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Stenographic Record of the Proceedings of the House of Peers, No. 24,
of the 74th Session of the Imperial Diet.

March 17, 1939 (Showa 14) (Friday)

Opened at 10:10 a.m.

(omission)

(HATA, Yoshiaki, Minister of State Climbs the rostrum.)

HATA, Yoshiaki, Minister of State. I should like to explain the reason for introducing the bill for light-metals manufacturing industries which has just been laid before the House. Light-metals, that is, aluminum and magnesium, as materials for light alloys such as duralumin, are indispensable in the manufacture of aircraft, and it goes without saying that they are extremely important items in the consolidation of national defense. Apart from the requirements of national defense, aluminum and magnesium, as materials for various machines, instruments, and equipment, and also as substitutes for copper and other metals, are important for developing various industries. With the consolidation of national defense, in the future, the trend of demand for aluminum and magnesium should become



increasingly greater. However, since our light metal manufacturing industry was developed only in recent years, its present productive capacity is far from meeting the current demand. In fact, Japan has been obliged to import a considerable amount of these materials every year. Ours is inferior to the same industry in European countries and America not only in output but also in both productive technique and quality of products, and it is to be regretted from the standpoint of a national defense industry that its weaknesses are not few. In the plan for raising productive capacity, which was recently decided by the present Cabinet, aluminum and magnesium were taken up as important objectives in this raising of productivity and we are expecting long strides to be taken in output. I think at this time that it is a matter of great urgency that we should establish and develop our light metal manufacturing industry to such a level that the production can meet not only the domestic demand but also become so great that a considerable amount could be exported in peacetime, taking into in consideration a shift in time of war, to the manufacture of munition materials. And I believe it is the pressing need of the moment that we should raise the level of productive technique as high as possible in an attempt to get it to compare favorably with the light metal manufacturing industry in Europe and America. For attaining this, we ought, in addition to granting various measures for protection and support for the light metal manufacturing industry, to take adequate steps by way of encouragement in an attempt to raise the productive capacity, to exercise necessary guidance and control

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with a view to improving its productive techniques and management, and to secure the balance of supply and demand as well as the just and fair prices of aluminum and magnesium. In this connection, it is necessary for us to set up a special kind of corporation with all the manufacturers of the industry as members, to conduct a joint sale of aluminum and magnesium together with a control over their distribution, and at the same time to secure our enterprises so that they will be strong enough to compete with those in foreign countries. This is the main reason in substance for introducing this bill in the Diet. I sincerely wish you will fully deliberate on this bill and give your approval to it.