



National Meeting of the Buraku Liberation Researchers (Sept.), Great National Parade (Sept.~Oct.), Second Central Assembly & Negotiation (Oct.) and Supporting Signature Campaign from Abroad.

Raising Voices for the Establishment of the Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation.

During the months of September and October, public opinion on seeking the establishment of the Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation rose to an enormous height.

In September, the 19th National Meeting of the Buraku Liberation Researchers was held in Tokyo with twenty thousand people, attending Under the theme "To firmly protect peace, human rights and welfare and to materialize the enactment of the Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation which will lead to eliminating all forms of racial discrimination," the meeting proved to be a great success.

Starting on the day of the researchers' meeting, a demonstration to seek enactment of the law began marching to Tokyo from Kagoshima taking one and a half months. Along the way, appeals, were made to people in various fields and status, not to mention the discriminated against Burakumin themselves.

This marching team consisted of members of the Buraku Liberation League, school teachers, people of religious organizations, private company employees, social party members, etc. counting up to 150.

Thirdly, on October 29 and 30, the second central assembly (approx. 15,000 people) to seek for the enactment of the law and a government negotiation (1,500) was held. Although there is only one year remaining in the current Law on Special Measures for Regional Improvement Project, only 60% of the districts have been improved and harsh discrimination in employment and education persists. Meanwhile, discriminatory graffiti, discrimination in marriage and employment, etc. have not yet been eliminated, thus, a conclusion was reached that terminating legislation and measures for Buraku Liberation cannot be accepted.



CONTENTS

- Series of Activities Concerning the Fundamental Law (1)
- Labor Minister Visits Buraku District (2)
- Marriage Discrimination and its Miseries (3)
- Marriage Discrimination case (3)
- Commemoration of the U.N. 40th year (4)
- International Youth Conference (6)
- Experience of Discrimination (Ⅷ) (6)
- True History of Buraku(part I) (8)



The government replied however that no promises can be made and that this matter will be considered in the next few weeks. Participants criticised their insincerity.

Fourthly, public opinion rose to its highest when the self-governing assemblies of 722 cities, towns and villages from 10 prefectures decided to seek the enactment of the Fundamental Law, and 700,000 people participated in a signature-collecting campaign, and 327 scholars and persons of culture join-

ed in the campaign.

Fifth, many organizations and individuals from abroad responded to our calls and have sent us signed petitions.

We will continue to strengthen our activities and move toward legislation, expanding the true understanding of Buraku and human rights consciousness.

Finally, we would like to ask for your unceasing cooperation.

Uragas better employment opportunities **Labor Minister Visits Two Burakus In Osaka**

Labor Minister, Yamaguchi Visited two burakus in Osaka City in August. He later expressed the hope that this experience could be meaningfully reflected in labor policies. Mr. Yamaguchi is the first labor minister to make such a visit in Osaka. Prior to this, Justice Minister Furui, had visited Buraku of Osaka City in October 1979.

Mr. Yamaguchi and other officials first went to the liberation hall of Buraku. They were joined by the Vice-Governor of Osaka Prefecture, Deputy-May or of Osaka City, Director of the Labor Standards Bureau, Mr. Inoue, a House representative, and BLL leaders. A briefing was made by a BLL leader of on the general situation of the buraku. He stressed that compared to some advancement in environmental rehabilitation, employment, education and discrimination problems were still serious.

was the other buraku visited. At the liberation hall there a briefing was conducted referring to the following facts:

- ...that is the largest buraku in Japan
- ...that nearly 30,000 people live in extremely congested areas
- ...that even environmental rehabilitation is inadequate and other issues abound.

Following this, the visitors made a walking tour through narrow and winding streets. They first came to the house of a shoe-maker couple. Minister Yamaguchi, noticed a very old-fashioned sewing machine and asked, "Are you planning to buy a new



Labor Minister Yamaguchi (far left) visits Osaka Buraku.

one?" The couple replied, "A new machine would cost us a million yen ... impossible to buy one." Mr. Yamaguchi could only nod.

Then they visited various small factories producing industrial oils and fats, leather tanning and shoe-making. All are facing sluggish business conditions due to the entry of big capital in these markets.

"Labor Minister, will you request the ministries and agencies concerned to take some measures to help small leather makers like us?" they said one after another.

As the final agenda of the day, the Labor Ministry officials and the BLL leaders exchanged their views and opinions at the liberation hall.



From the BLL side, the following three requests were made:

- (1) More efforts to promote employment.
- (2) Early ratification of the ILO Convention 111(equality of employment)
- (3) Cooperation for the establishment of the Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation.

Labour Minister Yamaguchi have replied, "Seeing is believing. I have known about the integration pro-

blem for a long time . Today's visit has greatly helped me to get a better picture of it. The Ministry of Labor should squarely tackle problems of employment.

The Labor Standards Law doesn't strictly cover employment discrimination practices and , therefore, it is not complete. We'd like to advance our policies further."

Miseries of Buraku Discrimination

Never to be Repeated

Memorial Services for Couple who Committed Suicide before their wedding

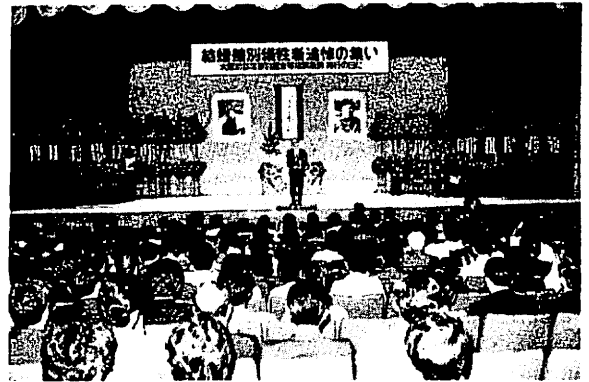
The Buraku Liberation League Osaka Headquarters held a gathering on October 1 to pay tribute to the memory of two victims of marriage discrimination. This gathering, held in the afternoon of the same day that the Act to Regulate Surveys Concerning Events of Buraku Discrimination comes to effect, was held in memory of the young couple who, to be from a Buraku district, through the investigation of detective agency's killed themselves before their wedding date. Members of the Osaka Investigators Association attended the gathering where a pledge was made "never to repeat the same mistake."

The couple whose memories were honored are Ms. _____, who died in her Osaka apartment room in 1971, and Mr. _____ in Kyoto the following year, both 20 years old. With their photographs on stage the chair person of the Dowa Measures Promotion Conference of Osaka criticised personal background surveys, which "attempt to eliminate life's most important turning points of employment and marriage, as equal to committing murder."

Sueo Murakoshi, chairperson of the B.L.R.I., appealed against the brutality of discrimination, introduc-

ing the couple's testimonial letters. After this, as each offered a flower, participants renewed their determination to fight against discrimination.

Finally, a 19 year-old girl recited the facts about her painful and real experience of marriage discrimination last year. (See following story.)



Memorial service for the victims of marriage discrimination held on the day of the start of the Osaka's Act to Regulate on Discriminative Investigation on Buraku.

“ marriage discrimination case occurs

A 19 year-old woman (hereafter A), from a Buraku in Osaka prefecture reported being discriminated in marriage to the BLL _____ branch on April 3 of

this year.

Mr. A started to date a 19 year-old boy (hereafter B) who worked for the same company as she from



June, 1984; they had visited each other's homes and became intimate enough to think about marrying.

In Nov. Ms. A told B that she was from a Buraku, and B said he did not care about her origins. Later, however, he talked to his family about plan to marry, and in January his attitude changed to discrimination after his family at home in Shimane Prefecture sternly objected.

B told Ms.A that he would not marry her for he loves his parents. He specifically told her the reason was the fact that A was a Burakumin. B's sister convinced B by telling him that if he were to marry a Buraku, she would be forced to divorce her husband. Since that time, A tried to persuade B to

understand the Buraku problem, to break down his prejudice, but it was all in vain.

As distress was not over yet. They broke off B's friend told her with contempt that he heard about the reason she felt so discouraged at the company and stayed home for a week in June. She liked her job, but the whole atmosphere at her working place was one to exclude her. In July, she finally retired from the company.

Before she left the company, on June 18, A appealed to the Osaka office of the Ministry of Justice to persuade B to change his mind, however, the authorities did nothing for this case.

Discriminatory status investigation still deep-seated

Investigation agency swindles family register copy

The President and a section manager, Investigation Office, a private investigation company, were arrested for violation of the Tax Accountant Law. They had cheated the staff of various ward offices by posing as certified tax accountants in order to swindle copies of a family register. Seals and other pieces of false identification for a tax accountant and lawyer were confiscated. About ten cases have been verified by the confessions of these two men but still more involvement is suspected. They applied for family register-related documents with the impression of "Tax Accountant".

The ward office of Kobe City, mailed back a copy of resident's register and other documents upon receiving the application from 's"company".

The investigative agency was set up in August

1970. With 15 employees and more than 10 contact staff throughout Japan, the agency was engaged in research and investigation into companies, runaways, love-affair scandals as well as in publishing a yearbook on Kansai-area corporations.

The arrested section manager has confessed that instructed by the president of my company, I obtained 10 copies of family registers from Tokyo, Iwate, Ehime and Nagasaki, between January and July. The same application method worked all the time."

Issuance of register copies and other documents by local authorities is restricted because it violates privacy or can lead to discrimination in marriage and employment. However, exceptions have been made to tax accountants, lawyers and judicial scriveners, who are not required to show identification in applying for register copies.

Gathering to Commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the United Nations

Protect Peace and Human Rights 1500 Renew Determination

"Peace & Human Rights — Commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the Establishment of the United Nations" (sponsored by the Osaka

Liaison Conference of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) was held on 23 October at a liberation hall in Osaka as approximately 1500 people

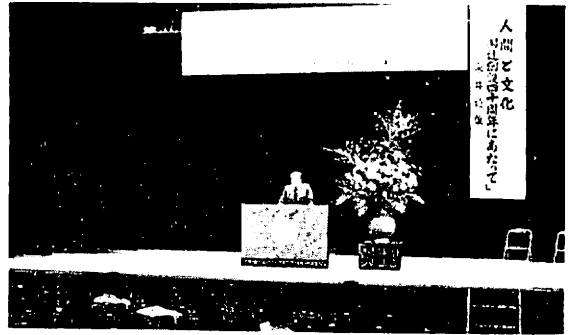


renewed their pledge for peace.

Iwakichi Wajima, representative for the liaison conference, appealed for the following points in his greetings: "It is said that today the world faces the crisis of an atomic war. It is said that the world's military expenditures have reached \$1 trillion (¥ 215 trillion) a year. It is now time to go back to when the UN was established and raise public consciousness for peace and human rights."

Following greetings given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Osaka Prefectural and Municipal Administration, Kenzo Tomonaga of the Buraku Liberation Research Institute, citing the example of South African Apartheid pointed out that discrimination and violations of human rights are increasing throughout the world, due to economic depression and employment insecurity caused by the increase in military expenditures. "To eliminate discrimination and to establish human rights is the way to protect peace on earth."

After adopting an Appeal which seeks for a total ban of nuclear weapons, Michio Nagai, chief advisor to the president of the United Nations College, presented special guest lecture.



Commemorative Gathering on the 40th Anniversary of the United Nations

Appeal

This year, on October 24, the United Nations will commemorate 40th anniversary. Forty years ago, the United Nations was founded as a result of serious reflection on the Second World War that had caused unprecedented horrors to the human race. Since then the United Nations has continued to devote itself to realize the establishment of peace and human rights through international cooperation. It has promoted various activities for the prevention of nuclear war, the elimination of colonialism and the establishment of human rights in many countries. We express our sincere respect to these great efforts of the United Nations.

Today, the possibility of world war has not yet disappeared. On the contrary, the total military budget of all countries reaches 100 can destroy the whole human race several times over. As represented by apartheid in South Africa, discrimination continues, and the tendency is even growing under increased unemployment in

Lastly, we, who participated in this commemorative meeting for the 40th anniversary of the United Nations, swear our efforts to pursue our responsibility in each district, working place or school, reconsidering the original spirit of the United Nations, toward world peace and the establishment of human rights.

the long world wide depression. Developing countries suffer from sereous problems of hunger and the vicious circle of accumulating international debts and domestic economic defficulties.

We need to gather our wisdom for the solution of various problems in the world remembering the founding spirit of the United Nations, We should realize the extinction of nuclear weapons and the reduction of military budgets, the elimination of discrimination and the establishment of human rights, and the economic development of the developing countries.

We hope for the further efforts of the United Na-



tions for realization of these tasks. And we believe that the role of Japan is very important to achieve this high-minded aim. Japan needs to help lead other countries to realize the spirit of the United Nations when we think of the Japanese Constitution that proclaims peace and human rights as its fundamentals.

We eagerly request this to the Japanese government.

Participants
in the commemorative Meeting for the 40th anniversary of the Foundation of the United Nations-- Peace and Human Rights-- October 23, 1985

Osaka Promotion Association for International Youth Year Plans to Hold International Youth Conference.

International Youth Conference will be held 13-18 November in memory of the International Youth Year.

Promoted by the Osaka Promotion Association for the I.Y.Y, this conference will aim at look back over the activities of this year while marking a new starting point for the consideration of human rights for youth.

Guests from abroad are: Mr. Robert Kehlhofer from the Secretariat for I.Y.Y, U.N.; Ms. Barungile Shembe (22) from the African National Congress (South Africa), a student at Solomon Mahlangu

Freedom College (SOMAFCO); Mr. Arrell White (26) from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (U.S.A), assistant to the executive director of NAACP; Mr. Jean Michel Oll'e (29) from the Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples (France). chief editor of the magazine "Differences."

They are scheduled to attend the Commemorative Symposium on 15 Nov., the Commemorative Seminar on 18 Nov., visit a Buraku district and attend regional executive committees.

True History of Buraku (Part I.)

by Prof. Nobuaki Teraki St.Andrews University-
(Momoyama-gakuin University)

Significance of the Edo Period Class System in Buraku History

Needless to say, the origin of today's discrimination against Burakumin is attributable to the feudal status system in the Edo Period (1600-1868). Today's Buraku discrimination is, however, not a mere remnant of such status discrimination. To cite one concrete example, almost 70 to 80% of nearly 300 burakus in the Chikuho mining district (Northern Kyushu) were newly formed after the Meiji Restoration (1868). This clearly demonstrates the fact that the Buraku discrimination of today is structurally rooted in contemporary Japanese society.

Compared to other forms of discrimination such as that against women, the disabled and Korean residents in Japan, Buraku discrimination is peculiar in that in its origin it is related to feudal discrimination. For this reason, we must shed light on status discrimination in our study of Buraku history. In other words, the correct understanding of status discrimination will lead to a proper recognition of the characteristics of today's Buraku discrimination and also provide us with some insight in to the path that must be taken for Buraku liberation.



Three Perspectives for the study of Buraku History

The three perspectives that follow are important for the study of Buraku history.

1. To examine Buraku history in the context of overall Japanese history

In the past, to study only Buraku history was the common approach. This confines Buraku history to a narrow framework and takes it out of context. Consequently, Buraku itself was regarded as something special.

2. To pay closer attention to Burakumin's life, culture and struggles for liberation.

It is obviously important to teach the mechanism of discrimination and policies that effectuate it. The misery and pessimism of Burakumin's existence, however, have been emphasized without paying due attention to their efforts survival and

struggles for liberation that Burakumin themselves have carried out.

3. To highlight modern and current Buraku history.

The institutionalized discrimination against Burakumin originated in the early Edo Period. The Emancipation Edict for the outcastes (1871) was issued soon after the Meiji Period (1868-1912) set in. As a result, major focus has been placed on Buraku history of the Edo era.

However, Buraku history since the passage of the Edict needs to be examined more closely because it contains important keys for understanding the nature of today's discrimination.

These three perspectives are emphasized here because the study of Buraku history in the past had some weaknesses because of its incompleteness.

Status and Class

Social classes were formed after which status classification developed. As class structure changed, the status system underwent transformation.

Social classes appeared in the process of transition from a primitive society to one with slavery.

The ruling minority class created some kind of status system to control the majority.

The ruling class establishes the state system to rule people with violence but it is not considered enough.

This is complemented by status system. Interestingly enough, the status system is not original

to Japan. Whether in the East or West, status classification has been commonly observed throughout world history. It appears that in premodern class-ruled societies the ruling class invariably establishes a status system.

Today's Buraku discrimination is most probably founded on a class-rule structure.

Status can be divided into kinds: legal and social. "Burakumin" is a typical social status. At the same time, discrimination against Burakumin today is not merely a remnant and continuation of feudal status discrimination.

Status in the Ancient and Middle Ages

The actual beginning of the history of Buraku lies in the modern ages while its prelude begins back from the ancient and middle ages. Such distinction is important when regarding Buraku discrimination or otherwise such a prejudiced view that Buraku already existed from the Heian or even Nara eras (middle ages) cannot be cleansed.

Status classification in ancient times and in the middle ages should be studied and understood that it is not directly linked to today's status discrimina

tion.

However, it is important to study the class of older times because the four-tier status system of the Edo era didn't simply pop up out of nothing. Status system as a means to divide-and-rule has existed since class rule emerged. This is true to all cultures in the history of mankind. Only when this is properly understood can one deal with the Edo status system in particular.



Features of Status Distinction in Ancient Times and Middle Ages

There are two characteristics to the status system of ancient times: classification was uniform and status was strictly fixed based on laws.

Status system in the middle ages was rather different. Classification was complex and distinctions were rather flexible. In the age of civil wars, for instance, a samurai warrior turned peasant and a peasant rose up the ladder to daimyo (war lord).

Beggars and other lowly people in middle ages were not really fixed in their status. Some ancestors of today's Burakumin were possibly direct descendants of lowly people in middle ages.

It is completely mistaken, however, with blood kinship, to assume that some fixed class of people have been discriminated-against generation after generation from ancient times until today.

Moreover, even this partiality in the present is nothing to be deplored by Burakumin today. The fact that some of their ancestors were the discriminated against means that they did not oppress or exploit other people. This should be cause for pride.

Also, some lowly people in the middle ages created the beautiful art of rock and sand gardens and the prototype of kabuki and Noh drama.

“At that time, I was---”

Relating my experiences of discrimination, Part (VIII)

Much “Discrimination” in the Military

Discrimination in the military was harsh and indecent. It was when I was stationed in an engineering squad in Takatsuki city that I saw senior soldiers throwing their weight around. “Enough of this active like an Etta!” they would say to men who kept their rifles in bad shape; “You Etta!” they would yell if dishes still had stains, or if you were slow at responding to senior officers. These things actually occurred around me one after another, but I could not say a word, if one retorted to a senior officer, one could not escape retaliation.

After the war, there were times when conditions in the Buraku were very bad, especially the public baths. Wooden Slab served as walls and water was drawn from a lake, while each person turns bringing kindling to heat the bath. Due to such conditions, 75% of the residents had trachoma. It took nearly three years to rebuild a public bath in which tap

water could be used. When completed, the elderly were delighted with it and said, “Gracious, don't spill the water. Make the most of it.” Since then, we had been providing and tackling one item after another, to improve the living environment.

First elected in 1955, I have run as an assemblyman in Ikeda City for nine terms. During that time, I have served as chairperson 10 times. Someone once said, “Why is it that is selected chair person so many times? Is it because other members of the assembly are keeping quiet, afraid of the Buraku?”

Having turned 61, I as one assemblyman and branch chief am more determined to fight for the rest of my life against discrimination, joining together with the populace.

Former Treasurer, Osaka Headquarters B.L.L.,
Chief of Branch