the basis of this law follow:

(1) No discriminative treatments will be made to co-operative members on the basis of difference in vocations.

(2) Establishment will not require permission from government offices. It is only necessary to submit reports for co-operatives to become lawful.

(3) Freedom of joining and seceding from co-operatives is recognized.

(4) Co-operatives will be provided with democratic supervisory organs (executive committee of co-operatives) designed to abolish the existing bureaucratic control.

[illegible] concerning culture and welfare of co-operative members.

(9) Research and study necessary to attain the objective of co-operatives.

(10) Besides the previous items, business necessary to achieve the objective of co-operatives.

Chapter II. Composition of Co-operatives.

Article 2. Co-operatives cannot set a maximum limit on the number of their members.

Article 13. To establish a co-operative it is necessary that more than seven persons who hope to become members of the co-operative become promoters, a representative be selected from among them, and a draft plan of the co-operative regulations be formulated over the signature of all promoters. A fixed minimum number of members must then be assembled.

Article 14. Co-operatives must be registered within two weeks in order to have their establishment formally recognized, and reports must be submitted to the authorities concerned.

Article 16. Members must purchase between one and 30 shares of the co-operatives.

Chapter IV. Organizational Structure and Management of Co-operatives.

Article 26. General meetings are established within co-operatives, and they are composed of all co-operative members. Voting rights in general meeting shall be equal to all co-operative members.

Article 27. Co-operatives can hold representatives' meetings, to replace general meetings, according to their regulations.

Article 34. In the event surplus funds are produced dividends must not be paid in advance of accumulation of preparatory funds and reserves. In allocating surplus funds co-operatives can distribute them in accordance with the degree of utilization of co-operatives or amount of labor and investment offered by members to co-operatives.

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ITEM 3 (Continued)

The following are essentials of the bill:

Chapter I. General Rules.

Article 1. Co-operatives aim at promoting industry through co-operative organizations based on labor, autonomy, and mutual aid of their members in order to realize a society which is beneficial to all, adjusting and developing vocational problems, enriching livelihood and raising cultural standards of their members and engaging in business which is necessary to contribute to the progress of social well-being.

Article 3. Co-operatives with a view to attaining their objectives can carry on all, or part, of the following enterprises:

(1) Business concerning improvement, leadership, and encouragement of industries and jobs of their members.

(2) Management of productive industry and other business through co-operation by members of co-operatives.

(3) Business concerning adjustment, control and supply of goods and labor necessary to co-operative members.

(4) Business concerning sale and other disposals of goods produced or disposed by co-operative members.

(5) Business concerning utilization of equipment necessary to co-operative members.

(6) Business concerning finance.

(7) Business concerning mutual relief and insurance.

(8) Business concerning culture and welfare of co-operative members.

(9) Research and study necessary to attain the objective of co-operatives.

(10) Besides the previous items, business necessary to achieve the objective of co-operatives.

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ITEM 7 Tohoku Metal Workers Union Dispute Settled - Seiji - 30 Jul 47. Translator: S. Kuroda.(AH)

1-4-5

Full Translation:

The Tohoku Metal Workers Union with 1800 employees at SENDAI demanded a special allowance of 2,000 yen per person to cope with increasing food shortages but there was opposition to handing over the money needed in enterprise readjustment. The strife continued and labor was about to take control of the enterprise beginning 28 July. But, on that day the company agreed to all demands, which brought about the solution of dispute just a moment before the control of enterprise by labor.

ITEM 5 How Should Labor Union Movements Be Conducted? (By Yamakawa, Hitoshi) - Yomiuri - 23 Jul 47. Translator: C. Akashi. (DD)

1-4-5

Summary:

It is said that labor unions have entered a stage of self-reflection. What sort of self-reflection is expected of them, and how should their future movements be conducted? Is it sufficient for labor unions to admit their past faults and correct them?

In my opinion, the most fundamental question for labor unions is to fully and definitely realize the intrinsic nature of the present revolution as well as the process which it must undergo. The revolution now under way in this country is called a democratic revolution or a peaceful revolution. A peaceful revolution is a revolution in which the governmental power is not usurped through force of arms, but is transferred "peaceably" from the old governing class to the new one. The movement of labor unions has, primarily, the nature of a political struggle as well as economic. Therefore, it is imperative that labor unions formulate their policy on a basis of due cognizance of such special features of the present revolution.

Another factor which labor unions should bear in mind in deciding the course of their movement is that the democratic revolution is being pushed in parallel with the national effort to reconstruct economy. The democracy which we are now advocating aims at not only such goals, as the establishment of equal human rights in the eyes of the law, the guarantee of individual freedom and freedom of religion, but it also calls for the institution of a new economic structure which will a stabilized livelihood for all working people, as well as the elevation of their social status. Thus, the achievement of democracy will necessarily mean the attainment of economic reconstruction. Labor unions must awake to this fact and decide their basic policy from a broader standpoint, that is, based on a full realization of the outstanding features of the existing revolution and the full awareness of their duty to fulfill this mission in these crucial times.

ITEM 3 Coal Miner Groups Seek Unity - Mainichi - 24 Jul 47. Translator: N. Miwa. (JJY).

1-4-5

Full Translation:

Seventy representatives of such coal miners unions as the All Japan Coal Mines Union, the Japan Mine Workers Union, the National Federation of Coal Mine Workers Unions, and the Coal Mining Unification Council held a round-table conference yesterday at the Mining Hall in GINZA to discuss co-ordination of coal mining industrial organizations. Representatives of the National Federation of Coal Mine Workers Unions introduced at the conference the following plans as conditions for a united front: (1) The Japan Mine Workers Union should separate from the JFL and the Japan League of Metal Workers Union; (2) The All Japan Coal Miners Union should sever its connections with the NCIC; (3) Aggressive unreasonable movements within unions should be eliminated.

Aside from these plans, it was agreed that the All Coal-mine Workers League, which is presently a consultative organ, should be expanded.

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ITEM 5 Tokyo Express Employees Demand Restoration of Branch Independence - Asahi - 22 Jul 47. Translator: S. Sakata. (MK)

Full Translation:

Employees of the Tokyo Express Electric Railway Company, which was formed during the war by merging the former Keio, Odakyu, Keihin and Shonan private railway companies into the former Tokyo-Yokohama Railway Company, held a general meeting at the Shinjuku Branch Office of the company on 21 July at 1000 hours, to demand a change in administration. Four hundred representatives of the various branches of the company attended.

A league for the speedy dissolution of the company was formed, and the employees demanded the management to grant autonomy to the various branches of the company in order to effect a more democratic administration. The demand was presented to President KOBAYASHI.

KOBAYASHI, who is chief of the General Affairs Section of the Keio Branch of the Tokyo Express Electric Railway Company, said: "The existing organization of our company was forcibly formed during the war. After the end of the war, the branches of our company demanded independence to democratize railway enterprises. However, the President's attitude has been lukewarm, presumably because railway enterprises do not fall under the Anti-Trust Law. Because some of the men who belonged to the former Tokyo-Yokohama Electric Railways have been secretly opposed to our movement for the dissolution of the present organization, we finally held the mass-meeting today."

"We have asked the President for his reply within a week. If the President and the other executives refuse to consider our demand, the workers, union members and some of the branch chiefs will take over management."

ITEM 11 Farmers' Unions of Kanagawa Ken - Asahi - (Kanagawa Edition) - 29 Jul 47. Translator: K. Murakami. (AH)

Full Translation:

KANAGAWA Ken has 106 farmers' unions with 28,000 members, according to the latest investigation made by the Agrarian Land Section of the Prefectural Office.

About 70% of the 142 farming towns and villages in this Ken have some type of a farmers' union, and 37% of 73,400 farming households belong to some union.

Fifty four unions with about 20,000 members are under the influence of the Japan Farmers' Union, while there are 52 neutral unions with approximately 8,200 members. On the other hand, no union affiliation with the National Farmers' Union led by Minister of Agriculture and Forestry HIRANO has appeared. In the same way as with labor unions in the cities, farmers unions are also reflecting upon their past extreme actions. Unions under the Japan Farmers' Union did away with their agitating characteristics and have made efforts for the promotion of farm-village culture. It is said that each single union has also changed its struggle-first policy. This desirable tendency is seen also in the fact that the farmers' unions are endeavoring to introduce the co-operative-work method and using of electricity and modern machinery in farm-villages.

The political color of the farmers unions is not very clear. However, so far as the prefectural federation of the Japan Farmers' Union is concerned, we have the following:

Socialist Party	Supporters	60%
Liberal Party		20%
Democratic Party		5%
People's Co-operative Party		10%
Communist Party		2%
Others		3%

That the Liberal Party is much more favored by farmers than is generally believed illustrates the fact that some of the farm-villages are still strongly conservative.

AIKO Gun has the highest number of unions in ratio to its villages, with 145%; (16 unions for 11 towns and villages). On the other hand, YOKOHAMA has the highest percentage of union member farmers with 53% or 7702 members.

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ITEM 12 Industrial Reconstruction -- Prime Duty of a Defeated Nation - Yukan Miyako - 20 Jul 47. Translator: S. Ohashi. (UG)

145.

Summary:

The Welfare Ministry's announcement regarding labor union conditions as of 31 May revealed that there were 22,000 labor unions with 5,520,000 members. This total of organized laborers is equal to or exceeds the total number of workers employed by the nation's enterprises during the period prior to the Sino-Japanese Incident. The achievement of such a record in organization within the very short period of a year and a half is astonishing to those who were acquainted with the actual state of the pre-war labor movement.

This high degree of organization is based on the freedom of organization, on the rights given to the workers and on the active guidance of labor unions. This principle of guidance is essential to labor unions which are a positive means of democratizing JAPAN. However, the rights of the laborers must not be respected more than fundamental human rights. The rights of the laborers are part of these fundamental human rights and are equal to those of the capitalists. The labor union movement which aims to secure and improve the laborer's rights is wholesome in the sense that it is always striving to equalize the difference in the rights existing between capital and labor.

The reason why so much emphasis was placed on the rights of the laborer after the end of the war is that the laborers of JAPAN were grossly mistreated in the past, and the rights they should have possessed were not recognized. In other words, they were restricted by many laws and regulations and were perpetually under the strict surveillance of the special police. They were also pressed in by social restrictions. Therefore, when we endeavor to obtain fundamental human rights, it is only natural to begin from the salvation of these people who are living in the depth of poverty. The reason why the rapid organization of labor unions was encouraged after the termination of the war is that it was our duty, at that time, to make preparations for the acceptance of the laborers rights.

It cannot be denied that there were union leaders and members who committeed the blunder of placing the laborer's rights above other fundamental human rights. This could be clearly seen in the Government railway strike which was the beginning of general strikes in key industries. At that time, the union leaders boasted that the unification of 2,600,000 railway workers was unprecedented in the world, but this is not worthy of praise in itself.

The first reason is that the present laborer will suffer greater oppression if he does not join a union and will lose more if he does not participate in disputes. Accordingly, everyone participates for the obvious reason that it is more profitable to do so. The second reason is that the Japanese people are indulging in labor disputes which are similar to those in victorious nations. It is our duty to advocate the rights of the laborer and exert our efforts to insure these rights. However, at the same time we must alter our thinking to a level appropriate to a defeated nation and make it the basis of our future conduct and attitude.

These is no reason why we must refrain from holding labor disputes merely because of the new wage standard, which was recently announced by the Government together with the new price structure. If the Government cannot stabilize prices and increase rations, the livelihood of the workers will immediately deteriorate. The workers do not have to endure such a situation. Recently, the labor unions are showing a tendency to convert into co-operative unions. Some unions deem that this is the principal duty of labor unions. But this idea is absolutely erroneous. All conditions which hamper the management of productive labor must be eliminated. In other words, better labor conditions is the main duty of the labor unions. The only thing we request is that the people do not forget that JAPAN is a defeated nation and the reconstruction of the nation's industry is their first duty.

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ITEM 14 Press Workers Union Chapters Air Disputes - Akahata - 13 Jul 47. Translator: H. Iuchi. (DD)

1/5

Full Translation:

The Nihon Keizai chapter of the Press Workers Union, at its general meeting held on 8 July, decided to demand again the management's withdrawal of its dismissal plan through the new strife committee. It also agreed that if the proposal is not accepted, it will be referred to the Metropolitan Labor Relations Committee (TO RO I) on charges of the management's violation of the terms of collective agreement as well as Article XI of the Labor Union Law. Secret ballots cast to take the ayes and nays toward the proposal showed that the majority of the union members were opposed to the unreasonable discharge plan by a vote of 328 to 127 among the head office members and by a 53 to 9 vote among the branch office members. The fighting spirit is especially strong among those employees engaged in nonclerical work.

The Chuka Nippo chapter of the Press Workers Union, now on strike, referred its case to the Metropolitan Labor Relations Committee on 3 July on charges of the management's violation of Article XI of the Labor Union Law. However, President Lo Chin Hsiang still opposes the formation of the labor union as he would not be affected by the Japanese labor laws because he is a foreigner (a Chinese). At present, the company is issuing the paper by engaging special employees. However, members of the Nogyo Shimbun chapter of the union, a newspsper company to which the printing of the Chuka Nippo was entrusted, are supporting the strikers and they declare they will not print the paper until the strike is settled. Accordingly, the number of copies published is less than usual.

President Lo reported to the Paper Allocation Committee (YOSHI WARIATE IINKAI) that the number of employees was 420, while in actuality it was only 90, thereby obtaining an allocation of paper sufficient to print 100,000 copies. According to the union officials, the company, however, is issuing only 10,000 to 30,000 copies.

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ITEM . 9 Socialist Activities in Labor Unions in Menace - Jimmin - 12 Jul 47.
Translator: T. Naruse. (WM)

Summary:

Although the Japan Federation of Labor Unions had declined the repeated proposals for amalgamation by the National Congress of Industrial Organizations, on 9 July the JFLU voluntarily proposed a united front.

The offer is to be discussed at an extraordinary meeting of the NCIO to be held for four days beginning 10 July. The development of this issue will be of interest to all workers. We must pay special attention to the fact that there is a clear-cut difference between the aims and details of the united front proposed by the NCIO and that of the JFLU. Which is the real united front?

Needless to say, the NCIO has been advocating an unconditional merger of all labor unions and settlement of differences by democratic procedure. It believes that this is the only proper way to establish a national democratic organization of the working masses. The JFLU, on the other hand, presents various conditions for its participation in the projected united front. The JFLU's attitude will undoubtedly cause a split in spite of its proposal for unity.

Of the JFLU's conditions, the most noteworthy is that the activities of the Communist fractions must be banned for the sake of the democratization of the labor unions. This condition, however, should not have been introduced if the JFLU seriously hopes to realize a united front. The Communist Party in the recent general elections, gained more than 1,000,000 votes the majority of which, we believe, were cast by the workers. In fact, the Communists have been acting as the leaders of all big labor unions such as the NCIO and the Government Railway Workers Union. The influence of the Communist Party on the Japanese labor unions is too far-reaching to ignore. There may be many Communists among the JFLU members as well. The JFLU leaders must know this fact. They, nevertheless, came out with the above condition. What do they mean by this action?

We consider this a maneuver to break up the NCIO internally, to weaken its power, and to absorb as many of its members as possible by confusing the NCIO meeting on this issue. If only the Communist fraction activities are banned, while the same maneuvers by the Socialists are permitted, it means Socialist dictatorship and is in diametric opposition to the principle of democracy.

It is a well-known fact that the JFLU, which has been controlled by dictatorial leaders of the Socialist Party, is one of the most undemocratic organizations. In democratizing the Japanese labor unions, it would be more dangerous for labor unions to be led by Socialist fractions than by those of the Communists. We earnestly hope that the working masses will guard against the JFLU's intrigue, prevent disunity in their unions, and fight for a real united front; i.e. unconditional amalgamation.

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EDITORIAL SERIES: 1812 (Continued)

ITEM 8 Labor Unions and Political Activity - Kokusai Times - 14 Jul 47.
Translator: H. Furukawa. (DD)

Summary:

It was strongly argued at the time of the 1 February general strike that labor unions should not take part in political movement. The principle of the so-called "economism", which limits the activities of labor unions to a pure economic field must be justified as reasonable to a certain degree. It is still doubtful, however, whether this principle can be workable or not under actual conditions. The fact that labor unions, which originally were organizations aiming at improved labor conditions, have developed into organizations fighting for political purposes, bears witness to the one-sidedness of the principle of economism.

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Labor unions today are divided into two categories, the vocational unions and the industrial unions. While the former, composed of individual laborers according to their vocational interests, stand for the principle of economism, the latter, which are vertical organizations composed of industrial units, call for political fighting for corporate interests.

The emergency economic program of the Government, which established the ceiling system for wages and prices, presents various complicated problems to trouble both the Government and the labor unions. It was because of the awkward predicament of the Socialists, who must represent the interests of laborers in spite of their coalition with the conservatives, that Premier KATAYAMA asked the labor leaders for co-operation in carrying out the economic program. At any rate, it is unavoidable that the Government's economic program, which still adopts the capitalistic method of pegging wages to secure profit for the capitalists, will create millions of unemployed, and consequently, cause the labor union movement to enter a new stage.

It is feared that the adoption of the priority system for key industries, unless it is accompanied by state control, will give rise to monopolistic financial capital. To prevent the growth of monopolistic financial capital and to rehabilitate industry on the democratic basis, such drastic steps as the enactment of the monopoly prohibition law, the imposition of the second property tax, the stoppage of payment of interests on national bonds, and the heavy taxation on the newly earned classes must be enforced. Under the new price order which was established by the Government's emergency program, wages still remain at a level far below the standard of official prices of commodities. This, of course, will lead the labor movement to serious fighting for increased wages, and consequently, to political struggle.

It can be easily anticipated that the form of industrial union will become dominant in the field of labor movement. The adoption of the priority method in industries concentrates materials, equipment and money in a few hands, causing a speedy decline of medium and small businesses and industries. Thus the bulk of the population will be forced to live on the verge of starvation, while the large portion of the nation's wealth is amassed in a few hands. The struggles of labor unions, if they are to be limited to pure economic ones, will be of no avail under such fearful circumstances. The danger of bloody revolution will become actual, unless the political activities of labor unions are legalized. Today the effectiveness of the industrial union is already recognized, and the vocational union, which aims at improved working conditions and denies the necessity of political struggle, is required to reflect upon its policy.

As long as the Government adheres to the policy of capitalistic reconstruction, the aggravation of economic conditions is unavoidable. The contradictory policy of spending enormous amounts of money to rescue the unemployed on the one hand, and on the other, carrying out industrial readjustment and enforcing the independent account system for Government enterprises, can do nothing to alleviate the grave

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EDITORIAL SERIES: 1812 (Continued)

ITEM 8 Continued)

situation. The goal of full employment can never be reached by such policy, though a series of measures may be taken to absorb the jobless people. The workers will not be willing to work as long as their real wages remain below their minimum requirements.

Lastly, the Agricultural Production Adjustment Law, which aims to control the acreage of specified plants, and the establishment of the rice parcel mailing system, will lead the food situation of the nation to a collapse. Such being the circumstances, industrial and some agricultural productions are speedily declining, and the matter will come to a head when all laborers resort to a general strike and force the Socialists to adopt more socialistic policies.

Now is the time for the unification of all the labor unions to win the battle for a democratic JAPAN. If the Japanese labor unions, as a SCAP's spokesman indicated, should become the instruments of all laborers instead of a few, they must ally themselves with all the democratic political, social and cultural organizations, and thereby put pressure on the Government. The Government, if it really recognizes the impending crisis which is envisaged in its "White Paper", should extend the rights of labor unions to the political field. It must be kept in mind that the aforementioned problem will determine the future of the Japanese democratic forces.

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INFLUENCE OF UNION DENIED BY CABINET

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Approves Six-Point Plan on Relations Between Gov't And Public Workers

Denial of union voice in the Government's administrative planning and execution features the six-point program governing the relations between the Administration and public workers union which was approved at the Cabinet meeting yesterday.

The plan was mapped out in view of the imminent renewal of the collective contracts signed between the Government and public workers' unions last spring.

State Minister Mitsusuke Yonekubo who is slated for the Labor portfolio, explained the details of the labor relations program. It was agreed that all Government agencies follow the six-point plan in adjusting their agreements with their respective unions.

The program provides:

1. Both the Government and the public workers' unions shall recognize the mutually obligatory character of the labor contracts and abide by the commitments.

2. (A proviso regarding conditions of employment vis-a-vis the unions).

3. Unions shall have no voice in the personnel administration of non-union employes. As regards the personnel affairs for union members, a general standard shall be established and the unions shall be permitted to raise objections to cases with which they are dissatisfied.

4. (A proviso concerning procedures for mediation in case of objections.)

5. Unions shall have no voice in general administrative planning and execution.

6. On principle, a union staff engaged exclusively in union business shall not be recognized. Present exclusive union officials shall be reduced in the course of a prescribed period.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet also rejected the demands presented by the Government Workers' Union Liaison Council on August 15.

The Government reply was sent to Kazuyoshi Dobashi, chairman of the Council, by Chief Cabinet Secretary Suehiro Nishio, at the Prime Minister's official residence where Government representatives met union delegates.

The Government: (1) rejected the demand that minimum wages should be decided by areas, (2) rejected the demand that each person should be paid ¥2,000 to cover deficits in living expenses between January and June and ¥1,000, for each dependent, since this would bring the total Government disbursement up to ¥10,000,000,000 or more, and (3) promised to take some measures to remedy the situation.

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COMPROMISE SEEN BETWEEN GOV'T, UNION

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Yonekubo Promises ¥400 Million For Deficit-Covering Allowance

The possibilities that a compromise may be arrived at between the Government and Public Workers' Union and the Administration became stronger as a result of the fourth conference on Monday morning between State Minister Mitsusuke Yonekubo and representatives of the union.

Mr. Yonekubo agreed to aid ¥400,000,000 to the ¥3,900,000,000 promised Government workers at the last meeting as deficit-covering allowances. He, however, reserved final decision, since the question deals with the supplementary budget. At the same time, Mr. Yonekubo pledged that every effort will be made to bring about an advance payment of the September salary.

Union leaders, however, expressed dissatisfaction with the Government reply and are adhering to their original demand which would total ¥10 billion.

Observers believe that the union will have no alternative but to accept the Government offer.

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Government Appeals To Workers To Put Up With Hard Livelihood During 3 Months Until November

Aims At Forestalling Labor Union Offensive Expected In Autumn

TOKYO, Aug. 13.—The Government has appealed to the nation's trade unions to stand a three-month austerity life until this November when a new crop of rice will flow into the regular rationing channels.

The present appeal is evidently designed to forestall the downright offensive by the labor front which is reportedly scheduled for late in September to October.

With the national rally for food sponsored August 12 by the Japan Federation of Labor as a harbinger, the country's labor front has begun pulsating an ominous tune.

6 Reasons Given

In asking the labor for the three-month perseverance, the Government has given the following reasons for the improvement of the situation:

1. The Government assurance of foods will constitute a major premise for the increase in employees' "take-home" pay. Following the first and second emergency food measures, the Government will take all possible steps to guarantee wages and essential foods.

2. By virtue of the follow-up release of imported and stored foods in August, the Government can maintain 2.5 "go" ration of rice in the leading cities.

Distribution Of Food

3. Smooth distribution of food will greatly lower the actual costs of living. During the three months of August, September and October, each household in Tokyo consisting of 4.2 persons will incur a monthly deficit of ¥153, ¥149 and ¥76 respectively, but from November the home budget will go to the credit side of the ledger, turning out a monthly surplus amounting to ¥399.

4. Although the ¥153 deficit should be shouldered by each household during August despite rationing of 2.5 "go" of rice, this is mainly due to high blackmarket prices of main foods, but workers' suspension of the purchase of clothing and edibles other than staple food will be able to cover the deficit.

Deficits To Be Offset

5. Although each household will suffer deficits in the living expense during September and October, if the delivery of new wheat and Irish potatoes will reach 700,000 "koku" the above deficits will be offset.

6. The blackmarket quotations of staple foods are at their peak at present, but as last year, they will decline by about 36 per cent during the three months beginning August.

If workers, taking advantage of this opportunity, extend wholehearted cooperation to various steps of the Government, the blackmarket practices will be weeded out from the country.

MAINICHI AUG 14 1947

STATE WORKERS TAKE DEMAND TO KATAYAMA

8 Unions Seek Increased Family Allowances; Reply Set Aug. 21

A written demand for the payment of increased family allowances has been presented to Prime Minister Katayama by representatives of eight unions of Government workers.

The workers demanded payment of ¥2,000 to each person and ¥1,000 to each of dependent family members living in the officially classified "B' area. The time limit for the Government's reply was set for August 21.

The eight unions are the National Union of Communications Workers, Government Railway Workers Union, National Union of Government Workers, National Union of Public Workers, Federation of Municipal Government Workers Union, Japan Council of Teachers Union, National Union of Tax Collectors and Finance Ministry Monopoly Bureau Workers Union.

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UNION LEADERS TO HEAR SCAP LABOR OFFICIALS

3,000 Delegates Are Expected to Attend Rally at Chuo Univ.

Three SCAP labor officials will speak at a labor educational rally August 21 at Chuo University auditorium, the Labor Division of SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section announced. Speakers will be John R. Harold, Acting Chief, Labor Relations Branch; Miss Golda Stander, wages and working conditions expert; and Richard L. Deverall, Chief of Labor Information and Education Branch.

The rally, to last from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., is sponsored by the Tokyo Metropolis Labor Bureau and the Welfare Ministry in cooperation with the Tokyo-Kanagawa Military Government District. Between two and three thousand labor union members and employer representatives are expected to attend. Welcoming addresses will be given by a representative of the Tokyo-Kanagawa Military Government District, and Governor Yasui of Tokyo. They will speak between 9 and 11:15 a.m., with questions and answers following until 1 p.m.

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ADVICE GIVEN TO UNIONS BY SCAP LABOR OFFICIAL

Time Has Arrived to Build Up on Democratic Lines, He Says

A SCAP labor Official yesterday announced the hour has struck for the Japanese labor unions to start building up on "strong democratic" lines now that the "natural reaction to feudalism" is over.

Richard L. G. Deverall, chief of Labor Education Branch, Labor Division of SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section, told a press conference that the rank-and-file of the trade unions in Japan have yet to obtain democratic control over the election process for unions' executives.

He said because the executives are not directly elected by the unions' membership, the rank-and-file has "no control on the determination of policies" which are laid down by the top officials.

He said in many American unions a secret ballot for top officials and executive committee is conducted by a referendum vote of the entire membership.

The importance of direct election by the Japanese labor unions cannot be overemphasized, he declared.

In his over 3,000-word statement Mr. Deverall laid down for the guidance of the Japanese labor unions the use of "labor convention" by democratic trade unions in America to implement democracy and provide for rank-and-file control of the trade union movement.

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Ordinary Japanese Still Don't Have Voice In Union Officials' Election

Radiopress

TOKYO, Aug. 18.—L. G. Deverall, chief of Labor Education Branch, SCAP's Labor Division, declared that the Japanese rank and file still do not have a voice in the election of union officials and urged rapid reform in this direction, at a press conference with Japanese reporters this morning.

Mr. Deverall said this objective could be reached by adopting a direct vote system at a convention by roll call or secret ballot vote.

In fact, he said, this reform is imperative and implicit in the Far Eastern Commission's "16 principles for Japanese trade unions," which states:

"Trade union officials and standing committees should be elected by the workers concerned by secret ballot and democratic methods. It should be the responsibility of the unions to ensure that all their activities are democratically conducted."

Mr. Deverall thought a democratically operated annual or bi-annual conventions of labor organizations is the surest guarantee of the vigorous democratic trade unionism.

One of the most democratic features of the convention make-up is the rank and file vote which decides delegates from the smallest local unions. In this way the voice of the ordinary worker is heard at the highest level and insures democratic controls, Mr. Deverall indicated. At the convention itself local union delegates have the full right, as practiced in the United States to criticize, alter or add to the reports of national union officers. Voting on such reports usually is by hands to let local union membership know how their delegate voted, Mr. Deverall said.

MAINICHI AUG 20 1947

GOV'T. WORKERS' UNION GETS SECOND PROPOSAL

Union Demands Entail Outlay Of ¥10 Billion For Allowances

The Government yesterday decided to formulate a second counter-proposal to the Government and public workers' unions following the latter's rejection of the Government's first reply to union demands for special allowances to cover deficits for the first half of this year.

Approval of union demands would mean an outlay of ¥10 billion.

The matter was entrusted to Chief Cabinet Secretary Suehiro Nishio, Finance Minister Takeo Kurusu, and State Minister Mitsusuke Yonekubo, who conferred yesterday afternoon with union representatives.

It is expected that the Government will offer a deficit-covering allowance of ¥1,700 for each employe as an alternate plan.

It was learned that the Government hopes to settle the question by Monday or Tuesday, next week.

The Cabinet also agreed to cancel the contemplated Government monopoly of saccharine and dulcin. The Commerce-Iudustry Ministry objected strongly to the monopoly, since it would obstruct the manufacture of fertilizers and dyestuff.

The draft of the Government and Public Employes Bill was approved at the same time. It will be released today together with a statement by State Minister Takao Saito.

GOV'T WORKERS HEAD QUITS AS TALKS STILL SNAGGED

Mizuguchi Submits Resignation Because of 'Ill Health'

Kozo Mizuguchi, chairman of the All-Japan Federation of Government and Public Workers' Unions, suddenly submitted his resignation Monday on the grounds of "ill health."

Mr. Mizuguchi's resignation came as a surprise to union circles, since he has been leading negotiations with the Government to obtain allowances totalling ¥10 billion as deficit-covering allowances.

The majority of the 84,000 Government and public workers are reportedly strongly opposed to the resignation.

Earlier, observers believed that the federation would make concessions to reach an amicable settlement. The negotiation are now deadlocked.

The union leader also resigned his post as chairman of the Agriculture-Forestry Ministry Employes Union.

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INCREASE IS NOTED IN UNIONS, MEMBERS

44 Labor Disputes Involving 18,798 Workers Occurred; 39 Cases Settled

Labor unions throughout the country totaled 22,722 with a total membership of 5,639,002 as at the end of June, the Welfare Ministry announced yesterday.

Compared with May, the June total indicates an increase of 759 in the number of unions and 109,911 in union members.

Labor disputes during June were 44 cases, involving 18,798 workers, including 19 strikes, seven sabotages, five lockouts and one "business control." Thirty-nine cases were settled during the month.

Demand for wage boost and conclusion of labor contract formed the main cause of disputes. A total of 178,402-day labor was lost as the result of the dispute.

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NIPPON TIMES AUG 23 1947

Governor Rejects Demand

Governor Seiichiro Yasui of Tokyo has rejected a demand for anti-crisis allowance filed by the Federation of the Tokyo Metropolitan Workers Union.

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'Frequent Rank-And-File Meeting Is Keystone For Union Democracy'

Radiopress

TOKYO, Aug. 25.—Japanese unions cannot call themselves democratic unless they bring their practice of holding frequent meetings in line with those of democratic countries, James D. Hoover, assistant chief of Labor Education Branch, Labor Division, ESS, told Japanese reporters at a press conference this morning.

Mr. Hoover stressed that a frequent rank-and-file meeting is the keystone of union democracy and it applies to any country regardless of varying local conditions.

Yet in Japan unions do not meet frequently and some meet only once a year, Mr. Hoover observed.

A union holding meetings constantly is democratic because it enables the membership to know and participate in the formulation of its policies. It also gives them the opportunity to select union leaders by a direct vote. It would not leave everything to be decided by the Executive Committee, Mr. Hoover pointed out.

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Union Insists on Half-Day Schedule; Shuts Doors of Post Offices at Noon

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Decision on the legality of the Communication Workers' Union's action in ordering clerical workers among its members to take half-holidays will be entrusted to the Central Labor Relations Board, State Minister Mitsusuke Yonekubo told the Labor Committee of the House of Representatives, yesterday.

The Committee made arrangements to hear Communications Minister Takeo Miki on the issue at its meeting on Thursday.

All post offices throughout the nation went on a half-day schedule from Tuesday in accordance with an order issued by the National Federation of Communications Workers. Except for the posting and delivery of mails, telephone calls, and telegrams, all postal activities were halted at noon.

The order of the Union Headquarters places 170,000 clerical workers on half-day during the summer months.

With this decision, the dispute between the Communications Ministry and its workers' union over the abolition of the summer half-day system has come to a frontal clash of authority.

Communications Minister Takeo Miki told the press Monday that the cancellation of the half-day schedule was ordered in view of the general conditions of the country. He hoped that the workers would return to a full day schedule.

Cabinet Chief Secretary Suehiro Nishio declared that the abolition of the half-day system was not a violation of the labor agreement as maintained by the union. Since public opinion does not favor the half-day schedule, the union leaders should respect the will of the people, he added.

Secretary Nishio expressed confidence that Mr. Miki will be able to settle the issue amicably.

Meanwhile the Central Labor Relations Board Monday ruled Saturday's decision by the Communication workers as a violation of the Labor Relations Adjustment Law.

Unilateral action by the NFCW to enforce regular work without collective bargaining can be interpreted as a labor dispute infringing upon the mission of public enterprises, thus also being a violation of the Labor Relations Adjustment law, it said.

Dr. Itsutaro Suehiro, Acting Chairman of the Central Labor Relations Board advised Kazuyoshi Dobashi, Chairman of the NFCWU's Central Executive Committee, to retract the union's instruction.

NIPPON TIMES AUG 6 1947

LABOR COMMITTEES HIT BY SCAP EXPERT

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Must Increase Personnel Or Lose Some Government Financial Support

Japan's 46 prefectural labor relations committees are in danger of losing some Government financial support if they do not bring their office staffs up to full force, said Miss Elizabeth Wilson, labor analyst in the Labor Division of SCAP's ESS.

She warned that labor relations committees will not receive all funds earmarked for their use by both prefectural and national governments unless they employ the proper number of workers.

The Welfare Ministry has indicated that the national and prefectural governments are to contribute equal amounts of money to support the committees. However, the amount allocated by the national government for the 1948 fiscal year will be dependent upon the amount actually made available by each prefecture during the 1947 fiscal year.

Current prefectural appropriations are made on the basis of the number of persons actually employed by the committees. If only a fraction of the number called for are hired by the committee, this year's grant will be proportionately reduced, the Welfare Ministry advised.

Miss Wilson said only about half of the 1,380 full-time workers to be employed by March, 1948, have been hired. Only 12 of the 46 prefectures employ a full-time secretary, although all of them were to have been engaged in the 1946 fiscal year.

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LABOR RELATIONS COUNCIL ORGANIZED BY GOVERNMENT

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Yonekubo Heads Group Composed Of Cabinet Ministers

As a step to meet the expected aggravation of labor relations, the Government yesterday decided to organize a council of State Ministers concerned with labor problems. The council is expected to hold its first meeting today.

The body is chairmaned by State Minister Mitsusuke Yonekubo, who is slated to head the projected Labor Ministry, and includes the Ministers of Finance, Commerce-Industry, Agriculture-Forestry, Transportation, and Communications, as well as the Director-General of the Economic Stabilization Board, and the Chief Secretary of the Cabinet.

NIPPON TIMES AUG 6 1947

'Half-Day' Issue Settled by CLRB

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The National Union of All-Communications Workers decided yesterday morning to accept the arbitration decision rendered by Dr. Itsutaro Suehiro acting chairman of the Central Labor Relations Board to resume a full day work schedule.

The union yesterday afternoon dispatched orders to its workers throughout the nation to dispense with the halfday system.

Dr. Suehiro conferred with representatives of the Communications Ministry and the NUACW and advised the union to withdraw the half-day work order and the Ministry to continue negotiations with the workers for further understanding.

The Ministry accepted Dr. Suehiro's ruling late Tuesday night while the Communications workers relayed their acceptance yesterday noon. Negotiations, however, will continue on the readjustment of working hours.

The CLRB was asked to arbitrate by Communications Minister Takeo Miki.

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ITEM 18 Printing Unions and Companies Hold Collective Bargaining Meeting - Tokyo Shimbun - 3 Aug 47. Translator: M. Higuchi. (AH)

145

Full Translation:

The Publishing and Printing Workers' strike entered a new phase on 31 July when the companies expressed their intention (through the Metropolitan Labor Relations Committee) to conclude a collective bargaining agreement with the unions.

On 1 August, from 1100 hours, the unions and companies met at the Metropolitan Labor Relations Committee's office to exchange preliminary opinion on collective bargaining. Meanwhile, the five Publishing and Printing Workers Unions participating in the strike, held a joint struggle committee meeting on the same day, and deliberated on the date the meeting for collective bargaining should commence. Both meetings, the meeting of the unions and companies, and the Joint Struggle Committee meeting, were continued on 2 August.

On the other hand, the Publishing Workers Union held an extended executive committee meeting to deliberate the standardized wage system in the publishing industry, which the union, together with the Joint Struggle Committee, would demand of the companies.

Correction: In accordance with the request of the Joint Struggle Committee, the 31 August account that the unions decided to refuse the mediation by the Metropolitan Labor Relations Committee will be corrected as follows:

The Joint Struggle Committee decided not to ask the Labor Relations Committee to mediate between the companies and unions, and reported the decision to the Labor Relations Committee.

ITEM 9 Private Railway Workers Conference Ends - Nihon Keizai - 9 Aug 47. Translator: Y. Mizoe. (UG)

145

Full Translation:

The regular general meeting of the National Federation of Private Railway Workers Unions was held at the lecture hall of the Ujiyamada Middle School in UJIYAMADA City during 5, 6 and 7 August.

Election of new officers was held and a partial revision of the existing agreements was effected. A 16 point bill introduced by the head and branch offices of each district on the conclusion of a unificative labor agreement. At the same time, 12 slogans, including 'Prompt enactment of the Traffic Accident Special Judgment Law' and 'The abolition of the earned income tax' were adopted.

Newly-elected officials include:

FUJITA, Fujitaro (of the Keihanshin Kyuko Electric Railway Co.), president of the Central Executive Committee.

Vice presidents: KOSAKI, Yoshio (of the Nagoya Railway Co.), KADOYA, Mitsumasa (of the Tokyo Kyuko Electric Railway Co); GOTO, Tomio (of the Seibu Railway Co.).

Chief clerk: TSUWAKI, Kiyoo (of the Hanshin Electric Railway Co.).

ITEM 12 Tokyo Meter Employees Continue Management Control - Mainichi - 2 Aug 47. Translator: S. Kuroda. (AH)

145

Full Translation:

The Tokyo Meter Employees Union took over control of business last 18 July as a result of the back pay dispute. Their entire demands having been rejected, they decided to continue their control of management.

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ITEM 1 Industrial Unionism and the Union Movement (by Mori, Kyozo) Magazine: Asahi Hyoron (Monthly) - Aug 47. Translator: F. Tsuneishi. (WM)

145

Summary:

I feel that organizations formed under the principle of industrial unionism, protect the combined interests of the workers by first establishing a single union for each industry, and then uniting these unions on a national scale. But, two problems must be considered in applying the principle.

First, political, racial and religious differences must be submerged. No ideology must be forced upon the people, for such actions will ultimately give rise to disputes. A labor union is unlike a political party which is bound together by a spirit of mutual political advocacies. Therefore if any special ties are formed with some political party, this will give rise to disruption within the union or hinder the unification of the labor front.

Second, unions can be likened to a convoy of ships; the weaker members must be handled with tolerance, but those who would betray the rest must be dropped. Past union movements never developed into a strong mass movement because they ignored this. Class consciousness which is a contradictory to those things most important to man earnestness, warmth, clarity, diligence, common sense-does not appeal to the common man who represents 90 percent of the whole.

The report made by the executive staff of the NCIO frankly recognizes the tendency of the leaders and the masses to drift apart. But how did this come about? The problem is related to the organizational setup. For example, the opinions of the executive staff were accepted as those of the entire NCIO. The fault was that the opinion did not actually come from the members. Through long years of suppression, the theories behind the labor union and popular movements in our country had been forgotten. Then, along with the reactivation of formerly banned publications, old leaders who were imprisoned and new leaders who probably received their training before the suppression, came forth to lead the masses.

However, times have changed. The leaders of the NCIO were inexperienced and initiated a struggle which they could not control. As a result, the masses follow them no longer. The public has begun to think and to want to act according to their own ideas and to manage the union.

These old leaders remained in power until their defeat in the general election when the masses began to criticize the NCIO. The rift between the masses and the old leaders remains a problem today.

Self-criticism not only on the part of the NCIO but by all others is necessary; otherwise they will be deserted by the union members. It is clear that hereafter, industrial unionism is the most justifiable avenue for the workers, and will lead to the much needed unification of the labor front.

ITEM 17 Railway Unions Consider Surplus Workers - Nihon Keizai - 3 Aug 47. S. Sakata. (AH)

14

Full Translation:

The third session of the Central Committee of the National Federation of Government Railway Workers Unions was held at the Omiya Elementary School on 2 August.

The discussion centered around the question of juvenile and women employees of the National Railways in accordance with the Labor Standards Law. The meeting approved in principle the decision reached at the Special Committee for Personnel Affairs whereby out of surplus employees resultant from the enforcement of the Labor Standards Law, 6,406 juvenile workers would be accommodated at training schools for reeducation and 1,490 surplus women workers would be put on the reserve list.

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ITEM 12 Marriage Allowances Saught by Labor Unions - Jimmin - 16 Aug 47. Translator: H. Kyono. (AH)

Summary:

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Young people under present inflationary times are faced with many hindrances in getting married. In order to overcome this situation for the working class, labor unions are requesting marriage allowances from their companies and some have already won their demands.

The KOROMO chapter of the TOYOTA Automobile Company has won 500 yen marriage allowances for persons serving less than a year, 1,000 yen for persons serving between one to three years, 1,500 yen for persons serving between three to five years, and 2,000 yen for those serving over five years. Besides, this fund the company will defray expenses for the use of a marriage ceremony hall to the employee; also a suit and an automobile, and will bear the expenses for a wedding picture and reception.

At the TOKYO SHIBAURA Electric Company, employees receive only 200 yen as a marriage gift. The ADACHI Labor Union Chapter of the same company analyzed marriage expenditures and concluded the following were necessary:

(a) 6,000 yen for a wedding reception; (b) 8,900 yen for the purchase of necessary materials; (c) 1,200 yen for immediate expenses after marriage; (d) 3,000 for advance room rent; totalling 16,500 yen, or at least the absolute minimum of 5,200 yen.

In the Metropolitan Government Office Workers' Union, when an employee works for the Government for four years after marriage, the return of the 3,000 yen loan is not required.

The average marriage allowance in most unions is 2,800 yen, with the maximum of 6,000 yen given by the YODOGAWA Steel Manufacturing Company and the minimum of 200 yen granted by the TOKYO SHIBAURA Electric Company.

There are several other unions now demanding similar allowances and it is expected that such unions will increase in number. At the same time, the amounts demanded are also expected to increase.

ITEM 5 Coal Distribution Corporation Employees Union to be Reorganized - Jimmin - 19 Aug 47. Translator: M. Higuchi. (DD)

Full Translation:

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The Extraordinary National Convention of the Federation of Coal Distribution Corporation Employees Unions (HAI TAN KODAN JUSO RENGO KAI) was held for four days beginning 11 August, at the Fuel Hall at MARUNOUCHI, and the discussions were concentrated upon the reorganization problem of the Federation.

The Federation had been a federated body of workers unions of coal distribution bureaus and branch offices of each locality since it was initiated on 1 June. It was decided at the convention that the Federation should be reorganized into a single union and at the same time become affiliated with the All Japan Coal Mine Workers Union. The latter was approved by an overwhelming majority vote.

In the meantime, the headquarters' proposal to demand net wages of 3,600 yen based on the fulfillment of food distribution quotas to be enforced on and after 1 August was approved. For the attainment of this demand, the newly established Executive Committee will enter negotiations.

Among the new Executive Committee members are: TSUZURA, Wataru, chairman of the Central Executive Committee; SHIBUYA, Yozo, vice-chairman of the Committee; KUWABARA, Michio; MOROHOSHI, Sadajiro; and KURIHARA, Ichiro, chief-secretary.

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ITEM 13 Labor-management Dispute Flares in Shoda Factory - Mimpo - 3 Aug 47. H. Nishihara. (AH)

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Full Translation:

Medium and small size producers who have long fought adversity in material shortage, financial difficulties and deficits, are now forced to close their factories or effect mass discharge of employees due to the government measures for enterprise readjustment and more stringent control over blackmarketeering.

Labor unions, however, would never let the matter drop. Hence management recently has been using Third Nationals to disrupt labor unions or break up strikes. The strike at the SHODA Factory in MITAKA Cho which involved Third Nationals in the first case of violation of the Labor Union Law will serve as a fine example of this tendency.

This SHODA Factory, employing 350 workers, was run by SHODA Jukichi, onetime Navy engineer captain. It has produced motor parts since pre-war days. In July last year, SHODA announced that he would close the factory and dismiss all employees. But, the labor union, in opposition to this announcement, conducted production management for three and a half months until the dispute resulted in a victory for labor and the labor union obtained a promise of the management that the important problems such as establishment of a second company would be determined by a special management council. The council would be composed of 15 members, - six each representing labor and management, and three outsiders recommended by the management, labor and the metropolitan labor committee. This council met three times from December last year to discuss the problem of establishing a second company, but got nowhere due to "insincerity" on the part of the management.

Even when the company received a payment of 3,000,000 yen from the Transportation Ministry for 10 cranes for moving freight cars, the management persisted in redeeming loan with the money, despite labor's demand to invest it to establish a second company. Indignant with the arbitrary measure of the management, the labor union demanded a pay raise from an average of 1,400 yen to 2,400 yen on 14 May, which the management flatly refused.

American Given Factory Management

Furthermore, President SHODA announced at the special management council meeting held on 19 May that the management of the factory was

Dispute Remains Unsettled

On 22 July, the metropolitan labor committee decided that acts of the abovementioned six persons constituted a violation of the Labor Union Law, and prosecuted them. The union would continue negotiations with the management under JFU sponsorship, and the metropolitan labor committee took a mediative step on 27 July. However, the management's attitude has become firmer than ever, and there is no prospect of solution in the near future.

ITEM 1 Press and Radio Workers Unions May Unite - Asahi - 17 Aug 47. Translator: T. Ogawa. (WM)

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Full Translation:

In an effort to unify the newspaper labor front, the Japan Press and Radio Workers' Union, the Mainichi Newspaper Workers Union and the Yomiuri Newspaper Workers Union, acting as sponsors, have issued an appeal to all newspaper workers unions throughout the country.

As a result, the representatives of 13 branches of unified unions and 15 other labor unions held a meeting on 15 August at the Asahi Auditorium and on 16 August at the Mainichi Auditorium. At the meeting, after discussing the matter, it was decided to hold an official meeting of promoters. At the same time it was decided to combine the Press and Radio Workers Unions throughout the country, and its campaign policy will be to endeavor to promote common interests by thoroughly respecting the views, claims, etc. of each union.

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PREFECTURAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEES MUST BRING OFFICE STAFFS TO FULL FORCE OR LOSE SOME GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Japan's 46 prefectural labor relations committees are in danger of losing some government financial support if they do not bring their office staffs up to full force, a SCAP labor official said today.

Miss Elizabeth Wilson, Labor Analyst in the Labor Division of SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section, warned that labor relations committees will not receive all funds earmarked for their use by both prefectural and national governments unless they employ the proper number of workers.

The Welfare Ministry has indicated that the national and prefectural governments are to contribute equal amounts of money to support the committees. However, the amount allocated by the national government for the 1948 fiscal year will be dependent upon the amount actually made available by each prefecture during the 1947 fiscal year.

Current prefectural appropriations are made on the basis of the number of persons actually employed by the committees. If only a fraction of the number called for are hired by the committee this year's grant will be proportionately reduced, the Welfare Ministry advised.

"This means," Miss Wilson explained, "that next year's appropriation by the national government may be at this same reduced figure, regardless of the number of employees working for the committee in 1948."

The labor analyst said only about half of the 1,380 full-time workers to be employed by March, 1948, have been hired. Only 12 of the 46 prefectures employ a full-time secretary, although all of them were to have been engaged in the 1946 fiscal year.

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"This lag in employment," Miss Wilson said, "is due to a shortage of personnel available with a knowledge of labor problems, and some misunderstanding of how committees are to receive operating funds."

She urged the committees to "assume initiative and responsibility to get an adequate budget by claiming money already available to them from the national aid prefectural government," and to "push the recruitment program for competent staff personnel.

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ITEM 5 Labor Committee Organized To Fight Blackmarket - Shakai Shimbun - 25 Aug 47. Translator: S. Fujiwara. (WM)

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Extracts:

With the aim of conducting crusades against blackmarketeering on a concerted, nationwide scale, the Japan Federation of Labor Unions has given each of its member unions directions for the development of the struggle to secure wages on a sliding scale. Furthermore, under the sponsorship of representatives of each of the labor unions, which was invited to JFLU headquarters on 19 August, it inaugurated the Labor Committee on the Utilization of Materials by way of co-operating with the Government in its measures against blackmarketeering.

The Committee will include all the unions favoring the object of the campaign. Its local chapters will embark on such activities as already mentioned under the control of the central headquarters. Furthermore, it will send representatives to the Government's Idle Materials Utilization Committee in order to maintain organizational contact.

The following were selected to serve on the committee: KONO (JFLU), MITAMURA (Japan Congress of Labor Unions), ITO (Metal Goods), KOGA (Metal), ANDO (Cement), HAGA(Chemical), KITAZAWA (Automobile), KUJO (Occupation Army Employees), KAMIJO (Textile), HAGIHARA (Foodstuffs) and MIWA, Seikichi, chairman.

Mr TAKANO, Minoru (JFL) stated: "Although the Liberals and the Communists are actively engaged in anti-government manoeuvres, what kind of government do they expect after the overthrow of the present one? The reconstruction of Japan can be hoped for only if we support good government policies. With the realization that the securing of wages on a sliding scale and the checking of inflation depend upon the development of this movement, I hope a large organization on a nation-wide scale will be set up to push the campaign in close co-operation with central headquarters. The hearty co-operation of young men is especially desired. This campaign is being conducted for the benefit of the labcrers themselves."

ITEM 8 Joetsu Federation of Japan Farmers Union Decide to Expel Communists - Asahi (Niigata Edition) - 26 Aug 47. Translator: T. Kido (MK)

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Full Translation:

In accordance with the policy of the central headquarters and the prefectural federation, the Japan Farmers Union, Joetsu Federation Executive Committee, on 24 August, passed a resolution "to carry out a thorough expulsion of all Communists from the union," and advise those Communists among the union officials to resign.

As regards the Communists of individual unions, it was decided to take into consideration the actual situation within the unions and to take appropriate measures, accordingly.

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ITEM 5 Nomizo Tenders Resignation as Farmers Union Head - Asahi (Nagano Edition) - 20 Aug 47. Translator: F. Ota. (AH)

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Full Translation:

Advising all executive committee members to resign, NOMIZO, Masaru, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Prefectural Federation of the Japan Farmers Union, tendered his resignation to Secretary-general IWATA on 18 August on ground that he was busy with Central politics.

The Prefectural Federation of the Japan Farmers Union will immediately open an executive committee meeting to determine its attitude. NOMIZO's resignation attracts public attention as an indirect warning concerning the unity of the farmers front in relation to the recent vigorous activities of the National Farmers Union Faction, and the anti-Japan-Farmers-Union trend which has started in the Socialist Party and within the Japan Farmers Union itself.

TANEMURA (TN: Communist), chief of the Organization Section of the Prefectural Federation of the Japan Farmers Union, said, "Today, the farming villages are faced with various problems, such as the thorough realization of farm-land reform, the food problem, an agricultural rehabilitation conference, and the farmers co-operative union. Strengthening the unity of the farmers front under the leadership of the Japan Farmers Union is required.

NOMIZO, however, in co-operation with the National Farmers Union since the second national meeting of the Japan Farmers Union, has acted against the principle of the freedom of the right to support any political party, which is a fundamental platform of the Japan Farmers Union, and planned to split the front.

The executive committee of the Japan Farmers Union has called for his opinion on this matter. However, NOMIZO not only suddenly tendered his resignation as chairman but even requested the withdrawal of the members of the executive committee. It is regrettable that this will act as a check on the development of a strong farmers movement, and go against the interests of farmers.

At the time he tendered his resignation, NOMIZO told MIZOGAMI, Masao, head of the Kamiina Chapter, that the true reason of his resignation was that "present leaders of the Prefectural Federation are not together with the cultivating farmers, and the National Farmers Union faction, taking advantage of the internal troubles of the Federation, is extending its influence throughout the prefecture. The present executive committee members should withdraw from their positions en bloc."

This is regarded as a reflection of his stand at the general meeting some days before when he supported OKADA's plan of opposition to the activities of the Communist fraction within the Japan Farmers Union.

ITEM 3 Unions to Attend Summer Labor School - Yomiuri - 22 Aug. 47. Translator: Y. Mizoe. (AH)

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Full Translation:

A summer labor school course under the sponsorship of the welfare ministry and authorities of Tokyo and Kanagawa prefecture, will be held from 25 to 30 August at HAKONE GORA Machi, in order to encourage the sound and impartial development of labor unions.

A total of one hundred and ten persons, including officials of the major labor unions and the principal labor unions in TOKYO To and KANAGAWA-Ken will attend the lectures which will deal mainly with current, urgent problems in labor and economy. The lecturers will be Mr Deverale, chief of the labor Education Department, GHQ Mr SUEHIRO, deputy president of the Central Labor Committee, Mr NAKAYAMA, member of the Central Labor Committee, Mr TSURU, vice-chairman of the Readjustment Committee of the Economic Stabilization Board, and Mr SUZUKI, chairman of the Economic Rehabilitation Council.

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ITEM 3 Communist Cells in the Government Railway Workers Union (Letter to the Editor) - Yomiuri - 21 Aug 47. Translator: I. Hotta. (DD)

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Full Translation:

Since the recent Yomiuri news report Communistic activities within the Government Railway Workers Union, some people harbor the mistaken idea that the Government Railway Workers Union is controlled by the Communists. I wish to express my opinions on this problem and answer the probable questions bothering these persons.

There are some Communists among the union members and it is also a fact that some of the 40 members of the central executive committee are Communists. I have also heard that they often hold their own meetings. But whatever decisions they may make at their meetings they have no connection with the committee or the executive committee of the union itself. Moreover, I can say that the union has never been influenced by their decisions.

Although the Communist Party was once an unlawful secret society, it is now a public party and even has representatives in the Diet. Therefore, I think that the people should change their old anti-Communist ideas, influenced by the militarists and be a little more understanding about them. It is improper to regard the Communists as plotters because they sympathize with Communistic principles and policies or because they, during their free hours, study Marxism and Leninism, or conduct researches on their movement policies.

Next, I wish to advise the Communists in the union to show a good example to others both in work and in activities of the union in a manner depicting that they are proud to be Communists. They should be careful not to be shunned by the public because of acts harmful to society, however far this society may be from their ideal. They must further their intellectual endeavors so that there will be no self-styled Communist with little knowledge.

A nationwide labor union such as the Government Railway Workers Union cannot be controlled by only one party or a power. Accordingly, our union has no special connection with either the Communist Party or the Socialist Party, though we entertain great expectations from them. The union members chose these parties in the election according to their belief and have supported them, but they have been careful in seeing that their union movement will not be taken advantage of by the political powers.

I wish the people to fully understand these facts and to throw aside neither the Government Railway Workers Union nor any organized workers, or to conclude erroneously that every one of our activities is Communist instigated. (By KIKUKAWA, Takao, Chief of the Information Department of the Government Railway Workers Union).

ITEM 4 Prefectural Labor Employees Committees to Unionize - Sekai Nippo - 22 Aug 47. Translator: H. Suto.(AH)

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Full Translation:

Approximately 1,000 office employees of prefectural Labor Relations Committees, now extremely busy with mediating labor disputes, are slated to form a labor union.

It aims to democratize their offices by improving working conditions for the protection of their right to maintain a decent livelihood, and by abolishing present undesirable bureaucratic management.

At present, conditions of employment, personnel affairs, and budgeting, are almost entirely controlled by the prefectural office. Furthermore, employees of the Labor Relations Committees are subjected to poorer working conditions than government officials. They hope to form a nation wide single labor union.

Speculation arises however as to where these employees of Labor Relations Committees will take their dispute for settlement in the event they should enter strife.

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ITEM 1 How to Democratize Labor Unions - Nihon Kaiji - 21 Aug 47. Translators: H. Machiyama and H. Ishikawa. (DD)

145

Full Translation:

At a press conference on 18 Aug, R L DEVERALL, chief of the Labor Information and Education Branch of SCAP, said: "Although it is very difficult to organize genuine labor unions in only two years, it is dismaying to see how many undemocratic labor organizations, under arbitrary leaders still remain in this country". He also stressed, "It is time for Japanese labor unions to lay a radically democratized foundation". As a matter of fact, the Japanese Seamen's Union, which is regarded as one of the most progressive unions, has not yet been completely democratized. Therefore, it is urgent that Japanese labor unions initiate steps to rid themselves of feudalistic leaders. In this sense, importance must be given to local organizations in the whole structure, and the idea of establishing a single nation-wide union must be shelved for the present. Thus, union headquarters should merely deal with official matters which have been approved by all union members.

As such, general meetings sponsored by unions headquarters should be an annual affair, and local unions should send their representatives, elected from among their members. In order to prevent dictatorial rule by the union headquarters and larger unions the representation ratio should be settled. All local representatives, before attending the general meeting should be fortified with demands, policies and criticisms of local members to be presented at the general meetings.

Although general meetings are sponsored by the union headquarters, the leaders are not authorized to dictate policies. Decisions in general meetings should be dissimulated to all local members to familiarize the members with the policies of the union. However, such democratization of unions may dishearten labor union leaders because they are of the opinion that labor union movements are their brainchild. But activities of democratic organizations should not be planned only by the leaders, but by the members as a whole. The establishment of democratic organizations can only be achieved through the full participation of individual members in the union activities. This should be understood to be the only way labor unions can be truly democratized.

ITEM 6 Kanto Labor Committee Discusses Union Law Violations - Jimmin - 23 Aug 47. Translator: T. Ogawa. (WM)

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Full Translation:

The bloc conference of labor members of Labor Relations Committees in the Kanto area was held on 19 and 20 August at the Central Labor Hall in SHIBA. The conference was attended by 40 committee members.

After selecting Committeeman FUJIKAWA of the Metropolitan Labor Committee as chairman, and Committeeman HAGIWARA of the Chiba Local Labor Committee as vice-chairman, discussions were held on the unification of interpretation of the Labor Union Law and revision of the Labor Law.

There have been many violations of the Labor Law, particularly regarding Article 11, since its enforcement, and these violations are still taking place because, even when the Labor Relations Committees have appealed to the Public Prosecutor's Office for action, the only penalties inflicted have been a stay of execution or a 500 yen fine. This situation seriously compromises the authority of the Labor Relations Committees.

The bloc conference, therefore, defined its official attitude as follows:

1. If a Labor Relations Committee so demands by resolution, penalties shall be imposed upon any persons attempting to violate or infringe upon labor's right to organize.
2. The employer shall cancel the dismissal of any employee and shall pay damages in case a Labor Relations Committee decides that there has been a violation of Article 11 of the Labor Union Law.

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ITEM 7 Remove Undue Pressure on Union Movement! - Jimmin - 26 Aug 47. Translator: H. Arai. (GBS)

175

Summary:

Recently, the employers' attitude toward the labor union movement has become remarkably outrageous. The authorities' undue pressure on these movements also shows a tendency to become more severe. Unfair treatment of the union leaders in the Mainichi Shimbun, the Nippon Keizai Shimbun and the Chuka Nippo, and the authorities' interference in the labor disputes of the TOYO TOKEI KAISHA (Oriental Watch-Manufacturing Company) and the NIPPON SEKIJUJI SHA (Japan Red Cross Society) endorse this fact.

Needless to say, these matters are regarded as having close relations with the enterprise readjustment program now being enforced in every industrial field. They also reveal the authorities' undemocratic idea that a labor union movement is harmful. Notwithstanding the fact that the Labor Union Law guarantees freedom of organization, security of collective bargaining and the laborers' right to strike, such unreasonable oppression is openly placed on the workers. What is the reason? In order to promote the sound development of the labor union movement, we must make an inquiry into this problem.

The first item of Article 11 in the existing Labor Union Law declares that employers must neither dismiss nor ill-treat any workers simply because the workers are union members. However, what is the punishment for the violation of this regulation? The first item of Article 33 in the same law states that, a violation of the regulations of Article 11 shall be punishable by imprisonment not exceeding six months or by payment of a fine not to exceed 500 yen. Accordingly, employers can hinder labor union movements, if they can afford a fine of only 500 yen. It is only natural that capitalists who know that hindering labor union movements will yield huge profits should try to dismember or weaken labor unions. Herein lies the cardinal defect of the present Labor Union Law.

It is said that the Government soon intends to revise the Labor Union Law. Since the Government is headed by the Socialist Party which is based on the laboring masses, it should seriously consider the aforementioned matters and take drastic measures to prevent such unlawful practices.

ITEM 4 JFU Abandons Merger with NFU - Seiji - 30 Aug 47. Translator: B. Ishibashi. (FST)

175

Full Translation:

Due to subsequent developments since the split at its second national convention, the Japan Farmers Union has been forced to establish its position as the central body. The JFU yesterday clarified its intention to abandon further attempts at merger with the National Farmers Union. A group of Diet members affiliated with the JFU released the following statement in this connection:

"It is highly regrettable that the recent tactics employed by the Japanese Communist Party in entire disregard of objective conditions and the Communist touched-off moves of reactionaries, including the NFU and the All Japan Farmers Union, have split the farmers' front into several factions. From this standpoint, we Diet members, connected with the JFU, support the attitude toward establishment of the JFU's central character as decided upon at a Central Standing Committee meeting on 4 July. We expect that a clear demarcation line will be drawn between the JFU and the farmers' movement led by the Communists who are fundamentally irreconcilable with us. The JFU will also nullify activities of reactionary farmers unions by fully displaying its traditionally strong ardor for struggle.

"Actually, various joint conferences of local chapters have risen voluntarily to attain these above objectives which proved difficult for the Central Committee alone to achieve. The number of local chapters manifesting overwhelming support for the Standing Committee's decision is increasing day by day.

"For the sake of a successful unification of the farmers' front in the future, we will give added impetus to this situation and will unanimously take the lead in the true farmers' movement. We hereby pledge that we will aid the farmers' liberation movement advance a step forward by overcoming the present crisis besetting the JFU."

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ITEM 6 Autonomy of Labor Unions - Provincial Paper: Shinano Mainichi Shimbun (Nagano) - 18 Aug 47. Translator: H. Ishihara. (GBS)

145

Summary:

There is no denying that the reopening of private foreign trade and the establishment of foreign credits mark the starting-point of a new international JAPAN and provide a foundation for the economic rehabilitation of the nation. However there are many conditions which must be established before foreign trade will have a noticeable effect.

We wish to stress at this time the urgent need for self-government within the labor unions. The greatest defect common to all existing labour unions is that the members do not have complete control over internal affairs. During the past year, the working masses of these labor unions have followed their leaders with little criticism. However, as the workers awaken to the facts of the labor union movement and as public criticism towards the labor union becomes sharper, their critical attitude becomes gradually stronger. The time has arrived for all union members to consider this problem seriously because the method of handling it will determine whether labor unions will become weaker or become disorganized.

There are two factors of utmost importance in regard to the autonomy of labor unions. First, the principle of decision by the majority is not being fully put into practice. There is an evil tendency of officials to endeavour to obtain the decision of the majority by unlawful means in order to enforce their own will. Then, too, the union members in general tend to ignore a decision of the majority by giving all sorts of argument. Secondly, union officials, whose duty is to work for the interests of all the members, lean toward despotism. Although the tendency to form governing cliques within labour unions is not so great now, union members must become fully awakened to the importance of this matter and must prepare to check its aggravation which may lead to the ruin of the labour union movement in our country. At the same time, labor unions must fully acknowledge their responsibilities which correspond to their influence. Particularly the National Congress of Industrial Organizations and other national unions which have great influence over the whole nation, must accept great responsibilities toward the nation.

The economy of this country after the reopening of foreign trade is in need of being systematized. Labor unions will be required to act in concert with the economic program of the nation. We do not require labor unions to follow blindly the bureaucratic economic plan of the Government. It is hoped that labor unions will participate in the drafting of the economic program by respecting public opinion on the one hand, and still maintaining their autonomy on the other hand.

ITEM 2 Farmers' Front May Be United in Fukui - Provincial Paper: Fukui Shimbun (Fukui) - 21 Aug 47. Translator: A. Kawamura. (WM)

145

Full Translation:

Opposition between the Japan Farmers Union and the Farmers League (NOREN) which has hitherto split the prefectural farmers' front, has gradually become weaker since the last general elections. With the recent movement to unify the Farmers Co-operative Union, the farmers' front has received substantial promotion.

In IMATACHI Gun, the Japan Farmers Union, the Farmers League, and the neutrals got together on 7 August and organized the Farmers Joint Council. A similar Council was also organized in SAKAI Gun on the 18th. Both councils promised full co-operation in settling the current labor problems as well as in completely eliminating class disputes. This movement seems to be spreading to other counties.

Both factions will send representatives to form a single prefectural committee (SUISHIN IINKAI), to promote the Farmers Co-operative Union. They will attempt to establish a joint production organ for the farm villages of the future made up of farmers and for the sake of farmers. Besides, the young men of both factions have joined hands to turn over to the Government 2,000 KOKU (TN One KOKU equals 4.96 bushels) of relief rice.

The farmers' front is being successfully unified in farm villages, but SAIKI and INSAWA, heads of the Japan Farmers Union and the Farmers League respectively, cannot seem to see eye to eye. Farmers regret this.

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ITEM 1 The Three Farmers' Unions - Provincial Paper: Niigata Nippo (Niigata) - 19 Aug 47. Translator: M. Ohno. (GBS)

145

Summary:

Although the Japan Farmers Union had been, until recently, the only farmers' organization in our country, two other unions have been newly organized. One is the National Farmers Union, organized by Agricultural Minister HIRANO, and the other is the All Japan Farmers Union, sponsored by the Liberal Party. The future course and influence of these unions are now objects of speculation.

The historic change taking place in the nature of the farmers movement after the farmland reform must be first considered. Since non-cultivating landowners and large landowners will be eliminated as a result of the farmland reform, the tenancy disputes which have been the center of the farmers movement will disappear. Therefore, self-construction through co-operation must now be the principal aim of the farmers movement.

No one can deny that the fundamental character of the JFU has been greatly affected by the decline in importance of the tenancy disputes, although the union still holds the largest influence among the three unions. Moreover, upon observing that the meeting of its central committee on 15 and 16 July was adjourned owing to a dispute over discontinuing the fraction activities of the Communist Party, one can easily assume that there is still considerable discord among its leaders. Farmers are displeased with the attitude of this union toward the compulsory delivery measures and rice delivery. The JFU will not become stronger unless it acquires fresh characteristics and policies.

The National Farmers Union has not yet gained as large an influence as that of the JFU. However, it has experience and spheres of influence as a farmers' organization. It advocates a peaceful democratic revolution opposing communism, capitalism, and Fascism. It endeavors to institute agricultural management which enables farmers to maintain a cultural life. Hereafter, the farmers who are not satisfied with the JFU will join this union. The All Japan Farmers Union is quite a greenhorn in the farmers movement. Its slogan to establish sound democratic farming villages by abolishing class strife is an impractical theory. However, since the Liberal Party took over the spheres of influence of the SEIYUKAI (TN Political Friends Society), which was supported by farmers, this union may become a great power in the conservative farming districts. Furthermore, we should note that it is advocating close co-operation of farmers with livestock raisers and industrialists to prepare for a future agricultural panic. If the union is not used as a tool by the Liberal Party for extending its political influence, does not become extremely conservative, and faithfully carries out its platforms, it will be fairly successful.

Under the present national conditions, the three unions will each go their separate way. It is more important in these days for each union to remain independent rather than to organize compulsorily into one body and become a tool of a political party. The future farmers movement must not make the same mistakes as the past labor movement.

ITEM 5 Electric Workers Organize Struggle Committees - Mainichi - 21 Aug 47. Translator: Y. Mizoe. (WII)

143

Full Translation:

The Central Representatives Conference of the Electric Industry Workers Unions was held on 19 and 20 August at the Nagaoka Elementary School on the Izu Peninsula, for the purpose of pushing through their three-point demand, i.e., the sliding-scale wage system, the conclusion of labor agreements on the basis of Electric Industry Workers Unions as a single labor union, and the democratization of electric enterprises.

It was approved that struggle committees, with the authority to make decision and execute them, would be set up in the central and local branches. Committeemen are to be elected before 10 September, by general vote. The struggle fund which is now needed is currently estimated at 12,000,000 yen.

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ITEM 18 Labor Unions Propose Erecting Labor Hall - Mimpo - 7 Aug 47.
Translator: C. Akashi. (AH)

(145)

Summary:

The 10,000 odd labor unions in this country including the National Congress of Industrial Organizations, the Japan Federation of Labor Unions and the Japan Congress of Labor Unions are also suffering from the shortage of housing. In view of this situation, the movement to establish the Labor Hall has been launched by the labor unions themselves.

The National Labor Unions Liaison Council called on the Labor and Farmer Diet Members League in the Diet building on 4 August to discuss the plan to set up the Labor Hall which is regarded as necessary to the sound development of labor unions. The Labor and Farmer Diet Members League appointed the following persons as executive committee members: KIKUKAWA, Tadao, KUBOTA, Tsurumatsu, TANAKA, Toshi, UCHIMURA, Seiji, KAWASHIMA, Minato and SASAKI, Ryosaku.

On the afternoon of 6 August, they petitioned YONEKUBO, who is expected to be the first Labor Minister, on the subject in question. The National Labor Unions Liaison Council held its executive committee meeting on 5 August in order to discuss concrete measures for establishing the Labor Hall as well as to decide a site for it. The Labor Hall Construction Movement is now being pushed by various labor unions irrespective of their varying policies and claims.

Tentative Building Requirments

The National Labor Unions Liaison Council reached the following decisions at the meeting held on 5 August: I. The Labor Hall will require the following facilities.

1. A large council-room with a seating capacity of about 1,000.
2. A medium conference-room with a seating capacity of about 100 to be used as a central committee meeting room.
3. Three small conference-rooms with a seating capacity of about 30 each.
4. Lodging rooms for 50 to 100 local labor union delegates.
5. As the site for the offices of labor unions, 160 tsubo (one tsubo is approximately six feet square) is to be allotted to the NCIO and the JFLU respectively and 40 tsubo to the Japan Congress of Labor Unions, the Japan Farmers Union, and the National Farmers Union respectively, and 80 tsubo to the National Labor Unions Liaison Council.

II. The maintenance fund for the Labor Hall is estimated at about 10,000,000 yen. In order to raise this amount of money, a judicial foundation will be set up jointly by the Government, the Diet, agricultural and labor unions and capitalist groups, thus making the Labor Hall assume national importance as a fundamental institution for the democratization of JAPAN, rather than as the headquarters of class struggles.

III. As proposed sites, those Government-owned buildings, such as "YUSHUKAN" at KUDAN and the former Commerce and Industry Ministry building are mentioned. Regarding this program, State Minister YONEKUBO said that the labor unions should raise the maintenance fund for their Labor Hall by themselves without soliciting Government help.

KAWABATA, executive member of the National Labor Unions Liaison Council, stressed the necessity of setting up the Labor Hall. He stated that it will accelerate the unification of the labor front, and expressed hope that the Government, the Diet and the management circles will support this labor project.

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SOCIAL SERIES: 1723 (Continued)

ITEM 2 Class-conscious Farmers Unions Needed (by Inamura, Junzo) - Magazine: Zenshin (Monthly) - 1 Sep 47. Translator: H. Hasegawa. (WM)

145

Summary:

Before the war, the farmers' union movement flourished, reflecting the growing strife between landowners and tenant farmers which arose from the problems of rents and tenant rights.

However, as a result of the first agrarian reform after the close of the war, the payment of farm rent could be made in money rather than in kind. Therefore, farmers do not have the interest they once had in the problem of farm rent.

Moreover, because this reform aims to protect the cultivating farmers, the struggle for tenant rights has declined. Therefore, an increasing number of farmers' union leaders, losing sight of the object for which the struggles were intended, have come to interpret their unions as all farmer organizations. Thus, the composition of the present farmers' unions have come to embrace smallholders, tenant farmers, landed farmers, part-time farmers, and in extreme case, landowners. It is natural that, under such circumstances, the class-consciousness within these unions has become weakened.

Now that socialism is being established and a democratic revolution is under way, we cannot ignore this situation, for the farmers' unions are the main proletarian influence in support of socialism.

True, the unions became inactive as a result of the proclamation of the reform but this was only temporary, for in the exercise of the reform, extreme difficulties arose as the result of numerous counter-attacks by the landowners. Especially, as the result of a nationwide split among the farmers' unions together with the formation of new unions, landowners, taking advantage of this situation, were able to organize and turned from the defensive to attack the tenant farmers.

However, the delays in carrying out the reform can be regarded as an opportunity to strengthen the temporarily weakened class consciousness in the mind of the farmers; and it is clear that this can be done through the dilligent efforts of farmers' unions to complete this reform. This clarifies the principle that must be followed by all farmers' unions; that is, until the agrarian reform has been fully realized, it is a prime necessity to support these class-conscious farmers' unions which are centered around the tenant farmers.

Although the farmers' struggle concerning farm product prices and taxation are necessary, the leaders of those unions must reflect upon the fact that if a class-conscious organization is not established, such struggles will only afford aid to the reactionaries.

Furthermore, we must pay due regard to the relationship between the farmers' unions and the agricultural co-operative unions. Because the class consciousness of the farmers' unions has declined, some people contend that they are no longer necessary if agricultural co-operative unions composed of all farming classes are set up. However, in doing this, the development of the farmer groups as class-conscious organizations is a basic prerequisite.

Properly speaking, while the object of the agricultural co-operative unions is to eradicate the economic patterns from which semi-feudalistic practice arise through the capitalistic modernization of agriculture, the farmers' unions have the additional duty of leading the agricultural co-operative unions toward socialism.

Great differences of economic power exist among the farmers despite the fact that small-scale farming is common in our country; and furthermore, although our farm villages are being democratized, the semi-feudalistic elements are still deeply rooted in the minds of the farmers. Under such a condition, if the agricultural co-operative unions are organized along natural economic principles, the slight advantage enjoyed by the farmers, together with the remnants of traditional ruling influences, will create great monopolistic powers which will constitute serious obstacles to the establishment of socialism.

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SOCIAL SERIES: 1723 (Continued)

ITEM 2 (Continued)

The larger majority of farmers whose economic power is comparatively small, must organize themselves against control by a minority. Such groups are essential in the establishment of socialism. From such a viewpoint, in order to facilitate the completion of the agrarian reform and the development of the agricultural co-operative unions, we must strive to intensify the farmers' union fight against deeply-rooted semi-feudalism. For this purpose, we must reconsider the role played by those class-conscious farmers' unions centered around tenant farmers, who are in sharpest opposition to the landowners.

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ITEM 5 Kanto Metal Workers Oppose Merger With Leftist Unions - Rodo - 8 Aug 47. Translator: S. Sakata. (AH)

145

Full Translation:

An extraordinary general meeting of the Kanto Metal Industry Workers Union was held at the auditorium of the Hitotsubashi Middle School on 4 August.

After electing ARAHATA, Kanson chairman and HASEGAWA, Shozaburo of the Shinagawa Company, and WATANABE, Kaname of the Fuji Industrial Company vice-chairmen, attendants approved the reports given by Secretary-general TAKANO and Standing Committee member YANAGIMOTO on the JFL headquarters respectively. Following this, MIYOSHI of the Tokyo Gauge Company, TAKESHITA of the Oi Factory of the Mitsubishi Heavy Industrial Company, INAMURA of the Shoda Manufactory and KASHIMURA of the Kotobuki Light Industrial Company, reported on labor disputes at their respective companies.

Then the union's present operation policies were explained as follows: (1) Organization and the unification of the labor front, YANAGIMOTO; (2) Cultural movements and counter-measures for youths and women, SATAKE; (3) Strife for improved livelihood for workers, KITAGAWA; (4) Political movements, MATSUO; (5) The strengthening of the JFL and the Federation of Metal Industry Workers Unions, KOGA.

With the exception of a few revisions, the above bills were unanimously passed in their original form. The motion presented by SUZUKI of the Fuji Industrial Company, urging the development of electric power resources was adopted, and its speedy materialization by the Government and the Economic Stabilization Board, strongly urged.

Another motion presented by TAKESHITA of the Mitsubishi Heavy Industrial Company concerning the maintenance of an adequate supply of materials and the accommodation of funds led an unanimous decision for the initiation of a movement based on the principle of the motion.

Concerning the unification of the labor front, the meeting reached the decision that it is impossible to unite with labor unions which are based on leftist principles. It is noteworthy that this union has thus clearly manifested its attitude towards the question.

ITEM 7 Unions Moves To Protect Workers' Health - Rodo - 8 Aug 47. Translator: T. Ogawa. (AH)

146

Full Translation:

The Culture Section of the Kanagawa Prefectural Federation of Labor Unions has begun a campaign for the nationalization of the food situation. Preparation are being made to launch a powerful campaign by adopting in their entirely health measures, which the Kanto Chemical Industry Company has already enforced, and which have been obtaining satisfactory results.

As a result, a round table conference was held on 31 July at the headquarters of the AIIKU KAI. The conference was attended by MORIYAMA, Yutaka (Director of the Health Department), OBATA, Kiyoshi (Director of Hamada Hispital), FURUZAWA, Hisao (Director of the Gynecology Department of the Akasaka Hospital), KURJI (Director of Maternity Hospital of the Japan Red Cross Society), KINOSHITA (Director of the Medical Department of the Japan Iron Manufacutring Company), IWATA, Masamichi (Director of the Mitsui Welfare Hospital), HIGUCHI, Issei (Professor at the Jikei Medical University), NAKAJIMA, Kiyoshi (Asistant-professor at Keio University) and KURAMOCHI, OKADA and KOIZUMI from the AIIKU KAI headquarters.

At the conference, it was decided: I) First, to launch the campaign centering around Tokyo To, and the three prefectures Kanagawa, Saitama and Chiba; 2) To have the projected health and sanitary campaign thoroughly understood by everyone at each place of work; 3) The headquarters should immediately conduct a survey of the health, sanitary and welfare facilities of each union; 4) This campaign should always be carried out with labor unions as its objects and positive participation of the union members is demanded in order to apply the science of hygiene to everday life.

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ITEM - 4 Wage Increases and the Labor Movement (Part II) ~~Mainpo~~ - 23 Aug 47.
Translator: R. Shibata (A)

1473

Full Translation:

Movements for increased wages by unions affiliated with the National Federation of Labor are brewing in every district. For instance, the National Federation of Metal Industry Workers Unions has already issued instructions to start negotiations to increase present wages by 40 percent.

Even in the KANTO area alone, the following unions affiliated with the KANTO Branch of the NFMIWU are conducting negotiations with employers.

Unions which have presented demands for wage increases include the MINATO Bycicle-trailer Company (2,600 yen), the MITSUBISHI's OI Plant (2,700 yen), the OGIKUBO Plant of the FUJI Industry Company (2,600 yen), the OTANI KOGYO Company (4,500 yen), the EDOGAWA Machine Plant, the KUBOTA Iron Works, and the YOKOKAWA Electric Machine Company (all demanding 50 per cent wage increases).

Included, too, are which have presented demands for Anti-crisis funds, namely, the FUSO Light Metal Company (2,000 yen), the HINO Plant of the TOYO Watch Manufacturing Company (800 yen), the TOYO Steel and Iron Company (390 yen), the EBARA Casting Plant (1,100 yen) and the TOYODA Plant of the FUJI Electric Machine Company (1,000 yen).

"Management by Labor" Strategy

Unions which have adopted the strategy of "management by labor" include the TOKYO Meter Manufacturing Company, the MASADA Manufacturing Plant, and the KOTOBUKI Manufacturing Company.

Unions which have already achieved the goal sought in their negotiations are the TANABE Musical Instruments Company, the MIZUHO Industry Company, the TAMA Industry Company, the DAIDO Steel Company, the Japan Motor-dynamo Manufacturing Company, the Japan Iron Tube Company, and the KOBE Steel Company.

[illegible], and the Federation of the OSAKA Municipal Official Workers Unions, have all presented demands.

At present, the movement is most active in KANSAI, KANTO, and KYUSHU in that order. Although it has not been organized as yet, it has the appearance of a trial skirmish for the coming labor offensive.

Union Move Was Predicted

This movement by labor unions was early predicted when the new wage system was set up on the 1,800 yen basis. Unions' demands mostly center around funds to tide over the present livelihood crisis caused by inflation and food delays. This can be taken as a natural manifestation of the workers' desire to overcome their living difficulties. It is natural, for both of the NCIO and the NFL have been endeavoring to obtain the most favorable conditions for unions by unifying sporadic local demands.

The NCIO reportedly discussed the organization of labor struggles at its central executive committee meeting on 7 August. To carry through their demands by the multiplied power of organized labor, unions have recently shown a tendency to struggle jointly.

For instance, the National Council of Government and Public Offices Workers Unions, including the Goverrment Railway Workers, the All-Japan Communications Workers, and other government and public offices workers unions, has presented a joint demand for funds to cover deficits, and five printing and publishing companies employees' unions have made a joint demand.

At the national meeting of the Electrical Workers' Union held on 19 August, discussions were made on the establishment of a central strife committee to take charge of negotiating such issues as wage increases, adoption of the sliding-scale wage system, and unified collective bargaining.

Meetings Were Frequent

On 5 August, the Federation of Civilian Railway Workers Unions held a national meeting, and, in early August, the NFL-National Federation of Metal Workers' Unions issued an instruction to start a strife

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ITEM 4 (Continued)

NFL Becomes Aggressive

Although the NFL has adopted the policy of encouraging settlement through negotiations instead of strikes, in accordance with the decision at its central committee meeting in July, recent rises in prices and food delays have compelled NFL-unions to go beyond mere negotiations, and to conduct movements in a more aggressive way.

Some have already resorted to production management by themselves. Particuarly in local districts, some NFL-unions, such as the ASAHI Smithery Company, have been conducting joint movements with the NCIO-unions. The trend toward unification of labor fronts is expected to develop rapidly with the workers' movement for wage increases and against dismissal will become more and more active. This issue will apparently become an important subject at the NFL's national meeting to be held in October.

Neutral unions as well are showing increasing signs of movements for increased wages and funds to tide over the crisis.

For instance, the All-Japan Government and Public Offices Workers Union has demanded 2,000 yen per worker to cover the inadequacy of present wages, the Government Railway Workers Union, for an average 2,500 yen wage standard, and unions affiliated with the Japan Labor Union, such as the EIKOSHA Company, the MARUKO Steel Company (now under management by labor), the KAWASAKI Ship Building Company, the SUMITOMO Electric Wire Company, the ONOMICHI Ship Building Company, the Trade Corporation, the Japan Hosiery Company, the Coal Rationing Corporation, and the Federation of the OSAKA Municipal Official Workers Unions, have all presented demands.

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ITEM 4 (Continued)

for 40 percent wage increases. Moreover, in local districts, joint struggles have been aggressively conducted within each industry without regard to union-colors, whether the NCIO or the NFL.

However, the present situation does not allow labor unions to form a strife organization on a national scale.

Even though unions are placed under an extensive restriction in organizing their strife, the joint struggle within the limits recognized as union activities will be the best tactics hereafter for unions. The peculiarity of the labor offensive at this time is that labor is going to take an aggressive offensive, turning from mere defensive, against capital.

Labor Is Critical

Viewed politically, laborers, despite their support of the present government, have gradually become critical of its policies as being ineffective and unreasonable.

Disappointed in the KATAYAMA Cabinet, labor unions are not pinning their hopes on its policies while taking an unbiased attitude toward its administration by frankly recognizing "good" as "good" and "bad" as "bad". Therefore, while unions will co-operate with the government in such activities as eliminating blackmarketing, which can contribute to the improvement of workers livelihood, they will nevertheless strongly oppose any government plans which oppose the workers' interests, such as the lowering of real wages through revision of prices, and dismissal of the employed as the sacrifice of industrial readjustment.

At the same time, they are expected to assume a constructive attitude; for instance, after formulating their own plan on a scientific basis, they will advise the government with regard to such issues as the readjustment of enterprises, promotion of small and middle scale industries, and the establishment of an average wage standard.

Demands Based on Living Costs

Particularly concerning the wage issue, the tendency is for labor unions to submit their demands for wage increases after examination of the minimum costs of living by scientific methods. In conducting their offensive according to the above outline, labor unions will certainly attach importance to mutual negotiations while making the best use of the Labor Mediation Committee. The more moderate the unions demand is and the nearer it is to the minimum demand viewed from the point of view of the protection of the workers livelihood, the stronger the changes of resorting to ultimate measures, if necessity arises.

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ITEM 8 Supreme Labor Council to be Formed during September - Tokyo Shimbun - 11 Sep 47. Translator. Y. Akabane. (TK)

145

Full Translation:

The Labor Ministry is now giving careful consideration to the question of establishing a Supreme Labor Council. Judging from the echoes of the national liaison conference of labor Committee on 8-10 September, there seems to be no objection from any quarter to the evolution of an industrial peace movement to promote production, and the ministry authorities have now been provided with firm confidence to enlist the co-operation of various organs of labor and capital. It has, therefore, been decided to speed up preparations to materialize the creation of the Supreme Labor Council before September's end at the latest as the center of the movement. Labor Minister YONEKUBO is already conducting preliminary negotiations for the personnel selection from various labor and capital groups.

The conceptual crux of the Supreme Labor Council lies in whether the Premier of the Labor Minister will be assigned to the chairmanship of the Council. At first, Labor Minister YONEKUBO was of the opinion that the chairmanship should be assigned to the Premier and that the Council, ever if it might not be a decision-making organ, should be started as a powerful propelling organ to take the middle course between decision-making and deliberative bodies. However, in consideration of subsequent trend of various opinions within the Ministry and as a result of repeated discussions, he is now thinking it proper to make the council a deliberative organ with the Labor Minister as its chairman, in view of the nature of the Cabinet and also the relations existing between the Cabinet and the Diet. Thus, it seems very likely that the matter will be settled along this line.

As regards the emergency declaration to be made with the establishment of the Supreme Labor Council, Parliamentary Vice-minister DOI and others are taking profound precautions against repercussions something akin to the so-called labor-capital truce advocated by former Director-general ZEN on the Economic Stabilization Board some time ago. Hence, the Government will not make such a declaration, and, instead, it will exert its best efforts to realize positive co-operative structure of various bodies of labor and capital through the said council and thereby reap the fruits of the industrial peace movements by the medium of its deliberations.

ITEM 1 Government Flatly Rejects New Union Demands - Seiji - 19 Sep 47. Translator: K. Sato. (FST)

145

Full Translation:

The demands of the National Council of Government and Public Office Workers Unions, filed on 13 September, set yesterday as the deadline for the Government's answer. At noon yesterday Chief Cabinet Secretary NISHIO delivered the Government's reply — A blanket refusal — to Chairman of the Council SATO and three other delegates. The gist of the reply is:

1. The established policies (rejection) in regard to the following three demands will remain unchanged:

Demand 1. Establishment of a minimum wage scale; namely, revision of the 1,800 yen base;

Demand 2. Livelihood Allowances of 2,000 yen per employee and 1,000 yen per dependent;

Demand 3. Labor Control between the National Council of Government and Public Office Workers Unions and the Government.

2. Demand 4 seeks a democratic re-election of the Administration Supervisory Commission. The existing commission, however, wishes to be regarded as democratically elected.

3. Demand 5 claims an over-all revision of the Civil Service Bill. The bill, however, has already been introduced to the Diet. Union opinions are, therefore, expected to be reflected in Diet deliberations.

4. Demand 6 is for cancellation of the 20 August Cabinet decision on national contract. We are not inclined to accede to the demand.

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ITEM 2 Communications Workers Seen Most Belligerent in Dispute - Seiji - 19 Sep 47. Translator: R. Aoki. (FST)

145

Summary:

In considering labor relations of government workers, the attitude of the National Federation of Communications Workers Unions is noteworthy. While members of government unions desire concrete measures to meet present economic needs, the leaders of the National Federation of Government Workers Unions are pressing the Government for impossible demands, including livelihood allowances of 10,000,000,000 yen. This may mean that the leaders simply wants political fight with the Government.

Communications workers are active in offensive efforts throughout the nation, demanding area allowances everywhere. Local unions in OSAKA and KOBE have already brought the issue to district labor relation committees, probably to shorten the 30-day waiting period for the union.

Communications Minister MIKI reported at the cabinet meeting on 16 September on unifying the tendency of the movement of government workers and the guerilla warfare of communication workers. The cabinet meeting yesterday decided to uphold the new price system. It is conceivable that the reply of the Government to Communications Workers will not satisfy them. Therefore, the future moves of the NFCWU, which has already appealed to district labor relations committees, may be noteworthy.

Indeed, Communications Minister MIKI seems to be determined to accept the duel with communistic Chairman TSUCHIBASHI of NFCWU.

ITEM 2 Tokyo Shibaura Factory Subcontractors Organize Society to Cope with Financial Difficulties - Akahata - 10 Sep 47. Translator: K. Sato (UG).

145

Summary:

The Tokyo Shibaura Komukai Factory subcontractors, raked by the company's failure to pay subcontract manufacturing fees, sought co-operation of the factory labor union to hold a preparatory meeting on 18 Aug and an inaugural meeting on 3 Sep. Their new society is to be named the Toshiba Komukai Rehabilitation Co-operative Association (TOSHIBA KOMUKAI FUKKO KYORYOKUKAI).

The meeting was attended by 53 subcontract manufacturers who, after hearing a report on the progress of collective bargaining between the joint representatives of both subcontract manufacturers and the Komukai Labor Union and director KAWAMURA of the Komukai Factory concerning unpaid accounts, set about establishing regulations and the election of 12 staff members.

The agreement reached by collective bargaining follows:

1. Special consideration shall be given to subcontract manufacturers who are financially embarrassed.
2. Promissory notes to cover unpaid accounts will be issued to banks to ease the financial stringency of subcontract manufacturers.
3. The factory will guarantee not to carry over any liabilities to the new account and cancel moratoriums for unpaid accounts in the old account.
4. Part of the unpaid accounts will be defrayed monthly in addition to the monthly account payment.

Subcontractors of the KOMUKAI factory number about 200. They are expected to join the Society. It is of great significance medium and small enterprisers in TOKYO, KAWASAKI and YOKOHAMA have organized a society with the co-operation of the main factory's labor union. The unity between enterprisers and employees is also noteworthy.

A similar move has also been witnessed in the Tokyo Shibaura Horikawacho Factory. If this movement spreads to all factories under the All-Japan Electrical Engineering Workers Union (ZENDENKO) and the All-Japan Machine and Tool Workers Union, a bright future is in store for medium and small enterprisers.

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ITEM 9 Labor Committee Conference Urges Union Law Revision - Jiji - 11 Sep 47. Translator: M. Yasutake. (TK)

145

Full Translation:

Labor committees entered the third day of their liaison and consultation conference at Seiyoken Hall, UENO, TOKYO, on 10 September and made decisions regarding the character, the operation, and the activities of labor committees as follows:

The character of a labor committee: The independence of the committee must not be violated because it is a special organization established in accordance with the Labor Union Law. A labor committee is a democratic organization whose members reach appropriate and fair conclusion after holding frank discussion based on their respective stands.

The mode of electing committee members: Article 26 of the Labor Union Law must be revised, and the authority of administrative officials to make proposals regarding appointment of neutral persons for membership on a labor committee must be abolished.

The operation of a labor committee: (1) All organizations in charge of labor administration must be unified; (2) labor committees and other organizations in charge of labor administration must be kept in close contact with each other; and (3) the expenses of a labor committee must be defrayed out of the National Treasury.

The activities of a labor union: Speedy measures must be taken to make a law prohibiting employers from dissolving labor unions or resorting to conduct aiming to weaken the unions such as the closing of factories with the future reopening of enterprises in mind or the discharge of employees on the ground that they violated employment regulations before the enactment of the new labor laws.

Necessary provisions must be added to Article 33 of the Labor Union Law in view of the tendency that employers dare to violate Article 11 of the Labor Union Law by comparing punishments entailed by their violations with results to be gained by the discharge of laborers or treatment disadvantageous to laborers.

Article 11 of the Labor Union Law must be revised in such a manner as will be made applicable not only to employers but anyone who will bring pressure upon labor unions.

ITEM 8 JFU Split Seen Likely Over Communist Issue - Jiji - 13 Sep 47. Translator: Y. Terasawa. (GBS)

145

Full Translation:

As a sequel to the declaration of the Diet members' group of the Japan Farmers' Party severing relations with the Communist Party, opposition between the anti-Communist and pro-Communist factions in the Japan Farmers' Union has again become intensified.

It is reported that on 29 August, Chairman KURODA of the JFU Central Committee rejected the anti-Communist declaration and stated: "The Japan Farmers' Union will still guarantee individual freedom to support any political party."

Concerning this question, OKADA, Soji, who came to Tokyo on 12 September, said, "The Kuroda statement was issued without formal notification to the secretariat of the Japan Farmers' Union while the chairman was away from Tokyo. Therefore, it is very doubtful whether the chairman knows about it. There is no contradiction between the resolution guaranteeing freedom to support any political party, which was approved by the second general meeting, and the resolution in favor of establishing the independence of the Union, made by the central standing executive committee on 4 July."

Nevertheless, it is clear that there exists opposition between the pro-Communist faction observing the resolution made by the general meeting and the anti-Communist faction expressing itself in the resolution made by the central standing executive committee and the statement made by the Japan Farmers Diet Members Group. Such problems as these be brought up at the standing central executive committee meeting to be held on 17 and 18 September. It is anticipated that there will be danger of the Union being split if harmony cannot be restored.

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ITEM 10 Union Rejects Parts of Civil Service Bill - Yomiuri - 29 Aug 47. Translator: T. Fukizawa. (WM)

Full Translation:

Vice Chairman SATO, of the National Council of the Government and Public Office Workers Union, outlined the objections raised by the union to certain provisions in the National Civil Service Law as follows:

"As I have not yet investigated the details of the bill, I cannot give a concrete opinion, but:

1. Although the basic personnel policies may not be changed by the establishment of the National Personnel Board, there is the danger that the characteristics of the Premier and political party with which he is affiliated will exert a heavy influence over its actual operation and affect the freedom of civil servants. To avoid such evils I advise that a more democratic system such as a committee system be established.

2. The guarantee of the people's basic living rights is a prerequisite for the effective operation of the Job Classification system. However, this system will be meaningless unless the payment problem is solved.

3. The regulations which pertain to the duties of the staff are unsatisfactory to government officials who perform their work conscientiously. We demanded the removal of existing regulations as

they restricted our personal activities. We cannot overlook the fact that the new system likewise imposes excessive restrictions.

4. We demanded the abolition of the pension system, but this was disregarded. There is an item in the bill that the pension will be given to those who have served continually and faithfully. Such wording signifies that the Government disregards human rights and is bureaucratic.

ITEM 2 All Japan Communications Workers Union Presents Demands Again - Asahi - 10 Sep 47. Translator: Y. Inouye. (DD)

145

Full Translation:

Chairman TSUCHIHASHI and other representatives of the All Japan Communications Workers Union met with Vice-minister of Communications SUZUKI, on 9 Sep, and presented a demand for the "establishment of a minimum wage system based on the stabilization of prices." Although the union presented the same request to the Minister of Communications after the extraordinary general meeting at MATSUE, they renewed their demand after deciding the contents concretely at the Second Central Executive Committee Meeting held at KAMISUWA last month. The union demands a reply in written form by 15 September.

ITEM 9 Shipping Management Commission Union Presents Demands - Mimpo - 5 Sep 47. Translator: H. Suto. (WM)

145

Full Translation:

The employees of the Shipping Management Commission have the same status as government and public office workers since April. Therefore, since the Government has recently decided to pay government and public office workers a base salary of 1,600 yen retroactive to January, the Employee's Union of the Shipping Management Commission is demanding that their wage also be made retroactive to January. They appealed to the Central Labor Relations Committee on 29 August.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 3 Rehabilitation Council Cautions against Excessive Enterprise Splits - Nihon Keizai - 5 Sep 47. Translator: K. Onishi. (JJY)

145

Full Translation:

The Economic Rehabilitation Council's secretaries met at the Industrial Club yesterday to discuss the Anti-economic Concentration Bill and reached decision to be presented to the Government:

"Democratization of economy cannot be achieved by merely decentralizing enterprises. We desire to stress that decentralization should be carried out in parallel with a thoroughgoing democratization of enterprises, administrations, economic controls, financial organizations, and of economic entities. From this viewpoint, we desire that the Government be particularly cautions in the legislation and operation of the present law in regard to the following points:

(1) In case the present law entails excessive decentralization, it will hinder rationalized enterprise managements, hamper efficiency and technique, and consequently will increase cost of production, make the enterprise nonpaying, and may cause decrease of wages and employment. Consequently, we desire that the Government, when decentralizing enterprises, avoid mechanical divisions by maintaining rational management standards.

(2) We desire that the Holding Company Liquidation Committee, in executing the present law, should include delegates of both capital and labor, and that in making readjustment in each industry a specific committee composed of capital and labor delegates, be established in order to conduct deliberations and managements based on realities.

(3) Since the standards of the dissolution of enterprises constitute the basis of the execution of the present law and determine the future enterprise system, they must be applied in accordance with the realities, rather than be determined indiscriminately, by the Holding Company Liquidation Committee.

(4) Public utilities such as railways, gas, and water as well as financial organizations and other key industries which are indispensable for the operation of the people's economy (including coal, steel, electricity), should be excluded from the application of this law and should be thoroughly socialized or democratized.

ITEM 4 Occupation Workers Seek Crisis Allotment - Asahi - 4 Sep 47. Translator: F, Hagiwara. (FST)

145

Full Translation:

The All Japan Occupation Force Workers Union affiliated with the National Congress of Industrial Organizations held a national rally at HAKONE on 30 August. The meeting resolved to demand 3,000 yen per worker and 500 yen for the worker's dependent as funds to tide over the crisis. Executive Committee chairman KODAMA, Shigeru and 40 delegates will meet President ASHIDA of the Liaison Office today to submit their demand. The AJOFWU has 40,000 members affiliated with the NCIO, and 30,000 affiliated with the JFLU. In addition to this, the NCIO - affiliated Hokkaido chapter is demanding 10,000 yen per family in compensation for suspension of fuel distribution.

ITEM 3 Railway Workers Unions Demand Answer - Tokyo Shimbun - 1 Jul 47. Translator: U. Futonaka. (FST)

145

Full Translation:

The National Federation of Government Railway Workers Unions has demanded an answer to the protest which it filed with the Transportation Ministry against the projected raise in railway charges on Saturday. Forty members of the federation's Central Executive Committee, including Chairman KATO, met Transportation Minister TOMABECHI, Parliamentary Vice-minister INOUE, Vice-minister SATO and other officials at the ministry yesterday at 1345 hours to press for an answer.

The unions are opposed to the official plan of raising railway charges. They believe that it is an arbitrary measure, contradictory to the agreement already reached by the management council.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 11 Several Factions Fight for Leadership of JFU - Yomiuri - 11 Sep 47.
Translator: K. Sato (JJI)

145

Full Translation:

A group of Diet members of the Japan Farmers Union issued a statement on August 29 in which they broke off relations with the Communist Party, but JFU executive Committee Chairman KURODA, Hisao, declared on the 9 September that he knew nothing of the statement and that the Union's policy of allowing freedom to support any political party remains unchanged. Thus, he indicated the opposition which exists within the Union. It now seems that this dissension will become further intensified by the formation of the National Farmers Union under HIRANO who broke away from the JFU and by the recent organization of the All Japan Farmers Union sponsored by the Liberal Party.

Our national farmers movement, which had as its turning point the liberation of farmers by SCAP ordinances, has developed into an active democratic movement. At that time, although the unification of the farm labor front seemed difficult, KURODA, Hisao, ITO, Minoru, and FUJITA, Isamu, were the nucleus of a movement to consolidate farm labor unions, and were successful.

On the occasion of the statement attributed to KURODA in February of last year, the JFU was first organized as a single national farmers union, in contrast with the labor front as a whole which split into the NCIO and the JFL. But many contradictions existed in the farm movement which were forewarnings of the present conflict.

The struggle within the JFU has as its center the "fraction" activities of the Communist faction. A stronger position has been taken by the pro-Communist and the anti-Communist groups. This culminated in the present dispute.

However, the anti-Communist group does not wish to merge with HIRANO's National Farmers Union. It is instead intensifying its efforts to seize control of the Japan Farmers Union. Availing itself of the split within the JFU, the Liberal Party has organized the All Japan Farmers Union. The Democratic Party also formed the Farm Villages Co-operative Democratic League on 28 August under the leadership of TERAJIMA, Ryutaro, a Diet member. It now appears that there are many distinctions within the farm labor front.

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ITEM 11 (Continued)

The following is an analysis of strength in the farm labor front by prefectures:

HOKKAIDO: The Hokkaido branch of the JFU boasts a strong pro-Communist organization centered in ASAHIGAWA and le by Chairman IGARASHI, Kyuya, and Secretary-general KITAMURA, Junji. Vice-chairman ARA, Tetsuo, leads the Socialist faction with his sphere of influence in the Sapporo district, but this group is not very active. The Farmers Party headed by KITA, Masakiyo, also has much influence and is pitted against the Communist faction.

TOHOKU District:

AOMORI Ken: Within the JFU branch, there were 156 affiliates and 35,000 members as of December, 1946. The Socialists and Communists follow the branch's policy but at present there is much disagreement over the rice delivery issue. The branch chairman is IWABUCHI, Kenjiro, who is a Socialist and also pro-Communistic. Secretary-general UCHIYAMA, Isamu, of the pro-Communist faction has a strong following in the Nakazato-Hirosaki area. NISHIMURA, Kikujiro, of the National Farmers Union holds sway in the Sanbongi-Hachinoe area.

IWATE Ken: Inasmuch as there was no labor movement here before the war, the area is conservative and Communist activities are not in evidence. The Liberal Party's All Japan Farmers Union is very active. A certain district has completely broken with the Japan Farmers Union, but the membership of the JFU in this prefecture reportedly totals 30,000.

MIYAGI Ken: The chairman of the JFU branch is SASAKI, Kozo, Socialist Diet member. Under his leadership at the second prefectural convention on 30-31 July, a resolution was adopted to break away from the Communist Party and to consolidate the JFU's leadership in the prefecture. The total membership is 48,000.

FUKUSHIMA Ken: The JFU membership totals 50,000 and is under the leadership of YAOITA, Masashi, Socialist Diet member. The NFU is active in certain unorganized areas, with TANAKA, Toshihiko, Socialist Diet member, as its leader, but no organization has yet materialized.

AKITA Ken: The JFU has not yet been organized here, but TANAKA, Kenkichi, Socialist Diet member, is now forming an organization in the Yokote area. On the other hand, the JFU under SHIMADA, Shinsaku, Socialist Diet member, is not giving any ground, and at the prefectural conference on the 9th, except for executive committee member HIRAYAMA, who is pro-Communist, it decided to sever relations with the Communist Party. The Communist faction includes KEMURIYAMA, Atsushi, and SUZUKI, Kiyoshi. There were 139 affiliates and a total of 47,000 members as of December, 1946. The present situation is not clear.

YAMAGATA Ken: KOJIMAYA, Ichiro, Socialist, is chairman of the JFU branch and commands the Yamagata Shi area. Vice-chairman IMAMURA, Teikichi, Socialist Diet member, is the leader in the Sakata area. KAMIBAYASHI, Yoichiro, Socialist Diet member, holds sway in the Shizuoka area. SUZUKI, Kenjiro, secretary-general of the branch, represents the Communist faction in the Murayama area. The JFU membership is 27,000. IMANO entered the NFU but it is doubtful whether this will increase its membership. The All Japan Farmers Union is taking advantage of the flood damage to build up its influence through the organization of co-operative unions.

FUKUSHIMA Ken: There were 278 JFU affiliates and a membership of 38,500 as of the end of 1946. Upper House Socialist Member TANAKA entered the JFU. However, the JFU is strongly organized and the extent of the NFU's success is not clear.

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ITEM 11 (Continued)

KANTO District:

TOKYO To: The JFU branch in June stated, "A split in the JFU should be prevented. The farm labor front should be unified, and efforts should be exerted on behalf of the organization of all owner-farmers" Thus, it supports the attitude of the headquarters. There are 57 affiliates and a membership of about 15,000.

SAITAMA Ken: There were 175 affiliates and 32,400 members as of December, 1946. The branch chairman is MOROOKA, Eiichi, Socialist Diet member. Under his leadership the second prefectural convention was held on 24 August, at which time the following Communist leaders were expelled from the branch: YOSHIMURA, Sanji; TAJIMA, Sadae; TAKADA, Tomiyuki; TOKUBO, Sokichi, AKASHI, Hiroshi; FUKAI, Kakusaburo; KANAIZUKA, Yuzo; MARII, Ippei, and OKA, Masayoshi. The JFU is active under the leadership of MATSUNAGA, Yoshio, Socialist Diet member, and ASADA, Katsuhiko, Socialist councillor.

CHIBA Ken: The NFU opened its convention on 4 September under the leadership of YOSHIKAWA, Kanemitsu, Diet member. Opposing it is JFU Chairman YAMAMOTO, Genjiro.

KANAGAWA Ken: The JFU is under the leadership of MOJI, Ryo, Socialist. The Communist faction under OKAZAKI, Mazuo, cannot be ignored. The All Japan Farmers Union has started its activities recently, and the NFU is also active. The total membership of the JFU is about 10,000.

IBARAGI Ken, TOCHIGI Ken, GUMMA Ken; These branches have clarified their position of supporting the JFU and there is no indication of any change.

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ITEM 12 Labor Unions Fear Personnel Cuts in Government Enterprises - Tokyo Minpo - 11 Sep 47. Translator: B. Ishibashi. (TK)

Summary:

Laying stress on the necessity of dismissing surplus workers for the sake of successful reconstruction of enterprises, the Government has clarified its intention to set an example by effecting personnel adjustment in government enterprises. Chief NODA of the Accounts Bureau of the Finance Ministry explained before the 26 August Budget Committee meeting of the Upper House as follows: "In compiling the supplementary budget, the Government is planning a cut of several tens of thousands of employees." Naturally, private enterprisers are going to launch a capitalist offensive by taking advantage of this pattern.

However, a rank inconsistency in the Government's policy was revealed by Labor Minister YONEKUBO's statement on enforcement of the Unemployment Insurance Law. He said: "There are people who are planning to enforce a mass discharge under the plea of enterprise readjustment. This constitutes misinterpretation of the purport of the Unemployment Insurance Law."

At any rate, it is a known fact that there has always been a wide margin between the set number of employees in the budget and the actual number in both railway and communications services. Nevertheless, this fact seems to have contributed little toward preventing them from having deficits. Now that this margin has been narrowed it is expected that they will further plunge into the depth of insolvency. Such being the case, it is only natural that labor unions should guard against the possibility of actual dismissal by the authorities in spite of their repeated announcements to the contrary.

Communications Ministry: The actual number of employees was 403,000 as of 1 July this year. While the set number was 493,000 in the ordinary budget, it is to be reduced to 455,000 in the projected supplementary budget. This will result in a reduction of 1,200,000,000 yen in the ministry's personnel expenditure. The ministry authority maintain that this will not compel them to enforce personnel cuts because an adequate reallocation of personnel will enable them to keep their present employees on the payroll. However, in the opinion of labor unions the ministry will certainly resort to such measures as coercive transfer of personnel and personnel cuts under the plea of inefficiency of employees. This argument is based on the fact that there is no room left for economizing expenses in the use of materials and in the technical aspect.

State Railways: In the 1947 fiscal year's budget the set number of employees was reported as being 620,915. This figure will be cut by 1,661 in the supplementary budget. Their actual number was 616,000 as of July this year. It follows that there is at present no substantial margin between the budgetary number and the actual number. Under these circumstances it is considered that enforcement of the eight-hour day will become impossible.

Chief ISOZAKI of the Transportation Ministry said: "It may be argued with reason that the framework of the budgetary number of employees will make appointment of new employees difficult. However, since the number of voluntary resignees reaches an average of 40,000 yearly, effectuation of adequate reallocation of personnel will safeguard employees against a possible excess of labor.

Secretary-general FUJII of the State Railway Workers Union said: "What the Government is concerned about is disposal of surplus employees. From this attitude has stemmed its attempt to reallocate personnel perfunctorily.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 1 Internal Conflict of JFU Aggravated - Mainichi - 10 Sep 47. Translator: T. Fukizawa. (DD)

Full Translation:

Chairman KURODA, Sumio, of the Japan Farmers Union, on 9 Sep, declared that the JFU had not changed its basic policy of freedom of political action. This declaration has greatly affected the current complicated farmers' fronts, it is believed. The direct motive for KURODA's declaration was the Aug 29 anti-Communist declaration of the Diet members association of the JFU, "Our movement is different from the farmers movement led by the Communist Party."

However, another and more secret purpose of his declaration was to indicate a definite policy to the local organizations, which were affected by the anti-Communist movement of NOMIZO, Katsu, OKADA, Muneji, and INAMURA, Junzo. This movement had become active since the adjournment of the Japan Farmers Central Committee meeting held on 15 to 16 of July.

At its national meeting in February, the JFU confirmed its policy of freedom of political action when HIRANO, Rikizo bolted the union with his followers in opposition to the Communist influence. Since then they have organized the National Farmers Union, whose inaugural meeting was held on 25 and 26 of July.

There is also the All Japan Farmers Union led by the Liberal Party which was established on 3 August. These three farmers fronts, namely, the Japan Farmers Union, National Farmers Union, and All Japan Farmers Union, are intricately interwoven into the complicated Farmers' Unions situation.

The internal situation of the JFU, which is most conspicuous among the three unions, especially increased its complications after HIRANO, Rikizo, became Agriculture and Forestry Minister of the Katayama Cabinet. The Union had gradually divided into three groups: (1) a group which is inclined to join the National Farmers Union by ousting the pro-Communists; (2) a group which would oust the pro-Communists but thoroughly opposes the National Farmers Union; and (3) a group which supports the Communist Party. NOMIZO, OKADA, and INAMURA, who belong to group (2) stood in opposition to Chairman KURODA and the late chief secretary ONISHI, Toshio, who died on 29 July.

The opinions of the standing committeemen regarding a plan on the so-called "anti-Communist principle" which was planned as a basic principle of the JFU differed greatly. It was finally passed by a majority of 10 to six, to be presented to the Unions Central Committee. However, this proposal by the headquarters failed to pass at the Central Committee meeting held on 15 and 16 of July by the strong grass-roots opposition of the local organizations.

..... Anti-Communist Declaration Published

This committee meeting ended in confusion, as the INAMURA group, which belongs to the Niigata prefectural clique, and a group which belongs to the Gumma prefectural clique, led by OSHIMA, Yoshiharu left the assembly hall before the meeting was closed. Later, the anti-Communist activities of NOMIZO, OKADA, and INAMURA became more definite as they lectured through the country to spread their principle. These internal movements of the JFU have connection with SUZUKI, Mozaburo, and KATO, Kanju, of the Socialist Party who are authors of the "Leftists Declaration." Thus, Chairman KURODA was in danger of being isolated. Finally, on 29 August, an anti-Communist declaration was published under the aegis of the JFU Diet members association. Chairman KURODA was ignorant of this declaration because it was published while he was away. Names of Diet members who have no connection with the JFU have been found among the joint signatures. This declaration of the Diet members affected the local organizations. For these reasons it was imperative for Chairman KURODA to clarify the principle of the JFU through his name.

A considerable number of the local organizations support KURODA. AOMORI, MIYAGI, NAGANO, OKAYAMA, and KAGAWA branches have reconfirmed their support. As the farmers front problem is exerting an increasing influence over the Socialist Party, KURODA's declaration at this time is expected to affect not only the farmers fronts but also the Socialist Party.

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ITEM 4 End to Labor-Management Disputes Stressed - Jiji - 9 Sep 47. Translator: M. Yasutake. (JJY)

Full Translation:

With the establishment of the Labor Ministry, the Government expressed its intention to enlarge the authorities of the central and local labor committees to realize a truce between labor and capital. To discuss its mode of operation and its new policies, the Central Labor Committee held a three-day liaison conference among all Japanese labor committees from 8 September under the joint sponsorship of the chairmen and volunteers of local labor committees. The conference was held at Seiyoken Hall, UENO, TOKYO, from 1000 hours on 8 September and was attended by the labor, capital, and neutral members of labor committees, totaling 209.

Acting Chairman SUEHIRO of the Central Labor Committee delivered a speech as a sponsor, and Labor Minister YONEKUBO explained his policies on affairs under his jurisdiction. Second Vice-director NAGANO of the Economic Stabilization Board explained the emergency economic measures. After this, questions and answers were exchanged.

Answering the question "What do you think about a labor-capital truce?" Labor Minister YONEKUBO stated: "I have not made any statement as reported by newspapers regarding a labor-capital truce. I should like to take this opportunity to emphasize that the labor-capital dispute must be avoided under the present conditions in JAPAN, where our economy is on the brink of collapse. The labor-capital dispute is a product of the inflation, and the inflation must be curbed first of all. I believe that labor and capital should co-operate with each other to establish order in distribution. It is reported that the Government will issue a declaration on a labor-capital truce soon, but the Government has no intention of doing such a thing." As for the issue of the base salary of 1,800 yen, YONEKUBO stated that he would pay consideration to the matter after examining the results of the economic measures in November.

On the afternoon of 8 September the general meeting of the consultation conference was held and Acting Chairman SUEHIRO of the Central Labor Committee was elected to its chairmanship. At the meeting a vigorous discussion ensued regarding the character of the labor committee and other issues. The meeting adjourned at 1700 hours after Premier KATAYAMA delivered a speech appealing to the labor, capital, and neutral members of labor committees to exert united efforts to achieve industrial reconstruction and stabilize the people's livelihood and to surmount the present crisis from a national standpoint. On the second day of the meeting, the operation of a labor committee will be discussed.

ITEM 16 National Federation of Medical Workers Unions Meets - Jimmin - 10 Sep 47. Translator: S. Kuroda. (WM)

Full Translation:

The new National Federation of Medical Workers Unions which was formed as the result of the merger of the old all Japan Medical Corporation Hospital Workers Union and the All Japan council of Medical Workers Unions, held its first national meeting at the Tokyo Sanitarium at KIYOSE (Musashino Line) for a period of three days from 6 to 8 September.

On the 6th, the Central Committee meeting was held, and on the 7th and 8th, the general meeting was held. The items on the agenda follow:

(1) Criticisms of the National Congress of Industrial Organizations and the All Japan Council of Medical Workers Unions.

(2) Confirmation of the anticrisis special allowance demand made by the National Council of Government and Public Workers Unions.

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ITEM 4 Labor Unions Should Seek New Course - Nihon Keizai - 3 Aug 47. Translator: Y. Akabane. (FST)

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Full Translation:

Through the February strike and general elections, the labor union movement in our country has entered a stage of reflection. Since then, however, no progress of economic reconstruction has been seen, non has the rising trend in commodity prices been checked. With the increase in difficulty of living, uneasiness evidenced by a labor offensive has been reported. The most important concern of labor unions is the decrease in real wages and the personnel curtailment resulting from enterprise adjustment.

In the new price structure, the Government has promised that it will endeavor not to cause a decrease in real wages through the guarantee of distribution of staple foodstuffs and other necessities of life. However, increases in ration articles have not been realized and personnel curtailment is an indispensable step for realizing financial retrenchment, healthy enterprise and increased production. Even if a part of the working masses are rendered jobless, it cannot be helped.

Needless to say, labor unions which aim at protecting and promoting laborers' economic benefits cannot remain idle in such a predicament. But if they are simply intent, as hitherto, on demanding wage increases or opposing personnel curtailment, it will not only cause delay in economic reconstruction, resulting in the failure to attain their object, and further aggravating their living difficulties.

The difficulty in raising wages means economic productivity is not sufficiently great to comply with the demand. Hence, with the reduction of productivity, wages will be decreased and the appearance of unemployed is unavoidable if the labors' minimum livelihood cannot be maintained. The present economic condition of our contry is already in such a state. The decrease in real wages and unemployment are attributable to the want of productivity. To increase wages and check unemployment there is no alternative but to increase production. If the enhancement of laborers' status will bring economic decline, laborers must exercise their best efforts to rehabilitate industry by increasing labor efficiency positively.

Then, what is the role of labor unions for increasing productivity? The Economic Rehabilitation Council aims at contributing to the economic rehabilitation by means of respecting the position of both entrepreneurs and laborers. However, from past experience it is evident that too much stress is being put on the direction for realizing economic rehabilitation by means of stabilizing laborers livelihood. Probably due to this, no tangible effect has ever been seen.

At present, opinions advocating such democratic means as management councils and various committees in which laborers participate as means for increasing production, are prevalent. The management council has already been realized and various committees are included in the Government draft for state control as an important item. However, to participate in the actual management, it is necessary for labor unions to be provided with power sufficient to cope with it, and for this purpose, much is expected for their efforts in the future.

In view of this, one of the most urgent requirements for labor unions is to know exactly the current economic situation, thereby to concentrate their whole energy on what they can do and what they can do will become clear only through the correct recognition of the reality of our economy.

ITEM 14 Council of Japan Screen and Theatre Unions to be Inaugurated - Shin-Hochi - 23 Jul 47. Translator: H. Suto. (MK)

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Full Translation:

At the Labor Front Unification Discussion Meeting held at TSUKUBA, CHIYODA Ku, UCHISAIWAI Cho, on 18 July, under the auspices of the Japan Screen and Stage Labor Union, it was decided that a Council of Japan Screen and Stage Labor Unions should be formed. Representatives of the Japan Screen and Stage, the National Screen and Stage, the NIKKATSU, the TOYOKO and the YOSHIMOTO Labor Unions attended the meeting.

The mission of the Council will be to discuss all common union problems. The first preparatory meeting for its establishment will be held on 24 July.

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ITEM 2 Arbitrary Directive Issued by Communications Workers Union - Seiji Shimbun - 5 Aug 47. Translator: K. Onishi. (TK)

Summary:

In spite of the baffled attempt for a system of summertime half-holidays, it is reported that the central executive committee of the National Communications Workers Union has directed its 400,000 members to carry out this system at all costs. Whatever the reason may be, we are surprised at their brazen-facedness that totally ignores popular protests.

They maintain that the administrative order prohibiting half-holidays is a breach of labor agreements. This is their retaliation protesting against the wholesale revision of official business hours and the refusal of the overtime allowances demanded by them in exchange for the stopped half-holidays. It may be so, and the Government may be accountable for not obtaining their consent to stop this system before issuing the administrative order. But this does not mean that the committee's directive is justifiable on that account. They must be well aware that they have no right to insist on their own rights at the expense of public interests. The abortive February 1st strike must have taught them this truism.

If they dared to issue the present directive in spite of their knowledge of this bitter lesson, they doubtless harbor some impure political intent which is entirely beyond the bounds of our sympathy. We do not want to discuss the subject at length, but we cannot but point out at least one point - their bottomless impudence in claiming allowances for the stopped summertime half-holidays, forgetting that full-day working is their normal duty in attending to official business.

In their present action, they are wilfully instigating the people to continue idle in their daily business. The Communications Workers Union should promptly cancel the directive, and start negotiation with the Government in a more amicable manner. We also desire that the Government find out a means of reasonable settlement.

ITEM 3 Women Beauticians Move to Establish Independent Union - Tokyo Times - 26 Jul 47. Translator: Y. Asada. (MK)

Summary:

The movement to form a beauty operator's union, independent of the National Federation Barbers Union is provoking opposition from both the men leaders of the Federation and conservative women members.

The movement started when YAMANO, Chiyoko, a member of the Tokyo Federation of Beauty Operators a women's department affiliated with the National Federation of Barbers' Union wanted to open a new shop in the Industrial Hall at Shiba, but was opposed by men leaders of the National Federation of Barbers' Unions. They cited regulations governing spacing of shops to obstruct her plans.

As the result of this move, the indignant women members of the federation who believed in freedom of business operations, decided to form a union composed only of women. The plan was received with enthusiasm by many of the women members.

However, some women members who belonged to the Tokyo Federation of Beauty Operators were against independence. They held a special general meeting of Tokyo beauty operators in the absence of the women leaders who were attending a National Conference and selected new officers. When the old leaders returned to TOKYO, they were furious with the proceedings. They declared the decisions reached at the meeting held during their absence were void because of the lack of a quorum. Both factions refuse to give in.

After examining the laws pertaining to the opening of new shops authorities discovered that a newly instituted law made void the former regulation which stipulated that "in opening a beauty-shop , the permission of the union is necessary".

In an effort to settle split amicably in the Tokyo Federation of Beauty Operators, a meeting of representatives from both factions was held.

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ITEM 8 Road Ahead for Livelihood Co-operative Unions - Tokyo Shimbun - 13 Aug 47. Translator: K. Hirata. (JJY)

145

Summary:

Recently many livelihood co-operative unions have been formed in an effort to enable urban consumers to obtain goods at low prices and through legal channels. In TOKYO alone the number of unions totaled 346 as of 31 May. However, these unions are being managed unsatisfactorily. The reasons are the shortage of funds, the shortage of materials which the unions can handle, the shortage of transportation, the poor condition of facilities, and competition with retailers.

The Government is presently preparing a Livelihood Co-operative Union Law. However, under a controlled economy it is most difficult to develop these unions. At this time, when free commerce is controlled, the unions will find it difficult to give their members ample benefits even if they are given distribution rights. If the unions want to achieve good results, there is no other way but to conduct collective illegal dealings. Therefore, we cannot expect too much even if the development of unions is aided by law.

However, the following steps will contribute to this development: (1) Strengthening of activities of union federations - It is important for the unions to organize their force, employ experts, become directly connected with producers of unprohibited goods, and to establish a powerful structure of transportation and rationing in order to cope with commercial unions; (2) The enlargement of co-operative functions - It is necessary for these unions to operate such co-operative functions as milling and baking. In ENGLAND the co-operative unions are consulted by their members in regard to even legal matters.

ITEM 2 Violation of Labor Union Law Reported - Nihon Keizai - 26 Jul 47. Translator: H. Nishihara. (MK)

Full Translation:

145

The sub-committee of the Metropolitan Labor Relations Committee will advise the Tokyo Provincial Procurators Office to charge six persons representing the management of "the Shoda Factory with a violation of Article 11 of the Labor Union Law. The accused are Charles DOREIYA" (TN: Presumably Drayer) of the SHODA Factory, SHODA, Jukichi, president of the SHODA Factory, his wife, SHODA, Nobu and three others.

The management is accused of instigating a strike when they urged union members to secede from the union on 24 and 25 June and dismissed KATO, Takeo and eight other labor leaders. The union has reported this case to the Metropolitan Labor Relations Committee and has accused the above of violating Article 11 of the Labor Union Law.

This is the first time an American has been accused of violating Article 11 of the Labor Union Law.

ITEM 4 Government to Answer NCGPOWU Demands Today - Asahi - 26 Jul 47. Translator: N. Miwa. (TK).

Full Translation:

143

The National Council of Government and Public Office Workers Unions on 23 July requested a Government reply on its four-point proposal including demands for funds to meet the economic crisis and speedy conclusion of collective bargaining contracts. The Cabinet at its meeting yesterday worked out a written answer to the proposal. Therefore, it has been decided that State Minister YONEKUBO would today deliver the reply to the union council.

ITEM 3 Government to Refuse Labor Contract With Its Workers - Yomiuri - 2 Aug 47. Translator: K. Sato. (FST)

143

Full Translation:

The Government decided at its regular Cabinet meeting yesterday to reject the demand, dated 23 July, from the National Government Workers Union for a labor contract between the Government and the union. An answer to this effect will be delivered to the union today.

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ITEM 4 Wage or Production Struggle? - Yomiuri - 11 Aug 47. Translator: K. Hirata. (TK)

Summary:

At present labor union leaders face difficulties in solving the problem centering around the actual conditions of laborers' livelihood and the Government's polices.

Recently I attended the conferences of labor unions affiliated with the Nagoya Local Railway Board. To give the conclusion first, the leaders considered it impossible to solve the problem unless a large-scale production struggle rather than a mere wage boost one is resorted to. Although before the 1 February general strike the leaders mainly discussed the propriety of means to strike, they recently focused their deliberations upon struggle objectives. This indicates that they have recently grown up politically.

The following is a gist of the results of the recent conferences:

I. Basic Direction of Production Struggle:

A. Individual management will be rationalized from the standpoint of national economy;

B. The labor unions themselves will become a vital factor to the existence of the management through the medium of production struggle.

II. In Individual Management:

A. The actual conditions will be thoroughly examined in order to eliminate wasteful expenses and inefficiency;

B. Blackmarketing will be eliminated;

C. The unions will autonomously strengthen labor discipline in an effort to increase efficiency;

D. The unions will reassign and adjust surplus laborers;

E. Wages will be increased in proportion to the results of increased production by taking each laborer's efficiency into consideration;

III. The Government:

A. It must secure the rationing of staple food and daily necessities. To this end, the unions will extend the necessary co-operation.

B. The unions will strongly demand that the Government achieve better production through the medium of unemployment insurance and national-scaled reassignment of laborers.

C. The unions will strongly demand that farmers deliver food by showing laborers' suffering to them and also demand that the Government change its temporizing policies.

IV. Promotion of Struggle:

A. A management consultative council must be made good use of and be made an organ to decide the production struggle by revising its structure adequately.

B. A production promotion group will be formed in an effort to promote the execution of resolutions reached by management consultative councils.

C. The unification of labor unions will be promoted through and in line with the production struggle.

This struggle is most significant politically. We may even be able to consider it positive support of the Socialist policies. However, if the Government continues to take an indifferent attitude toward the laborers' recent remarkably developed movement, the struggle will naturally lead to mistrust of the Government and the Socialists.

(NABEYAMA, Sadachika)

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ITEM 10 The Existing Condition of Labor Unions and Their Future (Suehiro, Izutaro) - Sekai Nippo - 16 Aug 47. Translator: H. Furukawa. (DD)

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Summary:

The labor unions in our country have made remarkable progress in the brief period since the termination of the war. However, we can find many defects within the labor unions in spite of their outward development. These defects, we fear, will become a barrier to the future healthy development of labor unions. Our anxiety is increased by the fact that the labor union must shoulder the grave responsibility of rehabilitating our nation's economy. I fervently hope, therefore, that the people associated with the labor unions will realize the actual conditions and render efforts for the immediate correction of these defects within their unions.

The greatest defect of the existing labor unions is the lack of self-governing function. For the past year, members of the labor unions have implicitly obeyed their leaders. Accordingly, the necessity and difficulty of self-governing was not felt, and the defect did not become apparent. The laborers, however, once they become awakened to the actuality of their unions, will become more outspoken in their criticism of the leaders. The labor unions, faced by the criticisms from their members as well as from the public, will be brought into disorder. To avoid this danger, the leader of the labor unions must now seriously consider the problem of self-governing.

There are many things to be considered in connection with self-governing. Firstly, the principle of decision by majority, which forms the basis of self-governing, does not seem to be always respected. The officials of labor unions are apt to force their will by gaining the majority in a fraudulent manner, and on the other hand, the members often ignore matters which have been decided upon by the majority. Secondly, the labor union officials are prone to take a dictatorial attitude, in spite of their status, to offer their services for the welfare of the union as a whole. It can also be noticed that there is a growing tendency among the officials to become bureaucratic and aristocratic. Once labor union officials attain the class of labor aristocrats, they adhere to their positions for materialistic and spiritualistic reasons. As a result, they form cliques in the unions or flatter the members to secure their positions. These tendencies are not yet noticeable in the labor unions of our country. We fear, however, that the labor unions in our country, unless some preventive methods are taken against these tendencies, will degenerate and finally become powerless.

I think that the aforementioned defects of the labor unions and the lack of self-reflection on their responsibilities will hinder the future development of labor union movements in our country. As a general rule that a social status must be accompanied by a proportionate amount of social responsibility. If a man fails to fulfill his social responsibility which arises from his position, he should be forced by society to resign from his position. This policy should be applied to the labor union, particularly to those with nationwide influence.

The labor union is essentially independent. It can freely decide on the matters related to its employees and to the Government. This does not mean, however, that the labor union be allowed to act as it chooses. If the labor union, relying upon its organized strength, acts high-handedly by disregarding public interests, public opinion will be against it, and the greater its influence, the stronger will be the criticism. The opposition to the arbitrariness of powerful labor unions often becomes political means to check the rights of the labor union, as were shown in the legislations in GREAT BRITAIN and the UNITED STATES in recent years.

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ITEM 5 Labor Unions Demand Revision of Enterprise Readjustment Law - Nihon Keizai - 5 Sep 47. Translator: T. Fukushima. (JJY)

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Full Translation:

Labor, opposed to the Anti-economic Concentration Bill, dissatisfied with the Enterprise Reconstruction and Readjustment Law as well. The National Congress of Industrial Organizations, the Japan Federation of Labor Unions, and the Japan Labor Council yesterday demanded that the Government postpone the deadline of 30 September for presentation by enterprises of their reconstruction and readjustment plans and, at the same time, proposed revision of the bill. The gist of the proposed amendments are:

(1) Approval critaria for Enterprise Reconstruction and Readjustment schedules should be announced to the people. Decisions should be made democratically.

(2) Overestimation of assets should be avoided in calculating valuation profits to meet special losses, because it not only violates the principle of Article 1 of the bill but also brings about higher production costs in readjusted enterprises. Higher costs will result in lower sales, which will in turn cause the reduction of pay and mass unemployment.

(3) The present order of assets in covering special losses tends to protect the interests of banks one-sidedly and place manufacturing enterprises under the control of the banks. Consequently, labor also will feel the pressure of financial capital in the long run. Therefore, it is advisable for the independence and stability of enterprises to change the order to "credits, capital, reserve funds" and not to calculate valuation profits. This will be favorable to labor, too. However, financial organs should be sufficiently protected from losses incurred by this step. Payment of liabilities to subcontractors and other small and medium traders and makers should not be suspended in spite of cancellation of other liabilities.

(4) It should be forbidden to sell for the purpose of meeting losses production equipment that is or will be operated, because such sales will hamper the recovery of production.

(5) The readjustment program should be sanctioned on condition that the enterprise may not distribute dividends unless it pays its employees a living wage.

(6) The bill should be revised so that a readjustment program shall be null and void unless it is approved by the labor union.

(7) The right to protest the decision on the readjustment program should be given to labor union.

(8) In order to democratize the Reconstruction and Readjustment Committee, the number of labor representatives should be increased to at least one third of the number of committeemen. At the same time, an industrial reconstruction committee should be established. At least one third of its committeemen should be labor representatives.

(9) Retirement and unemployment allowances to be granted to those discharged because of execution of war reparations or other unavoidable circumstances should be sufficient to insure their minimum existence.

ITEM 3 Metropolitan Labor Committee Considers Communication Workers' Demand - Yomiuri - 7 Sep 47. Translator: H. Nishihara. (WM)

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Full Translation:

The Central District Council of the All Communication Workers Union (ZENTEI CHUO CHIKYO) which had previously approached the Tokyo Communication Bureau with a three-item demand for a minimum wage of 5,400 yen for a four-member family, the payment of transportation expenses and the continuance of the special rice ration, submitted the dispute to the Metropolitan Labor Relation Committee on 3 September. On 6 September the Committee formally agreed to take up the matter.

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ITEM 5 Labor Committees Oppose Government Interference - Jiji - 12 Sep 47. Translator: M. Yasutake. (FST)

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Full Translation:

At the liaison and consultation meeting of all Japanese labor committees, which was held for three days from 8 September, the establishment of the independence of labor committees was most strongly emphasized and the problems of the budgets of the committees and the Government's right to make proposals became the center of heated discussion. The points insisted upon by labor committees include: (1) At present, expenses of labor committees are defrayed out of the budgets of prefectures and the national treasury, but in the future they should come from the National Diet. Consequently, labor committees should be responsible only to the National Assembly. (2) Both the Government and prefectural authorities must have nothing to do with the selection or the appointment of neutral members of labor committees.

The Government is now studying these two demands of labor committees. On 11 September, parliamentary Vice-minister DOI of the Labor Ministry expressed the stand of the Labor Ministry as follows:

"If the budgets of labor committees are defrayed by the Diet, a defect will arise in that the committees will not be able to definitely designate to the Diet those who will deal with Government representatives and those responsible for the receipt of the budgets. It will be more convenient to leave the matter under the jurisdiction of the Labor Ministry as at present.

"As for the problem of the Government's right to make proposals, if labor committees have concrete plans, the Labor Ministry will adopt them. We admit that under the present system it is very difficult to appoint purely neutral members of labor committees because party politics necessitates that consideration be given to parties in the selection."

ITEM 9 Tokyo Central District Council of Labor Unions to be Established - Akahata - 7 Sep 47. Translator: H. Nishihara. (GBS)

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Full Translation:

A preparatory conference for the formation of the "Tokyo Central District Council of Labor Unions (TOKYO CHUBUCHIKU ROSO KYOGIKAI) was held on 28 August at the Nihombashi Post Office building under joint sponsorship of the All Communication Workers Union (ZENTEI), the Tokyo Central District Council (TOKYO CHUO CHIKUKYO), the Shimbashi chapter of the Government Railway Workers Union, the Tokyo chapter of the Electric Industry Workers Unions and nine other unions. Present were representatives of 18 labor unions, including the Head Office chapter of the Government Railway Workers Union, the Kanda chapter of the Printing and Publishing Workers Union, the Metropolitan Teachers Union and the labor union of the Tsukijima Machinery Company (TSUKIJIMA KIKAI).

The conference reached the following agreements: (1) all independent labor unions, and branch offices of labor unions located within the central district of TOKYO will be urged to join this Council; (2) all chapters and independent labor unions within each administrative district will be united and frequent meetings will be held; (3) this council will be developed into a Metropolitan wide organization with the incorporation of unions outside the "central district". This action is significant in that it solidified the unification of the lowest rank and file union members, rather than union leaders who tend to run unions.

At the meeting, the Central District Council of the Communication Workers Union held a heated question and answer session on the minimum wage scale based on two different plans which the Central District Council had presented to its management. The meeting also debated on the wage system proposed by the head office chapter of the Government Railway Workers Union. In conclusion, all the unions agreed to work out their own wage systems on the basis of the two different standards and present them at the next meeting.

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POLITICAL SERIES: 1965 (Continued)

ITEM 10 Various Organizations Fighting for Leadership of Farmers' Front (Part Two) - Yomiuri - 13 Sep 47. Translator: J. Ide. (TK)

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Full Translation:

Central Honshū District

NIIGATA Ken: Since this prefecture is noted for its brilliant history in farm movements in the past, it is the strongest point of the Communist influence throughout the nation. Especially, the northern KANBARA District, centering around SHIBATA, has been organized under the farmers Committee led by SATO, Satoji. It is estimated that 1,500 farmers are affiliated with the committee. Meanwhile, INAMURA, Junzo, Socialist representative, and II, Seiichi, chairman of the Niigata chapter of the Japan Farmers Union, have occupied the JFU's prefectural chapter, and they tried to reorganize the chapter on 17 August into an anti-Communist setup. However, their attempt was confused by fist fights with pro-Communist members at the local convention.

As of the end of last year, it is estimated that there are 40,000 members in JOETSU District, 4,000 in central NIIGATA, 7,500 in NISHI KAMBARA District, 3,000 in SHIRANE GO District, 1,600 in eastern NIIGATA, and 32,000 in southern NIIGATA. Activities of the National Farmers Union, headed by KOBAYASHI, Susumu, are not as yet worthy of deep consideration.

NAGANO Ken: The stronghold of the JFU's prefectural chapter, with which 52,000 farmers are affiliated (as of the end of last year), lies in the southern part of the prefecture, from which JFU's Vice-president NOMIZO, Masaru, Socialist representative, has emerged. On the other hand, the northern part of the prefecture is the constituency of IWATA, Kenji and TANEMURA, Yoshikuni, both veteran Communists. The two districts are now opposing each other. At the end of last month, NOMIZO submitted his resignation and demanded the eradication of Communist elements from the prefectural chapter. Meanwhile, the NFU held its inaugural meeting at the initiative of NODA, but its influence is insignificant.

TOYAMA Ken: The JFU's prefectural chapter adopted an anti-Communist resolution at its convention on 2 August. The number of farmers affiliated with the JFU has now reached approximately 25,000. The NFU began an organizational campaign on the initiative of YAMABANA, Masajiro.

AICHI Ken: Although MIZUNO, Saneo, Socialist representative, is endeavoring to organize farmers under the NFU, its power is as yet very weak. At present, 50,000 farmers are affiliated with the JFU.

ISHIKAWA Ken: In spite of the participation of ARAKAWA, Jinsuke, of the NFU, his organizational activities are negligible. Members affiliated with the JFU have totaled approximately 10,000.

GIFU Ken: In the initiative of HIRAKU, Kiichi, Socialist representative, the entire prefectural chapter joined the National Farmers Union, and its inaugural convention is to be held on 5 October. Members are to total 45,000.

YAMANASHI Ken: Although this prefecture is the native place of HIRANO, Rikizo, boss of the NFU, the convention of the JFU's prefectural chapter last year expelled him from its camp. This proved to be a fuse for the split of the JFU's national convention in February. Both the JFU and the NFU are closely competing with each other. The leader of the JFU's prefectural chapter is FUKAZAWA, Yoshimori, left-wing Socialist.

SHIZUOKA Ken: The NFU's influence is insignificant and the JFU has taken the leadership of the farmers' movement in this prefecture.

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ITEM 10 (Continued)

Kinki District

OSAKA Fu: In KAWACHI IZUMI District, the NFU has began its organizational campaign under the leadership of KANO, Totsu, Socialist representative, who is reportedly under the influence of SUGIYAMA, Genjiro, elder of our farmers' movement and a purgee. The NFU's members already total 13,000. By taking KITA KAWACHI, MISHIMA, SUITA, SENNAN, and KISHIWADA as his constituencies, KATO, Mitsuru, chairman of the JFU's prefectural chapter, is supported by 5,000 farmers. With KISHIWADA Shi as the nucleus, TANABE, Osamu, veteran Socialist leader of the farmers' movement, has organized the Council of Farmers Unions in SENSHU District, with which 4,000 farmers are affiliated. Several organizational fights are being carried on among these three bodies. Before the split of the JFU, 18,000 farmers were assembled under its banner. TAKAHASHI, Iwao, Communist, is active in KITA KAWACHI District.

HYOGO Ken: Important posts of the JFU's prefectural chapter have been occupied by such pro-Communist elements as TAGAMI, Kaiji, its chairman, and TAMAOKI, Keiichi, vice-chairman. The NFU is led by KAWAI, Giichi, Socialist representative, and KITA, Soemon, leader of the Tajima Farmers Council. The Communists and the NFU are closely competing with each others.

KYOTO Fu: NAGAI, Ken, leader of the NFU, has occupied YAMASHIRO District and is marching toward TAMBA District. The members of the JFU under the influence of SAKAMOTO, Hyozo, still total 8,000.

SHIGA Ken: Both the JFU and the NFU are competing closely with each other.,

NARA Ken: At the executive committee meeting of the JFU's chapter on 19 August, some members headed by ITO, Kotaro, Socialist representative, parted from their comrades so as to form the NFU's Nara chapter. However, the JFU's organizational power is far stronger than that of the NFU.

MIE Ken and WAKAYAMA Ken: The unity under the JFU has remained constant.

Southern Honshu District

OKAYAMA Ken: Since this prefecture is the old constituency of JFU's President KURODA, Hisao, Socialist representative, no maneuvers of the NFU have been in evidence. Because of his pro-Communist attitude, he has kept pace with Communist leaders, such as KAWAI, Toru, and ITANO, Katsuji. Nevertheless, at the prefectural convention at the end of August, the problem regarding the establishment of a free stand caused some confusion. His good personality, however, surmounted this crisis and the problem will never come to the surface again. Members now total 35,000.

HIROSHIMA Ken: At the prefectural convention on 10 July, pro-Communist leaders were purged. One of the remarkable things is the activity of YAMASHIRO, Tomoe, female ex-Communist.

TOTTORI Ken: There is the Tottori General Federation of Farmers Unions with OYAMA, Hatsutaro as its leader. Its participation in the NFU turned out to be a mere rumor. The organization is keeping pace with the JFU (members total 30,000).

YAMAGUCHI Ken and SHIMANE Ken: All unions are united under the banner of the JFU in both prefectures. Total membership has now reached approximately 10,000.

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Shikoku District

KAGAWA Ken: The JFU and the NFU, initiated by MIYAWAKI, Tomoo, left-wing Socialist, and HISOBUCHI, Matsutaro, Socialist representative, respectively, are fighting a close race. These two leaders were opposing each other before the split. From the viewpoint of organizational power, however, the JFU is stronger. Organized farmers now total 40,000.

KOCHI Ken: SATAKE, Haruki, Socialist representative and leader of the NFU, has now embarked on a campaign to unionize unorganized farmers. The JFU is suffering from the lack of able leaders. The energetic activities of SAKAMOTO, Hiroshi, Communist, is being watched with keen interest.

TOKUSHIMA Ken: Under the guidance of NARUSE, Yoshigoro, Socialist and secretary of the JFU, the solidarity of the organization has remained unchanged. As of the end of last year, members reached 20,000.

EHIME Ken: HAYASHIDA, Tetsuo, is endeavoring to organize the prefectural chapter of the NFU, but all the farmers are supporting the JFU's programs. Members total 20,000.

Kyushu District

FUKUOKA Ken: Under the influence of INATOMI, Ryoto, purged former Toho-Kai member and later Socialist, the NFU's influence is overwhelming. The presidency of the JFU's chapter has been occupied by SAITO, Hisao, Communist.

KUMAMOTO Ken: The JFU's influence is still overwhelming, and the NFU is outnumbered by four to one. The number of organized farmers has reached 8,000.

OITA Ken: Former bosses of the JFU's chapter, headed by ex-chairman ABE, Reiji, MORI, Tatsuhiko, and TANAKA, Wataru ran into the NFU's camp. However, most farmers assembled under the guidance of AOYAGI, Ukigame, Socialist, who is faithful to JFU's fundamental principles.

KAGOSHIMA Ken, SAGA Ken, MIYAZAKI Ken, and NAGASAKI Ken: Although the NFU's influence is seen in NAGASAKI Ken, other prefectures have been placed under the strong leadership of the JFU.

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ITEM 9 Labor Unions Voice Opinions of Supreme Labor Council - Tokyo Shimbun - 13 Sep 47. Translator: Y. Akabane. (TK)

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Full Translation:

Various labor groups are deeply interested in the Supreme Labor Council contemplated with great hope and ambition by Labor Minister YONEKUBO at the start of the Labor Ministry. The success or failure of this council solely depends on whether or not these labor groups will positively co-operate in the movements for increased production and industrial peace through this council. At present, these labor groups entertain various doubts regarding the council.

Roughly speaking, those belonging to the National Congress of Industrial Organizations are stressing speedy establishment of a new wage structure rather than the creation of this kind of council in order to stabilize fundamentally the livelihood of laborers, while others affiliated with the Japan Federation of Labor Unions and the Japan Congress of Labor Unions are demanding that it be made a productive council to be propelled as a link of the economic rehabilitation movement. Thus, the road to the establishment of the Supreme Labor Council which is contemplated by the Yonekubo labor administration is expected to be full of difficulties.

The following are some of the opinions of these labor groups:

JFL— Supreme Labor Council Should Be a Productive Council

"No labor representative is seen in the personnel composition of the Labor Ministry. Only the name of Mrs YAMAKAWA as a bureau director is found as an exceptional case. Authorities on labor questions ought to have been likewise assigned to the posts of sectional and bureau chiefs of labor administration. If it was not possible in practice, there may arise a necessity for the Labor Ministry to have some organ maintaining close liaison between the ministry and labor unions. If the Supreme Labor Council has been contemplated to attain this end, we are ready to support it.

"The council has its raison d'etre if it will serve to enhance production through the co-operation of the union representatives to supplement what the Labor Ministry is lacking and thereby fully reflect the opinions of unions. The council should be created for this purpose. We decidedly oppose it if the council is intended to determine the highest policy of labor questions with the Premier as its chairman, and presidents and vice-presidents of both Houses as well as five economic ministers among others as its members. In short, we insist on the establishment of a consultative organ directly controlled by the Labor Ministry. As the unification of the labor front has not yet been realized, there may be some questions which cannot be solved by the council because of heated controversies resulting from the difference of opinions, but we cannot help it, and it would be wise to do what is possible."

NCIO— Council Is Harmful if It Is a Consultative Organ

"Although the Yonekubo labor administration has taken up the so-called Supreme Labor Council as its first policy to begin work on, we cannot understand what it means. The idea is ambiguous. It is very likely that the council is aimed at solving labor questions which are now threatening to become complicated as a result of the emergence of the Labor Ministry.

"Meanwhile, it is said that the chairman of the council will be the premier, and five or six ministers will be nominated as members. If so, what is its relation to the Diet? If it is simply a consultative organ, it would be better if it were not on so big a scale as rumored. We think it sufficient to operate it by leaders of the Labor Administration Bureau and the formal representatives of laborers and capitalists. If laborers' opinions are adopted or reflected by this council in such a way, it means

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much progress. The Government is apt to make a number of neutral parties participate such as men of erudition or experience, but their participation tends to make the nature of the council vague. We do not want them. If clear opinions of the representatives of laborers and capitalists are fully expressed to be of service to production rehabilitation, it will be enough. If the council is simply a consultative organ, it is harmful.

"We hope that the council will seek a national solution to the wage countermeasure which has not become a serious issue, by assuming ruling powers and consulting with the Economic Stabilization Board and Agriculture-Forestry Ministry, fully taking into account the relations between wages and commodity prices. At any rate, the Labor Ministry has been established; so we hope that it becomes a propelling power of new policies and gets to the crux of them. For instance, foods are scarce everywhere without exception and so in the question of securing them the council is asked to determine what part of the country should first be helped."

JCLU-- Not Much Is Expected

"Although it is called the Supreme Labor Council, we fear it will turn out to be as the lowest labor council. Judging from the composition now contemplated, its nature is not clear, especially its relations with the Diet are ambiguous. We are afraid that it will in the end stick in the mud. If the council is made similar to the Rehabilitation Council or the Production Council, what is contemplated by the Labor Ministry must be made smaller in scale. No big organ as is seen in foreign countries can be formed in JAPAN.

"Among laborers and even capitalists, some are ready to co-operate with the Government, others not, and still others believe that the council will collapse without fail at least once. Hence, the Government should push its plan by shaking hands with those ready to co-operate for the present. At any rate, the Government should have its policy firmly established, hear others' opinions, and direct its course toward it. Politicians hailing from labor circles are apt to take the initiative in everything and make public their policies before they are fixed. Such an announcement is desired after mature consideration."

Government Railway Workers Unions--
Still Premature

"It is still premature to have a supreme council, even as a consultative organ. A round-table conference would be better. For this purpose, the existing structure of the Japan Federation of Government and Municipal Office Workers Labor Unions may preferably be utilized. It is not wise to make the Premier chairman and give the council strong authority corresponding to a decision-making organ, as long as there is the Diet. It cannot be called democratic. We absolutely oppose it. If necessary, it should start as a round-table conference, and if it is deemed necessary to have a supreme council in the course of the exchange of opinions between labor and capital, then it may be created. It is meaningless to indulge in empty dreams."

The National Communications Workers
Unions-- Food and Wage Stability First

"First of all the council should be of such a nature as to be able to cooperate in reconstruction. To materialize this, stress must be placed on wages and foodstuffs in order that the new institution will be so composed as to enable laborers to follow its policy fully persuaded. As laborers cannot in reality maintain their livelihood, the Government must first of all show its sincerity to give them food and on this prerequisite establish the reconstruction plan hand in hand with laborers. If this sincerity is not shown by the Government, any excellent idea of the supreme labor council will be a mere scrap of paper. Its members must be selected democratically, and not nominated unilaterally."

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EDITORIAL SERIES: 1920 (Continued)

ITEM 2 The Dual Character of the Government Office Workers Union - Provincial Paper: Tokai Yukan (Gifu) - 3 Sep 47. Translator: T. Unayama. (GBS)

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Summary:

The problem of reforming the character of government officials is one of the most conspicuous problems confronting us today. The military clique and ZAIBATSU have already been dissolved and the responsible politicians and leaders, who led us during the war, have been thoroughly investigated and purged from their positions. However, bureaucracy still offers a haven for government officials. Of course, with the enforcement of the new constitution a change has taken place in this haven in that the officials are no longer responsible to the Emperor but to the people. Bureaucracy will be subject to further reforms and discipline when the National Civil Service Bill and the Administration Supervisory Commission Bill are enacted into laws.

Yet, in this period of reform, government officials still enjoy various privileges. Because of these privileges, the reform of government officials has been retarded compared with reforms in other groups. This is also the reason for sharp criticisms aimed at the bureaucrats in the deliberation on the Labor Ministry Bill and the Public Corporation Bill in the Diet session. For example, the half-day system of the government officials was subjected to a severe censure and it seems that the government officials still have the idea that they are officials of the Emperor, and that, as such , they still are privileged to rule the people. However, when the people raised a strong protest against this half-day system, the officials were thrown into a great confusion, and, except for a few, they could not work out any adequate disposition of this problem. Almost all of them turned a deaf ear to the protest and this affair was settled only after the announcement of withdrawal of the system by the Cabinet.

At that time, in this prefecture (GIFU Ken), a negotiation between the governor and the Government Office Workers Union on the labor contract was in progress, but the union, instead of supporting the protest of the people on the summer half-day system, completely ignored the issue. To make matters worse, the National Union of Communication Workers intended to enforce the system, asserting that the withdrawal of the system was against the labor contract. Thus, the supposedly democratic labor unions, conducted themselves contrary to the expectations of the public. It is most deplorable that the government officials in our country have a dual character combining democracy and feudalism.

The summer half-day system has been abolished nominally, but by sabotage, the half-day system is now being carried out in every government office. In a certain office, the shift system has been adopted, in another, half of the personnel receive a leave of absence everyday, while in another office, the doors are closed at an early hour on the pretext that there is no work available. These facts speak of the traditional standard of the government offices, namely, Japanese efficiency, and this has been responsible for the nurturing of an erroneous view of life among the government officials. Therefore, a reform of government officials under the new democrat.. Constitution can never be accomplished unless their sense of superiority and their version of efficiency are corrected. If the officials continue to assume their present attitude, the people will never sympathize with them, no matter how much the Government Office Workers Union may advocate a wage increase for them, because of the high cost of living. If the Government Office Workers Union is to be of any value to its members, it should strive to guide its members on the proper course.

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ITEM 9 Government Confident in Yonekubo's Ability - Shin Hochi - 2 Sep 47. Translator: A. Kido. (DD)

Full Translation:

The Government has decided to assume a very cautious attitude toward future labor union movements. At the time of the Government's formation, it conducted informal talks with persons connected with labor and directly linked the ESB with the Economic Rehabilitation Council thus establishing a co-operative setup. On the other hand, it organized the Cabinet Labor Conference appointing Ministers YONEKUBO, WADA, and KURUSU to play the leading roles in negotiating with other parties. With the establishment of the Labor Ministry today the Government has now decided to energetically carry out labor administration centering around the said ministry and to face the labor offensive by announcing, about the middle of this month, an emergency declaration relating to a labor-capital truce.

From the viewpoint that the present economic crisis cannot be surmounted without the co-operation of the laboring class, the Government is going to attach importance in its labor administration to the formation of sound unions. It will have concluded between labor and capital a perfect labor contract by means of a free application of the Labor Union Law, the Labor Adjustment Law and the Labor Standards Law which may well be called labor charters.

On the other hand, the Government is going to thoroughly democratize and make the unions autonomous so that they may become the nucleus of economical rehabilitation. For this purpose, the Government intends to make the Labor Ministry a "service" ministry where the "counter-first" principle will be adopted and things done promptly, as in banks. On the other hand, an industrial safety institute will be set up to study the prevention of accidents in factories and as an organ for technical training, as well as a ships crew-labor liaison council to act as a liaison organ with the Transportation Ministry on matters relating to the crew-labor administration. In this manner, close touch can be kept with other ministries. Further, the Government is contemplating the establishing of the Supreme Labor Council with the premier as chairman, and with a membership of about 25, including Cabinet ministers concerned and with labor, representatives of both labor and capital, the labor committee chairmen of both Houses and the directors thereof.

Of the measures now under consideration, the Government, on the 28th, submitted to the Diet the Unemployment Insurance Bill and the Unemployment Allowance Bill as antiunemployment measures. Besides, the Government has to deal with the revision of the Labor Union Law; the transfer to the Cabinet of the Central Labor Committee; the security of additional rice ration to labor; the establishment of the unemployment Edu[illegible] and Relief Boards; the institution of a social security system; the exploitation of new sources of electricity; the improvement of roads; new plans for public utilities such as cultivation of new land;and the creation of a reward system.

The Government has absolute confidence in the labor administration of Minister YONEKUBO.

ITEM 10 Demands of Greater Choshi Fishing Boats' Sailors Union Settled - Akahata - 7 Sep 47. Translator: T. Ogawa. (GBS)

Full Translation:

The demands of the Greater Choshi Fishing Boats' Sailors Union, which have already been reported, were settled on 29 August between the 50 representatives of the Union, supported by 100 representatives of the general public and the 12 officials of the Fishery Association headed by President SAKAKIBARA. The terms are as follows:

1) The payment of 700 yen to the summer workers (July - October) and 1,300 yen to the winter workers (November - June) which was demanded will be paid according to each fisherman's ability.
2) A sum of 50 yen will be paid with one meal for work during bad weather (which is done on land when there is no fishing).
3) The percentage for fishing within Tokyo Bay will be 35 percent with the boat-owners bearing 30 - 40 days expenses for board.

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ITEM 4 Lack of Unity in Farmers' Front - Seiji - 12 Sep 47. Translator: J. Ide. (TK)

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Summary:

The Socialist triumph in the recent Lower House election is mainly attributable to the fact that the party has powerful organizations among workers and farmers. This will prove to be the thing to watch for both the Liberals and the Democrats. For conservative parties which are not in a position to represent the working people in the fight for protecting their livelihood, the organizing of working masses is utterly impossible. Especially, this can be applied to the organization of laborers and office workers.

However, our farmers are hesitating to support radical political parties because of the existence of conservatism among these people. In this sense, we cannot jump to the hasty conclusion that there is already no room for the organization of farmers by conservative elements. Frankly speaking, however, the establishment of the All Japan Farmers Union and the Farmers' Co-operative Democratic League, which are now projected by the Liberals and the Democrats respectively, can be considered preparations to collect votes for a general election. Under these conditions, the Liberal-sponsored All Japan Farmers Union will not develop in the future.

As a result of the defeat, not only big landlords but also medium landowners have become unable to live on rent in accordance with the land reform system. In the face of this new situation, the Japan Farmers Union, which represents mainly the interest of tenant farmers, will be unable to discover opponents to fight. If the union will not drastically change its stand, its foundations will collapse in the near future.

In this respect, the organization of the National Farmers Union by the JFU's renovationists is worthy of our deep consideration. The National Farmers Union is reportedly ready to realize village co-prosperity based on co-operative organizations. In accordance with the enforcement of the Agricultural Co-operative Association Law, the existing agricultural associations will be completely disbanded. Therefore, one of the most urgent issues to be solved by farmers unions is how to adjust their relationship with new co-operative associations.

The Japan Farmers Union has been divided into pro and anti-Communist groups. This separation of our farmers front is most undesirable. We sincerely hope that a united and spontaneous farmers union, corresponding to the actuality of our agrarian situation, will be established in the future.

ITEM 8 Attempts to Take Anti-Communist Actions Foiled - Akahata - 7 Sep 47. Translator: Y. Akasaka. (GBS)

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Full Translation:

A joint convention of Japan Farmers Union Chapters in NIIGATA Ken, MINAMIUONUMA Gun was held on 31 August at the Muikamachi Elementary School. A total of 400 persons, including representatives of farmers' unions and visitors were present.

Some of the Socialist leaders tried to push anti-Communistic policies, as was done in the 17 August prefectural joint meeting, as previously reported. Confusion reigned until a Communist Party member set forth true arguments on the issues and it was decided that the Minamiuonuma Council of Japan Farmers Union Chapters would defer decision on its stand until the next meeting. The chairman ruled that the resolution containing anti-Communistic statements which had been prepared for the meeting be omitted.

After the meeting both ASANUMA, Inejiro and NAMURA, Junzo, taking advantage of the Mountain people, delivered demagogic lectures on their own accord and departed for the Yusawa Hot Springs.

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ITEM 11 Union Interference with Power Allocation Alleged - Tokyo Shimbun - 8 Sep 47. Translator: T. Mitsuhashi. (DD)

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Summary:

Full food rations are likely to be made in September with imported and home-produced foodstuffs, but it is reported that the lack of milling facilities may compel the rationning of unhulled wheat in some areas. Although full rations are welcome, if they include practically uneatable commodities, they are in no way better than non-rations. However, the electric power shortage at processing factories is to blame for this. The Government, at a Cabinet meeting on 19 August, decided to give priority to food factories in the use of electric power. Since these factories have already ranked as "A" class, "A" group in the electric supply program, the Cabinet decision seems strangely pointless.

On 27 August the decision was conveyed by FURUIKE, chief of the Power Bureau of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to chiefs of prefectural bureaus, who notified electric power distribution companies under their jurisdiction to that effect. There are more than 20 large factories, located in KANAGAWA, GUMMA, IBARAGI, SAITAMA, and CHIBA, which engage in hulling and milling wheat for TOKYO. The Tsurumi Mill of the Nisshin Flour Company and the Yokohama Mill of the Japan Flour Company are now working 24 hours with full electricity supply, while medium and small factories in GUMMA, IBARAGI, and SAITAMA are idle due to the frequent interruptions of supply. One reason for this is the shortage of oil-switches and transformers controlling supply of power to particular factories.

Particularly disturbing is the growing tendency for affiliated bodies of the Electric Industry Workers Union (DENSAN-RO-KUMI) to completely disregard the Government's directive, on power restriction to general households in accordance with the decision of the electric power council formed under the name of democratic distribution of power. So-called democratic power distribution is being carried out for example, at the Kawagoe Mill of the Nisshin Flour Company, the Fukaya and Kumagaya Mills of the Nitto Flour Company and the Tokorozawa Mill in SAITAMA Ken. Other causes reported are the union's interference in electric installation work and frequent stoppages of power supply to factories where electric current is transmitted by special lines.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry stated: "Interruption of electric current three times a week causes a 25 percent decrease in processing. Unreliable power supply brings down the processing capacity about 10 percent, and this corresponds to the amount of unhulled wheat to be distributed. The Electric Industry Workers Union has become the focus of public attention from its action taken in the food issue.

FURUIKE, chief of the Power Bureau hoped that power self-control (JISHUKU) associations would induce householders to economize in power in order to supply sufficient to food factories.

TAKEUCHI, vice-chairman of the Electric Industry Workers Union stated: "Union headquarters know little of the matter. It will immediately be referred to the electric power council in the district where the problem arose. As far as the union is concerned we cannot possibly have impeded the supply of electric power. The council has neither supplying rights nor deciding rights, its mission is to see that power is equitably distributed to consumers, it is not in a position to inpede power supply to factories ranked as 'class A, group A'. It may be a deliberate distortion of the unions activities intentionally made by the company to shift responsibility upon the union."

ITEM 7 Ishikawa Labor Unions Hold Inaugural Meet - Akahata - 7 Sep 47. Translator: S. Fujiwara. (AH)

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Full Translation:

On 1 September under the sponsorships of the NCIO, the JFL, the National Council of Government and Public Office Workers Unions, and other neutral labor unions, an inaugural meeting of the Congress of All Labor Unions in ISHIKAWA Ken was held at the Fourth High School in KANAZAWA Shi.

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ITEM 5 Unification of Farmers' Front - Provincial Paper: Fukui Shimbun (Fukui) - 2 Sep 47. Translator: Y. Kuniyasu. (GBS)

145

Summary:

Recently, the unification of the prefectural chapters of the Farmers Federation and the Japan Farmers Union is being realized. This is worth noticing. In the past, these organizations have been placed in a correlative position. The fundamental cause underlying this opposition is believed to be the sentimental misunderstanding between the leaders of the two organizations. This is the reason why the unification of the farmers' front has never been realized.

However, the re-election of prefectural officials of the Socialist Party paved the way for a mutual agreement, and, stimulated by the self-reflection of the Japan Farmers Union and the change of objective circumstance necessary for the unification of the farmers front, the theoretical basis for the agreement was clarified. Consequently, it is noteworthy that the mutual agreement has been attained through the free will of the lower, instead of the higher, echelon of the organization. But the political awakening of the farmers is still confined to a small fraction of the farming class, and the majority of the farmers are still politically uneducated. This is the existing situation and unless it is improved, a unification of the farmer's front can never be expected. It is for this reason that strenuous efforts on the part of the leaders of the agricultural districts are especially desirous.

In view of the inevitable advent of a depression in the farming areas, sooner or later, the farmers must unite to solve the many political issues which still remain unsettled. The preparations for the settlement of these issues must be made now. For the complete fulfillment of the farm release and the realization of the Second Farm Land Reform, the farmers must strongly organize themselves. They must form a solid front by laying aside their post partisan strifes. Furthermore, it is generally pointed out that after the completion of the farm land reform, the increase of small scale farming cannot be avoided. To perfect farm management under this circumstance, the co-operative system must be adopted. The way to the establishment of this system has been paved by the recently enacted Agricultural Co-operative Law, but for its realization, a strong unification of the farmers is also imperative.

Be that as it may, to elevate the social, economic and cultural position of the farmers and to raise their living standard, many pending problems in political and economic fields must be solved. Only then can the real democratization of the farming areas be realized.

ITEM 14 Government Railway Workers Union Demands Minimum Wage - Akahata - 9 Sep 47. Translator: C. Akashi. (AH)

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Full Translation:

At a meeting of the workers of the Nakano District Branch of the Tokyo Government Railway Workers Union on 26 August the following agreements were reached.

To establish a minimum wage system on the basis of the complete rationing of daily necessities, under the proper price structure; in the event that such a complete rationing system cannot be assured, a 2,800 yen minimum wage; deficit-covering allowances at the rate of 2,000 yen per employee and 1,000 yen per dependent; strong opposition to the expiration of collective bargaining announced by the authorities as well as insistence on its continuance; absolute opposition to the enforcement of the National Civil Service Bill; and abolition of the labor income tax.

Moreover, it unanimously adopted the resolution to resort to more decisive measures, should the worst come to the worst, in order to attain the above demands.

Moreover, along with the immediate formation of a powerful committee an appeal will be made to the Metropolitan Labor Relations Committee.

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ITEM 6 Guardians of the Labor Union Law - Akahata - 16 Sep 47. Translator: S. Yokoyama. (AH)

Summary:

In view of a recent trend in which a laborers' movement against the average wage system and the enterprise readjustment policy of the Katayama Cabinet is spreading throughout the country, the first All Japan Labor Committee Liaison Conference (ZENKOKU RODO IINKAI RENRAKU GIKAI) which was opened recently in TOKYO, is worth watching.

Under present circumstances, the importance of such a conference warrants no explanation. However, the motive of the recent conference, that is, the intrigue to make labor committees bureaucratic, must not be overlooked. Although the conference was formally sponsored by the chairmen of the central and local labor committees, in truth it was summoned by Labor Minister YONEKUBO who schemed to make labor committees an administrative organ under the Labor Ministry to realize a labor-capital truce, as reported by bourgeois newspapers. Even at present labor committees are under the influence of bureaucrats. It was with an intention to completely bureaucratize labor committees that such problems as the neutral status of the labor committees and their responsibility as special administrative organs were submitted to the conference. Due to the effort of committee members representing labor, the independence of labor committees and their right to decide on personnel affairs and to draw up appropriations have been approved.

Furthermore, the conference demanded the right of labor committees to intervene in labor disputes which will be mediated by judicial powers. This point must be particularly noticed, since it thwarted the baffled plans of YONEKUBO.

The future questions are how to put into practice decisions of the conference, how to attain more favorable results in the future, and how to solve as quickly as possible, questions which have not yet been deliberated by the conference. It must be noticed that although decisions were made along democratic lines in the recent conference, the bureaucrats still retain a strong influence over the labor committees.

In order to really democratize labor committees and make their organizations independent from bureaucratic influence, labor representatives must redouble their efforts.

Needless to say, labor committees were formed based on the Labor Union Law which aims at the development of labor unions. In other words, labor committees must be guardians of the Labor Union Law and be the representative organ to defend laborers' rights of organization and collective bargaining against any external interference. All the problems of labor committees must be solved along this line.

In view of the present situation in which a movement to protect laborers' livelihood is again becoming powerful, it is of utmost importance to stamp out any intrigue to bureaucratize labor committees and to make committees function properly. For this purpose, all the laborers must not only encourage committee members representing labor, but also keep an eye on the overall activities of labor committees.

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ITEM 7 New Twists and Moves of Labor Movement - Yomiuri - 21 Sep 47.
Translator: T. Kitagawa. (TK)

Full Translation:

As of January 1946 our labor unions had reached 575 in number with estimated membership of 495,000, surpassing in the first five postwar months the 1936 all-time high of 420,000 members of 973 unions. We have seen an even more amazing growth of unions in the fact that by June this year the number of unions had swollen to 23,000, composed of 5,610,000 members including 70 percent of employed workers. As far as figures are concerned our unions are on the level of those in advanced nations.

However, in contrast to unions in the senior nations of the civilized world where unions through years of bitter experience were led to gentler manners and methods, ours were extraordinarily handicaped by the vacuum of ten wartime years, by divided leadership principles, by their unpreparedness for the democratic age, and by their poor intellectual and financial background.

Unions should above all respect the individuality of their members. As liberal and dependable groups they should to protect their members' welfare by means of free discussions. The right to strike should never be abused for political purposes. Unions should not be made the tools of political groups nor conciliatory bodies in labor-capital disputes.

The abortive attempt in OSAKA to unite the Japan Federation of Labor Unions and the National Congress of Industrial Organizations is still fresh in our memory. We witness a trend among provincial unions to organize a congress of unions as was evidenced in the KYUSHU District. We are interested in this tendency as an inevitable step on the road to formation of industrial unions.

The real aim of our unions must be the attainment of democracy by peaceful measures and not by strikes. Unions are warned against becoming the cat's paws of political agitators. In a country where unions hold revolutionary principles there would be no joint labor movement or parliamentary and democratic politics.

Since the 1 February strike attempt, the union movement has become somewhat reflective, which we deem is an important turning point in labor activities. During this introspective stage, the wider use of labor contracts and attempts to smooth labor-capital differences or production reconstruction disputes through the means of collective bargaining have become more accentuated. So far labor contracts number 4,200 involving 89 percent of workers, which is four times last year's figure with the result of increased production. We hail this qualitative development of unions.

Meanwhile, in contrast to the JFLU's line-up with the price stabilization plan with the average monthly wage of 1,800 yen and 1,550 calories as its basis, the National Congress of Industrial Organizations attacked the measure and is influencing unions under its banner. The charge by the NCIO is characteristically represented by two demands, one by the National Communication Workers Union for 2,400 calories and the other by the Electric Industry Workers Union for 3,600 yen as wages. It is outrageous to dare such a demand at the cost of financial ruin for a nation which is struggling for industrial recovery. This is a disgrace to the reputation of unions. Leftist union principles in unions, hampering the free and proper progress of the labor movement, must be eliminated.

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ITEM 7 Yonekubo to Establish Labor Halls in Industrial Centers - Shin Hochi - 9 Sep 47. Translator: T. Fukizawa. (DD)

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Full Translation:

Labor Minister Yonekubo has announced that he intends to adopt a special, reward system for labor organizations and individual workers who attain high proficiency in production as one measure to heighten the will to produce in order to surmount the economic crisis.

At the same time, and if the outlay for it is approved in the budget, the Ministry is planning to establish a Labor Hall in the industrial centers such as TOKYO, OSAKA, and FUKUOKA to provide facilities for lodging, regular, labor lectures and recreations for the laborers. This plan was discussed at the conference of the chiefs of the Bureaus and Sections on 6 Sep and a part of the details worked out; and it was decided to shortly submit the plan to the Cabinet. However, because so much of the plan depends upon how the supplementary budget is decided, it cannot be known to what extent these suggestion will be adopted. However, the Labor Ministry strongly wants to carry out this plan in view of the fact that this is the first concrete measure of YONEKUBO's labor administration based on a new policy.

ITEM 5 Price of Progress - Jiji - 22 Sep 47. Translator: J. Ide. (JJY)

Summary:

According to the latest figures available, 5,630,000 workers have been organized into 22,700 unions throughout the nation, and most of these unions have concluded labor contracts with employers. These figures have clearly revealed the remarkable improvement of working conditions on the part of workers. Moreover, a precedent-shattering Labor Standards Law has been enacted. This measure has secured the future improvement of working conditions for the benefit of workers. At all events, the working conditions of our people have been remarkably improved as a result of the defeat. However, it must not be overlooked that such progress could not have been realized without cost.

As the price of the remarkable progress of our labor movement, it cannot be denied that the improvement of our working conditions have adversely affected the industrial production of the nation, directly or indirectly. In short, this improvement has resulted in the delay of industrial rehabilitation and the stagnation of increased production.

Since the termination of the war, our country has been suffering from industrial stagnation and inflation. Under these circumstances, this progress have proved to be a great burden at the sacrifice of industrial rehabilitation.

According to reports, English miners decided to prolong their working hours in order to overcome the nation's economic crisis. We sincerely hope that our progress in the field of labor movement will turn out to be an economic advance for our country.

ITEM 14 Sport and Frolic Councils Organized for Workers - Minpo - 13 Sep 47. Translator: K. Segawa. (AH)

145

Summary:

Recently two workship councils have been formed to afford sound recreation for the working people. One is the sports council and the other the dance council.

The sports council will hold its inaugural meeting early in October. Among the advisors who are conducting negotiations are SUEHIRO, Gentaro, and SUZUKI, Tomin. The CIO and JFL and several other organizations will also act as sponsors. Teams for almost all kinds of sports including baseball, basket-ball, wrestling, swimming and mountain-climbing will be formed.

The council plans to secure the distribution of sporting goods through the Education Ministry. The publication of "Sports News" and inter-union matches are also contemplated. The formation of the sports council is expected to affect the Physical Culture Association which has a monopolistic influence in athletic circles.

The dance committee will hold its first meeting on the 18th. Forty four unions will participate with that of the State Railways at the center. The committee is making plans to popularize social dancing, group dancing and the modern dance among the working people.

It will also serve as an agent for holding training courses, conversation, and consultative meetings.

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ITEM 8 First Union of the Toho Movie Company Presents Demands - Jimmin - 30 Aug 47. Translator: M. Higuchi. (GBS)

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Full Translation:

Steady progress in the deliberation of the enterprise reconstruction and readjustment program, which aims at the rationalized management of the Tohø Movie Picture Company through a separation of enterprise, was assured by TANABE, president of the company, as previously reported. However, the relation between the company and workers was aggravated when the company stressed that the existence of two opposing unions in t the company were the cause of the current business depression of the company, and, therefore, much consideration should be given to the elimination of such opposing forces in formulating a concrete rationalization proposal before it was submitted to the Labor-management Conference.

Condemning the company's attitude that excluded the union members from deliberation on the proposal as being unfair, workers have demanded that the enterprise readjustment proposal be mapped out, based upon the will of workers, as well as that of the company.

The First Union, which began the fight against the company, has decided upon a campaign program with the settlement of the enterprise readjustment problem as its main object. The First Union has decided that the participation of the union in drafting the enterprise readjustment proposal will be demanded of the company. The union's demands may be summarized as follows:

(1) Participation by the union in deliberating upon the enterprise readjustment proposal drafted by the company. (By this, the union aims that the will of the union be fully reflected upon the proposal).

(2) Mapping out of a production rehabilitation program by the union.

(a) Extending and strengthening labor power and materials.

(b) Establishing an eight hour work day.

(c) Fixing of a suitable number of film productions. (By this, the union aims to prevent the company from arbitrarily handling personnel affairs and discharging workers.)

(3) Establishing a new wage system. (This wage demand is based upon the wage system proposed by the Nihon Movie and Stage Workers Union Headquarters.)

It is expected that the union, deliberating upon details, will enter negotiations with the company early in September. Attention is being paid to the future of the negotiations.

ITEM 8 Yonekubo Encourages Educational Efforts of Unions - Asahi - 13 Sep 47. Translator: R. Aoki. (FST)

145

Full Translation:

For the purpose of revitalizing labor administration on the occasion of the establishment of the Labor Ministry, the Ministry called a conference of local chiefs of labor administrations yesterday at the Central Labor School in TOKYO. In attendance were 46 chiefs of labor sections, welfare sections, or civic education sections of prefectural governments.

After the welcoming address by Labor Minister YONEKUBO and Mr KILLEN, chief of the ESS Labor Division, the meeting considered matters of operation and readjustment of labor administration, promotion of labor education, unemployment remedies, labor committees, and the new Women's and Children's Bureau etc. The gist of the address of Minister of Labor YONEKUBO follows:

"We must be cautious not to attempt summary oppression of labor disputes, since each dispute has its own reason. It is important, however, that the parties concerned settle the issue amicably through earnest joint negotiation or through arbitration of impartial mediators. To achieve this purpose, the Government expects positive and unbiased mediation by labor committees. Harmonious contacts between administrative authorities on labor and labor committees is most desirable.

"Labor education must be promoted to bring about the healthy progress of the labor movements. In this regard, we highly respect autonomous educational efforts of unions. The Government will promote these efforts of unions by means of supplying all available materials or data."

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ITEM 4 The Turning Point of the Japanese Labor Movement (by Hara Toraichi) - Shakai Shimbun - 15 Sep 47. Translators: M. Ohno and S. Yokoyama. (DD)

Summary:

The Japanese labor unions are now confronting an important turning point after two years' experience. Labor unions are ready to take a responsible attitude which is imperative under the present situation. The number of organized laborers amounted to about 5,629,000 as of last June. The most conspicuous feature is the increase of labor contracts which total 4,273. The number of laborers who come under their application amounts to more than 5,053,000; that is, 89.7 percent of all organized laborers. This number of labor contracts is four times that of 31 December, last year. This is proof that labor unions have come to realize the importance of solving labor problems through collective bargaining. Labor unions have acquired the guiding principle of the labor union movement through experience. That they have a correct understanding of the present situation proves their progress.

The formation of a Socialist-led Cabinet exerted a great influence upon labor unions. Labor unions came to realize their responsibility in bringing about a Socialist-led Cabinet and were able to hope for the enforcement of the form of politics requested by the laborers. They came to understand that they must not remain indifferent to the Cabinet, inasmuch as it was formed by their support. The reactionary character of the Government and the weakness of the democratic forces within the Diet were used as pretexts for political strikes before. Now that a Socialist-led Cabinet has been formed, there is no excuse whatsoever for labor unions to disregard the Diet and resort to force. Since its formation, the Socialist-led Cabinet has been striving to execute various emergency measures. Since the actual condition of the economic crisis has been revealed, labor unions have come to understand that their struggle for higher wages of 2,600 yen monthly will eventually cause the collapse of nation's economy.

Labor unions in JAPAN are now entering upon a new phase of action. Labor unions are becoming aware of their responsibility which they have hitherto overlooked. A labor contract is concluded, based on the rights and duties of both capital and labor, which are both responsible for the fulfillment of the contract. Responsible labor unions must endeavor to apply labor contracts properly along constructive lines and try to solve various industrial and labor problems to the advantage of the laborers. Furthermore, they must formulate and propose to the Diet policies for the reconstruction of industry and the democratization of JAPAN from the laborers' standpoint, and support the Katayama Cabinet in their execution.

The principal tasks for the labor unions at present are the realization of their independence, the strengthening of their ideological and economic powers, and the expansion of their organization. The future existence of medium and small enterprises, which make up 80 percent of the total number of enterprises, is an important problem. In view of the future industrial structure and the reopened foreign trade, labor unions must not overlook the significance of labor problems, which will arise in the future. It will be of utmost significance not only for future Japanese industry but also for labor unions to organize laborers in medium and small enterprises, to sweep away the feudalistic characteristics which they still retain, and to eradicate the so-called cheap labor in order to establish a sound and progressive relationship between

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capital and labor. However, this is a difficult task, and much patience is required to fulfill it. This problem is equally as important as the labor front unification problem.

The necessity of increasing the power of labor unions requires no explanation. There is also no room for argument on the educational role of labor unions. It is regrettable that the erroneous conception that strikes are the only effective means of educating union members has not yet been corrected. Labor disputes must not be executed as a form of test, since they will greatly affect industry and society. If the practice of basing the present and future policies of labor unions on the actual situation the democratic revolution is criticized as conservative, the superficial tendency of labor unions will not be improved and labor unions will have to experience additional failures. Three basic labor laws have been enacted, and the Labor Ministry has begun functioning. An epoch-making development in the labor policy is expected, but the active support of labor unions is required.

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ITEM 7 Present and Future of Labor Unions - Shin-Hochi - 20 Aug 47.
Translator: T. Okamura. (JJY)

Summary:

Labor unions in our country have made remarkable progress during the brief period since the war's end. However, we find many defects within their structure. Compared with a remarkable development in number our unions have made little growth in quality. One of the most conspicuous defects is that their autonomy has not been perfectly achieved. During the past year union members followed their leaders without criticism. However, when union members realize the true state of unions and people become critical of unions, their power of criticism will grow daily and they no longer will blindly follow their leaders. Such being the case, autonomy in unions has become a serious problem, and the time when those who are concerned with unions should consider this seriously has arrived.

There are many considerations in connection with autonomy within unions, but first I wish to point out that the fundamental principle of decision by majority is not fully realized. In other words, union executives in an attempt to force their own will try to force majority decisions through unfair means, while union members who do not esteem majority decisions are apt to be disobedient to the desisions of the majority.

Secondly, union executives, who should regard it their duty to serve their unions according to the unified will of union members, are inclined to be despotic. They also tend to be bureaucratic and aristocratic. If they become aristocratic, they naturally stick to their positions for material and spiritual motives.

Such defects are not so conspicuous as yet, but unless unionists prevent their aggravation unions will become corrupt and powerless. If they fail to realize their important responsibility, it will become an obstacle to the future development of unions. In principle the importance of the social position which a man occupies should conform with the responsibility which he assumes in society. This principle naturally may be adapted to labor unions. The National Congress of Industrial Organizations and similar large labor unions which exert a large influence upon society and country should assume the responsibility toward society and country in proportion to their influence.

To be independent from employers and the government must be the true nature of labor unions. Accordingly, when unions demand anything from their employers or the government, they should be free to decide on their demands.

The larger the power of unions and the effect upon society of union activities become, the greater will be the criticism of unions, which criticism sometimes forces the authorities to take political steps. For instance, taking advantage of the 1926 general strike, the British conservative cabinet promulgated the Labor Union Law the next year, thereby restricting general strikes, preventing strikes from becoming political issues, and restricting the right to picket. The recent enactment of the Taft-Hartley Law in the UNITED STATES may be regarded as such. Labor unions in their activities should take popular opinion into consideration and should refrain from taking dogmatic action by taking advantage of their power.

Under the prevailing situation, the Japanese economic revival will not be accomplished without planned economy. At a time when even surmounting the impending crisis looks difficult, unions are not prevented from taking action in opposition to the economic program. However, by that we do not mean that unions should blindly obey a government-decided bureaucratic economic program. Rather they should participate in the establishment of such programs while maintaining their independence. It is the fundamental attitude requested of present unions to maintain their own opinions while at the same time acting in conformity with the majority decision.

In this sense, I would like economic rehabilitation councils now in progress in various quarters to be promoted positively, and an economic rehabilitation structure of the Government and people co-ordinated with the Government economic program be established as soon as possible.

(By SUEHIRO, Gentaro, LLD, Chairman, Central Labor Committee)

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ITEM 4 Labor Agreement Revised (Sub-Editorial) - Tokyo Shimbun - 23 Aug 47. Translator: M. Kato. (WM)

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Full Translation:

The substance of the revised Labor Agreement, which reportedly was determined at the Cabinet conference, is notworthy. The unionist may call the revision "capitalistic offensive," but from an impartial viewpoint, the Labor Agreement has been revised properly.

The principal points of the revision are as follows:

1. The Government and Public Office Workers Unions, apart from their members, have no jurisdiction over the personnel affairs of non-union employees. Although the unions are aware and it is clear that the jurisdiction over personnel affairs belongs to the employer, there has been frequent trouble over this issue through Union interference under the pretext of democratization.

2. The Unions have no right to interfere with general administration which includes the formulation and execution of measures, and this corresponds to the right of enterprise or operation as in the case of private enterprises. This revision is quite proper. However, there should be no harm in accepting the recommendation of a policy which has been thoroughly studied by the Union. This is an ultimate goal.

3. As a matter of principle, the unions should not be permitted to utilize government employees to look after unions affairs. The affairs of the union must be handled by Union members themselves. It is true that there is a necessity for unions to retain a staff to look after their voluminous affairs, but such personnel should not be recruited from government employees who already have legitimate jobs.

Unions should employ clerks at their own expense to take care of their business. Union members who are entrusted with union duties should assume such responsibilities during their leisure hours, and Union conferences during office hours must be strictly prohibited. There is no need for lengthy discussion on these points which can be substantiated by pure common sense. The Labor Agreement is a contract between the party who offers labor services and the party who purchases labor services based on certain wages. The present labor agreement in its intent to improve the employee's position, has greatly oppressed the employer. However, now that the Union has developed, the employees should stand on equal terms with the employer. The revision of the Labor Agreement by the Socialist-led Cabinet is sure to have a considerable effect on private enterprise.

ITEM 10 Council Organized to Handle Union Law Violations - Tokyo Mimpo - 25 Aug 47. Translator: S. Kuroda. (AH)

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Full Translation:

There are not a few cases in which differences of opinion between the Labor Committee and the Department of Justice concerning the handling of violations of Article 11 of the Labor Union Law and criminal offences (such as injury) arising from such violations have been detrimental to the solution of labor disputes.

Considering this, a liaison council is to be established to co-ordinate the Central Labor Committee, the Ministry of Justice and the Welfare Ministry.

These three authorities will deliberate on matters concerning the Labor Union Law, the Labor Relations Adjustment Law, and labor problems. Decisions arrived at will form the basis for future handling of cases. These matters include the treatment of improper discharge based on the Labor Union Law Article I, Paragraph 2, Articles 11, 12, 15 and 25, and the Labor Relations Adjustment Law, Article 40; and the examination of cases, such as intimidation and dismissal originating from the labor movement.

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ITEM 12 Prospects for Amalgamation of JFL and NCIO Bright - Shakai Shimbun - 11 Aug 47. Translator: M. Higuchi. (JJY)

Full Translation:

The presentation of a five-point proposal for the unification of the labor front by the Japan Federation of Labor Unions to the National Congress of Industrial Organizations, and the NCIO extra-ordinary meeting's decision on the unconditional amalgamation and the establishment of a council of labor organizations, including indpendent unions lent a bright prospect for the future amalgamation of the nation's two largest labor organizations. In this connection, the most interesting progress will be seen in the OSAKA district where the movement was started.

JFL is, of course, more powerful than NCIO, and has the largest number of union members in JAPAN, outnumbering NCIO two to one. However, in OSAKA there are certain conditions favoring the formation of a united front. There the number of workers affiliated with independent unions is about one half of all the organized workers, numbering 300,000, and they are in favor of the formation of the united front under the leadership of JFL. In addition, the Government Railway Workers Union, the All Japan Shipping Workers Union and the Private Railway Workers Union, which recently joined the Osaka Federation of Labor Unions, is also moving strongly toward the formation of a united front. Therefore, along with the increase in power of JFL, the formation of the united front will be greatly supported in OSAKA.

ITEM 16 Labor Unions Intensify Demands - Mainichi - 12 Aug 47. Translator: M. Higuchi. (WM)

Full Translation:

The Tokyo Shoken Printing Workers resumed negotiations with the company on the night of 10 July, and agreed upon the following points.

(1)

(1) Ten percent of the monthly pay will be paid as a fund to tide over the food crisis.

(2) Monthly wages and expenses of strikers during the strike will not be paid by the company.

The union workers are expected to return to work shortly. The Toppan and Dainihon Printing Workers are still negotiating with the companies.

The All Japan Government and Public Workers Unions Liaison Council (ZEN KANKOCHO ROSO RENRAKU KYOGI KAI) held an extended committee meeting at 1000 hours on 11 July, at the Education Hall at KANDA, with more than 30 representatives of such labor unions as the All Japan Government Workers Union, the All Japan Public Workers Union, the Government Railway Workers Union, the All Japan Communications Workers Union, the Japan Teachers Union, the All Japan Financial Affairs Workers Union, and the three workers unions of the Finance Ministry.

After deliberating on the long pending demand for living allowances, they decided to demand a net living allowance of 2,000 Yen for each worker and 1,000 Yen for each of his dependents in view of the situation prevailing in local cities and other rural districts where the worker who has a family of five has suffered a deficit of 5,946 Yen during the half year, from January until June. It was decided that the demand would be presented to the Premier and other Ministries concerned.

The Metropolitan Office Workers Union on 31 July demanded payment of two months' wages as a delayed distribution allowance from the Metropolitan Board. At the conference with union representatives at 1100 hours on 11 August, YASUI, governor of the metropolis, declared that it was impossible for the Metropolitan Board to pay the total of 450,000,000 Yen which will be needed for the payment of two months' monthly average pay based upon the 1,600 Yen wage standard. The negotiation ended without an agreement being reached. The union decided to request a more concrete reply within a few days.

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ITEM 1 Unification of the Farmers Front and the Japan Farmers Union (by Kuroda, Hisao) - Magazine: Zenshin (monthly) - Aug 47. Translator: S. Harada. (UG)

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Summary:

One of the main feature of the post-war farmer union movement is the "all-village organization" which calls for the participation of all farmers in any one village. Farmers' unions should strive to achieve this goal, but the question of whether the "all-village organizations" is adequately serving the purpose of carrying out agricultural democratization is open to debate. Under the present social system, farm villages are composed of people from all classes, but not necessarily placed under the same economic conditions, giving rise to many contradictions and conflicts.

Naturally, there is a wide divergence between the economic conditions of rich and poor farmers. This fact often gives rise to disputes over unfair rice delivery quotas. The situation becomes more acute in the case of land reform, where bitterness exists between those who sell and those who purchase land.

Co-operation of All Farmers Vital to Land Reform

Most of the old-time landlords strive to retain their land, thus obstructing the activities of labor unions in tiding over the crisis. The land reform plan must be so formulated as to make all farmers voluntarily proceed in the direction of the reform.

Those who bolted from the JAPAN Farmers Union at its Second Nation-wide Conference are reported to be planning to hold a general meeting in TOKYO shortly to organize a Nation-wide Farmers' Union (provisionally named ZENKOKU NOMIN KUMIAI). So far as we know, this union will be very small, and so little can be expected of it.

The Liberal Party is also reported to have organized an All-JAPAN Farmers' Union (ZEN NIPPON NOMIN KUMIAI). Besides theso, there are numerous independent unions, neutral in nature, which are organized on a fairly large scale, among which there is an increasing number participating in the JAPAN Farmers' Union.

Viewing the actual conditions of the farmers',front, various objections will probably be raised to the fact that the JAPAN Farmers' Union is a single nation-wide union. It is apparent that a split or opposition in the farmers' front has not necessarily been recent in origin.

However, this may not be a matter of great importance, for these changes with the progress of the land reform. But, the problem of how to make the farmers become a fundamental part of our Union is an important one.

We are prepared to co-operate with the various farmer unions by strictly refraining from employing exlusive action. We act on this principle in the belief, that it is most conducive to the development of JAPAN's democratization and that we work as representatives of the farmers' front.

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ITEM 7 Labor Unions and Communism - Shin Yukan - 13 Aug 47. Translator: M. Ohno. (AH)

145

Summary:

Taking the average mining production index for the 1936-1937 period, as 100, this year's averages are 30 in April, and 30.8 in May.

There is fear that the program for 30,000,000 tons of coal production annually will end in failure from both angles of quantity and quality.

The slack in production at present reflects decadence of will to work. Low labor efficiency, however, is not caused only by imperfect equipment. Capital and management must do their utmost to promote efficiency and the will to work. At the same time, labor unions must become aware of their true mission in rehabilitating our economy. Since labor unions have been vested with freedom of association and the right of strike, the labor offensive has become intensified. Under the leadership of the Communists, who advocate that workers must take the initiative in the democratic revolution, worker's demonstrations have become almost daily events. The Communist Party placed its members in the executive positions of the NCIO and organized revolutionary fractions within the various socialistic labor unions such as JFLU and the Japan Farmers Union. Thus, the Communist Party adopted a double unionism policy to hinder the democratic growth of labor unions, stirred up strikes, and tried to alienate the union leaders from the general public.

According to statistics on coal mine disputes, 877,000 man - days of work were wasted by strikes and production control by labor during October of 1945 till April of last year. Therefore, if the strikes in other enterprises are counted, the total man - days wasted will amount to a huge figure.

Production control by labor was carried out by the members of the NCIO. This action was as vicious as occupying of factories by the Communists in ITALY in 1920.

Labor unions must respect the workers' individuality and ask for their co-operation. They must abandon their despotic nature and become constructive. They must destroy the existing spiral of diminishing production. They are charged with a grave mission to rid themselves of communistic misguidance.

ITEM 2 Second Central Committee of the AJCWU Decided Objects of Struggle - Jimmin - 2 Sep 47. Translator: A. Segawa. (DD)

Full Translation:

The meeting of the second Central Committee of the All Japan Communications Workers' Unions on 29th, the third day of the meeting, was held at Katakura Hall in SUWA City, NAGANO Ken. First, the reports on the critical economic conditions in OSAKA, HOKKAIDO and several other districts were made. This was followed by free discussion of the following points in regard to the progress of the movement since the special rally at MATSUE:

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1 Lack of co-ordination between the Central Executive Committee and Local District Federations and Councils.

2 The regional struggles should be encouraged; the Central Executive Committee, respecting the organic unity between the Local District Federations and councils and the Central Executive Committee should exercise advantageous leadership in regional struggles.

The Committee further entered into an examination of the plan for the attainment of their object, which is the most significant subject on the agenda of the Central Executive Committee and decided to demand the full distribution of daily necessities at reasonable prices and the establishment of regional living expenses based on this. The Committee further confirmed the following as the object of their struggle and discussed the organization for the struggles:

1 The Central Executive Committee demands the standardization of living expenses on the basis of 2,400 calories.

2 The Local District Councils demand either the minimum pay based on the black-market prices or living expenses based on reasonable prices.

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ITEM 6 Labor Unions Re-examined - Provincial Paper: Fukui Shimbun (Fukui) - 19 Aug 47. Translator: M. Ohno. (WM)

145

Summary:

Labor unions in FUKUI Ken are recently showing new activity after a long period of silent self-examination since the prohibition of the 1 February strike, and their cultural movements are quite conspicuous. At the same time, however, the labor unions seem to be satisfied to serve as mere consumers' associations. This tendency requires the same re-examination as the past political strife which was aroused by a few radicals.

A peaceful JAPAN cannot develop unless the culture of the Japanese people is improved. Therefore, all the people regardless of class difference, must do their utmost to accomplish this important task. Needless to say, labor unions must also share in this task. However, in view of the characteristics of labor unions more emphasis should be placed upon economic activities than cultural movements.

The consumer association function may be regarded as a phase of the labor union movements, but union members should not consider this function their principal duty. Although the Japanese labor unions first considered the co-operative movement their principal mission, the present situation does not permit them to adhere to such an ideology.

If labor unions are content to consider the cultural and co-operative movements as their principal missions, the emancipation of labor will never be realized. Almost all the labor unions in this prefecture have been inactive since their organizations began, and are still in an immature stage. They must seriously re-examine themselves, realize their true mission, and endeavor to participate in the management of enterprises. The democratization of industry and the emancipation of laborers will not be a fact until labor unions participate in the management of enterprises.

Of 149 independent unions and five federations in this prefecture, only 30 unions have concluded collective contracts. Therefore, conclusion of the collective contracts and the establishment of joint management councils are urgently needed.

Now that foreign trade has been reopened and large-scale exports must be made at the expense of the people, there is the danger that capitalists will again adopt the past cheap labor system. Bureaucrats are still influential; therefore, it is obvious that labor unions must not be satisfied with lackadaisical policies.

ITEM 4 3,400 Yen Average Wage Demanded by National Federation of Public Workers - Nihon Keizai - 10 Sep 47. Translator: M. Higuchi. (DD)

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Full Translation:

The Third Central Committee Meeting of the National Federation of Public Workers Unions was held on 7 and 8 Sep at the Government Railway Workers' Training Hall in AICHI Ken, HOHAN Gun, MITSUTANI Machi, with about 100 union representatives from each prefecture, including URABE, chairman of the Central Executive Committee, attending. Concentrating the discussion upon the improved treatment problem, they decided upon the following demand to be submitted shortly to the Government.

(1) The 1,800 yen average wage system is too heavy of a burden upon local economy which is already suffering from continued deficits. Therefore, a part of the wages and allowances to be paid to union members should be paid out of the national tax or in other forms of subsidy from the national treasury.

(2) The minimum wage system, assuring a living wage should be established. Special allowances should be graded according to the employee's professional position instead of his social status as is currently done.

(3) An average wage of 3,400 yen should be paid.

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ITEM 2 Ashida Turns Down Occupation Force Workers' Demands - Asahi - 5 Sep 47. Translator: K. Sato. (TK)

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Full Translation:

Representatives of the All-Japan Occupation Force Workers Union of the National Congress of Industrial Organization interviewed President ASHIDA of the Central Liaison Office at 1100 hours yesterday. ASHIDA answered that although winter allowances would be considered for employees in TOHOKU and HOKKAIDO, other demands for extraordinary allowances were desirable to be withdrawn at present when the people are being asked by the Government to endure great hardships. Thereupon, the union decided to conduct separate negotiations with the Finance Ministry, the Labor Ministry, and the Central Liaison Office.

Meanwhile, 10 representatives of the National Occupation Force Workers Union of the Japan Federation of Labor Unions, led by Chairman SATO, Shinsuke, met Vice-president YAMAGATA of the Central Liaison Office, but their demand for 3,000 yen per capita and 500 yen per family member as a living allowance was rejected.

ITEM 3 Anti-Communist Statement of Japan Farmers Union - Seiji - 5 Sep 47. Translator: Y. Kurata. (TK)

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Summary:

A group of Diet members belonging to the Japan Farmers Union issued an anti-Communist statement. And the Communist Party lost no time in making countercharges. The people in general, in the meantime, seem to pay little attention to this fact. In our opinion, however, this fact is of great significance in the light of the recently announced National Congress of Industrial Organizations' anti-Communist policy. What does come into question in this respect is whether the so-called NCIO self-criticism is a mere camouflage. We, unable to recognize that the NCIO, ever since it announced its anti-Communist statement, has sufficiently exercised self-criticism on Communists' policies, do not regard the NCIO's decision as a complete about face. Therefore, we presume that the NCIO's decision, if not based on an attempt to camouflage its true intention, might have somehow or other carried with it political significance. It stands to reason, therefore, that we will go no further in commenting on the Japan Farmers Union's anti-Communist statement than we did on the NCIO's self-criticism.

There is no denying that both the labor movement and the farmers' movement were carried out mostly under Communist influence for some time following the termination of the war. In fact, last year's Communist-sponsored "October offensive" touched off a wave of strikes which culminated in this year's 1 February general strike. Yet, once the general strike turned out to be a complete failure, the NCIO found it inevitable to sever its relations with Communists on the pretext of self-criticism. This, however, indicates nothing but that there is a limit to the Communists leadership of the country's labor movement, and that no labor union can possibly carry its campaign beyond that limit. It is for this reason that we cannot recognize that the NCIO has turned over a new leaf through the so-called self-criticism. And the same holds true for the Japan Farmers Union's anti-Communist statement.

Fresh in our mind is a serious split of opinion among members of the Japan Farmers Union at its general meeting held in May. As a result, most anti-Communist elements including Agriculture and Forestry Minister HIRANO lost their seats as executive members of the union, and the whole machinery was taken over by left-wingers of the Socialist Party. However, these left-wingers are not necessarily pro-Communists. They are rather opportunists. But by and large, the present executives of the Japan Farmers Union cannot be so definitely anti-Communistic as to level charges against Communists.

It is thought possible, in the meanwhile, that the union's decision is based on its attempt to vie with the National Farmers Union. In short, what we want to emphasize in this connection, is that the Japan Farmers Union should not fool the people by so-called self-criticism.

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ITEM 3 Young Men's Organizations Struggle Against Boss Influence - Seinen - 27 Aug 47. Translator: C. Akashi. (DD)

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Summary:

A small village called KOSE Mura in IBARAGI Ken has been noted for its traditional severe internal struggle. The staple products of this village are reported to be barley, wheat, sweet potatoes, and tobacco, while the rice crops hardly meet the requirements of the entire village population.

Under these circumstances, there emerged, after the surrender, the Shimokose, two Naka, Koguni Nagatama, Shimogo, Kawanishi, Shuku, Hongo, and Nishine Young Men's Organizations. They are now united into the Kose Mura United Young Men's Association. However, the truth is that the united association has no actual controlling power over its branch organizations, consequently giving them a free hand as to their own activities. Therefore, not a few young men's organizations in the village are now under the control of not the youths themselves, but the so-called bosses of various factions. It is also reported that these bosses have taken advantage of the youth organizations in their election campaign. The initial evil of the young men's organizations in KOSE Mura can be traced back to the collection of contributions from the influential figures in the village in order to hold performances for the youths. Even now, some young people absolutely support the blackmarketeers and the reactionaries only on the ground that they made large donations at that time. These young men have, without knowing it, been reduced to the cat's-paws and tools of the blackmarket dealers as well as the reactionaries, opposing the earnest, progressive youths' groups.

However, there are indications that some of the youths' organizations have begun to realize the critical situation confronting rural communities now as a result of the reopening of trade and are trying to solve the problem peculiar to rural families as to the future of the second and third sons. Above all, the Shimokose Young Men's Organization is displaying vigorous activity under the leadership of KURITA, Isamu. Especially, it should be noted that despite having Communists among its membership, this organization has presented no internal struggle, and all the members are working hard on the basis of the full realization that they are equally responsible young people. The Cultural Department of the organization has held thus far such meetings as the speech meeting, the round-table conference, the debate meeting, the movies, and the reading meeting. The Industrial Department has rented the farmland to plant potatoes so that it can meet the members' requirements. The Welfare, Crime Prevention and Domestic or Women's Departments are active in repairing the damaged bridges and roads, preventing theft of crops and fires, teaching cooking, etc. The organization has 3,000 yen at hand, although it recently bought the Young Men's Hall from the Agricultural Association for 8,000 yen.

However, even this organization has its problems, ie, how to raise the future operation fund, how to completely stay aloof from the influence of various factions in the village, and how to make those young people confusing liberty with licence join the organization. Chief KURITA of the organization made a statement concerning the difficulty of the problems lying ahead of them andrevealed his determination to solve the question of the second and third sons of rural families.

ITEM 15 Communications Workers Struggle Committee Confers on Plans - Akahata - 10 Sep 47. Translator: S. Fujiwara. (GBS)

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Full Translation:

The first meeting of the Central Struggle Committee of the All Japan Communications Workers Union was held at the Union headquarters on 5 Sep with DOBASHI, chief of the Central Executive Committee, as chairman.

It was decided after heated discussions that the Union's objectives should be achieved in collaboration with farmers and citizens as well as with the Japan Federation of Labor Unions, the NCIO and the National Council of Government and Public Office Workers Unions. It was further decided that the union will organize and lead local campaigns through the establishment of such technical sections as planning, negotiations, propaganda, district campaigning, joint struggle and conference preparations.

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ITEM 10 Osaka JFLU Would Abolish Neutral Labor Union - Kokusai Times - 5 Sep 47.
Translator: S. Sakata.

145

Full Translation:

The question of the unification of the labor front was resumed with enthusiasm by leaders of the Japan Federation of Labor Unions, the Japan Congress of Labor Unions and the National Congress of Industrial Organization in OSAKA on 13 June when Premier KATAYAMA visited. As the result of the labor unions' self-criticism since that time, they were able to agree on the following points:

(1) The support of a political party by members of the labor unions should be optional, but a labor union should not be controlled by a particular party.

(2) A system of greater industrial organizations should be adopted after the completion of the unification in which emphasis is placed on industrial restoration.

This gave the impression that the labor front in the Kansai district would be unified. Then, however, the three organizations diverged sharply on the question of whether the new organization formed by dissolution and merger of the three organizations should be nation-wide or not. On 12 August, the three organizations released a joint statement, declaring "The question of unification has proved a failure. From now on, we will do our best to reach the goal of unifying the labor front by further reforming the Osaka Federation of Labor Unions (DAI RO REN)". Thus, hopes for a unified labor front have burst like a bubble at the last moment.

In view of this failure, the Osaka Chapter of the JFL held a meeting of its Standing Executive Committee on 25 August to inquire into the failure of the unification. As a result of prudent study on the report from Secretary-general TSUBAKI, it was pointed out as a cause of the failure that those who were in favor of dissolution secretly tried to split the organizations, although pretending to urge them to merge. At the same time, the meeting reached the following conclusions:

(1) It should be confirmed through this experience that the principles of the JFL are right and strong.

(2) Labor unions should decide upon their attitudes toward the left or the right and, thereafter, the adjustment of the labor front should be carried out.

(3) For this purpose, it is necessary to abolish all neutral labor unions.

It has also been decided that the Committee will embark on the elimination of neutral independent unions and management inspired labor unions in the future. The Osaka Chapter of the JFL is expected to hold a general meeting for the education of workers (scheduled for 12 and 13 September) following a workers' summer convention which is to be held on Mount HIEI in early September.

ITEM 8 Aikoku Industry Workers Assume Production Control - Rodo - 8 Aug 47.
Translator: Y. Mizoe. (AH)

145

Full Translation:

The Aikoku Industry Workers Union of the Kanagawa League of Metal Workers Unions, a member of the Japan Federation of Labor Unions, (of KAWASAKI City MUJISAKI Cho 2-108) issued a declaration on 2 August and took over control of production. This move resulted after the company declared a lockout and discharged all workers without conferring with them nor paying retirement allowances. The company's essential machinery and other equipment necessary for production, have already been sold out, and the factory can hardly be re-opened under current, conditions. Therefore, the labor union is struggling to have its demand for the granting of a retirement allowance equivalent to 12 month's pay, met.

The Federation of Kanagawa Labor Unions and the Kanagawa League of Metal Workers Unions, both belonging to the Japan Federation of Labor Unions, are supporting the labor union in fighting the obstinate President NISHI. On the other hand, the Publicity Section with the Public Relations Section of the Japan Federation of Labor Unions, are also in joint support of the labor union.

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ITEM 8 The Parties and Movements of Farmers' Organizations - Provincial Paper: Saitama Shimbun (Urawa) - 31 Aug 47. Translator: I. Kuniko. (WM)

1-15

Summary:

While it was generally thought that reorganization was progressing smoothly, internal friction arose unexpectedly in the Japan Farmers Union at its general meeting. This friction seems to have prompted the Union to reorganize itself more strongly.

Meanwhile, it is reported that the Japan Farmers Union in this prefecture (SAITAMA) , in order to stabilize the livelihood of the farmers, has decided to wage a decisive fight with the National Farmers Union, and his appointed MOROOKA as its leader and has purged TANAKA and other leading Communists of the organization.

Under the present situation, the various farmers' organizations, which are expected to join the National Farmers Union by following HATSUNAGA who has switched from the Japan Farmers Union to the National Farmers Union, have not yet clarified their attitude. There still seems to be a possiblity that the Japan Farmers' Union will be able to win them to their side by exerting a little more efforts.

On the other hand, the National Farmers Union has been greatly disappointed at the hesitant attitude of the organizations. If things stand as they are, the Japan Farmers Union may be in a better position than the National Farmers Union. It is doubtful, however, that things will go as well as the former expects.

Thus, the farmers of this prefecture are expected to be politically led by any one of the following organizations: the National Farmers Union, the Japan Farmers Union, a union recently established by Representative SEKINE and the recently organized Farmers Union of the Liberal Party. Therefore, the farmers are urged to seriously consider the organization they intend to select as their representative.

We think, therefore, that farmers organizations should be politically led by such progressive and radical parties as the Socialist and the Communist, but the farmers must also realize that with the improvement of the tenant farmers' position after the completion of the farmland reform, they may be forced to change their political views.

Now, the conflict between the Japan Farmers Union and the National Farmers Union, both of which are ideologically led by the Socialist Party, is becoming increasingly serious. The fact that the Japan Farmers Union of this prefecture had Communists among its members has led the National Farmers Union to assume a defiant attitude toward the Japan Farmers Union. However, which organization the farmers will choose is another question. It should not be necessary to explain again the object of each party in organizing the respective farmers' organizations. Undeniable, those organizations, possessing the power necessary for the reconstruction of a sound nation, are powerful enough to influence the rise or fall of the parties.

ITEM 1 NCIO Draws Up Policies on Consolidation of Enterprises - Akahata - 10 Sep 47. Translator: S. Fujiwara. (DD)

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Full Translation:

The National Congress of Industrial Organizations decided on the following fundamental policies on the consolidation of enterprises at its regular executive committee meeting on 5 Sep:

1 Fundamentally, the present movement means a struggle by labor to revive production along with the industrial reconstruction by capital and, therefore, means a nation-wide campaign for wage increases and against discharges.

2 Propaganda and education campaigns, according to the different sizes of enterprises and industries, will be conducted on a concrete and extensive scale. To make them mass movements, the leadership must be taken i directly tackling problems in each individual enterprise. An anticonsolidation of enterprise committee must be established in both its branches and the organizations attacked to the NCIO.

3 The problems of priority production, and materials and funds distribution, must be taken up by all the member unions, based on concrete measures.

4 The JFL, unorganized workers, and independent unions shall be contacted and joint action taken.

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ITEM 7 JFU Chairman Denies Anti-Communism Statement - Nihon Keizai - 10 Sep 47. Translator: B. Ishibashi. (TK)

145

Full Translation:

Recently a statement "drawing a definite line against the Communists" was issued in the name of the Japan Farmers Union Diet Members Group affiliated with the Socialist Party. Disgruntled over this attitude of the Diet, Members Group Chairman KURODA of the Japan Farmers Union yesterday clarified that the Group was not an authorized organ and its statement did not represent a formal decision of the JFU. He added that there was no change in the principle of freedom for the JFU to support political parties.

He stated: "A so-called JFU Diet Members Group's statement was released on 29 August. However, I had not been informed of it nor had I participated in it. The problem was first deciced at a standing committee meeting of the JFU by a majority vote to be sent to a central committee meeting. However, because of adjournment of the meeting its presentation was impossible. Therefore, there has been no change in the principle of freedom to support political parties, adopted at the national convention of the JFU in February last."

Previously there was the secession of the National Farmers Union including HIRANO. This time a feud has arisen between NOMIZO, INAMURA and OKADA, the anti-Communist faction on one hand, and the faction led by KURODA who favors the principle of freedom in supporting political parties on the other. Thus, the left-wingers of the Socialist Party have been definitely split between the anti-Communists and pro-Communists factions.

ITEM 6 Press Labor Front Problem Reaches an Impasse - Yomiuri - 21 Aug 47. Translator: Y. Mizoe. (DD)

Full Translation:

145

The second day meet of the Central Committee of the Single Press Workers Union was held on 10 August at the Asahi Newspaper Office. The united labor front problem was discussed until late at night, and the committee decided to hold discussions with the sponsor group in order to clarify the nature of the new labor union. If, as a result, it is found necessary, they will not hesitate in seceding from the National Congress of Industrial Organizations. The Sponsors, however, will propose higher wages and submit opposition to dismissals first of all at the meeting.

This contradicts the decision: "Secession from the NCIO is necessary," which was reached previously by the Central Committee of the Single Press Workers Union, held in NAGANO City.

Thus, the labor front problem has reached an impasse owing to the differences in opinions between other unions and the Mainichi and the Yomiuri labor unions, which consider secession from the NCIO a prerequisite to the formation of the single union.

ITEM 2 Method of Strengthening Labor Committees - Yukan Miyako - 14 Sep 47. Translator: K. Hirata. (FST)

145

Summary:

The National Labor Committee Liaison conference was held in TOKYO on 10 September. At that time the following decisions were reached and proposed to the Diet and the Supreme Court:

1. To secure independence of labor committees.
2. To manage labor committees on a democratic basis.
3. To prevent violation of Article 11 of the Labor Union Law on the part of employers.
4. To adjust the relation of the Labor Union Law to the judiciary.

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ITEM 12 What Democratic Labor Unions Should Be - Provincial Paper: Minami Nihon Shimbun (Kagoshima) - 2 Sep 47. Translator: H. Ishihara. (GBS)

1-15

Summary:

Since the 1 February general strike, the labor movement in this country has been dormant for some time. With the aggravation of inflation bringing about low wages, the situation seems ripe for a new offensive.

In KAGOSHIMA prefecture, two or three incidents of strife between capital and labor have occurred. Labor unions of the Kagoshima Shipbuilding Company and the workers of the movie houses contended with the administrators concerning their demand for increased wages. Although these disputes themselves are not so important, it is to be noted that they were motivated by the same grievances. Both the unions of the Kagoshima Shipbuilding Company and the movie houses have been organized recently, and have been involved in disputes within a month of their formation.

There may have been some reason for the tardiness in organizing labor unions, but ultimately it indicates the low consciousness of the workers. That such a group of laborers even resorted to strife to demand better treatment indicates that there must have been some outside influence either leading or coercing them to take such steps. It is said, that both the unions were organized under the leadership of professional union organizers sent by a certain political organ or a party. Moreover, their movements have been guided by factions in their demand for higher wages or in calling a strike. Such has been the tendency of our labor unions which have developed rapidly in this country since the surrender. We want to urge the people to reflect on the democratic and autonomous nature of the labor unions.

The elementary definition of the labor union is as follows: "A liberal, autonomous and responsible body of working men and women exercising its influence for the sake of improving wages working conditions, and living standards, as well as for the sake of protecting the freedom of the people." The nature of the labor union, as defined above has been ignored, and the union has been apt to dominate society, relying upon its great numbers. Moreover, labor movements have often been diverted by politically inspired movements such as the projected formation of the "People's Front."

Labor unions are liable to be taken advantage of by a political organ or a party. They become politically influential, by the power derived from their numerical size. This influence must be used only for the sake of their own elevation and to safeguard the people, not for the benefit of a political party or a political organ. Needless to say, organized laborers can participate in political movements, but their actions must strictly adhere to the fundamental character of the labor movement, that is to liberal democracy as stated by Mr KILLEN, chief of the labor division, of GHQ. Why are the political activities of the labor unions so carefully watched? The reason is that, under the prevailing postwar circumstances, once the laborers rise in a labor offensive, they may resort to the general strike and gain political control of the administration or even, in extremity, cause a violent revolution.

There are many difficulties obstructing labor unions becoming economically independent organizations. Although the Labor Standards Law, which would guarantee the livelihood of the working masses, has been partially enforced from 1 September, it is no more than a promise. There remain many unsolved problems concerning wage policies and full employment. Until national economy has been completely restored, satisfactory labor conditions cannot be provided. In regard to the wage problem unless inflation and blackmarketing are eliminated, the actual value of wages will become lower and even pegged wages are now being discussed. For the sake of increased production aside from resorting to strife, labor unions should make their demands through negotiations by an organized body leaving the authority to compromise or demand the rights of the laborers and thus increase the workers willingness to produce. Peace between capital and labor should not come from stifling antagonisms but should arise from free and democratically awakened laborers.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 3 Difficulties Face Unification of Newspaper Labor Unions - Shimbun Kyokaiho - 7 Sep 47. Translator: A. Segawa.

1/45

Summary:

The committee formally organized on 15 August to promote a united front of newspaper workers' labor unions held its first general meeting on 16 August at the Mainichi Auditorium and discussed the character and structure of the new body. Six press unions, the Japan Press and Radio Workers Union and the Mainichi, Yomiuri Ibaragi, Godo and Kochi Newspaper unions, and Radio were selected to Manage the Promotion Committee.

On 21 August, the first meeting of the managing labor unions was held. The following four subjects were proposed for discussion by the Press and Radio Workers Union, but they were rejected due to divergence of opinions:

(1) If a labor union wants to secede from the NCIO, the matter should be decided at a general meeting after being discussed by the Promotion Committee.

(2) A joint front should be formed to carry on the struggle for wage boosts and the struggle to oppose dismissal.

(3) A Press Workers Hall should be built.

(4) A movement should be started to protest the dismissal of Mr MITSUSE of the MAINICHI.

The MAINICHI, the YOMIURI and other newspaper companies that do not belong to the Press and Radio Workers Union had either decided or

announced that they would secede from the NCIO on the grounds that it is improper that the newspaper companies should be under the banner of NCIO since the newspaper is a public instrument, and that the NCIO had been too dictatorial and had factional tendencies.

The Press and Radio Workers Union, although it had announced its decision to secede at the May rally, was still dubious in its attitude. At the general meeting, however, it said that the final decision of secession should be made at the rally; it was emphasized that it had no intention of remaining in the NCIO. In this way, the managing press unions reached a mutual understanding.

The second subject was rejected by the MAINICHI and YOMIURI on the grounds that since it is only right for the unions to demand the wage boost and to oppose dismissal, there is no necessity of discussing the subject. The Press and Radio Workers' Union then explained that the subject was proposed merely to avail itself of the opportunity to carry on a struggle.

MAINICHI said in connection with the fourth subject, that it is improper for a third person to meddle in the matter since the policy of treating Mr MITSUSE had been decided from an independent standpoint, and this subject was also rejected. MAINICHI further proposed the following three subjects for the agenda of the second general meeting on 5 September, and they were approved.

(1) The problems common to the Press and Radio Workers' Union Branches and other labor unions should be dealt with jointly.

(2) In that case, independence of the sub-unions in the local districts should be respected.

(3) The relation between the Joint Struggle Committee and the Promotion Committee should be decided at a general meeting of the Promotion Committee.

Mr KAWAZOE, head of the Press and Radio Workers Union approved the independence of unions, saying that the Press and Radio Workers Union has no intention of forcing other unions to follow it.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 8 Unions' Criticism of the Socialist Party - Akahata - 5 Sep 47.
Translator: H. Kyono. (AH)

1/5

Summary:

The Government slogan of 'reconstruction through perseverance' asks for a very inconvenient living for the labor and working class who are pinned down by their wages of 1,800 yen.

The capitalists have had their prices raised 65 times therefore, they will be able to indure the life of perseverance but of labor, no further 'perseverance' can be asked as they even have difficulties in purchasing their rations.

We will hear what the labor unions say. The orkers in the Electric Industry Labor Unions say that our illusion concerning the KATAYAMA Cabinet have been pitifully shattered. The conference of representatives held at IZU NAGAOKA on 19 and 20 August, tried to urge the Socialist Party to carry out its promise, but as the people do not have faith in the Socialist Party, they are moving to break the price and wage difficulties.

When a party of the House Electric Committee consisting of 13 Members headed by a Socialist representative inspected the INAWASHIRO Power Plant in FUKUSHIMA Ken recently, the Labor Union received them with placards saying, 'Give us funds and material', 'Give us oil', 'Increase men', or 'Enforce Sliding system'; and at the meeting they pleaded for the overcoming of the electricity crisis, to which Representative MURAKAMI (Liberal) explained the Liberal Party's policy of adopting the sliding system and Socialist Party Representatives ISHINO and MAEDA, chief of the electric committee, talked of government control in electric industry and about the situation of the coalition cabinet asking for the support of the Union members, but could not refute MURAKAMI's attack against the Socialists and gave the impression to labor that the Socialists are nothing but a shield for the Liberal and Democratic Parties.

"Everything Raised Except Wages"

As for National Communication Workers Labor Union, the Central Telegraph Bureau technicians complained that under the present cabinet everything is raised except wages. Sixty-five percent of the employees are from farm-areas and can manage their way somehow or other but it is very difficult for the other 35 percent, moreover, if there were a shortage of 350 persons, this would cause overwork.

At the meeting to overcome the crisis held last month persons who are usually silent complained of their difficult livelihood and as their request for three days' monthly leave, was rejected they are and the company is suppressing the Union by organizing a construction progress conference consisting mainly of technicians.

Political criticism of the Socialist Party is in a minor key, but some say that the days of the Liberal Party were much better and some hope for a government of laborers.

ITEM 4 Government Workers' Demands Turned Down by Nishio - Yomiuri - 16 Sep 47.
Translator: T. Fukushima. (JJY)

1/5

Full Translation:

Negotiations between the Government and the Liaison Council of Government and Public Office Workers Union took place at the Premier's office yesterday concerning the latter's demand for a deficit covering fund and a minimum wage. The Government was represented by Chief Cabinet Secretary NISHIO and to labor unions by Chairman SATO of the Liaison Council, Chairman KATO of the Government Railway Workers Union, and 13 other union members.

The laborers demanded a deficit-covering funds of 2,000 yen for each workers and 1,000 yen for each member of his family and a minimum wage sufficient to secure 2,400 calories of food a day at current prices.

At the same time, they expressed an absolute opposition to the 20 August cabinet decision on labor agreements. Chief Cabinet Secretary NISHIO replied that the Government could not consider as reasonable the minimum wage and the deficit-covering fund demanded in view of the present price scale.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 1 National Seamen's Labor Union Holds Special Meeting-- Akahata - 1 Sept 47. Translator: H. Kyono. (DD)

145

Full Translation:

The National Seamen's Labor Union, consisting of 100,000 members throughout the nation, held its fourth special meeting at Tenryuji Temple, KYOTO Shi, ARASHIYAMA on 22 Aug. The members supported the original proposal of the Central Struggle Committee for labor agreement, raise of wage and retirement allowance, and unanimously consented to the dissolution of the Central Struggle Committee and to the formation of a new executive committee. They proceeded to hold the fifth regular meeting on 23 Aug and opposed dismissals and low wages in enterprise readjustment.

On the second day of the meeting they diliberated on wage problems and decided on:

(1) Full distribution of livelihood necessities at appropriate prices.
(2) Establishment of a district wage system based on the above.
(3) Establishment of a minimum wage system based on the stabilization of prices.
(4) Opposition to Standard Wages according to type of work.
(5) District living wage system based on 2,400 calories.
(6) Negotiations to be held with each districts.

They finally discussed the unification problem and "the communist faction activities under Union regulation and freedom in the support of political parties" was reconfirmed by a representative. They decided on unconditional unification of all labor unions without relation to the NCIO or JFL.

The question of joining the NCIO, was approved but was thought to be premature since the majority opined that the achievement of the Union's unification should come first.

The IZUMO Chapter of the National Seamen's Labor Union with a membership of 232 persons is undergoing a semi-control of production by labor as the company announced the closure of the factory and a mass dismissal. They are now negotiating with the management council and the general meeting of the Seamen's Union held at KYOTO has decided on a 350,000 yen aid fund.

The enterprise readjustment was also carried out at the Matsue Internal Combustion Engine Works, Ishibashi, Moriyama, and Nihonkai Shipbuilding Companies chapters, and the representatives held a meeting on 24 August to discuss a policy".

ITEM 5 Powers of Standing Committees of Yamagata Prefectural Assembly Expanded - Asahi (Yamagata Edition) - 11 Sep 47. Translator: T. Kitayama. (DD)

145

Full Translation:

The Yamagata Prefectural Assembly at its recent session amended its rules so as to authorize its standing committees, which hitherto could meet only during Assembly sessions, to convene whenever necessary for the purpose of deliberating on certain specified problems. This authorization does not apply to the disciplinary, budget and accounts committees. Due to this amendment, the influence of the standing Committee on the prefectural administration has been increased greatly.

The Committees and the problems on which they can deliberate when the Assembly is not in session are:

Home Affairs: budget and personnel; Education: 6-3 educational system; Welfare: labor administration and health; Agriculture: increase in production of foodstuffs; Agricultural Land: agricultural land reform and wasteland reclamation administration; Commerce and Industry: sight-seeing and international trade; Food: delivery; Engineering: measures for war damages; Police: strengthening of police functions.