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Problems confronting Social Work under Seikatsu Hogo Ho (the Daily Life Security Law).

by Eiji Kojima

Those manysided activities carried out under the Daily Life Security Law to aid the poor, the sick, the aged, etc. are not in themselves social work, since the latter is a series of operations closely related to and built around such main activities as case work, group work and community organization, while the relief work under the law aims at securing a minimum standard of living for every citizen and it constitutes a part of our national social security program. In substance social work is technique or method which is employed in carrying out the social security program as well as in other fields.

After the main features of the Daily Life Security Law are covered, an outline of the current relief work under the law is given. A brief survey is made of welfare offices, of the personnel of relief work, of the number of persons under relief, and of national expenditure. Those social work activities which are being carried out in, and can be introduced into, the relief work under the law are observed. Important phases of social work under the law are, first, the initial contact with the client, second, the means test, and third, providing guidance for the client already selected for protection. It is always most important to have the client speak freely and truthfully and have him understand that the social worker is there for his benefit. On the basis of these considerations it can be said that this social work should play a vital role in the relief work under the Daily Life Security Law.

There are, however, some problems confronting social work in this field. The most important and fundamental of them is that the case work activity can not be carried out to the desirable extent. The fact that the public assistance is given to secure the minimum standard of living for every citizen places limitations upon the social work activities under the Daily Life Security Law. It is necessary, therefore, to encourage the development of social work in those fields other than that of the public assistance. But this fact raises quite a serious problem owing to the present situation in Japan where private agencies have shown little development.

Another important problem of social work in this field relates to the number and quality of Shakai-Fukushi-Shuji (salaried public social workers) and Minsei-Iin (non-salaried public social workers) who are both central figures in this field. The former, being still a recent development, ordinarily do not appear to have sufficient experience and skill, and the latter ordinarily seem to have lost the enthusiasm and power they had before the War. The outlook for improvement in the present situation is not bright. Yet return to the former system of operation centered upon the Minsei-Iin should definitely be avoided, since efficient public assistance work is possible only through the expert and skilled activities of case workers.

History of Thoughts underlying the Establishment of the British Labour Party

—Introduction to the Study of the Labour Party History (Part I)—

by K. Iida

Britain with due reason is often referred to as the fatherland of capitalism being the foremost nation to experience the industrial revolution. Class stratification as a result appeared at an early age, and already by the eighteen-thirties the trade-union movement had attained great momentum. Not only were the proletariat content in submitting economic demands but came to aspire reforms in their political system. The Chartist Movement is such an example.

The persons who drove these movements and who inseeded the ideas for social reforms were no other than Robert Owen and Jeremy Bentham. The former socialism and the latter utilitarianism differ. Yet in spite of their differences they have continued to exist as the dominating influence upon the labouring class of Britain. And these ideas lie intermingled at the roots of the present Labour Party.

For such reasons, a true understanding of the British Labour Party necessitates a restudy of these two main lines of thoughts. Hence this thesis holds as its foremost task, the clarification of the characteristics peculiar to British socialism. In particular, stress is laid on the point of difference of socialism nurtured on marxism and with that given a historical background. And during the process of this study I hope to explore into the depths of the characteristics of the Labour Party which exists as a social democratic party.