

Many Californians will be aware that the American Ambassador in Tokyo has, for some years, been the former Chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, Mike Mansfield, of Montana. Anyone who has heard him speak on the subject of Japan-USA relations will know that he has coined a phrase which has become legend:

"The relationship between the United States and Japan is the most important bilateral relationship in the world - bar none!"

I am an Alberta neighbour, and admirer of Mike Mansfield, but want to challenge that statement. The most important bilateral relationship for the United States is not with Japan but with Canada!

Let me point out some facts:

- The United States exports to Canada more than twice what it exports to Japan, yet you bought almost ten percent more from Japan last year than you did from Canada.

Between 1982 and 1986, when all USA overseas sales grew by less than two percent, sales to Canada grew by forty-five percent.

- Canada is your largest export market taking fully twenty percent of USA exports.
- Fully one quarter of American foreign investment is in Canada and has contributed to a substantial USA surplus in services for decades. Last year it was \$8.3 billion.
- Canada is the only country between you and the Soviet Union over the Pole and we have shared formally in the defence of the Continent and Europe since the Second World War.
- We are a stable, reliable, continental supplier of your vital energy needs. Last year, your own PG&E marked the 25th year of uninterrupted delivery of clean, Alberta natural gas to this very city. Indeed, last year, Canada supplied