

Stenographic Record of the Proceeding of the 4th. Joint Session of the 1st., 2nd., 3rd., 4th. Committee of Accounts of the House of Representatives at the 75th. Diet Session.

Tuesday session, March 19, 1940 at 1:39 p.m.

(Omission)

Government Committeeman MUTO;

I hereby express my heartfelt support towards the opinion of Committeeman HAMAJI. Thus, I believe, my answer has already reached its conclusion, but inasmuch as I am given this opportunity to express my opinion, I would like to express a part of what I have been impressed with for some time. It is the attitude of mind for us Japanese to take in surmounting this emergency with which we are confronted. I am of the opinion that we must, by all means, have the spirit of leadership commonly needed for attaining its purpose. It is, as already stated by War Minister TERAUCHI in the Diet, essential to oust individualism and all liberalism originating from the former which will attach too much importance to personal interests to cope with the present international situation. Looking over the present international situation, all the nations, irregardless of which one, are proceeding to attach importance to a national standard. Even observing economic relations, they are all carrying on economic transactions with one another with the nation as the unit. That



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furthermore this has progressed to a "bloc" economy. Each one of them has come to think of attaching importance to the nation as a unit in competition, rather than personal gains, in an economic race in ordinary times.

I am firmly convinced that it is an inevitably impossible matter to unite and give full swing to all the strengths of Japan at this time of emergency when Japan must raise all her strength to see through the emergency with which she is confronted, so long as greater importance is attached to personal interests. In this connection, they speak of a matter called totalitarianism in foreign countries.

War Minister TERAUCHI once stated that we must depend thoroughly on totalitarianism, attaching importance to patriotism. I do not know what this is properly called, as I am not a scholar, but I wonder if the word "kokutaishugi" or principle of Japanese National Constitution or National Polity would not be satisfactory for this.

It is my firm conviction that if everyone of us would unite, all based on the nation more than on the individual, the total strength of the nation will be unified of itself, to give it full swing. In this sense, as you previously pointed out, should the political parties be neglectful of national affairs, clinging to their own interests or manoeuvres, this absolutely



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would not be allowable. The same is true of government officials. If they should swing to self-complacency, as you have pointed out, they should reflect on themselves and reform such undesirable convention without wasting a minute. Again, as for the army, in other words, armed forces, should there be any points that should be criticised for our being high-handed, it should be amended immediately also.

I firmly believe that the attitude to see the nation over these extraordinary times is for us to fully realize a sense of nationalism and to act in concert with one another. In other words, if the political parties, the government officials, the military authorities and all the others would reflect on themselves and amend what should be amended, and closely cooperate with one another, fully realizing the sense of national polity, I am rather hopeful of the future and believe that the current emergency will unmistakably be seen through. You asked me of my opinion about the political parties. If there should still be any political parties clinging to their own interests or maneuvers, they ought to immediately reflect on themselves. In the event that they refuse to reflect on themselves, I believe legal measures should be taken so as to have them dissolved in these emergency times. You



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mentioned that for close co-operation of the army, government officials, and political parties, the military authorities are too powerful. What you have said can be interpreted in various ways, but it cannot be said that the military is too strong for fighting with a foreign enemy, no matter how strong they may be. From what you said previously, you probably had in mind that the army is too high-handed in the matter of uniting and co-operating -- that it is out of the question to act in close concert with them. In this connection, I believe as follows: There is much discussion that the military interfere in politics, but perfect understanding must be reached by both the military and the politicians for the purpose of bringing this war to a successful conclusion. In the case of an individual who is a general and a politician at the same time, things would be in agreement; but under the present national structure the politicians take charge of politics and the generals lead the military forces, and are quite separate. If the politicians should fully understand the military forces in every respect, the latter would be able to devote itself to its own affairs and feel at ease.

This is, as a matter of fact, however, impossible; so for the military to say we would like to have this done, that done in order to see the successful prosecution of the war is only a



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natural thing. I am firmly convinced that if you would read but one page of the science of war you would be in complete agreement with me, and not ask further questions. Particularly in the case of modern war, where we are forced to concentrate all-out national energy. We, on the part of the army, hold a keen interest on even a trifling matter such as the shortage of one grain of rice or the sabotage of a single laborer; in other words, if there should occur a shortage of rice for the people to eat, it would threaten the stabilization of the nation and it would have such far-reaching effects in the leadership of the war. Should the sabotage of a single laborer prevent a single part of a weapon from being produced, it would have serious effects on the prosecution of the war. Consequently, we sincerely hope you would fully understand the fact that we have to ask for this to be done and that to be done, and take a keen interest in every particular of both politics and economics.

I do not believe this is interference in politics. To work co-operatively and unitedly I believe one should speak out his opinion; accordingly I would like to request your understanding on this point. And if the will or indication of the military in these demands are to be mistaken as being too



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strong, the political parties or government officials should frankly give their opinions without hesitation so that we may proceed understanding one another.

I wonder if the case is not where it is, not that the military is too strong, but that the political parties are too weak. I have expressed my various views, but the point is that we should fully realize the mission of Imperial Japan, take full cognizance of the emergency, and exchange frank opinions with each other, in order that we may arrive at an agreement on both political and military policies.

Therefore, I quite agree to the suggestion in which you have stressed the importance of the fact that the military authorities should always act in close concert with the political parties.

Finally, you advised us about the relations between the militarists and the merchants, to which we intend to pay full attention. The other day, the War Minister simultaneously with the decision made on the budget at the Cabinet meeting, informed all the forces to the effect that whether it may be a single penny or a single item, let it be used with care, as they are the crystals of painstaking labor of the people. Everything is being handled with this attitude and I am hopeful



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of there not being and mistakes ever.

Committeeman HAMAJ I;

I am sincerely gratified with what the Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau has just replied on their definitis policies and firm determination. What you have stated makes me feel brighter and pleasanter than I have felt for some time of late. We, on the part of the political parties, are confident that we are second to none in being in all sincerity to render more co-operation than ever.

I know express my heart-felt gratitude on the answers of the Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau.



CERTIFICATE OF SOURCE AND AUTHENTICITY

I, who occupy the post of the Chief of Official Report, Printing Bureau, hereby certify that the document hereto attached, written in Japanese, consisting of 14 pages and entitled "Stenographic Record of the Proceedings of the 4th. Joint Session of the 1st., 2nd., 3rd. and 4th. Committee of Accounts of the House of Representatives at the 7th. Diet Session." is an exact and authorized excerpt from an official document in the custody of Japanese Government (Cabinet Printing Bureau).

certified at Tokyo,

on this 24 day of Oct., 1947

/s/ NACHIGAMI, Hatahachi

(seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the Witness.

at the same place,

on this same date

Witness: /s/ OPUCHI, Mamoru

(seal)