

No. 8

APPOINTEES RE-EXAMINATION COMMIT-
TEE: RECORD OF HEARINGS

WITNESS: MATSUNAGA, Hajime

Record of Hearings, on 30th August, 1948.

Appointees Reexamination Committee

Present:

Committee Members

Chairman Mr. Kawazoe

Member Mr. Anzai

" Mr. Enjoji

" Mr. Okui

" Mr. Keshima

" Mr. Nishiyama

" Mr. Oki

Witness:

Mr. Matsunaga, Hajime

Chairman: Is your name Mr. MATSUNAGA, Hajime?

Witness. Yes, it is.

Chairman. We are going to ask you question concerning the case of Mr. YAMAKAWA, Ryoichi and nine others, for which re-examination has been applied. Please, answer frankly without reserve. Will you first tell us about your career in the Mitsui Mining Company?

Witness. Directly after graduating from Hitotsubashi Higher Commercial School in 1913, I entered the company.....

Chairman. Was it the Mitsui Mining Company?

Witness. Yes, I continued to work there ever since. For a while - for the first three years of - I was in the Main Office, and then I was assigned to Miike Works; then, transferred to Moji and to Wakamatsu, and then reassigned to Miike. I was later transferred back to the Main Office, where I stayed ~~there~~ until I retired.

Chairman. In the Main Office, what kind of business were you in charge of at first?

Witness. I was in charge of miscellaneous affairs at the beginning. At Miike I was assigned to the Miscellaneous Affairs Section.

Chairman. You were chief of Material Division of the Main Office before you became Auditor, weren't you?

Witness: Yes, I was.

Chairman. Can you tell us how your company officials were appointed before the war's end?

Witness. What do you mean by "officials before the war's end?"

Chairman. How were the directors and auditors of Mitsui Mining Company appointed before the end of the war?

Witness. I was not in ^{any} responsible post, so I do not know.

Chairman. Mr. YAMAKAWA and nine others implicated in the present case became directors and you were appointed auditor at the general meeting of stock-holders of Mitsui Mining Company on 14 December, 1945. Isn't that so?

Witness. Yes.

Chairman. Do you know the fact that on that occasion the employees' representatives of the Kyushu district came up to Tokyo on the day just before the general meeting?

Witness.

Witness. No, I don't know.

Chairman. Don't you?

Witness. No.

Chairman. That they came to Tokyo, No?

Witness. No.

Chairman. When did you learn about the Kyushu representatives' being to Tokyo?

Witness. It is just recently that I heard of it.

Chairman. Had not you heard of it before?

Witness. No.

Chairman. You said "just recently", but exactly when did you hear of it?

Witness. When I was told about this re-examination case. I happened to hear rumours at the same time that such a thing had happened.

Chairman. Just rumours. So you do not know what the representatives did after their arrival?

Witness. I know nothing at all.

Chairman. Was it through the arbitrary decision and action of Mr. KAWASHIMA, the then president, that all of you were appointed officials at the said general meeting?

Witness. I am not certain about that. I was called by Mr. TASHIRO just before the general Meeting and was simply told that I might be made an official, if the general meeting of stockholders approved.

Chairman. Were you told of it just before the meeting?

Witness. About ten minutes, or ~~of~~ a quarter, ^{of an hour} before -----

Chairman. By Mr. TASHIRO?

Witness. Till then, I knew nothing.

Chairman. Don't you know the circumstances surrounding the appointment? Whether it was made through Kawashima's arbitrary decision and action?

Witness

†(Witness. Well, I did not ask much about the reason.

(Chairman. Anyhow, they - or the Secretariate Section - sent out those letters without reason?

Witness. I do not know.

Chairman. You do not know whether or not the appointment was based upon the wishes of employees?

Witness. No, I do not.

Chairman. Don't you know on what grounds Mr. KAWASHIMA made his recommendations?

Witness. I don't..

Chairman. Of the officials appointed at the said meeting, all excepting five men, Mr. TASHIRO, Mr. KURODA, Mr. HAMA, Mr. OHTA, and yourself, were re-appointed at the general meeting of 14 February 1947; and only the five resigned. Can you explain the circumstances?

Witness: I think it was about two or three weeks before the February general meeting - We were told it would be best for us to resign - resign en bloc - so to turn in letters of resignation without date. They brought us typed sheets

Chairman. From whom?

Witness. I think it was from the Secretariate Section. I stamped my seal on the sheet as the others did.

Chairman. Why were you to resign en bloc?

Witness. I cannot recollect the exact reason, but it was thought best for us to resign at that juncture.....

Chairman. Why was it considered better to elect new officials? Being directors, you did not need to tender resignation without reason?

Witness. Yes.

Chairman. I suppose there had to be some reasons. Didn't they explain why?

Witness. The circumstances had been changed, it would be best for all of us to retire.....

Chairman. How had the circumstances changed?

Witness. Circumstances had changed after the war.

Chairman. But did not you become an official after the war?

Witness. Yes.

Chairman.. In what points do you mean the circumstances had changed?

Is it usual to tender resignation when they tell you to resign without good reason? - Especially in the case of such a big firm as the Mitsui Mining Company?

Witness. I did with no serious consideration.

Chairman. Did they tell you that the circumstances were such and such, and ask you to tender resignation for such and such reasons?

Witness. I don't remember clearly about that particular point.

Chairman. What was the result then? Five of you only resigned and the others were reappointed.....

Witness. On the day of the general meeting, a nomination committee was set up, on whose recommendations we five retired.....

Chairman. Why were you five eliminated?

Witness. I did not ask much about why we were dismissed. I withdrew because I was left out of reappointment.

Chairman. Didn't you investigate the reason why the five were excluded from reappointment? Haven't you heard anything about it since?

Witness. No, I have not.

Chairman. What do you think as to why the five only were excluded?

Witness. Nothing particularly. The time for resignation had come, which would have come sooner or later.

Chairman. The four others were directors during the war, weren't they? Could that be considered as the reason for their resignation?

Witness. That might have been, but I have never asked them.

Chairman. You were not a war-time director. Haven't you thought of that point?

Witness. No, not particularly.....

Chairman. Never thought of it?

Witness. No.

Chairman. At the general meeting of 14 February, 1947, Mr. TASHIRO, the then president made a speech in which he stated:

The

The present officials are men who were appointed through the confidence of the Mitsui Main Company, and at the general meeting of stock-holders in the days when that Mitsui Main Company, a big stock-holder of our company still exercised a controlling power over our company. Now that the controlling power of the Mitsuis has ceased to be, all the present officials should resign for once. You know that, don't you?

Witness. I do not recall clearly - I think he read from a manuscript.

Chairman. What does it mean that the appointment was made through the confidence of the Mitsui Main Company that still exercised ~~the~~ control over the company? What does that mean?

Witness. That means, I presume, that the Mitsui Main Company held more than 60 % of stocks of the Mining Company.

Chairman. I see. Can you think of any other special meaning about that?

Witness. No, I haven't thought much about it.

Chairman. You have heard, I believe, that Mr. YAMAKAWA and nine others of this case, applied for the recognition that they are not appointees.

Witness. Yes, I have.

Chairman. Were there anyone among the section chiefs of the Main Office who raised objections to that application? Haven't you heard?

Witness. No, I have not.

Chairman. In other words, some objected saying: "You are appointees, and so such an application will not do." - Don't you know that?

Witness. I know practically nothing about what has happened in the company after I left.

Chairman. Do you know Mr. TSUBAHARA, a chief of section, who was acquainted with the nine men?

Witness. Yes, I do.

Chairman. Do you know that it was his group who raised an objection?

Witness. No, I don't.

Chairman.

Chairman. Don't you know that there were men in the company who raised objections to the application?

Witness. I don't know.

Chairman. Have not you heard of anyone who wrote to G.H.Q. about this matter?

Witness. No, I have not.

Chairman. We are examining these ~~ten~~ persons. We would like to hear ~~to you~~ if you have any information to give us for reference.

Witness. What do you ~~ask for~~^{want} "for reference"?

Chairman. Anything. Do you know, our committee has received a letter from your wife lately?

Witness. No, I do not. I started on my trip on ^{the} 4th of this month and came back just two, three days ago. On receiving a telegram, I hurried back in order to be in time to present myself at this hearing. So I know nothing.

Chairman. Have ~~not you~~ heard your wife wrote to us?

Witness. No, I have not.

Chairman. Do you suppose your wife has been acting variously in connection with this big problem?

Witness. I don't believe it.

Chairman. For what did she send a letter then? We did not ask her any question. Why did she write to us?

Witness. I have heard nothing about it.

Enjoji. In listening to you, I feel you ^{are} keeping something from us. In her letter your wife expresses her opinion that Mr. YAMAKAWA and nine others, especially Mr. ISHIDA, are undoubtedly appointees. She has never been in the Company. Her opinion, in this matter cannot but be considered as a reflection of your own opinion. If you have any such opinion, I wish you would tell us frankly.

Witness. I think my wife was rather indignant because I alone - I was the only one dismissed. I suppose that made her say like that.

Enjoji. Is it a matter of feelings?

Witness. I think it is a matter of feelings.

Anzai. Your wife wrote to our Re-examination Committee. She has written to others too, you guess?

Witness. I don't know.

Anzai. You mean you don't know about others, because you don't know even about the letter sent to us, to this committee?

Witness. I don't know really.

Anzai. Don't you talk about such matters between you two, man and wife? Do you live separately?

Witness. No, we don't.

Anzai. Your wife seems to know about the company, and therefore Mr. Enjoji has just said that he could not help concluding that she reflects your opinion. She could not have formed any opinion but one that reflected your own. Your attendance here would be meaningless if you go on saying: "I don't know. I haven't heard."

Witness. Of course, I will say what I know.

Anzai. Do you surely know nothing? Look at this, please. This is your wife's, isn't it?

Witness. Yes, it is. But I know nothing about it.

Anzai. She must have told you that she had written to this committee when you were away, and you would be questioned. You - man and wife.....

Witness. No, I was not told.

Anzai. When did you return?

Witness. On the 27th. I received the telegram on the 24th informing this meeting would be held on the 30th, and I started on the 25th and returned on the 27th.

Anzai. On the occasion of your resignation, did Mr. ISHIDA, a standing Director, request you to resign.....

Witness. I have said that I was asked to resign prior to the general meeting.

Enjoji. You have said that you were told by the Secretariate Section.

Witness. I was informed privately before I received the typed sheet.

Enjoji. What are your relations with Mr. ISHIDA?

Witness. Nothing special. We were on intimate terms.

Enjoji. Were not you explained about the reason for your dismissal?

Witness. I thought it was a matter of reshuffling of the personnel. I was told of the impossibility of saving me.

Enjoji. Aside from the question of reshuffle....., that he asked to resign owing to the circumstances - reshuffle.....

Witness. I was asked to give up the thought of reappointment because of the difficult circumstances. So I left thanking for the favours bestowed on me during the long years....

Okō. Was it Mr. TASHIRO, or Mr. ISHIDA, who informed you privately?

Witness. It was Mr. ISHIDA. When I spoke to Mr. TASHIRO later about what I had been told, he simply nodded, and did not seem to know anything about the case.

Nishiyama. Was it all so simple to reach a decision on the question of your career?

Witness. It looked so.

Nishiyama. You did not try to inquire?.

Witness. No.

Nishiyama. Were you satisfied yourself?

Witness. I felt it could not be helped.

Enjoji. What reasons were there that could have satisfied you?

Witness. Nothing particularly.

Anzai. You might have pretended to be satisfied, but you made known your dissatisfaction to your wife, didn't you?

Witness. I informed her that I was to be dismissed.

Anzai. You don't entertain good feelings toward Mr. ISHIDA, do you?

Witness. No, I do not.

Anzai. Why had you to resign so soon after having been promoted to head of the Material Division and director, and even before you have complete one term of your office? Don't

you

you feel it as strange judging from a common sense view point?

Witness. I did not mind particularly.....

Anzai. But you entertain no good feeling?

Witness. No.

Anzai. Having worked together for three years, if you are asked to resign for no specific reason - But, there is such a thing as a comb-out of personnel in a company, and even those most confident of these positions may have to be thrown out, owing to the circumstances of the occasion. Wasn't such your case?

Witness. It might have been.

Anzai. In such cases - not your case alone - that a man is likely to complain to his family of the action of his seniors who have dismissed him in disregard of all his ability. Your wife may be bitter about it, more so than yourself, perhaps?

Witness. Upon my resignation, we were confronted by a menace to livelihood. My wife, I believe, must have felt it deeply.

Anzai. She writes to us even now ^{after} that she has had time to cool off. I wonder if she has sent letters to others.

Witness. I have not heard.

Anzai. You have not? Haven't you told someone about this matter by word of mouth?

Witness. No.

Enjoji. At the general meeting of February 1947, the members of the Nomination Committee were designated by Mr. TASHIRO, nominal as the designation may have been. And you were one of the designated?

Witness. Yes, I was.

Enjoji. In the record of the proceedings, it is stated that six members moved to a separate room and made the selection, after consultation for a quarter of an hour. What was the subject matter of the fifteen-minutes consultation.

Witness. At that meeting, I think, some one from the Holding Company was also in attendance. I remember, after considerable confusion, objections being raised by stock-holders...

the members of ^{Nominations} Selection Committee were selected, as designated by Mr. TASHIRO, and they withdrew into another room. We came to the conclusion that we could act no other-wise than to accept the proposed list of candidates, and so to report to the meeting. And we reported that way, I think.

Enjoji. As to the proposed members, was it in the separate room ~~and~~ that you were informed of their names for the first time?

Witness. Yes.

Enjoji. Who did presented what I may call ^{the} list of candidates?

Witness. There was a prepared list. Who did bring it - let me see! I don't remember clearly.

Enjoji. Were there not any signs of behind-scene manoevers by Mr. MITSUI, Takanaga up to the time when you were elected at the general meeting of 14th December, 1945?

Witness. I don't know.

Enjoji. Haven't you heard rumours of the kind?

Witness. No, I have not.

Enjoji. About what time did Mr. TASHIRO ask you to serve as official on that occasion?

Witness. It was just before, ten or fifteen minutes, before the general meeting opened.

Anzai. As to the company residence. Will you please explain the circumstances about this? (showing a letter) You were living in a company residence, weren't you?

Witness. Mine was a hired house. It was purchased by the company while we were still living in it.

Anzai. They knew you were living there, nevertheless..?

Witness. They purchased the house we lived in. After my resignation they pressed me hard to have....

Anzai. The company purchased the house you had rented and made it a company's house. Then, they demanded you to vacate it because you had retired. Is that correct?

Witness. But I could not find a house to move in on such short notice.

I asked them to allow me to stay there until I found a house. The demand was repeated, but we stayed on....

Anzai. And then

Witness. We are staying on.....

Anzai. But your wife's letter says you have left.

Witness. We have been demanded to leave, but we still live there.

Enjoji. Was it after your resignation that the company began the negotiation on the purchase?

Witness. They told me about it while I was in office, and two or three months later, I guess, they purchased it.

Enjoji. This is a matter going on for some time?

Witness. Yes.

Anzai. And you still live in the house?

Witness. Yes.

Anzai. Do you pay rent to Mitsui?

Witness. No, I don't. I wanted to pay, but they asked me to wait because the amount wasn't fixed.

Anzai. You have no reason to think ill of the Mitsui Mining Company on that score, have you?

Witness. I think not.

Nishiyama. What kind of work are you engaged in now?

Witness. Having resigned from Mitsui, I work as a "Shokutaku" (extra member) of the Eiwa Commercial Firm, a newly established one.

Nishiyama. A firm established after the end of the war?

Witness. It is, of course.

Nishiyama. Of what capital group?

Witness. Five million Yen.

Nishiyama. What capital group?

Witness. Subscribed by the members of the firm and the general public.....

Kashima. Are they of the Mitsui group?

Witness. More of Mitsubishi men, it seems.

Kashima.

Kashima. On what business did you go to Hokkaido?

Witness. On a business trip.

Nishiyama. You are a "shokutaku"?

Witness. Yes.

Anzai. Didn't your wife tell you about her letter this morning?
Neither today nor yesterday?

Witness. No.

Anzai. You don't know if she has written to others?

Witness. Probably not.

Anzai. Don't you think it is probable? Inasmuch as you are
not aware even of this letter which has been actually sent...
Is your wife fond of sending letters of this sort?

Witness. I don't think she is.

Okī. Has Mr. ISHIDA been on specially intimate terms with Mr.
MITSUI, Takanaga and Takahiro particularly?

Witness. Well, I do not know.

Okī. You mean you don't know what is going on at the mine
because you were at the Main Office, don't you?

Witness. Yes, that's right.

Okī. Don't you think it probable that these gentlemen might
have made recommendations?

Witness. I don't know much.

Okī. According to your wife's letter and to rumours too, Mr.
TSUBAHARA, chief of Personnel Section, is said to have had
something to do in the matter. And the disclosure of the
fact caused you trouble, I suppose?

Witness. Trouble?

Okī. Is it true that it hurt the feelings personally between
you?

Witness. Well, I do not know.

Okī.

Oki. But that is not a public issue at all, is it?

Witness. No.

Oki. You have been a director in the company though you are not now. When you consider carefully, as we do also, the case of Mr. YAMAKAWA and nine others, now before the Allied authorities, can you not think of any points, where the difficulty may lie?

Witness. Well, I have never thought of that.....

Oki. Because it does not concern you.

Witness. That's right.

Oki. Can't you even hazard a guess as to what may be the ticklish point in this case?

Witness. To me it appears that you are conducting investigations on the question of their having been appointed by the Mitsui family.

Oki. Can you tell if there exists some clear evidence?

Witness. No, I cannot.

Oki. From your standpoint, you do not think there was anything like that with regard the appointment of those officials?

Witness. I don't think anyone can tell unless it were the former president of the company.

Oki. By whose recommendation did you become an auditor in 1945..?

Witness. I was called in by Mr. TASHIRO, and told that I might be appointed, should the approval be forthcoming at the general meeting.

Oki. Did you take it as Mr. TASHIRO's recommendation, then?

Witness. I rather take it as coming from Mr. KAWASHIMA's the president.....

Anzai. Despite your wife's grudge against Mr. ISHIDA, you remain indifferant? Are you inclined to rely upon the big Mitsui Mining Company?

Witness. I may say so.

Oki. How long had you been in the MainOffice before you became

an auditor?

Witness. About eleven years after my transfer from Miike.

Oki. Did you know that about sixty per cent of stocks of the mining company was held by the Main Office?

Witness. Yes, I had heard of it.

Kashima. In December, 1945 when you officials were elected, it is said election was possible if nominated by Mr. TASHIRO. But I wonder, whether it had been possible without an approval of the Main Company.

Witness. Well, I don't know. By that time the Mitsui family had already withdrawn.

Kashima. You don't know well the circumstances?

Witness. I am sorry, I don't.

Oki. Is it Mr. Kawai who manages the Material Division of Mitsui Mining Company?

Witness. No, he does not. He has been replaced very recently by Mr. KOBAYASHI.

Oki. Is Mr. Kawai in favour with Mr. ISHIDA?

Witness. I suppose he is considerably.

Chairman. Your wife is not ill, I believe. We may have to ask her to come. Can she come here, if we ask?

Witness. I think she can.

Chairman. Thank you very much

(The End)

No. 9

APPOINTEES RE-EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

RECORDS OF HEARING

WITNESS: MITSUI, Takakimi

175012

Minutes of the Appointees Re-Examination Committee Hearing
(September 1, 1948)

Members of Committee, Present:

KASHIMA

OKI

ANZAI

NISHIYAMA

OKUI

ENJOJI

Witness: MITSUI, Takakimi

Kashima. We are going to ask you questions concerning the purge case of Mr. Yamakawa and others, 10 in number, who are presently directors of the Mitsui Mining Company. Will you kindly give your answers?

Witness. I will.

Kashima. You know you have written a deposition for this Re-Examination?

Witness. Yes, I have.

Kashima. Is it true that the families of the House of Mitsui did not directly concern themselves with the control and administration of the Mitsui subsidiary companies. How did the Head Company operate?

Witness. As for the Head Company, I may say, though this may be a digression, that in the years (what year I do not recall) of Showa when the China Affair was in the air we began to notice among the members of the Mitsui family signs of a breakdown of control and discipline. So when the Head Company was organized a policy was adopted, under which the Mitsuis would be represented therein only by the head of the head family alone, who was to conduct the affairs of the company after consultation with its directors. So I was the only one who joined the Mitsui Head Company.

Kashima. When did such a change of policy occur?

Witness. It was the time when the Mitsui Head Company was established, that is to say, March, 1944 - if I remember correctly.

Kashima. Prior to that?

Witness. Prior to that - even in the Gomei (partnership) days - we were thinking of some such step. The tendency toward a weakening of control was visible. So we did it as a corrective measure.

Okui. A breakdown of control and discipline. Concretely.....

Witness. To speak concretely? Well, speaking concretely, the usual procedure was to bring everything before the Gomei management. The president or head of a subsidiary company would first consult the management on any question of business or personnel. Then the question would be presented to the Gomei President and then submitted to the Executive Committee (so-called under the partnership system), for decision. In that way sometimes made a subject of heated discussion at the Company's General Meeting, but it was never changed. Especially with regard to the question of personnel, views as fitness would vary widely. But in the end the decision of the Executive Committee stood in its original form. Only there grew a tendency to deviate from this practice, and we considered it necessary to rectify the matter before it was too late.

Kashima. Mr. MITSUI, Takanaga appears to be a very able gentleman. Did he make himself heard much?

Witness. Yes, he did. After his graduation from the Gyosei he went, as you know, to America, where he studied engineering. Upon his return he took a great interest in the work of the Mitsui Mining, and he used to make proposals from his technical stand.

Kashima. Do you know Mr. KAWASHIMA, who served as President of the Mitsui Mining from 1939 to about the end of 1943?

Witness. I do.

Kashima. Just in what way?

Witness. Because he was Board Chairman or President of the Mining Company. And later - I've forgot the year - during the intervening period between the Gomei and the establishment of the Head Company (Honsha) when there was set up the so-called Mitsui General Head Office (Somotokata), though not legally constituted, he also served as an official in it. That is the way how I came to know him.

Kashima. In making any decision on the appointment of its officials did the company obtain previous approval from the Gomei, or the General Head Office, or later, from the Head Company - that is, before the war's end?

Witness. It was this way. Someone - say, the president - of the Mining Company would come to us before the company's general meeting and tell us how they would like to fix the affair. We would then submit the plan to the Executive Committee, it was in the Gomei days, then to the Company Members' Meeting, and obtain their approval.

Kashima. Now did the president - here the President of the Mining Company - submit such recommendations, or did the Head Company nominate such and such persons?

Witness. The Head Company - Only in the case where the Gomei or the Head Company was putting in a director, we would name a particular person. In other cases - I may say, in all the other cases, we just swallowed the recommendations

from

from the president of a subsidiary company. From the old days of the Gomei it was our custom to let each subsidiary company go ahead by itself, we only whipping it from behind. Because of this relationship, it was our policy to let the man responsible for a company assume the entire responsibility.

Kashima. Now when the President of the Mining Company was deciding upon the appointment of his company officials, did he consult the director sent from the Head Company, and was it finally decided by the Board of Director?

Witness. I think he did not consult the Board of Directors. I think he did not. The President would tell us whom he would like to have for directors next time. And we seldom objected.

Kashima. Among the officials sent out from the Head Company, were there members of your family?

Witness. Yes.

Kashima. Sometimes quite a big man, equaling the president, is sent out. Doesn't such a man touch the business of company at all?

Witness. He attends Directors' meetings. So he will see various papers. He will hear things. And when he comes back to the Head Company, he will tell us about his company. So it may be said he does participate in the operation of the enterprise more or less.....

Kashima. The selection of directors is the most important personnel problem for any company. Does the President decide it alone?

Witness. Such was the custom with the Mitsuis.

Kashima. In this particular case, did Mr. KAWASHIMA - the President - himself bring his list of names to the Gomei - or later the Head Company - and hand it to you?

Witness. Before I saw the president, he would talk over with the senior director - who was then called Board Chairman. And in the case of other companies, it was, I believe, the Board Chairman who brought the list to me. In the case of the Mining Company, it was sometimes Mr. KAWASHIMA, and sometimes the Board Chairman, who brought it to me.

Kashima. Was Mr. KAWASHIMA on specially intimate terms with you?

Witness. Not specially ... After all, he had the charge of the Mining Company. I myself, not being an engineer, I could not get ideas unless I took in a good deal what a man like Mr. KAWASHIMA had to say. It was because of this relationship - on the business side

Kashima. He appears to be a person quite headstrong, overbearing.....

Witness. Inflexible, perhaps. It may not be improper to discuss the personality of Mr. KAWASHIMA at this place. It may be impolite for me if any of you gentlemen here happen to be technical experts, but I may say that Japanese experts are somewhat inflexible, lacking in the conciliatory spirit. In this respect, Mr. KAWASHIMA is inflexible - if anything. After all, he rose to that position by insisting on what he thought was the best - about the method of digging mines, or any other matters - by prevailing upon his superiors,

any

any by having always his way. So he is accustomed to sticking to his own ideas. He

Kashima. Is he that way not only in technical matters, but also generally in the affairs of the company?

Witness. Quite so. To speak from my own experience - toward the close of the General Head Office when we were working on the organization of the new Head Company, I asked him to come in to take charge of the technical affairs, because we had few technical men. I pleaded with him for three or four months, but he would not consent. He is a stubborn man. You can see it from his manners, though not quite so much as his manners may indicate. In reality, however.....

Kashima. I understand. He couldn't have managed that big enterprise without some degree of elasticity in himself. In December following the surrender there was an election of new officials in the Mining Company. Do you remember that Mr. KAWASHIMA then resigned, and Mr. TASHIRO became President. At that time - it was a time when things were all upset and unsettled - did Mr. KAWASHIMA bring to the Head Company the list of new officials he wanted?

Witness. It was this way. Just after the war - late in September, perhaps about the 20th of the month - Director SUMII and MATSUMOTOT, Hisashi from the Head Company and MIYAZAKI, Hiroshi from the BUSSAN were already conferring frequently

with

with Mr. KRAMER, head of the Economic and Scientific Section, G.H.Q. on the question of Zaibatsu dissolution. A month afterwards, or thereabout, I can't recall exactly, a formal notice was werved on the Mitsui family, saying we should be prepared for the dissolution of the Head Company. We thought it to be an unavoidable thing. Then, as you know, the order came on November 6. On the 8th of the month I called in all the directors of our subsidiary companies (it might have been Board chairman and managing directors only, I do not remember), and announced the decision of the Mitsui Head Company to dissolve. At the same time I made it clear that we would give up our control and guidance over all the subsidiaries. Such being the case, at the time of the December election of officers, Mr KAWASHIMA did not contact us in any way.

Kashima. That is what is generally said. But when a General Meeting was called for the election of officers in that year, the company had a letter of attorney given by the Head Company -- Isn't that so?

Witness. So it appears. I have learned about it very recently.

Kashima. Of course, you had not announced so far as to the point you would not issue letters of attorney.

Witness. Well, this seems to have been the circumstance. At that time each company was revising its Articles of Incorporation, for which the attendance of a specified number of shareholders was necessary. Unless the Mitsui Head Company

gave

gave a letter of attorney for the shares it held, no general meeting could be held. So as a matter of expediency, the letter was issued with the permission of Mr. KRAMER. A letter from him may exist, giving this permission or understanding.

Kashima. Who handled the matter? Which department of the Mitsui Head Company.....

Witness. The Archives Division. For details, if you will call someone who was then in the Archives Division,.....

Kashima. Was there an Archives Division?

Witness. Yes.

Kashima. Do you know a person by the name of Mr. EDO?

Witness. He was Assistant Director of the Archives Division. He might not have been that yet at that time. I do not remember. Perhaps, he had become Assistant Director.

Kashima. Excuse me for digression. What was the work of the Financial Affairs Division?

Witness. It was, as you know, in charge of account. In the old days of the Gomei, it had a sort of side job. It had business reports sent in from the minor companies in which we held interests, and it studied them. There was the Research Division which also did that kind of work. But with regard to very small concerns, the Financial Affairs Division, instead of the Research Division, undertook the task - that is in the Gomei days.

Kashima. In the days of the Head Company....?

Witness. The work was transferred to the Enterprises Division.

Kashima. Was there no Enterprises Division under the Head Company?

Witness. No. It was then called the Accounts Section, as I remember.

Kashima. And the General Head Office.....?

Witness. I believe it was in the summer of 1940 that the Mitsui Gomei and the Mitsui Bussan were merged, and all the assets were turned over to the latter. It was necessary to set up an organ to decide upon major business policies. As one of the conditions of the merger, financial shares were transferred to the Mitsui family as it did not seem proper for the Mitsui Bussan, a commercial firm, to own them. So the General Head Office was created to look after the shares and to formulate major policies. From that time on, the influence of the Mitsui family over the subsidiary companies began to wane. Then, the war broke out, the need of an organ of control and administration was felt, as the result of which the Mitsui Head Office was established with the cooperation all the companies.

Kashima. Let me ask you in order to make sure. In the case of the Mitsui Mining Company, and as far as you remember, the appointment of officials was made after the president, the President of the Mining Company, had submitted personally the list of candidates to the Head Company and obtained its approval - that is until the war's end.

Witness. Yes.

Kashima. Did other members of your family take part in the decision?

Witness. They never took part after the Head Company was set up. Before that they - I might say - took part, or stated their views.

Kashima. After all, it was you alone who decided.

Witness. Yes. But I did not know about the Mining Company; so I asked. Then they stated their views.

Kashima. Then.....?

Witness. Yes.

Kashima. You gave out the final decision?

Witness. I did, after all.

Kashima. Did you stamp your seal on some sort of a written approval?

Witness. According to the usage from the time of the Gomei - with decision having been made, I would, generally one day before the General Meeting, give order through the Board Chairman to the head of the Archives Section (Division under the Head Company) to prepare a list of new officials: "Elected at the general meeting on such day, such month: For Directors, such and such men; for Representative directors, such and such men; for auditors, such and such men." And on the margin of that paper I stamped my seal. This was put in a sealed envelope and handed directly to the company's

company's president by the head of the Archives Section or the Archives Division. That was the custom.

Kashima. Did you ever give an expost facto approval? Or was the approval give always in advance?

Witness. As far as the Mining Company was concerned, it was, I remember, generally.....

Kashima. Given in advance?

Witness. Yes.

Kashima. When viewed from your standpoint, did Mr. KAWASHIMA command much confidence?

Witness. I hate to say, but.....

Kashima. Did he not serve as President for quite a while?

Witness. I knew no other man in the Mining Company. - There was no particular person, for whom I had special preference.

Kashima. Do you know these people now in the company - the present President, Mr. YAMAKAWA; Mr. ISHIDA, the director; and Mr. YAMAMOTO?

Witness. Now it is only Mr. YAMAKAWA whom I know by sight. The others I do not. And it is just very recently that I came to know Mr. YAMAKAWA.

Kashima. At the general meeting immediately after the war, at which Mr. YAMAKAWA.....

Witness. I knew his name. He was, I believe, in the Coal Control Association during the war. But as to how he looked, I am not very.....

Kashima. That is, you have never met him.

Witness. I may say I have never met him. Perhaps, I saw him once. The occasion was this. Toward the end of the war was at my home in Imai-cho, Azabu, where now the American Cavalry First, Division, is stationed. In those days, the 8th Unit of Infantry was there, and some machine gunnacs were staying at my house. In February or March they began to dig holes at the bottom of the bluff. I was afraid there might be a landslide if they dug too deep. So I went to the Mining Company office and told them about the situation. I said; These soldiers look like greenhands, so send over an expert to look it over! It happened Mr. YAMAKAWA was at the Control Association and he came to my house to inspect the place.. I might have seen him then. Of course, it might have been somebody else. But since I had asked for an "expert" I suppose it was most likely Mr. YAMAKAWA.

Kashima. You pictured him in your mind as an expert. You do not know what sort of a man he is?

Witness.. No.

Kashima. And you do not know the others?

Witness. I do not absolutely.

Kashima. You don't know Mr. ISHIDA either?

Witness. No. He may know me by sight. He might have been me at the various meetings before which I spoke.

Kashima. I suppose he knows you all right.

Witness. Even when Mr. KAWASHIMA was the president. I did not know some of the ordinary directors and division heads. It caused me once great embarrassment.

Anzai. The questions and answers so far have perhaps disposed of the point I am going to ask. But by way of confirmation I wish to ask you, though I may be repetitious, on one point in the minutes of the hearing of the other day when we had Mr. SUMII here.

Mr. SUMII told us that inasmuch as it was considered that men of the company who had been of the president class had better resign in view of the word from G.H.Q., the question of resignation of Mr. KAWASHIMA came up for discussion. So I asked Mr. SUMII, who had been, in a position to effect Mr. KAWASHIMA's resignation, and said. "You being in such a position, did not Mr. KAWASHIMA quite naturally consult you on the question of a successor?" "Queer personality" might have referred to what you have said about him just a while ago. But Mr. SUMII also stated: "Possibly he might have spoken to Mr. MITSUI, Takakimi the then President of our Company. To me he said nothing." That is, Mr. SUMII says that Mr. KAWASHIMA at the time of the 1945 election of officers might have, as our Acting Chairman has just stated, gone to you to consult on the composition of the new regime for the Mining Company.

Witness. It does not seem I was consulted.

Anzai. If you were not consulted, please say so plainly!

Witness. I was not consulted, I am sure. . Let me tell you why. It happened that when this matter came up, the Bussan as well as the Mining Company turned their backs upon the Mitsui in such a way as seemed to us strange. I suppose, it was our own fault, and we have none to blame but ourselves. It may be they turned away from us lest they should cause us trouble. It may be they turned away, feeling that they were now free to do what they liked. I do not know which. But anyway, they turned their backs upon us, and I was not a little disillusioned.

Anzai. In the open - there was the government order - in the open, they could not speak. But it concerned the House of Mitsui, to which these men owed so much for what they were. I don't know about the small fry at the bottom of section or division. But these men - Mr. KAWASHIMA, the then President, and Mr. TASHIRO, the next President, would have gone quite likely to you or Mr. SUMII and got an informal understanding. That is what we are inclined to surmise.

Witness. It is not these men - but rather men of 30 to 36 or 7 years of age who have really a kind word to say to the Mitsui family; or else, very old men who had retired long ago. As for others, either they purposely re-

causing

causing us trouble, or they turned away from us because they had to work for themselves. Such is my impression.

Okui. Did you meet Mr. KAWASHIMA, when the general meeting for the election of new officials was being arranged in December 1945?

Witness. I might have met him - say, in the dining room. To us, it was, as you know, the moment when the Mitsuis had been shut off from their economic activities of 300 years. We were all so upset as we had to be ashamed of ourselves. So I can't remember much. The members of the Mitsui family were preoccupied with the planning for their future.

Enjoji. Addressing the Shareholders' General Meeting of February last year, Mr. TASHIRO stated: "Our present officials, were elected at the General Meeting of December 14, 1945 when the big shareholder of our company, the Mitsui Head Company was exercising its controlling power over us. They were appointed by virtue of the confidence reposed in them by the Mitsui Head Company."

Again, the letter of Mr. YAMAKAWA, dated March 5, last year, announcing his assumption of office contained a passage: "The appointment of the former officials at the General Meeting of December, 1945 was made through the recommendations from the Mitsui Head Company".

Witness. I should say those gentlemen are badly mistaken. To prove that Mr. TASHIRO or Mr. YAMAKAWA had said such a thing, did you take that sentence from the Record of Proceedings of General Meeting?

- Enjoji. It is written in the Record of Proceedings submitted by the Mitsui Mining Company.
- Anzai. H Have you not heard an explanation or something concerning that document?
- Witness. An explanation.....?
- Anzai. An explanatory statement has been submitted to G.H.Q.
- Witness. Not an explanation. The last I saw Mr. TASHIRO was sometime last year - let me see! - I met him in the corridor perhaps. He said nothing, I suppose - I don't remember that, I apologize you.
- Kashima. The date is immaterial.
- Witness. It wasn't an explanation. He paid me a visit of courtesy to report his resignation. Afterwards, we met in the corridor. He spoke then nothing about such a matter. He had come to make a courtesy call.....
- Enjoji. You have not heard about it since the present case came up?
- Witness. Not from Mr. TASHIRO. But somebody told me something about it. I did not recall who it was. I did not tell him: "It is contrary to facts; it must be a lie." At any rate, it is now that I have learned for the first time the precise wording of those statements.
- Enjoji. You have said a while ago that you gave previous approval to Mitsui subsidiaries on the question of personnel appointments. How far did this system extend?

Witness. To ten companies - or eleven companies, I forgot which. We made nominations with respect to these companies - that is, during the Head Company period. In the Gomei days, the number was much less.

Enjoji. During the Head Company period you did it to the eleven companies?

Witness. We made nominations until the war's end.

Oki. I hesitate to ask. But were there factions, or rivalries among the members of the Mitsui family who held positions in the Mining Company?

Witness. I wouldn't say "rivalry." But there was occasionally a divergency of views. It all amounted to something like a quarrel between brothers. Once the question was cleared, they would be exchanging jokes. Only outsiders might have exaggerated such affairs - or spread rumours from ulterior motives.

Oki. Did such complications ever arise in connection - say, with the question of appointment of officials?

Witness. As I said before, it is a matter of confidence and trust. There are no statistical figures indicating a man's fitness or unfitness for any job. There would be no end to such disputes as "A is suited," or "B is not suited." So, we would end up by appointing the persons recommended - to take the present case - by the President of the Mining Company.

Nishiyama. By the way, did both Mr. MITSUI, Takanaga and Mr. MITSUI, Takahiro take interest in personnel affairs, and speak out?

Witness. TAKANAGA was well acquainted - much better than I - with the inside condition of the Mining Company. Having worked at Miike when young, he associated with a lot of people. So he was given to commenting on personal traits of this man or that. TAKAHIRO is very young. He would seldom express any opinion, which would not have attracted attention anyhow even if he had expressed it.

Nishiyama. What school did Mr. MITSUI, Takahiro attend?

Witness. The Tokyo Imperial, and the College of Arts and Literature. I think he majored in art.

Nishiyama. He graduated from a college of literature.

Witness. Yes.

Oki. Haven't you been to the G.H.W. recently?

Witness. I have not.

Oki. Didn't they send for any one of you gentlemen?

Witness. I believe it was last year - or maybe early this spring. TAKANAGA came up to city - in order to visit G.H.Q., I wonder - by a special train. I was told he had come to attend some committee meeting of experts. But I wasn't told so directly by him.

Oki. Don't you know if any of you went to G.H.Q. concerning the question of Zaitatsu Officials?

Witness. I do not.

Oki. I've just heard a rumor to that effect.....

Witness. I do not know. I myself have never been to G.H.Q.
I do not want to be impertinent, but I'd be very glad
if you would make a full inquiry about that statement
of Mr. TASHIRO at the general meeting.

Wnjoji. Mr. TASHIRO has been requested to appear.

Witness. Is that so?

KASHIMA. Thank you very much.

(The End)

NO. 10

APPOINTEES RE-EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

RECORDS OF HEARINGS

WITNESS: MITSUI, Takaharu

Minutes of Appointees Re-examination Committee Hearing.

(September 1, 1948)

Members present:

KASHIMA

ANZAI

OKUI

ENJOJI

OKI

NISHIYAMA

Witness present:

MITSUMI, Takaharu

KASHIMA: Mr. Mitsui Takaharu.

Witness: Yes, my name is Mitsui, Takaharu.

KASHIMA: I asked your presence at this meeting to obtain your testimony in regard to the question involving Mr. Yamakawa and other nine persons. While Mr. Yamakawa may not be your personal acquaintance, are you informed that ten persons, namely, Messrs. Ryoichi Yamakawa, Ken Ishida, Hisaki Sato, Yusuke Yamamoto, Hatsutarō Kaharazaki, Giyu Yamada, Toshio Hasegawa, Saburo Sugiyama, Seiju Nakayama and Auditor Hisao Oyatsu, were appointed to the posts of directors of auditor respectively of the Mitsui Kozan (Mitsui Mining Company), for the

first

first time, at the general meeting of December 14, 1945?

Witness: Yes.

KASHIMA: Before the general meeting just mentioned there was a strong demand among the employees of the Mitsui Mining Company in Kyushu to have certain persons appointed to the posts of directors by all means at the forthcoming general meeting. I am not sure whether all the ten persons mentioned before were named, but at least Mr. Yamakawa and Mr. Ishida, and possibly Mr. Yamamoto, were named as the leading persons of the proposed board. A campaign was staged, or I should rather say representations were made, to have Mr. Yamakawa and Mr. Ishida elected to executive posts, and just before the general meeting some people even came to Tokyo all the way from Kyushu for such purposes. Have you any knowledge of these circumstances?

Witness: I was informed that some people came to Tokyo, but I was not directly demanded to see them. At that time I was engaged in the business of the Mitsui Sempaku (Mitsui Steamship Company). As a post in the Mitsui Mining Company was only a temporary one, it was troublesome for me to hear the affairs of the mining business, which I more or less neglected. Naturally, I avoided to see the people of the mining company as far as possible. I was told that some people came from Kyushu, but I didn't see them.

KASHIMA:

KASHIMA: I understand that three or four leaders came from Kyushu to make representations in Tokyo, and they paid a visit at your residence perhaps on the day before the general meeting. Is it not true?

Witness: At my residence? I remember I was not at home then, and the caretaker of my house refused to let them in because of my absence. I never heard that they came to my abode when I was at home.

KASHIMA: Who saw them during your absence?

Witness: I don't remember. But I think it was the house-boy. He does not take any interest in calls of company's people, and doesn't report, unless questioned. When questioned if certain visitors came during my absence, only then he would answer in the affirmative if such was the case. It was often the case that he was blamed for not making report on what should have been made known to me.

KASHIMA: Prior to December 14, 1945, did you not tell Mr. Kawashima, the president of the company at that time, about the employees coming to Tokyo to make representations?

Witness: Let me see. Did I not see Mr. Kawashima? I remember their name cards were on the desk in the president's room of the Mitsui Steamship Company, brought there by a secretary. My secretary pretended that I was not in. I said they should be interviewed by Mr. Kawashima. Then I think their name cards were taken to Mr. Kawashima.

KASHIMA:

KASHIMA: Have you not been acquainted with Messrs. Yamakawa and Ishida and their group since before the general meeting of December?

Witness: I had known them by sight, but had not been in intimate relationship with them.

KASHIMA: It may be quite natural that as the family members of the Mitsui and the employees of the company stand on different levels, you may not have been in a position to be acquainted with the officials of the mining company.

Witness: Drinking "sake" together or congeniality in tastes is the only chance of being intimately acquainted with them. As I do not take to drinking, I hadn't the chance of associating with or holding friendly intercourse with them. Mr. Ishida, however, who entered the mining company in 1923, gave me guidance in the business as my colleague. I entered the company in 1922 after graduating from the Keio University, but Mr. Ishida was my senior. He initiated me in the business. But as I went abroad soon thereafter, our relations were broken off. Then as I became a director,-----

KASHIMA: Where did you work side by side with him?

Witness: In the Investigation Section of the General Affairs Division, in the head office. At that time Mr. Ishida was a shoki (secretary) with a salary of ¥100 a month. My salary was ¥30. He was my superior.

KASHIMA: Was it in 1923?

Witness:

Witness: Yes, it was in 1923.

KASHIMA: What was your charge when you entered the company?

Witness: My title was a shoki (secretary).

KASHIMA: How is it to be understood that you were in a co-equal position with Mr. Ishida?

Witness: We belonged to a section called the Investigation Section of the General Affairs Division.

Mr. Okui: While, as mentioned previously, four employees or representatives of employees came from Kyushu in 1945, demanding certain realignment in the board of directors, it appears their statement is not quite in accord with what we are now given to understand. According to their statement, they visited your residence probably on the morning of the day on which the general meeting was held, though they didn't succeed in seeing you. Have you anything to state in this connection?

Witness: Let me see. I don't remember exactly-----but they came-----

Mr. Okui: They were four in number, weren't they?

Witness: Of the four I know the name of a certain Kurayama. I subsequently learnt that he was an engineer. I was informed that he had been a radical since long before. They left their name cards at the office of the Mitsui Steamship Company, but seemingly they didn't leave them at my house.

Mr. Okui: Any knowledge about a certain Uemura?

Witness:

Witness: He was the chief compiler of the Fifty-Year History of the Mitsui Company. As I specialized in history it was proposed to assign the work of compiling the fifty-year history to my charge. Then the chief of the compilation committee was the president, but the work didn't progress. To expedite it, I became the chief of the committee, and in relation to technical subjects came to know Mr. Uemura.

Mr. Okui: Did Mr. Uemura not call at your residence in the morning of the day of the general meeting, as I just mentioned?

Witness: I don't think he did. NO, he didn't. It was sometime before that that he came to my house. He visited me to express his thanks for the allowance given him on resignation from a post in the compilation committee. But I didn't see him then.

Mr. Okui: I understand that you were absent.

Witness: I was not at home then. I was in Tokyo, but I left home earlier.

Mr Okui: Did you tell Mr. Kawashima in the company's office that such-and-such persons from Kyushu came to see you?

Witness: My secretary took the name cards to Mr. Kawashima.

Mr. Okui: Now on this subject-----

Witness: As I had no time to see them, I said to the secretary to ask Mr. Kawashima to deal with them.

KASHIMA:

KASHIMA: Besides this, did you not hear anything about the prospective directors to be appointed at the general meeting of December 14, 1945?

Witness: I heard nothing.

KASHIMA: Did you not obtain any information either from Mr. Tashiro or Mr. Kawashima?

Witness: Neither Tashiro nor Kawashima said anything to me. I avoided seeing them, as I didn't like to be involved.

KASHIMA: Why did you avoid seeing them?

Witness: I was fully engaged with shipping business. I took little interest in the mining business, particularly in its technicalities, which I hardly comprehended. Besides, I was not disposed to plunge into the complicated situation. With a feeling more or less akin to desperation, I evaded the subject, leaving it to chances.

Mr. Nishiyama: Was there any complicated situation?

Witness: It may not properly be called a complicated situation. But if I saw someone, rumors would spread, creating an unnecessary stir. It was considered unadvisable to see anybody concerned with the business, as it would give rise to misunderstandings. Therefore I avoided to see anyone as far as practicable. Especially just before the general meeting, my interview with anybody would give a subject for speculations. So I avoided to see them.

Mr. Nishiyama: Apart from this particular question that developed

developed in relation to the appointment of directors before the general meeting of December, 1945, can you give us an idea as to similar cases in general?

Witness: There was a similar case in connection with the Mitsui Building Company.

KASHIMA: You were an executive of that company until the general meeting of December. Weren't you?

Witness: I was a director, therefore, one of the executives.

KASHIMA: Is it that the executives to be elected at the forthcoming general meeting were fixed without referring to the directors' meeting? President then was Mr. Kawashima.

Witness: Usual practice was that the directors' meeting was never informed of the prospective line-up of the executives to be appointed and that the proposed realignment was referred to the head office for its approval. Directors present at the meeting were not even sure of their own positions. Neither were they permitted to question on the subject.

KASHIMA: What are your views on these circumstances? Mr. Kawashima resigned his post about the time the Zaibatsu was dissolved. But he acted with a deeply-rooted conviction, probably on account of his having been appointed by the Mitsui head office. Now if such a person of his own accord decided the line-up of the succeeding board of executives, the result would be tantamount to framing the successors under

the

the delegated authority of the Mitsui head office----- a step diametrically opposed to the principle of dissolving the Zaibatsu. Would it not be a proper step first to investigate the popular demand within the company, and then to decide upon those who are qualified for the posts?

Witness: Theoretically speaking, -----

KASHIMA: As to what are the public demands within the company, would it not be better to consult the views of all the executives than to arrive at a conclusion by oneself?

Witness: The organization of the Mitsui, as it has been, and the practice, as it has been followed, are not suited for such a procedure. At the top is the Mitsui head office. I think the present chairman, before his resignation, would nominate a proper person, and consult the rijicho (chief director) or someone else in a similar position in the head office. I don't know whether other directors would be consulted, but we, the family members of the Mitsui, who are mere figureheads, would never be consulted. My personal conviction has been that our interference with the personnel affairs would have only disturbing effects on the maintenance of order within the company. So I have never meddled with such affairs, nor have I been disposed to receive report on the subject.

KASHIMA: A conference within the head office-----

Witness: The situation in relation to the head office
members'

members' conference was like this: Though the members belonged to one big family, the eleven members, as their physiognomies differed from one another, had their own individual human weaknesses. If therefore a certain person is recommended or rejected by the head office, and is promoted or relegated accordingly, the person concerned may happen to be a protege of some members but may also happen to be displeasing to others, so that any careless move in the delicate matters of personnel is apt to result in discord among the members. In the circumstances, the conference never takes up the question of appointing a particular person to a particular position.

Mr. Anzai: I think the representatives of the three mines in Kyushu visited your residence in the hope of carrying through their demands, in view of the fact that you were one of the directors at that time. They may have thought that they had the chance of attaining their aims, if they could ask you personally, as they were not petty employees, but were chiefs or leaders of mining offices at Miike.

Witness: They may have thought so. But they were not acquainted with the internal organization of the Mitsui, nor with the atmosphere at the conference. They may have thought that I single-handed could carry through their demands, if I would. They may have over-estimated my powers. As a matter of fact, I was no more than a figurehead.

Mr. Okui: While you just stated that you didn't like to be involved

involved in the complicated situation prior to the general meeting, 'at which, so to speak, the succeeding 'regime' of the Mitsui Mining Company would be determined, was it not actually the case that the family members of the Mitsui were involved in the complications which arose before and after the resignation of Mr. KAWASHIMA in 1945?

Witness: I don't think so. As far as I am informed, I don't think there was such a case.

Mr. Okui: Was there anyone of the Mitsui family, besides you, in the Mitsui Mining Company?

Witness: Let me see. Who was in that company.

Mr. Okui: In 1943, you were the only one. Prior to that Mr. MITSUI, Takanaga was also in that company. In connection with the positions of the family members in the company-----

Witness: Was I alone in 1945?

Mr. Okui: You were no longer in the company then. You were in the company in 1943, and no longer there in 1945.

KASHIMA: Among the family members of the Mitsui, you were related to the Mitsui Mining Company the longest.

Mr. Okui: Have you ever observed that family members became entangled in the company's troubles?

Witness: I don't think there was such a case at that time.

Mr. Okui: Then, before that?

Witness: MITSUI, Takahiro worked in the field offices. Naturally some people may have won his favors while others may

have

have displeased him, and his personal likes and dislikes may have been reported. But he resigned. As I am not disposed to express my likes and dislikes, I may have appeared somewhat cold-hearted. Perhaps I was more or less apathetic.

KASHIMA: It may generally be concluded that Mr. Mitsui, Takakimi is not a specialist of any kind. His personal weight may have been derived from his position as the chief of the head family. But who is the man to decide the practical policies of the Mitsui family? Who is in that important position in the final analysis? Is he after all the rijicho (chief director)?

Witness: I think the chief director may be in such a position. But compared with Mr. Ikeda and others of old days, I should say, the persons in that position of late appear small-scaled, and unworthy of the important position, if I am permitted to use such a discourteous expression.

KASHIMA: Like Mr. Dan-----

Witness: He was a dictator.

KASHIMA: During the war, the authority of the military was so predominant-----

Witness: Yes, it was.

KASHIMA: But in any case Mr. Sumii must have possessed a voice of high authority.

Witness: As the president had nobody to take counsel with, I think Mr. Sumii gave the required advices. The

president

president does not belong to that type of persons who act on their own authority without consulting others, but is a man of prudence to such a degree that he is often irresolute, slow in arriving at a decision, and is unable to decide without taking counsel. Thus Mr. Sumii is the only person in a position to give advices to the president.

Mr. Okui: Has Mr. MITSUI, Takanaga some influence in the Mitsui Mining Company?

Witness: He is an engineer and technician. As he is not concerned with the matters of management,----- He is clear-headed. His technique or his technical ideas are respected by others. Owing to his point-blank observations, he is apt to be shunned by others, but he is most conversant with the subject of mining.

KASHIMA: Had he any voice in the head office?

Witness: He went to Kyushu and never came back.

KASHIMA: Even if he stayed in Kyushu and did not attend the conference of the head office members, did he not make some efforts to have importance attached to certain persons, who may have been useful for the mining business?

Witness: When he attended the conference, we just let him shout all day and took no notice of what he said, as he would forget about it the next day. We just let him do as he liked.

KASHIMA: His personality?

Witness: As he is straightforward and would have a

heart-to-heart

- 14 -

heart-to-heart talk with anybody, he is quite popular.

KASHIMA: Thank you for your sparing your busy time for us.

24 FEB 1948

Regarding the
Circumstances ~~About~~ Selection and
Appointment of Executive Officers
Of the Mitsui Mining Company.

FILE

below

The persons mentioned ~~in the followings~~ were selected and appointed on 14 December 1945 as Executive Officers of a "Zaibatsu" company, and they are now being examined in accordance with the provisions in the Zaibatsu Executives Purge Law.

- President : Ryoichi Yamakawa ✓
- Managing Directors : Ken Ishida -
- Hisaki Sato -
- Yusaku Yamamoto -
- Directors : Yoshio Yamada -
- Shitaro Kawarazaki -
- Toshio Hasegawa -
- Seiju Nakayama -
- Saburo Sugiyama -
- Managing Auditor : Hisao Oyazu -

(Please reverse names & capitalize last name)

They were appointed under the following circumstances:

A stiff competition took place among the members of the Zaibatsu Family and vigorous campaigns were made, since this was considered the last ~~of~~ ^{to be made} appointments by the Zaibatsu. As the ~~a~~ result, the above mentioned people were appointed and the circumstances were well known among those who were concerned, ~~with it~~.

After the appointment, they issued a statement that the "Zaibatsu" will not interfere the operations of its holding companies after 17 December 1945, in obedience to the spirit of the Potsdam Declaration.

However, with a purpose of concealing ^{the} above fact and as an evidence against the **purge decision** under the provisions of the Zaibatsu Executives Purge Law, they presented a distorted picture and certified that they issued a statement to the effect that the Zaibatsu Main Company shall not interfere the operations of its holding companies after 6 **October** 1945, that is the day when the Potsdam Declaration was issued.

NOT SIGNED

TAB
"A"

17 AUG 1948

~~Aug 17th., 1948~~

To : Colonel C.L.Kades
Government Section, GHQ.

Subject: Information of Mitsui Case

I. Ten Directors of Mitsui Mining Co. were purged, and ^{are} now under re-investigation.

They have exhausted every means to be released from their purge thru Mr. Fukushima, and other officials of the Japanese Government, ^{by} ~~with~~ a means of bribes and entertainments.

They have no excuse to ~~insist~~, ^{offer other} then they ~~take~~ the fact that their purge would decrease coal production, ~~as a reason~~, ^{and will} ~~and~~ beg your permission ^{for} of releasing half of them. They hope that Government Section will change ^{its} opinion after Mr. Hussey's ^{departure} ~~home-~~ coming and that they will be released from their purge.

2. In ^{the} Mitsui Chemical Industry co., the subsidiary of Mitsui Mining Co., some group of officers have intended to maintain ~~the~~ influence of Zaibatsu Organization against your Policy ~~of break up of Zaibatsu.~~

And ^{are} they planning ^{also} to invite some officers of Mitsui Mining Co. to appoint ^{the} Mitsui Chemical's officer: ^{Specifically} ~~in the concrete~~ Mr. Ishida, managing Director of Mitsui Mining Co. ^{they} ~~was~~ planned to ~~be appointed~~ Managing Director of Mitsui Chemical Co.

~~This movement has done beyond commonsense.~~

Names of members who ^{are operating} ~~conduct~~ against your directives ~~are~~

follow:

TAG
3

President of Mitsui Chemical

Y.Enomoto

Managing Director

M.Otsubo

Director

N.Asai

"

T.Hirayama

Secretary

T.Miyano

The first step of their plot was ^{began} ~~was~~ begun with dismissal of two Managing Directors from their post by the order of President. Although four months have elapsed, no successors ^{have} ~~has~~ been decided, owing to the ^{delay in} ~~postpone~~ of Mitsui Mining case.

3. Negotiations ^{have} ~~has~~ gone on since March at many places.

One of the ^{largest parties} ~~greatest party~~ was held by Mr. Miyano, Secretary of Mitsui Chemical, in Atami, and ~~he~~ spent 500,000 yen for that party, and ~~he~~ presented 200,000 yen as bribes to members of HCLC; President of ^{the} Bank of Japan, and other high officials thru Mr. Araki, ~~the~~ member of the Diet.

Moreover in three ^{instances,} ~~times,~~ he appropriated about 500,000 yen to Mr. T.Hayashi, former president, for a cavassing fund to ^{carry out} ~~execute~~ their plan, ~~smooth~~. Mr. T.Hayashi were purged, and this ^{also has been} ~~case~~ ~~has~~ ~~also~~ done against your policy.

We request ^{that} you to investigate and re-inspect ^{the} ~~of~~ Mitsui case to remedy the evil of ^{the} ~~the~~ Zaibatsu Controlling Influence.

NOT SIGNED.

File
Miscellaneous

MITSUI, Benzo (Died) Takaosa's father
○ MITSUI, Hachiroemon Takakimi's father
 (Another name: Takamine, died)
○ MITSUI, Gennosuke (Died) Takahisa's father
 MITSUI, Shigeo Takaatsu's younger brother
○ MITSUI, Jutaro (Died) Takaharu's father
 MITSUI, Makoto -
○ MITSUI, Morinosuke (Died) Takaatsu's father
 MITSUI, Takasato Takanaga's younger brother
 (Correct: Takamichi, died)
 MITSUI, Takashige Takaosa's uncle
 (Correct: Takaatsu)
 MITSUI, Takatada Takanaru's younger brother
○ MITSUI, Takateru (Died) Mioko's husband
 MITSUI, Takayuki Takaharu's uncle

MITSUI, Benzo (Died)	.....	Takaosa's father
MITSUI, <u>Hachiroemon</u>	.....	Takakimi's father
(Another name: <u>Takamine</u> , died)		
MITSUI, Gennosuke (Died)	.....	Takahisa's father
MITSUI, Shigeo	.....	Takaatsu's younger brother
MITSUI, Jutarō (Died)	.....	Takaharu's father
MITSUI, Makoto	.....	-
MITSUI, Morinosuke (Died)	.....	Takaatsu's father
MITSUI, <u>Takasato</u>	.....	Takanaga's younger brother
(Correct: <u>Takamichi</u> , died)		
MITSUI, <u>Takashige</u>	.....	Takaosa's uncle
(Correct: <u>Takaatsu</u>)		
MITSUI, Takatada	.....	Takanaru's younger brother
MITSUI, Takateru (Died)	.....	Mioko's husband
MITSUI, Takayuki	.....	Takaharu's uncle