

Chronological: Trade Speech, Hawaii Loa College's Fifteenth Commencement Ceremonies, Kaneohe, Hawaii, 1985-05-12

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers
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Inouye: Don't single out Japan for Trade Woes. (1985, May 12). *Honolulu Star-Advertiser & Bulletin*, p. A12.

Hawaii Loa bestows doctorate on Inouye. (1985, May 13). *The Honolulu Advertiser*, p. A1.

news from

Senator DANIEL K. INOUE

topic: TRADE SPEECH -- Hawaii Loa College's Fifteenth Commencement Ceremonies

date: May 12, 1985

release date: SUNDAY, May 12, 1985

"It is in the Pacific and East Asia where we will see things happening in the next century because the next century will be the 'Century of the Pacific'." So said my dear friend, the former Majority Leader of the United States Senate and the current U.S. Ambassador to Japan, Mike Mansfield, on November 30, 1984.

In many respects, we have already entered the century of the Pacific. Two-way trade across the Pacific now surpasses transatlantic trade between the U.S. and Europe, and the gap continues to widen. For example, in 1983, our total trade with East Asia amounted to \$135.9 billion as compared to \$109.9 billion with Western Europe. This is all the more remarkable when one considers that in 1970, there was nearly twice as much trans-Atlantic as trans-Pacific trade. It has been conservatively estimated that by the year 2000 our trade in the Pacific Rim will double that of the Atlantic.

Although international trade is obviously an important part of the life of America, it takes much more than trade to nurture and foster goodwill. For that matter, historically, most of the wars of the past were based on trade -- the acquisition of land and resources and the protection of trade routes.

History has indicated that for the most part our economic adversaries have also been our political and military enemies. Today we find an historic reversal. The Soviets and the Soviet bloc constitute our potential military adversaries, but pose no economic threat. And our economic adversaries the Germans, Canadians, and Japanese, are our political and military partners.

Recently, frustrated by our present trade deficit of \$123 billion, the Congress reacted by passing two resolutions calling upon President Reagan to invoke trade sanctions, quotas, and import restrictions if the Japanese failed to open their markets to our goods. Even though they were non-binding, the resolutions passed by a unanimous vote

of 92 to 0 in the Senate and by a landslide 394 to 19 in the House.

Both bodies are moving quickly on trade legislation that would give this sentiment the force of law if we do not secure greater access to Japanese markets in the near future. In the debate that preceded the adoption of these resolutions, sentiments such as "this is war!" were shouted in the House Chamber. Japanese trade practices were condemned and protectionist measures were urged. This debate and the resulting votes demonstrate very dramatically a basic weakness in our relationships with non-European countries.

Setting aside this rhetoric, let us consider the following:

A. Trade Surplus:

Although Japan's surplus is the highest in terms of actual dollars -- \$31.46 billion in 1983 -- its per capita surplus of \$267 is lower than:

Norway: \$4.325 billion trade surplus
per capita trade surplus: \$1047

Canada: \$14.88 billion trade surplus
per capita trade surplus: \$614

Germany: \$22.26 billion trade surplus
per capita trade surplus: \$362

Holland: \$4.345 billion trade surplus
per capita trade surplus: \$302

After studying these dollar figures, an obvious question that a disinterested third party might ask would be: "Why are we picking on Japan alone? Why not pick on our European friends as well? Why a trade war with Japan, but not with Canada or Germany?"

Most Americans are European by descent. Most Americans are bound to Europeans by common religious ties, by common cultural heritage, by common or related languages. Most Americans trace their ancestry to Europe. Most Americans look like Europeans, dress like Europeans, dine like Europeans, and pray like Europeans.

On the other hand, most Americans obviously do not look like most of the peoples of the Pacific Rim -- the

Koreans, Filipinos, Indonesians, Pacific Islanders, and Japanese. Most Americans do not trace their ancestry to this region. Their religions differ greatly, their food is exotic and inedible to many. In other words, there is very little in common.

In World War II, Americans referred to the Germans as "Krauts," whereas in the Vietnam war, Americans referred to the Asians as "Gooks." In Vietnam, we were stunned by the blood of My Lai, when defenseless old men, women, and babies were killed in cold blood. I do not believe there is any comparable American atrocity recorded in any of our wars in Europe.

At the outset of World War II, American citizens of Japanese ancestry were given 48 hours to collect all their belongings before being herded into internment camps. None were ever charged with the commission of a crime, yet without benefit of individual review or with the application of due process of law nearly 120,000 were forced to evacuate their homes and businesses for forced resettlement in bleak camps. On the other hand, there were no internment camps for the Germans or Italians. In 1980, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians was given a Congressional mandate to study this unfortunate chapter in our nation's history. The Commission concluded that the Japanese-Americans were interned solely on the basis of race, not for any valid military or security reasons.

What I am relating is nothing new. In fact, most of us have been quite aware of this problem for many years. But if we are to make the next century the "Century of the Pacific," as Ambassador Mansfield so eloquently stated, we have to do much more than just improve trade relations.

It will not be easy. In fact we will be required to move against the tide of history. We must be willing to change our attitudes. This will require a massive re-orientation effort, a massive educational effort. We must first of all convince ourselves, and believe in the very depths of our hearts and souls, that all human beings are equal. I am not suggesting that all men are born with equal intellectual and physical capacity. But under similar circumstances, given similar advantages, the capacity to learn, to progress, is no different from one to another. Historically, Europeans have considered non-Europeans as less than equal. It is a legacy that goes back many, many centuries. It will not be easy.

Too many people have been slaughtered in the name of religion. Too many people have been slaughtered because of the concept of racial superiority, and too many people have been slaughtered because of misunderstanding. For too long we have reacted to such massacres as being inevitable, with the unbelievable rationale that such is the nature of man. For too long we have sacrificed our desire for world peace and prosperity by emphasizing the differences which separate us rather than the shared hopes and dreams which bind us together.

We will have to learn to respect others -- others of different religious backgrounds, different colors. To respect them personally, to respect their views, their lifestyles and habits. It will not be easy. Therefore, I am extremely pleased to learn of the positive response of this little college in little Hawaii, to the challenge which confronts us.

Under the able guidance and direction of Dr. Bossert, Hawaii Loa College is making the most of its Mid-Pacific location and multicultural environment to foster understanding and appreciation of the Pacific Rim. Hawaii Loa College has turned a dream into reality, a goal into a sense of serious responsibility. Here students from all over Asia and the Pacific join their peers from Hawaii and the Mainland in studying language, culture, and history in order to prepare for the arrival of the "Pacific Century."

If every college, big or small, throughout our land decided to adopt your mission, the next century will truly be not only the "Century of the Pacific," but a century of humankind. Maybe I expect too much, but if it can happen on this campus, I see no reason why it cannot happen on other campuses. I wish you all Godspeed.

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Too many people have been slaughtered in the name of religion. Too many people have been slaughtered because of the concept of racial superiority, and too many people have been slaughtered because of misunderstanding. For too long we have reacted to such massacres as being inevitable, with the unbelievable rationale that such is the nature of man. For too long we have sacrificed our desire for world peace and prosperity by emphasizing the differences which separate us rather than the shared hopes and dreams which bind us together.

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SPEECH DELIVERED TO:

HAWAII LOA COLLEGE
Commencement Exercises
May 12, 1985
Hawaii Loa College Campus
Kaneohe, Hawaii

"IT IS IN THE PACIFIC AND EAST ASIA WHERE WE WILL
SEE THINGS HAPPENING IN THE NEXT CENTURY BECAUSE THE
NEXT CENTURY WILL BE THE 'CENTURY OF THE PACIFIC'."
SO SAID MY DEAR FRIEND, THE FORMER MAJORITY LEADER OF
THE UNITED STATES SENATE AND THE CURRENT U.S.
AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN, MIKE MANSFIELD, ON NOVEMBER 30,
1984.

IN MANY RESPECTS, WE HAVE ALREADY ENTERED THE
CENTURY OF THE PACIFIC. TWO-WAY TRADE ACROSS THE
PACIFIC NOW SURPASSES TRANSATLANTIC TRADE BETWEEN THE
U.S. AND EUROPE, AND THE GAP CONTINUES TO WIDEN.

FOR EXAMPLE, IN 1983, OUR TOTAL TRADE WITH EAST ASIA AMOUNTED TO \$135.9 BILLION AS COMPARED TO \$109.9 BILLION WITH WESTERN EUROPE. THIS IS ALL THE MORE REMARKABLE WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THAT IN 1970, THERE WAS NEARY TWICE AS MUCH TRANS-ATLANTIC AS TRANS-PACIFIC TRADE. IT HAS BEEN CONSERVATIVELY ESTIMATED THAT BY THE YEAR 2000 OUR TRADE IN THE PACIFIC RIM WILL DOUBLE THAT OF THE ATLANTIC.

ALTHOUGH INTERNATIONAL TRADE IS OBVIOUSLY AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE LIFE OF AMERICA, IT TAKES MUCH MORE THAN TRADE TO NURTURE AND FOSTER GOODWILL.

FOR THAT MATTER, HISTORICALLY, MOST OF THE WARS OF THE PAST WERE BASED ON TRADE -- THE ACQUISITION OF LAND AND RESOURCES AND THE PROTECTION OF TRADE ROUTES.

HISTORY HAS INDICATED THAT FOR THE MOST PART OUR ECONOMIC ADVERSARIES HAVE ALSO BEEN OUR POLITICAL AND MILITARY ENEMIES. TODAY WE FIND AN HISTORIC REVERSAL. THE SOVIETS AND THE SOVIET BLOC CONSTITUTE OUR POTENTIAL MILITARY ADVERSARIES, BUT POSE NO ECONOMIC THREAT. AND OUR ECONOMIC ADVERSARIES THE GERMANS, CANADIANS, AND JAPANESE, ARE OUR POLITICAL AND MILITARY PARTNERS.

RECENTLY, FRUSTRATED BY OUR PRESENT TRADE DEFICIT OF \$123 BILLION, THE CONGRESS REACTED BY PASSING TWO RESOLUTIONS CALLING UPON PRESIDENT REAGAN TO INVOKE TRADE SANCTIONS, QUOTAS, AND IMPORT RESTRICTIONS IF THE JAPANESE FAILED TO OPEN THEIR MARKETS TO OUR GOODS. EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE NON-BINDING, THE RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF 92 TO 0 IN THE SENATE AND BY A LANDSLIDE 394 TO 19 IN THE HOUSE.

BOTH BODIES ARE MOVING QUICKLY ON TRADE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD GIVE THIS SENTIMENT THE FORCE OF LAW IF WE DO NOT SECURE GREATER ACCESS TO JAPANESE MARKETS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

IN THE DEBATE THAT PRECEDED THE ADOPTION OF THESE RESOLUTIONS, SENTIMENTS SUCH AS "THIS IS WAR!" WERE SHOUTED IN THE HOUSE CHAMBER. JAPANESE TRADE PRACTICES WERE CONDEMNED AND PROTECTIONIST MEASURES WERE URGED. THIS DEBATE AND THE RESULTING VOTES DEMONSTRATE VERY DRAMATICALLY A BASIC WEAKNESS IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH NON-EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

SETTING ASIDE THIS RHETORIC, LET US CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

A. TRADE SURPLUS:

ALTHOUGH JAPAN'S SURPLUS IS THE HIGHEST IN TERMS OF ACTUAL DOLLARS -- \$31.46 BILLION IN 1983 -- ITS PER CAPITA SURPLUS OF \$267 IS LOWER THAN:

NORWAY: \$4.325 BILLION TRADE SURPLUS

PER CAPITA TRADE SURPLUS: \$1047

CANADA: \$14.88 BILLION TRADE SURPLUS

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GERMANY: \$22.26 BILLION TRADE SURPLUS

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HOLLAND: \$4.345 BILLION TRADE SURPLUS

PER CAPITA TRADE SURPLUS: \$302

AFTER STUDYING THESE DOLLAR FIGURES, AN OBVIOUS QUESTION THAT A DISINTERESTED THIRD PARTY MIGHT ASK WOULD BE: "WHY ARE WE PICKING ON JAPAN ALONE? WHY NOT PICK ON OUR EUROPEAN FRIENDS AS WELL? WHY A TRADE WAR WITH JAPAN, BUT NOT WITH CANADA OR GERMANY?"

THESE QUESTIONS ARE VERY SELDOM DISCUSSED PUBLICLY. USUALLY THEY ARE TOUCHED UPON IN BARS, COCKTAIL PARTIES, AT VETERANS' MEETINGS, AND SOMETIMES ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES. ONE OF THE ANSWERS WOULD SEEM RATHER OBVIOUS, BUT MOST AMERICANS FIND IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO ARTICULATE RACISM.

MOST AMERICANS ARE EUROPEAN BY DESCENT. MOST AMERICANS ARE BOUND TO EUROPEANS BY COMMON RELIGIOUS TIES, BY COMMON CULTURAL HERITAGE, BY COMMON OR RELATED LANGUAGES. MOST AMERICANS TRACE THEIR ANCESTRY TO EUROPE. MOST AMERICANS LOOK LIKE EUROPEANS, DRESS LIKE EUROPEANS, DINE LIKE EUROPEANS, AND PRAY LIKE EUROPEANS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, MOST AMERICANS OBVIOUSLY DO NOT LOOK LIKE MOST OF THE PEOPLES OF THE PACIFIC RIM - THE KOREANS, FILIPINOS, INDONESIANS, PACIFIC ISLANDERS, AND JAPANESE. MOST AMERICANS DO NOT TRACE THEIR ANCESTRY TO THIS REGION. THEIR RELIGIONS DIFFER GREATLY, THEIR FOOD IS EXOTIC AND INEDIBLE TO MANY. IN OTHER WORDS, THERE IS VERY LITTLE IN COMMON.

IN WORLD WAR II, AMERICANS REFERRED TO THE GERMANS AS "KRAUTS," WHEREAS IN THE VIETNAM WAR, AMERICANS REFERRED TO THE ASIANS AS "GOOKS." IN VIETNAM, WE WERE STUNNED BY THE BLOOD OF MY LAI, WHEN DEFENSELESS OLD MEN, WOMEN, AND BABIES WERE KILLED IN COLD BLOOD.

I DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS ANY COMPARABLE AMERICAN
ATROCITY RECORDED IN ANY OF OUR WARS IN EUROPE.

AT THE OUTSET OF WORLD WAR II, AMERICAN CITIZENS
OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY WERE GIVEN 48 HOURS TO COLLECT
ALL THEIR BELONGINGS BEFORE BEING HERDED INTO
INTERMENT CAMPS. NONE WERE EVER CHARGED WITH THE
COMMISSION OF A CRIME, YET WITHOUT BENEFIT OF
INDIVIDUAL REVIEW OR WITH THE APPLICATION OF DUE
PROCESS OF LAW NEARLY 120,000 WERE FORCED TO EVACUATE
THEIR HOMES AND BUSINESSES FOR FORCED RESETTLEMENT IN
BLEAK CAMPS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE WERE NO
INTERMENT CAMPS FOR THE GERMANS OR ITALIANS.

IN 1980, THE COMMISSION ON WARTIME RELOCATION AND
INTERMENT OF CIVILIANS WAS GIVEN A CONGRESSIONAL
MANDATE TO STUDY THIS UNFORTUNATE CHAPTER IN OUR
NATION'S HISTORY. THE COMMISSION CONCLUDED THAT THE
JAPANESE-AMERICANS WERE INTERNED SOLELY ON THE BASIS
OF RACE, NOT FOR ANY VALID MILITARY OR SECURITY
REASONS.

WHAT I AM RELATING IS NOTHING NEW. IN FACT, MOST
OF US HAVE BEEN QUITE AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM FOR MANY
YEARS. BUT IF WE ARE TO MAKE THE NEXT CENTURY THE
"CENTURY OF THE PACIFIC," AS AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD SO
ELOQUENTLY STATED, WE HAVE TO DO MUCH MORE THAN JUST
IMPROVE TRADE RELATIONS.

IT WILL NOT BE EASY. IN FACT WE WILL BE REQUIRED TO MOVE AGAINST THE TIDE OF HISTORY. WE MUST BE WILLING TO CHANGE OUR ATTITUDES. THIS WILL REQUIRE A MASSIVE RE-ORIENTATION EFFORT, A MASSIVE EDUCATIONAL EFFORT. WE MUST FIRST OF ALL CONVINCCE OURSELVES, AND BELIEVE IN THE VERY DEPTHS OF OUR HEARTS AND SOULS, THAT ALL HUMAN BEINGS ARE EQUAL. I AM NOT SUGGESTING THAT ALL MEN ARE BORN WITH EQUAL INTELLECTUAL AND PHYSICAL CAPACITY. BUT UNDER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES, GIVEN SIMILAR ADVANTAGES, THE CAPACITY TO LEARN, TO PROGRESS, IS NO DIFFERENT FROM ONE TO ANOTHER.

HISTORICALLY, EUROPEANS HAVE CONSIDERED NON-EUROPEANS AS LESS THAN EQUAL. IT IS A LEGACY THAT GOES BACK MANY, MANY CENTURIES. IT WILL NOT BE EASY.

TOO MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SLAUGHTERED IN THE NAME OF RELIGION. TOO MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SLAUGHTERED BECAUSE OF THE CONCEPT OF RACIAL SUPERIORITY, AND TOO MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SLAUGHTERED BECAUSE OF MISUNDERSTANDING. FOR TOO LONG WE HAVE REACTED TO SUCH MASSACRES AS BEING INEVITABLE, WITH THE UNBELIEVABLE RATIONALE THAT SUCH IS THE NATURE OF MAN. FOR TOO LONG WE HAVE SACRIFICED OUR DESIRE FOR WORLD PEACE AND PROSPERITY BY EMPHASIZING THE DIFFERENCES WHICH SEPARATE US RATHER THAN THE SHARED HOPES AND DREAMS WHICH BIND US TOGETHER.

WE WILL HAVE TO LEARN TO RESPECT OTHERS -- OTHERS
OF DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS, DIFFERENT COLORS.
TO RESPECT THEM PERSONALLY, TO RESPECT THEIR VIEWS,
THEIR LIFESTYLES AND HABITS. IT WILL NOT BE EASY.
THEREFORE, I AM EXTREMELY PLEASED TO LEARN OF THE
POSITIVE RESPONSE OF THIS LITTLE COLLEGE IN LITTLE
HAWAII, TO THE CHALLENGE WHICH CONFRONTS US.

UNDER THE ABLE GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION OF DR. Philip
BOSSERT, HAWAII LOA COLLEGE IS MAKING THE MOST OF ITS
MID-PACIFIC LOCATION AND MULTICULTURAL ENVIRONMENT TO
FOSTER UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THE PACIFIC
RIM. HAWAII LOA COLLEGE HAS TURNED A DREAM INTO
REALITY, A GOAL INTO A SENSE OF SERIOUS
RESPONSIBILITY.

HERE STUDENTS FROM ALL OVER ASIA AND THE PACIFIC JOIN
THEIR PEERS FROM HAWAII AND THE MAINLAND IN STUDYING
LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND HISTORY IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR
THE ARRIVAL OF THE "PACIFIC CENTURY."

IF EVERY COLLEGE, BIG OR SMALL, THROUGHOUT OUR
LAND DECIDED TO ADOPT YOUR MISSION, THE NEXT CENTURY
WILL TRULY BE NOT ONLY THE "CENTURY OF THE PACIFIC,"
BUT A CENTURY OF HUMANKIND. MAYBE I EXPECT TOO MUCH,
BUT IF IT CAN HAPPEN ON THIS CAMPUS, I SEE NO REASON
WHY IT CANNOT HAPPEN ON OTHER CAMPUSES. I WISH YOU ALL
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