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No. 5

MEMBER OF UPPER HOUSE
INDICTED FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

Kyodo EVENING

TOKYO, April 23---Kenji Osumi, Democratic member of the House of Councillors, yesterday was indicted by the Yokohama District Procurators Office for embezzlement and theft of former military supplies.

Osumi, who operates a big constructing and transporting firm in Yokosuka City, Kanagawa Prefecture, however, has been allowed to stay at home.

A three-month investigation by the public procurators revealed that the Diet member with his younger brother allegedly had stolen some 40 drums of heavy oil, valued

-more-

member of upper house---2 EVENING

at ¥200,000, formerly belonging to the Tokyo Bay Strategic Zone headquarters, and embezzled 360 koku of timber, valued at ¥110,000, which were placed in his custody by the Mayor of Yokosuka City.

--ooo--

Kobayashi 1/3yk

SHIDEHARA SEES STRONG
SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC LIBERALS

(Sunday)

Kyodo

YAMAGUCHI, April 25--"I am glad I have been able to confirm my belief that our party is strongly supported by the people," Reijuro Shidehara, highest adviser to the Democratic Liberal Party, told the press here yesterday evening.

Shidehara is now visiting Yamaguchi Prefecure, completing his speaking tour to Kyushu during the past week.

He believed the 'public enthusiasm' to his party was much higher than he had thought.

The ex-Democratic leader bitterly attacked the present Democrat-head Government, expressing opposition to the proposed hike in railway charges and the Government's labor policy.

-more-

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hidehara -2 (unday)

Shidehara declared a "long-range' labor policy is necessary instead of making makeshift compromise "just to give immediate satisfaction to workers."

He attended the inauguration ceremony of the Yamaguchi local of the Democratic Liberal Party yesterday.

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Hattori/so

—//—

No. 2

A YEAR AFTER ELECTION
SHOWS REVERSAL OF PARTY STRENGTH

(Morning)

Kyodo

TOKYO, April 26--The opposition Democratic Liberals replaced the Social Democrats as the plurality party in the House of Representatives in a year after the last election.

The party strength in the Lower House as of today as compared with that a year ago is as follows:

	Today	A year ago
Democratic Liberals	150	133 (Liberals)
Social Democrats	123	143
Democrats	92	126
People's Cooperatives	30	31
Social Renovation Party	21	—

-more-

lection -2		(Morning)
Farmers Party	8	--
Liberals	6	--
Communists	4	4
Others	14	29
Total	447	446
Vacancy	19	--

Meanwhile, the House of Councillors has undergone only minor shifts in party strength.

	Today	A year ago
Ryokufukai	88	--
Social Democrats	46	47
Democratic Liberals	45	40 (Liberals)
Democrats	44	30
People's Cooperatives	--	9 (Joins Ryokufukai)
Communists	4	4

-more-

Election -3		(Morning)
Others	18	120
Total	245	250
Vacancy	5	—

----oooo----

Han/so

afternoon - 3 - 0-1

HAKODATE CITY TO HAVE TWO RIVAL
DEMOCRATIC LIBERAL CHAPTERS

JIJI PRESS

HAKODATE, April 24. - With the inauguration here tomorrow of a new local chapter of the Democratic Liberal party, the city of Hakodate will have two separate and rival chapters of the same party.

The new Hakodate chapter is headed by Representative Hakugoro Tominaga, formerly chairman of the recently-disbanded Hokkaido chapter of the former Liberal party.

Another local chapter of the party was formed here last Wednesday under the chairmanship of Kakuichi Okawa, owner of a local hotel, who was campaign manager for Representative Zenpachiro Kawamura in last April's general elections.

Mr. Kawamura told Jiji Press that he expected the two rival chapters to merge "eventually."

He declared, however, that merger of the two chapters must be negotiated "with a clean slate" on both sides, adding "We don't like Mr. Tominaga's dea-

No. 16 —29—

NEWS IN BRIEF

TWO DEMOCRATS JOIN
DEMOCRATIC-LIBERAL PARTY

Kyodo (Evening Ed.)

TOKYO, April 24---Sadakichi Oshima and Kikuji Okada, both Upper House members from Tochigi who bolted the Democratic Party yesterday, formally joined the Democratic-Liberal Party today.

Meanwhile, Keiichiro Oku, a Democratic-Liberal Upper House member from Kyoto, today seceded from the party and became an independent.

As a result, the Democratic-Liberal seats in the Upper House increased to 45 and those of the Democrats decreased to 44. The former is now the third biggest group in the Upper House.

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Nishikawa/yk

—29—

DEMOCRATIC-LIBERALS READY
TO COOPERATE IN MERGER

JIJI PRESS

AOMORI, April 24 - If Premier Hitoshi Ashida desires a merger of conservative forces on a broad basis, the Democratic Liberal Party will be ready to cooperate, declared President Shigeru Yoshida of the Democratic Liberal Party today.

Mr. Yoshida made the statement at his press conference following a Democratic Liberal rally to mark the formation of the party's Aomori chapter today.

Asserting that a "decidedly new" Cabinet was necessary to "fill up the current political vacuum," Mr. Yoshida said that such a new Cabinet would be brought into being by a broad merger of conservative forces.

(more)

The time for that merger, Mr. Yoshida said, would probably be when Premier Yoshida has to decide whether or not to swallow Social Democratic policies in the process of formulating the 1948-49 fiscal budget.

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s/n

GOV'T TO EXTEND DIET
EXTENSION, SAYS ASHIDA

(Evening Ed.)

Kyodo

TOKYO, April 22—An extension of the current session of the Diet to May 31 as an atte to round up deliberations on the budget plan fo fiscal 1948 before it adjourns was hinted by Pri Minister Hitoshi Ashida this morning.

Speaking before the Lower House steerin committee meeting held at 11:10 a.m., Ashida said the budget estimates probably will be submitted to the national legislature around May 15.

Inasmuch as it appears necessary to provide at least two weeks for debate on the bud bill in the Diet, the Cabinet will ask for an extension of the current session to the end of next month, according to the Prime Minister.

(more)

— 3 —

Diet Extention--2 (Evening Ed.)

As for the provisional budget plan for May, he indicated, it will be put into good shape at tomorrow's Cabinet meeting and presented to the Diet on April 24 for approval.

He said the Government does not contempl a provisional budget plan for the month of June which he asserted will be covered by the principa budget project for the next fiscal year.

Under the present circumstances, Ashida continued, the Cabinet will be able to get the plan ready for presentation to the Diet by the middle of next month.

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kaito/yn

CELEBRATIONS BEING PLANNED
FOR CONSTITUTION DAY

JIJI PRESS

TOKYO, April 21. - In commemoration of the first anniversary of the new Constitution various celebrations are being planned to be held in Tokyo under the ¥1,500,000 budget, Tokyo Metropolitan officials said today.

From 10 a.m. on May 3 a commemoration ceremony will be held at the Metropolitan Assembly Hall with Governor Seiichiro Yasui of the Tokyo Metropolis and other celebrities attending. In the same afternoon from 1 o'clock a ceremony will be held citing 28 persons, credited with meritorious services rendered in the fields of municipal administration and statistic

On May 4, a citizens' forum is scheduled at the Kanda Kyoritsu Hall from 5 p.m. Under the title of "New Constitution and Japan's present conditions and Japan's future," Premier Hitoshi Ashida and Dr.

(more)

DECLASSIFIED: E.O. 12958 SEC. 3(E) AND 3(B) OR (E) AND # 793-072

Tokujiro Kanamori, former State Minister and noted authority on the Constitution will take part in the debate. Discussions will also be held on the subjec of the reconstruction of new Japan and the rehabilitation of Tokyo.

Children's Recreation Day will be held on May 3 at Ueno Park. A citizens' athletic meet will be held from May 5 to 24 at various stadiums in Tokyo

A "Constitution and Labor" exhibition is scheduled to be opened at Shinjuku Mitsukoshi department store from May 18 to 31.

A "New Life" exhibition intended to enlighten Tokyo citizens on the bearing of the new Constitution on their daily life will be opened for a week from May 3 at Nihonbashi Mitsukoshi and six other department stores.

From May 3 to 5, the entrance fee of Ueno Zoo and Inogashira Park will be reduced to half while Korakuen, Hama-Rikyu, Kiyozumi Teien and Kokugien will be opened to the public free of charge.

s#/o

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12958 SEC. 3(E) AND 3(B) OR (C) NNDG # 795 012

Afternoon

DIET COMMITTEE TO QUIZ
GOV'T ON BUDGET DELAY

JIJI PRESS

TOKYO, April 21. - The Government will be taken to task for the repeated delay in submitting the 1948-49 national budget bill to the Diet when the House of Representatives Rules Committee meets tomorrow for the specific purpose of hearing Administration leaders express their views on the matter, it was reported in Diet circles today.

The committee, it was learned, decided to hold the meeting tomorrow in compliance with a representation made by the Democratic Liberal party this morning.

Invited to testify before the committee tomorrow are Premier Hitoshi Ashida, Finance Minister Tokutaro Kitamura, and Director General Takeo Kurusu of the Economic Stabilization Board.

Inajiro Asanuma, Social Democratic chairman of the committee, indicated today that the question of

(more)

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12356 SEC. 3(E) AND 3(D) OR (E) NNDG # 79-072

extending the present Diet session would also be taken for discussion at tomorrow's session.

An extension "at least until the end of May" will be "unavoidable," he said, but, in view of many major measures still to be acted on by the Diet, including the national budget, Lower House Election Law revision, and Political Party Corruption Prevention bills, it appears "probable" that the Diet will have to remain in session until mid-June depending on the course of Diet deliberations on these measures.

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y/o

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 5(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775 072

DIET SESSION MAY BE
EXTENDED THROUGH MAY

KYODO (Morning Edition)

TOKYO, April 22.---The current second session of the Diet may be extended through May, according to present indications.

The exact length of extension will be decided by the House of Representatives steering committee.

Under the initiative of the Democratic liberal party, the committee will meet today to consider the issue.

If the budget formation business undergo further delay, there are chances of another extension beyond the end of May.

- more -

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 3(D) OR (E) NNDG # 795 072

Diet session 2

(Morning)

The current session is scheduled to terminate on May 7 if no extension is made.

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Man/kk

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12065 SEC. 3(E) AND 3(B) OR (E) NNDG # 775 072

Nakazawa(pres.Katakura Industry Co.), Rishichi Takada (Shoei Industry Co.), Yukio Suetsugu(Yokohama Silk Conditioning House), Mantaro Matsukata(Kobe Silk Conditioning House), Tomokichi Onoda(Fiber Trade Corp.), Eikichi Hiratsuka(director, Silk Experimental Station), and Takeshichi Yoshimura(Central Silk Assn.sec.).

Besides the despatch of these trade missions, the Government is contemplating the presentation to the Diet of a bill providing for the control of export goods (maintaining a high standard of quality being one of the aims of the said bill), the reorganization of trade corporations and the Trade Board, establishing of a barter arrangement with Far Eastern countries, and the expansion of processed goods export to America.

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May 3,Anniversary of Constitution Enforcement, to be Celebrated with Ceremonies,Varied Program

Minon Keizai Shimbun, April 22

The first anniversary of the enforcement of the new Constitution, May 3, will be celebrated with appropriate ceremonies and other programs in the capital and elsewhere. The Cabinet has decided to hold a ceremony to mark the anniversary in the Diet, requesting the presence of the Emperor, under the joint sponsorship of the Prime Minister, President of the House of Councillors,Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. A brief celebration party is scheduled to follow at the Akasaka Detached Palace.

In Tokyo, the event will be celebrated with ceremonies, lectures, athletic meets, children's recreation events, exhibitions at the seven department stores on livelihood, reduction of admission fees to the Ueno zoo and the Inokashira cultural garden, and the throwing open of Korakuen, Hama park,etc. free to the public, etc.

x x x

DIET EXTENSION
HELD LIKELY

JIJI PRESS

TOKYO, April 20. - Indications are mounting in official circles that the Government will ask the National Diet to extend the current session, scheduled to close on May 7, for another month or possibily longer.

In view of many major issues still pending, many Administration leaders are said to be inclined to the view that an extension of the current Diet session will be unavoidable.

According to Administration sources, though Cabinet members in favor of a Diet extension feel that the projected extension should be at least a month or preferably longer in order to ensure the enactment during the present session of such major bills as revision of the House of Representatives

(more)

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) MND # 795-072

Election Law and political party corruption prevention, in addition to other pending measures.

While the Government is being called upon to settle the controversial issue of suspending interest payments on wartime public bonds during the current Diet session, it was pointed out in these circles, the vital question of revising the price structure now in force - a major prerequisite to compilation of the 1948-49 national budget - still remains to be resolved.

Furthermore, it was further pointed out, there are no definite prospects of how soon the long-awaited national budget bill will reach the Diet, with indications growing that the Government will have to formulate another provisional piece-meal budget for June - the third month of the current fiscal year.

(more)

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775 012

Morning

If the Diet agrees to the Government's prospective request for an extension of the present session it appears likely that the current Diet session may run well into the summer months in view of the tardy progress so far made in its proceedings, these circles believed.

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Ene Morning Edition
Wednesday, April 21, 1948

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NND # 795 072

No.1

DEMOCRATIC-LIBERALS TO
ATTACK ASHIDA CABINET

(Morning Edition)

KYODO

TOKYO, April 21.---The Democratic-Liberal party yesterday decided to carry out a determined offensive against the Ashida Cabinet when the National Diet reacets from next week.

Details of the proposed offensive was decided at the executive officers meeting of the party yesterday in the presence of President Shigeru Yoshida.

After hearing reports on the progress being made in organizing local chapters throughout the country since the formation of the Democratic-Liberal party, the meeting decided to carry out the following immediately as the first part of their party's offensive.

- more —/—

DECLASSIFIED: E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDB # 775 072

Democratic-Liberals 2

(Morning)

1.---The ascertain why a "political vacuum" had to be created as a result of all state ministers leaving Tokyo for Osaka for over two weeks.

2.---To request the holding of an immediate meeting of the Lower House Steering Committee to question the Government regarding the progress being made in compiling the national budget.

3.---To propose that full-dress investigations be carried out by the Illegal Properties Transaction Investigation Committee.

In this connection, Secretary-General Takeshi Yamazaki issued the following statement:-

- more -

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775072

Democratic-Liberals 3

(Morning)

"The provisional budget for April was submitted to the Diet. However, no one can tell when the budget covering the full fiscal year will be ready for discussion. Other important bills are likewise conspicuous by their absence.

"Despite such condition, 14 cabinet ministers, including the Prime Minister, are stumping in the country for several days.

"We can see no more irresponsible Government than the present one. Contrary to the Prime Minister's remark, the credit for the current trend of leveling-off of inflation does not go to the Government.

- more -

-3-

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12356 SEC. 3(E) AND 3(D) OR (C) NNDG # 775 072

Democratic-Liberals 4

(Morning)

"The present Cabinet, moreover, attests to the weakness inherent in any coalition, having serious dissensions among its ministers over the various important issues.

"It is also to be charged that the cabinet is intending to capitalize on the invitation of foreign credits for its own sake.

"We have demanded to the Speaker of the House of Representatives immediately to ~~x~~ summon the steering committee in session in order to know the Government's intentions on budgets and other important bills.

"As for the parliamentary investigations on the alleged illegal property transactions, we have decided to promote the committee's activities by collecting more data on the issue during the present lull in the Diet discussions."

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Otake/Han/kk

DECLASSIFIED: E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(B) OR (C) NND # 775 072

DEMOCRATIC LIBERALS
[illegible]AN NEW OFFENSIVE

JIJI PRESS

TOKYO, April 20 - As soon as the National Diet's present "automatic" recess is over, the Democratic Liberal party will launch an all-out offensive against the Ashida Cabinet, calling it to account for the "political vacuum created by its paucity of policy", Takeshi Yamazaki, secretary general of the party, declared at a press conference this afternoon.

He made the announcement after a handful of Democratic Liberal party leaders still remaining in town met in conference to map out the party's new strategy in facing the coming Diet session.

Since the election of Dr. Hitoshi Ashida as premier two and half months ago, Mr. Yamasaki declared, the country has remained in a "political vacuum" and all the blames for it should be placed

(more)

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 3(D) OR (E) NNDS # 75-072

squarely on the Ashida Administration on account of its "paucity of policy".

He charged that the present Cabinet, neglecting the all-important question of national budget formulation, was "wantonly making a political issue of delicate international issues, such as prospective foreign investments, to deliberately deceive the people".

The serious disagreement among Cabinet members over the major issues, including labor trouble, proposed suspension of wartime bond interest payments, railroad fare and freight raises, government personnel cuts, and increased food rations, is nothing but a most eloquent testimony to the Government's total lack of policy, he further declared.

(more)

"The Democratic Liberal party feels compelled to call the Government to account for this political paucity and to bring its under severe fire of criticism," Secretary-General Yamazaki said, "This is the way our party proposes to discharge its political responsibility to the people".

As outlined by Mr. Yamazaki, the Democratic Liberals' new offensive strategy envisages a written demand on Speaker Komakichi Matsuoka to speedily call a meeting of the Lower House Rules Committee to have Premier Ashida, Finance Minister Tokutaro Kitamura and other Cabinet members to testify on the causes of repeated delays in compiling the 1948-49 national budget.

With the current Diet session scheduled to close on May 7, he said, the Democratic Liberals fear that the way the Government is at present "fumbling"

(more)

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 795 012

with the vital budget question, it may again become necessary to formulate yet another provisional budget for June.

Mr. Yamazaki further revealed that his party would take the Ashida Cabinet to task also in connection with the special Lower House committee investigating irregular property transactions.

The Democratic Liberals hold the view that the committee, digressing from its original objective, is being used to serve partisan interests, he stressed, declaring that his party is now out to arrest the committee's "partisan digression".

According to the Democratic Liberal spokesman, Shigeru Yoshida, president of the party, is firmly convinced that now is the time for his party to take the initiative to "clean up politics, government, and business."

All Democratic Liberal members on the committee will act according to the party president's convictions, he said. (more)

Mr. Yamazaki, announcing his party's coming anti-Government offensive, declined, however, to indicate whether the party will move for a vote of non-confidence in the Ashida Cabinet or demand an outright dissolution of the Diet.

Such a move will depend on subsequent developments in the political situation, he added.

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y/n

End Evening Edition

Tuesday, April 20, 1948

evening

CONSTITUTION BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATION PLANNED

Jiji Press

TOKYO, April 20.--Celebration of the first anniversary of the enforcement of the new Constitution in this country on May 3 is now being planned by the Government in consultation with the National Diet, it was learned today.

Definite plans for celebration will be worked out at a Cabinet meeting to be held after Premier Hitoshi Ashida returns to Tokyo from Kansai.

Under provisional plans worked out by the Government, the Emperor will be invited to attend the commemoration to be held at the Diet during the morning of May 3, which will be followed by a luncheon party at the Akasaka Detached Palace with representatives from various fields.

At the same time, the Diet will launch a nationwide movement for the popularization of the new Constitution, with the Democratic Political Education

(more)

evening

League as its main medium.

A series of mass meetings for the celebration are being scheduled both in Tokyo and other parts of the country, but no detailed plans have as yet been worked out.

In Tokyo a citizens' forum in commemoration of the enforcement of the new Constitution will be held at the Kanda Kyoritsu Hall on May 4 with Premier Hitoshi Ashida and Secretary-General Inajiro Asamuma of the Social Democratic Party expected to participate.

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No. 7 —12—

DAILY EDITORIAL ROUNDUP (Noon)

POLICIES OF ASHIDA CABINET CRITICIZED
AS INCONSISTENT--NIHON KEIZAI

Kyodo

TOKYO, April 8--The Nihon Keizai, reviewing theone-month administration of the Ashida Cabinet since its formation, today editorially criticized that the statements of the new Government has changed from time to time, giving rise to a doubt that the Cabinet has no definite policy of its own at all.

Especially, the paper blamed the Ashida Administration for its "unstable and inconsistent" attitude toward its workers disputes, warning that such an attitude would serve to cool the people's will of extending their cooperation to the Government.

Pointing out that there are a number of issues upon which opinions are apparently split among the government parties, such as, the suspension of war-bond interest payment, the paper cautioned that if the Government should postpone settlement of these problems in fear of a definite division of opinions among them, it would result in political confusion and unrest.

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—12—

"So long as the Ashida Cabinet maintains its "depend on outside help" attitude and shifting policies, it would not only lose the people's confidence in it but also would mean the waste of precious time at this grave moment for Japan's economic reconstruction," the paper declared.

The Asahi, reviewing the one-year administration of the nation's provincial governments since April, last year, when prefectural governors were first elected by public voting, praised the great stride made in decentralizing the administrative power and establishing a democratic provincial autonomy state in Japan.

Stressing theneed of strengthening the independency of provincial governments as a prerequisite to establishing a complete provincial autonomy system, the paper warned that if the present financial predicament, which has choked up the development of the atuonomy system, the newly-introduced system may collapse half-way.

The Jiji Shimpo, commenting on the projected revision of the provincial taxation system, urged that in revising the system, the Government should stick to a policy of decreasing, not increasing, the taxes in view of the fact that the people's capacity of burdening taxes has already reached its maximum limit.

Expressing the necessity of carrying out a reasonable readjustment of the provincial taxation system, the paper was opposed to the reported Government plan to create a new 'tobacco consumption tax" as a provincial tax.

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Editorial -3 (Noon)

The Mainichi, deploring the recent decline in the people's interest in politics, attributed the reason chiefly to the unenthusiastic attitude of the Diet members toward Diet activities as warned recently by Brig. General C. Whitney.

Criticizing the Diet members for their indifferent attitude toward the recent government workers' disputes and for their lack of positive steps in drafting bills, the paper urged them to have more pride as representatives of the people and fully recognize their duties and responsibilities.

The Yomiuri, referring to Prime Minister Ashida's statement of his intention to enact a labor law similar to the Taft-Hartley Law of the United States, urged the Government and political parties to give their serious consideration to this problem in view of the fact that the present labor laws are apparently incompetent to prevent nationwide strikes which may hinder the nation's economic reconstruction projects.

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Kobayashi/so

Suggest Abolition of the Word 'Daijin'(Minister), and Changes in Names of Various Ministries

Jiji Shimpo, April 9

Some 16 persons representing public officials, law educators, press and publication at a meeting held yester in the Attorney General's Office(Homu-cho) discussed the advisability of changing the name of Homu-cho to Hosei-cho and that of Attorney-General(Homu Sosai to Hosei Chokan). In the course of the discussions various suggestions were made to "democratize" the names at present used for designating public offices.

Among others, the word "Daijin"(Minister), it was proposed, should be abolished entirely and be substituted by some other more appropriate word. It was said that "Daijin" was suggestive of feudalistic times. The names of the some of the Ministries should also be changed, the meeting provisionally decided, as follows:

Okura-sho(Finance Ministry) to Zaisei-sho.

Mombu-sho(Education Ministry) to Bunkyo-sho or Gakugei-sho.

Unyu-sho(Transportation Ministry) to Kotsu-sho.

Teishin-sho(Communications Ministry) to Tsushin-sho.

The whole matter is to be studied further, and, if agreed upon definitely, will be submitted to the Diet for approval, probably at the same time the 1948 budget is presented.

x x x

Famous Violin Stolen

Yomiuri Shimbun, April 9

Miss Nejiko Suwa, noted violinist, announces that some one had stolen a famous violin(Paul Alpani ?), kept in custody at her home at 1700 Karasuyama, Setagaya, Tokyo, besides a guitar belonging to her brother. The violin belonged to a friend of hers who had brought back the instrument from USA. The theft took place on March 4, but the whereabouts of the two instruments is still unknown.

x x x

No7 —13—

POLITICAL UN ST
LIKELY TO CONTINUE (Noon)

Kyodo

TOKYO, April 7—Commenting on the Cabinet's request for better attendance by the Diet members in the national legislature now in session, political observers asserted, "what a shame for the Government to issue such a request!"

They observed there has never been a time when a Cabinet had to ask the Diet members to do what they should, namely, to attend regular sessions.

Such Cabinet action, they continued, candidly reflected the current serious political unrest which is loaded with dynamite liable to "explode at any moment."

Observers opined that neither the Government nor the three government parties appeared able to blow off the stuffy political atmosphere in the national legislature

-more-

—13—

Political -2 (Noon)

and push their plan to round up deliberations on bills as they are submitted to the Diet.

According to political commentators, both the Cabinet and the three government parties have no fighting spirit to tackle Diet opposition.

For this reason, they opined, if the Diet begins deliberations on the budget bill for the next fiscal year under such circumstances, the Government will face more serious difficulty in the legislature than heretofore.

There are indications that the Government tries to pull its strength together during the virtual recess of the Diet now in progress, but observers doubted the Cabinet can find effective means to fight its way through the coming deliberations in the Diet.

Political unrest, therefore, is likely to continue for sometime to come.

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Koito/so

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DAILY PRESS COMMENTS

No. 4,735 - B

Thursday, April 8, 1948

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Crisis in Parliamentary Government

Mainichi Shimbun, April 8

We have of late been surprised by such questions as: "Is the Diet now in session?", so conspicuous has grown the low degree of interest in politics on the part of the general public. Opinion such as that economy is more vital than politics or that the labor problem is more pressing than politics has lately been heard but such a tendency can have something in common with repudiation of parliamentary government altogether. It should be that politics decide economic, labor and all other problems of public interest, but that there should be even a little tendency for politics to be ignored in this way is a serious matter for parliamentary government. Articles or books on politics nowadays are mostly concerned with blackmarket dealings in political funds or other scandals and inside stories of dishonest maneuvers to get into power. The result of such unpopularity and indifference in regard to politics may be seen in the 44-per cent abstentions at the Hiroshima elections for vacancies in the House of Representatives, in the considerably numerous persons who have replied "I don't know" on each occasion that public opinion polls have been taken or the tendency not to support any political party. These can be statistically listed.

Who is responsible for this situation? It would not probably be a mistake to say that fundamentally the people as a whole are responsible for it but the main part of this responsibility must be borne by members of the Diet, as being in a position to exercise guidance as men and women chosen by the people to represent them. The new Constitution

adopts the so-called parliamentary Cabinet system and makes the Diet the supreme organ of the State. Although the three departments of government are quite well defined, the administrative and judicial branches actually yield the place of honor to the legislative. Thus even if solely from the standpoint of the constitutional spirit, Japan must revol in all matters about the National Diet and if this royal roa should run aground the consequences would be catastrophic.

But what of the actual situation in the Diet? The 2nd session of it was reopened on February and nearly two month have passed since then but what has it done in all this time? To be sure, there have been such troublesome issues a political change and the labor offensive and the Government has been tardy in presenting bills, which no doubt has held up proceedings. But if the Diet should rest content to waste time doing nothing under the pretext of such external condit and continue to show such astounding absenteeism as pointed out by General Whitney, it is clear that the people's interest in politics will more and more wane. Nothing could be a more flagrant confusion of public and private interests than the fact that a large number of Diet members should have returned to their constituencies in the midst of a Diet session on rumors that dissolution was imminent. At a time when the Diet is tending to drift apart from the workaday life of the people, the most important question is how the Diet, the supreme organ of the State and sole legislative machinery, should be put into real working order.

Since the opening of the second session the Diet has achieved no work worth mentioning. The excuses given are that there has been a political change and that the Government have failed to turn in its bills in time. If so, the Diet as it now exists has no autonomy and no ability to get to work on its own initiative. Even when the strike of the National Communications workers became a national issue, the Diet adjourned because not enough labor Representatives could be collected together. Thus the Diet all but looked on while the strike went on. At this rate, no matter how loudly one should declare the pre-eminent position of the Diet, the tende to respect it will not be strengthened. What the Diet lacks most at the present time is the power to work autonomously. In order to remedy this defect, the Diet should be subjected to scrutiny from all angles. In the first place we wish it to become a legislative body both in name and substance. The Government is empowered to present legislative bills but this is not its primary function. Yet the Diet is maintaining t

old system, leaving it all to the Government, and closing shop, to all intents and purposes, so long as the Government is backward in presenting bills. There can be no autonomy in such an attitude. Is it not absolutely requisite that the legislative departments of both Houses be promptly put in order so as to revise or frame bills found necessary, including one for the amendment of the Election Act?

Alongside this question of organizational reform, there is the essential point that the members of the Diet should have more pride in their work. The authority of the Diet cannot be maintained if its members look on while a labor offensive works harm to the interests of the public, go home to their constituencies while the Diet in in session to engage in election campaigns or participate in the scramble for parliamentary vice-ministers' posts. A member of the Diet cannot be considered qualified for his high office unless he abandoned his personal interests and dedicated his whole self to the establishment of parliamentary government and reconstruction of his country.

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No. 6

MANY DIETMEN ABSENT
FROM MEETINGS

(Evening edition)

KYODO

TOKYO, April 6 ... An increasing number of h
House of Representatives members is absenting themselves from the Diet these days with many scheduled meetings in the Diet being cancelled due to lack of quorum.

The number of Representatives present at the Diet averages around 30 Democrats, 40 to 70 Social Democrats and 30 Democratic Liberals.

The lineup of various political parties in the lower house stands as follows:

Democratic-Liberal.....150
Social Democratic.....122
Democratic..... 91
People's Cooperative..... 29
Social Renovation..... 21
Komeito..... 10

- more -

—10—

Dietmen 2

(Evening)

Farmers..... 7

Liberal..... 6

Independents..... 5

Communist..... 4

Vacancies..... 21

Observers believe the small attendance was caused by the rumor of a general election in the near future, perhaps in May.

They point out that the majority of the present representatives are not veteran statesmen who can remain in the capital without worrying about their chances of reelection.

So, no sooner the rumor was started, than did they go back to their respective electoral districts to 'mend the fences.'

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Lan/kk

— 11 —

DIET EXPECTED TO GO
ON HOLIDAY APRIL 8 (Noon)

Kyodo

TOKYO, April 6—That the Diet will go into recess on April 8 appeared likely this morning as the Lower House reportedly will be able to round up deliberations on all important measures now on its agenda within today and the Upper House by tomorrow.

The impending recess is scheduled to last until April 20.

At today's plenary session, the Lower House is expected to pass the bill for establishment of the Maritime Peace Maintenance Board and a revision of the Reconstruction Finance Bank, Law.

According to present indications, such important bills as for the Medium and Small Enterprise Board, the Coal Board, and exceptional

-more-

(Noon)

Diet -2

cases in Article 3 of Finance Law will be passed by the committees and the plenary session of the Lower House today.

The Upper House is believed to vote all the major bills to be forwarded by the Lower House within tomorrow.

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Koito/so

No2

EXTENSION OF CURRENT DIET LIKELY

KYODO MORNING

TOKYO, April 5---An extension of the second Diet appeared likely now as the Ashida Cabinet reportedly will not be able to submit to the national legislature bills designed to enforce its own policies until the end of this month.

Prior to the conclusion of the current Diet scheduled for May 7, the controversial budget plan for the 1948-49 fiscal year must be acted upon in the legislature. This may mean that the Diet will be involved in lengthy deliberations that are likely to continue for some time in May.

If the three parties arrive at a practical conclusion of such key issues of the policy accord as suspension of interest payments on war bonds, national wealth investigation

-more-

Tax, democratization of financial institutions by the end of this month, they should be written into bills and presented to the Diet in early May.

Aside from these issues that constitute part of the budget plan for the new fiscal year, what Prime Minister Hitoshi Ashida referred to in his administrative speech to the Diet as "reduction in the earned income tax of the working class" and "democratic revision of the quota rice delivery system" are believed to be put into concrete form for submission to the Diet in the latter part of the current Diet.

In addition, a number of bills, administrative in nature, is to be presented by various Ministries too.

Bills that are scheduled for presentation to the national legislature within a week include;

EXTENSION-3-

MORNING

Regulation bills supplementary to the Constitution, revision of the penal code, bills for better pay for judges and inspectors, administrative agencies bills, provincial finance bill, and provincial civil service bill.

All these projects will be given attention in the Diet in the middle and latter part of this month.

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Koito/cs

No1

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION MOOTED

(Noon Edition)

KYODO

TOKYO, April 2.---Opinion is gaining momentum among Diet circles as well as in general political field that the constitution should be amended.

The flaws in the constitution were brought to a head recently when the Hatayama cabinet resigned and was succeeded by the present administration.

It was felt at that time that the provisions of the constitution's Chapters IV and V pertaining to the Diet and the Cabinet were not clear enough.

These drawbacks were admitted by Speaker Komakichi Matsuoka of the House of Representatives and Chairman Inajiro Asanuma of the Lower House Steering Committee.

- more -

(noon)

Matsuoka said amendments should be made in order to add to the constitution some provisions which must be in it.

Asanuma said it was undesirable to revise the constitution frequently. But, he added, partial revisions at this time with the object of improving it should be done.

On the other hand, difference of procedures to amend the new constitution from the old one is emphasized among the advocates of the revision.

The old constitution, due to its complicated revision procedures, had not been amended at all during the 57 years it was in force.

The new one can be revised under the initiative of the Diet and a concurring vote of two-thirds of all the members of each House, subject to subsequent ratification by the people through a referendum.

(noon)

Thus, the amendments to the constitution can be made more easily now than under the Meiji constitution.

The flaws in the constitution which are cited as requiring amendments are:

Article 17 which states, "every person has the right to sue for redress as provided by law from the State or a public entity, in case he has suffered damage through illegal act of any public official." The words "every person," it is argued, may or may not include Chinese, Korean and other foreign nationals residing in this country.

The third paragraph of Article 54 which provides that "measures enacted at such session (emergency session of the House of Councillors when the House of Representatives is dissolved) shall be provisional and shall

Amendment 4 (noon)

become null and void unless agreed to by the House of Representatives within a period of 10 days after the opening of the next session of the Diet."

The period of "10 days", it is pointed out, should be lengthened, because the House of Representatives might be unable to act within the designated period in the event of a stalemate over the election of the Speaker or the Prime Minister.

The second paragraph of Article 67 which states, "if the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors disagree and if a joint committee of both Houses, provided for by law, cannot reach an agreement, or the House of Councillors fails to make designation within 10 days, exclusive of the period of recess, after the House of Representatives has made the designation, the decision of the House of

- more -

Amendment 5 (noon)

Representatives shall be the decision of the Diet."

It is argued that some provisions must be added to be applied to the case of the joint committee lacking in quorum.

The resignation of the cabinet, according to the constitution, shall come when the House of Representatives passes a non-confidence resolution, or rejects a confidence resolution.

The Katayama cabinet resigned on the initiative of the Prime Minister and not in accordance with the provisions of the constitution.

The constitution also fails to provide procedural matters pertaining to the cabinet's resignation, partly responsible for the long political vacuum which occurred after the resignation of the previous cabinet.

- more -

Amendment 6

(noon)

Such flaws were not expected at the time of drafting the constitution and came up after it was put into force on May 3, last year.

In view of strong support given to the argument, the amendments to the constitution are expected to be realized in the near future.

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Han/kk

No. 10 —12—

ILL RESIGN IF LABOR
LAWS REVISED, SAYS KATO

KYODO (Evening Edition)

TOKYO, April 2.——Socialist Labor Minister Kanju Kato told the press this afternoon that he would resign "if any revision in the existing labor laws is made."

He made this statement with reference to Prime Minister Hitoshi Ashida's reply before the Lower House Foreign Affairs Committee on Thursday to the effect that he personally considers the necessity of enforcing a new labor law similar to the Taft-Hartley Law of the United States.

Kato pointed out that the Prime Minister did not say that "such a law would be enforced." In other words, Kato explained, "the Prime Minister merely revealed that he was studying a new labor law."

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—12—

Kato 2

(Evening)

Kato declared that any revision in the labor laws "cannot be made without my knowledge," adding that "I will submit my resignation immediately if the labor laws are revised, as I have announced at the time of my assumption of the present office."

With regard to the Government workers dispute, Kato said that a formal agreement will be signed pending the acceptance by the workers of the settlement plan which the Government had approved.

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h/kk

Add Morning

RYOKUFUKAI FACES
IMMINENT SPLIT

JIJI PRESS

TOKYO, Mar. 26. - The Ryokufukai, the largest single group in the House of Councillors, which has been divided as to whether or not support the Ashida Cabinet, faced an imminent split yesterday when 28 of its members supporting the Government formally decided to secede from the group and organize a new group of their own.

The central figures of those secessionists are Yoshinobu Yamashita, Kichinosuke Saigo and Heigo Fujii, who belong to the Wakabakai group within the Ryokufukai, and Makihei Komai, who is on close terms with the People's Cooperative Party.

Those 28 Ryokufukai-ites have been consistently supporting the Ashida Cabinet since its organization. Meeting in a conference at the Diet yesterday, they signed their resignations from the Ryokufukai.

The bolters will organize a Democratic Renovation League (Minshu Kakushin Renmei), which will cooperate with the Democrats and Social Democrats.

A number of other Ryokufukai-ites may join the proposed new group, it was said.

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s/a

End Add Morning Edition
Friday, March 26, 1948

NEW POLITICAL
PARTY APPEARS

JIJI PRESS

TOKYO, March 26. - The Kakushin Shakai-to or Renovation Social Party, a new political party spearheaded by Maruki Satake and other ex-Social Democrats affiliated with ex-Agriculture and Forestry Minister Rikizo Hirano's National Farmers Union, was inaugurated with a ceremony at the Meiji University auditorium today.

Approximately 250 member Representatives and extra-Parliamentary members attended the function.

They elected Mr. Satake as the new party's secretary-general. There will be no executive chairman of the party, it being decided that the party be operated by a standing central executive committee.

Among those elected members of the standing central executive committee are Mr. Satake,

(more)

Evening

Sakae Fujita (ex-Social Democrat) and Hiroo Ohara (ex-People's Cooperative).

Mr. Fujita was elected also as Chairman of the political affairs research committee. The three vice-chairman of the committee are Takashi Hayakawa (ex-People's Cooperative), Meichoku Akamatsu (ex-Social Democrat) and Daisuke Akita (ex-People's Cooperative).

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s/k

STEPS URGED AGAINST
ERRANT HOUSE MEMBERS

JIJI PRESS

TOKYO, March 26 - Jiichiro Matsumoto, Vice-President of the House of Councillors, today requested Speaker Konakichi Matsuoka of the House of Representatives to take proper steps against Shuji Kawasaki, aDemocratic Representative, who, Mr. Matsumoto said, insulted the Upper House by trying forcibly to take out Finance Minister Tokutaro Kitamura from the Upper House plenary session yesterday which he was attending, it was learned.

As a result of Mr. Matsumoto's representations, the House of Representatives was to take up the matter at an inter-party caucus this afternoon.

Mr. Kawasaki, it was alleged, intruded the House of Councillors plenary session and, in spite of the efforts of a guard to stop him, tried to take out

(more)

of the chamber Finance Minister Kitamura, who was sitting in his seat.

Mr. Matsumoto, it was learned, told Speaker Matsumoto that even the action of an Lower House member walking into an Upper House session without permission "disregarded the sanctity of the Upper House".

He further declared that Mr. Kawasaki's action of shaking himself loose from the guard's hands to stop him was an actm of violence which ran counter to the principles of constitutional government, it was learned.

Mr. Matsumoto told Mr. Matsuoka that the Lower House should take proper disciplinary procedures against Mr. Kawasaki since the House of Councillor was in no position to punish a Lower House member.

Meanwhile, the Democratic Liberal Party attaching importance to the incident, may move even to expel the Democratic Member from the House, it was also learned.

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MATSUDAIRA GIVEN FREE HAND TO PICK
CANDIDATE FOR ASS'T CHIEF LIBRARIAN

JIJI PRESS

TOKYO, March 26 - The House of Councillors Library Committee decided this afternoon to give a free hand to President Tsuneo Matsudaira to pick a candidate for Assistant Chief Librarian of the National Diet Library on behalf of the Upper House.

The Upper House earlier had picked Shoichi Nakai, Chief Librarian of the Onomichi Municipal Library, Hiroshima, as its candidate for the Diet Library's Assistant Chief Librarian.

The House of Representatives Library Committee, however, yesterday disapproved the Upper House choice and passed a resolution that some other better qualified person be picked.

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sas/n

DECLASSIFIED: E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDO # 778 072

No. 9

SOCIAL RENOVATION
PARTY INAUGURATED

(Evening Edition)

KYODO

TOKYO, March 26.---The Social Renovation Party (Shakai Kakushinto) was formally inaugurated at a mass meeting held today at the auditorium of Meiji University at Kanda with an attendance of some 200 party members.

The party's Diet strength increased to 21 as Zenkichi Ogami, Independent Lower House member from Fukuoka Prefecture, joined the party.

At the meeting, the newly-organized party adopted a party platform and appointed its high officers as follows:

Chairman of the Executive Committee: Haruki Satake

- more -

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 14032 SEC. 3(E) AND 3(D) OR (E) NNDG # 795 072

Social Renovation party 2

(Evening)

Vice-chairman: Koshin Narishige

President of the Political Affairs Research Council: Sakae Fujita

The party is centered around the seceders from the Social Democratic Party headed by Haruki Satake.

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wt/kk

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDC # 75-072

No. 8

28 DISSIDENTS OF RYOKUFUKAI
GIVE UP INTENTION OF SECEDING

(Evening Edition)

KYODO

TOKYO, March 28.---Twenty-eight members of the Ryokufukai, the largest group in the House of Councillors, yesterday afternoon withdrew their intention of leaving the group.

The withdrawal was made after three-hour heated discussion on the "democratization" of management of the group.

Early last week, the 28 members announced that they would secede the group to form a new political party, which was generally believed to be "pro-Government."

Detailed points on the proposed revision of the group's regulations will be studied by a special committee.

The Ryokufukai has been formed by neutral members of the Upper House, its membership being 93.

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A/kk

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) MND # 775-072

No. 7

SUIT FILED FOR NULLIFYING
ELECTION OF COUNCILLOR

(Evening Edition)

KYODO

NAGANO, March 28.---A law suit for nullifying the election of Democrat-Liberal Uemon Ikeda was filed recently with the Tokyo District Higher Court.

Ikeda was returned in a by-election for the House of Councillors held on February 5 in the Nagano Prefecture electorate.

The suit was brought up by Teru Takakura, unsuccessful Communist candidate in the by-election.

He charged that:

1) He was abridged of chances to broadcast his campaign speech without any

- more -

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 5(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775 072

Suit 2

(Evening)

justifiable reasons by the Japan Broadcasting Corporation, thus losing votes and giving Ikeda unjustified favored position.

2) Ikeda spent a sum for the election campaign higher than the legally set limit.

The proceedings on the case will begin tomorrow at the Tokyo District Higher Court.

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Man/kk

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 3(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775 072

No. 1

DIETMEN'S CONCILIATION
EFFORTS FAIL

(EVENING EDITION)

KYODO

TOKYO, March 28.---Fourteen Distmen's overnight efforts for last-minute Government-labor negotiations ended in a failure early this morning.

In a statement issued at 3:30 a.m., they pinned the blame for the rupture of negotiations solely on the Government's negligence to understand the reality.

The Dietmen included 11 Councillors --- Makoto Hori, Kihachiro Kimura, Masao Iwama, Ko Nakanishi, Tosaku Mizuhashi, Ryosaku Sasaki, Yoshio Kuriyama, Yoshimi Kawakami, Tsuneo Ikeda, Yoshio Fujita and

- more -

DECLASSIFIED: E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 3(B) OR (E) NNDB # 775 072

(Evening)

Shin Chiba --- and three Representatives --- Shunzo Yakata, Haruo Okada and Tenkoko Matsutani. They were either elected with the support of labor unions or union members themselves, considered fit for the task of offering good offices for the negotiations.

Three cabinet ministers ---

Vice Prime Minister Suehiro Nishio, Chief Cabinet Secretary Gizo Tomabechi and Labor Minister Kanju Kato --- waited for the resumption of the negotiations in a room within the Diet building at 10 p.m. yesterday.

In another room gathered representatives of disputing Government and public workers unions.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 5(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 715 072

(Evening Edition)

The Dietmen who offered good offices for the resumption of negotiations first heard from Nishio that the Government would pay the new wage standard on the condition that the unions accept the new wage structure.

They then saw the union representatives to convey the Government's intention.

The unions insisted that the new wage standard should first be paid for the period of January - March and another new wage basis should be fixed through collective negotiations for April and thereafter.

Despite the Dietmen's efforts to persuade, both sides were adamant, bringing the negotiations to a stalement at 2 a.m.

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 3(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775 012

Dietmen's Conciliation efforts 2 4

(Evening)

After the last talk with the ministers, the Dietmen gave up their attempts for conciliation. They argued that the Government should do something to show its intention of settling the disputes amicably but were rejected by the latter.

The failure meant that the only channel of negotiations between the Government and labor remaining after the breakdown of direct negotiations was closed.

Under such circumstances, it is believed almost certain that the projected large-scale walkout by communications employes and other Government and public workers toward the month's end would be carried out as scheduled.

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Man/kk

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775 072

49.5 Per Cent of People Do Not Support Ashida Cabinet, According to Mainichi Poll

Mainichi Shimbun, March 29

Only 30.7 per cent of the people [illegible] support the Ashida Cabintt, but 49.5 per cent do not support it, according to a public opinion poll, conducted by the Mainhichi Shimbun.

The Public Opinion Research Department of the Mainichi Shimbun polled the public on the Ashida Cabinet. The poll was conducted for ten days, starting March 20, when the Ashida Cabinet was 10 days old. Five thousand questionairem slips were distributed throughout the country in proportion to the density of population, as revealed by the national census of October 1, 1947. The population was divided into two kinds, one the farming and fishing population and the other, non-farming and fishing population. Forty-eight per cent of the questionaire slips were distributed to the farming and fishing population and 52 per cent, to the non-farming and fishing population. On the other hand, questionaire slip for women were distributed on the basis of 48 per cent for farming women and 52 per cent for non-farming women. And questionaires were addressed to men and women above twenty years who are all enfranchized.

The questionaire is three-pointed. The first point is:

Do you support the Ashida Cabinet?

Replies:	Percentage:
Yes :	[illegible]
No:	[illegible]

DECLASSIFIED: E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NND # 715 072

No opinion: 19.8

The second point is: In what do you want the Ashida Cabinet concentrate its efforts?

According to classifications made by the Mainichi Shimbun of the replies to this question, the people are more keenly interested in economic questions, including the question of living than political questions. "A deep impression is created that the question of living is claiming deeper concern than acceleration of the Peace Conference or attraction of foreign capital." The Ashida Cabinet is demanded by the people in all walks of life to pay attention, first and foremost to checking of inflation. This demand is most vigorously made by salary earners and non-farming women. Stabilization of living is another question, to which the people demand the Ashida Cabinet to pay attention, next.

The third point is: Do you think that the AshidaCabinet should appeal to the country, by dissolving the Diet?

Replies:	Percentage
Dissolve the Diet:	58.4
It's better not to dissolve the Diet:	28.7
No opinion:	12.9

Incidentally, it is interesting to note that 28.4 per cent of the supporters of the Ashida Cabinet demanded the Diet to be dissolved; while 8.4 per cent of the non-supporters expressed their opinion that it's better not to

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 3(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775 012

dissolve the Diet.

The Mainichi Shimbun took public opinion polls on the Katayama Cabinet three times when it was in office. It proposes to poll the public on the Ashida Cabinet's popularity from time to time, following the present poll.

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Postal, Telephone & Telegraph Services In Eastern Japan to be Paralyzed Today

Mainichi Shimbun, March 29

All postal, telephone and communication services in Eastern Japan will be suspendd today with the exception of those for Occupation forces, police and fire brigades as the result of the strike of the All-Japan Communication Workers Union.

Some 157,000 workers will take part in today's strike, involving 652 chapters of the All-Japan Communication Workers Union. Kanto, Tohoku, Shinestu and Hokkaido areas will be affected.

All postal, telephone and telegraph services in Western Japan will be suspended tomorrow when 761 chapters of the Union, involving 203,000 workers carry out 24-hour walkouts. Tokai, Kinki, Chugoku, Shikoku and Kyushu areas will be affected tomorrow.

Due to the Union's strikes, NHK, Radio Tokyo will have its control wires between Transmissions Nos. 1 and 2 cut off as on the previous occasions. As a stopgap measure, the NHK will use the transmitting stations at Nazaki and Yachimata in Chiba Prefecture. But if those stations are involved in the strike, Radio Tokyo will be in touch with Osaka, Nagoya and other places by means of short waves, emitted by the Kawaguchi Station.

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 795 072

No 1 —1—

CABINET CRISIS IN MAY OR JUNE
APPEARED POSSIBLE, SAYS SUZUKI (Noon)

Kyodo

OKAYAMA, March 29--A possibility that the Ashida Cabinet will run up against a crisis in "May or June" in the face of labor "offensives" appeared strong, according to Mosaburo Suzuki, leader of the leftist Gogatsu-kai of the Social Democratic party.

Suzuki gave a press interview here yesterday afternoon during his stopover on a lap of his stumping tour in the Chugoku district.

He said that the current labor disputes among the government and public workers are likely to climax in "May or June" when a new price structure is expected to take effect.

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Cabinet crisis -2 (Noon)

Asked what he thought of the labor disputes, Suzuki answered, "I don't wish to reflect on the work stoppage by the government and public workers' unions."

But he added popular rumors of a Cabinet shift in "May or June" probably arose from the supposition that the possible enforcement of a new price standard in "May or June" is liable to result in bringing the current labor trouble to a climax and thus driving the Ashida regime into a fix.

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Koito/so

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) AND 9 778 078

DIET MEMBERS ALLOWANCES
TO BE RAISED

-Kyodo EVENING

TOKYO, March 27---A sub-committee of the Upper House steering committee at today's meeting decided to raise the monthly allowances for Diet members.

With the approval of the steering committee, the two houses joint committee will meet in session soon for the adoption of the revised allowances.

According to the contemplated revision, the speaker and president will receive, respectively, an allowance totalling ¥14,000 a month while the vice-speaker and the vice-president will be paid ¥10,500 each.

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Diet-----2

LVENING

Diet members allowances will be raised to ¥7,500 in addition to expenses for staying in the capital during the Diet session.

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wt/yk

CABINET PLANNING REVISION
OF COUNCILLORS LAW

JIJI PRESS

TOKYO, March 27 - The Government is pushing preparations to submit to the Diet early next week a bill revising the law concerning Parliamentary Councillors as a preliminary to increasing the number of Parliamentary councillors to 22, it was learned.

Meanwhile, it was learned, Premier Hitoshi Ashida, State Minister Suehiro Nishio, Chief Cabinet Secretary, who were entrusted with the task of picking the 22 Parliamentary councillors have not yet conferred on the matter.

They will allocate the 22 councillors posts to the political parties and pick candidates early next week, it was also learned.

sas/n

Satake Named Chief Secretary
of Reformed Socialist Party
Mainichi Shimbun, March 27

Seiki Satake, leaders of the Zenno group(National Farmers' Union), which had broken away from the Socialist party led by ex-Agriculture and Forestry Minister Rikizo Hirano last year, was yesterday elected chief secretary of the newly formed "Reformed Socialist Party" at an organization meeting of the party held in the Meiji University auditorium, Kanda, Tokyo. Some 300 Party supporters attended the meeting, which adopted the platform for the new faction, and decided on the method of carrying out the party's movement, as well as the officers. The party will be managed by a central standing committee of 10 persons.

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Seceders of Ryokufukai Form New
Faction in Upper House
Mainichi Shimbun, March 27

The 28 members of the Ryokufukai, who seceded from the group on the evening of the 26th, yesterday issued a statement clarifying their stand. They also agreed to form a new faction in the House of Councillors (to secure right of bargaining as a body). The new group, while supporting the present Ashida Cabinet, will continue to work for the "democratization" of the Upper House, as members of this group had bolted because of their dissatisfaction with the "feudalistic" atmosphere prevailing among the leading members of the Ryokufukai. The Ryokufukai, on the other hand, will hold a general meeting of its members on the 29th to discuss the situation created by the bolting of the 28 mem-

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APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT
CHIEF LIBRARIAN DISAPPROVED

Jiji Press

TOKYO, March 25.--The Library Committee of the House of Representatives at its meeting this morning disapproved the appointment of Shoichi Nakai as recommended by the House of Councillors, as Assistant Chief-Librarian of the National Diet Library.

At the same time the committee notified both Speaker Komakichi Matsuoka of the Lower House and President Tsuneo Matsudaira of the House of Councillors of a resolution adopted today which said that the Assistant Chief-Librarian for the National Diet Library must be a noble-minded person with no discriminating ideas.

The resolution added that the person must be experienced in order to fulfill his duty in assisting the Chief Librarian.

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End Afternoon Edition
Thursday, March 25, 1948

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No.4

CHANGE IN NAME OF IMPERIAL PALACE TO "KOKYO" PROPOSED

Kyodo

TOKYO, March 25---A proposal for altering the present Japanese name of the Imperial Palace from "Kyujo" (shrine-castle) to "Kokyo" (emperor's abode) has been presented to the Diet by authorities of the Imperial Household Ministry.

The change in designation is requested as being more fitting with the advent of democratic times, inasmuch as the present name possesses a warlike, feudalistic connotation.

The name "Kyujo" for the Imperial Palace has been in official and common usage since 1888, when the Imperial Household Ministry established the designation in an ordinance.

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Previously, for a period of 21 years after the transfer of the Imperial Throne from Kyoto to Tokyo with the Meiji Restoration, the picturesque castle and moat was known by the name of Tokyo Castle.

The proposal for altering the name of the Imperial Palace was submitted to the Diet Committee on Cultural Affaris on Tuesday by Chief Takao of the Imperial Household Ministry's Document Section.

Authorities of the Imperial Household Ministry hope that with the Committee's approval, the change in name may be carried out auspiciously from May 3, the first anniversary of the enforcement of the New Constitution.

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Hasegawa/yk

No.2 -7-

PARLIAMENTARY APPOINTEES TO
MINISTRIES TO BE APPOINTED SOON

KYODO

NOON

TOKYO, March 25---The Ashida Cabinet yesterday decided to adopt the parliamentary appointee system in various state ministries.

This new system is to replace the old system of appointing parliamentary vice-ministers and councillors to various ministries of the Government.

In accordance with the new parliamentary appointee system, the Cabinet hopes to appoint two parliamentarians each to every ministry in addition to four members to be appointed to the Economic Stabilization Board, the Attorney-General's Office and the Construction Board.

The new political appointees will be selected equally from among the Lower and

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NOON

Upper House members and also in proportion with the party strengthen of the three government supporting parties.

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Otake/cs

No. 20

RYOKUFUKAI SPLITS, PRO-
GOVERNMENT GROUP TO BE FORMED

(Evening Edition)

KYODO

TOKYO, March 25.---The Ryokufukai, the largest group in the Upper House having a total membership of 95, split up today when 28 members announced their secession to form a "Democratic Reformation Club."

It is understood that the new group will take a pro-Government attitude.

Observers interpret the emergence of the pro-Government group as a success of the Democrats' continued appeasement campaign in the Upper House, which has been carried out since the formation of the Ashida Cabinet.

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h/kk

30 Ryokufukai Members Break Away
To Form Pro-Government Faction

Asahi Shimbun, March 26

Some 30 members of the Ryokufukai, the largest single bloc in the House of Councillors, yesterday bolted for the purpose of organizing a separate pro-Government faction. These seceders will form a "Democratic Reform League"(provisional name) and will keep in close touch with the Democrats and the Socialists, supporting the present Ashida Cabinet.

The new organization includes among others, Hiroo Wada(ex-chief of ESB), Tsuyo Mishima(leader of boy scout movement in Japan), Gen-ichiro Date (newspaper publisher), Kichinosuke Saigo(descendant of the famous Takamori Saigo of the Meiji restoration movement), and Kei Hoashi(economic expert).

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3 Gov't Parties Want Traffic Rate
Issue to be Discussed by Diet

Mainichi Shimbun, March 26

Representatives of the three Government parties at their meeting yesterday agreed not to recognize "exceptional cases" in the application of the Finance Law, and decided to notify the Government that any change in the rates of railway traffic(passenger or freight), tobacco,etc.(Government industries) must be discussed and decided by the Diet. This decision was immediately communicated to the Government.

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No 7

Text of Address

ASHIDA STRESSES INTERNATIONAL ANGLE FOR REBUILDING JAPAN

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Kyodo

TOKYO, March 20---Prime Minister Hitoshi Ashida declared this afternoon that it is absolutely necessary for the country to facilitate the recovery of productive capacity and the induction of foreign capital as a prelude to the rehabilitation of the national economy and the stabilization of the people's livelihood.

In his six-point 25-minute administrative speech to the Diet, delivered at 1:00 p.m. to the Lower House and at 3:00 to the Upper House, the Prime Minister brought into a clear perspective his current political thinking featured by special stress on the rebuilding of the war-ravaged country from an international point of view.

The text of his administrative speech follows:

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Text of Prime Minister Ashida's Address

"The task of forming a new Cabinet has fallen to me by designation of the National Diet. I feel deeply indeed my heavy responsibilities to the State and to the nation. I am firmly resolved to devote myself, body and soul, to the performance of the duties of my office.

"Both internationally and internally, numerous difficulties beset the path of Japan's recovery. Unless they are successfully surmounted, the future of our race will be dark. And there exists no other mean by which we Japanese can save ourselves, but to unite as one man and overcome those difficulties. Japan finds herself today in a predicament as of a ship in distress, floundering in a stormy sea. The only way to save the ship is for both the crew and the passengers to unite their efforts, everybody doing what he can for the safety of the ship. So it is with our nation. It is not the moment for us to waste time in bootless arguments, being preoccupied only in the furtherance of party interests.

"That is why my party has always advocated a political truce and the people's unity for overcoming the national crisis. That is why at the time of the formation of the Katayama Cabinet, we joined in the four-party policy agreement and did my utmost to facilitate the smooth functioning of government through a spirit of mutual concession.

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Prime Minister -2 (Noon)

When organizing the present Cabinet, I requested the various parties for cooperation with the purpose in view of bringing about the suspension of political wars and the consolidation of the nation's total strength. I regret that I have not succeeded in realizing my aim fully, possibly because of the existence of some differences in the way of looking at the present crisis. But we have by no means given up our hopes in this respect. We will strive resolutely to consolidate the total power of the nation, and to stabilize both the people's livelihood and the political situation. To that end, the Government will listen to the voice of the people with an open mind and act always in the spirit of mutual concession and conciliation.

The Character and the Supreme Objective of the Cabinet.

"The supreme objective which the new Cabinet seeks to attain is the establishment of a world ~~xxxxxxx~~ of peace, liberty and justice. It is with this ideal in view that we shall undertake our domestic recovery; and it is with this spirit that we shall handle our external affairs. The new Constitution which was promulgated in the year before last declares definitely the establishment of peace and fredom.

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Prime Minister -3 (Noon)

"I firmly believe that only by pursuing and realizing the ideals of peace, liberty and justice can the Japanese people show themselves to be worthy of a place in history. In this sense, our new Constitution is indeed a great manifesto of national renascence. It is all too evident that we must not permit it to remain a mere declaration on paper, but must make every effort to put in into practice at home and abroad.

"Such being the supreme objective of the new Cabinet, it will most naturally adhere to the Middle-of-the-road policy. For an extremist idealogy, either of the right or of the left, will never serve the cause of peace. In a nation's transitional period such as ours today when we are undergoing the so-called 'bloodless revolution', the people are liable to be swept off their proper course. But onesided ideologies and extremist political actions will in the end only lead to the danger of a revolution by violence. Certainly, they do not open the way to peace.

"In this sense, we reject liberty unaccompanied by responsibility. We also reject egoism masquerading in the garb of justice. We will ever follow democracy and steer a middle course. And under the principle of social solidarity and national cooperation we will seek the simultaneous realization of increased production and equitable distribution.

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Preparations for Peace .

"It is the fervent desire of all Japanese that our country rejoin the family of peaceful nations at the earliest possible date. At the present time, it cannot be predicted when a peace conference will be held, but we will prepare for such a conference from now and direct our utmost efforts toward enhancing the world's trust and confidence placed in Japan. I believe that we can win the trust of other Powers in us only by loving liberty and cherishing justice and by demonstrating our determined will to contribute, materially and spiritually, to world culture.

"The substance of the peace treaty is, of course, a matter to be determined by the Allied Powers. But so long as our actions conform to the principles of peace, liberty and justice, we may surely expect the peace terms to be such as will in no way impair Japan's independence and survival.

"We are now living under military occupation. It is universally recognized that the control exercised by the occupation forces is one of fairness and tolerance unparalleled in history. To this generous occupation policy, our people have responded with an attitude of genuine cooperation. It is under this auspicious circumstance that we have been able already to resume many of our normal activities of life though a peace treaty is yet to be concluded. In dealing with any phase of internal administration at this juncture, the Government will direct special attention to its bearing on Japan's international relations.

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Prime Minister-5 (Noon)

Economic Measures

"Now, turning to the subject of economic measures, I shall confine myself to two or three points, since my colleagues are to explain them in detail later.

"Needless to say, any Government in Japan today must give priority to the task of overcoming inflation. Nor will anybody dispute the fact that the basic measure for checking inflation is to expand production. In order to bring about an increase in production, it will be of the utmost importance that a rational harmony is effected between labor and management and especially that the working masses, awakened to the consciousness of their solemn responsibilities, give willing cooperation. From this standpoint, the Government earnestly desires to see a healthy growth of labor unions. However, those lacking in the cooperative spirit that is so essential to community life should be rejected absolutely, whether they be on the side of capital or on the side of labor. For, in the final analysis, they are inimical to the interests of the general masses of the country.

"The absorption of floating purchasing power is a most urgent measure to a combat inflation. In this connection, the Government is now preparing concrete measures and intends

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Prime Minister -6 (Noon)

to submit them to the National Diet in the near future. However, in undertaking these measures which tough upon circulation, the Government will pay due attention to the maintenance of public confidence in the currency, which is a matter of vital importance.

The accumulation of capital is another important problem, Japan having lost one-third of her national wealth as a result of the war. However, today whena great majority of the people have come to join the ranks of the working class, it will be all the more necessary to collect capital from these wide circles of society. ays must be devised to minimize the risks of investment in order to protect the interests of the public.

"The rationalization of industrial management is the next problem. Without rationalizing industry and increasing efficiency to the maximum, there can be obviously no increase in national wealth. Again, thekey to the development of our foreign trade after Japan

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(Noon)

has been permitted to enter the international market in the future lies in industrial rationalization. In this connection, it will be necessary to improve our production technique, Japan has of late fallen far below the world level. The Government will take all possible measures to bring about improvements in industrial technology.

"In duscussing economic measures, I wouldlike to speak of one or two points I have in mind. In the first place, in a country like Japan with a peculiar topography. I believe that we must find out and develop those industries best suited to the land. For example, the development of hydro-electric power will be of urgent necessity in order to off-set the shortage of coal, and the Government may have to consider the question of providing funds for the construction of large-scale power plants. With regard to the food problem, recent deliveries of rice have registered

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a phenomenal success, one hundred per cent deliveries of the allotted quotas having already been completed. This is due entirely to the crystallization of the patriotic spirit of the farming population, and I wish to take this opportunity to express to them our profound gratitude. However, numerous measures, such as the thorough implementation of the second agricultural reform program and the improvement of the rice delivery system, are still necessary for the increased production of food. The Government intends to take up concrete studies of these questions.

"Furthermore, the rehabil tation of the damages caused by the flood last year is a matter of great urgency, and the Government is now preparing all possible measures to meet this problem. hen, believe the rolling hill country covering approximately 3,000,000 chobu, situated developed, since this would be an effective measure for increasing production of food and for relieving unemployment.

"with regard to the basic policy for economic recovery, it is felt that there may arise divergencies in basic concepts among the various political parties and groups. However, in view of the situation in which apan is placed now, the measures to meet the immediate needs should be evident to all. hat is why even a capitalistic party which places the ultimated objective of economy in free enterprise considers a certain measure of controls as being