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Chapter Author(s): Alfred S. Sussman

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## INTRODUCTION

Alfred S. Sussman

Welcome to the third annual United States-Japan Automotive Conference. I bring you greetings from the regents of the university, President Shapiro, and Vice President Frye, who is ill and sends his regrets for not being here to greet you as he had planned. In addition, I speak for our faculty, which respects the fields represented here and the breadth of interest among the speakers and other participants. The University of Michigan prides itself on the interdisciplinary nature of many of its activities and the broad sweep of its basic and applied programs. This conference is very much of the kind we hope to continue to engender.

It may interest you to know that in this very building late last week the Department of English sponsored an international conference on Orwell's *1984*. And today, right above us in another auditorium, is a conference on Karl Marx. I will not draw any moral judgment on the juxtaposition of these conferences and yours, except to observe that the dark vision of Orwell relates better to the subject of Karl Marx than the automobile industry. After all, increased accommodation between the sometime conflicting interests of labor and industry has been one of the happier developments since the time when Marx wrote. And there is room for further optimism when people from democratic societies, competitors yet respected colleagues, can sit down together to discuss the future of such a vital economic force as the auto industry. Having attended the previous conferences in this series, I have no hesitation in predicting that this one will contribute much to our understanding of the pressing and important problems facing this industry.

Alfred S. Sussman is Dean, Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, The University of Michigan.

