

New MITI Minister: 'Man's Wisdom And Technology Are Unlimited'

The following are excerpts from an interview with Toshio Komoto, the new Japanese Minister of International Trade and Industry, published in the Nov. 28, 1975 issue of Far Eastern Economic Review. At the time of the interview, Komoto was the international trade and industry minister in the Miki cabinet.

There are a lot of people who can't recover from the oil shock. Because it was such a great trauma, people are saying that the period of rapid growth is over, that Japan can only hope for a much slower growth now, and that the same applies to the whole world. But I disagree. It's true that the earth is limited and, hence, resources which are buried in the earth, and their potential energies, are limited. But man's wisdom and technology are unlimited. We can see this by looking at the last 100 years of history. Several decades ago, nobody thought of getting nitrogenous fertilizer from the air. Now that's become possible. A few decades ago nobody could foresee the present petrochemical industry, with hundreds of thousands of products, nor nuclear energy, nor nuclear

fusion. Now, nuclear fusion is a matter of time. We're spending a lot of money on this and so are the Americans, and the Germans. It will probably come in 20 or 25 years. And what that means is that energy will no longer be limited.

To convince yourself that you've hit your limit, to go around saying "it's all over, it's all over," closing your eyes to possibilities — that just won't do. We have to have a broader outlook on mankind's needs. There are 4 billion people in the world today and at the present rate of increase, there will be 6.5 billion people at the beginning of the 21st century. And all of them are going to want to decent life. In Japan, in the shorter term, too, there is a lot to be done. We'll have to find new jobs for 700,000 people each year. We have to increase social investment to improve the quality of life. There's a lot of social injustice that has to be corrected. We want to increase our economic aid. We have to restructure our industry.

None of this will be possible if the Japanese industry loses its vigor. It's not good to have our politicians talking like representatives of the "Club of Rome."

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Executive Intelligence Review
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EXECUTIVE INTELLIGENCE REVIEW SPECIAL REPORT
DAILY ENERGY INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN AUGUST 18, 1977
'EX' WATERGATE PROSECUTOR CHARGES 1.5 BILLION DOLLAR COST
OVERRUN IN ALASKA PIPELINE

AUG 18 - IN A HIGHLY UNUSUAL PROCEDURE, THE STATE-RUN ALASKA PIPELINE COMMISSION, ITSELF SPENDING MORE THAN 1 MILLION DOLLARS IN ITS INVESTIGATION, HAS CHARGED THAT THE ALYESKA PIPELINE SERVICE CORPORATION 'WASTED' SOME 1.5 BILLION DOLLARS IN CONSTRUCTION OF THE MUCH PLAGUED ALASKA OIL PIPELINE. THE ALYESKA CORP. HAS CHARGED THAT THE STATE REPORT IS BIASED AND THAT THE INVESTIGATORS 'NEVER INTENDED OBJECTIVITY.' THE 678-PAGE REPORT WAS PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF TERRY LEVZNER WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY INVOLVED IN THE POLITICAL FAC-TIONAL WAR AGAINST NIXON WHEN LEVZNER WAS DEPUTY COUNSEL TO THE SENATE WATERGATE COMMITTEE. INFORMED SOURCES IN THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY CONFIRM THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN INTENSE BEHIND THE SCENES EFFORT BY THE ROCKEFELLER FAMILY POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL EMPIRE ACTING AT TIMES THROUGH ITS EXXON PETROLEUM BACKED EFFORT TO DEVELOP THE VAST ALASKA OIL RESERVES. THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY AN EXPLOSION AND FIRE EARLIER THIS SUMMER HAS ALREADY CAUSED SUBSTANTIAL DELAY IN EP ALASKA OIL REVENUES, WHICH WAS FURTHER AGGRAVATED BY A US INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION DECISION FORCING DOWNWARD REDUCTION IN RATES CHARGEABLE BY THE PIPELINE CONSORTIUM TO ITS CUSTOMERS.

BRITISH NUCLEAR REPROCESSING INQUIRY GETS BOOST

AUG 18 - THE ONGOING BRITISH GOVERNMENT-ORDERED PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE EXISTING NUCLEAR FUEL RE-PROCESSING CENTER OF BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS LTD. AT SIND-SCALE GOT A MAJOR BOOST WITH THE TESTIMONY THIS WEEK FROM THE NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS INSPECTORATE THAT 'THERE AP-TO BE NO SIGNIFICANT SAFETY PROBLEMS THAT CANNOT BE OVER-COME. IN OTHER TESTIMONY, DR. STANLEY BOWIE OF ABERDEEN ENVIRONMENTALIST GROUPS, THAT THE PLUTONIUM BYPRODUCT SUCH REPROCESSING WAS ONE OF THE MOST DEADLY SUBSTANT BOWIE POINTED OUT THAT ALMOST EQUALLY DEADLY SUBSTANCE THE CAFFEINE PEOPLE DRINK EVERY DAY IN THEIR COFFE-TRAINED BY MORY LEVINS IS BELIEVED BADLY FALTERI BRITISH AFFILIATE OF THE SO-CALLED FRIENDS OF THE BRITISH NUCLEAR REPROCESSING CONTRACT. THE EXPANSION IS PART OF ONE OF THE MOST DEADLY SUBSTANT BOWIE POINTED OUT THAT ALMOST EQUALLY DEADLY SUBSTANCE SUCH REPROCESSING WAS ONE OF THE MOST DEADLY SUBSTANT BOWIE POINTED OUT THAT ALMOST EQUALLY DEADLY SUBSTANT BOWIE POINTED OUT THAT ALMOST EQUALLY DEADLY SUBSTANT

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