



LEGISLATORS DOZING



SOLDIER SLEEPING

... peace is a revolutionary idea to 70,000,000 Japanese

to clear the ground for the basic revolution. With equal speed the General has handed down the decrees that form the backbone of the revolution. These decrees, which four Japanese cabinets and the Japanese Diet have endeavored to digest and act upon since last September, affect the economy, the state, the church, the individual, and the Emperor.

The Japanese economy, under the new U.S. decrees, no longer would be an economy in which a few powerful families controlled the bulk of finance, industry, and trade, with labor doomed to endless poverty and farmers chained to serfdom. Stiff war-profits taxes and a steep capital levy are counted on to bust the trusts. Labor is to be encouraged to organize. On the land, a system of tenure 10 centuries old is to be modernized. Absentee ownership is to end. Generous credit, reclamation of new lands, division of larger estates, and stabilized farm prices are to encourage Japanese farmers—70 per cent of them tenants—to become independent landowners.

The state is expected to match the economy in reform. Ultimate goal, plainly written in U.S. policy, though not embodied in specific decrees, is a government whose powers are vested in the people, rather than in the Emperor. As a starter, the Japanese Diet is instructed to hold new elections this spring, so the people may vote for candidates friendly to democracy. The upper house in the Diet, occupied by representatives of wealth and nobility, no longer is to have veto power. No candidate for election to either house, nor in fact any Government official, may hold office if he was a member of societies that supported Japanese aggression before and during the war.

The national church, which supported Japanese aggression by glorifying Japan's warrior ancestors, no longer may receive financial or political support from the state. There is to be complete separation of church and state. Individual Japanese may continue to worship the national religion, Shinto, but Shinto propaganda glorifying the Emperor and the Japanese people as of divine origin no longer will be permitted.

The individual Japanese is to have such freedom as he never has known before. General MacArthur has ordered the Japanese Government to provide for freedom of speech, of press, of assembly, and of worship. "Thought control" by the secret police is to be a thing of the past. Political parties, including a Communist Party, may organize. Universal suffrage is to be allowed, which means that women may have the vote for the first time. Press and radio are to be free of Government influence and financing.

An emperor may or may not fit this new democratic Japan. That is for the people to decide. All moves to transfer power from the Emperor to the people, however, have the blessing of U.S. policy. In any case, the Emperor no longer is to be considered a god. Emperor Hirohito himself settled that on New Year's Day by renouncing any claim to divine origin.

But, if the Japanese people are to accept the idea of an Emperor who is not a god, and support the other revolutionary changes, a radical reform in education is required. This reform, perhaps most difficult and far-reaching of all, has been ordered by General MacArthur. The new education is to explain democracy, support peace, disavow militarism, aggression and emperor-worship. As a beginning, new text-

books, and, in many cases, new teachers will be needed to supplant the present 450,000 teachers in Japan's schools.

On all fronts in this U.S.-imposed revolution, including the educational front, General MacArthur reports progress. The Japanese are extraordinarily co-operative, a House subcommittee now visiting Japan reported last week.

But progress in this Japanese revolution is currently overshadowed by the struggle for food, clothing, and shelter. A request for almost 3,000,000 tons of food, some of it to come from the United States, is pending in Washington. A request for 1,000,000 bales of cotton also is under consideration. Approval of both, at least in part, is expected. If some of Japan's immediate raw material needs can be met, Japanese industry and labor may go back to work.

Attention then will turn back to long-range U.S. occupation policy. There is a question whether all members of the new Far Eastern Commission will go along with this policy. It is assumed that U.S. occupation forces, now 200,000 strong in Japan and Korea, may not need to stay in Japan more than two or three years. If this force is withdrawn within that time, making U.S. supervision over Japan a matter of remote control, there is then the final question whether the drastic Japanese revolution will "take."

In the absence of U.S. or Allied troops, the Japanese military clique and the 15 family trusts would emerge from obscurity. The same military and economic interests that have ruled Japan for the last 80 years would be in the saddle again. In that event, General MacArthur's directives for a revolution in Japan will have only the force of government by press release.