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"Law on Specific Governmental Budgetary Measure Concerning The Projects Designated for the (DOWA)" Is To Be Prolonged for 5 Years.

On December 11, 1991 the Council of Area Improvement Measures offered the following points about the Law: 1) after the validity of the current law will have expired, some legal measures will be necessary; 2) an investigation of the current situation of Buraku should be conducted; 3) a kind of council considering Buraku matters should be fundamentally necessary for solving of Buraku problem ; 4) the matters of employment, education and enlightenment activity have become important; and 5) from a national or international point of view, the Buraku problem will have to be settled.

In reply to these opinions, the government resolved during a cabinet meeting to prolong the "Law on Specific Governmental Budgetary Measure Concerning the Projects Designated for the (DOWA)" for 5 years (however, some business in the Buraku community will be reduced) and at the same time the existence of the Council of Area Improvement Measures will also be prolonged on February 14, 1992. On March 27 the Law was passed in the Diet with a supplementary resolution by the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors which calls for a clarification of the fundamental settlement of the Buraku problem.

Initially there was a strong tendency to discontinue the Law initially. Judging from such circumstances, one can expect that not only will the Law be prolonged for 5 years in order to complete

the rest of business in the Buraku communities. But that its prolongation will also serve to begin an investigation of the actual conditions in the Buraku in order to fundamentally solve the Buraku problem. However, the legislation of a "Fundamental Law for Buraku Liberation" which is our final goal has been suspended as a topic for the future and after April the Buraku Liberation Movement will have to tackle this subject as the main object of concern, entering, at the same time, into the third stage.

As the third stage liberation movement the following points were recapitulated: 1) Enforcement of a total investigation into the actual conditions of the Buraku, including the Buraku communities which have not been designated; 2) Reform of the "Council of Area Improvement Measures" which has the

contents

5 years Prolonged Law on Area Improvement Measures for Buraku (1) / Discrimination against Buraku, Today 4 (2)/ Marriage Discrimination(5) / Literacy Work 29(5) / Comfort Women(7) / New Law for AINU(8)



power in order to fundamentally settle the Buraku problem ; 3) Legislation of a municipal ordinance based on the spirit of "a Fundamental Law for Buraku Liberation"; 4) Declaration of elimination of the Buraku discrimination and legislation of a charter; 5) Prompt ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in Japan and the concretization of this convention. It was also agreed that a push forward for the legislation of "a Fundamental Law for Buraku Liberation" would be made.

This year is the 70th Anniversary of the foundation of the National Leveller's Association. The object of the National Leveller's Association

was, as you see in the declaration, that Buraku people should have a pride in their origin and that a society free from all forms of discrimination should be constructed. It was reconfirmed that the movement toward the legislation of the Fundamental Law for Buraku Liberation was the noble combat to realize this objective.

In conclusion, we express our sincere thanks to all people and organizations who signed the petition of a Fundamental Law for Buraku Liberation in Japan and overseas. We thanks them also for their warm support.

We hope for further support and solidarity.

Discrimination Against Buraku, Today (4)

-Education-

1. Many primary school graduates; less higher school graduates.

(1) Comparing the National Census of 1980, it can be seen that the academic background of people from the Buraku 15 years of age and older is characterized by a large number of people who have only primary school education and, on the other hand, few who have completed higher academic education.

(2) Since National Census is taken only once every 10 years, we only have the 1980 census data for comparison. However, considering the expanded ratio of students who wished to study at high-schools or colleges after World War II, it is reasonable to assume that, at present the national average of primary school graduates is smaller and that of higher school graduates larger. Accordingly, the differentials in Figure 12 between the Buraku and from outside the Buraku should be much bigger.

(3) The average ratio of primary school graduates in the Buraku is 50% or more in every municipality as compared to the National average of 42.9%. In Shimane prefecture, the figure even reached 70.2%. This means that one half to one third of the people in the Buraku the figure have been guaranteed only primary school education.

(4) On the other hand, for higher school graduates in Buraku is between 8.4% (Osaka, the highest ratio) and 2.5% (Saga Prefecture, the lowest ratio)while the national average is 15.1%.

(5) There are still unsolved problems of the differentials of percentage to enter higher schools as well as the matters of long absence from school and

children who were not able to go to school. These problems appeared especially in the Buraku for a long period of time.

2. Differences in the quality of education continue to be produced.

(1) Fig. 13, (1) - (4) show differences in the quality of school education by age in the Buraku and outside the Buraku of Osaka. The data for comparison was taken from the 1980 National Census. The number of people who did not go to school is small both in the Buraku and for the national average of those in their 20s and 30s. However, in the generation of those over 40 the number of Buraku people who did not go to school is much larger than the national average. Since many of those who did not go to school are illiterate, the matter of literacy is a very serious problem for middle to elderly age group.

(2) The highest percentage of primary school graduates is 64.9% for those over 60 (average of Osaka) and the percentage declines with age. But in the Buraku, those in their 50s who spent the time to go to school the percentage is the highest (74.4%) and the next (67.8%) belongs to those in their 40s. This is almost the same as the average for those over 60 in Osaka. The ratio of people who only got primary school education in the generation of 30 years old declines largely in the average of Osaka, but there is still 12.7% even in the generation of those in their 20s in the average of Osaka. In comparison with this the figure in the Buraku is 19.6%.

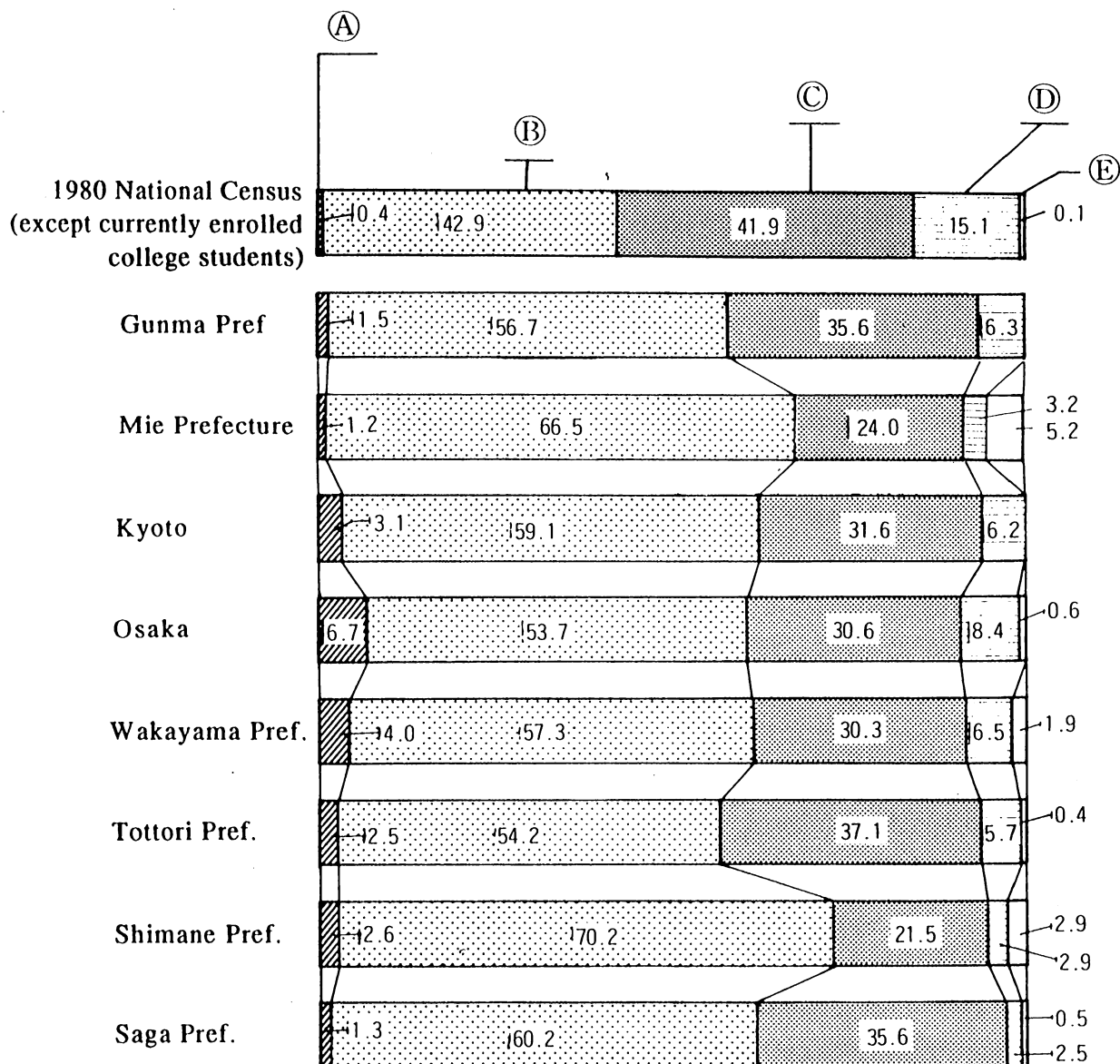
(3) The number of junior high-schools in their 50s is



over 40% in Osaka but in the Buraku the figure doesn't exceed 40% until the generation of those in their 40s. In the case of 20 years old the average of graduates from junior high-school in Osaka declines a little and the ratio of the graduates from senior

high-school absorbs the share. In the case of the Buraku, the ratio of junior high-school graduates has been increasing while graduates from senior high school have not increased very much.

Fig. 12 Formation of school education (over 15 years old)



(A) Did not go to school.

(B) Graduated from Quit

Elementary school

Junior high-school

Junior high-school

Senior high-school

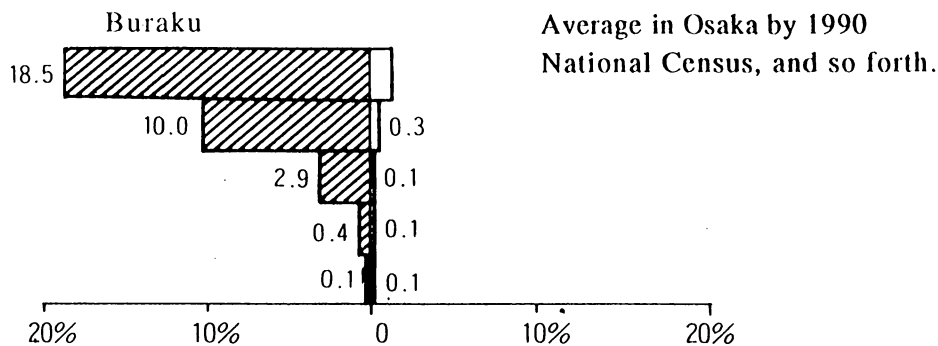
(C) Graduated from Quit

Senior high-school

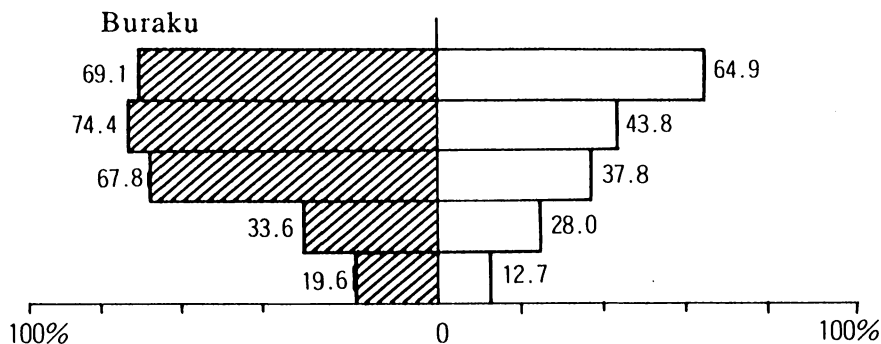
College

(D) Graduated from College

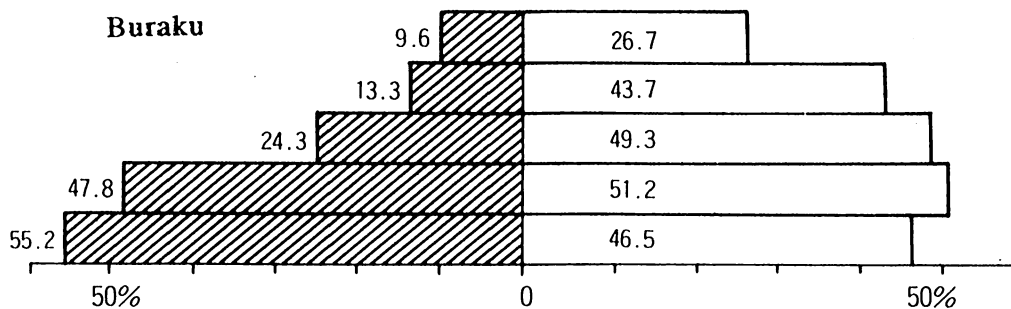
(E) Unknown

**Fig. 13 Formation of school education by age (Osaka)****① Ratio of people who did not go to school.**

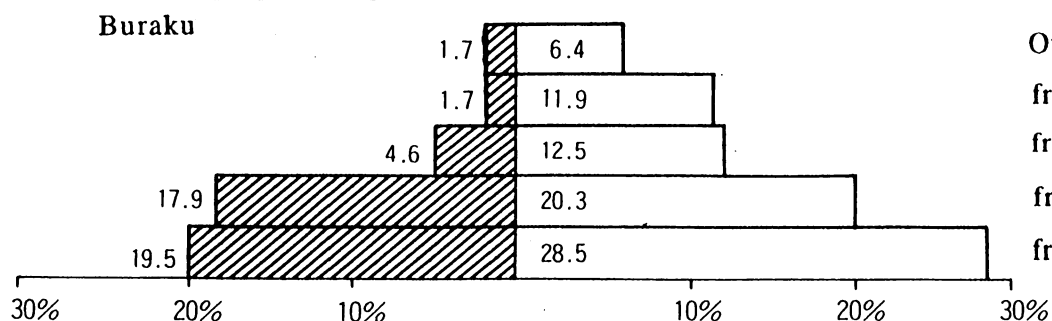
Over 60 years old.
from 50 to 59 years old.
from 40 to 49 years old.
from 30 to 39 years old.
from 20 to 29 years old.

② The ratio of people who graduated from primary school.

Over 60 years old.
from 50 to 59 years old.
from 40 to 49 years old.
from 30 to 39 years old.
from 20 to 29 years old.

③ The ratio of people who graduated from junior high-school.

Over 60 years old.
from 50 to 59 years old.
from 40 to 49 years old.
from 30 to 39 years old.
from 20 to 29 years old.

④ The ratio of people who graduated from senior high-school or college.

Over 60 years old.
from 50 to 59 years old.
from 40 to 49 years old.
from 30 to 39 years old.
from 20 to 29 years old.



The Wall Shutting Out The Light- Report On Buraku Discrimination Today-

PART 1-1 "Given a Blow"

"That was a strong blow as if I were stubbed by a hammer"

Twenty-six year-old Miss A expressed the incident she had on April 7th last year. She was told by her boyfriend that he decided not to marry her after all because their marriage would not be celebrated by his parents and relatives.

They had been dating for three years, and were going to get married. He knew that she is from a Buraku. But his parents were still against their getting married. For six months he tried to persuade them through his boss and some understanding relatives and when he failed, he gave up.

The next day she visited his house. To her his father only repeated the words, "I will be very sorry to my ancestors if I approve my son to marry you. At last when she asked him if it was because she is of Buraku origin, his father just nodded in assent.

After that she had sleepless nights, and lost her appetite. "He is gone from me!" Left alone she was still expecting a telephone call from him for a month in vain.

Then pulling herself together, she told her father about it. Her boyfriend came upon request, but he did nothing but say "I'm sorry" to her father. She realized that was the end of it. It was the following night when she took a lot of sleeping pills.

She has known she is of Buraku origin since she was in the sixth grade. Yet she has never been discriminated by her friends. To her, discrimination was just an old story in the past. As a matter of fact, her brother, who is married to a girl outside of Buraku, has had a trouble, but she knew nothing about it.

There is a saying, "Do not wake up a sleeping child" It means that you should not make a fuss about it, for discrimination will disappear in time. But it is not rare as in this case, that all of a sudden one has to face the severe reality without experiencing any discriminations for many years.

She was saved her life. The Buraku Liberation League took up the matter as a discriminated case. The meetings for denunciation were held three times with him and his father, as well as the head of the local government attending. "I don't have any grudge any more. I think you are the discriminator and at the same time the discriminated" In tears Miss A said to him, who remained with his head down. She talked on, "We were born innocent, in pure white. The sense of discrimination is planted in our mind when we are inspired something like 'fearful' image of Braku. "She also realized herself that she had thought she would not belong to Braku any more once she could marry to an outsider. She confessed that the word 'Dowa' would give her a start. "I would like to be confident of myself liberated from the sensation".

At the cabinet meeting held on 14th of February, the bill extending 'Law on Special Governmental Budgetary measure Concerning the Projects Designated for the (Dowa Area Improvement)' was approved. Over twenty years have passed since the project for Dowa started on a full scale. Still, discrimination exists deep in the society and environmental situation in Braku has not sufficiently improved yet. Of this problem, which has been long smoldering underneath and come up to the surface time to time, the present aspects are reported.



Comfort Women Recruited From Various Parts of Asia

-Koreans, Chinese, Filipinas, etc.

Gov't investigation reveals seventy documents confirming military involvement.

On April 11, the government made wide revelations as a result of its investigation into the issue of comfort women in military brothels, a topic which has been highlighted as a part of postwar reparations. Seventy 'inside' documents were collected and they confirmed that the Japanese Imperial Army had participated in the matter. Moreover, it was made clear that the military had procured the comfort women extensively in East Asia and Southeast Asia, including the Korean Peninsula, China and the Philippines. The number of documents will probably add up to ninety, and the government intends to report its findings in May at the earliest to the countries concerned. Since it has been revealed that military authorities recruited on a wide scale, the government will have to take a completely different stand on this issue.

The investigation was made by the government upon the request of South Korea in December last year. To understand how the army was involved in this matter, the Cabinet Council Office of Foreign Affairs searched for documents indicating 'comfort house' or 'comfort woman' at six government agencies and ministries including the Defense Agency and the National Police Agency.

As a result, by April 11, sixty-nine documents from the Defense Agency and one from the Education Ministry had been identified. Most of the documents found at the Defense Agency showed that the military authorities themselves supervised, instructed, and controlled the brothels and that they

had contacts with the local police as well as military police when they recruited comfort women in any region.

According to the data, comfort women were procured over an extended area, including China, North and South Korea, Taiwan, and the Philippines. Korean and Chinese women are referred to in "Examining the special comfort women. There is also a document stating that confidential telegrams, addressed to the Army Commander of Taiwan or the Minister of the Army, requested 70 women to be sent to Borneo(Indonesia) and that who such requests were approved. Another report describes 9 Filipinas who were taken at Tacloban in the Philippines and some Filipina names are found on the list of those who were examined.

The Shanghai Incident spurred the installment of military brothels:

'Military comfort women', military-owned prostitutes, were set up by the imperial Army in their occupied areas. It is allegedly said that the increasing number of rapists at the time of the Shanghai Incident in 1932 urged them to set up this kind of institution. According to Ms. Yuko Suzuki, the author of "Jyugun Ianfu(Korean Comfort Women)"Iwanami Booklet, it originated in fact in 1894 during the Sino-Japanese War, and the military authorities began involvement in 1937 when they attacked Nanjing. The Japanese government stands by the position that the issue of compensation has already been settled, citing the basic bilateral treaty of 1965 as well as claims and economic cooperative agreements. On the other hand, the South Korean government is



requesting compensation on the ground that the issue of comfort women was not discussed in the treaty negotiation.

The Japanese government was not quick in responding to the comfort women issue from the beginning. Taking the opportunity of Prime Minister Miyazawa's visit to South Korea in January, Chief Cabinet Secretary Mr. Kato admitted that the army was directly involved in recruiting and managing the comfort women and expressed "heart-felt apology and regret to the Korean people". To those comfort women other than those from Korea, however, the government only expresses its intention to look into the cases. The facts that Filipinas and Chinese were also procured by the army has made it clear that the issue should be reconsidered as postwar reparations

to Asia as a whole.

The government is going to make public the results of its study in May and will make an official report to South Korea as well. So far, a large number of documents has been disclosed and they show that the comfort houses were directly owned by the army. Consequently, they reveal how the former attitude of the government was lacking in sincerity in maintaining the position that 'some private entrepreneurs provided those women.' Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato promised South Korea to take measures in place of compensation. If the government should delay in taking action, Japan may not be trusted diplomatically. The government will be called upon to respond quickly to the issue.

Appealing for Enactment of "New Law for Ainu" in Meeting and Demonstrations

Insincere Government Response

People of Ainu origin held a meeting at Hibiya Open-air Music Hall appealing for the enactment of the "New Law for Ainu" in which the prompt abolition of the "Protection Law for Aborigines in Hokkaido" and an assurance of the Diet membership for Ainu should be incorporated. The meeting was sponsored by the Hokkaido Utari Association; the Group Rera(wind) To Think of Ainu Race Now, and the Kanto Utari Association; the latter two groups are composed of Ainu people living in the Tokyo Metropolitan area.

About three hundred and fifty people, mostly of Ainu origin and living in the Hokkaido or Tokyo area took part in the meeting. The Buraku Liberation League also participated by sending its Kanto Block members to the meeting. Representing the sponsor groups, Mr. Gi-ichi Nomura, Director of the Hokkaido Utari Association, made a speech criticizing the Japanese Government, "Since the Meiji Era, the aboriginal Ainu race has been ruled by and assimilated to the majority culture. " But the Ainu have their own language and culture. Two hundred and twenty-two municipalities in Hokkaido, as well as the prefecture of Hokkaido have passed resolutions calling for the enactment of the new law. Four years ago, we also appealed to the state government for enactment of the new law four

years ago, but they have not dealt with the issue seriously".

As the guest speaker representing the Social Democratic Party, Mr. Seiichi Ikehata, a Diet member from Hokkaido and Chairman of the Social Democratic Party's Special Committee for Ainu Race Issues, expressed a firm resolution for enactment of the new law and appealed to the audience to support Mr. Shigeru Kayano as a candidate for proportional representation in the House of Councilors.

After the meeting, the participants marched to the Diet building in their traditional costumes with banners and placards, appealing to people for support and understanding of the "New law for Ainu".

Sending Mr. Kayano to the Diet.

The day before, a meeting was held entitled, "Tokyo Meeting to Send Mr. Kayano to the Diet as a representative of the Ainu Race". Mr. Kayano expressed his resolution and Diet members, including Mr. Katsusuke Ozawa, the Assistant Chief Secretary of the Social Democratic Party, made speeches in support of him.

They said, "We are the very descendants of the invaders" Mr. Kayano should be given precedence. In Hokkaido the movement to make him number one on the list has become active".