

of logs to Japan should be stopped. In our informal conferences as well in the record in this hearing the representatives of the lumber industry have not taken the position that all exports of logs to Japan should be stopped.

It is true that anyone going through this record with a fine-tooth comb might pick out a sentence here or there in which a witness now and then, speaking with rather deep feeling about the economic loss that the industry has suffered as the result of the exportation, has given the impression that as far as he was concerned he wouldn't object to stopping all exports. But even those witnesses, if you take their testimony as a whole, haven't actually advocated such a proposal.

I do not recall that any industry witness yet has testified that he would not support a ceiling to be placed temporarily to meet what the witnesses have said is an urgent need now to give some relief to the lumber mills of Washington and Oregon.

Now, most of the industry witnesses have testified in support of a ceiling of 350 million board feet, which was the exportation figure for 1966. Is that correct?

Mr. JOHNSON. Yes; this is my understanding.

Senator MORSE. We had a couple of witnesses yesterday who said that they would prefer the 1965 figure, which was somewhat under 350 million. I think there was some expression by those witnesses that they wouldn't object to even a lower figure but no indication even from those witnesses that they are not a part of the team, so to speak, representing industry in support of the 350-million-foot figure. Is that your understanding?

Mr. JOHNSON. That is correct.

Senator MORSE. Now my question to you is do you join in support of the recommendation of the representatives of industry heretofore testifying in this hearing, that you think the 350 million board feet which was the figure of 1966 would be a fair figure as a temporary restriction, and would bring the relief to the mills that you seek?

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. Chairman, the position of my company is that the export from Federal timber can be stopped because the authorities exist to restrict it. Those authorities are not being used. Our position is, as has been stated by many other witnesses, that there is a crisis which exists today.

I know of mills within my local vicinity who were operating as of December 31 and they are shut down right now. When they will reopen is uncertain. Probably they will reopen if they can acquire logs to run the mill. They have the orders. They don't have the logs.

Our position is taken upon the basis that this crisis does exist. As I pointed out earlier, it existed in 1960 and 1961, or I should say that there was more installed capacity then than there was timber from the local public forests to supply that need. We know this situation still exists and is magnified by the Japanese log exports.

I would say we are on the team and we are for restriction. Our position is stronger than the 350-million-board-foot level. I am stating our company's position, and that is, we believe that complete restriction should prevail until such time that it is shown there is a surplus of logs available for export from the public forests. This is our position, Mr. Chairman, and again I wish to reiterate it doesn't take us off the team. We think restriction is necessary, and we hope perhaps that it will go to the level that Alaska currently is.