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of the House of Representatives, No. 18,  
The 65th Imperial Diet.

(Saturday), March 3, 1935.

Opening of Session: 1:22 p.m.

(Minister of State MATSUMOTO, Jōji climbs the  
platform)

Minister of State (Mr. MATSUMOTO, Jōji)

I am going to mention the reasons for which the  
Petroleum Control bill has been introduced. With regard  
to the security in the supply of petroleum, one of the  
important material from the view point of industry as well  
as national defense, the Government, which has so far  
established various requisite facilities, has now prepared  
a budget of more than 1,8000,000 yen for next year. And is  
by all means going to construct facilities necessary for  
liquid fuel supply. My opinion as to the petroleum policy  
of Japan is that, in view of the situation of the domestic  
petroleum resources, more and more effort should, of course,  
be concentrated upon the security and development of both  
domestic and foreign petroleum resources and also on the  
promotion of the substitute fuel industry. While, on the  
other hand, considering the present situation of the oil

refining industry in this country and the national tendency toward self-sufficiency in petroleum products, I cannot but deem it of urgent necessity for Japan to take a course towards the firm establishment of the oil refining industry and in securing her petroleum supply along with these facilities.

The oil refining industry in Japan has, of late, made steady progress year by year. However, Japan as yet remains in the poor status of having to rely upon foreign countries for more than half of her demand at home on benzine and crude petroleum which form the main part of her petroleum consumption. So that, in order to establish the oil refining industry in Japan and to attain self-sufficiency in various petroleum products, the necessary steps for us to take are I believe to regulate imports into this country properly on the one hand and to establish facilities to assure control over the domestic oil refining industry on the other. In short, we look forward to systematic development of the petroleum industry of this country, by controlling both the import and oil refining industry under the Government authorization.