

ITEM 2 The Social Democrats and the Dispute of Electric Industry Workers - Yomiuri Shinbun - 9 Nov 46. Translator: H. Furukawa.

Summary:

412.3
The Social Democratic Party seems to be in the habit of making sudden and hysterical moves at election times. We remember that the Social Democrats, who had never been inclined to join the movement for a democratic front, suddenly, when they faced the general election last April, changed their attitude and promised the public to participate in a democratic front. Their promise to establish the League for National Salvation, including all parties but the Communists, has already been forgotten.

While the general public has almost forgotten the League for National Salvation, a multitude of elections, chose for local assemblies and the House of Councillors, has come on the schedule. Again, the Social Democrats have begun to employ their habitual tactics. This is shown in the statement by Mr MIZUTANI, chief of the information section of that party, clarifying the attitude of his party toward the electric industry workers' dispute which is now attracting public attention. Mr MIZUTANI announced that the Social Democratic Party is in favor of increased wage for workers to 2,150 yen a month as proposed by the arbitration commission. He also stated that his party demands the resignation of the present Cabinet which stands opposed to this arbitration. We can see no difference between his attitude and that of Mr ITO, who represents the Communist Party, toward the dispute of the electric industry. We doubt, however, that this "complete" joint front of the Social Democrats and the Communists really represents the interests of the laboring masses, or that there is no danger of their propaganda making the people sympathetic toward the present Cabinet.

The dispute in the electrical industry offers many problems which need particular consideration. Firstly, it must be pointed out that the electric industry is an enterprise of a monopolistic nature. Economic rules cannot be applied in determining the wage level of the laborers of this industry; their wages must be decided in consideration of the wage level of other industries. Are the

power, which is already high due to the monopolistic nature of that industry, will be made even higher by the increase of wages. This will, of course, result in a general increase in the cost of living for the people and the cost of production. We want the Social Democrats to reveal their views on this issue.

Another factor to consider is what effect the wage increase to 2,150 yen a month will have on the sound development of the labor union movement. The wage level, averaging 2,150 yen a month, which was demanded by the union of the electric industry workers, seems to show a considerable difference between the maximum and minimum wage. Is it justifiable to increase average wages to such a high level without touching this difference? Also it must be noted that there are laborers who have been on strike for more than a month demanding wages of 1,000 yen per month. Is it the real purpose of the labor union movement to create a group of privileged laborers who receive an extraordinary high pay because of the monopolistic nature of their labor? The Social Democrats should also reveal their viewpoint on this question.

There is no doubt that the conservative ministry, which was succeeded by SHIDEHARA and then YOSHIDA, aims at making the democratization of JAPAN ineffective as possible. The efforts to work in this direction were clearly shown in the agrarian reform which was reluctantly carried out by the Government after they had been pressed by outside influence. Regarding the problem of a wage increase for city workers, the Government always stands in opposition to it when the demand for increase is as high as in the case of the present dispute of electric workers. The Government, however, has never made any effort to increase the wages of underpaid workers.

For the Communists, the strike is always justifiable in itself, and it is beyond their thoughts to control the extreme tendencies of the labor unions. The Social Democrats, who always become childish when they face an election, have now confused their platform on the electric industry labor dispute with their political demand for the resignation of the Cabinet. They are ignorant of their contradiction, but the laboring masses still have good sense. Notice the fact that all the laborers, whatever union they belong to, are bitterly denouncing the electric industry dispute.

ITEM 2 Policy of Social Democrats at Forthcoming Diet -- Yomiuri Shinbun
23 Nov 46. Translator: K. Higashikawa.

41213

Summary:

The 91st extraordinary session of the Diet is slated to convene on 25 November. At this session the YOSHIDA Cabinet, which has made up its mind to remain in power until the Peace Conference is held, is scheduled to announce its six-point administrative policy. Against this stand of the Government, the Social Democratic Party and other

POLITICAL SERIES: 1430 (Continued)ITEM 2 (Continued)

opposition parties demand the retirement of the YOSHIDA Cabinet or a dissolution of the Diet. On the other hand, the labor front is developing a "December offensive", with unification of the labor front as a background and with the electric workers' dispute as the springboard. Thus dark clouds overshadow the political horizon. The demand of the Social Democratic Party, which leads the opposition, is diametrically opposed to the policy of the present Cabinet, and political strife between the conservatives and the radicals is generally considered intensified. In a sense, the moves of the Social Democratic Party may be regarded as shaping the future political situation.

Mr SHIMAMURA, our correspondent, on 20 November interviewed KATAYAMA, Tetsu, chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Social Democratic Party, at his hotel in SENDAI, which KATAYAMA had reached on his Nation-wide tour of campaign. KATAYAMA emphasized the following three points:

First, the YOSHIDA Cabinet will not be able to steer safely through the present political storm with their six-point administrative policy. Industrial rehabilitation cannot be achieved without a planned economy based on socialism. Therefore, the Government should dissolve the Diet and test the people's confidence in the Government. Second, the Social Democratic Party will not answer the call of the Government to support it. Third, the Social Democratic Party cannot sympathize with the development of labor disputes into political strife, since it is motivated by political aspirations at the expense of labor.

Questions and answers exchanged between KATAYAMA and our correspondent follow:

Q: We take it that the demands of the Social Democratic Party for the dissolution of the Diet are intended to test the public's lack of confidence in the Government, but what is the real motive behind their demand?

KATAYAMA: At the 90th extraordinary session of the Diet the new Constitution, which was to lay the cornerstone of democracy in JAPAN, had to be deliberated. But the food situation was very critical. For this reason the Social Democratic Party supported the Government bills from an entirely disinterested point of view. However, now that the new Constitution has been promulgated and the food situation has eased, there is no longer any problem that has to be discussed apart from party platforms. In fact, each political party should now do its best to steer the ship of State safely through the present storm on the basis of its own political platforms. The YOSHIDA Cabinet has made it clear that it intends to overcome the present political situation by adopting a six-point administrative policy. We are of the opinion that the present critical situation cannot be overcome with such a plan. It is high time that we asked the people whether they prefer the old capitalistic policy of the YOSHIDA Cabinet or the socialistic policy of our party. In short, in order to test whether or not the people support the six-point administrative policy of the present Cabinet, we demand the dissolution of the Diet and a general election.

Q: With an eye to the local elections and the enforcement of various laws relative to the new Constitution, when does the Social Democratic Party intend to demand the dissolution of the Diet?

KATAYAMA: The demand for the dissolution of the Diet should be made at the outset of the 91st extraordinary session, since the demand is meant to test the confidence of the people in the present Cabinet. A general election is not a mere political chess game, but it does give the people a good opportunity to have their free will reflected in politics. Therefore, the people should be willing to participate in a general election at least once or twice a year, if

POLITICAL SERIES: 1430 (Continued)ITEM 2 (Continued)

need be, because through general elections the people's will can be expressed and democracy can develop. Therefore, I believe now is the proper time to demand the dissolution of the Diet and to hold a general election.

Q: Defying the demand of the Social Democratic Party for dissolution of the Diet, the Government is firmly determined to continue. Under the circumstances, is the Social Democratic Party determined to take some political action in order to realize its demand?

KATAYAMA: Our demand for the dissolution of the Diet is not a mere declaration. As a matter of fact, we are considering measures to push our demand. We exercise a fair and just judgment upon the present Cabinet, but we do not intend to indulge in political bargaining, as was done by our predecessors; nor do we intend to resort to Machiavellism to get a share of the ministerial posts. On the other hand, we shun the use of force to get into the saddle. We are determined to become the majority party through the support of the people, and we are ready to keep our public promises.

Q: What will you do if the present Cabinet should approach the Social Democratic Party for the purpose of consolidating the Cabinet?

KATAYAMA: Even if the present Cabinet should offer us ministerial posts or make other offers, we have not the slightest intention of accepting such offers.

Q: Thanks to the good will of SCAP and to the bumper crop, a food crisis has been averted for the time being, but the crisis still lies ahead. What is your plan to overcome inflation and to rehabilitate industry, so important to the livelihood of the people?

KATAYAMA: We believe that we must execute surgical operations. For instance, in the matter of inflation, we should carefully study the causes of the present inflation. The remedy must be made at the expense of the capitalist class, which is responsible for the inflation. In order that the masses will not suffer from any measure initiated to halt inflation, a large share of the Government bonds held by capitalists should be cancelled. For the reconstruction of industry, the interests of Labor, and not the interests of Capital, should be considered. The question of how Labor can be made to participate in industrial management should be given due consideration. The Labor Standards Law, which is really the Labor Charter, should be enforced as soon as possible so that industrial recovery may be attained through the responsibility of the workers. The Labor Relations Adjustment Law should be so revised as to make it a mere routine arbitration law. The income tax law, which is a burden on the masses, should be abolished.

Q: Labor disputes are becoming Nation-wide, with economic demands as their center. These disputes are developing into a political issue which now threatens the existence of the YOSHIDA Cabinet. The direction of labor movements at present is not unified. What is the opinion of the Social Democratic Party, which has the working class as its main support, regarding the current labor movements?

KATAYAMA: The Social Democratic Party respects the independence of trade unions and hopes that all labor disputes can be settled by the disputants. We are not in favor of a political party directing labor disputes to satisfy its political ends. In the present labor disputes the Social Democratic Party is willing to consider the individual political problems involved in the labor disputes, but we do not agree with any move designed to instigate political strife for the purpose of overthrowing the present Cabinet, or to create a new Cabinet at the expense of Labor.

Q: Then how does the Social Democratic Party intend to handle labor movements?

KATAYAMA: Taking into consideration the various problems of the present labor offensive, we want to support trade unionism for the reconstruction of industry and for the healthy development of labor

POLITICAL SERIES: 1430 (Continued)ITEM 2 (Continued)

movements. The saber of labor -the right to strike- should be drawn only as a last resort. Prior to this, every possible conciliatory effort should be made to achieve Labor's demands. The best way would be to exercise the right of collective bargaining, and the position of Labor should be raised by means of the conclusion of labor agreements. If necessary, political parties will co-operate with Labor.

Q: These has been much agitation for the Democratic League for National Salvation, but it does not seem to have made a start. How are you going to link the League with the Communist Party and the National Congress of Industrial Organizations?

KATAYAMA: The Democratic League for National Salvation must be constructive. The movement of the league will be pushed along social democratic lines. Within the Diet there may be occasion for us to ask for the support of the Communist Party, and outside the Diet we may have occasion to enlist the support of the NCIO, along social democratic lines.

Q: In the forthcoming session, bills relative to the New Constitution will be presented; at the same time, due to inflation and the labor offensive, problems concerning the people's livelihood will no doubt be actively discussed. What is the policy of the Social Democratic Party on these issues?

KATAYAMA: The Social Democratic Party will do its best for the realization of democracy to pass the various bills associated with the new Constitution. But, insofar as labor, industrial and economic problems are concerned, we will develop lively discussions. At the same time we will relentlessly attack the let-alone policy of the present Cabinet and the outmoded economic policy of the Government. A general outline of our policy in the forthcoming Diet will be clarified at a meeting of our parliamentary members, slated to be held on 24 November.

Q: I suppose that on your tour of campaign you met various local personalities. What is your impression about the progress of democracy in our country?

KATAYAMA: In the middle of last month, starting from HIROSHIMA, I visited KYUSHU, KINKI, CHUKYO and TOHOKU. During this trip I gained many impressions. First, in spite of the fact only half a year has elapsed since the general election held last spring, I observed that the progress made by the people toward democracy has been both wide and deep. The people now fully realize that, although in the past they were left outside the pale of politics, they will henceforth be responsible for the government and they must govern themselves. I felt strongly that the people appreciate their new position. Our party has pointed out that due to the special position in which our country has been placed, we have achieved a bloodless, democratic revolution, to which the people have unconditionally agreed. For this reason I feel confident that in the local elections the people's political consciousness will be strongly reflected.

EDITORIAL SERIES: 1347 (Continued)

ITEM 4 The Social Democrats as a Non-Government Party - Provincial Newspaper Niigata Nippo (Niigata) - 19 Oct '46. Translator: E. Sato.

Summary:

Great hopes have been entertained by the masses on the movements of the Social Democrats who made a start under the overwhelming support of the middle-class people and the proletarians.

Have the Social Democrats sufficiently met the expectations of the people in general as a party out of power during the past Diet session? It is true that there were such serious problems as the enactment of a new Constitution and the surmounting of the food crisis, which were all problems not limited to party or faction interests. But as one of the characteristics of this past Diet session, the line of demarcation between the Government and the non-Government parties was very indistinct. Especially the leading members of the Social Democratic Party, who split into the central, right, and left factions, always stood opposed to each other, and in relation to the surrounding objective conditions, the former two factions were prone to determine the general trend of the party. At any rate, it should be the Social Democrats' duty to criticize and to observe the policies of the Government from the standpoint of the laboring mass.

The Social Democrats, who advocate socialism, are quite different in principle and assertion from the Government parties, the Liberal and the Progressive parties, who advocate capitalism.

What proposals and what notable services have the Social Democrats actually rendered during the past Diet session in order to realize their socialistic policies? Frankly speaking, they hardly met the laboring masses' earnest wishes and expectations. It may be fairly said that the cause of failure existed in their ingratiating themselves beyond necessity to conservatism. In the second national mass meeting of the party, they furthered the above-mentioned tendency.

Indeed, their analysis of the present stage of JAPAN is right and superior, and nothing more can be said of their policies. However, the problem lies in their trend and in their fulfillment of the policies based on their theory and principles. Judging from their actions in the past session of the Diet, their actions were too aloof from their theory and principles. Of course, they tried to materialize their constructive plans in conformance to the present political stage and to the actual conditions under the management of the Occupation Army.

But as a party for the masses, the support of the masses is indispensable to the party in order to realize their policies, and they cannot exist apart from the masses. The Social Democratic Party lacked this pre-requisite in the past Diet session.

The arm of the Social Democratic Party of JAPAN is hardly inferior to that of the Labor Party in ENGLAND. They should not hesitate to assert their own accurate policies and attitude over the national administration. When they assume the reins of Government, they must apply their policies to all fields of the Government. They must make preparations now and gain the self-confidence needed for their future role. If they had such preparations and confidence, their actions in the past Diet session may have been more active.

ITEM 1 Social Democrat Leader Katayama's Talk on the Political Situation - Provincial Newspaper Nagoya Times (Nagoya) - 8 Nov 46. Translator: N. Tachibana.

Full Translation:

4123
Secretary General KATAYAMA, Tetsu of the Social Democratic Party delivered a fiery speech on the basic policies of his party and on various problems of the moment at a meeting held by the AICHI Prefectural Federation of Social Democrats at the hall of the NAGOYA Communications Bureau at 1300 hours on 7 November. Before he made his speech, he received a newspaper reporter in the morning to whom he outlined the present various problems centering around the Social Democrats' demand for dissolution of the Diet and the future attitude of the Social Democratic Party. His remarks were as follows:

"Whether or not the demand for the dissolution of the Diet, which was decided at our Executive Committee meeting, will develop into an active movement for overthrowing the Cabinet depends on the future attitude of the Government. Though the YOSHIDA Cabinet has published its basic policies, it has not yet taken any measures to put them into practice. The Cabinet should appeal to public opinion for a decision as to whether or not those policies serve to meet the present situation; it should dissolve the Diet and carry out general elections in order to ascertain whether or not it is supported by the people. From this point of view, the Social Democratic Party demands the direct dissolution of the Diet, regardless of such procedures as introduction of a non-confidence vote, etc."

In reply to the reporter's question concerning the fact that some people believe the Social Democratic Party will form a closer liaison with the YOSHIDA Cabinet because it is heard that NISHIO, MORITO, and MATSUOKA will be appointed representatives to the Economic Stabilization Conference, he answered:

"That is demagoguery. It has been decided that SUZUKI, Mosaburo and MIZUTANI, Chozaburo, will participate, as party delegates, in the committee, not in the Economic Stabilization Board. MATSUOKA, Komakichi is a representative of labor unions. The Social Democratic Party makes it a rule to discuss economic policies critically. It has strived hard to solve the problems of the Constitution and food problems from an independent stand. Since the new Constitution has already been promulgated and bright prospects for the food problem

lie ahead, the Social Democratic Party will adopt an unbiased policy, taking a constructive stand as the opposition party.

"National reconstruction should be achieved in both industrial reconstruction and national finance. The social insurance and public enterprise systems cannot be established by temporizing policies of the YOSHIDA Cabinet; it requires socialistic policies based on systematic economy. Enterprises should be promoted on the basis of the workers' urge for work, not of profits for capitalists. For this, Government management or control of land, fertilizers, coal, banks, etc. is necessary. Medium and small industrialists and tradesmen must be organized into co-operative unions.

"The Government's statement on the electric industry dispute has been watched with keen interest because it is considered to be a case of deliberately disregarding the Labor Relations Adjustment Law. To mediate in the dispute is a serious problem, and so the Social Democratic Party has adopted a policy of wait and see. We hope that the dispute will be settled as an economic problem between the company and the workers.

"Our party thinks highly of the measures for the forthcoming elections of local assemblies, because these elections will be a test proving how much more politically minded the people have become since the last general elections. Our party will endeavor not only to win more than half the seats in the local assemblies, but also to stimulate the people's political interest and establish democracy through these elections."

ITEM 13 Views of Mr. Katayama, Committee Chief of the Social Democratic Party on the October Offensive - Minpo - 16 Oct 46. Translator: H. Naoji.

Full Translation:

With his campaigning in the KYUSHU and KANSAI districts in sight, Mr. KATAYAMA, Tetsu, Chief of the Central Executive Committee of the Social Democratic Party, clarified the attitude of the Party towards the workers' "October offensive" as follows: "It was already clear before its formation that the YOSHIDA Cabinet was reactionary. It is therefore natural that the working masses should not be satisfied with this cabinet. But the present state of affairs is not ripe yet for overthrowing this cabinet by means of general strikes. If it is not permissible to wait until the state of affairs is ripe enough for a change, it is at least necessary to arrange subjective conditions for overthrowing it.

"If the Social Democratic Party intends to struggle together with the workers, farmers and people in general by participating in general strikes, it must realize those subjective conditions as quickly as possible. For this purpose, our party is intending, for the time being, to do its utmost in extending its influence over the whole country. It is needless to say that our party does not make light of the extension of the party's influence through daily struggles. However, I believe that our party should shoulder the heavier portion, if it is possible."

ITEM 17 Social Democrats Refuse Furuno's Joining - Provincial paper: Osaka Shimbun (Osaka) - 7 Nov 46. Translator: S. Hirata.

Full Translation:

Mr FURUNO, Shuzo, assistant secretary-general of the Liberal Party's OSAKA chapter, has suddenly resigned his membership in that party and has hinted at his intention of joining the Social Democratic Party. He is reported to have expressed his desire to join the Party through Mr MORITO, Tatsuo, Chairman of the Liberal's Policy Inquiry Board, who has recently arrived in OSAKA. The opposition of the Socialist Party's OSAKA chapter towards FURUNO's affiliation with the party is overwhelming, and chances of his being re-admitted is regarded as being almost impossible.

Secretary-general TAKIGAWA, Sueichi of the OSAKA chapter of the Social Democratic Party said: "Mr FURUNO has not as yet approached me with his formal proposal to join the Social Democratic Party. In the event he takes formal proceedings to join our party, his proposal will, at any rate, be submitted to the chapter's Permanent Executive Committee for a formal decision. However, his affiliation with the Social Democratic Party will be out of the question. We do not wonder if a man arrives at a conclusion by comparing the policies of the Social Democrats with the Liberals, that "Not the Liberal but the Social Democratic Party is the very party for him." But, the case is different with Mr FURUNO. He has been a member of the Social Democratic Party ever since it was called the Social Democratic People's Party, and has, moreover, made his appearances twice at the Preparatory Meeting for the Formation of the Socialist's chapter. For all that, he has suddenly run over to the Liberal Party without a word of explanation to us. He asks too much in wishing to return to the Social Democratic Party because he has been rejected by the Liberals. This is merely evidence of lack of fixed principle that Mr FURUNO, who is well versed in the differences of the basic policies of the two parties, should try to affiliate himself now with this party and now with that.

I don't know whether he has ever spoken ill of our party since he took up his post as assistant secretary-general of the Liberal's OSAKA chapter, however, I don't intend to inquire into such a thing. However, for the honor of the Social Democratic Party, it will be impossible for us to allow such an inconstant man to join the party without due deliberation."

ITEM 11 The Social Democratic Party's Clamor For Dissolution of the Diet - Provincial Newspaper - Shinano Mainichi Shimbun (Nagano) - 6 Nov 46.

Summary:

On 4 November, the Social Democratic Party suddenly demanded the prompt dissolution of the Diet on the ground that reconstruction of economy, solution of the labor problems or stabilization of national livelihood cannot be realized by the present capitalistic Government. Thus, this party has clarified its attitude as a wholesome opposition party. But it is undeniable that the majority of the people, who supported the Social Democratic Party in the general election held this spring, think this change of attitude on the part of the Social Democratic Party to be a little late. Despite the principle of "Premiership or Opposition" at the time of the organization of the YOSHIDA Cabinet, the attitude of the Social Democratic Party toward the Cabinet was too friendly.

412.3 Be that as it may, the present situation has become so serious that it is doubtful whether the YOSHIDA Cabinet can tide over the current acute economic crisis. It is not too much to say that, if the Cabinet carries on at the present rate, JAPAN's economy will go to rack and ruin because of inflation and poor production. Nevertheless, the Government disregards the crisis, though it is hard to say whether it does so intentionally or not. To tell the truth, the extent which the Social Democratic Party can be depended upon is hard to say. But, the temporizing and optimistic policy of the Government will merely intensify the current inflation. It is all right so far as it goes to think that in order to overcome the present national crisis the Cabinet should be re-organized without making any distinction between the Government and opposition parties. But, the difference of opinion on the current problems means the opposition between those who gain by the inflation and those who suffer from the inflation. The uniting of all the parties, in defiance of this fundamental difference will be meaningless.

The present Cabinet itself may realize, throughout the recent labor offensive, that it has thoroughly lost its popularity with the laboring classes who are the victims of the inflation. Though there are many doubts about the Social Democratic Party's attitude, there is a necessity for holding another general election as demanded by the Social Democrats. The only doubt in the above-mentioned demand is that the people may get the impression that the Social Democratic Party is attempting to take over the reins of the Government by taking advantage of the workers' non-confidence in the YOSHIDA Cabinet. However, since the party's attitude toward the labor offensive was insufficient as a party for the benefit of the laboring classes, such a misunderstanding may be unavoidable. The fact that the present Cabinet has lost the trust of the working masses does not necessarily mean that the laborer's support for the Social Democratic Party would increase. In order to return to a "wholesome" opposition party, the Social Democratic Party should realize this point first of all.

ITEM 10 Social Democrats Make Speeches In Kagoshima - Provincial Paper Minami Nippon Shimbun (Kagoshima) - 24 Oct 46. Translator: F. Mitsuhashi.

Full translation:

412.3 On 23 October, KATAYAMA, Tetsu, chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Japanese Social Democratic Party, came to KAGOSHIMA to make his first speech in KYUSHU. He attended a meeting on the "Reports on the Diet", held at 1400 hours, at TAISHO-KAIKAN. The hall overflowed with more than 1,000 people.

YAMAZAKI, Michiko (a representative from SHIZUOKA) first took the platform and stated that in order to attain the aim of emancipating the women, it was necessary to obtain the full understanding and co-operation of the men. Following her, MATSUMOTO, Shichiro (a representative from FUKUOKA) concretely explained that the revised Constitution was a basic structure for the reconstruction of Japan. After his speech, KATAYAMA, Tetsu stated that they should materialize the revised Constitution by adopting democracy in politics, pacifism in international affairs and socialism in economy. He added further that the Social Democratic Party aimed at the establishment of socialistic democracy and the construction of a peaceful, cultural state. Although he had a sore throat, KATAYAMA spoke passionately and received the applause of the audience.

ITEM 1 The Social Democrats' Attitude (Sub-Editorial) - Mainichi Shimbun -
5 Oct 46. Translator: E. Sato.

Full Translation:

4/12.3
 In the days of the old political parties, movements to overthrow the cabinet were started by the opposition party demonstratively or in secret, whether in the Diet or on the streets, as soon as a new cabinet was formed. It is a matter of common knowledge that the Social Democrats are substantially opposed to the YOSHIDA Cabinet. However, their movement to overthrow the cabinet is not considered to be similar to the old political parties' scramble for political power.

In the all-JAPAN meeting of the Social Democrats held some days ago there was no conference to overthrow the government. The meeting, in which very reflective opinions were stated, and constructive policies advocated, gave a quite different impression than those of former days when party rivalry was very evident. Mr. NISHIO, Suehiro stated that it is necessary for the Social Democrats to absorb all the powers but the Communists. Mr. MIZUTANI, Chozaburo proclaimed that the cry for overthrowing the YOSHIDA Cabinet and the forcing of a non-confidence vote before the Diet, are easy, but the overthrow of the YOSHIDA Cabinet is not. This statement clearly shows the new course which the party out of power must take.

Since the party out of power which will assume the next helm of state-affairs possesses such an attitude, the people should become more interested in the policies rather than the political situation. As the Social Democrats announced, the YOSHIDA Cabinet is now taking the offensive against laborers. This is the substantial weakness of the YOSHIDA Cabinet; that it considers laborers as not being powerful.

The way to political power which the Social Democrats must take, exists not in falsehood, intimidation, or violence, but in the elevating of their morality. Thus, the overthrow of the YOSHIDA Cabinet may become an easy matter.

The Social Democrats' attitude towards the Communists is just and right, because there is a difference in party policy in that the former is willing to overthrow the cabinet later, while the latter, immediately.

The English Labor Party's cold attitude towards the Communists also seems to be in the same state of opposition as before.

ITEM 6 Social Democrats' Plan To Meet Local Elections - Mainichi Shimbun -
6 Nov 46. Translator: F. Mitsuhashi.

Full Translation:

3
 X
 The Social Democratic Party held a representatives' meeting at 1300 hours on 5 November in the party's anteroom in the Lower House. HIRANO, Rikizo, formally explained the attitude of the party towards the Government, although it had already been revealed on the 4th. He emphasized that the YOSHIDA Cabinet should resign immediately, because the new Constitution was established, and he stated that the party would formally demand it in the near future. He sought the understanding of the party men concerning this demand.

MATSUOKA, Komakichi explained the attitude of the Social Democratic Party towards the local elections. He stated, "The October offensive, advocated by the National Congress of Industrial Organizations was unsuccessful. The Communist Party, as its election tactics, intends to select the candidates of the local elections from among the members of the Prefectural Congress of Industrial Organizations in every prefecture. However, some of these members belong to the JAPAN Federation of Labor Unions. If we do not take adequate measures against such an attempt of the Communists, they will utilize the JAPAN Federation of Labor Unions for expanding their party influence. When a member of the JAPAN Federation of Labor Unions

runs as a candidate, he must first join the prefectural association of the Social Democratic Party, in order that he may stand as a recognized candidate of our Party."

MORITO, Tatsuo, speaking on the formation of a preparatory council for the Democratic League of National Salvation, asked NISHIO, KATO, YONEKUBO, HIRANO, SUZUKI, MATSUOKA, MORITO, and TAHARA to become members. He stated that its first conference would be held shortly, so as to select the participating organizations to start this movement. The representatives' meeting adjourned at 1400 hours.

POLITICAL SERIES: 1438 (Continued)

ITEM 13 The Second General Meeting of the Social Democratic Party, by
Omiya, Saburo - Magazine: Jitsugyo no Nippon (Monthly) - Nov 46
Issue. Translator: K. Sugawara.

Summary:

4/2.3
 With a view to meeting the current political situation, the Social Democratic Party, at its second general meeting opened on 28 September and lasting three days, decided on new policies and elected new party chiefs. As a result, the party has increased its political power. It is well known that the party consists of various members who respectively have different political opinions and, therefore, up to present, whenever the party was faced with the necessity of deciding on fundamental policies, there was a sharp clash of opinion among the members, especially between the left and right groups. The party was sometimes faced with the danger of dissolution. The meeting was expected to remove such internal conflict, to decide on socialistic policies in sound co-operation with all delegates, and prepare to grasp the reins of government.

The meeting, first discussed a measure to promote the Democratic League for National Salvation, which passed after some disorder provoked by an opposition address by OSAWA, Kyumei, a Diet member from AOMORI-Ken. This speech resulted in the party formally deciding to reject a proposal from the Communist Party to co-operate in uniting a democratic front because of the following two reasons:

- (1) Social conditions have not matured to the point where the party may co-operate with the Communists.
- (2) The Communists are conducting political activities against the Social Democratic Party, and should reflect on their conduct, before they seek co-operation.

The delegates then discussed the question of a coalition cabinet in conjunction with conservative parties if they win a majority in the Diet. This question is important since the decision is expected to exert a great influence upon the political situation in the near future.

The formation of a coalition cabinet was agreed to in support of the view of NISHIO, Sueshiro who stated, "Our socialists have objected to a compromise with the militarists and conservatives for a long period. However, their power has now rapidly declined, while we are strengthening our position in the political world. We are very confident in being able to play a leading part in the future formation of a cabinet, by controlling the conservative party."

The meeting then discussed the attitude of the party toward the recent maneuvers of labor unions which consist mainly of general strikes. NISHIO terming the general strike destructive to our economy, emphasized his opposition to such tactics. He stated:

"Few leaders of labor union movements seem to understand the true duties connected with their movements. Now is the time when leaders should reflect on their conduct within the movements."

Most delegates agreed with him and the meeting passed measures based on settling the present serious problems in our economy, such as inflation, unemployment, Government management of coal mines and fertilizer industry, and revision of the farm land system. As the only method of stabilizing the livelihood of the people, the party will endeavor to abolish the capitalistic character of society by carrying out the socialistic policies decided by the meeting. For this purpose, the meeting elected the following new party chiefs and decided to organize a Central Executive Committee as the highest standing organ of the party:

POLITICAL SERIES: 1438 (Continued)ITEM 13 (Continued)

Chairman of the Central Committee: KATAYAMA, Tetsu

Secretary-General: NISHIO, Sueshiro

Chief Treasurer: HOSONO, Michio

KATAYAMA, was elected by an overwhelming majority, 739 out of 750 votes.

Among the elected 20 committee members, those who are considered to belong to the rightists groups are MIZUTANI, Chozaburo; YONEKUBO, Michisuke; HIRANO, Rikizo; KATO, Kanju; SUZUKI, Mosaburo; KURODA, Toshio; TAWARA, Harutsugu; NOMIZO, Katsu; MATSUNAGA, Yashio; INOUE, Ryoji; MATSUMOTO, Gunzo; SATAKE, Haruki; ITO, Usaburo and KATO, Ryozo. While ARAHATA, Katsuzo, MASAKI, Kiyoshi, and TOMIYOSHI, Eizo are regarded to be leftists. SUZUKI, Yoshio and MORITO, Tatsuo, both former university professors, stand on comparatively neutral ground. YONEYAMA, Hisako with no political career is the only woman committee member.

By glancing at the members of the committee, it may be concluded that the rightists will occupy the leading position in the party. However, it is a mistake to consider the leftists as powerless and unable to affect the future of the party. Though few in number as leaders of the proletarian meeting they all have kept fighting against the capitalists through the long painful period in the past. They firmly believe in socialism and possess a thorough knowledge regarding it. They are expected to contribute to the party in carrying out socialistic policies. On the other hand although the rightists may dominate the committee, they convey the impression that they will never fight all-out for the realization of socialism. The future of the party will depend upon how these two groups of the committee co-operate with each other and compromise in carrying out the socialistic policies decided at the meeting. It may be true that the election of KATAYAMA, and NISHIO as leaders has increased the actual political power of the party, but it is more essential that those who are well versed in socialism such as MORITO, Tatsuo, SUZUKI, Yoshio and the leftists groups in the committee, should guide the party with their knowledge of scientific socialism. As the policies decided by the meeting are constructive and practical, the people may welcome them, but as long as the party is to serve the working people, it must settle the important problem of leading the people to understand its socialistic policies to win their support.

In view of the decisions that both the Diet committee and the election committee shall function as a standing organ and that every member of the central committee must be a member of the Diet, we cannot but decide that the party overestimates the advantage of the Diet for the realization of socialism. The leaders explain, "We will begin to carry out our socialistic policies when we become the majority in the Diet and can hold the reins of government." However, the people will protest, "We are now suffering from serious economic difficulties. Has your party no plan to rescue us from the present crisis?"

The party should concentrate its energy on promoting political popular movements with a view to obtaining the support of the people. This does not mean that the party should shake hands with the communists in their political activities, but it will be demanded that the party promote the Democratic League for National Salvation to form a united democratic front. If the party dares to proceed along these lines to carry out those socialistic policies which aim at the realization of full employment, it will be supported by all the people.

POLITICAL SERIES: 1438 (Continued)

ITEM 11 The Diet Policy of the Social Democratic Party - Jiji Shimpo -
26 Nov 46. Translator: S. Sanc.

Full Translation:

4123
The Diet policy of the Social Democratic Party, the only opposition party of any real influence, attracts the keen attention of the people who face the strained political situation centering around the unprecedented labor offensives. Requesting either the resignation en bloc of the Cabinet or the dissolution of the House of Representatives, the party recently announced its fundamental policy to counter the so-called six major policies of the Government. At the coming extraordinary session of the Diet, it is expected that NISHIO, secretary-general of the party, will speak on behalf of the party in order to further explain their assertions.

The party, as the opposition party, is expected to make sharp criticisms concerning the following points:

1. Regarding the deliberations on a series of the important bills closely connected with the new Constitution, such as the bills of the Imperial House Law, the Imperial House Economic Law, the Cabinet Law, the National Assembly Law, the House of Councillors Law, etc., the Party does not consider it necessary to flatly oppose them as it did in the discussions of the Labor Relation Adjustment Law and of the various laws on the curtailment of war indemnities at the past 90th Diet session. However, the Party will submit amendments to each item of the bills. Even in case those amendments are turned down, despite all efforts, the Party will be content to have those amendments recorded in the official record of the House with the expectation of realizing them when the Party comes into power.
2. The attitude of the Party regarding the supplementary budget, estimated to reach 10,000 million yen, is not yet decided. However, concerning the treatment of educators, the opinion that the education expense estimated at 1,200 million yen, should be doubled is generally supported by the Party members.
3. Concerning the inflation problem, the Party believes that the stabilization of the people's livelihood can never be realized unless the Government discards its policy of favoring the capitalists. At the proper opportunity, the Party will criticize the economic measures of the Government and assert the socialization of finance, the fundamental revision of the currency system and the prompt establishment of a stable system of calculating value to keep the value of currency in harmony with production.
4. The Party feels that the Government is entirely unprepared to check the labor offensive being carried on outside the Diet. The Party, which had opposed the creation of the Labor Relation Adjustment Law at the last Diet, shall severely criticize the Government, which hurriedly enacted the law prior to the establishment of the Labor Standard Law with the excuse of coping with the labor dispute of the workers of the electric industries.

In short, the Party feels that the fundamental solution of the labor dispute, if not the solution of the union problem, will never be achieved so long as the YOSHIDA Cabinet remains in power. Therefore, from every indication, it seems that the Party has decided to start an anti-Administration movement, mobilizing all the anti-Administration elements in the Diet, while, conducting outside the Diet, the Democratic League for the National Salvation which the Party is going to establish.

ITEM 7 Despotic Attitude of the Social Democrats Was Criticized At Meeting
of Anti-Government Body - Akahata - 18 Dec 46. Translator: S. Cno.

412.3

Full Translation:

The representatives of those group interested in the overthrow of the YOSHIDA administration held a meeting on December 10. A hot discussion developed around the slogan "establishment of a democratic administration centered around the Social Democrat Party."

service and the machine manufacturing industries and electric industries asserted that the phrase "centered around the Social Democrats" be abandoned since the movement was not to promote the party interests of the Social Democratic Party. They further insisted that the Communists should be included as one of the sponsors of the movement, and that a decision be made in the name of the meeting to have the Communists participate in the Democratic League for National Salvation. Opposing this demand, the Japan Federation of Labor claimed that the slogan would be maintained since the Social Democrat Party was, in actuality, the only party which had any possibility of succeeding the current Cabinet; without the slogan, objectives of the movement become vague.

The partial attitudes of the conflicting parties seemed to endanger the unification of the movement, but an agreement was reached to adopt the original slogan through the mediation of C.I.O.'s HOSOGA, who proposed that the following points be reconfirmed:

- (1) The words "centered around the Social Democrats" does not mean only the Social Democrats. It includes the Communists in the Cabinet, for without the Communists, a powerful democratic administration is not possible.
- (2) The question of permitting the Communists to participate in the movement is only a matter of time. Although the present internal circumstances of the Social Democrats does not allow the immediate participation of the Communists, every effort shall be made to have the Communist Party join the mass rally of the anti-administration movement which will be held on December 17.
- (3) Not the Social Democratic Party, but the Labor Union Committee of the Social Democratic Party and the JAPAN Farmers' Union and the ALL-JAPAN Labor Union Conference are the official sponsors of the aforesaid general meeting.

Owing to the lengthy discussion around the "slogan issue", the meeting adjourned without the setting up of a national committee for the overthrow of the Cabinet which was to be established that day. It was decided that the organizers committee would be enlarged and that they would decide on the concrete policies.

The representatives of the press and news agencies unions asked the organizers committee to realize the following items:

- (1) Unification of the labor front.
- (2) The set-up of a central committee to guide the joint strife against old powers.
- (3) Unification of the All-JAPAN Congress of Industrial Organizations, the Japan Federation of Labor, and the Japan Congress of Labor Unions.
- (4) The preparation for a one, huge general strike, with the farmers and the working citizens participating.
- (5) That the Cabinet "centered around the Social Democrats" shall not mean to include the Liberals and Progressives.

POLITICAL SERIES: 1478 (Continued)ITEM 6 (Continued)

December. In the Lower House general budget committee meeting on the 17th, KATO, Kanju and HIRANO, Rikizo are expected to attack the Government fiercely. The deliberations in the Diet, which have been very dull to date, will become active from the 17th.

Although the Social Democratic Party intended at first to present a non-confidence vote against the Government, other non-government parties did not approve. Therefore, the Social Democratic Party has devised a new resolution to demand the dissolution of the Diet, and this new resolution has been supported by the Co-operative Democratic and the People's Parties. Thus, in conjunction with the national rally, scheduled to be held on the 17th to overthrow the present Cabinet, the Social Democratic Party will start an offensive against the Government. This will be the climax of the current Diet session.

Theoretically, in order to present a non-confidence vote, all the non-government parties must act as one body. However, the Social Democratic Party could not enlist the co-operation of other non-government parties in doing so. Therefore, the Social Democratic Party has transformed a non-confidence vote into a resolution for demanding the dissolution of the Diet. This fact shows that there has been a divergence in views between the leftists and the rightists of the Social Democratic Party. Such a divergence in views has weakened the strength of this party. At present, the Social Democratic Party must devote all its energy to expand the party influence. However, if this party consumes its energy in settling its internal strife, its fighting power will surely diminish.

The resolution for demanding the dissolution of the Diet, which is scheduled to be presented on the 18th, is unique in our parliamentary history. However, there were some occasions on which the non-confidence vote became a political problem. During the 69th session of the Diet in 1936, ABE, Isao, president of the Socialistic People's Party (SHAKAI MINSHU-TO), proposed a non-confidence resolution against the HIROTA Cabinet. Although this resolution was included in the agenda of the Diet, actual deliberations in the Diet on this resolution did not take place. During the 68th session of the Diet, the SEIYU-KAI attempted to present a non-confidence vote against the OKADA Cabinet. However, OKADA, foreseeing this attempt, suddenly dissolved the Diet on 21 January. In these two cases, the non-confidence votes were not presented to the Diet in actuality. During the 65th session of the Diet, ADACHI, Kenzo, president of the People's League (KOKUMIN DOMEI), together with other minor parties, actually presented a non-confidence vote against the SAITO Cabinet to the Diet, but ADACHI was defeated, because he could not obtain the support of the majority in the Diet. After the China Incident broke out, the Diet became a mere consultative organ for the militarists and the bureaucrats. The resolution for demanding the dissolution of the Diet differs from the non-confidence vote. A resolution of this kind is to be presented to the Diet after an interval of 19 years.

POLITICAL SERIES: 1480 (Continued)

ITEM 6 What is "a Democratic Government with the Social Democratic Party as its Center?" - Mimpo - 18 Dec 46. Translator: J. Weiller.

Full Translation:

4/25
 The main slogan of the anti YOSHIDA Cabinet rally on the 17th was "the establishment of a democratic government with the Social Democratic Party as its center", but what will that be like? The formation of a democratic government after the downfall of the YOSHIDA Cabinet is a unanimous demand of the nation's working class, and the words "the Social Democratic Party for its center" has placed in high relief the expectation that the succeeding government would be shouldered by that party, but the phrase can be interpreted in more than one way. Is it a Social Democratic Cabinet pure and simple, or is it a democratic coalition cabinet with this party as the center? In any case, unless that government is capable of putting into practice the democratic and progressive policies for which the party has pledged itself, there is the danger that the present ministry is simply to be replaced by another which is nominally national, but empty of contents. Then what is a Cabinet with the Social Democratic Party for its center? MIZUTANI, Chozaburo, Social Democrat:

"As the slogan of the mass rally states, we aim at the Government with my party as its center. If the posts of the premier, the economic ministers, and the chief of the Economic Stabilization Board are filled by my party so that we can execute the policies we uphold, we are not necessarily against a coalition with other parties. The present situation cannot be saved by any methods other than the practice of socialistic policies. From now on we are determined to go ahead, united with the other opposition parties, until the present Government collapses.

"No one can carry on a Government nowadays ignoring five million organized workmen. Some may say that the Social Democrat Government cannot bring about much material change, but such men overlook the fact that as JAPAN's reconstruction is impossible without the working class understanding and co-operation, it is absolutely necessary to form a cabinet for which the working man is ready to give his full support. Whereas the present conservatives are incapable of creating such an atmosphere, we are quite confident of our ability, which is evident to anyone. We cannot at present touch on specific questions of the future, but we shall endeavor for the realization of the policies we are maintaining."

FUNADA, Kyoji, Co-operative Democrat:

"In order to overcome the present crisis, the renovating force must by all means become the mainstay. I feel that the Diet must be dissolved now and, then clearly grasping what the people want, we must save the political situation.

"Whether the establishment of a cabinet centered round the Social Democratic Party is most desirable or not may be open to debate, but as far as my party is concerned, we believe that we must go ahead for the reconstruction by means of coordinating the whole nation on the principle of co-operation."

SHIGA, Yoshio, Communist:

"My party approves the demand for the dissolution. As it is beyond doubt that the present Cabinet is despaired of by the people, we desire that a cabinet is formed centered round the Social Democratic Party and under whose democratic regime the Diet is dissolved and a general election is held. Since JAPAN's economic recovery can never be hoped for without first stabilizing the livelihood of the working man, it is essential that a government is formed which can take up resolute policies. We have no

POLITICAL SERIES: 1480 (Continued)

ITEM 7 (Continued)

party attracts much of our attention.

Finance Minister ISHIBASHI stated that there is no inflation in our country and prices are gradually coming down, basing his remarks on the authority of the price index which was studied by the NIKON Bank this summer. In spite of his optimistic view, the prices are rapidly rising with the end of the year drawing near. It is most regrettable that the Finance Minister insists on disregarding the present critical situation. The price of a pack of cigarettes, "PEACE", was raised to 25 yen in the SEIM-BASHI black market because the Government recently announced its intentions of raising the price of "PEACE" and "CORONA". It is no wonder the people are disgusted with the present Cabinet. Therefore, the collapse of the YOSHIDA Cabinet seems to be a question of time in spite of the support of the Government.

At the plenary session of the Upper House held on 16 December, Dr SASAKI interpellated on the problem of the Empress and the stipulation concerning the abdication of the Emperor which have also been the center of argument during the discussions at the Lower House plenary session held a few days before. State Ministers, SHIDHEARA and KANAMORI replied in an ambiguous manner by stating that these problems will be decided by the general will of the people.

At the Budget Plenary meeting, HIRANO, Rikizo, Social Democrat, reproached Agriculture and Forestry Minister, WADA, on his favorite agrarian problems, such as the unsatisfactory results of rice delivery and the unlawful dealings with fertilizer and farming tools which are to be used as rewards to the farmers for prompt deliveries. WADA promised that he will do his best in order to have a hundred percent rice delivery, since 70 percent has been already delivered. However, he did not reveal any concrete measures for the purpose. Citizens have already been suffering from the delay in rice distribution. Will his promise be enough to complete the delivery?

ITEM 8 Diet News; Katayama and Asnida Oppose Each other in Speeches -

ITEM 4 Increasing Feud within Social Democratic Party - Mainichi Shimbun - 30 Dec 46. Translator: Y. Akabane.

Full Translation:

4/23
The 92nd session of the Diet has been adjourned since Sunday, 29 December, and the heated discussions will resume with the opening of the new session. In the meantime, it was generally anticipated that the political movement would become more active immediately before and after the recess. In this case, how the Social Democratic Party will move and what steps it will take is a matter attracting the serious attention of the political circles. Even the Social Democratic Party, which is currently

The left wing, represented by KATO, Kanju, SUZUKI, Mosaburo, ARAHATA, TAKATSU, and OSAWA, who have been united, centering around the Union Committee, seems to have succeeded in saving its honor by introducing the resolution on the day the mass meeting for overthrowing the Cabinet was held. However, there are no small number of observers who believe that the right wing represented by NISHIO, HIRANO, TAWARA, and MORITO has gained the real success by winning over the Co-operative Democratic and Peoples Parties through substituting the bill demanding the Diet dissolution for the non-confidence vote. Also the anti-communist campaign, a sole feature of the Democratic League for National Salvation has become somewhat obscure, but the Party's leading influence is still held by the right wing, and the subsequent parliamentary tactics of the united front of the three parties, the Social Democrat, Co-operative Democrat and Peoples, have been to a large extent carried on by the right wing leaders. Then, what is the way of thinking of the right wing vis-vis the new political situation?

Even if the present Cabinet retires, giving birth to a Social Democratic Cabinet in its stead, the Party cannot realize its policies in view of the existing political influence of the Diet. It is, therefore, most desirable for the Party to take the reign of the Government by making itself the majority party through the dissolution of the Diet. If, however, this is not speedily realized, the present Cabinet should retire and be reorganized. In this case, if the Cabinet assumes a friendly attitude toward the Social Democratic Party and sincerely seeks its co-operation, the Party will pay due consideration to the request. In other words, the Party cannot remain aloof in the reorganization of the Cabinet. On the contrary, if a chance is offered for the Party to maintain face, it is not necessarily disinclined to render assistance to tide over the impending crisis by contributing ministers to a coalition cabinet.

Such an opinion seems to prevail among the right wing, while the leftists are presumed to have a rational point of view, which is roughly as follows: "coalition with the Liberal and Progressive Parties should be absolutely opposed. If the Social Democratic Party occupies the premiership and vital posts of the economic ministers in the coalition cabinet with the Co-operative Democratic and Peoples Parties, including, if possible, the Communist Party -- that is to say, if a coalition cabinet consisting of all the parties now out of power is possible -- the Social Democrats are ready to take upon itself the task of forming a cabinet.

The opinion of the both factions are fundamentally opposite regarding the "cabinet centering around the Social Democratic Party". Against the right wing thinking it permissible to join a cabinet even though the premiership is not held by a party member, the leftists insist stubbornly on the Party's occupying the top position in the cabinet. Moreover, a conspicuous difference of opinion exists in the formula for co-operation with the Liberals and Progressives. If the political changes actually occur as anticipated, resulting in the forced participation in the coalition by the right wing, then it would unerringly spell

POLITICAL SERIES: 1495 (Continued)ITEM 4 (Continued)

the advent of a crisis and the possible disruption of the Social Democratic Party. So the leftists seem to be firmly determined.

Although there is still little room for hasty conclusions as to what developments will take place due to the current difficult situation within the Party, in consideration of the political influence of Mr NISHIO and others, it seems likely that the Government overtures toward the Socialist Party through the medium of the Government parties will be steadily continued. This, together with the "movement of the professor group", reflects the intensity of the activity in the political world.

ITEM 3 Social Democratic Party's Opinion on Imperial House Law - Yomiuri Shimbun - 30 Nov 46. Translator: F. Hagiwara.

4/23
Full translation;

The Social Democratic party's attack on the YOSHIDA Cabinet began on 28 November, when NISHIO and SUZUKI made general interpellations and the Party presented the Government with an exhaustive plan. The Imperial House Law Amendment Bill, the Imperial House Economic Law Bill, the Cabinet Law Bill, and the House of Councillors Election Law Bill, which are slated to be presented before the plenary session on 3 December, are all of an especially undemocratic nature, when viewed from the party's standpoint, because they are based on the draft reports made by the Legislation Investigation Committee (HOSEI-CHOSAKAI). Consequently, the Party determined to take the Government and the Government parties to task for the affair, by insisting on the fundamental amendments of the law bills when they are investigated. The Party is going to call a meeting of the Law Investigation Committee in the House on 30 November; SUZUKI, Yoshio and MORITO, Tatsuo are expected to make various explanations at that time.

When the Constitution was investigated at the 90th Diet session, the Party was obliged to assume a non-partisan attitude due to various situations which prevailed. Furthermore, for the decision of that bill there was a condition of a two thirds majority. However, at the current Diet session, the party will be able to carry its point boldly, and situations resulting from the investigation might possibly open the way for a political change. Therefore, the Party is now preparing amendments relating to each bill. The party will assert its own position regarding the matter of establishing the new status of the Emperor as the symbol of the State, by amending the various undemocratic stipulations of the Imperial House Law and the Imperial House Economic Law, to which no democratic revisions had been made other than the disapproval of an illegitimate heir; the problem of the Empress and that of an empress-regnant (advocated by the female representatives); the problem of a distinct separation between the state and personal possession of the Imperial House properties that had thrown the previous Diet session into confusion.

It seems that the party has some definite plan to discuss amendments regarding the fixed number election system for the House of Councillors' Law. They also plan to discuss problems concerning the strengthening of the Premier's power by the adoption of the parliamentary cabinet system and the designation of the Vice-premier and the Diet Law.

The Government Parties, both the Liberal and the Progressive, are now making various preparations for legislation investigations, because they are faced with the Social Democratic Party's attitude. Other minor parties including the Communist Party are also assuming attitudes regarding this legislative assembly. Several meetings have been called already.

ITEM 3 The Social Democrats Must Make Preparations - Tokyo Shimbun - 17 Dec 46. Translator: J. Wada.

4/23
Summary:

If the YOSHIDA Cabinet retires, voluntarily or involuntarily, the succeeding cabinet will be formed by the Social Democratic Party, either singlehanded or as the leading force. For this reason, we are more concerned over the Social Democrats' preparations for forming a cabinet than over the movement for the overthrow of the present Cabinet by the Social Democrats and others.

Some people argue that since the Social Democratic Party is the basic representative of the masses, its coming into power will increase the working men's confidence in the Government and will bring about more effective politics.

Considering that politics and popularity are inseparably connected with each other, this argument is well justified. However, if popularity is to be crystallized in the form of perfect public support, the Social Democratic Party must have great political power and definite policies of excellent caliber. The Social Democrats must, of course, realize this; but we want to be certain that they do.

ITEM 3 Conflicting Opinions in the Social Democratic Party - Jiji Shimpō
 13 Dec 46. Translator: S. Sano.

Full Translation:

4123
 The Social Democratic Party will hold a free conference of its Diet members at 1700 hours on 12 December to decide the Party's Cabinet non-confidence resolution problem. Reflecting the intra-party complexity, following two opposite opinions have been expressed:
 1. Since the Party is supported by the working class, the Party cannot ignore the "Down with the Cabinet Rally" to be held on 17 December. If the party leaders have no objection to the presentation of the resolution, a more suitable day for its presentation than the 17th, in response to the Rally, can be found,

The relationship of the Democratic League for National Salvation to the down-with-the-Cabinet movement outside of the Diet is that the former is the organization and the latter is the movement. The incompleteness of the organization cannot be used as an excuse to ignore the movement, which is the general will of the masses. We, as an opposition party, are ready to accept the greater difficulties that will confront us if the resolution should be rejected. At any rate, the most important thing is that the party should not ignore the general will of the people.

2. It is not a difficult matter to present the resolution in the Diet. However, to actually deal this vital blow to the Administration is not easily done. Anti-government demonstrations outside the Diet can be held as often as desired, but a resolution in the Diet can be submitted only once. Therefore, a cautious attitude should be taken on the decision to introduce this resolution. Instead of trying to present it on the 17th, the resolution should be submitted as a joint proposal of all the opposition parties at the opportune time when the chances of having it passed are greatest. Therefore, at the budget committee meetings, every effort should be made to persuade the other opposition parties to have them join our efforts.

ITEM 5 Social Democrats Suffer from Dearth of Talent - Tokyo Shimbun - 18 Dec
 46. Translator: A. Kawamura.

Full Translation:

4123
 The anti-Government movement was carried out on 17 December in and outside of the Diet. Even if presented by the Opposition, however, the joint resolution demanding immediate dissolution of the Diet will surely be voted down by the Government parties, which have a majority. The blow struck by the Opposition, however, may be a death blow to the Government, which has hitherto repeated so many mistakes. It well indicates the real position of the Government that reconstruction of the present Cabinet, after a recess, has already been talked about in the Diet. Bitter complaints are also heard against Mr NISHIO, who substituted the resolution for Diet-dissolution for a non-confidence vote. Now, it is very obvious that the YOSHIDA Cabinet has completely lost the support of the people, including the salaried class.

As regards the political situation after the downfall of the present Cabinet, there is no general feeling of unrest. In regard to talent and policy, however, there are few persons in the Social Democratic Party from whom we can expect much. The General Budget Committee men, who were swaggering to stimulate the anti-Government movement, reveal the lack of policy of the Social Democratic Party.

Although Mr HIRANO, Social Democrat, pressed the Government at the General Budget meeting of 16 December, emphasizing agrarian problems, which are his favorite subject, he could not satisfy the people on account of the vagueness of his party's economic policy. The support of the public cannot, after all, be obtained by any compromise policy. Without a firm policy to overcome the present economic inequality between towns and villages, we will consequently strengthen existing feudal ideas in the villages, and we will then also allow the conservative political parties to secure their constituencies.

ITEM 15 Mission Of The Social Democratic Party - Tokyo Times - 20 Nov 46.
 Translator: S. Yokoyama.

412.5
 Summary:

The extraordinary session of the Diet has been opened. The position of the Social Democratic Party will attract the most attention in the present session of the Diet. In the course of the last Diet, the party supported the Government from the beginning to the end although it was not the Government party. It is reported that it will be active as an opposition party in the present Diet. It is true that the activities of the Social Democratic Party in the last Diet were moderate. Therefore, the party did not commit any errors. However, it is also true that the party was too spiritless and gave an impression that it was not fulfilling the people's expectations.

The present Social Democratic Party is "an unfinished product". The party gained power by taking advantage of the situation at the time of the first general election after the end of war. The members of the party are not all of the same opinion and give an impression of a motley group. However, this does not mean that it is a mob. On the contrary, each member was a courageous fighter during the period of oppression. With the change of the situation, they gathered together in one party. It seems that they can not fully display their individual abilities as a party. To speak frankly, disunity because of the lack of leadership is causing the party to give such an impression.

In the last general election, most of the intelligent people such as middle class workers and students supported the Social Democratic Party. These people believed that reconstruction of politics, economy, and society must be achieved through the Social Democratic Party for the sake of democratic development of new JAPAN. Have the members of the Social Democratic Party who were elected to the Diet forgotten the expectations of the people?

The disunity and spiritlessness of the party seem to be caused by the lack of the members' realization of importance of their position in the presentday political world of JAPAN. We may be expecting too much of a young party. It may perhaps be more proper to watch patiently its growth as a political party.

However, the people are impatient. They can not bear the disunity and inactivity of the Social Democratic Party, which should take the lead in the thorough reconstruction of all the economic and social systems by expelling old leaders from public offices, financial circles, and the press. This is the mission the Social Democratic Party must fulfil. It is our desire that the Social Democratic Party fulfil its mission satisfactorily as a big political party with unity and good sense, so that a sound democratic Japanese government will develop and the party will be able to take an active part in the immediate reconstruction of JAPAN.

ITEM 2 Social Democratic Party May Introduce Vote of Non-Confidence - Asahi Shimbun - 3 Dec 46. Translator: K. Higashikawa.

4123
 Summary:

Responding to the national rallies to be held throughout the country for the overthrow of the present Cabinet, according to present indications the Social Democratic Party will introduce a vote of non-confidence against the Government. The idea of attacking the Government's financial, economic

and labor policies with the intention of bringing before the public the fact that the present Cabinet is utterly incompetent to take charge of the political situation, is gaining influence within the Social Democratic Party. Relentless attacks against the Government will be carried on in such a way that they will be climaxed by the introduction of a vote of non-confidence. It was learned that this will be atuned with the scheduled national rally for the overthrow of the Cabinet.

The Social Democratic Party is slated to hold a meeting of its floor managers today to determine its Diet policy.

ITEM 2 Political Situation Centering Around Vote of Non-Confidence -
Mainichi Shimbun - 6 Dec 46. Translator: K. Higashikawa.

Summary:

4123
The political situation in the past few days has become very tense amidst the delicate atmosphere created by the growing possibility of the Social Democratic Party calling for a vote of non-confidence. Prior to the convocation of the present session of the Diet, the rumored proposal of a vote of non-confidence by the Social Democratic Party was viewed as a political gesture and both the Government and the Government parties held an optimistic view of the situation. After a ten days sitting of the Diet

session, the attitude of the Social Democratic Party on this issue has unexpectedly become adamant. The party began to seek the support of the forces working outside the Diet for taking a vote of non-confidence against the Government and, at the same time, made representations to various political parties within the Diet to gain their support.

The inactivity and the total lack of policy of the present Government are the motive power which has driven the Social Democratic Party to consider proposing a vote of non-confidence. The fact that on his recent nation-wide speech tour, KATAYAMA, president of the Social Democratic Party, has ascertained that the present Cabinet enjoys little support of the people has influenced the Social Democratic Party to overthrow the present Government.

At a meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the party held on 4 December, the majority were in favor of asking for a vote of non-confidence, and the matter has now veered to the question of when the vote of non-confidence should be proposed. Even if the vote of non-confidence should be proposed by the unanimous will of the entire Opposition parties, it is quite clear that the vote would be defeated unless there is disunity among the Government parties. A faction of the Social Democratic Party holds the strong view that if the party cannot rally all the Opposition parties around the vote of non-confidence, the Social Democratic Party should make the motion alone. It remains to be seen which side of the fence the Peoples Party and the Co-operative Democratic Party will choose.

If the vote of non-confidence is proposed unanimously by all the Opposition parties, there would be only two trump cards to be played by the Government: the first would be resignation en masse; and the second, the dissolution of the Diet. The Government would naturally play the latter card. In case of a dissolution of the Diet, the Co-operative Democratic Party and the Peoples Party would be hit the hardest, for judging from present conditions, it would be impossible for either of the two parties to obtain more seats in the Diet than they now have in the next general election.

As if to pave the way for a general election, the Government parties are being unusually active regarding the presentation of a bill for the revision of the present Election Law. Dark clouds are now hanging low on the political horizon, though the political situation apparently looks quiet for the present.

ITEM 4 Social Democrats' Non-confidence Proposal Hopeless - Tokyo Shimbun - 10 Dec 46. Translator: F. Hagiwara.

Full Translation:

412.3 The Social Democratic Party's resolution of non-confidence against the YOSHIDA Cabinet, which was expected to be proposed on 17 December, has become an almost impossible matter. This is due to the fact that, setting aside the Labor offensive's own vital force, neither the objective situation in the House of Representatives nor the subjective conditions within the Social Democratic Party have taken shape. Although the party offered a joint proposal to the Co-operative Party on 6 December, and to the People's Party on 7 December, it received the same answer from both. This was to the effect that they could not agree with the proposal at once because the party decision had not been made. The party is also slated to have a talk with the Independents' Club on 9 December. However, since that club intends to maintain its independence, there is no hope of agreement with the Social Democratic Party.

Meanwhile, the Social Democratic Party is deliberating carefully on the matter, through the Central Executive Committee and the Diet Counter Measures Committee. Opinions held by them are as follows:

- (1) The campaign within the House should be developed, independently, as a political movement, although one cannot disregard the Labor offensive outside the House;
- (2) To propose a resolution, despite its certain failure, will only result in the Diet's confidence in the YOSHIDA Cabinet. Thus the real situation betrays a lack of unity within the party, notwithstanding the fact that there is a movement for a mass meeting for the overthrow of the YOSHIDA Cabinet. This is to be under the management of the Round-table Conference of Labor. A more prudent group within that party is laying emphasis on shaking the YOSHIDA Cabinet from its foundation by pointing out, (1) the Government's incompetency and its lack of unity, as shown in the general meeting for the budget and in the examination of laws and regulations pertaining to the new Constitution; and (2) the conservative power's lack of competency in expediting economic reconstruction. They advocate the concentration of all energies to this scheme, watching for a chance to propose a non-confidence vote, if the objective situations within the House are favorable to them. Judging from the various matters stated above, the Social Democratic Party cannot present a non-confidence resolution on 17 December. Even after that, it could not be realized unless the objective situation should take a favorable turn.

ITEM 4 Social Democratic Party's Divergence of Views on outside Movements to Unseat the Cabinet - Jiji Shimpō - 4 Dec 46. Translator: A. Kido.

Full Translation:

412.3 The Party officials' meeting of the Social Democratic Party, on the 3rd, discussed the disputes in the House caused by the all-Japan labor union's round-table conference of the 2nd and the movements of the National Salvation Democratic League. In view of the importance of this affair, the party has decided to hold, from 1300 hours on the 4th, a meeting of the Central Executive Committee, a formal organ of the party, in order to decide the party's attitude. The all-Japan rally on the 17th, under the auspices of the labor unions, to call for the overthrowing of the YOSHIDA Cabinet has incurred ill-feeling, for the step was taken as an arbitrary decision on the part of the few executives without the approval of the formal organ. In addition, there is a strong opinion that movements outside the House to overthrow the Cabinet are contrary to the spirit of the party formation of the Social Democratic Party, which abides by the parliamentary principle. Consequently, there are many divergences of views as to whether or not a non-confidence vote should be laid before the House on the 17th. Some quarters strongly believe that unless the Co-operative Democratic and other minor parties co-operate, a non-confidence vote, solely by the Social Democratic and Communist Parties, would gain nothing, and end up by being a farce. However, if the so-called non-government parties within the House, such as the Social Democratic, Communist, Co-operative Democratic, People's Parties and Independents, should heartily harmonize with the working masses outside the Diet, even if it should be voted down, the political significance of the presentation of a non-confidence vote will be amply recognized. Thus, the support of the smaller parties is a prerequisite to the presenting of a non-confidence vote.

ITEM 10 Expectations of the Social Democratic Party - Provincial Newspaper Hokkoku Mainichi (Kanazawa) - 5 Dec 46. Translator: K. Nagatani.

Summary:

4/23
It is reported that the Social Democratic Party held its central executive committee meeting on 4 December and decided its fundamental policies in the Diet as an Opposition party. In the Social Democrats' Diet strategy committee meeting held on 3 December, the opinion became dominant that, in response to political demands of the working classes, the Social Democratic Party should vigorously call for a vote of non-confidence. The indications so far are that despite the moderate leadership of the officials, the Social Democratic Party will introduce a resolution for a non-confidence vote in the YOSHIDA Cabinet.

We do not intend to accuse the Social Democratic Party of having accepted the policies of the Government in the previous Diet session. It cannot be denied, however, that the attitude of the Social Democratic Party heretofore has been lukewarm indeed. Now is the time for the Social Democratic Party to manifest itself as an Opposition party.

The people expect the Social Democratic Party to be able to carry out the tasks which the YOSHIDA Cabinet has failed to do. The people believe that the Social Democratic Party and the Communist Party are apparently in opposition with the Progressive and Liberal parties which support the present Cabinet.

Political influence of the Liberal and Progressive parties is far stronger than that of the Social Democratic Party and the Communist Party. It is generally agreed that the present world situation is directed toward democracy. Nevertheless, the YOSHIDA Cabinet and the conservative parties such as the Progressive and Liberal parties attempt to retain certain dictatorial influences and prevent the progressive forces from advancing.

The Social Democratic Party is now the largest opposition party. The platform of the Social Democratic Party is quite different from the policy of the YOSHIDA Cabinet. Unless the opposition party becomes strong, the Government, and the parties supporting it will not become strong. Serious discussions are the only way in which two parties, in opposition to each other, will be able to clarify their political ideology, platforms and policies. By serious discussions we mean the negation of the policies of the opposite party. If the Social Democratic Party is an opposition party worthy of its name, it should call for a vote of non-confidence and ask for "the judgement of the people."

ITEM 9 Political Attitude of the Social Democrats (Sub-Editorial) - Yomiuri Shimbun - 26 Nov 46. Translator: F. Seto.

Full Translation:

4/23
Several codes attached to the new Constitution are scheduled to be discussed in this extra session of the Diet, but the urgent political problem is whether or not the YOSHIDA Cabinet will be able to stand against the pressure of the left wing labor offensive. It is also a subject of public discussion whether the Social Democrats will come forward as a non-Government party, or assume an uncertain attitude as a quasi-Government party. Even if the Communist Party which is an opposition party sends only 6 representatives to the Diet, presents a non-confidence vote or introduces its resolution for the dissolution of the Diet, we wonder if it will be able to get the signatures of 20 "yes men" in conformity with the rule. In this respect, the attitude of the Social Democrats who are demanding the dissolution of the Diet, will exert a great influence upon the political situation.

Judging from the speech made in SENDAI by KATAYAMA, leader of the Social Democrats, and the one in TOKYO by NISHIO, the secretary-general of the party, there is no positive sign of the Social Democrats casting a non-confidence vote or demanding the dissolution of the Diet. It is true that a significant attitude or a political gesture was much appreciated in the transactions of the old parties or politicians, but the Social Democrats who are too self-conceited to represent the newly-rising powers, should not make themselves so ridiculous.

During the political changes in May and June, the Social Democrats betrayed their attitude, and repeatedly made very unbecoming, "significant political gestures, being affected by their left wing members and public opinion. In consequence, they suffered a great loss. If they also conduct themselves now as if they were a Government party and yet a non-Government one, their sphere of influence may possibly be encroached by the Communist Party before they hold the reins of power. There is no alternative for them but to take reasonable, political action.

ITEM 3 Present Social Democrats Cannot Form Single-Party Cabinet - Mimpo -
8 Dec 46. Translator: H. Miyoshi.

412.3

Full Translation:

The men actually leading the Social Democratic Party are NISHIO Suehiro and HIRANO Rikizo.

Mr NISHIO, known as a "politician", has taken every opportunity to threaten the Government and to strive to set up a Cabinet with the Social Democrats as its central figures.

The leaders are fully aware that the establishment of a single-party Cabinet by their party will never materialize since it lacks the power to achieve such a thing.

The Social Democrats try to justify the tactics of their radical elements and left-wingers.

As it is, they are reported to be carrying on secret activities. Lest the mere shouting of "Down with the YOSHIDA Cabinet" or the blind following of the present labor offensive end in severe reprimands by Government parties, the Social Democrats are urging their theorist MORITO to gloss over the facts.

Judging from the assertions of some realistic Social Democrats that without the support of half of the Diet members and the general public, their party could not make itself a stabilized force in the Diet, it seems that they hope to form a Cabinet with the Liberals and Progressives as its wings, or even to take part in a Cabinet in which the two parties have a greater influence. It would seem that the Social Democratic Party is taking advantage of present labor offensive.

KATO Kanju, radical member of the Social Democratic Party, is constantly approaching progressive influences outside the Diet for political purposes. At present, however, they are unequal to the right-wingers in the Diet.

ITEM 8 The True Aims of the Social Democrats' Demand for the Diet's Dissolution - Dai Ichi Shimbun - 16 Dec 46. Translator: C. Akashi.

412.13

Summary:

The Social Democratic Party will demand the dissolution of the Diet, on the 17th, according to the decision reached by the Party's central executive committee. In this demand, the Social Democrats intend to express their voice of non-confidence in the Government. Furthermore, by this action, they are proposing to win minor parties such as the Co-operative Democratic and the People's Parties to their side, while meeting the demand for a non-confidence vote voiced within their Party. As seen in this decision, the leading circles of the Social Democratic Party are trying to make their non-confidence motion effective by uniting all the opposition quarters. However, it is open to question whether those minor parties, such as the Co-operative Democratic and the People's Parties, will be ready to support the Social Democrats' action. Even if they extend full support to the Social Democrats, the total numerical strength of the opposition parties, including the Social Democratic, the Co-operative Democratic, the People's and the Communist Parties will be only 202 against the 259 of the Government parties. Though it is well aware of this handicap, the Social Democratic Party still wants to demand the dissolution of the Diet in the present session. Herewith, we can sound out the following intentions of the Social Democratic Party.

1. Apart from the matter of numerical strength, the fact that the majority of the opposition parties has been united is extremely important from a political point of view.

2. It may be practically impossible for the Diet to be dissolved. The true aim is to bring about the resignation of the Cabinet.

3. Corresponding to the Social Democrats' action, the labor offensive outside the Diet will become more and more threatening to the Cabinet.

Meanwhile, in the Diet, two rival factions, the opposition and the Government parties, will be decisively pitted against each other. With the presentation of the demand for the dissolution of the Diet by the Social Democratic Party, the political situation will enter a more complicated phase, revealing the delicate divergence of opinions among the opposition parties.

ITEM 1 Profile of Morito, Tatsuo - Provincial Paper Tokai Yukan (Gifu) - 12 Dec 46. Translator: F. Mitsuhashi.

Summary:

412.3
When one speaks of MORITO; he will surely be reminded of the Democratic League for National Salvation, a foolish plan of the Social Democratic Party. Since spring, the working masses have been demanding the formation of a democratic front, and MORITO became famous and then lost face, both due to the Democratic League for National Salvation. This is a very paradoxical expression, but it is true, because although the members of the Social Democratic Party have admired him, the people, who have known the real aim of the Democratic League for National Salvation, have despised him. Originally, the people regarded MATSUKOMA and NISHIO of the Social Democratic Party as incompetent rightists. However, the intelligent younger laborers and students admired MORITO, because he was progressive in nature. Regrettably as it was, when MORITO drew up the plan for the formation of the Democratic League for National Salvation, he suddenly became conservative.

The plan for the formation of the Democratic League for National Salvation was devised for the purpose of breaking off relations with the Communist Party instead of forming a democratic front. The rightists of the Social Democratic Party, including MORITO, had had no intention of forming a democratic front. Therefore, after the Social Democratic Party declared that it would have nothing to do with the Communist Party, MORITO and other rightists did nothing for the formation of the Democratic League for National Salvation. MORITO expected that, after breaking off relations with the Communist Party and the labor unions under the influence of the National Congress of Industrial Organizations, the Social Democratic Party would become a major party in the Diet. Furthermore, he expected the Social Democratic Party to form a cabinet. However, the working masses despised MORITO's intention because they thought that the Social Democratic Party should consider the interests of the working masses prior to its own interests. If the Social Democratic Party does not defend the interests of the working masses, there will be no difference between the Social Democratic Party and the Liberal and the Progressive Parties. However, the members of the Social Democratic Party admired MORITO because he had contributed to the development of the party. Thus MORITO was appointed chairman of the Policy Investigation Committee of the Party.

Why did MORITO suddenly become conservative? The superficial reason is that he could not tolerate the indecent tactics of the Communist Party. Essentially, however, it was because of his own character. There are many persons who were at one time regarded as being progressive, and who are now regarded as being conservative. MORITO is one of these persons. He will probably become an oversensitive Diet member in the future.

ITEM 7 Government Parties Will Disapprove Demand for Dissolution of the Diet by a Majority - Asahi Shimbun - 17 Dec 46. Translator: N. Tachibana.

Full Translation:

412.3
In opposition to introduction of a resolution demanding the dissolution of the Diet by three opposition parties, the Liberal Party told Chief Cabinet Secretary HAYASHI on 16 December, "We expect the Government to assume a firm attitude implying that they are ready to dissolve the Diet at any time. We leave the time of dissolution up to the Government."

The Social Democratic Party believes this to be a disagreeable and threatening proposition based on a view that the demand for dissolution is the first step in an attack against the Government and that the Social Democratic Party has no true intention of demanding the dissolution of the Diet. The Liberal Party has not yet reached a definite understanding with the Progressive Party, a friendly Government party, on the problem of dissolution. The Government believes that the coalition of opposition parties except for independents is serious political significance, together with the opposition parties' intention to hold the reins of government during the next period. Therefore, the Government is rather confused. Since the Government neither petitions the Emperor to dissolve the Diet or has no steps to take, it believes that there is no other alternative than to disapprove the resolution by a majority with the help of Government parties. Premier YOSHIDA and other Ministers from the Liberal Party met and talked with the leaders of the Liberal Party on various problems on the evening of 16 December.

ITEM 1 Dissolution or Non-confidence - Mimpo - 18 Dec 46. Translator:
T. Samukawa.

Summary:

412.3
It is reported that the Social Democratic Party will present a resolution demanding the immediate dissolution of the Lower House on the 17th together with the Co-operative Democratic Party. The Social Democratic Party once denounced the movement of labor unions to overthrow the Cabinet as unconstitutional and refused to support it. NISHIO, Secretary-General of the party, who is known as a practical politician, is still opposed to the Diet solution motion, because even if the motion succeeds, it will be difficult under the present conditions for the Social Democratic Party to poll an absolute majority in the general election. Consequently, even if the party succeeds in holding the political power, it will be powerless and will not be able to carry out its own policies.

According to NISHIO, it is expected that by next March or thereabout, when the national crisis reaches its climax, the present Cabinet will probably be forced out of office. For this reason, it is advisable for the Social Democratic Party to abide its time, until it becomes powerful enough to independently hold the reins of the government. However, against his suggestion, the party decided to demand the dissolution of the Diet.

The Social Democratic Party first plans to present a non-confidence vote, but a controversy over the time to present the vote, has arisen. One faction advocates that the vote should be presented on the very day of the "National Mass Meetings for the Security of Livelihood and overthrow of the YOSHIDA Cabinet" sponsored by the labor unions. The other advocates that the vote should be presented later so that the vote will receive the support of the other parties.

Why did the Social Democratic Party give up the non-confidence vote and adopt the Diet dissolution motion? Although the party explained that it was because the party would not be able to receive the support of other parties, we cannot be satisfied with such a childish explanation. A non-confidence vote will be a great blow to the Government even if the vote fails. If the non-confidence resolution passes the Diet, the Cabinet must resign en masse.

Moreover, against the motion of a Diet dissolution, the Government can split the opposition group by recommending some leaders of the opposition parties to join the Cabinet. In other words, the opposition parties can obtain some seats in the Cabinet by pressing the Government with the Diet dissolution motion.

However, in the case of a non-confidence vote, there is no way for the Government to split the opposition group, and there will also be no way for the opposition parties to obtain seats in the Cabinet.

In this connection, the reason why the Social Democratic Party gave up the non-confidence vote and decided to adopt the Diet dissolution motion, seems suspicious. As the slogan of the mass meeting, "Down with the YOSHIDA Cabinet" clarifies, the demand of the working masses is not the dissolution of the Diet but the immediate resignation of the Cabinet. The Social Democratic Party, which represents the working masses, should be faithful to the demands of its supporters. Although the Diet dissolution motion may seem to be favorable to the working masses, it is in reality against their interest.

ITEM 2 Social Democrats' Proposal Rejected - Akahata - 27 Nov 46. Translator: H. Miyoshi.

Full Translation:

After bolting from and asking for the dissolution of the Joint Democratic Fighting Committee of MIYAGI-Ken (MIYAGI-KEN MINSHU SENSEN KYOTO TOGO IINKAI), which has played an important role in carrying out the plan for the establishment of a Democratic League for National Salvation (KYUKOKU MINSHU REMMEI) in accordance with the decision reached at a meeting of its Standing Committee at the end of October, the MIYAGI chapter of the Social Democratic Party is going to propose the establishment of a Democratic League for National Salvation, centering around the JAPAN Farmers' Union and the Social Democratic Party, and excluding the Communists. Meanwhile, executives of the local chapter of the JAPAN Farmers' Union are maneuvering together to expel the Communists.

In this connection, the MIYAGI local committee of the Communist Party issued a statement to the organizations involved, as well as to the masses, at the beginning of November, opposing the secession of the MIYAGI chapter of the Social Democratic Party from the Joint Democratic Fighting Committee of MIYAGI-Ken.

(1) "In order that both workers and farmers may fight against the reactionary forces to protect their right to live, their front must be unified, which is what the workers and farmers desire."

(2) "Secession of the Social Democrats from the Joint Democratic Fighting Committee of MIYAGI prefecture will end only in splitting the front and benefiting the reactionary forces."

(3) "The Social Democrats' intention to set up a Democratic League for National Salvation, centering around the JAPAN Farmers' Union and the JAPAN Federation of Labor Unions by rejecting the membership of the Communists, is nothing but their dictatorial and self-centered ambition."

Meanwhile, in compliance with the demand of KAWAHARA, member of MIYAGI local committee of the Communist Party and concurrently vice-chairman of the Joint Democratic Fighting Committee of MIYAGI prefecture, a meeting of the Standing Sub-committee of the Joint MIYAGI struggle committee was held on 12 November, and attended by representatives from the Government Railway Workers' Union, National Federation of Communication Workers' Union, JAPAN Transportation Workers' Union, JAPAN Coal Miners' Union, Electrical Workers' Union and JAPAN Federation of Labor Unions. At that time, KAWAHARA reported on the progress of the negotiations, and explained the declaration made by the Communist Party.

POLITICAL SERIES: 1441 (Continued)

ITEM 2 (Continued)

HINO, Yoshio, Social Democrat, gave an account of the decision of the MIYAGI chapter of the Social Democratic Party, and also clarified that his MIYAGI chapter will act in accordance with the plan of his party's headquarters for the establishment of a Democratic League for National Salvation.

KAGAWA, representative of the Government Railway Workers' Union, said, "Our struggle has assumed a political character. If the Social Democrats are a labor party, it should strive for the unification of the labor front since we are starting a large scale offensive. The party's endeavor to set up a partisan Democratic League for National Salvation will end inevitably in splitting the front. If the Social Democratic Party will reject the membership of the Communist party, it cannot be regarded as a labor party, nor can it be supported as such."

Representatives of the TOYO Cutlery Company and the TOHOKU metal Company under the JAPAN Federation of Labor Unions, as well as the JAPAN Express Workers' Union, respectively, demanded the unification of the front. NAKAMURA, representative for the JAPAN Farmers' Union, privately favored the demand and opposed the Social Democrats proposed dissolution of the Joint Democratic Fighting Committee of MIYAGI prefecture and their secession from the committee. SASAKI, chairman of the MIYAGI chapter of the JAPAN Federation of Labor Unions and concurrently chairman of the Joint Democratic Fighting Committee of MIYAGI prefecture, expressed his opinion supporting the establishment of a labor-farmer consultative club.

A representative of the MIYAGI chapter of the Social Democratic Party declared, "It is true that the opinions of the representatives are theoretically correct. Judging from the relationship with our headquarters, it is obvious that we will be expelled from our party if we remain as we are." Following this, ODAJIMA, representative of the Government Railway Workers' Union, advised the members of the MIYAGI chapter of the Social Democratic Party, "If you admit the importance of the democratic front, you should strive for rallying the democratic forces in MIYAGI prefecture for the sake of the laborers and the farmers, even if it means seceding from your own party." Furthermore, asked by representatives about the dissolution of the Diet and the overthrow of the present Cabinet, he replied, "To this end, we are ready to struggle with any other organization."

At that time, KAWAHARA, member of the local chapter of the Social Democratic Party, proposed to dissolve the present Joint Democratic Fighting Committee of MIYAGI prefecture, and set up a joint struggle committee for strengthening the democratic front and overthrowing the present Cabinet. This proposal was favored by all the representatives. The movement by the Joint Democratic Fighting Committee of MIYAGI prefecture, which was virtually at a standstill as a result of the balking attitude of the Social Democratic Party, will be participated in by members of the National Federation of Communications Workers' Union, the All-JAPAN Electrical Workers' Union, teachers' unions, the Government and Public Offices Workers' Union (KAN KOSHOKU), the Korean League (CHOREN) and the Women Workers' Union. Therefore, it is expected that the movements of the joint struggle and the democratic front will make a remarkable development. It is being watched by all quarters whether or not the Social Democratic Party will fulfill its promise for a joint struggle.

EDITORIAL SERIES: 1398 (Continued)

ITEM 6 Advice to the Social Democratic Party - Provincial Newspaper: Akita Sakigake Shimpo (Akita) - 19 Nov 46. Translator: H. Arai.

Summary:

41213
While KATAYAMA, chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Social Democratic Party, insists on the prompt dissolution of the Diet, SHIDEHARA, president of the Progressive Party, declares that there is no necessity for dissolving the Diet. President SHIDEHARA emphasizes that since the present Government achieved the reform of the Constitution, and though temporarily, solved the food problem, it should carry on state administration until a peace conference can be started. Against this, Chairman KATAYAMA maintains that just because the constitutional and food problems were solved, the present Diet ought to dissolve and thus investigate public confidence placed on it.

In short, since the Diet session is over, and the new Constitution is reviewed favorably by the public, the Government has gained self-confidence and attempts to remain in office. However, it cannot be said that the Government alone achieved those things. The majority of the people think that the Social Democratic Party's demands are proper. We desire that in order to reform popular sentiment, that party should carry through its purpose for the dissolution of the Diet at any cost.

It seems that the Government has finally succeeded in preventing labor's "October offensive". We cannot tell when the problem of inflation or the problem of underproduction being caused by labor unrest will be solved. The people think that this is because of the conservative and capitalistic character of the YOSHIDA Cabinet. The demand of the Social Democratic Party is a reflex of such dissatisfaction from the people. Perhaps some people may consider it a political maneuver, but under the present political circumstances it is quite a reasonable claim.

The Social Democratic Party has been assuming a semi-friendly attitude towards the YOSHIDA Cabinet since it was organized. Therefore, it is undeniable that the people have some doubts about that party's own policies. Though that party might succeed in socializing the policies of the Government, this would merely complicate political conditions. Be that as it may, at present is a good opportunity for that party to return to its proper status and prove itself really capable of assuming the helm of state-affairs.

It is natural that the party endeavors to realize the establishment of a socialistic state, peacefully through the Diet, but, now that it is founded on the masses, it should establish an organization for reflecting the will of the laboring masses. To our regret, it cannot be said that it is devoting itself to the enlightenment of young men and women. In order to satisfy the eager desire of the people for tidying over the present crisis by a new political power, the Social Democratic Party, representative of the newly rising parties, must endeavor to win public confidence and support.

EDITORIAL SERIES: 1398 (Continued)ITEM 5 (Continued)

of the Japanese people in culture despite the devastation of war. To my regret, however, this enthusiasm lacks sincerity in respect to culture and education, and sincerity must be the basis of a new cultural country. A new university or college, for example, is often planned as a substitute for former munitions plant or barracks to bring about prosperity to local districts.

It must be noticed, however, that education is not an enterprise, and particularly in the present condition of poverty, such planning cannot be workable. Of course, it is desirable that every district of the country has a university of its own, but a university which has no substantial characteristics is no better than nothing.

Still more, it is of urgent necessity to rehabilitate the elementary schools destroyed by war and to improve the living condition of teachers. Local authorities and members of local Governments, before they establish a plan for a new college, should deeply consider the substantial importance of education. At any rate, the present educational condition of JAPAN is too poor for a cultural state. Education expense of the Government takes only two percent of the total budget expenditure. Such a lamentable condition, for which all the people, and especially the Diet must be blamed, must be improved by the co-ordinate efforts of the people and the Government.

(ABE, Yoshishige, former education minister)

POLITICAL SERIES: 1429 (Continued)

ITEM 5 Which Course Will the Social Democratic Party Choose? - Provincial Newspaper Tokai Yukan - 16 Nov 46. Translator: J. Weiller.

Full Translation:

41213
 Commenting on the Administration's "Six Major Policies" published after the promulgation of the Constitution, the Social Democratic Party denounced them as mere political literature aimed at lengthening their life "from the Constitution Cabinet to the Peace Treaty Cabinet". The Party demanded that to determine the nation's confidence, the Diet should be dissolved here and now. Furthermore, seizing the Government's clumsy manner of handling the Electric Workers' dispute as a chance, they started to work closer with the anti-government movement of the labor organizations to step forward as the next political power. At this very moment, however, they were shaken to the foundation by Lt Gen DEREVYANKO's proposal for a further purge at the Council for JAPAN. The party's five influential members are included in the proposal.

That the names of Secretary General NISHIO, Advisor MATSUOKA, HIRANO, TAWARA, and KATO are cited in the purge means the loss of the Party's credit along with the Liberal and the Progressive Parties. Although the proposal was merely brought up for discussion and does not mean an immediate action, it is now regarded as being only a question of time before "finis" will be written to the political lives of these men.

This also means the loss of a great number of the party's rightist elements with NISHIO as the central figure. These right wingers, steadily rejecting a coalition with the Communist Party, tried to find means of realizing socialistic policies by joining hands with the conservative camp, and by repressing the so-called leftists. They have solidified the KATAYAMA-NISHIO line and taken into hands the guiding power of the party. It is not exaggerating to say that the party is now facing an extreme crisis.

On top of this, the loss of MATSUOKA, who is backed by the General Federation of Labor Unions and HIRANO of the JAPAN Farmers' Union, is bound to bring about a marked change in the relations between the party and its supporting bodies. In view of the possibility that a number of the party's Diet members will be involved in the purge of the local public offices, it is observed that the Social Democratic Party may be worse hit than the Liberal and the Progressive Parties which are in danger of losing ASHIDA and INUKAI respectively. It is already being said that the leftist element, who have reluctantly remained inactive, will try to regain their force, in which event the Social Democratic Party will undergo a change in nature with the possible purge as the turning point. In any case, the weakening of the core in the face of political instability will render remote the possibility of having a Social Democratic government or their coalition government. Consequently, the opposition's offensive for the overthrow of the Cabinet will be stalled for the time being.

How does the party propose to make good the loss in strength? Rekindling the democratic front, or finding a way out by a compromise with the conservatives? Whatever course it may take, it is undeniable that the party, which hitherto has been sailing under a favorable wind, must brave rough weather.

MORNING EDITION

	Series	Item
Social Democratic Party Clarifies Its Diet Policies.....	1435	1
Electrical Industry Workers' Dispute.....	1585	1
Co-operation of Labor and Capital Stressed.....		2
Communications Workers Dissatisfied.....	1270	1
Industrial Reconstruction and Industrial Capital.....	1394	1
Economic Democratization and Its Social Benefits.....		2
Politics and the Nation.....		3
Just Fulfilment of the Obligation of Reparations.....		4
Down with the Yoshida Cabinet!.....		5
Electrical Workers' Union Strike.....		6
One-Way Flow of Currency.....		7

POLITICAL SERIES: 1435

ITEM 1 Social Democratic Party Clarifies Its Diet Policies - Asahi Shimbun -
26 Nov 46. Translated by T. Ono.

4/12/83

Full translation:

The Social Democratic Party's attitude toward the coming extraordinary session of the Diet was clarified by MIZUTANI, Chozaburo, chairman of the party's Diet Committee at the meeting of the party's parliamentary members held on 25 November at the Diet Hall. MIZUTANI's statement, in substance, was as follows:

"In the coming session of the Diet we have no reason to cooperate with the Government. We are slated to attend the session as the Opposition, without having any obligation or condition. With regard to the question of whether or not a nonconfidence bill will be introduced by our party, we are going to decide our attitude upon the developments of the present situation. The party's mission in the coming session of the Diet is to find a way to tide over the current spiralling inflation for the sake of the laboring mass. Accordingly, we will oppose all Diet activities which are detrimental to the working class. We wish to carry out our Diet activities firmly for the interest of the workers. Indeed, the forthcoming session is really the life-or-death battleground for our party."

In the meeting a report regarding the statement by Secretary-General NISHIO that the party will not introduce a nonconfidence bill in the forthcoming session was seriously considered by some members. KATO, Kanju, MASAKI, Kiyoshi, and AKAMATSU, Isamu, sharply pressed the question and raised a disturbance in the meeting. NISHIO then replied, explaining that such a report misrepresented his real intention. However, the party's attitude toward the Government is uncompromising, and a voice is being raised against its leaders, criticizing the attitude of the leaders as being lukewarm. In view of the existence of such an air of commotion among the members, the party is going to clarify its attitude toward the Diet in some form within a few days. NISHIO, Suehiro, and SUZUKI, Masaburo, were appointed to make interpellations on Premier YOSHIDA's address on the general administrative policy. While NISHIO is slated to take up the labor problem to force the Government to point out defects in its labor policy, SUZUKI will deal with the inflation problem to attack the administration's financial and economic policies.

ITEM 3 Co-operation Imperative for Economic Reconstruction - Mainichi
Shimbun - 30 Nov 46. Translator: R. Shibata.

Full Translation:

112.8
Taking the lead of non-Government parties, NISHIO, Suehiro, chief secretary of the Social Democratic Party, interpellated on the Premier's address in the House of Representatives. He stated that under the present circumstances the introduction of foreign capital is imperative for our industrial recovery. However, this is impossible without the full sympathy and understanding of the Allies. He added that the whole nation must first unite in the effort to increase production. He also said that the labor union movement must be conducted along constructive lines and that labor troubles should be settled with an eye to guaranteeing laborers' livelihood, as well as elevating their social positions. His enthusiasm regarding national co-operation for industrial recovery does not necessarily mean that he meant to back the present Government. Conversely, he criticized the Government's labor policies as lacking in understanding of current labor conditions. He concluded that it would be impossible for the Government to realize a Nation-wide united front.

The attitude of the Social Democratic Party, as manifested in NISHIO's speech, is worth investigating to the fullest extent. Premier YOSHIDA, in his address on 27 November, stressed the necessity of establishing a Nation-wide united front. He stated, "JAPAN's economy cannot be sustained without trade. At present we are in dire need of Allied help in the procurement of various commodities. However, before requesting this assistance, we, as Japanese, must first unite in an effort to restore peaceful industries. Allied assistance should not be requested in advance, as a premise for industrial recovery, but it should be granted only as a reward for the all-out efforts of the entire Nation."

Although the Premier and NISHIO are not exactly of the same opinion, they agreed on the point that a Nation-wide united front is imperative for industrial reconstruction. It is also noteworthy that the Industrial Managers' Association has successfully negotiated with the National Federation of Labor to establish Labor-Capital co-operation for the speedy recovery of industry. As a result, it is expected that the relationship between the Association and the National Congress of Industrial Organizations will be much improved. Although there may be many complications, the economic strife finally will be conducted separately from the problem of industrial reconstruction. If co-operation based on the recognition of mutual positions is achieved by Labor and Capital, the recovery of industry will certainly be accelerated.

At the same time we hope that the same co-operative spirit will be created in political circles. Admittedly, the Social Democratic Party, which advocates socialism, is opposed to such Government parties as the Progressives and the Liberals, both of which favor capitalism. Still, we demand that these opposing parties unite in an effort to achieve a united front based on respect for their particular positions, despite ideological differences. This may be considered a political truce. Only thus can they hope to meet the actual situation. Earnest investigation of this problem by both parties will be the first step in breaking the present political deadlock.

ITEM 3 Decision of the Social Democrats Preparatory Committee Meeting - Nihon Keizai Shimbun - 3 Dec 46. Translator: K. Sasaki.

Full Translation:

8/23
The Preparatory Committee of the Social Democratic League of National Salvation, held a meeting on 2 December at their headquarters. This meeting was attended by delegates from various organizations which had joined the League, and they discussed concrete plans for the successful development of the Democratic Front. Those present were as follows: MITAMURA and KOBORI (delegates from the Democratic People's League), ONISHI (representing the Japanese Farmers' Union), and TANAKA and TAMAN (representing the National Fishermen's Union). Preparatory Committee members present included Chairman MORITO, and committee members NISHIO, TAVARA, and HIRANO. They made the following decisions:

1. By means of an economic rehabilitation movement, we shall successfully tide over the present national crisis and establish a national salvation democratic Government, supported by democratic power; 2. We shall adhere to the present policy of excluding the Communists; 3. We shall solicit other organizations to join this front. Permission to join will be given after consulting the National Laborers' Union Council, which is under the leadership of the Union of Social Democrats.

National Laborers' Union Council Attempts
to Crush the YOSHIDA Cabinet

Some time ago the Social Democrats' Union Committee assisted in the organization of the National Laborers' Union Council. On 2 December, at the headquarters of the Tokyo City Transportation Laborers' Union, located at SUKIYABASHI, the National Laborers' Union Council held their second meeting. Secretary TAKANO of the National Congress of Industrial Organizations proposed a plan to develop a national movement to destroy the YOSHIDA Cabinet. Those present supported this proposal and approved it unanimously. Action was taken to hold Nation-wide mass meetings, on 17 December, at different places throughout JAPAN in an effort to crush the YOSHIDA Cabinet. In order to achieve this objective, a preparatory conference is to be held on 10 December at the Laborers' Hall in SHIBA Park. This meeting is expected to be attended by delegates from all influential prefectural organizations in JAPAN. The first attack will begin with the following three slogans:

1. Protest against the unfair rice-delivery allotment.
2. Establish a minimum wage level.
3. Industrial rehabilitation for the welfare of the Nation.

ITEM 5 Advice to the Social Democratic Party - Provincial Newspaper Ise Shimbun (Tsu) - 20 Dec 46. Translator: S. Yokoyama.

Summary:

9/23
The YOSHIDA Cabinet cannot be said to have the full confidence of the people. In a frank appraisal we feel that its incompetent listlessness and its unresolved will prevent its solving the difficult political issues facing it. If it is at all possible, we should like to see the present cabinet immediately replaced by a more virile and active cabinet which will vigorously and decisively shoulder the burden of the reconstruction of our society. Then, can we approve of Social Democrat KATAYAMA's demand for the dissolution of the Cabinet? No, we cannot, for while Mr NISHIO, Executive-Secretary of the Social Democrats had attacked the government's half-way measures and its inability to cope with the aggravated inflation, and industrial slump, we strongly maintain that now with the approach of the March crisis, the demand for dissolution is both ill-timed and unreasonable inappropriate.

In contrast what attitude have the Social Democrats assumed? Isn't it true that the Social Democrats should have taken a more positive attitude and given full co-operation to the Government's policy instead of merely maintaining a negative stand. Therefore, had the social Democrats had the welfare of the people at heart, they would have taken a more positive and constructive stand. Admittedly it is not too late for them to alter their course of action. In order that the Social Democrats gain the people's confidence we suggest that they analyze the extent of the coming crisis and formulate concrete counter-measures.

ITEM 12 Two Defects of the Social Democratic Party - Provincial Newspaper Niigata Nippo (Niigata) - 16 Dec 46. Translator: I. Hotta.

Summary:

Most of the public agree with the Social Democratic Party's belief in a socialistic revolution. However, they expect it to fulfill its policies. The people are closely watching the movement of the Party to see whether it has ability. It is really deplorable that the Socialists have two defects. One of these is the want of men of ability and the other is the lack of unity. The Social Democratic Party itself may deny them, but they are the striking defects.

The realization of socialistic policies depends much upon both practical and technical study of social and natural sciences. This program requires practical men and technical experts. Mere theory and fighting spirit will not do. The Social Democratic Party shuts the door to new talent, although it should be more progressive than other parties. This evil practice is openly revealed, especially in the provinces where the candidates of the party are less successful than those of other parties. If the Social Democratic Party wants to come into power, it must abolish such a narrow-minded attitude. Political parties have always been controlled by government officials because of the lack of talented personnel although they have talked big. The Social Democratic Party, too, must take this fact into consideration.

The lack of unity is seen often within the party. It will cause it to lose the people's confidence. When it assumes the helm of state affairs, this flaw is a problem not only for the Social Democratic Party but for the country and the people. To speak honestly, the Social Democratic Party is far behind the Liberal, Progressive, and Communist Parties in party unity.

Great hopes as well as many difficulties lay before the party's future. The rise to power of the Social Democratic Party is desirable for the sake of the reconstruction of our country. We hope that the party will become superior to any other in theories, policies, personnel, administrative power, and action.

ITEM 15 Social Democrats and the Democratic League - Provincial Newspaper Nipponkai Shimbun (Tottori) - 23 Dec 46. Translator: W. Hayashi.

Summary:

The establishment of the TOTTORI Chapter of the Democratic League for National Salvation (KYUKOKU MINSHU REIHEI), which was scheduled to be completed in the near future, has been thrown into a new confusion. This is because the TOTTORI branch of the Social Democratic Party has recently refused to co-operate with the Communist Party. Although the Social Democratic Party in this prefecture took the initiative to form the Democratic League for National Salvation, the recent decision of the party is quite justifiable in view of the policy of the party. Why, then, have the Social Democrats, until recently, been participating in the movement for the formation of the Democratic League for National Salvation in collaboration with the Communist Party? We should like to clarify this situation.

At the mass meeting to discuss the labor dispute of the Electric Industry Workers Union held in TOTTORI, the other day, the prefectural leaders of the Social Democratic Party declared that, "We, regardless of the decision of our headquarters, will advocate the formation of a democratic front including the Communist Party." Some quarters have been predicting that the Social Democrats' attitude will change after the mass rally to overthrow the YOSHIDA Cabinet is completed. It is quite proper that the Social Democrats, in view of the fundamental character of the Democratic League for National Salvation, have declared that they will refuse any collaboration with the Communists hereafter. However, it is regrettable to us that despite the fact that they were fully aware of the necessity of breaking the relationship with the Communists, did not clarify their attitude until shortly before the Democratic League was formed. Such an attitude will cause the Party to lose the confidence of the people. Moreover, the Social Democrats, in their statement, denounced and accused the Communists with such fantastic phrases as "revolution by violence" or "communization of the prefecture". It would be sufficient to say that, "We do not like to co-operate with the Communists". To slander the other party with unrealistic phraseology will not gain the support of the people. The labor and farming masses must carefully examine the essence of the issue and seek out a proper course to form a strong democratic front.

ITEM 5 Social Democratic Party Still Undecided on Non-Confidence Vote - Yomiuri Shimbun - 13 Dec 46. Translator: K. Higashikawa.

Summary:

Despite the fact that the scheduled date for the national rally for the overthrow of the YOSHIDA Cabinet is fast approaching, little progress is being made in the negotiations between the Social Democratic Party and the other Opposition parties as to the time the non-confidence vote should be called, with the exception that the Social Democratic Party addressed the Co-operative Democratic and the People's parties and the Independents to secure their support for the non-confidence vote.

In spite of the fact that the radical elements in the farmers' organizations have risen to the occasion, the Social Democratic Party is wavering on the non-confidence issue chiefly on account of the reason that although the Social Democratic Party is determined to call for a vote of non-confidence, opinions within the party are at variance as to the time it should be called. HIRANO, Rikizo, one of the leaders of the Social Democratic Party and who is taking a very cautious attitude on the non-confidence issue, is credited with saying, "The present Cabinet must be overthrown but meticulous care should be exercised as to the choice of the method and the time." The radical elements within the Social Democratic Party, representing the leaders of the farmers' organizations, are in favor of calling for a vote of non-confidence on 17 December when the national rally for the overthrow of the YOSHIDA Cabinet is slated to be held. The realists who are in favor of a joint action of the Opposition parties consider that the time will not be fully ripe for the introduction of the measure on 17 December and prefer to wait until the time is right for a joint action of the Opposition parties. Another school of opinion is in favor of attacking the Achilles heel of the Government in the plenary sessions to come and at the general budget meetings and then presenting the non-confidence proposal with a view of overthrowing the Government in one full sweep.

On 12 December the Social Democratic Party held a meeting of its Parliamentary members at KINJO, AKASAKA-Ku, when a frank exchange of views was made regarding an attack on the Government. The conclusion arrived at the meeting will be referred to the party's Central Executive Committee for final approval. Owing to the fact that the rightist elements within the party are now gaining in influence, the present indications are that the non-confidence measure will be presented when the time is fully ripe for joint action among the various Opposition parties.

The Peoples Party held a meeting of its Parliamentary members within the Diet Building on 12 December in order to decide the party's attitude on the non-confidence issue from a completely new viewpoint. At this meeting the Peoples Party decided to cast aside its wait-and-see policy and to find out which way the anticipated political change is heading. Leaders of the Peoples Party are slated to have an interview with some of the leaders of the Social Democratic Party on 13 December, when it is expected that an exchange of views as to the character of the succeeding cabinet will be held.

ITEM 1 Lectures Given by the Social Democrats On Their Democratic Revolution - Toyoda Rado Jiho (Nagoya) - 1 Nov 46. Translator: R. Ochiai.

Full Translation:

Our labor union held a lecture meeting at 0900 hours on 18 October and all members listened to lectures given by SUZUKI, Masaburo, and KATO, Kanju, Social Democratic Diet members, ITO, Yoshimichi, Social Democrat and ARATANI, Secretary-General of the AICHI branch of the Democratic Party. They spoke on the Social Democrats' plan for a democratic revolution which is now being carried on. Mr ARATANI said, "A socialistic revolution by the Social Democrats cannot be carried through unless labor unions are closely united with us."

Mr. ITO stated: "Since those present here are the leaders of your union I wish to make a speech concerning technicalities." He then went on to tell about the differences between World War I and II. Touching the problem of Communism and socialism, he said that the JAPAN Communist Party lacked an international plan. SUZUKI, Masaburo dealt with the inflation which set in every country after World War I, and said that the present inflation of JAPAN was the bad result of the capitalistic system and that the YOSHIDA Cabinet had no power to tide it over.

ITEM 2 Social Democratic Party in Dilemma - Local Newspaper Miyako Shimbun (Kyoto) - 8 Dec 46. Translator: M. Yasutake.

Summary:

412.3
While the leaders of the Social Democratic Party are showing a cautious attitude toward the presentation of a non-confidence vote against the Government, the radical elements of the Party, with KATO and some others as their leaders, strongly insist on the concentration of the Party's efforts on the overthrowing of the Cabinet on the ground that hesitancy at this moment would cost the Party public support. The radical group adopts the tactics of mobilizing influences outside the Diet and of reflecting their political demands in the will of the Party leaders in order to push through political struggles. At the same time, it cannot be overlooked that the movements of the radical group are making the Party leaders more cautious. The unification of a labor front outside the Diet will naturally develop into a problem regarding the co-operation between the Social Democratic and the Communist Parties. It is clear that there is a limit to the co-operation, and influential Social Democrats believe that it is more advantageous not to make close ties with the Communists at present. Judging from these circumstances, it is imagined that the problem regarding the presentation of a non-confidence vote against the Government will cause great political confusion within the Party. Under the present conditions, the intense labor offensive outside the Diet and the social unrest will force the Party to continue on the road to the overthrowing of the Cabinet. It still remains to be seen how the Party leaders will guide the Party in the future.

The Social Democratic Party asked for the co-operation of other opposition parties in the presentation of a non-confidence vote against the Government, but the co-operation is unlikely because they are holding a hesitant attitude toward the problem. The Co-operative Democratic Party held a meeting from 1300 hours on 6 December and decided to wait awhile before forming its final attitude. The opinion was dominatingly strong that the Party should not co-operate with the Social Democratic Party in presenting the motion for the non-confidence vote against the Government.

The majority of the members of the People's Party hold the view that they should be cautious in presenting the motion to the present Diet. It seems that they will not accept the request of the Social Democrats for co-operation. The Independents Club is strongly tinged with conservatism and it is regarded as most probable that the Social Democratic request will be disregarded by the Club.

ITEM 13 What is Mr. Nishio Intending to do with a Million Yen? - Shakai Shimbun - 20 Dec 46. Translator: R. Ochiai.

Summary:

412.3
What is Mr NISHIO, Social Democrats' Secretary-General, intending to do with 1,000,000 yen, which the Social Democrats are collecting? These funds must be collected from the people of every circle, from factory laborers and farmers to women and office employees.

Mr NISHIO commented as follows: "As I have been working as the Secretary-General, I have realized the difficulty of lack of funds. First, I wanted to make the building of our headquarters clean. But the money we had was not enough to do more than paint the walls white and the windows and doors orange. Fortunately, the members of the young men's and women's sections give us a pleasing atmosphere through their kind help to clean-up and lovely flowers. Next, I do want to buy motor cars to save time instead of using the crowded and independable public vehicles. I do not know how much our party business is being delayed due to the lack of transportation. Two cars cost 150,000 yen. "It is necessary to enlarge the investigation section, and necessary to publish our organ paper daily. We have not enough money. One million yen, at least, is necessary to run the party until next May. We feel grateful for the laborers who make votive offerings of money to our party, and I want every party member to subscribe according to his ability. I would also like the sympathizers of the party to contribute their share with the thought of fulfilling their mission for saving their country."

ITEM 6 Misfortunes of Political Uncertainty - Provincial Newspaper Ise Shimbun (Tsu) - 18 Dec 46. Translator: H. Furukawa.

Summary:

A12.3
The anti-Government demonstration, which was called yesterday under the leadership of the Social Democrats, seemed to fall short of the cause for political stringency. This failure, we suppose, is due to the lack of any bright prospect the succeeding cabinet, even if the present Cabinet is overthrown, which would be powerful enough to tide over the present crisis. The Social Democratic Party, which is the leader of the anti-Government camp, put forth the demand for the dissolution of the Diet, instead of calling the vote of non-confidence of the cabinet. The tactics of the Social Democrats seems to have some connection with the Government's intention of organizing the coalition cabinet with the Social Democrats as participants. The coalition cabinet, however, which is usually called the "national government", is inconsistent with the principles of constitutionalism, and it is not always powerful and efficient enough to handle the difficult situation, as we have seen in the past. If the Social Democratic Party should participate in such an unconstitutional attempt, it will cause the present political situation to become more uncertain.

We demand, therefore, that the Social Democrats, which has promising possibilities of shouldering the next government, should stubbornly fight against the Cabinet, representing the clamoring masses outside the House. The people have no interest in political transaction behind the scenes. Their only desire is the stabilization of the nation's livelihood by means of checking inflation and preventing economic catastrophe. If the Government and political parties concentrate on political transactions without regard to the sufferings of the people, it is the greatest misfortune of the people. The burning question today is how to eliminate the causes for all the present calamities. The Government, if it wants to remain in post until the conclusion of the peace treaty, and believes in its ability should exert its efforts to carry out the economic policies which are under way, such as the restoration of production, uprooting of blackmarketeering and placing heavy taxation on the new millionaires.

The Social Democrats, if they want to overthrow the present cabinet and believe in their competency to shoulder the next cabinet, should publish a concrete and convincing platform to surmount the crisis, and take the lead in the task of economic rehabilitation. To this end, the Social Democratic Party should make it their purpose to establish the powerful democratic front, with no regard to the immediate profits to be gained by participating in the present Government. When this is achieved and political uncertainty is brought to an end, democracy in JAPAN will stand on its own legs and the Japanese people will gain the confidence of the world. The conservative camp seems to rely on the personal reputation of SHIDEHARA and YOSHIDA in the foreign countries, as a means to restore the confidence of the world. It must be added, however, that the democratization of JAPAN, which is demanded by the POTSDAM Declaration, will never be achieved by the personal reputation of individuals who cannot live up to standards set before them.

...stated to be subjected to such control are coal, petroleum, and fertilizer. In the future some other goods will be added.

One important question pertains to the extent of activities of distribution corporations. The view holds that the corporations will take the place of agricultural associations (NOGYOKAI) in rural areas. This is a mistake, for this is based upon the premature announcement that the new distribution bodies will handle distribution processes down to the ultimate consumer. It is admitted that the distribution of coal will be handled entirely by the coal distribution corporations. However, in cases where commodities are under effective control by some agency, the new corporations will not necessarily thrust aside these agencies. The agricultural associations, for example, will remain an important channel for distribution of many goods in rural areas. In this case the distribution corporation will function as a wholesaler.

Such control agencies as the NIPPON Fertilizer Company will be absorbed by a new corporation, with the exception of its production department. Should the distribution corporation system be applied to essential condiments, including MISO, SHOYU, and amino acid, as is now

ITEM 6 Social Democrat Leaders Have No Regard for the Peoples' Interest -
Akanata - 21 Dec 46. Translator: M. Ota.

Summary:

412.3
 The details of the problem concerning the joint resolution demanding the Diet dissolution revealed that the leading members of the Social Democratic Party are acting on their own authority, disregarding the will of the people. In other words, the Central Executive Committee, the highest organ of the party, has been indifferent to the demands of the people. We cannot overlook the fact that NISHIO, right wing leader of the party, has cleverly played his part behind the scenes.

According to the general tendency of the party's Diet member meeting held on 12 December, the non-confidence vote should have been introduced to the Diet on 17 December. However, as the result of having had a confidential talk with Premier YOSHIDA on 13 December, NISHIO, Secretary - General of the Social Democratic Party, advocated that the final meeting to determine the party's attitude should be postponed until the party wins the support of the other minor parties.

At the party's Diet members meeting held on 14 December, TAKATSU made a cynical remark against NISHIO by stating that the Social Democratic

Party should independently present the non-confidence vote regardless of other parties' intentions. OSAWA also reproached NISHIO by confirming the rumor that the latter had a talk with the Premier, but he was pacified by MIZUTANI to avoid causing trouble among the members of the party.

At the Central Executive Committee meeting held on 17 December, formal answers of other minor parties to the Socialist proposal were announced. The People's Party has approved the non-confidence vote, but opposed its presentation on 17 December because syndicalism would take advantage of this opportunity. The Co-operative Democratic Party agreed upon the presentation of the resolution demanding the Diet dissolution on 17 December, because under the present situation the presentation of the non-confidence vote would merely result in the transfer of the political power among the conservative quarters. Discussions were made, based on these reports. KATO, Kanju, SUZUKI, Masaburo and ARAHATA were the only ones who persisted in the presentation of the non-confidence vote. However, the party finally decided to introduce the resolution demanding the Diet dissolution to the Diet on 17 December in concert with the Co-operative Democratic Party.

ITEM 6 The Social Democratic Party as an Opposition Party - Jiji Shimpō -
19 Dec 46. Translator: K. Higashikawa.

Summary:

412.3
 The motion for the dissolution of the Diet, which was voted down on 17 December in the House of Representatives, envisaged non-confidence in the present Cabinet. The Social Democratic Party, however, has not yet made it clear to the public what sort of a cabinet it intends to organize in place of the present one. The people must know definitely what changes in administrative policies would be made, in the event of a cabinet change, before they can form a correct judgment regarding the advisability of a cabinet change. Accordingly, democratic political parties, while fighting to seize the reins of power, must always advocate definite policies. In fact, the opposition party should endeavor to make the people foresee the possible cabinet lineup in case of a political change, so that they can compare the policies and the cabinet lineup of the opposition party with those of the cabinet in power.

Therefore, before voicing non-confidence in the present Government, the Social Democratic Party should have announced definite political platforms and measures which it would follow in solving the various problems now confronting the Nation. Otherwise, the duties of an opposition party could not be fulfilled, for it is only by accomplishing the previously mentioned points that a vote of non-confidence can be called in a democratic manner. From this viewpoint, the attack staged by the Social Democratic Party against the Government was lacking in preparedness. Some of the political platforms of the Social Democratic Party are commendable, there are capable politicians within the party, and it is generally considered that it is qualified to direct the next regime. The Social Democratic Party is urged, therefore, to become an opposition party which has the confidence of the people.

ITEM 5 Social Democrats And the Diet Dissolution Demand - Mainichi Shimbun -
16 Dec 46. Translator: T. Kitayama.

Full translation;

912.3
 The Social Democratic party, which has been holding heated discussions on the problem of non-confidence in the Government, decided to present the resolution demanding the dissolution of the Diet on the 17th with the support of the Cooperative Democratic Party. The fact that the party changed from the non-confidence vote issue to take up the dissolution resolution shows that its offensive has somewhat slackened. Both the Government and the Government parties are optimistic about the rejection of this resolution because of their numerical strength in the Diet. Along with a new development of the labor offensive, the move of the opposition parties from the year's end to next spring will not allow the Government and its parties to indulge in such easy-going suppositions.

This attitude of the Social Democratic Party, if viewed from the "strife within the party" angle, is a victory of the younger, left-wing members. The fact that the demand for the dissolution of the Diet was preferred to the non-confidence vote may be attributed to the established influence of the Secretary General of the party NISHIO. But, it cannot be denied that the "pressing power from below" of the laboring class has thus far pushed the rather sluggish Social Democrats and the weight of left wingers will become increasingly greater in the future.

This movement to overthrow the Cabinet was started by the JAPAN Federation of Labor, which can be called the "Gift-Child" of the Social Democratic party and quickly spread to the Union Committee which is the citadel of the left wingers of the party. The Committee became active and held its first laborers' round-table conference on the 2nd. Mustering the influences of laborers, including the National Congress of Industrial Organizations, the movement was developed to aim at the overthrow of the YOSHIDA Cabinet. The Union Committee chairman is KATO, Kanju.

In response to the progress of the movement outside the House, there arose the feeling within the party to present a non-confidence vote in the Cabinet. Meanwhile another opinion sprang up in opposition to this non-confidence vote. Dark clouds of uncertainty hung over the party for a week. On the night of the 12th, a round-table conference of the party's Representatives was held at the KINJO Restaurant in AKASAKA, TOKYO at which the influence of the "strong-attitude group" was overwhelmingly victorious and the dark clouds that had been gathering about the party finally dispersed.

On the other hand, the Cooperative Party and People's Party succeeded in joining hands and with the Social Democratic Party as the main power, these parties and the Communists agreed to help one another, each as an opposition party. However, their objectives are not always the same.

It is rumored that there is a move to send a Cabinet Member from an opposition party to reform the Cabinet. Not only the tendency of public opinion toward the YOSHIDA Cabinet, but also the character of this Cabinet and the progress of the objective situation, especially the stringent economic crisis at present, will never allow the YOSHIDA Cabinet to remain optimistic. The rumor of the Cabinet reformation is not a mere groundless one; there is a possibility of its realization as the labor offensive becomes more and more powerful. There may be some Government partisans who are anxious to preserve the security of their parties even if they are obliged to reform the Cabinet. Hence, the possibility of the Cabinet reformation around the end of the ordinary session of the Diet is probable. In that case, the attitude of the Social Democratic Party will be greatly influenced by the objective situation, including the labor offensive outside the Diet, as well as the move of the right and left wingers within the party.

The People's Party Agreed to Take the Same Step.

On the afternoon of the 15th the People's Party held a conference of its officials at its headquarters and agreed to take the same step as the Social Democratic and Cooperative Democratic Parties to demand the dissolution of the Diet. The party at once manifested this intention to the two parties and a formal answer of the party will be made after a conference of its Representatives to be held on the 16th in the House of Representatives.

ITEM 4 Social Democrats Undecided on the Non-Confidence Bill - Mainichi Shimbun - 12 Dec 46. Translator: R. Ochiai.

4/12/3

Full Translation:

Laborers' and farmers' organizations are to hold a popular mass meeting for overthrowing the YOSHIDA Cabinet on 17 December. With the time of the meeting drawing near, the people's interest, both inside and outside the Diet, has come to be concentrated on the Social Democrats' attitude of whether or not they will submit the non-confidence bill in response to the above-mentioned activity. Their Diet members general meeting on the night of the 12th is considered important as they are supposed to decide on their final attitude then. Judging from the movements of the last few days, there exists opposition between the pro and con factions within the Social Democratic Party, and we can make no definite statement on the non-confidence bill which was once thought to be a sure thing.

Those who hesitate on the submitting of the proposal give the following reasons:

1. It is not desirable for the party to be too much influenced by the powers outside the Diet.
2. It is counter to the policy of the Democratic League for National Salvation.
3. If the non-confidence bill is rejected, the anti-government factions in the Diet will be placed in an awkward position.

With these reasons, such rightist leaders, as NISHIO, HIRANO, TAHARA and MORITO have shown a negative attitude from the beginning and they seem to be against "the submission of the proposal on the 17th of this month".

On the contrary, the leftists, with KATO, SUZUKI and ARAHATA as the nucleus, hold the following views: 1. There would be no reason for the Social Democrats' existence if they ignored the voice of the masses outside the Diet. 2. There is no necessity to be worried about the Democratic League for National Salvation. It should keep pace with the surge of democratic influences. 3. Even if the bill is rejected, the Social Democrats may take the lead in attacking the Government.

The leftists are preparing to make a frontal attack on the Government with the non-confidence bill no matter what happens. As a compromising measure between the two factions, some advise the submission of the bill after the 20th and not on the 17th when the mass meeting for overthrowing the Cabinet is to be held. What will the Social Democrat's plan for revision of the Election Law - Asahi Shimbun - 6 Dec 46. Translator: K. Murakami.

ITEM 10

4/12/3

Full Translation:

The Liberal and Progressive Parties are planning the joint presentation to this session of a revisional draft of the Election Law for the Membership of the House of Representatives, thereby aiming to realize a medium electorate and single ballot system. On the other hand, the Social Democratic Party also began deliberation on the revision of the Election Law, establishing Special Committee for Revision of the Election Law. Mr SUZUKI, Yoshio was appointed chairman of this committee.

The committee met at 1000 hours, 5 December, for its first session, and most of the committeemen at this meeting were of the opinion that since both the systems of the whole country as one electorate and the large electorate with prefectures as units have been adopted in the election of the members of the House of Councillors, the Social Democratic Party, should give up the large electorate and proportional representation system, to which it had adhered in the past, and consider the medium electorate and single ballot system.

Mr HIRANO, Rikizo, chairman of the Election Policy Committee, made a plan of the medium electorate system, according to which three to five candidates are to be elected in one electoral district. He brought it for consideration to the Central Executive Committee meeting on the 4th. This plan is the same as that of the Liberal and Progressive Parties as far as the fixed number of Diet seats are concerned, but is quite different in the division of electoral districts. The Social Democrats say that the division by the Liberal and Progressive Parties was planned to benefit the two parties themselves.

ITEM 6 Attitude of the Social Democratic Party toward the Government - Akahata - 12 Nov 46. Translator: K. Murakami.

Full Translation:

The Social Democratic Party held its Central Executive Committee meeting on the 4th to decide its attitude towards the Government and announce its basic policy. At this meeting the Social Democrats, firmly opposing this Government's announcement, issued a statement: "On the occasion of the promulgation of the Constitution, the Government should immediately dissolve the Diet, thereby inquiring of the public whether it still has their confidence."

With this statement, the Social Democratic Party has remarkably approached the attitude of the Communist Party, which has often asked the YOSHIDA Cabinet to resign en bloc on the occasion of the recent promulgation of the Constitution. According to rumor, those who insisted firmly upon the dissolution of the Diet on that day were the so-called right-wing group. The left wingers are said to have been calmer, but irritated over the farmers' action. This is obviously an illustration of the fact that even the right-wing faction of the Social Democratic Party, the attitude of which has been undecided since the formation of the YOSHIDA Cabinet, had to take a definite anti-Government stand.

This, however, is not a "down with the Cabinet" movement as spokesman MIZUTANI says, but is a mere demand for Diet dissolution. In such a suggestive passage as, "The question whether we should present a non-confidence declaration to the coming extraordinary Diet session or whether we should begin a mass movement to overthrow the Cabinet depends solely upon the attitude of the Government," we apparently see the desire of the right-wing leaders to join the Cabinet.

Referring to the fact that the three Social Democrat Diet members, Messrs MIZUTANI, SUZUKI (Mosaburo), and MATSUOKA, took positions on the Economic Stabilization Council established by the Government, MIZUTANI explained: "It is in order to keep an eye on the Government for the laboring class." This may be true for the left-wing group, but as for the rightist group, it only illustrates their wish for a coalition Cabinet.

Had it not been for the Four Party Committee including the Communist, Liberal and Co-operative Parties, the movement to unseat the SHIDEHARA Cabinet would not have proved successful. At present, the Liberal Party being a Government party cannot be mobilized for the movements to unseat the Cabinet or to dissolve the Diet. We should, therefore, like to advise the Social Democrats to keep in mind that their party would be unable to overthrow the YOSHIDA Cabinet unless it forms a solid combination with the Communist Party and a mass movement based on it, only in this way can the strength of such anti-Government elements as the laborers, farmers, citizens and medium and small capitalists be concentrated into a single force.

ITEM 3 A Comment On The Social Democrats (Sub-Editorial) - Akahata - 24 Dec 46. Translator: M. Kato.

Full Translation:

Spurred by the anti-Government sentiment welling in the hearts of the working masses, the Social Democratic Party reluctantly introduced a resolution for the dissolution of the Diet instead of a non-confidence vote. This action means a step forward on the part of the working masses. Nevertheless, the determination of the Social Democratic Party is doubtful. Because of the presence of rightists in the party, the Social Democratic Party cannot be trusted whole-heartedly by the people.

The opposition is fully aware of this weakness of the party. Mr ASHIDA, Hitoshi remarked, "The Social Democratic Party should become the people's party instead of a party representing a class" and presented the British labor Party as an example. A political party normally represents a social class and has a definite political view. The so-called "people's party" means a compromise with capitalists. When the Social Democrats becomes a "people's party" and Mr HIRANO and Mr NISHIO occupy state ministers' seats, the public will probably demand their resignation.

Social Democrats: Make up your mind whether you want to come into power with the backing of capitalists or with the support of the whole nation? Those who are over anxious for a seat in the Cabinet see only the former support. Mr ASHIDA is taking advantage of this fact and his warning, "Become a people's party" is only understood by the party members and quite unintelligible to the people. The rightist leaders of the party must have become aware of their position through this suggestion.

ITEM 2 The Attitude of the Social Democratic Party (Sub-Editorial) --
Tokyo Shimbun - 6 Dec 46. Translator: T. Maruse.

Full Translation:

412.3
 The Social Democratic Party is in a position to act freely as a pure opposition party in the present extraordinary session of the Diet. The party has already demanded the resignation of the YOSHIDA Cabinet. Whether or not it will present a proposal for a vote of confidence on the cabinet was considered the climax of this session of the Diet. Therefore, the decision on this matter

by the joint meeting of the central executive committee and the Diet policy committee of the party, held on the afternoon of 4 December, attracted public attention. However, the Social Democratic leaders only decided to introduce a proposal for a vote of confidence and to give more thought to the date and the method of presentation.

The decision is not definite. Such a non-committal attitude of the Social Democratic leaders is attributed to the following strong opinions within the party: "If we readily participate in the labor offensive outside the Diet, there would be danger that the extreme leftists will impose upon us some day." "Let us wait for a ripe opportunity because the presentation of a proposal for a vote of confidence will have no substantial effect at present."

We cannot understand what they mean by "...the extreme leftists may impose upon us some day". The labor offensive outside the Diet cannot be neglected by the Social Democratic leaders. We can see that a hidden repulsive feeling toward the labor offensive, rather than the inability to participate, is responsible for such an opinion. Therefore, it is indefinite whether the party will present a proposal for a vote of confidence on 17 December.

On the other hand, the claim of "...because there is no substantial effect" is only an opportunist's attitude of the party in the Diet. If the proposal for a vote of confidence is defeated by numbers, there is no substantial effect in itself. However, there is substantial effect if the Social Democratic Party clearly states that it has no confidence in the YOSHIDA Cabinet. Even if the party cannot overthrow the Government by a vote of non-confidence, it is only a problem within the Diet. Which side will be judged the winner by the people is another question. If the Social Democratic Party hesitates to present the proposal for a vote of confidence of merely "..... because the proposal will surely be defeated by numbers in the Diet", it may safely be said that the party has forgotten that it is a popular party.

ITEM 7 The Attitude of the Social Democratic Party - Jiji Shimpō - 7 Jan 47.
Translator: F. Mitsuhashi.

Full Translation:

412.3
 Whether the YOSHIDA Cabinet remain in office or changes some of its members, or whether it resigns en bloc to form a new coalition cabinet, is the important question at the beginning of this year. In view of such a political situation, the attitude of the Social Democratic Party is, at present being watched with great interest.

KATAYAMA, chairman of the party's central executive committee and NISHIO, secretary-general of the party, are respectively scheduled to come to TOKYO on 7 and 8 January. Upon their arrival, the leaders of the Social Democratic Party are expected to exchange their respective views.

If the present Cabinet, aiming at its own reorganization, proposes a coalition with the Social Democratic Party, the latter will not accept the offer. However, if the present Cabinet resigns en bloc to propose the formation of a new coalition cabinet, the Social Democratic Party will resolutely accept this move. This is the general opinion of the Social Democratic Party. Although some of its members may oppose such a coalition cabinet, the party leaders will persuade the opposers to follow the general trend of the party.

ITEM 3 Social Democrats' Attitude Will Be Clarified By Nishio on the 27th - Mimpo - 27 Nov 46. Translator: T. Fukushima.

Full Translation:

Since Secretary General NISHIO's statement, as reported in the MAINICHI Shimbun, became an issue at the Diet members' meeting of the Social Democratic Party held on Monday morning, NISHIO declared at an Executive Committee conference in the afternoon of the same day, that he had no recollection of having said what had been reported in the paper as an official statement of the Secretary General. He further declared that the contents of the reported statement were quite different from what he had in mind. He added that the party's political attitude had not been altered from the resolution adopted by the Central Executive Committee on 4 November.

Although, misgivings on the matter within the party were thus removed, the committee found it necessary to clarify it necessary to clarify the party's political attitude to the public. Therefore, it was decided to have NISHIO criticize the Government's policies, from the standpoint of the opposition, during his interpellation on the Prime Minister's speech on the 27th to dispel these doubts.

Extracts from NISHIO's conversation as reported in the MAINICHI are as follows:

Questioned as to what concrete steps the Social Democrats would take to urge the dissolution of the Diet, he stated, "We demanded that the Government dissolve the Diet in our recent announcement because we believed that the present Government was not entitled to hold the helm of state-affairs in view of its incompetent basic policies. However, it was not a movement to overthrow the cabinet. We are positive that the Cabinet will be obliged to dissolve the Diet next March. Therefore, our party will not introduce any motion for the dissolution during the extraordinary and the regular sessions. Such tactics are those of old parliamentary politics and contradictory to a democratic government. Besides, there is no need to resort to such artificial means, because it is almost inevitable for the YOSHIDA Government to give way to a government centered on the Social Democrats' sooner or later."

On the structure of the proposed Social Democratic Party Cabinet he answered, "It will depend upon the future political situation whether the party forms a single-party cabinet or a coalition cabinet."

He thus hinted at the possibility of the party's intention to collaborate with other parties. However, he added that co-operation with the Communists was out of the question.

ITEM 6 Coalition Cabinet - Asahi Shimbun - 7 Jan 47. Translator: N. Miwa.

Full Translation:

The Japanese people are interested in the Social Democratic Party's attitude toward the changes in the delicate political

situations which indicates either the reorganization of the YOSHIDA Cabinet, the Cabinet's remaining in office, or the organization of a coalition cabinet after the YOSHIDA Cabinet's resignation en bloc.

KATAYAMA, Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Social Democratic Party, and NISHIO, secretary-general, are to come to TOKYO on 7 and 8 January. Information on the political situation will be exchanged among the leaders of the Social Democratic Party.

If the present Cabinet requests the Social Democrats to take seats in the Cabinet after reorganizing the present Cabinet, the Social Democratic Party is going to reject the request without argument. Should the present Cabinet, however, resign en bloc and propose the establishment of a coalition cabinet, the Social Democratic Party will agree to the proposal. Even if there are some Social Democrats who actually oppose these attitudes of the Social Democratic Party, they seem to be complying with the party stand.

ITEM 17 Noteworthy Moves of the Social Democratic Party (Sub-Editorial) - Jiji Shimpo - 19 Nov 46. Translator: M. Kato.

Full Translation:

412.3
Mr KATAYAMA, secretary-general of the Social Democratic Party, who is on a speaking tour in the Tohoku districts, made a statement saying that at the coming election of prefectural governors his Party would nominate one candidate for each prefecture. This policy, which we believe to be a wise move, will presumably be adopted in the other local elections by the party. The British Labor Party, at first, centered its activities on the Parliamentary election, but afterward, changed its policy toward placing greater value on the local elections, especially in the urban districts. Consequently, the Party expanded its sphere of influence remarkably.

The common saying, "The longest way around is the shortest way", seems to be true with the British political party. At that time, the Liberal Party was still sharing political influence with the Conservative Party. However in order to oppose the vigorous offensive of the Labor Party, they were obliged to co-operate in the local elections. Nevertheless, their influence was reduced gradually as cities and towns came under the Labor Party regime.

In present-day JAPAN, the amalgamation of the Progressive and Liberal Parties has often been made a subject of discussion. However, a strong antagonistic tendency prevails between the former factions of the SEIYUKAI and the MINSEITO in local districts. What is worse, these Parties have been hard hit by the political purge directive. Therefore, there is a strong likelihood that the Parties will be overpowered by the Social Democratic Party if they rely merely on negotiations in the coming local election.

It seems that in AMERICA the candidate's character is of greater public concern in the local elections. It is no wonder, therefore, that in a city where the Democratic Party holds sway, a Republican is elected mayor, while a Democrat is elected where Republicans have established their power. This plus the fact that American local administration is executed without discernable friction is an enviable matter for us Japanese. That Japanese local administration is influenced by "partyism" is a problem. However, it is noteworthy that Mr KATAYAMA indicated a system similar to AMERICA's, when he said that the Party's candidates for governors were not limited to his party.

ITEM 15 Mr Morito, Social Democrat Speaks on Social Democrats' Course - Nihon Keizai Shimbun - 19 Jan 47. Translator: A. Kido.

Full Translation:

412.3
The Social Democrats' Diet members meeting held on the 18th began and ended in the laying of responsibility of its left and right factions. It is strongly felt that this situation will make the future inter-party circumstances of the party more complicated and that at every opportunity it would develop into a fight for the leadership between the two factions. On this situation Mr MORITO, Tatsuo, who is regarded as representing the neutral elements of the party, stated: "I am quite surprised to hear that some are thinking the Social Democratic Party is partly responsible for the confused political situation. It is likewise a mistake to believe that the failure to form a coalition cabinet is the responsibility of either of the two factions. The future course of our party should be a thorough-going prosecution of a non-confidence attitude against the cabinet, on one hand, and, on the other, performing the role of the brake against the labor offensive, which shall hereafter become more aggravated. This is because the situation cannot be tided over by the conservative camp and because it is not thought that the labor offensive will overcome the crisis. Even if the fronts of the Liberal, Progressive, Co-operative, and People's Parties should be unified, the Social Democratic Party shall remain always the Social Democratic Party and it can never entertain the idea of harmonizing with the Communist Party. It must be the attitude of our party to oppose co-operating with that party or the National Salvation Federation in the belief that the conditions are yet premature."

ITEM 4 The Way of Socialism in Japan - Provincial Newspaper Kobe Shimbun
(Kobe) - 8 Dec 46. Translator: J. Wada.

412.2 Summary:

The Social Democratic Party has gone too far to retreat with its threat to call for a non-confidence vote and with its sponsorship of a national rally on 17 December to overthrow the Cabinet. Some time ago, we analysed the meaning of this anti-Cabinet movement and concluded that the Social Democratic Party was pursuing a very dangerous course which is against its real intention.

There are two different opinions on the method of forming a popular democratic front. One advocates a coalition between the Social Democrats and the Communists, and the other maintains that a coalition should not be made between the two parties. When the controversy over the formation of a coalition Cabinet to include the Social Democratic Party was brought forth just before the formation of the present YOSHIDA Cabinet, we insisted that the Social Democratic Party should remain an opposition party. We believed that the Social Democratic Party was still immature, that a merge with the conservative forces would have hindered the sound development of the party which represented the interests of the proletariat. At the same time, we advocated a concerted action of the Social Democrats and the Communists who were upholding the principles of a legitimate revolution and parliamentarism.

When the Social Democrats sponsored the Democratic Front for National Salvation and decided to break with the Communists, we again agreed with the Social Democrats. The reason was that, since JAPAN was under the Allied military occupation, the Communist tactic of general strikes could not achieve a revolution. We believed that the only means for increasing the Socialist influence under these conditions was to foster a moderate Socialist party like the Laborite Party of ENGLAND. Since JAPAN is one of the most densely populated countries and very poor in natural resources, it cannot be denied that "the happiness of the Japanese people can be sought only through the re-distribution of the existing wealth", and that "democratization along socialist lines" should be the guiding principle in the reconstruction of JAPAN. Thus, we conclude that the shortest route to the socialization of JAPAN is to have a moderate socialist party which can impress the world with sufficient "feeling of stability" to take the helm of government. It seems that the present anti-Cabinet attitude of the Social Democrats is not the result of the replenishment of "feeling of stability", but is a mere disturbing political move. We greatly regret that the Social Democratic Party is diverging from the proper course of the development of socialism in JAPAN.

ITEM 5 "No Social Democrat Shall be New Premier" - Tanaka - Jiji Shimpō -
14 Jan 47. Translator: K. Yasutake.

404 Full Translation:

412.3 TANAKA, Manichi, chief secretary of the Progressive Party, visited the official residence of the Premier at 1020 hours on 13 January and conferred with HAYASHI, Chief Parliamentary Secretary for a quarter of an hour, and next conferred with State Minister SHIDEHARA on some important topic for about 45 minutes. He made the following remarks soon after:

I think the best way to tide over such a political crisis as the present one will be to form a national coalition cabinet of the three major parties. But the Government parties can never accept such a proposal as made by the left wing of the Social Democratic Party, to have that party at the head of the new cabinet. Nor will any change of the ISHIBASHI financial policy be allowed at this juncture, as it will bring

disorder to the nation's finances, now on the road to reconstruction.

If the Social Democratic Party adheres to this point, we will have to keep on with the present Cabinet. I have talked with our party president on this matter. We are generally agreed in opinion.

The Progressives are acting in good order under its president without any discord. The Liberals seem to be clamoring for the unification of their party policies, but I am afraid there is no time to take up an unification movement, when we are facing such a political crisis. I shall see the leaders of the Liberals tomorrow and talk over the matter - I am sure that we will reach a solution.

A unison of policies, however, should be discussed before a coalition cabinet is formed. We will probably take a step in that direction.

ITEM 15 Election Policies of the Nagamizu Branch Office of the Social Democrats - Yukan Shinano (Nagano) - 21 Nov 46. Translator: F. Noda.

412.3
Full Translation:

On 18 November, the NAGAMIZU Branch Office of the Social Democratic Party held an executive committee meeting at MIDORI Club. It decided upon the following fundamental policies for the coming local elections:

The party will co-operate with other democratic bodies in the public election of the mayors and heads of towns and villages,

and will recommend democratic figures regardless of the members within and outside the party.

The party will support only one vigorous, fresh and active candidate for membership into the NAGANO prefectural assembly. The candidate must be worthy of representing the working class. The party expects his absolute election.

Two candidates for the membership of the prefectural assembly will be selected from KAMIMIZUCHI-Gun, and through election campaign, the party will strive for the extension of the strength of its organization.

One third of the full number of candidates for the post of NAGANO municipal assemblymen will be selected. Among this number more than five will be women candidates.

More than one third of the full number of candidates for the post of the village assemblymen will be nominated, mainly from the members of the Farmers Associations.

In case the election of the members of the prefectural assembly and that of the municipal assembly is held at the same time, the party will hold a discussion with the candidates for the posts of both prefectural and municipal assemblies. In this way, the party will be able to gather the influence of the working class, young men and women by abolishing the evil effect of the bossy regional representation system and that of relation representation.

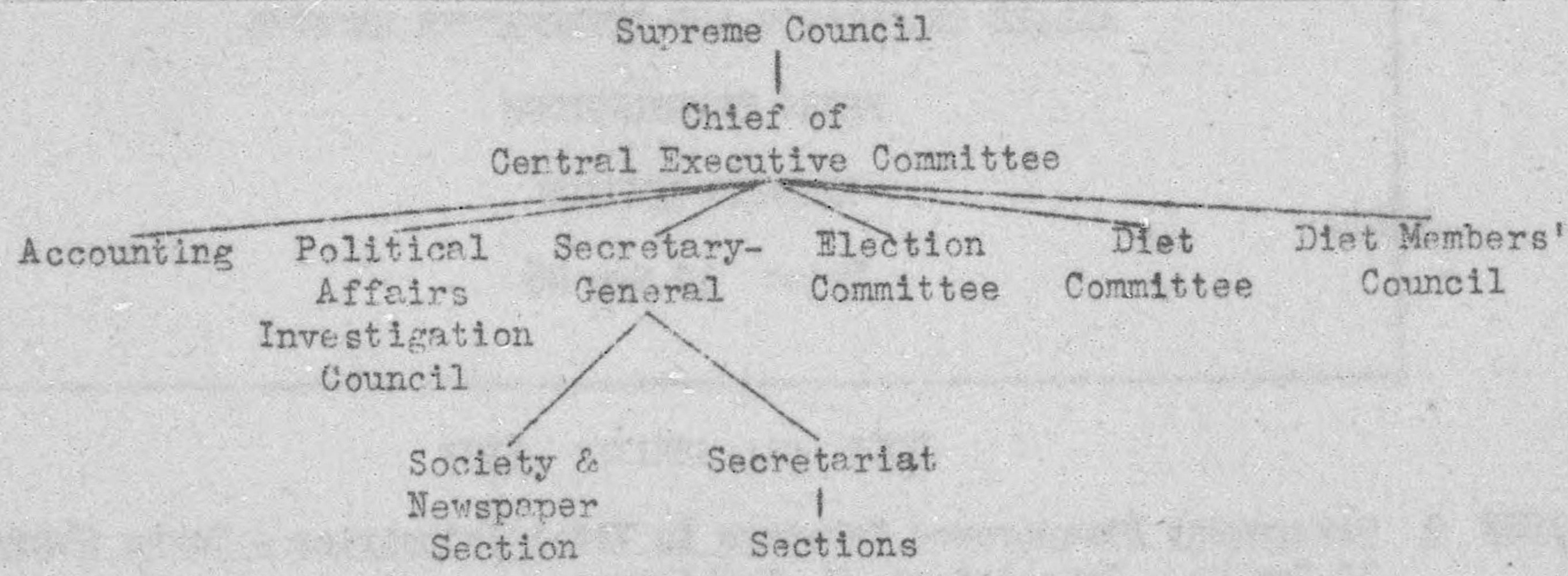
The women section of the branch office will be rapidly strengthened under the leadership of women chairman SHICHIJO, Akira.

ITEM 2 Social Democratic Party Announces Party's Reformed Constitution - Jiji Shimpo - 19 Sep 46. Translator: K. Onishi.

Full Translation:

Air 3
The Social Democratic Party opened its central executive committee meeting in the House of Representatives at 1000 hours September 18, and discussed the preparatory measures surrounding the issues scheduled to be presented at the party's general meeting, which will open for three days on the 28th. The revision of the party regulations drafted by TAWARA, Haruji was approved and read. It ran as follows:

"The party's general meeting, which is the highest body which can pass resolutions, will be called the Supreme Council in the future, and will consist of 600 committeemen elected from the party's local leagues throughout the country. The chief of the central executive committee will be under the direct control of the Supreme Council. In place of the present 13 central executive committeemen, 20 new ones of the same title will be elected from among 130 central committeemen. The official constitution of the party is as follows:



The salient features of the reform are: 1, the division of the party functions into two categories, -- political affairs and party affairs; 2, salaried section-chiefs, who are experienced in business affairs, will take the place of the central executive committee, so that the party's politicians may concentrate their energy exclusively on political affairs. The central executive committee, which is the highest executive element, consists of the chief, secretary-general, chief and vice-chief of the Diet members' council, 8 Parliamentary central committeemen, 6 election committeemen, chief and vice-chief of the Political Affairs Investigation Council, an unattached committeeman, and an accountant and several section-chiefs -- 22 in all.

As a result, the central constitution of the Social Democratic Party will be systematized, so that it can carry out its political and party affairs with greater facility.

The present officers of the party will tender a mass resignation at the coming general meeting, where new officers will be elected under the new system.

ITEM 4 Actuality of the Social Democratic Party Questioned - Shin Yukan -
3 Oct 46. Translator: R. Shibata.

Full Translation:

The second national convention of the JAPAN Social Democratic Party is noteworthy because its sessions indicate a trend toward parliamentary activity rather than toward assistance to the working masses. The conflict within the party as to which side it would put more stress upon, class conflict or parliamentary activities, has been completely eliminated. It is not fair, however, to criticize this move as a shift of the party to the right. The Social Democratic Party has already developed into a large party, powerful enough to take the helm of state affairs.

X12.26
It is natural for the party to decide to concentrate its main efforts on parliamentary activities, in view of its character as a large political party. However, after noting that the party headquarters' report dealt with election policies by which full cooperation between the right and left wing factions could be effected, we feel that there is still weakness in its personnel organization as a result of its rapid growth. On the other hand, we could feel a strong, realistic political tendency in the party through discussions at the convention. For instance, Mr NISHIO expressed his views on a Coalition Cabinet, saying "I would consider a coalition cabinet a ring within which we would struggle with the conservative parties." Thus, he clarified the party's attitude towards taking part in a coalition cabinet if the situation demanded it. Concerning a general strike by labor, he stated, "A general strike is necessary only as a last resort. The present leaders of labor unions should be more conscious of the true character of the labor movement." He added, "They clamor loudly for the breaking up of the YOSHIDA Cabinet. But, this is not an easy task. I believe that an opportunity to overthrow the present Cabinet will appear at the end of this year, when the Cabinet will have to face the most critical economic situation."

The party has never manifested its political actuality more distinctly than it did at this time. However, in contrast to this, the policies announced by the party are to be criticized as a mere array of plans, although they cover over one hundred issues, including state management or nationalization of important industries, reformation of the land system and the like. These are a mere words, and cannot escape criticism for their poverty in substance. If the Social Democrats had endeavored to make their policies more realistic the apparent shift towards the right would have become an important factor in changing the character of the party to that of a large political organization. In this sense, we demand that the party should be just as realistic in creating policies as in conducting political affairs.