

Topics

(4) The Uchinada Offshore Battle between the Musashi and the Yamato

The Uchinada Struggle also had an impact on national politics. In the House of Councilors election on April 24th, 1953, the Uchinada land requisition became an important subject of debate. As a result, Kamejiro Hayashiya — an Ishikawa congressman who had previously changed his mind in the land requisition debate after being appointed to the Minister of State position—was defeated by Tokuji Imura, a member of the Reform Party who publicly pledged his support for the land requisition protest movement. Also, because at that time Hayashiya was the proprietor of the Musashi Department Store and Imura was the proprietor of the Daiwa Department Store (the kanji of which can also be read as Yamato), their competing election campaigns were nicknamed “The Uchinada Offshore Battle between the Musashi and the Yamato” after two famous battleships that fought during the Pacific War. Though the two competed intensely during the election, under wartime regulations their two companies were actually temporarily merged one decade earlier in 1943, and for a time they were both founders and company presidents of the Daiwa Department Store.