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Mansfield Oral History Collection  
Ambassador at Diet 4/25/85  
OH #22-419

[SIDE A]

- 000-050 Someone is speaking in Japanese. [Translation] Welcome is extended to MJM. Explanation of the purpose of the committee to which MJM is to speak. The committee deals with foreign affairs and national security. [NOTE: Intermittent Japanese and English translations. Only the translations will be recognized unless speech in Japanese is extended for a time]. At the present time there is great trade friction between the US and Japan and they are glad that MJM is doing all he can to solve these problems. [The introduction for MJM ends and MJM gets up to speak].
- 051-100 MJM appreciates the opportunity to speak before the Diet and to discuss the problems of trade with members of the Diet. [Translation of MJM opening comments into Japanese]. MJM says that he is very happy with the progress that has been made in the area of telecommunications in the past month. MJM comments that further talks will be under way in the future to discuss electronics, wood products and pharmaceuticals. [Translation of MJM's comments into Japanese]. MJM talks about Lee Iococa's speech in Tokyo in the past week that offered continued cooperation between the US and Japan in the auto industry.
- 101-150 MJM comments that Iococa said that he would like the voluntary trade restrictions on Japanese cars to continue but since they won't he still doesn't hold any grudges and is willing to work with the Japanese auto industry. [Translation of MJM's comments into Japanese]. MJM explains who Lee Iococa is.
- 151-200 After making several more comments about Iococa MJM turns to talking about his recent trip to the US. MJM says that after visiting Congress he got the view very fast that members of Congress are becoming very itchy and concerned about US trade problems and the Congress is focusing on taking action on Japan specifically. [Translation of MJM's comments into Japanese]. MJM comments that the Congresses attitude is not a good one but it has to be dealt with. MJM also notes that many US businesses are also looking at Japan and taking a hard line.
- 201-250 MJM mentions a couple of examples of statements by businessmen in the US that are calling for tariffs on the importing of Japanese goods into the US. [Translation of MJM's comments into Japanese]. MJM notes that the US has a great deficit with Japan but

this is only a part of the whole picture. MJM notes that although the US deficit in trade with Japan last year was over \$30 billion the whole trade with deficit worldwide for the US was \$123 billion. The US had very large deficits with other countries also. The US had a deficit of \$20 billion with Canada, \$11 billion with Taiwan, and \$16.9 billion with Western Europe.

251-300 MJM comments that the US is going to have to look at the whole picture to solve the trade deficit problem because the US won't solve anything by pointing the finger at one country. MJM says that what the US needs and wants from Japan is for Japan to open its markets more to allow the US companies to come in and trade if they can. MJM comments that there are also things that the US has to do to take care of the trade deficit. [Translation of MJM's comments into Japanese].

301-365 MJM restates that the US is responsible for much of the trade deficit and the problems that caused the deficit. The high value of the Dollar is one problem and high interest rates is another that was caused by the US. MJM comments that trade ambassador Brock stated that up to three-fourths of the US trade deficit is due to things that the US caused and that only the US can correct. [Translation of MJM's comments into Japanese].

366-390 MJM comments that the key word for Japan to remember is access. All that the US wants from Japan is access to their markets. The US wants the same opportunity in Japan that the Japanese have in the US. MJM hopes that the President and the Congress will face up to this problem and work together to solve it. MJM ends his speech.

391-450 [Translation of MJM's comments into Japanese].

451-490 [Translation] They thank MJM for giving his speech. [Someone else is speaking in Japanese].

[END OF SIDE A]

[SIDE B]

000-034 MJM comments that the previous month in the Congress a vote of 92-0 was recorded on a non-binding Senate resolution. The resolution was to consider protectionist legislation against Japan. MJM says that the resolution is now on the Senate calendar but it won't be taken up for some time. MJM points out that this vote means that the Congress is very serious about considering protectionist legislation. MJM says that some of the heat has been taken off for the time being

because of the new agreement on telecommunications. MJM says that when the issues of electronics, pharmaceuticals and wood products are taken up in the near future they will also work to lower the heat in the Congress. MJM comments that the US/Japanese relationship is the most important bilateral relationship in the world.

- 035-090 [Translation of MJM's comments into Japanese].  
[Someone else is speaking in Japanese].
- 091-134 [The english translation of the question cannot be heard]. MJM comments that there is currently a bill in the Senate to reduce the US deficit by \$52 billion this year and by \$150 billion over the next three years. MJM says that there cannot be much done in the way of reducing the deficit for 1985. Instead the US trade deficit with Japan is likely to increase from \$37 billion to about \$50 billion. So no matter what the US does it will take a couple of years before any results are felt. MJM comments that one of the things that could be done would be to ship surplus Alaskan oil to Japan. This would lower the deficit by about \$5 billion.
- 135-200 [Translation of MJM's comments into Japanese]. Someone else is speaking in Japanese.
- 201-240 MJM talks about the commitment that the US and Japan must make with one another since they are becoming so dependent upon one another. The amount of trade between the two nations has increased significantly over the past few years and is now around \$87 billion and climbing. This year US trade with Japan will again increase a great deal over the \$87 billion of last year. MJM says that the recent trade packages, and also the previous ones, have no real substance to them and this is what he hopes to see in the near future. The trade packages must have some substance to them. MJM comments that Japan and the US have to change something in trade soon otherwise the Japanese are going to find themselves under protectionist legislation that will hurt the Japanese much more than any other country.
- 240-300 [Translation of MJM's comments into Japanese].  
[Another person is speaking in Japanese].
- 301-350 MJM comments on the recent talk between the Japanese Foreign Minister and the Secretary of State. MJM says that the Schultz only offered a few ideas to the Foreign Minister and was not giving orders to the Foreign Minister. MJM mentions that the Secretary of State and the Foreign Minister have met about 15 times and the President and the Prime Minister have met five

times. This is an extraordinary number of times for these leaders to meet and it indicates the close relationship between the two countries. MJM mentions that there may also be a monetary meeting in the near future to discuss the high value of the Dollar and its relationship with the Yen.

351-487 [Translation of MJM's comments into Japanese. Someone else then makes comments in Japanese]. [Translation] The Chairman of the committee thanks MJM for coming and agrees with MJM that the relationship between the US and Japan is very important. MJM thanks the committee members for inviting him to speak in the Diet.

[END OF TAPE]