

Test Force Demonstrates "Free Police" Principle To Skeptical Japanese

TOKYO, Dec. 18 (AP)—A test tube experiment is being run in nearby Chiba prefecture which may determine whether Japan can be transformed from a police state to a state with police.

The Japanese diet is considering a measure to break up the national police system in vogue for centuries. As a sort of test of what to expect when the police system is changed, American and Japanese officials selected Chiba prefecture and installed a police force independent of the government.

The bill stipulates Japan shall have autonomous police forces in towns and cities of more than 3000 population.

It does not abolish the national police force, but limits its powers. The national force will be 30,000 strong.

This national force will furnish police protection for towns and villages of less than 3000 and will

cooperate—when asked—with the independent police of the larger cities and towns.

Both Americans and Japanese agree it's too early to evaluate the program in Chiba, where the independent police have been operating about a month, but old Japanese police heads are skeptical.

Hideo Hisayama, director of the police bureau in the home ministry, with his 13 years of bureaucratic police experience behind him, fears "disintegration" of Japan's police system. He said he doubted that the independent forces could work together on police problems.

Some time ago, however, one "autonomous" police force in Chiba arrested a burglar and three other independent forces cooperated in running him down.

It was the first time in Japan's history that a lawbreaker was nabbed by a police force composed of other than government employees.

Under the proposed law, independent police forces will be selected through a commission of three appointed by the mayor.

Japanese police on the present national force probably will be given the choice of remaining or joining the autonomous forces.

A. Nakagawa, chief of the home ministry's police bureau training section, said 70 per cent of Chiba prefecture's 1600 police had asked to remain on the national force because they thought it offered more opportunity for advancement and they were doubtful of the ability of towns and cities to finance their own police.

The decentralization plan has run into heavy opposition from old Japanese bosses and politicians who formerly controlled the police.

It is doubtful if the Japanese, left to themselves, would have broken down the police system which stems from Tokyo and which once was used as a spying and terroristic organization to keep the people in line.

But General MacArthur has approved the plan and there is little the Japanese can do but obey.

Ambulance Crew Ready

TULELAKE, Dec. 18—Fire Chief Lyle Sherer and Don Webster, a member of the department, appeared Monday night before the city council to announce that the volunteer fire department now has 10 men eligible through first aid training to handle the city's ambulance service. Maintenance and operation of the vehicle will now be in charge of this group.

Olney Rudd and Clifton Hines, appearing for the housing authority project here, and Harry Lynch, manager, gave a financial report covering the year just ending. While actual figures were not immediately available Tuesday, Mayor Ralph Fausett stated that the expenses of operation covering actual construction of 40 apartments and the moving here of 20 house trailers has exceeded by several thousand dollars the estimated \$110,000. Occupation is limited to veterans.

Mrs. Victoria Thaler, city clerk, was not present for the meeting. With her family she is en route east to spend the holidays with relatives.

Forestry Jobs Still Available

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 18 (AP)—Dean Gordon D. Markworth of the University of Washington college of forestry, today told the society of American foresters job opportunities in forestry are keeping pace with postwar enrollments in schools teaching the science.

The lumber industry is becoming more conservation-conscious, Markworth said, and most of the new openings for graduate foresters are coming in private industry. Lumber companies are developing "tree farms." Although a balance has not yet been struck between timber growth and consumption, he added, "we seem to be approaching a balance."

Hans Norland Fire Insurance, 123 N. 6th St.

American Legion

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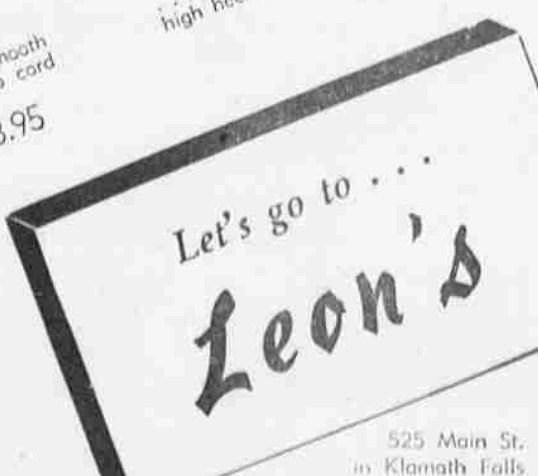
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