

train has already left the station, and we cannot stop it. I think the question of nuclear exports is the ideal place to try to address our trade imbalance. What is your view of the nonproliferation bill, S.897? Do you think the U.S. should be a reliable and predictable supplier?

Strauss: I cannot make any comment on S. 897 per se, but I will take a closer look at it.

Hansen: I understand that there is a round of talks scheduled with the Japanese for October around the renewal (or expansion) of certain nuclear exports from the U.S. What would be the impact on these negotiations of a moratorium on nuclear exports, either generally or specifically to Japan?

Strauss: I think the question answers itself. It would have an extremely adverse impact.

Hansen: The President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has proposed the internationalization of environmental impact statements, that is for all nuclear exports. This would cause a defacto moratorium on nuclear exports and on related Eximbank financing. What is your view of this?

Strauss: These are serious concerns. The CEQ proposals are only preliminary. I intend to monitor this situation and to be heard forcefully in this situation. I have serious reservations on anything which will impede our ability to do business in this area. We do not need any unnecessary barriers to trade.

Hansen: Making an environmental impact statement a prerequisite for the export of materials are issues of serious foreign policy concern. It has to do with the sovereignty of foreign countries. We have no business involving ourselves in this.

The Japanese want to precede to buy tools and equipment from the U.S. I think S. 897 will prohibit the flexibility in doing this. We are headed in the wrong direction.

Ribicoff, Chairman of the Subcommittee: I am a bit concerned here. I am all for selling nuclear plants

abroad, but not in giving the Japanese the ability to reprocess and get weapons grade plutonium to blow the globe up in a nuclear holocaust, certainly not after their experience in Hiroshima. And I am against anyone, that includes General Electric, which is headquartered in my state, selling reprocessing equipment so someone can make weapons-grade plutonium. Mr. Strauss, your response on S. 897 was entirely proper. At the heart of this is universal survival. I am against reprocessing of weapons-grade plutonium...

Japan: Market For Nuclear Technology

The following is from the Wall Street Journal's Feb. 2 coverage of Special Trade Negotiator Strauss's testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on international trade.

Japan could be a \$2 billion market for U.S.-made nuclear equipment, Special Trade Representative Robert Strauss told the Senate Finance Committee.

The top trade official also said that his office is studying whether to introduce steel into the multilateral trade negotiations going on in Geneva.

Mr. Strauss told the committee that the Japanese government has formed a number of joint industry groups to explore the purchase of citrus and forest products, beef, and nuclear machinery from the U.S. He said he believed the nuclear group, formed in the wake of recent U.S.-Japanese negotiations, will lead to "substantial purchases of nuclear powerplant equipment."

He said a 50-member Japanese team will visit the U.S. in March to explore nuclear-equipment purchases.

Nuclear equipment "is something they can purchase from us," Mr. Strauss said. "I think we're talking about \$2 billion in potential purchases," he added...