

to the editor

Japan welcomed

Sir:

I was pleased to see your letter from Tokyo, "Japan Eyes Alaska" (SN: 7/20, p. 70). I wish to confirm that we welcome both Japanese trade and investments.

Japan presently has substantial investment in timber and pulp facilities in Southeastern Alaska, which accounts for the bulk of present exports to Japan. They are presently investing in petrochemical facilities on the Kenai Peninsula in Southcentral Alaska, some 600 miles away.

Japan is correct in believing U.S. capital investments will increase. Already the U.S. oil industry has invested over one billion dollars in developing several Kenai Peninsula and Cook Inlet oil fields. Production has now reached 200,000 barrels per day. A refinery has also been in operation for five years.

Japanese investment has joined with U.S. oil companies in the construction of a \$50-million ammonia and urea plant on the Kenai. It will be the largest urea-producing plant in the world, with the output being split between Japanese and American markets. This plant will begin production late in 1968.

Japan also is participating in the construction of a \$57-million gas liquefaction plant on the Kenai to go into production in 1969. The output will be shipped to Japan in huge "Thermobottle" tankers now under construction by Japanese interests. The annual output will be 50 billion cubic feet.

I enjoyed the Japan letter and also many other articles I read in SCIENCE NEWS.

*George Sharrock, Commissioner
State Department of Commerce
Juneau, Alaska*

Let us hope

Sir:

The article on birth control (SN: 8/10, p. 134) is informative, pertinent and, let us hope, persuasive.

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Subscription rate: 1 yr., \$6.50; 2 yrs., \$11.50; 3 yrs., \$16.50. Special trial offer for new subscribers only: 39 weeks, \$3.43. Single copy, 25 cents. No charge for foreign postage. Change of address: Three weeks' notice is required. Please state exactly how magazine is addressed. Include zip code.

Printed in U.S.A. Second class postage paid at Washington, D. C. Established as Science News Letter® in mimeograph form March 13, 1922. Title registered as trademark U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Indexed in Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, Abridged Guide and the Engineering Index. Member of Audit Bureau of Circulation. UNSOLICITED MANUSCRIPTS will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036. North 7-2255. Cable Address: SCIENSERV.

ADVERTISING

L. D. Young, Advertising Director, SCIENCE NEWS, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036. Phone 202-667-8945.

Advertising Representatives: SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPERS. General Advertising Department: 200 Park Ave., New York, N.Y., TN 7-5000; 400 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill., SU 7-3355; Suite 211, Braniff Building, Dallas, Tex., PL 7-3847; 908 E. Northland Tower, Southfield, Mich., 444-4595; 6363 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif., OL 3-0026; Room 1522, Philadelphia National Bank Building, Philadelphia, Pa., LO 3-6275; 100 California St., San Francisco, Calif., 989-5570; Suite 417, 3384 Peachtree Rd., N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 261-1571.

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