

PERSONAL

Ottawa 4, May 29, 1963.

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Re: United Nations Candidate -  
Miss Kinko Saito of Japan.

Dear Edward:

Thank you very much for your letter of May 6th. I quite appreciated all the trouble you took in trying to get in touch with Kinko Saito. I am very sorry that you missed each other, because I am quite sure that she would have found you an extremely interesting person.

I certainly enjoyed hearing about the dramatic trial in which you defended so successfully. (Are any of your trials not dramatic? It seems to me that they would put The Defenders off the television circuits.)

Your suggestion that I might "unintentionally have misled" Miss Saito about the position of women in Canada because of my "peculiar ideas on the subject" deserves a long discussion. In the first place, no one misleads that little girl. The fact that she is a Crown Prosecutor in Japan at the age of twenty-seven or twenty-eight speaks for itself. Even in our society, it takes a great deal of determination and resistance to outside pressures to avoid being driven into a kitchen as a housewife. In the second place, the fact that Japan has five women Crown Prosecutors and we have none, is a matter that speaks very loudly to her and to everyone else with whom she comes in contact. When the initial period of politeness was over, she told me exactly how the position of women in Canada and in the United States looked to visiting professional women from abroad. It is far from being anything of which we can be proud; the fact still is that we are forcing girls to choose between careers and marriage as though they lived in the early 1900's, with the result that most married women become vegetables and their husbands wander over to see the unmarried career women. One man put it quite bluntly recently when he said that in our society we have children brought up by women who are just emerging from the Stone Age culture, and the result is that the children have to make the slow and painful climb to modern civilization all over again each generation. Not one marriage

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out of one hundred ever achieves its full potential unless it consists of two vegetables.

I realize that you have not had occasion to think about this field and therefore you think that these ideas are "peculiar". However, the fact is that persons coming from other countries regard Canada as backward in its treatment of women. It is far behind Russia, Sweden or any of the Northern countries, Israel, the countries behind the Iron Curtain, and many of the "underdeveloped" countries. I have a collection of comments from visiting foreigners, and some of them are far from flattering. Intelligent women and intelligent men in the Western world are beginning to realize this. If you have any doubt of the situation, you should read the article by Marya Mannes in Vogue for May, 1963, entitled "Pardon Me - My Mind is Showing". You certainly should read John Stuart Mill, "On the Subjection of Women", which is a monumental analysis of the position of women in society a hundred years ago. Although the legal position has changed to a large extent from the position as it was when he described it, the social and economic factors remain unchanged. You should also read what Alfred Adler had to say - in fact, he took the view that the inferior position assigned to women in Western society has done more harm to men than it has to women.

You should also keep in mind the fact that the United Nations Charter, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other basic instruments of the United Nations clearly recognize the right of women to equality. The International Commission of Jurists in October, 1961, published a bulletin containing an article expressly dealing with and condemning Switzerland for its refusal to give women the vote. The International Commission of Jurists has, in fact, just published a Newsletter for April, 1963 dealing with the Resolution of Rio and pointing out the fact that lawyers "...should be anxiously concerned with the prevalence of poverty, ignorance and inequality in human society and should take a leading part in promoting measures which will help eradicate those evils, for while they continue to exist, civil and political rights cannot of themselves ensure the full dignity of man". (Page 4 of the Newsletter.)

It is, of course, always difficult to accept the fact that the world is changing, but the fact is that we cannot stop its changing and can only try to redirect the change into channels that will be beneficial. Women are trained, of course, to prefer to "wheedle and be kept" as Phelps puts it, rather than to insist upon their rights like any other human being. This training is a denial of the rights men have insisted upon for themselves. Indeed, no one who believes in democracy can accept the view that women (or any other group) should rely upon their "beauty and charm" as a substitute for justice. In the first place, many women have neither beauty nor

charm. In the second place, both tend to diminish with the passage of time. In the third place, as Mill points out, many men are never susceptible to women at any time; other men are only susceptible to women while their beauty and charm is new; and still other men are only susceptible to their beauty and charm for a certain period of the man's life. You are, as a man, both handsome and charming, but would you accept this as a substitute for progress in your profession or for the exercise of your rights? I think not - in fact, men resort to violence (as in Quebec, as in the Southern United States, as in Africa, etc.) which they regard as much more effective than the softer methods of persuasion. If men do not regard persuasion as effective for themselves, no one can take them seriously when they advocate it for others.

Many women feel very strongly about this, and the necessity for changes has been recognized by the Pope in his magnificent encyclical "Pacem in Terris". The following are excerpts:

"...Secondly, it is obvious to everyone that women are now taking a part in public life. This is happening more rapidly perhaps in nations of Christian civilization and, more slowly but broadly, among peoples who have inherited other traditions or cultures. Since women are becoming ever more conscious of their human dignity, they will not tolerate being treated as mere material instruments, but demand rights befitting a human person both in domestic and in public life."

"Finally, the modern world, as compared with the recent past, has taken on an entirely new appearance in the field of social and political life. For since all nations have either achieved or are on the way to achieving independence, there will soon no longer exist a world divided into nations that rule others and nations that are subject to others."

"Men all over the world have today -- or will soon have -- the rank of citizens in independent nations. No one wants to feel subject to political powers located outside his own country or ethnical group. Thus in very many human beings the inferiority complex which endured for hundreds and thousands of years is disappearing, while in others there is an attenuation and gradual fading of the corresponding superiority complex which had its roots in social-economic privileges, sex or political standing."

I do wish you would come down here again in connection with the Canadian Bar Association or

with some case. I think you would find to your considerable pleasure, that my ideas are ones with which you would, as a father, as a husband and particularly as an intelligent man, be in enthusiastic agreement. I think you like intelligence in others (if only because they are better able to appreciate your own achievements).

Since you have raised the subject, I am enclosing two things:

1. Copy of a broadcast by Dr. Arthur L. Phelps, noted Professor of English, entitled: "Our Women --- Are They Human".
2. Copy of Saturday Night for April 2, 1960. If you look closely, you will find on Page 17 an article by someone you know.

I hope these will be of interest to you. And particularly, I hope that they stimulate you to find some opportunity to come down here and renew our discussions.

With best regards,

Encs.

M. E. Ritchie,  
Senior Advisory Counsel.