

“Hashism” haunting Osaka — You don’t scare me! —

Osaka Prefectural Senior- High School Teachers and Staffs Union

In June, Osaka’s Governor Toru Hashimoto and Osaka’s local party “Osaka Ishin-no-kai” (Osaka Restoration Association) headed by Hashimoto passed a regulation that teachers and school staff must stand up in unison for the national flag (“Hinomaru”) and the national anthem (“Kimigayo”) at school events. Our union requires Governor Hashimoto to revoke the regulation, which is against the principle in Japan’s constitution that freedom of thought and conscience should not be violated.

Again this fall, Governor Hashimoto and Osaka Ishin-no-kai are planning to introduce a fundamental ordinance on education including new rules of punishment to dismiss teachers and staff who repeatedly disobey such an oppressive measure.

What the new ordinance this time is going to stipulate, including the removal of disobedient teachers is as follows:

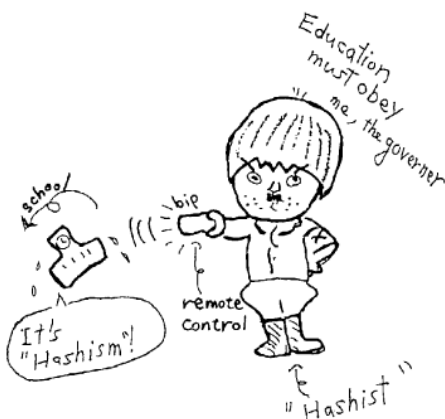
- (1) The governor provides schools with an educational goal that he/she sets by himself /herself.
- (2) A public school principal and vice- principal whose service term is 5 years are selected among the public according to the governor’s way of thinking. A principal should grade his/her school teachers in five levels every year and a principal should push into resignation his/her school teachers who receive the lowest rating allotted to 5 % teachers for the second year in a row.
- (3) The rankings of schools are disclosed, according to the results of national achievement test. The system under which Osaka prefecture senior high schools are divided into 4 districts, which plays a part of stopping excessive competition for entrance, is abolished.
- (4) The prefectural senior high schools that have not met their quota because of the shortage in succession will be closed or reorganized.

Education is a continuous process in which free personal exchanges occur. It should be in the best interests of the student according to truth and conscience. Teaching should not be work forced by order and threat. It is ridiculous that politics should prohibit teachers from working voluntarily and creatively. Governor Hashimoto should enable them to have an educational objective that they regard as the best for their students.

Disregarding the most basic human rights like freedom of expression, conscience, and religion, pre-war Imperial rule imposed education upon the object of bringing up a person patriotic at home and aggressive abroad. Based on reflection for militarism, the Japanese people have stuck the principle that politics must not interfere with education.

Governor Hashimoto and Ishin-no-kai are throwing away the golden rule that interference by politics must be restrained.

Osaka is haunted by a ghost —the ghost of “Hashism”, short for Hashimotoism like fascism. Exorcizing this ghost from Osaka, our union, together with teachers and the people in Osaka, makes every effort to reject Hashimoto’s new ordinance in conflict with the democratic principles of the Japanese constitution.



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President Tsuyoshi Shima