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(AT Fukuoka) The reason why the Japan Intellectual Exchange Committee included Fukuoka in Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt's five-week tour program was because it wished her to inspect the life at coal-mines. On our way to Tokyo from Fukuoka, she inspected Takamatsu coal-mines of the Nihon Teikoku Mining Company, on June 10. I think she looked forward to a friendly talk with housewives at the coal mine which had been organized affiliated with the Housewives Association, a powerful statewide of the All-Japan Coal mine Women's Liaison Council organized for the purpose of strengthening labor movements.

It was quite unexpected that eight representatives of women workers who attended the meeting did not make questions to Mrs. Roosevelt, and that they only answered questions put by her. Since I was not a member of the Housewives Association attending the meeting, I heard that those who attended were members of the company. I trust that she has told this to her in a car on our way home. She said: I also thought so.

It is common to all countries that living conditions at coal-mines are bad. Early in the beginning of 1930 when we had hard times, I inspected several coal mines in America. In those coal mines there was a system under which coal-mines workers could purchase goods on credit at stores established by companies, but the miners patronized those stores because they had credit there. Before they were aware, they ran into debt so much so that they could not pay off debts. As the companies did not allow them to move other coal mines, unless they paid the debts, they remained in the coal mines as substantial slaves of management.

Of course, there are no such conditions in America at present. When I
inspected Japanese coal mines I wondered if Japanese coal mine workers were following the same course as American coal mine workers took 20 years back."

When Sakamoto, manager of the company, explained to me that the company's store was selling goods 10 per cent lower than other stores, Mrs. Roosevelt significantly smiled and said: "I think no store can offer so cheap prices unless it is a consumers' union organized by workers themselves. Will you ask the manager why he can maintain the store by offering so low prices?"

It was regrettable that representatives of the Housewives Association did not attend the meeting, because, if they did so, Mrs. Roosevelt might have understood well how Japanese workers and their housewives were fighting to improve their present low living standard. To (80)