



Call For National Movement Demanding Establishment of "Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation"

42nd National Assembly of Buraku Liberation League Held

The 42nd National Assembly of the Buraku Liberation League (Chairperson Saichiro Uesugi) began on the 3rd of this month in Wakayama city with 1300 representatives from all over Japan participating. Facing the expiration in two years of the Law on Special Measures for the Regional Improvement Project, this assembly stands under the slogan "Let's make a success of the national movement to demand the establishment of the Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation".

Addressing the general assembly, Saichiro Uesugi appealed, "On the occasion of the 20 years since the

submission of the Report by the Council on the Dowa Project, this is a movement demanding the establishment of the Fundamental Law, making clear the path toward the complete liberation of Buraku. In order to protect the life and rights of the masses of the Burakumin, we must build up the national public opinion towards the realization of the law"

Although according to the Law on Special Measures certain improvements have been made in the poor-conditioned housing environment in the Dowa area, it is still not enough. Further more, from the psychological aspect, there is an overgrowing deep-rooted discrimination consciousness existing in society. For these reasons, B.L.L. has been wrestling with this matter, toward an enactment of what can be called a human rights law. Also a resolution was adopted unanimously; 1. To seek for opposition to military uses in space, the prevention of nuclear war, and for arms limitation, 2. To seek for early ratification of the International Convention on Racial Discrimination and the Convention on Discrimination against Women.



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The 42nd B.L.L. National Assembly.



Assembly Declaration

We gained great success at the 42nd National Assembly of the Buraku Liberation League, indicating the historical course of the Buraku Liberation Movement.

We confirmed that our B.L.L. struggle based on "Peace, human rights, welfare" is important for democracy and that it directly confronts Nakasone's dangerous line of extraordinary investigation council, administrative reform, extraordinary education council and military courses.

In order to make progress, we will strongly demand the establishment of the Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation. This has been our earnest wish for many years. It is also natural, considering the current condition of the increase of discriminative cases and from the results of the survey conducted last year.

Furthermore, this Fundamental Law is of a character not only to protect the human rights of the Burakumin but to influence the protection of human rights of other discriminated people in Japan.

In this sense, the Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation will be the foundation and the basis of the Fundamental Law on Human Rights.

This being so, it is true that the struggle for this establishment will meet a strong desperate resistance from the reactionary discrimination forces. But at the same time, from the object of such

a sublime law, it is possible to overcome such difficulties and carry out a grass-roots movement by regimenting the people of the nation. Such strength will certainly lead the struggle towards victory.

The current capacity of the B.L.L. has grown to the strongest standard in quality, quantity, and extent since the National Levelers Association. This is a fact we can be proud of .

We are confident that, from such facts, it is possible to obtain the establishment of the law no matter how difficult it may be.

With the unity of the members' spirit and power, we will win the struggle for the establishment of the Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation. At the same time we will keep on struggling for the victory of the Sayama Case, now faced with a grave situation.

We will value the denunciatory struggle and through the true solidarity with the people and with the discriminated and oppressed all over the world, we will cut open a path toward complete liberation of Buraku; thus we declare.

March 5, 1985
42nd National Assembly
B.L.L.

Survey of 14,000 Households

Yet a Difference in Employment Deep-Rooted Discrimination in Marriage

The survey results of the reality of the discriminated Buraku were revealed at the National Assembly of the Buraku Liberation League held on the 3rd of this month in Wakayama city. What can be observed from these results is a yet-continuing condition that falls greatly below the national level in employment, education, living and so forth. Also a survey on marriage, which was attempted for the first time, revealed a deep-rooted discrimination yet

remaining. The B.L.L. is determined to demand of the government definite fundamental measures toward improving such conditions.

The survey was conducted from March to July last year on 14,271 households of the league members living 28 different prefectures. Results showed that: a) in 67.7% of the households both husband and wife were from the Buraku district, b) in 27.5% one of them is from outside the district, c) and in 1.7% both



were from outside the district. The percentage of cases as in item b. is rising each year as indicated by 54.8% of those who married after 1980. However, among those who married persons from outside the district, 32.4% answered that they had been discriminated against. Of those, the 41.0% who exchange visits with their parents represent only 28.6% of those who married after 1980. From this, it is clear that "on the whole, marriage with outsiders is increasing, but at the same time, there is no improvement in the deep-seated discrimination even after marriage".

On the one hand, the annual income per household is ¥2,438,000— which is only 59.0% of the national average (¥4,129,000—). Living expenses per month come up only to 57.3% of the national average. Also the rate of recipients of livelihood protection is 7.9 times the national average (9.8%), while some prefectures exceed 20%.

In some areas, the rate of unemployment is over the 10% line. "Regular employment" is low at 44.8% while unstable jobs like "part-time employment" and "daily employment" reach 23.4%. Employment in government and municipal offices had risen to 11.1% (national average 12.2%), but most are concentrated in operation labor. Those working at small businesses with less than 30 employees make up 56.7%.

As for educational background, most of the people in their 20's are high school graduates, while most persons in their 30's or above have only graduated from compulsory education. Especially those persons 60 years old or older, have not even attended school. College graduates make up 3.4%, stopping since 1950 at the national standard of 25~30 years ago.

(From the newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun, March 4,)
1985

Regulation Law on Discriminative Surveys Approved in Osaka

The draft of the Law on the Regulation of Surveys Concerning Events of Buraku Discrimination, a law which was proposed to eliminate personal background surveys that will lead to Buraku discrimination, was approved and adopted with the majority in favor at the plenary session of the Osaka Prefectural Assembly held on March 20. This law is the first in Japan, which aims to regulate such vicious investigations, and will be in effect from October 1 of this year.

Ever since the Buraku List was discovered in 1975, the Osaka Headquarters of the Buraku Liberation League has been leading the citizens of Osaka into a wide-spread movement which, in its 10th year, has resulted in the establishment of this law.

A certain political party objected to this law, insisting that there be no limits in the freedom of ex-

pression and business: "This law violates what is guaranteed in the Constitution — the freedom of expression and the freedom of business." With the exception of this party, the law was approved by all other parties.

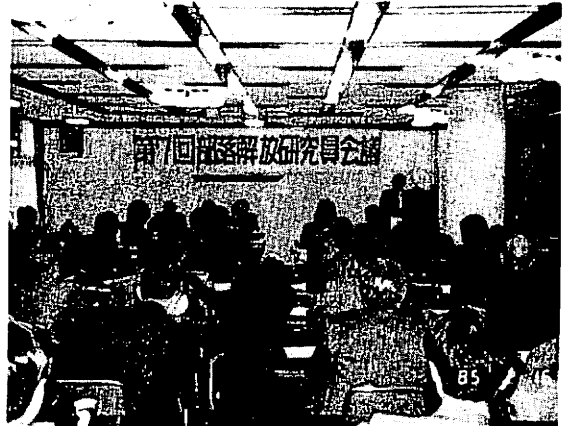
Through this law, the inquiry offices and detective agencies will meet certain legalistic controls over the previous non-inhibitive investigation of cases that led to discrimination.

This law is yet limited to inquiry offices and detective agencies located within Osaka. Therefore, in the future, such laws ought to be sought for in other prefectures. This is a direction toward the promotion of other movements, so as to have the government, who should be responsible for such matters, establish laws in the future.

*Expanding Activities , Amending Articles of Association***Discussing Activities of the New Year at 21st B.L.R.I. General Assembly**

The activities of 1984 were reviewed and the new projects of 1985 reported on at the 21st General Assembly of the Buraku Liberation Research Institute which was held on February 16 to decide the new course and plans.

First, representing the promotor, chairperson Suelo Murakoshi gave an opening speech to the audience: "There are two years remaining of the period of the new Law on Special Measures for Area Improvement. In order to promote the establishment of the Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation, I seek further discussion on an international scope, on the creation of movements and theories of liberation." Following him, Chairperson Saichiro Uesugi of the Buraku Liberation League, who attended the meeting as a guest, demanded theoretical support of the participants and emphasized that "Being placed under the reactionary line of the Nakasone's administrative power, this is an important time as to whether the Buraku Liberation Movement can assume a role in liberating all forms of discrimination" Also greetings from the Osaka prefectural and municipal government were made. Concerning the plans of the 1985 activities in particular, it was confirmed that, this year marking the 20th year of the report by the Council on Dowa Project and the 10th year since the Buraku List was first discovered, there is a need to put into practice full-scale activities towards establishing the Fundamental Law: ①to take steps in theoretical and policy support towards expanding the liberation movement, ②to carry out various activities in arranging the theory of liberation, ③to strengthen and to substantiate enlightenment projects on Buraku problems, ④to strengthen the ties between the anti-discrimination & human rights protection movements and the researchers, ⑤to seek for early ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women through continuous international solidarity, ⑥to carry out a



The Buraku Liberation Researchers' Conference meets for the seventh time.

scheme in memory of the late Chairperson Tomohiko Harada, ⑦to expand the organization's financial basis.

As for the above mentioned scheme in memory of the late Tomohiko Harada, a request was made for cooperation in establishing the fund on December 8 of this year, for the purpose of succeeding to his achievements and unfinished work.

Also, the Buraku Liberation Research Institute will celebrate the 17th year since its founding. On this occasion, because of the expansion of activities, a clear proposal was made to amend a portion of the articles of the association, especially the clause stating the objective, "to abolish all forms of discrimination at once, beginning with discrimination against Buraku".



Lively Discussion at the Researchers' Meeting

Main Task—to Establish the Fundamental Law

After the General Assembly of the B.L.R.I., 150 people participated in the 7th Researchers' Meeting of the Buraku Liberation.

First, Secretary-General Kenzo Tomonaga came up before the audience and gave a report taking up the subject of the Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation. He referred to the course of which, through a year-long discussion, the B.L.R.I. sub-

mitted a report to the Central Headquarters of the B.L.L. His speech took the form of responding to the opinions, criticisms, and questions of the audience. Also explained in detail were activities towards establishing the Law on the Regulation of Surveys Concerning Events of Buraku Discrimination and the contents of the report by the Council on Dowa Project.

Social Gathering of University Presidents in Kansai Area Held

Presidents from 45 universities attend a social gathering at the Buraku Liberation Center on March 15.

After the opening greeting from Chairperson Sueo Murakoshi, Suehiro Kitaguchi, chief of the Human Rights Countermeasure Department of the Osaka Headquarters B.L.L., raised a question concerning "the significance and actual conditions on the establishment of the Law on the Regulation of Surveys Concerning Events of Buraku Discrimination." Kitaguchi complained that "this law, greatly significant in abolishing vicious personal background surveys related to employment and marriage and to Buraku discrimination, is now under examination at the Osaka Prefectural Assembly."

The speech of B.L.R.I. Secretary-General Kenzo Tomonaga, which followed, related to the Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation. He referred to the point that, although the way of thinking regarding Fundamental Law already existed in the Liberation League's draft of 1967, it is of great significance for the investigation committee to be able to submit the general outlines of the Fundamental Law (draft) and the Survey Regulation Law (draft) at this memorial twentieth year of the Report by the Council of the Dowa Project. Also, he emphasized that we must act accordingly towards the scheme of this Fundamental Law.

Finally, Eiichi Kimura, Chairperson for the Conference on Dowa Education Research in Japanese

Universities, spoke on the importance of liberation education, the activities of the conference and the need for cooperation. Presidents from three universities then gave their opinions. There was active discussion concerning the necessity of expanding the Fundamental Law to other prefectures; and though discrimination does not exist in appointing university personnel, there is a necessity of solving the unbalance between universities in liberation education, when sending teachers to and fro. The meeting closed with a confirmation to continue exchanging views in the future.



At the social gatherings of the university presidents from the Kansai area (in Osaka).



Kurt Herndl, Assistant Secretary—General of U. N. Centre for Human Rights, Visits Japan

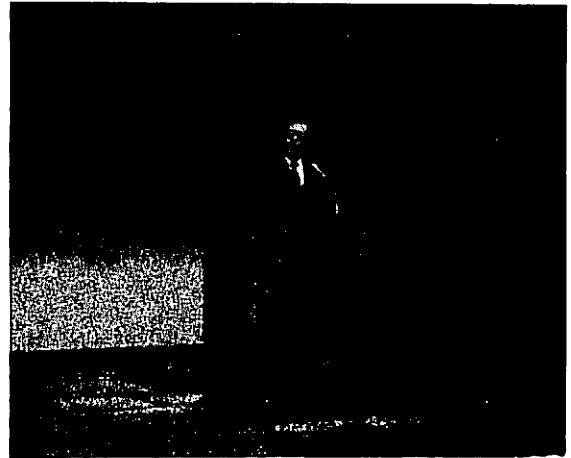
Kurt Herndl, the current chief of U. N. Centre for Human Rights, and Saichiro Uesugi, chairperson for the Buraku Liberation League, had a friendly talk with each other on April 16 in Osaka. They exchanged ideas and views, as Chairperson Uesugi expressed his thanks for the U. N. 's cooperation in the Buraku problem.

The B. L. L. leader pointed out that a national movement towards the establishment of "The Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation" is being carried out, although the government is not that eager to do so. Also he emphasized that he is against wars and conflict which are the greatest violation of human rights.

Assistant Sec.—Gen. Kurt Herndl replied that he will continue lending a hand to the B.L.L. and express that he was grateful to have an opportunity like this.

"We have experienced that economic difficulties bring about the increase of discrimination in various part of the world."

"I was born in a permanently neutral country, Austria. In 1932. In order to abolish wars and discrimination, cooperation between countries and



Mr. Kurt Herndl gives his speech (in Osaka).

individuals, and not only among the U.N, is necessary.

Kurt Herndl's visit to Japan was made possible by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the invitation of the member of the House of Representatives, Takumi Ueda(Vice Chairperson of the B.L.L.)

I.Y.Y. Promotion Conference Holds Opening Concert

The first sign of the commencement of the 1985 International Youth Year was seen in Osaka on January 18. The promotor of this attraction "I.Y.Y. Opening Concert: Let's talk with Tokiko Katoh" was the Osaka Conference to Promote the International Youth Year (a collective body of 100 different groups), thus marking the first giant step of the year.

The number of participants rose to 1,350, with not a few standing in the isles, in a concert hall filled with feverish air.

There were strong responses from the participants that day. In answer to the call, "Let's deliver friendship to Africa through a handful of rice," the collection of rice brought in by each participant amounted to 150 kilograms. The participants gazed intently at

the panel exhibition, "Peace, Human Rights and Famine," examining the misery of war, and learning about the severity of Buraku discrimination.

The ceremony began with a powerful recitation of a poem by two youths, followed by a greeting from the promotor: "Today is the starting point. I sincerely hope that this young generation will stand up on this occasion." Later on, Governor Kishi and Mayor Oshima delivered their congratulations. Last but not least, a youth read out an appeal which was then adopted; "Let's struggle against discrimination and for peace, and stride side by side toward the future with the youth of the world."

Finally the singer, Tokiko Katoh, entertained the audience with her lovely songs.



"At that time, I was....."

Relating my experiences of discrimination, Part(V)

Superior officer in my job makes discriminative remarks

I was born in a poor family as the fifth son of eight brothers and sisters. My mother died when I was still a child. At that time, my father was repairing shoes. When I became a pupil in the upper grades of elementary school, I often went to help my father on Sundays. Whenever I delivered the repaired shoes to any customer, they stared at me with a cold look. Naturally I did not realize that such an act came from discrimination consciousness. Thinking of it now makes me realize that that's what it was.

As far as discrimination is concerned, I was relatively late in realizing what it is. As I think it over, I

recall an embarrassing situation which will prove this. I was a student at a part-time high school. I applied for the contest "The book that inspired me most." The book, Toson Shimazaki's "*Hakai*" ("Transgression") moved me very much, so I wrote honestly about it. The title of my report was "Sunlight for Buraku." I know this title sounds a little sentimental but at that time I did not know that I was from Buraku. I think that is why I regarded the Buraku problem as if it was not my business. A little after this, I became vaguely aware that I was from Buraku.

In a democratic work site also

After graduating from high school, I started working in a relatively democratic work site. In spring of my second year, when I was 21 years old, I fully realized that there still remains discrimination against Buraku. The building in which I worked was also used for renting meeting rooms. One day, on the information board of "Today's Program" was written "Meeting of the Women's Section, Buraku Liberation League, Osaka Headquarters." Seeing this, an associate of mine asked no one, "What kind

of a group is this?" The boss answered, indicating four fingers, that this group is from fours.

I was shocked but could not bring myself to protest. My consciousness towards such discrimination were still weak and besides I was still a "sleeping child." But this case made me think that even in a so-called democratic work site like this there is discrimination. This incident then, started me to think seriously on Buraku problems.

"We don't use leather."

Here is another case in the same company. During lunch hour, a superior chief said to one associate, "I heard that your parents started a shoe shop." The man who was asked replied, "Yes, they did, a few days ago. But they're not using leather." Leather → Flesh → Buraku. Thus a discriminative consciousness.

The phrase "I don't use leather," was to emphasize that he was not from Buraku. These are two experiences still in my memory, which I will probably never forget. Invited by (see B.L. News No.21) and Takumi Ueda, vice chairperson for the Central Headquarters of the Buraku Liberation League and a Diet member, with whom

we started a children's society approximately 30 years ago, I became a full-time official of the B.L.L.

Member of the Executive committee of B.L.L.

*Unforgivable Racial Discrimination***Opposed Appointment of****as a Teacher**

Ms. graduated from university in 1979 and passed the employment test for teachers in Nagano prefecture. She was not appointed for the reason that her nationality was Korean. Since then, she has been teaching as a temporary instructor for six years and again she passed the exams for teachers in 1985. She even received an unofficial notice indicating her appointment. But the Ministry of Education brought before the prefectural board of education what is called unjust "legal principles" saying that "civil service personnel must be of Japanese nationality." The Ministry brought pressure upon the board to cancel the notice.

From January of this year, the General Council of Trade Unions in Nagano Prefecture, the Prefectural Teachers Union, and her former teachers and schoolmates joined to begin movement for proper appointment. Other various bodies, both from within and outside the prefecture, also participated in the signature-collecting campaign comprehending that this problem concerns not only Ms. herself but also every Japanese citizen whose way of living must be rid of racial discrimination and foster equality between nationals and foreigners. Within this

period, negotiations took place between the board of education and the Ministry. At the Diet, the Socialist Party of Japan dealt with the Minister of Education Hikaru Matsunaga and demanded him to correct the mistaken "legal principles," and interference into the board of education.

However, the prefectural board of education did not change its attitude and standing under the shield of "legal principles" has not formally appointed Ms.

In March, the chairman of the board proclaimed that she would be employed as a temporary one. What is really needed is a proper appointment for teachers and an abolishment of discriminative treatment by the Ministry and the board. Although some progress was made in the employment, a substantial solution was not achieved.

The united bodies will denounce the predisposition of racial discrimination existing in the Ministry and the board. Also, in order to respect the Constitution's fundamental human rights and to protect the principles of equality between the nationals and the foreigners as written in the International Covenant on Human Rights, further promotion will be made by raising the public opinion.

Prices of English Publications (US\$)

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Long Suffering Brothers and Sisters, Unite!	13.90	14.90	15.90	10.70
The Invisible Visible Minority	10.00	11.00	11.50	8.50
The Road to a Discrimination-Free Future	11.00	12.80	13.00	9.00
The United Nations, Japan and Human Rights	11.00	12.80	13.00	9.00