



BURAKU LIBERATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE
1-6-12, Kuboyoshi, Naniwa-ku, Osaka City, 556 Japan.
TEL (06)568-1300 FAX(06)568-0714

September 1991

Council of Area Improvement Measures Is To Demand That Next Year's Budget Be Based on Actual Condition of Buraku Discrimination.

The Council of Area Improvement measures held its 10th general meeting on July 24, 1991 and announced in an informal talk by Mr. Eiichi Isomura, president of the council, its demand regarding next year's budget (rough estimate) as follows: the budget should consider the actual Buraku condition, in conformity with the meaning of the "Law on Specific Governmental Budgetary Measure concerning the Projects Designated for the (Dowa) Area Improvement". This is in place of an interim report scheduled to be arranged this summer. In order to further discussion about this matter, the Council set a special committee to try to get consideration of the actual conditions of Buraku discrimination. BLL (Buraku Liberation League) members went to the Management and Coordination Agency and requested that a delegation of the Council grasp the fact of Buraku discrimination accurately and discuss the measures of the drastic resolution.

A Summary of Mr. Eiichi Isomura's talk :

Considering the importance of the Dowa issue, it must take some time to get ideas concretely into shape. We have discussed many times the submission of the interim report by this summer,

however, in spite of this we could not unify opinions. We would like to continue further discussion toward the end of this year.

This indicates that even some government officials who have thought to abolish the law for the Dowa policy cannot, for the present, persuade others of their reasons. In other words, considering the actual condition of Buraku discrimination and the movement toward its elimination, it is clear that transfer of the law to general measures is an arbitrary matter. Therefore, The All Japan Dowa Policy Council indicated that to complete

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cluding the governors of Nagasaki pref., Hiroshima pref., Fukuoka pref., and the vice-governors of Shiga pref., Tottori pref., Kumamoto pref., Ohita pref., Kagoshima pref.

From the ruling party (Liberal Democratic Party), Mr. Yukio Ngkagawa (vice secretary-general) and Mr. Isao Maeda (chairman of the special committee for Area Improvement Projects) spoke as guest speakers as follows: When the law is going to be transferred to a general measure, each municipality will have to share the financial burden and it will be difficult to carry out business for the Dowa policy.

They indicated that the Liberal Democratic Party will consider this matter very carefully, however, this is the last process of the past current law for the Dowa, therefore, it will unlikely

be realized under such conditions. They stressed that further movement for the elimination of discrimination will have to be strengthened.

In order to completely promote the measure, the following comments about necessary legal actions were made by participants.

- 1) Environmental improvement
(Mayor of Gose-city, Nara pref.)
- 2) Social welfare
(Shonai town-headman of Fukuoka pref.)
- 3) Industry and employment.
(Mayor of Tottori city.)
- 4) Education and enlightenment.
(Counselor of welfare dept., Fukui pref.)
- 5) Financial situation in municipality.
(Mayor of Muroto-city, Kochi pref.)

Discrimination Against Buraku, Today (1)

Since 1987 (mainly in 1990) many municipalities have carried out overall living survey on current Buraku condition and survey on consciousness concerning Buraku.

Based on the survey result, we would like to introduce the outlines of today's Buraku discrimination by specific features dividing into several times.

① Burakumin Population and Its National Distribution

The census taken by the General Affairs Agency in March, 1987 shows some prefectures with a large Burakumin population. They are Hyogo (153,236), Osaka (143,305), Fukuoka (135,977), Nara (62,286) and Okayama (56,696), The proportion of Burakumin population in each of those prefecture to the total Burakumin population in Japan is 13.2% (Hyogo), 12.3% (Osaka), 11.7% (Fukuoka), 5.3% (Nara) and 4.9% (Okayama), respectively.

Prefectures in western Japan have a higher concentration of Burakumin population. Most pre-

fectures in eastern Japan have less concentration. Among them, Saitama, Gunma and Tochigi have a comparatively higher concentration. Prefectures with less concentration are Saga (1,620), Niigata (1,051), Nagasaki (360), and Yamanashi (351), (Nagasaki and Saga are located in southern Kyushu.)

The proportion of Burakumin population to the total population in the Dowa district is called the Dowa population rate, and the Prime Minister's Office defines it as the population mixture rate. Its national average is 58.2%.

When we see the prefectural average of the Dowa population rate, Niigata has the lowest (110.1%), followed by Nagano (12.2%) and Nagasaki (15.2%). The highest is Osaka (96.1%), followed by Nara, Shiga, Fukui and Mie with more than 90%. As to this Dowa population rate, we can see a high variation in number, because of the difference in the formation process of each Buraku or different ways of designating Dowa districts by local governments.



Summary of overall survey on living condition in Buraku

Name of municipality which carried out the survey	Date of survey	Way of sampling	Number of object (household)	Number of valid respondents	% of valid collected respondents	How to survey
Gunma	10.'90	Random sampling	700	700	100%	Interview (individually)
Mie	6~10.'90	Total sampling	12,604	9,275	73.6	Interview (individually)
Kyoto	3.'87	50% random sampling except Kyoto city	8,867	6,138	69.2	Distribution of inquiry
Osaka	5.'90	Total sampling	34,217	30,308	88.6	Interview (individually)
Wakayama	6.'88	Total sampling	13,886	—	—	—
Tottori	8.'90	Total sampling	6,147	5,569	90.6	Interview (individually)
Shimane	7.'89	Total sampling	1,222	980	80.2	Interview (individually)
Kagawa	11.'90	Total sampling	2,944	2,788	94.7	Interview (individually)
Saga	7.'90	Total sampling	509	501	98.4	Distribution of inquiry

Table 1. General Situation of Buraku in Japan (1987, Survey by the General Agency Affairs)

Prefecture	a	b	c	d	e	f
National Average	4,603	569,662	328,299	2,010,230	1,166,733	58.0
Ibaragi	37	3,299	1,414	14,481	6,837	47.2
Tochigi	108	14,667	4,627	61,171	21,718	35.5
Gunma	174	20,952	7,146	84,203	31,313	37.2
Saitama	281	31,431	8,523	122,902	40,371	32.8
Chiba	19	1,614	728	6,291	3,256	51.8
Kanagawa	11	2,884	906	9,859	3,778	38.3
Niigata	18	2,887	269	10,446	1,051	10.1
Fukui	7	1,063	994	3,900	3,534	90.6
Yamanashi	6	191	105	667	351	52.6
Nagano	270	50,321	5,518	183,860	22,392	12.2
Gifu	15	2,887	1,147	10,393	4,298	41.4
Shizuoka	21	3,304	2,713	13,353	11,021	82.5
Aichi	9	3,487	2,839	12,170	10,213	83.9
Mie	206	13,853	12,499	47,670	42,936	90.1
Shiga	65	10,395	9,719	38,392	36,229	94.4
Kyoto	149	16,987	14,976	58,281	51,883	89.0
Osaka	55	48,173	46,298	149,157	143,305	96.1
Hyogo	347	56,526	39,851	208,480	153,236	73.5
Nara	82	19,167	18,394	65,273	62,286	95.4
Wakayama	104	19,102	14,126	63,639	47,550	74.7
Tottori	107	6,986	6,080	28,453	25,138	88.3
Shimane	97	4,999	1,830	16,517	5,996	36.3
Okayama	295	21,526	16,055	73,823	56,696	76.8
Hiroshima	472	24,007	12,355	82,745	43,026	52.0
Yamaguchi	92	10,759	6,005	36,062	20,404	56.6
Tokushima	95	20,227	9,294	73,310	33,378	45.5
Kagawa	46	3,109	2,652	9,957	8,508	85.4
Ehime	467	24,374	12,594	87,007	44,983	51.7
Kochi	72	18,051	15,481	51,576	44,357	86.0
Fukuoka	617	68,849	39,083	238,258	135,977	57.1
Saga	19	1,426	509	4,616	1,620	35.1
Nagasaki	3	793	116	2,365	360	15.2
Kumamoto	50	4,707	3,260	17,808	12,623	70.9
Oita	102	25,542	6,213	87,186	22,800	26.1
Miyazaki	36	6,388	1,465	21,215	5,035	23.7
Kagoshima	49	4,729	2,565	14,744	8,274	56.1

- (a. Number of Buraku
b. Total number of households
c. Number of Burakumin households
d. Total population
e. Burakumin population
f. Rate of Burakumin population (Dowa population rate)



Movement against Primary school's move to vicinity of Buraku community.

Newly inaugurated town-headman in Chiba-pref. recognizes this matter as "discrimination".

In 1988 the town authorities of Sekiyado-machi in Chiba pref. decided to move primary school to a new site because the building became obsolete. As a result, the school zone was changed in 1989. However, since the new site is located in the vicinity of the Buraku community, students from outside the Buraku were to be included the school. Under these circumstances, an opposition movement, based on a discriminatory consciousness, was started. To put it concretely, a letter was sent to the authorities stating that if the school was constructed on this site, all students might be regarded as Buraku people. That is problem for children from outside the Buraku

area. As a result of this opposition the authorities decided in 1990 to return the school zone to its former state. In reaction to this decision the Buraku Liberation League made a protest in November 1990.

In April 1991 Mr. Kawai took up the post of town-headman. His attitude toward this matter was different from that of the former town-headman. He clearly recognized that Buraku discrimination was behind the opposition movement and expressed the determination to take some measures in order to solve this problem. His new policy will surely open the door to the promoting "Dowa" administration.

Award ceremony for the 17th Buraku Liberation Literature Prize.

On July 17, 1991 in the afternoon, an award ceremony for the 17th Buraku Liberation Literature prize was held in Osaka. The winners, persons who received honorable mention, members of the executive committee, judges, and another 70 people participated in the ceremony and celebration. Mr. Teramoto, the president of the committee gave a testimonial. The winners renewed their determination.

Ms. _____ won for both her literature work, "Mending Geta" and her poem, "I had a headache". She explained how she blew life into each word and that she would like to relate her whole history for her children and grand-children. Ms. _____ of Osaka, another winner for literature, told how she wrote about her experience in the hospital seven times and was supported by the advice of her literacy

class teachers and her colleagues encouragement, and so was able to win the prize. Ms.

_____ of Hyogo pref. who won a prize for her poetry, told how writing continuously was her own Buraku Liberation movement. The judges gave their advice to the winners in the respective fields of novel, drama, literacy, documentary and poem telling them that it was important to keep write all the time. Finally they closed with their words that they will expect winner's activity in the future.