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JAPANESE WOMEN TODAY

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PREFACE

The Women's and Minors' Bureau in the Ministry of Labor of the Japanese Government herewith presents "Japanese Women Today"

This aims to picture the various phases of the life of Japanese women who, now equipped with full citizenship and equal rights and opportunities with men, are playing ever greater role in the home and society — a picture so different from the one in prewar Japan.

I hope that this brief pamphlet will be of some use to those who are interested in the around-the-world progress of women.

October 1964

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Setsu Tanino." with a period at the end. The script is cursive and elegant.

Setsu Tanino

Director, Women's and Minors' Bureau
Ministry of labor

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Politics

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WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE HOUSES

The House of Representatives



Hon. Yoshiko Ito



Hon. Ichiko Kamichika

The House of Councillors



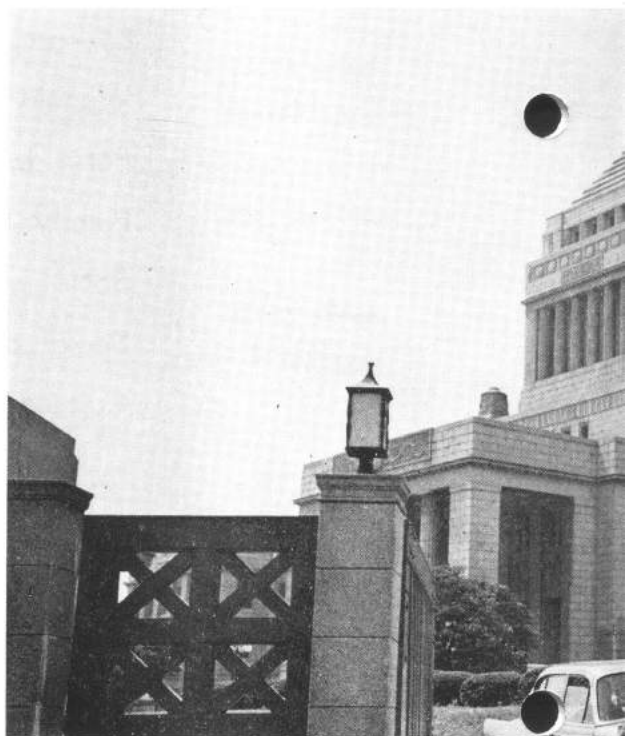
Hon. Tsuneko Akamatsu



Hon. Chiyose Chiba



Hon. Michiko Fujiwara



Hon. Shio Hayashi



Hon. Fusae Ichikawa



Hon. Yasu Kashiwabara



Hon. Shizue Kato



Hon. Tsuruyo Kondo

Japanese women have equal rights with men to vote and to be elected in all elections. As of October 1964, there are 7 women in the House of Representatives and 17 in the House of Councillors (out of a total of 476 and 250 respectively).



Hon. Chieko Matsuyama



Hon. Hide Momiyama



Hon. Yuriko Motojima



Hon. Satoko Togano



Hon. Shizue Yamaguchi



The Diet Building in Tokyo.



Hon. Mitsu Koro



Hon. Hideko Mogami



Hon. Tama Morita



Hon. Aki Nakamigawa



Hon. Mumeo Oku



Hon. Sugi Yamamoto



Hon. Harue Yamashita

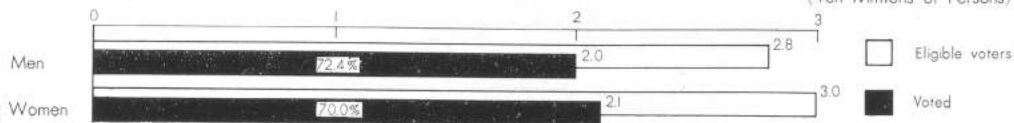


Hon. Shigeri Yamataka



Hon. Fuku Yokoyama

Voting Rate at the General Election for House of Representatives November, 1963 (Ten Millions of Persons)





Junior high school pupils watching an experiment in physics.



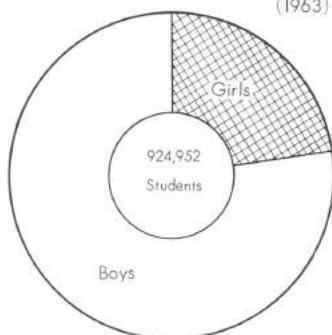
Senior high school pupils on a school ground.

Compulsory education, which started some 100 years ago, now covers all the children from the age of 6 to 15 (6 years for elementary school and 3 years for junior high school).

Two-thirds continue with a 3-year senior high school education, with about equal attendance for both sexes.

Enrollment of women in colleges or universities is increasing every year, but is still substantially below male enrollment.

Girl Students in College Courses
(1963)



A group of students enjoying a musical evening.

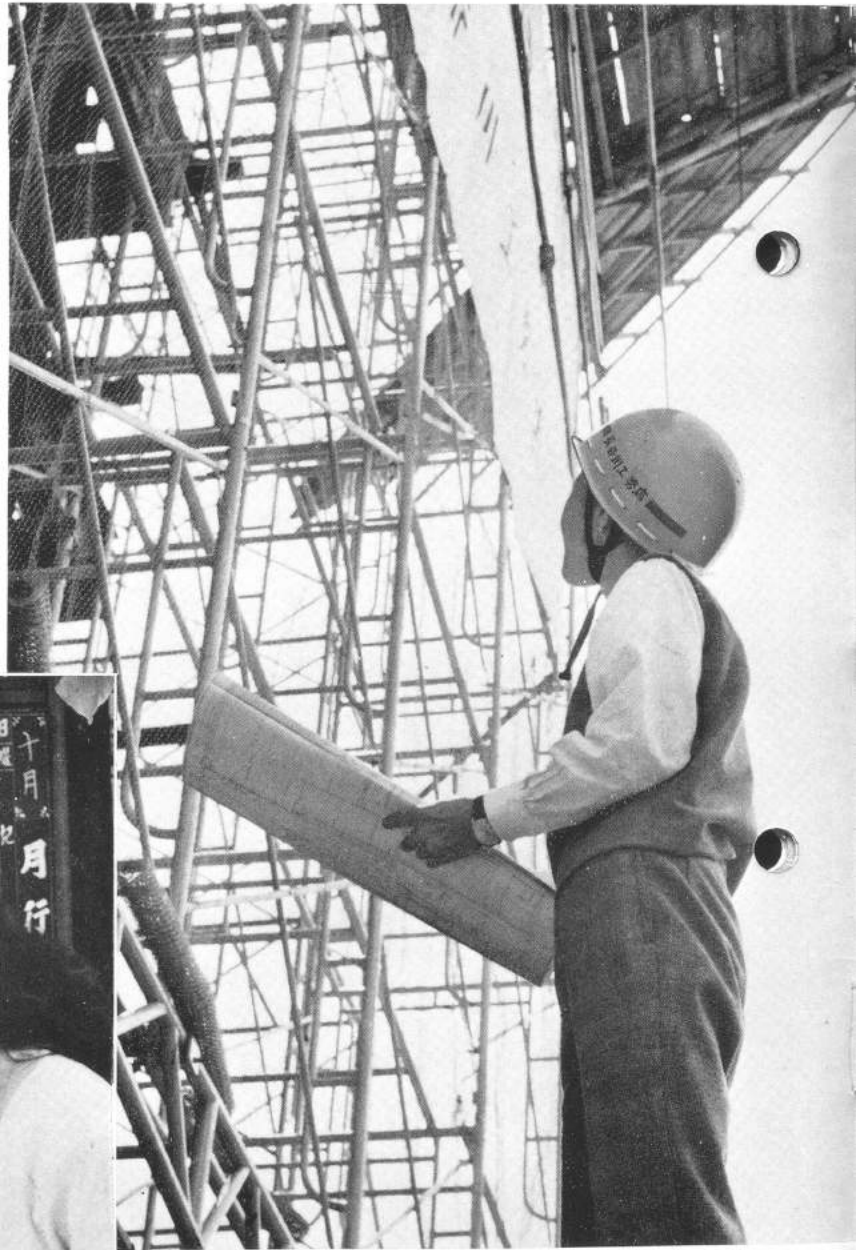
A university building in Tokyo.



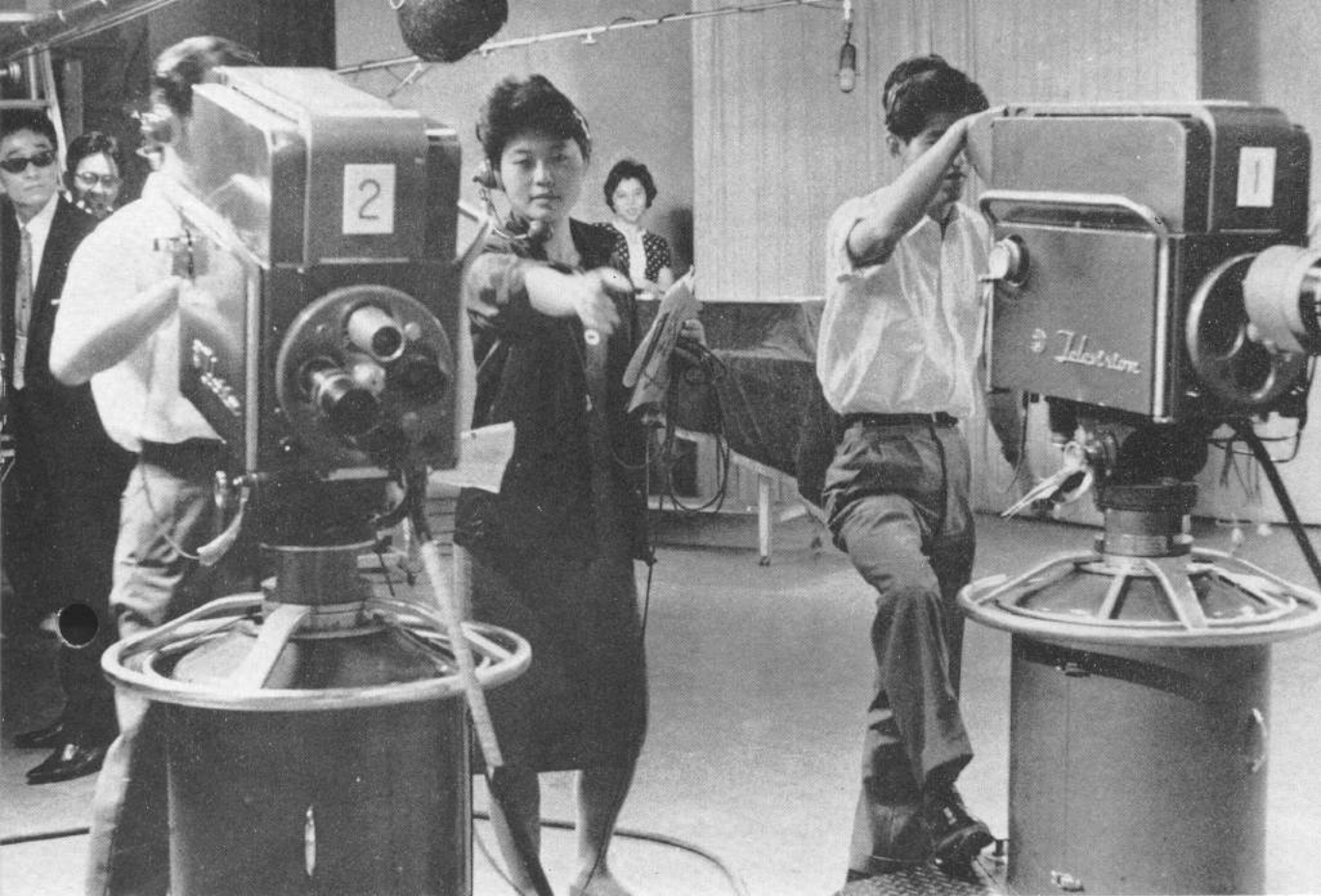
An increasing number of qualified women are establishing themselves in professional fields, as teachers, medical specialists, lawyers, journalists, architects, scientists, business managers, etc.

Women workers are also found in a variety of other occupations. Their number has been ever increasing along with the growth of the national economy, so that women workers now number eight million, or 30 per cent of the total paid non-farm employment.

An interior designer
drawing a poster.



A woman architect inspecting
a building under construction.



A woman TV director giving a cue to the lecturer.

A doctor and a nurse treating a patient.



WOMEN IN EMPLOYMENT

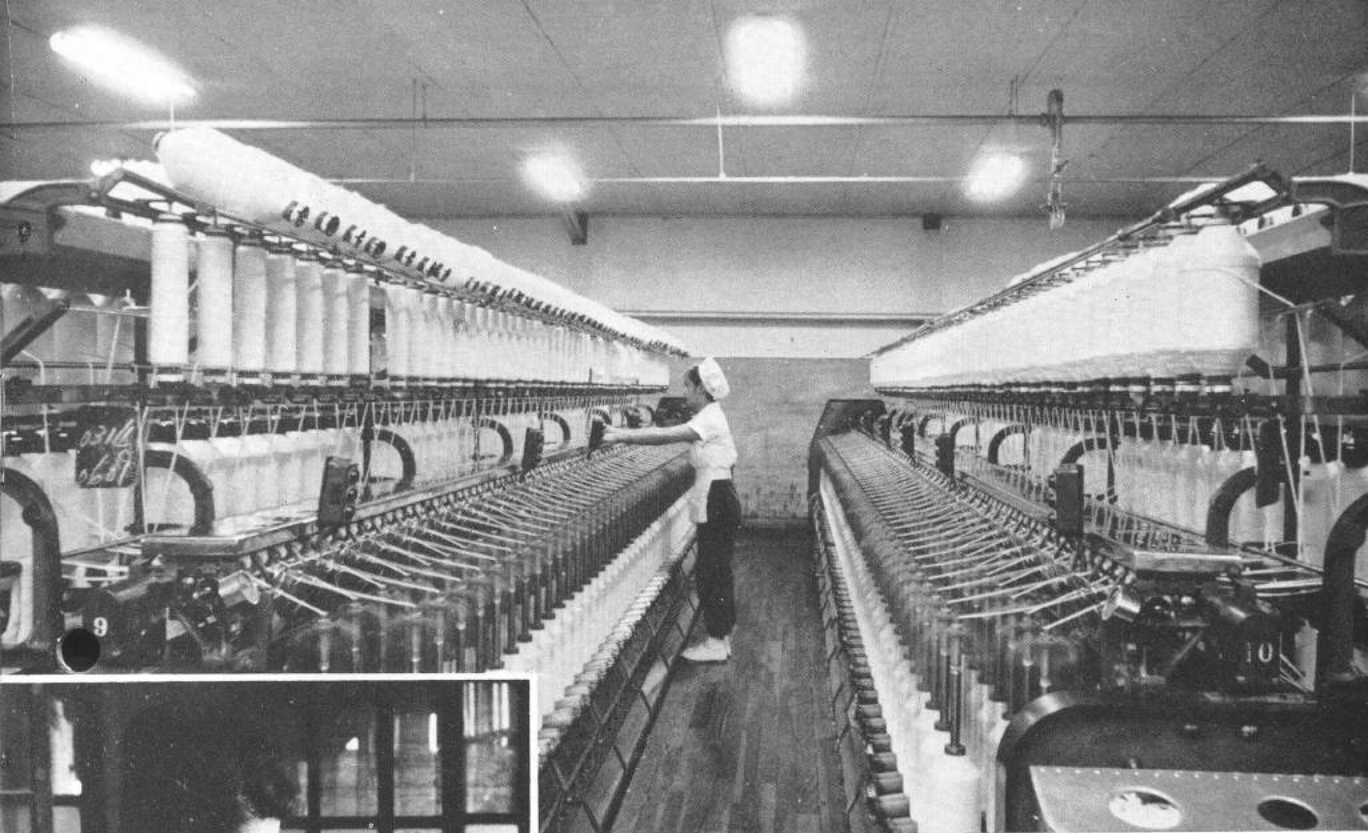


Women working on transistors in an electronic industry.

Women welders in a farm-machine factory.



Checking for accuracy in a camera factory.



A rover in a spinning factory.



Decorating pottery.



A woman clerk in the mechanized central office of a bank.



Farm women picking up young rice plants for transplanting.

As the shift of male population from agriculture to other industries goes on, women take increasingly greater responsibility in farm work. In 1963, women made up 53 per cent of the whole agricultural labor force.

The mechanization of farm labor as well as the increasing use of labor saving devices in household work helps women to carry out their responsibilities with less effort.



A community kitchen in the busiest farming season.



A farm wife speeding her job with an autobicycle.

Housewives helping the joint shipment of farm products at Agricultural Cooperative Union workshop.



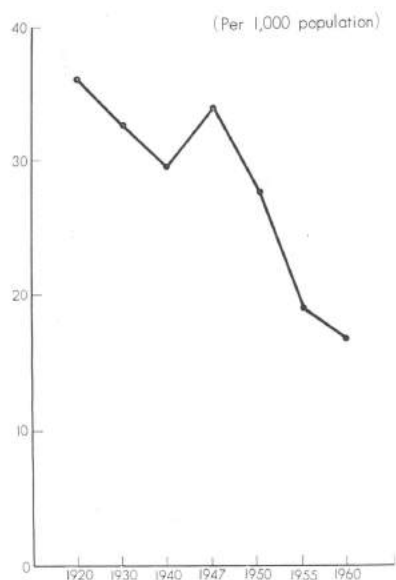
Housewives sitting at ease
in a Japanese-style room.





New housing project in the suburbs of Tokyo.

Remarkable Decline of Birth Rate



A happy family circle on a winter evening.



The pattern of family life is changing.

The number of children per family is getting much smaller, and the wider use of modern household appliances is facilitating women's housework so much that the wife's burden of housekeeping is steadily getting lighter.



A Welfare Center for Women Workers in Osaka.

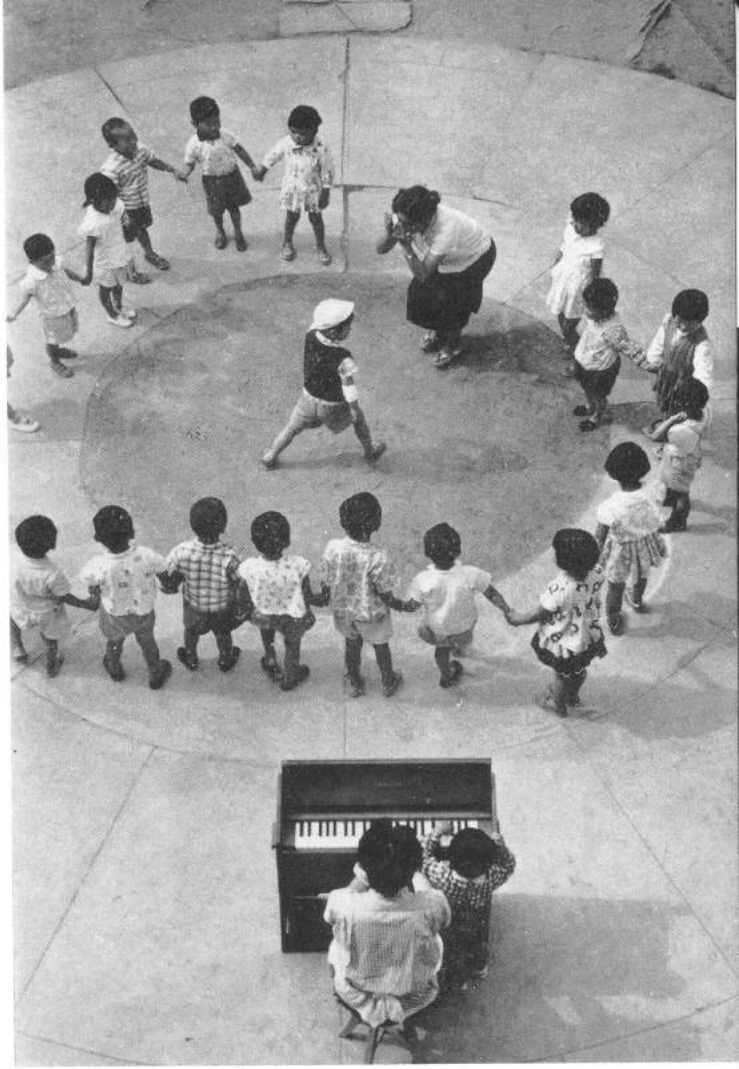
Recreation room.



Expectant mothers taking nursing courses at a Health Center for Mothers and Children. There are more than 270 centers all through the country.

A number of laws and regulations work to protect women and children.

Outstanding are Child Welfare Law (1947), Law Concerning Loans of Welfare Funds to Mothers and the Dependent Children (1952), Pension for the Survivors of the Dead and Injured by the War (1952), Children Sustenance Allowance Law (1961). Mothers and children also benefit from Health Centers Law (1947), Livelihood Protection Law (1950), Health Insurance Scheme (1958), and National Pension Scheme (1959)



A day-nursery in rural area.

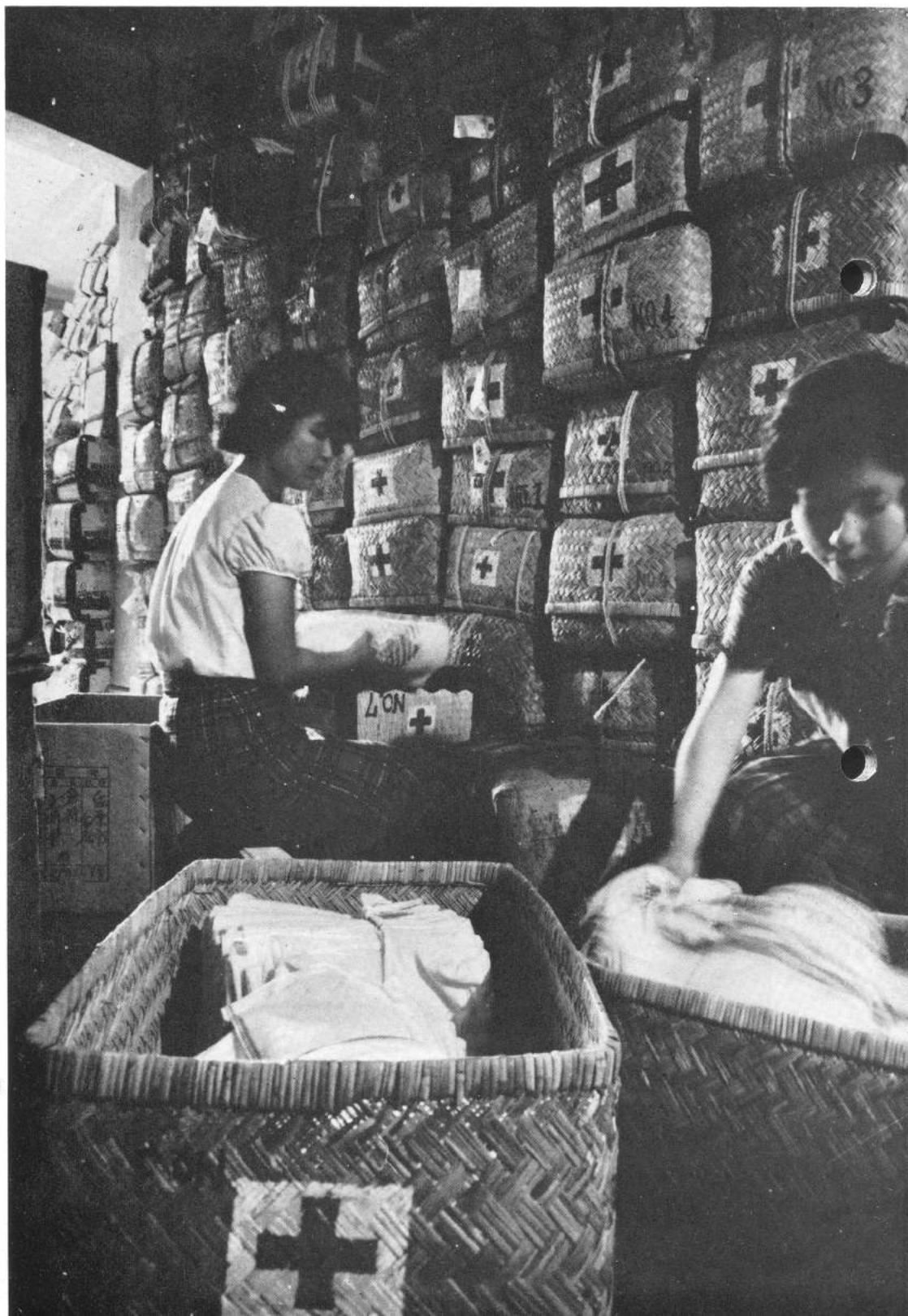


A home-helper sent to a worker's home in the scheme of "Home-Help Service within Industry".

The scheme is promoted by the Women's and Minors' Bureau which also trains the home-helpers.

Japanese women are found eager to work for the betterment of life through the organized activities. There are a number of women's organizations throughout the country.

The activities of these organizations are manifold according to their purposes of establishment, but they often cooperate in dealing with common problems.



Volunteer workers at the Japan Red Cross Society sending relief goods to an afflicted district.



Housewives protesting against price increases.

Representatives of a women's organization talk with Prime Minister Ikeda about his economic Policy.





Flower arrangement is most popular among Japanese women, both housewives and working girls.

Young girls and housewives taking lesson in calligraphy.



A mother hiking with her little son.



As a result of the favorable changes in living conditions, women enjoy much more free time today than a decade ago.

Women take great pleasure in joining the amateur orchestra or the chorus.



The photographs are presented by:

Canon Camera Co., Inc.

Health Center for Mothers and Children in Saitama

Hokkaido Takushoku Bank, Ltd.

Housewives' Federation

Ienohikari Institute

Ikenobo University for Art of Flower Arrangement

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Tokyo University

Welfare Center for Women Workers in Osaka.

Those interested in further information on Japanese women may obtain the 32-page pamphlet "Status of Women in Japan" free of charge from:

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Women's and Minors' Bureau
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Women's and Minors' Bureau
Ministry of Labor
Japan