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safety of cyclists.

In return, bicycle riders will be required to observe stricter rules of traffic.

In reference to hot-rodders, the revised law stipulates imprisonment of less than six months or a fine not exceeding ¥50,000 for those who create hazards on a road using more than two vehicles.

A company or office having a large number of vehicles will be required to assign a "safety driving controller" to every 20 automobiles.

Driving under the influence of narcotics and stimulant drugs is an offense punishable with imprisonment of less than two years or a fine not exceeding ¥50,000 — the same as for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Currently, driving under the influence of narcotics and stimulant drugs is dealt with as "driving under physically fatigued condition," an offense punishable with imprisonment of less than six months or a fine of less than ¥10,000.

JNR Experimental Car Hits 301 Kph in Test Run

MIMIZU, Miyazaki Pref. (Kyodo) — The "floating" linear motor car now under development by Japanese National Railways engineers broke the 300 kph speed barrier during tests Friday at the JNR experimental center in Hyuga, Miyazaki Prefecture.

The car, which rides suspended in a magnetic field, attained a top speed of 301 kph on the 3.1-kilometer practice track in surpassing both the 286 kph record set by Shinkansen superexpress trains and the 260 kph mark considered to be the absolute top speed attainable by ordinary rail trains.

The center piers to lengthen the practice track this summer in preparation for tests aimed at raising the speed of the linear car to 500 kph. They hope to reach their final goal of 500 kph by fiscal 1979.

The 2.7-meter-high, 13-meter-long car reached a speed of 295 kph on the fifth of eight practice runs held during the day to break the highest speed ever recorded by Shinkansen trains.

On the seventh run it shot up to 236 kph 20 seconds into the run to hit the auxiliary car 12 centimeters above the rail.

The top speed of 301 kph was attained at the 44-second mark, 1.9 kilometers from the starting point.

Revision of Extradition Law Expected by Gov't

The Government said Friday it will revise the Extradition Law so that Japan can detain foreign fugitives from countries with which it has an extradition agreement.

The revision bill was sent to the Diet later in the day, the Government said.

The Government said it had also sent to the Diet for approval the new Japan-U.S. Extradition Treaty signed last week.

The revision bill would allow the Government to detain foreign fugitives on condition that their home countries guarantee to make an official request for delivery.

Under the current domestic legislation, the Government cannot detain fugitives except from the United States, with which Japan has an extradition agreement.

According to the revision bill, the Government would have discretion to decide whether or not it should extradite a fugitive.



What distinguishes the Fugen from light water reactors is that



One of the plaintiffs in a rice-bran cooking oil poisoning case puts up a banner to inform other complainants and supporters of their victory in the suit after the Kokura branch of the Fukuoka District Court ruled Friday that Kanemi Warehouse Co. and Kanegafuchi Chemical Industry Co. were responsible for a mass outbreak of PCB poisoning.

PCB Poisoning Victims Reject Court Ruling on Responsibility

Friday's court ruling on the Kanemi rice bran oil case was regarded as unsatisfactory by the plaintiffs, who have suffered from the effects of the poisoning for 10 years.

Commenting on the ruling that the state and the KHakyushu municipal government are exempted from responsibilities, Mrs. Mieko Nakayama, 46, head of the association of the poisoning victims in Kitakyushu, said, "I cannot accept the ruling. I don't understand why the administration should be exempted from its duty of observing the rules. It is an unreasonable ruling."

Mamoru Torisu, 56, a representative of the National Liaison Council of the Victims of the Kanemi Rice Bran Oil Poisoning, said, "If Kanegafuchi Chemical Industries appeals the decision, they are devils with human masks, and that they stop tormenting the victims."

Kanagafuchi, one of the defendants, appealed the decision to the Fukuoka High Court after Friday's ruling.

Tatsuo Morinaga, another leader of the council said that the ruling, which exempted Sanosuke Kato, president of Kanemi Warehouse Co., of responsibilitiies, was unbelievable.

Mrs. Kazuko Shibata, 36, from Shimabara, Nagasaki Prefecture, whose two children were poisoned by the rice bran oil during pregnancy, said, "Mr. Kato is the top man of Kanemi. It is strange that he has no responsibilities for the poisoning."

She said that she could not sleep well when she thought of the future of her two children, whose teeth and internal organs have been deformed.

After Friday's ruling, the plaintiffs and their lawyers issued a statement that the ruling was unsatisfactory because it exempted the state and the KHakyushu municipal government from responsibility. However, it praised the ruling as a significant step toward prevention of environmental and food pollution by chemical substances.

Masayoshi Oyama, lawyer for Kanemi Warehouse, called Friday's ruling "fair and reasonable." He said that the calculation of the compensation by the court was reasonable. But he said that he was dissatisfied because the state was exempted from the responsibilities. He said, "The state should consider the words of the plaintiffs that money is not a real solution to the problem."

Takashi Osawa, president of Kanegafuchi Chemical Industry, issued a statement that he could not accept the ruling which found Kanegafuchi responsible for the poisoning. He said that the poisoning was caused through negligence on the part of the food processing company, Kanemi Warehouse.

Abusive Language

OSAKA — About 300 complainants in a rice-bran cooking oil damage suit and their supporters held a rally here and staged a demonstration procession to Kanegafuchi Chemical Industry Co. prior to Friday's ruling on the suit.

They waited for the news on the ruling to be made by the Kokura branch of the Fukuoka District Court, sitting in front of TV sets in front of Kanegafuchi offices in the Asahi Shimbun building.

N-Sub Leaves

YOKOSUKA, Kanagawa Pref. (Kyodo) — The 2,800-ton U.S. nuclear-powered submarine Pogy left the U.S. naval base at Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, at around 9 a.m. Friday after completing a six-day visit.

Japan's 1st Heavy Water Reactor Nears Completion

TSURUGA, Fukui Pref. (Kyodo) — Japan's first heavy water reactor, nearing completion in Tsuruga, was shown to the press Friday.

The reactor named the "Fugen" will attain the critical mass — the point at which it will achieve a self-sustaining chain reaction — around March 20 and begin power generation around July.

The Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corporation started building the advanced thermal reactor (ATR) with a power generation capacity of 165,000-kilowatts in December 1970 as a national project at a cost of about ¥100 billion.

Unlike the current light water reactors in use in Japan, the heavy water reactor was designed by Japanese engineers and indigenous materials were used for its construction.

What distinguishes the Fugen from light water reactors is that they have been put into place.

By the end of April, all 56 fuel assemblies composed of a mixture of plutonium and natural uranium and 120 others using slightly enriched uranium are expected to be put into place.

Full-fledged operation of the Fugen will start in March 1979. Electricity generated by the reactor will be distributed in the Kansai area through the Kansai Electric power Co.

Accord Reached in Int'l Custody Case

OSAKA — A battle by a Japanese father and an American mother for custody of a three-year-old girl came to an end Thursday night when the two parties reached an agreement that the mother would live with the child for the time being at the father's home.

The truce came 24 hours after the Osaka District Court had granted custody of the child to the [illegible] Wednesday in a final round of talks and agreed that (1) the mother will live with the child and the father's parents at the father's home in Higashiosaka until the Supreme Court makes a final decision on the custody of the child, (2) both sides will comply with the Supreme Court decision and if it grants the custody to the mother, the child will be turned over to her, (3) if the father's side does not keep their word, [illegible]

10-Month Jail Term Asked for Kito in Prison Visit Case

The prosecution Friday recommended a 10 months imprisonment for former judge Shiro Kito indicted for abuse of authority stemming from a 1971 incident in which he visited Abashiri Prison and obtained prison records on a Communist leader.

A statement by the prosecution read at the Tokyo District Court charged that Kito visited the prison on July 1, 1972, looked over and photographed prison records on Kenji Miyamoto, chairman of the Japan Communist Party.

Later, Kito phoned the prison officials and had them mail a copy of the record.

The statement said that Kito, though he was not in charge of any trial that required the records, made prison officials believe that he needed the materials as part of his duties.