日本を去るにあたり

1962年6月29日

日本ゴム協会々員諸氏

日本のゴム工業は卓越した技術達成と有能な技術者で誇るべき存在であります。卒直に言って私は諸氏の技術水準の高いのに意外な印象を受けました。つまり私の今回の講演が余り御役に立たなかったのではないかと悲観している位です。早い話がステレオラバーのような最近の進歩に対しても高度の理解を御持合せになっているのに驚いた位です。

ゴム工場や研究所も拝見しましたが、優秀な労務者、斬新な設備で、より速い生産性は勿論、作業安全性の点でも進歩が伺われました。日本が今後工業国として躍進するためにはこれが非常に大事な点であると信じます。

私の御会いた人々は高度の技術水準と共に、一様に皆さんが親切であり、礼儀正しいのに心を打たれました。特に私の滞日中の御世話を下さった白石カルシウム株式会社の各位並びに私の講演の主催の労をとられた日本ゴム協会には心からの感謝を申し上げます。

私は想い出多い日本を去るに際し、新しく友人になられた諸氏と又何時の日か、日本或は米国に於て再会を楽しみにすると共に、皆さんに衷心からの好意を捧げるものであります。

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To the members of the
Rubber Association of Japan

The Japanese rubber industry is to be congratulated on its excellent technical competence and also on the high caliber of the people that it employs.

I was greatly impressed by the advanced state of your technology—as a matter of fact, it was a little dis-appointing to be able to tell you so little that you did not already know! The high level of interest in the stereorubbers, for example, is strong evidence of close contact with the latest developments.

In the factories the quality of workmanship and skill of the workers appeared to be at a high level. The newer equipment being installed in so many places also showed much advance—not only with respect to faster and better production, but also in the incorporation of safety features for protection of the workers. I believe that this concern for the people working in the plants is a very important aspect of an advanced industrial country such as this.

Above all, I was impressed by the people that I met. Besides being at a high technical level, they were uniformly courteous and helpful. Special thanks go to the personnel of Shiraishi Calcium who took such excellent care of me throughout the whole visit, and to the Rubber Association of Japan for sponsoring the lectures.

I leave heartfelt good wishes to all of my new friends and look forward to meeting you again, either in Japan or in the U. S.

Robert W. Brown.

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