

Japanese Halting Downhill Plunge Toward Disaster

By JIM BECKER
Of The Associated Press

TOKYO (AP)—Japan in the past three months has slammed the brakes on the downhill plunge toward bankruptcy and social chaos.

The long skid toward disaster has not stopped for the nation which President Eisenhower this

week called the "Key to the defense" of the Western Pacific. But the pace of the skid has slowed.

If the drivers keep their nerve—and the nation stands the strain—they may get Japan's careening economy under control and avoid the twin catastrophes of runaway inflation and a billion dollar foreign trade deficit.

The hands at the controls belong to hard-bitten Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida and his conservative-minded Liberal party. Already government economists see a little hope.

MUST HAVE HELP

Eisenhower in a speech to the National Editorial Assn. said Japan must have help and the chance to trade if it is to be kept out of Red hands.

Japan is trying to help itself with an "austerity" program.

In the past three months Japan, which must trade to live, has begun to sell more abroad while holding down on things it buys. It is the first trade upturn for Japan in years.

As a result, shaky businesses are tumbling and the man in the street is finding it harder to make ends meet. But the government insists "austerity" is the only way to pull this teeming island empire back from the brink of disaster.

This is Japan's economic problem: It is buying products, mostly raw materials for factories and food for the people, from other countries at the rate of \$2,300,000,000 a year. But Japan is selling abroad only about \$1,200,000,000 a year.

U.S. DOLLARS DWINDLING

U. S. military spending here amounts to about 700 million dollars a year, but this is dwindling since the truce in the Korean War.

Now Japan has only 800 million dollars in foreign currency in reserve to buy the things she needs from abroad.

To halt the alarming drain, the government first tackled inflation by reducing the budget and the supply of credit. This will help exports by cutting prices of things Japan sells.

"We have not tried hard enough to sell our products overseas," says Nobuhiko Ushiba, chief of the Trade Bureau of the Trade Ministry.

First to be cut were imports of luxury items. The streets of Tokyo are crammed with sleek, new expensive American automobiles. This prosperous facade covered a crumbling economy.

While some U. S. observers call the government program "too little and very late," Ushiba said that "we have stabilized our imports at around the two billion dollar annual level."

TO INCREASE EXPORTS

"We must now strive for exports at the two billion dollar level in the next few years," he added.

That goal is not regarded as impossible since it would be but 80 per cent of Japan's prewar trade.

Government economists, architects of the "austerity" program, see an increase in unemployment and propose a social security program of unemployment insurance and the like to ward off unrest.

Eisenhower said Japan also must be allowed to trade with Red China—its ancient market. But government economists believe this trade would be only a fraction of Japan's total even if all restrictions are lifted.

Instead Japan is concentrating on building up industries where it can best compete in the free world—optical equipment, cameras, textiles, machinery, toys, canned fish and plastics.

The economic story being written today seems to be that the Japanese are going to draw their belts tight and very possibly pull through their blackest postwar period without large-scale help from the outside.

Kissless Films From Japan To Invade U.S.

By ALINE MOSBY
Of The United Press

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—Japanese movies, most of them kissless, will invade the art theaters of the United States to compete with other foreign films, a Japanese movie producer revealed over the weekend.

Massaichi Nagata last year sent his film, "Rashomon," as a test around the world. The movie, the first Japanese film exported to Western audiences, won an Academy Award in Hollywood and captured prizes at European film festivals.

NO CLEAVAGE

"I decided that artistically and technically our pictures could be exported and that people in the United States and Europe would like to see our films," explained the balding producer through an interpreter.

This trip he previewed two more Japanese films here, "Hell's Gate," and "Ugetsu," that will be released soon in this country. The love scenes in these films are without kisses and cleavage, unlike the more daring French and Italian movies. But Nagata feels sure American audiences will accept them.

"In Japan we are more conservative, and people feel it is not good taste to show affection in public," the producer explained. "If a story calls for a love scene we put it in."

LOVE TRIANGLE

"There were some kisses in 'Rashomon,' although none in 'Hell's Gate,'" he added. "We do not make these movies just for foreign audiences. They are the best of our films and are purely Japanese."

"Hell's Gate" is a medieval love triangle, but with an unhappy ending. Some Hollywood critics viewed the picture, in fact, called it a Japanese soap opera, although highly artistic and with direction and photography that outdoes many a film from the Western world.

"I think Americans now can accept the tragic ending," smiled the producer.

SEVERAL AWARDS

Nagata heads Daiei films, which is the only one of Japan's 10 producing companies to make movies that can be shown in foreign countries. The three such films he has produced have swept awards at the Venice and Cannes Film Festivals, and one even nosed out Italy's "Bicycle Thief" at a film contest in India.

Other Japanese producers, he said, are content to make movies just for the Japanese market. The producer feels he can compete with other foreign films in U. S. art theaters by remaining oriental, not by copying the "French love stories, the spectacles of Hollywood, the realistic films of Italy."

WORM CLAUSE

COVINGTON, Ky. (AP)—Stanley Keller of Covington was given visiting rights to his fishing worms, nurtured in a pit at the back of his home, when his wife, Bernadette, was granted a divorce Saturday.

Circuit Judge Joseph P. Goodenough approved of the worm clause in the divorce decree.



(Register-Guard photo, Willshire eng.)

DON ALLEN, research entomologist for the state forestry department, inspects cages for bark beetles on the test plot near Vaughn. The cages contain paired beetles which have been fed varying amounts of radioactive isotopes in a honey solution. Allen wants to find out how much radioactivity the beetle can take.

Atoms vs. Beetles

(Continued from Page 1)

can hold and stay normal the better his meanderings through the woods can be traced, and, perhaps, the longer he will stay radioactive.

Allen thinks the chief finding from his test will be what is the "attractant" for the beetle. Right now, he thinks a "wild yeast" in a sick tree is what calls the bug there. "I believe the yeast created by fermentation of the tree's sap creates a smell. That smell draws the beetle to the tree."

Once the beetle is on the tree, the destruction commences. First the female and then the male burrows into the bark. The female lays eggs at intervals in a straight line. These eggs hatch into larvae and take off parallel to the parent furrow. After this has been repeated by a hundred offspring, the tree is girdled and dies quicker.

DAMAGE HEAVY

So far, salvage of the fallen tree has been the only economic practice. But so heavy has been the damage lately, loggers can't keep up. On a sustained yield reforestation program, it's hard to stop an operation and punch a road to a salvage area. This disrupts the cutting pattern. And while the road is being built and the salvage being carried out, better trees become overly mature. It throws all off balance. But it must be done, for a tree is good for only about three years after it's down.

When Allen finds out how much radioactivity the bug can take, he will release thousands of controlled pairs in the woods on an experimental plot. Then he and his teams will patiently trace out

the patterns, by tracing bugs with a scintillator. A Gieger counter isn't delicate enough for the operation.

Allen sees all kinds of practical application for his findings, if they're proven right. Someday, perhaps, a logging boss can know enough about the beetle to walk up to a tree and know the beetle's there.

YEAST POISONED

There is also the chance that whatever attracts the bug to the tree can be controlled. Perhaps poisoned yeast can be placed through the forest. The beetle then will poison himself and the menace will be gone.

There's lots of room for error, Allen admits. And his work is being hindered by lack of a field-type scintillator. The instrument costs about \$1,200 and the state hasn't yet put up the money. For a while, the scientist will carry his bugs to OSC where there is a stationary scintillator.

He reports high cooperation with federal and state authorities, and, especially, the private logging companies.

The logger should cooperate. The beetle is costing too much money.

There are also many chances, Allen thinks, for application of his techniques to control other pests such as the spruce budworm and perhaps such things as the cotton boll weevil.

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Indians to Use Tribal Figure In Fishing Bid

LAPWAI, Ida. (AP)—The Nez Perce Indians will use a legendary tribal figure, to show they should be paid more money for the loss of fishing rights at the Cello Falls site on the Columbia river.

Nez Perce story-tellers say it was Old Man Coyote who created the Cello Falls in the first place—with one mighty swat of the hand.

The government contends the Nez Perce are only due payment for loss of minor fishing rights at the falls, which will be destroyed in two years when The Dalles dam is completed. Federal officials say the Nez Perce lived too far away to have done much fishing at Cello.

QUICK CHANGE ARTIST

But the Indians stick to their story of Old Man Coyote. According to the legend, Old Man Coyote—who was a master quick change artist—was floating down the Columbia river disguised as an infant and riding in a small canoe. He came to the present site of Cello Falls and discovered it had been dammed by five virgins.

This angered Old Man Coyote because it prevented salmon from swimming upstream for his people. Old Man Coyote changed himself into a giant and ripped the dam out with his mighty hand. This, according to the Nez Perce, explains why there are five jutting fingers of rock sticking out into the Columbia at Cello. Old Man Coyote left his hand print.

CITES PROOF

Theodore Little, Clarkston, Wash., attorney for the tribe, said the existence of this legend proves the Nez Perce were accustomed to fishing at Cello each year during the salmon season.

The government offered the Indians one million dollars for loss of fishing rights several months ago. The tribal council turned this down and employed Little to press their claim for more money. The demand will be presented in several months, Little said.

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