

# Now, there's Kimonogate

**P**oor Japan. As if the Recruit scandal, a new sales tax, and quakes outside of Tokyo were not bad enough, along comes the final blow — Kimonogate.

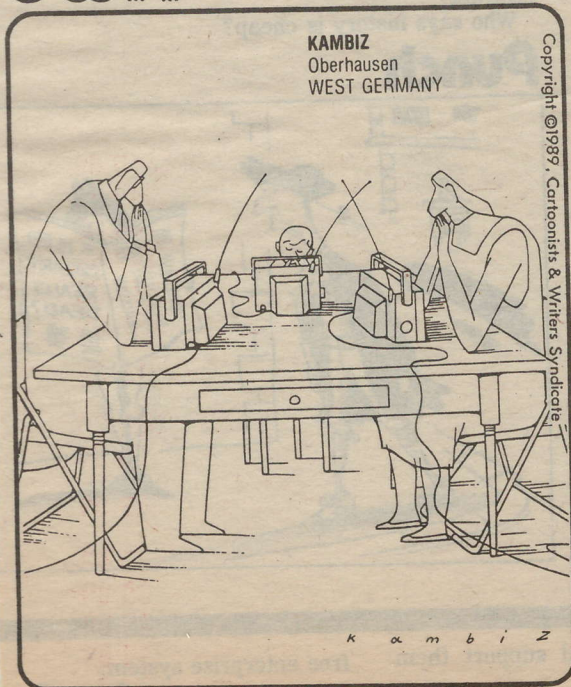
But first, a thought about China. Those Stalinist bureaucrats over in Peking were absolutely right to worry about 'spiritual pollution' from the West. Look what happened. Dangerous western notions about democracy and human rights infected stu-



**SOSUKE UNO**

dents and produced the Tiananmen blowup. Mao was right. Seal up people's ears and you don't get trouble. Now, with the force of a summer tsunami storm, the scourge of western spiritual pollution has hit Japan, threatening one of nature's most delicate and lovely creation, the ultra-feminine Japanese woman. The drama began last year with the Recruit financial scandal. Just about all of Japan's top politicians in the eternally-ruling Liberal Democratic Party were caught receiving big, and sometimes huge, bribes from a social-climbing gogo corporation named Recruit (Japanese love foreign names, even if they don't mean anything.) Heads rolled and kept rolling until even red-faced prime minister Takeshita had to resign.

Japanese, who never before gave much thought to their politician's financial shenanigans, became indignant and disgusted. Rightfully. The LDP, in power with one brief exception since 1945, has become rotten, wormy and badly corrupted by



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power and money. But it is also the party that created and still runs that economic miracle known as Japan Inc. The LDP philosophy: what's good for Japanese business is good for Japan. Enter Mr. Sosuke Uno, with a big, toothy smile.

Billed as squeaky clean, Uno was trotted out of the mid-ranks of the LDP after no one else untainted by Recruit money could apparently be found. Uno was made prime minister and all breathed sighs of relief. Japan's collective government could probably do without a prime minister, but someone has to go to summit meetings and greet important visitors. Then, boom! Kimonogate.

*Mainichi Shimbun*, one of Japan's big three newspapers, broke an unprecedented story about — gasp! — the turgid love life of none other than Sosuko Uno. Up popped a geisha who told all. She had been paid by Uno for sex. Worse, he was 'crude, insensitive and cheap.' Japan reeled in shock and horror.

So what, shrugged most Japanese men, no one is expected to have fun with their wives. And who cares anyway what politicians do in their spare time as long as Japan Inc. ticks along. Alas, Japanese women, who have somehow been infected with western feminist virus, reacted with outrage to tales of Uno's love life. Female hearts went out to the loyal, dignified Mrs. Uno. Some angry Japanese ladies even went as far as to say that 'we are rather displeased with Uno-san.' Translated out of understated female Japanese, this means: 'We want to skin him alive and play girl's basketball with his fat head.'

The ladies were also furious at a 3% national sales tax that the LDP had slapped on everything. Grocery bills are up and so were tempers. Only Canadians take tax hikes with a smile. Angry females gave the LDP a drubbing in recent Tokyo municipal elections. National elections are due soon: polls predict the LDP is going to be sliced into sashimi. What's worse, newly militant Japanese ladies are turning to vote for the Socialist Party, which happens to be run by a woman.

She was just described as an 'idiot' by a bold male LDP minister, who went on to add that women belonged at home with the kiddies at not in politics which they couldn't understand. Many Canadian male politicians no doubt secretly agree, but wouldn't dare repeat such blasphemy even to their dogs. The outspoken Japanese minister had to apologize after a storm of feminine outrage. But his description of the sushi-in-the-sky Socialists and their dippy lady leader is fairly accurate, if indelicate.

They, like our own politicians, are precisely the kind of economic incompetents and reckless spenders who could wreck the humming machinery of Japan Inc. Horrifyingly, the feminine-propelled socialists might just topple the LDP. The age of delicate Japanese women is over. Sayonara Madame Butterfly.