

「信なくば立たず」。民の政治への信頼なくして社会は成り立たない、と孔子は説きましたが、理にかなった方策も説明も打ち出せぬ、行き当たりばったりの泥縄式の政治が続いています。

‘The state cannot function without people’s trust in the government.’ Confucius said. I am afraid that is the case in Japan, as politics is carried out without any sound policies or rational explanations and only with ad-hoc and stopgap measures at the last minute.

共同通信が5月末に実施した世論調査で56.8%が消費増税に、原発再稼働にも56.3%が反対しています。消費増税も原発再稼働も急務・不可避、と社説を展開し続ける複数の全国紙でも同様の調査結果です。

56.8% of the people are against the consumption tax increase and 56.3% are against the re-activation of nuclear power plants, according to the public opinion polls conducted by Kyodo News at the end of May. The opinion polls by other national newspapers show similar results, although they see the necessity for the consumption tax increase and the inevitability of reactivating nuclear power plants in their editorial comments.

全国津々浦々でまっとうに働き、学び、暮らす国民の民意が未熟なのですか？ いえ、違います。お小遣いが足りないから上げてくれ、と勉学に励みもせずに甘える子供の言い分を、そのまま受け入れる親ばかな有権者ではないのです。

People make an honest living, working diligently, and study hard in every nook and cranny of Japan. Are their opinions immature? No, definitely not. People in Japan are smart constituents who would not give more allowance to their kids just because they ask for more, without making an effort to learn at school.

強きを助け、弱きをくじく益税・損税の不条理を生まないためにも取引に掛かる消費税額を記録する「インボイス」の導入を。株式会社の7割、連結決算を導入する超大企業の66%が法人税も法人事業税も納めていない不条理を解消すべく、消費税同様に利益でなく支出に課税する「外形標準化」の導入を。本会議の代表質問でも当コラムでも繰り返し求めてきました。

For instance, when it comes to the proposed consumption tax hike, I have been proposing tax reform repeatedly during the party representative’s questions in the plenary sessions as well as in this newspaper column. We need to introduce an “Invoice” system of commercial documents to record the amount of consumption tax in order to prevent absurd unfairness. The

current consumption tax reporting system creates unfair profit and loss and tends to protect the strong and to bring down the weak. Another absolute unfairness in the current tax system is the fact that 70% of the incorporated companies and 66% of the mega corporations adopting consolidated accounting pay no corporate income tax or corporate enterprise tax. In order to prevent this absurdity, we need to deploy a tax system based on the size of the spending but not the profit, known as “tax based on business size.”

こうした抜本的税制改革を断行せず、食料品などを5%に据え置く軽減税率でお茶を濁そうとしています。これぞおためごかし。どの品目に適用するか、業界団体や所掌官庁の声の大きさに左右される時代錯誤の裁量行政が復活してしまいます。

The government and the ruling DPJ are now trying to pass legislature for a consumption tax increase instead of carrying out comprehensive tax reform. They are offering a remedy to maintain a consumption tax rate of 5% on items such as food. They are dodging the issues and the remedy is just an act to show they meant well. We also have to remind ourselves that if particular industry groups or related government agencies make a decision on which items the government will raise the consumption tax for, it would be a revival of the anachronistic discretionary administration.

各世論調査で「縮原発」の民意が示されているにもかかわらず、メルトダウンした東京電力福島第1原発を含め全国に54基存在する原発の安全度をいかに高めるか、と同時に依存度をいかに下げていくか、その工程表を3・11から1年以上経過するも、政府は国民に示さぬまま「再稼働させねば日本経済と国民生活が破綻する」とのブラフ（脅し）に終始。夏休みの絵日記をサボっていた子どもが始業式直前に両親に泣き付くのと同様、出たところ勝負の醜態です。

As for power generation, all the polls clearly indicate the public opinion is to reduce the dependency on nuclear power. However, one year has passed since the March 11th triple disaster and the government has yet to show any detailed plans to improve the safety of the nation's 54 nuclear reactors including those at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant which had a meltdown or to reduce the dependency on nuclear power for electricity generation. Instead, the government keeps threatening the nation that the Japanese economy and people's living will collapse unless the nuclear power plants are reactivated. It is a disgraceful behavior by the government. They are acting like a child who has not done homework until the last day of summer vacation and now is asking parents for help. The attitude is that they don't have to act until there is a crisis.

震災がれきの広域処理こそ笑止千万です。2千万トンに及ぶ阪神大震災のがれきは実質1年、都合2年を経ずして被災地で処理し終えました。それよりも少ない東日本大震災のがれきは1年経過してもわずか10%しか片付いていません。

The government now promotes disposing of the debris from the earthquake and tsunami outside the disaster zone. The clearing up work is so behind that it makes me laugh. We finished cleaning up 20 million tons of the debris from of the Great Hanshin Earthquake by the end of the second year after the disaster which means it only took one year to clean up everything. The amount of the debris left by the Great East Japan Earthquake was less and yet only 10% of it has been disposed of, after one year.

かくも慨嘆すべき政治主導の失政の目くらましか、20%のがれきを全国で分かち合ってこそ日本の絆と叫んでいます。ここでも残り70%を被災地でいかに処理するか、何ら工程表が示されぬ本末転倒ぶりです。

This government should be ashamed of its management failure. Instead it calls for coming together as a nation to share 20% of the rubble clean up. However, there is no schedule shown for the remaining 70% on site and the government seems to have no plan at all. Then, such call is like putting the cart before the horse.

1兆円以上の公的資金注入を実施し、議決権の過半数を国が握る東京電力の総合特別事業計画こそ、社会主義計画経済の悪夢。一時国有化は銀行の債権を守り、天下りポストを増やし、負担は国民に押し付けるモラルハザードに他なりません。国鉄分割・民営化に学び、賠償を行う清算会社としての東京電力と、供給を担う新生会社としての“関東電力”に、今からでも方針転換すべきです。

The comprehensive emergency business plan for TEPCO, where the government will inject one trillion yen in taxpayers' money and hold the majority of voting rights, is a nightmare of a socialist planned economy. The temporary nationalization protects the value of the bank-owned debt, increases the posts for retired government bureaucrats, and creates a moral hazard of forcing the burden on taxpayers.

The government should change its policy and learn from the break-up of Japanese National Railways and its privatization. It should split up TEPCO into a liquidated company responsible for compensating the victims and a new company "Kanto Electric Power" responsible for supplying electricity. It's belated, but it's better late than never.

が、喧伝されるのは、自由競争で料金低下、安全強化、サービス向上を図る「発

送電分離」なる惹句ばかり。それこそ「理」ならぬ「利」ばかり追い求め、米カリフォルニアに「無計画停電」の悲劇をもたらし、2001年に破綻した市場原理主義の“鬼っ子”、エネルギー・IT企業エンロンの二の舞です。

However, we only hear proposals for “separation of electricity generation and transmission” in order to lower the cost for free competition, to strengthen the safety, and to improve services. But such proposals are in pursuit of profit-making only and lack in rationality.” We need to keep in mind such wrong policies would cause tragic “unplanned power outages” like those in California and create such company like Enron, an energy IT firm, run under the concept of market fundamentalism which caused it to go bankrupt in the year 2001.