

REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Date of Elections: December 23, 1972

Purpose of Elections

The first parliamentary elections in 24 years were held for selecting additional members with fixed terms for the National Assembly and the Legislative *Yuan*. These new members, totalling 53 for the former and 51 for the latter, were to join the existing members of the above-mentioned bodies, originally elected in 1947 and 1948. In addition, 15 additional members were to be chosen for the Control *Yuan*, whose original membership also dated from 1948.

Characteristics of Parliament

In the Republic of China, 3 bodies — the National Assembly, the Legislative *Yuan* and the Control *Yuan* — share the functions of Parliament.

According to the Constitution, the National Assembly is to exercise political powers on behalf of the whole body of citizens; the Legislative *Yuan* is the highest legislative organ of the State, constituted of elected members and exercising legislative power on behalf of the people; and the Control *Yuan* is the highest control organ of the State, exercising the " powers of consent, impeachment, censure and auditing " of the work of the Executive *Yuan* and the Ministries and Executives.

As originally conceived, the National Assembly was to be composed of elected delegates for geographical areas of mainland China, Mongolia and Tibet, as well as of delegates elected by various racial groups, Chinese citizens residing abroad, occupational groups and women's organizations; the Legislative *Yuan* of members representing the same constituencies; and the Control *Yuan* of members elected by local councils and Chinese citizens residing abroad.

Apart a 1969 by-election held in Taiwan, a National Assembly election was not held since 1947. Incumbents' terms therefore were indefinitely extended, not to expire until the " day on which the next National Assembly convenes " (Constitution, Article 28). Originally, the Assembly had 2,961 Delegates. By the 1972 elections this total had been reduced to 1,376.

The first elections of members of the Legislative *Yuan* was held in 1948, when a total of 760 legislators were elected. The Council of Grand Justices ruled that the original members of the Legislative *Yuan* (as those of the Control *Yuan*, totalling 180 elected members) should continue until new members could be elected. As of December 1972, members of the Legislative and Control *Yuans* amounted to 420 and 65, respectively.

Additional members elected to the National Assembly and the Control *Yuan* have a 6-year term, whereas those elected to the Legislative *Yuan* serve for 3 years. Members of both *Yuans* may be re-elected.

Electoral System

All citizens of the Republic of China of either sex are eligible to vote for legislators if they are 20 years of age and have lived in an electoral district for 6 consecutive months, unless deprived of their civil or political rights.

In 1972, electoral lists were announced 15 days before the elections and exhibited for 5 days (December 8-12). Voting is not compulsory.

Any citizen of the age of 23, who has lived in his domicile of birth or in an election district continuously for over 6 months, had graduated from a senior middle school or higher education institution or had passed the ordinary or higher civil service examinations was eligible as a candidate in the election of additional members to the National Assembly or the Legislative Yuan. Persons disqualified, however, included the insane; those convicted of offenses against the internal or external security of the State; those convicted of any other crime for which a prison term is stipulated, regardless of whether the term was served; those deprived of their civil rights; public officials and officers of the armed forces on active duty; those under judicial interdiction; and personnel responsible for attending to matters pertaining to the elections.

A candidate to the Legislative Yuan may register as such and campaign for election after he has been petitioned for nomination by 3,000 or more electors, or nominated by the political party to which he is affiliated; the requirement for overseas Chinese candidates, women candidates and those from occupational groups is 500, 200 and 50, respectively.

The additional members to be chosen in 1972 were declared elected if they obtained a plurality of the votes cast by the following electorate:

| Electorate | National Assembly | Additional Members | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| | | Legislative Yuan | Control Yuan |
| Taiwan Province | 30 | 21 | 7 |
| Taipei City | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| Quemoy and Matsu | 2 | 1 | — |
| Taiwanese aborigines | 2 | 1 | — |
| Vocational groups | 10 | 8 | — |
| Women's organizations | 5 | | |
| Citizens living abroad | — | 15 | 5 |
| Total | 53 | 51 | 15 |

According to legal provisions, the President of the Republic is authorized to hold " elections to fill the elective offices " which have become vacant for " legitimate reasons " of for which additional representation is called for because of population increase in areas that are under the Government's control.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The 1972 parliamentary elections for new legislators — combined with provincial and local elections scheduled the same day — were decided upon on March 9, 1972, by the ruling *Kuomintang* party's 99-member Central Committee. President Chiang Kai-shek signed the regulations governing the elections, which had been drafted by an *ad hoc* committee of the National Security Council, on June 28.

The electoral campaign was carried on during the 15 days preceding the elections. Opposing the *Kuomintang* was the Young China Party and the Democratic Socialist Party, founded in 1923 and 1932, respectively, as well as numerous independent candidates.

Taking into account the existing legislators, the additional members elected were approximately equivalent to 4 % of the National Assembly's current membership, 12 % of that of the Legislative *Yuan* and 23 % of that of the Control *Yuan*. The results in no way threatened the *Kuomintang's* parliamentary majority.

The new members of the National Assembly and Legislative *Yuan* — 79 of whom were born in Taiwan — were sworn in on February 1, 1973, and of the Control *Yuan*, on March 1, 1973.

Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats of Additional Members*

| | National Assembly | | Legislative <i>Yuan</i> | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|
| Number of registered voters | 7,555,694 | | 7,608,589 | |
| Voters. | 5,184,227 | (68.61%) | 5,193,161 | (68.25%) |
| Blank or void ballot papers | 388,053 | | 374,132 | |
| Valid votes. | 4,796,174 | | 4,819,029 | |

| Political Group | 0 tats Obtained | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| | National Assembly | Legislative Yuan | Control Yuan |
| <i>Kuomintang</i> | 43 | 41 | 13 |
| Young China Party | | 2 | |
| Democratic Socialist Party | | | 1 |
| Others | 10 | 8 | 1 |
| | 53 | 51 | 15 |

2. Distribution of Additional Members according to Sex

| | National Assembly | Legislative Yuan | Control Yuan |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| | 45 | 46 | 14 |
| | 8 | 5 | 1 |
| | 53 | 51 | 15 |

3. Distribution of Additional Members according to Age Group

| | National Assembly | Legislative Yuan | Control Yuan |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 25-30. | 4 | | — |
| 31-40. | 20 | 13 | — |
| 41-50. | 13 | 16 | 3 |
| 51-60. | 12 | 13 | 3 |
| 61-69. | 4 | 9 | 9 |
| | 53 | 51 | 15 |