



Japan Screen Topics

ISSUE No. 79-12

OHIRA RE-ELECTED PRIME MINISTER

99 feet 2 min. 45 sec.

1. (DIET BUILDING STEPS) At the National Diet Building in Tokyo this November, the 90th special Diet convenes in an atmosphere of uncertainty. 511 newly-elected members of the Lower House make their historic "first" walk into Parliament not quite sure who their next prime minister will be.

2. (AFFIXING BADGES) Each man receives the traditional golden badge, symbolic of membership in the House of Representatives. Although the Liberal Democratic Party has by far the most seats, it failed to win a Diet majority for the first time in the post-war era. LDP president Masayoshi Ohira thus faces a challenge from within his own party for this so-called failure in his bid for a second straight term as premier.

3. (INSIDE LOWER HOUSE CHAMBER) Ohira's chief rival in the upcoming ballot is party elder Takeo Fukuda, himself the former prime minister. This marks the first time in Diet history that one party has put up two candidates for the premiership. After the first round of voting, a runoff between Ohira and Fukuda is required... Ohira is proclaimed the winner. But his victory margin of 17 votes is the thinnest support ever accorded a chief executive.

4. (PRESS OUTSIDE OFFICIAL P.M. RESIDENCE) That evening a small army of newsmen sets up camp outside the Prime Minister's official residence to await the formation of the second Ohira cabinet.

5. (PAUSE) One by one, the new ministers arrive to formally accept their portfolios.

6. (INSIDE RESIDENCE) Inside the residence, the Prime Minister presides over the first official cabinet meeting... and outlines the policies of his new government.

7. (CABINET PHOTO SESSION) Later, the entire cabinet assembles for an official photograph. The success of this government will depend on how well it can cope with the problems of inflation and energy-- the key issues facing Japan as it approaches the 1980's.

THE JAPAN ELECTRONICS SHOW 1979

66 feet 1 min. 50 sec.

1. (BLUE & RED DESIGNS) Held in Osaka from October 5th to 10th, the Japan Electronics Show 1979 is a fine example of how electronics have become an important part of our everyday lives. Electronics play an essential role in virtually every aspect of modern society, even to the electronic table games which have recently swept through Japan.

2. (DASHBOARD) Electronics technology grows more and more sophisticated every year... Here's a glimpse into the future... an automobile dashboard with digital displays and warning lights for every contingency.

3. (SQUARE MINIATURE CAR) Microcomputer technology is employed in this simulated vehicle of the future. It is designed to follow a precise route by means of a light beam.

4. (GIRL AT TV) A television set that obeys your every command. The channel selection facility, as well as the major controls, on this set are voice-activated. It responds to commands from up to three pre-programmed voices.

5. (MULTI-SCREEN TV) And for those who have trouble deciding which channel to watch, this could well be the solution... a television set with a multi-screen function, permitting nine different screens within the main screen. The remote control facility can select up to nine different channels, or display nine images of the same one. Which all goes to show that this is truly the Television Age.

TOKYO WOMEN'S MARATHON

129 feet 3 min. 35 sec.

1. (FRONT, TOKYO OLYMPIC STADIUM) Athletic fans at Tokyo Olympic Stadium this November are seeing sports history in the making. The event is the Tokyo Women's Marathon -- the first such officially sanctioned race of its kind. Entering the race are over 20 top level runners from nine different countries. They range in age from 20 to 48.

2. (PAUSE) (SMITH IN RED SHIRT) The favorite is Joyce Smith (No. 7), a 42-year old mother of two from England.

3. (START OF RACE) The starter's gun is fired and the first marathon held in Tokyo since the 1964 Olympics is underway. The leaders are aiming at the unofficial women's marathon record of two hours, 27 minutes and 33 seconds -- set by Grady Watts in the 1979 New York City marathon. Include in the field are 40 selected Japanese runners... office workers, students, and housewives who run in their free time.

Despite a chilly drizzle that continues throughout the race, Smith, 35 year-old Elizabeth Hassel (No.1) of Australia and 22-year old Chris Lavalee (No.3) of Canada set a brisk pace in the 42 kilometer run.

After circling the Imperial Palace and reaching the 15 kilometer mark the trio are still virtually neck and neck.

4. (26 KM. TURNAROUND POINT) At the 26 kilometer turnaround point, Smith has the lead, but Norway's Sissel Grottenberg (No.9) and the UK's Gillian Adams (No.8) are in close pursuit.

Smith puts on a spurt at the 30 kilometer mark and her lead begins to widen. This race is only her third marathon try and she appears headed for her third consecutive victory. Making a surprisingly strong showing is Minoru Muramoto (No.81), a 38-year-old Japanese housewife who took up running only two years ago.

5. (BACK IN STADIUM) Smith enters the Olympic Stadium well ahead of the field. Her time of two hours 37 minutes and 48 seconds is only ten minutes short of the women's world record and less than 20 behind the world marathon mark for men.

Finishing second, two minutes behind Smith, is Adams of the UK. Norway's Grottenberg comes in third while Muramoto finishes seventh.

There is growing evidence that women athletes are equal and perhaps superior to men in endurance running. If the performance of these runners is any indication, the men had better start moving over or move out.

THE DAY OF THE ROBOT

64 feet 1 min. 47 sec.

1. (ROBOT BAND) At Tokyo's Science Museum this fall, these music-making automatons were but one of the many visual treats on display. The occasion was a Robot Exposition for children and it featured the best in robot technology.

2. (TRADITIONAL DOLLS) These mechanical dolls, for example, are moved entirely by springs and cog wheels. They are replicas of Japan's first robots, created in the Edo era more than 200 years ago.

3. (BOXING ROBOTS) Each of these android pugilists jabs and feints to the command of a built-in mini-computer.

4. (RADAR ROBOT) A sophisticated radar system sends this pesky fellow chasing after anyone who comes near him.

5. (BIG ROBOT) A robot modeled after a popular cartoon here is a particular favorite of many of the children.

6. (ROBOT CIRCUS) But perhaps the biggest crowd-pleaser is the robot circus... Barnum and Bailey never saw anything like this.

The Museum staff put on this show to stimulate children's interest in mechanical and electrical sciences. Judging from the enthusiasm of these young people, it look like that's just what they've done.

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