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Pages, 83 -- 88.

Stenographic Records of the Proceedings in the House of Representatives, 73rd Imperial Diet, No. 6.

Opening of Session: 1:20 p. m., January 25th (Tuesday), 1938.

Minister of State NAGAI, Ryutaro climbs the platform.

Minister of State (NAGAI, Ryutaro)

I would like to explain en bloc the Purport of the four bills just presented relating to the projected State control of electric power. Electricity is not only indispensable to national life for lighting and heating purposes but also plays a very important part as a motive power for all industries, and at the same time as essential factor in the newly rising chemical industry which is growing more and more in importance both for national defense and industrial purposes. It is charged with no less important mission in agricultural and fishing communities to help increase productive capacity, promote subsidiary occupations and make up the shortage of labor through facilitating and increasing power supply, and thus contribute to stabilizing the living of people on the home front. The uses of electricity, as a public utility, are so manifold and extensive, and, as regards its supply it is so peculiarly monopolistic in nature, that matters relating to the development of electric power

resources and its supply should not be determined from the standpoint of ~~mere~~ profit-making or private economy. Appropriate plans for the development of this industry should be established from a national and public point of view, so as to meet the requirements of national defense, national economy and the people's livelihood. Such, I hold, should be the true spirit underlying the state policy concerning electric power supply. In our country at present, however, the electric industry is carried on for profit by many different companies independently from one another, and in addition, the conflict of interests among these companies grievously interfere with unity and coordination among themselves. The result is that their mission as a national and public utility is, in so far as their management is concerned, far from being executed satisfactorily. For this reason it is necessary ^{that the} electric industry should be placed under state control and conducted systematically and coordinately in accordance with a single directive will, so as to provide against war as well as for ~~Peace~~. And by doing so the electric enterprise can be, from their characteristic nature, carried on this way the most economically also.....

The Japan Electric Power Generation and Transmission Company (Nippon Hassoden Kabushiki Kaisha) is charged with an important mission to make effective use of private capital and individual ability and to carry on its business under State control. It has been decided therefore that on one hand the company be accorded facilities for raising necessary funds,

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granted guarantee for payment of dividends, allowed reduction or exemption of taxes and given various other privileges necessary for the conduct of its business, while on the other it be subject to government supervision much in the same way as special companies of similar nature.