



BURAKU LIBERATION NEWS NO. 1

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THE UNITED IMPEACHMENT MEET HELD ON 27 ENTERPRISES FOR BUYING 'BURAKU LIST'

The United Impeachment Meet on private enterprises who bought the discriminatory book titled 'Burakus in Japan' (its publication and circulation was known to us at the end of 1979) was held from 1 p.m., Nov.17 in Tokyo. In this impeachment meeting there participated the representatives from the 27 wicked enterprises that purchased and concealed utilizing of the 'buraku chimei sokan' (the list revealing the location and address regarded as burakus or unliberated prejudiced areas) even after the buraku list became a social problem to be rooted out, there also participated the members of Buraku Liberation League (BLL in short) or the union members of those purchasing enterprises, counting 700 participants as a whole. There the representative enterprise expressed their reflection and resolution not to buy it any more, and various problems were pointed out. (Nov.17, '80)

WE QUESTIONED THE NATURE OF RELIGION AGAINST MR.MACHIDA'S ASSERTION AT THE IMPEACHMENT MEET AGAINST THE WCRP JAPAN COMMITTEE

The impeachment meeting against the derogatory assertion given by Mr.Machida at the 3rd WCRP (World Conference of Religionists for Peace) was held to impeach the WCRP Japan Committee on Nov.28 in Tokyo. There, although the active attitude of its Japan Conference concerning Buraku problem was admitted to a certain degree, it was criticized that they don't have enough consciousness as religious people. (Nov.28, '80)

INT'L SYMPOSIUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS OPENED WISHING TO ELIMINATE ALL THE DISCRIMINATION

As the first trial in the world, the International Human Rights Symposium focusing on human rights and discrimination was held from 6th to 10th of December successively. This symposium was sponsored by the Executive Committee of the Int'l Symposium and Osaka Prefectural Citizens' Conference for the fulfillment of International Covenant on Human Rights. The total participants numbered 1,600 in the two symposiums and 2,000 people gathered at the commemorative assembly on the 10th. We were honored to receive four guest speakers from other countries; Prof.I.Roger Yoshino of Arizona University, U.S.A., Ms.Catherine Cadou of Univ. of Paris, France, Principal P.P.Garud of Nehru Univ. of Law, Dr.Martin Kaneko of Research Institute of Japanese Studies of Wien Univ. They are specialists in this field and know much about Buraku problem. (Dec.6 - 10, '80)

HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK: ENTERPRISES' NATIONAL MEET OPENED AIMING AT ABOLISHMENT OF DISCRIMINATION

As one of the memorial events for the Human Rights Week (Dec.4 - 10), the National Meeting of Enterprises for Abolishment of Discrimination



was held for the first time on Dec.9 in Tokyo, with the attendance of 242 companies, 1700 representatives. This meeting was voluntarily called for by the Liaison Association of Enterprises on Dowa Problem, which consists of the enterprises purchasing 'buraku list'. On this occasion 1700 attendants from 242 companies gathered from all over Japan. They resolved that they should make their efforts to eliminate buraku discrimination and the reinforcement and revision of the Special Law on Dowa Measures from their standpoint. (Dec.9, '80)

**INT'L SYMPOSIUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS CLOSED
— A STEP FORWARD FOR THE BETTER INT'L SOLIDARITY —**

Tokyo Meeting of the International Symposium on Human Rights was held with approximately 330 audience consisting of labor union members, religionists, metropolitan citizens and BLL members. It was sponsored by the executive committee composed of the General Council of Labor Unions of Japan, the Constitution Protection Federation and All-Japan Buddhist Association. All the agenda of the Int'l Symposium on Human Rights was over with this Tokyo Meeting. An opening speech was given by Mr. Eiichi Isomura, Principal of Toyo Univ. Then Ms. Fusae Ichikawa, member of the House of Councilors, gave a speech maintaining we should uplift the public opinion to deal with human rights problem more. The other guests were representing Japan Socialist Party, All-Japan Buddhist Association and Mr. Midorikawa, President of Iwanami Publishing Company as one of the major publishing companies in Japan. The lectures which followed the speeches were as follows: 'Int'l World and Human Rights in 80's' by Mr. Kirihida Mushakoji, Vice-rector of UN Univ., 'Buraku Problem in Japan as Viewed from Foreign Countries' by Prof. Roger Yoshino of Arizona Univ., 'Discrimination and Human Rights in Japan' by Prof. Shigeki Miyazaki of Keiji Univ. (Dec.12, '80)

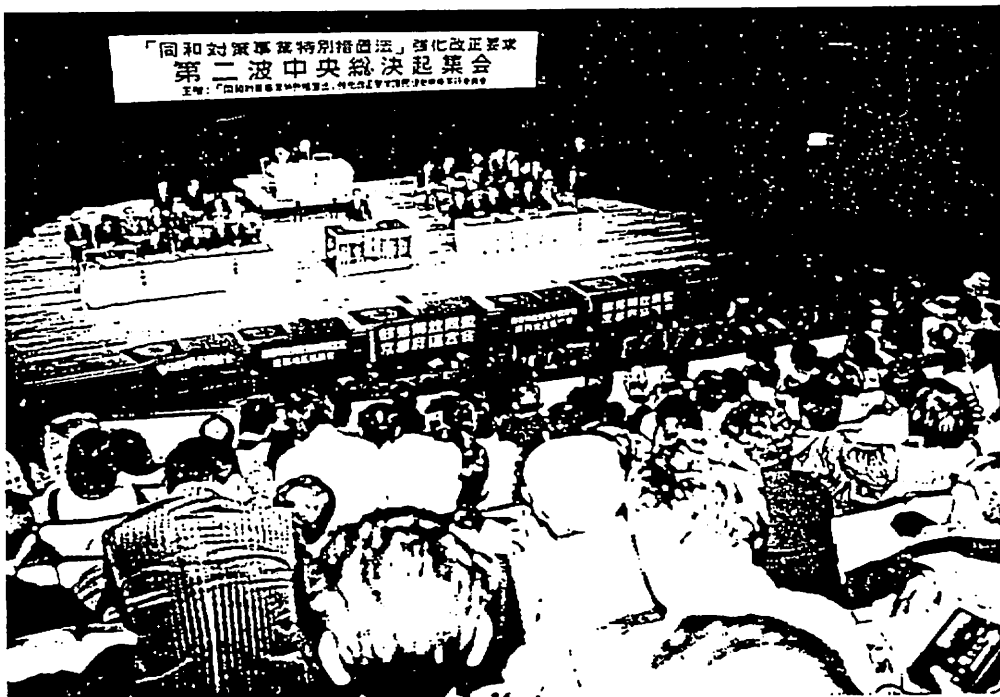
DEROGATORY SCRIBBLING ON THE WALL OF A JUNIOR HIGH, "STRIKE OUT THE RESIDENTS OF BURAKU!"

A derogatory scribbling sprayed on the wall was found by a student of Junior High in Osaka city. It said "Strike out the residents of Buraku (that is a buraku near the school)!" Earlier than this case, another discriminatory scribbling was found in the last August at Ikue Kaiho Kaikan (Liberation Public Hall of Ikue district) saying "Kill eta and hinin!" ('eta' and 'hinin' are derogatory terminology for burakumin named in Edo period.) Both of these cases were clearly suggesting discrimination. So Branch immediately set up the struggling headquarters to impeach it asking for the cooperation of the neighboring and Branches of BLL, the concerned administrative bodies, The Committee for Protection of Human Rights and The Ward Citizens' Liaison Conference. The discovered scribbling was sprayed on the outside wall of the newly-built gymnasium. It was sprayed covering the wall 70 meters long with 40 cm square high of letters. It said "Burakumin is our enemy. Kill Ishikawa! Ishikawa should be put to death. Strike out the residents of Hinode district. Abolish the tax-wasting Dowa Measures by making Ishikawa be put to death." It was signed by Junior High Anti-Buraku Activists. (Dec.2, '80)

EMPLOYMENT CANCELED AFTER HIS HOME IDENTIFIED

In November, '80, a foundation in Fukuoka shi, Kyushu area, which is the southern part of Japan, named Fukuoka Prefectural Social Insurance Medical Care Association canceled employment of a young man from buraku even after they decided his disposition in the foundation. The reason why they canceled was that he was from a buraku and they knew it by investigating at the highschool he graduated from. This case was an extremely wicked one concerning occupational discrimination. The concerned organization of BLL held an impeachment meeting on Dec.20 participated by the representatives of the Social Insurance Medical Care Association, Fukuoka prefectural officials and government officials.
(Dec.20, '80)

THE SECOND MASS RALLY OPENED ASKING FOR REINFORCEMENT AND REVISION OF 'SPECIAL LAW ON DŌWA MEASURES' — The Urgent and Earnest Voices of the Various Circles Joined Together Toward the Request —



(photo by BLL Press)

The second mass rally requesting the reinforcement and revision of the Special Law on Dōwa Measures was opened sponsored by the Metropolitan Executive Committee of National Movement on Jan.17, '81 at Hibiya Public Hall in Tokyo.

After the election of the chairpersons, Mr.Asukata, Chairman of Japan Socialist Party, gave an opening speech. It was followed by the



speeches respectively by Mr.Okimoto of Kōmei-Party; Mr.Yoshida of Democratic Socialist Party; Prof.Isomura of Tōyō Univ, the former chairman of Integration Policy Deliberation Committee; Mr.Kishi, Governor of Osaka prefecture; Mr.Ueda, Governor of Nara prefecture; Mr.Oshima, Mayor of Osaka city; Mr.Yoshimoto, Mayor of Gose city in Nara; Mr.Kan of Socialist Democratic Federation; Mr.Uchiyama, Deputy secretary general of General Council of Trade Unions of Japan (Sōhyō); Mr.Tachibana of Higashi-Honganji Sect of Buddhism; Mr.Taniuchi of the National Council of Dōwa Education Research. Mr.Uesugi, Secretary general of BLL made a key-note speech in which he reported the activities so far and stressed the necessity to disclose the conditions of Buraku in details at the Budget Committee of the Diet at the beginning of February. He also maintained that we should reveal the wicked discrimination recently before the national citizens and called for further advancement of our struggle — to promote resolutions at assemblies, to make a plea to the government to gather signatures from Diet members, and others. — to achieve our goal amidst the intensive discussions in February.

Among other attendants were the governors of Hiroshima and Fukuoka, deputy-governors of Mie, Shiga and Kagawa, 233 heads and 271 executives of cities, towns and villages, and 410 chairmen or vice-chairmen of assemblies.

(Jan.17, '81)

MR. APOLOGIZED FOR HIS DISCRIMINATORY REMARKS — The Impeachment Meet against Mr.Mahida's Derogatory Remarks at the World Conference of Religionist for Peace —

This case goes back to the summer of 1979 when the 3rd World Conference of Religionists for Peace was opened in Princeton in U.S.A. There Mr. , the former chief of Sōtō Sect of Buddhism, mentioned, "There exists no more buraku problem in Japan. Only a few people are making fuss about it." in his speech in the Conference. Mr. and his sect were impeached for his malignant discriminatory remarks in the impeachment meeting in the afternoon of Jan.19 at BLL Center in Osaka. The atmosphere of the meeting was full of anger against their discrimination and the representatives of our organization including Chairman, Mr.Matsui and Secretary General, Mr.Uesugi condemned them severely.

(Jan.19, '81)

APPEAL FROM MR. ISHIKAWA IN CHIBA PRISON — Let's Win the Sayama Case

"I wish a happy new year to all of you who are supporting Sayama Struggle. This is the 18th New Year's Day for me since I was arrested, though I was completely innocent. I still can't help dropping tears, but I am now starting my first step for the victory of my struggle in 1981. I still remember how I felt depressed when my appeal for retrial was suddenly turned down at the beginning of last year. However, I was much encouraged to know that the truth of Sayama Case was widely revealed among citizens and that the chairman of the General Council of Japan Labor Unions, Mr.Makieda, secretary general of JSP, Mr.Tagaya, many Diet members, representatives from various labor unions and others went over to Sayama city to conduct a on-the-spot survey late last year through the massive campaigns by the BLL."

"But at the same time I am afraid this year will also be full of



difficulties, because greatly political considerations have been made on Sayama Case successively. Furthermore, since the LDP won a stable majority in both Houses in the double-election last June, reactionally trends have been accelerated and thus the Japanese political atmosphere seems stepping forward to military fascism. Sayama struggle is fought by all the democratic circles and in great solidarity, so the judicial authority should wish to turn down my second appeal for retrial again."

"I wish all of you will do your efforts to prove my innocence this year, too."
(Jan.1, '81)

APPEAL — WE SHALL GO ON STRUGGLING AGAINST THE POLITICAL REACTION —

The first year of the 80's with rapid changes is over, and now we are standing on the starting point of the second year. Looking back on the last year, there developed the fights for "power" both in Japan and in the world.

First of all, the United States and Japan as the major industrial nations developed their conservative trend rapidly. Those changes in the two nations mean basically the accelerated class-conflict; between a handful of imperialists led by the United States which doesn't welcome the world trend of building up of socialistic countries and the achieving struggles of racial liberation, and the overwhelming public who are against exploitation, discrimination and provocation of war.

The present Suzuki Administration of LDP started with the slogan of 'peace policy', however, it has been aggravating the 'reactionary trend in Japan. Especially it is aiming to make our country a militaristic big power from the present economic big power, dashing toward a militaristic Japan; stirring the public feeling against 'the northern threat by USSR', or enforcing of armaments, or trying to make an undesirable amendment of the Japanese constitution, or having made all the cabinet members go to pray at Yasukuni Shrine (it's the major patriotic-sense shrine).

So we should look out the reactionary attitude of the government shown in the budget for '81. It was characterized by the priority of military affairs over the oppressed public living. The government tries to charge 'financial rebuilding' and 'decrease of the massive national bond' to the account of the burden on the people; a big tax increase by 139 million yen, the strengthened restriction on social welfare, the raising of the fare of national railway, postage fee, price of rice, the entrance fee of national universities and so on. On the contrary, the expenditure concerning 'self-defense' increased much (to 2400 billion and 19 million yen, 0.9064% of GNP.)

We demand the government should decrease the national bond by 2 thousand billion yen by asking the enormous benefit of the monopolistic capital for increasing their corporation tax, by curtailing the military budget and by decreasing the support to the bigger projects.

However, such a reactionary Suzuki Administration cannot be optimistic about their policy, because the present condition of the world will not permit Japan to depend on the United States in politics and economics. So our country is required to achieve the peace-loving diplomacy and the fair multinational diplomacy now. As to the domestic policy also, we the laborers and other people will not let them do as they like. For this purpose, we need to promote the active and united struggles to stop their reaction. And the Buraku liberation movement



is in the midst of the reactionary trend of politics and the government and the monopolistic power regard our movement as a big obstacle for their fascist establishment.

Our struggle for reinforcement and revision of 'the Special Law on Dōwa Measures' should be reflected on the demand in the 94th ordinary session of the Diet. On this urgent occasion, we should enlighten both buraku people and non-buraku people to learn why the reinforcement and revision of 'the Special Law on Dōwa Measures' or the enactment of 'the Basic Law for Buraku Liberation' should be realized. It is no more a mere problem to require the compensation of the remaining projects but a more significant problem to reveal the reality of discrimination. We should make clear the governmental responsibility in the Diet session by revealing the inferior surrounding conditions of burakus all over Japan, especially the realities of education, labor and industries of Buraku, revealing successive discrimination cases concerning marriage or employment including the publication of 'Buraku List' and impeaching fascist discriminatory scribblings.

Next concerning Sayama struggle, various activities have been done including accusation against the reckless rejection, raising an objection to the court decision and submission of supplementary documents (in Sep.)

Since the rejection of the claim for retrial (in Feb.) and in respective areas in Osaka, house-to-house signature collecting campaign is developing for the retrial.

Next is the impeachment of 'Buraku List'. The number of companies which purchased the list is 214 (at present, 82 of them are in Osaka) during the past 5 years since its discovery and the number is increasing. We will further continue our impeachment by disclosing the discriminatory nature of enterprises and questioning their social responsibility, require administrative bodies like the Justice Ministry to make clear their administrative responsibility to legally prohibit discrimination and strengthen the human-rights-protection system in the Japanese society.

The most important target of our struggle in 1981 is 'to grow strong enough to fight against and defeat the reactionary circles and their oppression', which requires development in the following five points:

- (a) Firm solidarity among Buraku people.
- (b) Reinforcement of Joint struggle with other people.
- (c) To make 'Buraku liberation' a real national target. (Three major struggles of Buraku liberation movement of today; Reinforcement and revision of the 'Special Law on Dōwa Measures', Struggle for the retrial of Sayama Case and Impeachment of Buraku List — have much to do with others' demand and struggle for democracy, equality, freedom and various civil rights.)
- (d) To introduce and reveal Buraku problem abroad.
- (e) To have 'bigger political' influence.

Amidst the growth of political reaction and armaments, the BLL is required to take the initiative to guard human rights and welfare.