

They are not saying that we are depleting it. They do not want to stop cutting it. They want to stop cutting it for the purpose for which we are cutting it. I think that the purpose for which it was set aside or put into this trusteeship is being fulfilled, and that there is no danger of our not being able to fill the needs of the people of the United States at any time.

But if it should be getting to this point, then of course such action would have to be taken. No one here has said that this is occurring. They are objecting as to whom we want to sell, and again I say that there is no shortage of the finished product, either paper, plywood, or lumber in the United States. If there was, you would have no choice, nor would we. But we do not see that this is a part of the problem.

Senator MORSE. Thank you very much. Mr. Heinke? Mr. Soike?

Mr. SOIKE. Mr. Chairman, from the Washington public ports standpoint, we oppose a restriction on a single ownership of timber. If, in your judgment, after all of the facts are in, there has to be some limitations placed, we feel very strongly that it must be on private, State, and Federal ownerships alike. We cannot see a two-price system functioning properly in this country.

I can appreciate the complexity of the problem, and I am sure that you gentlemen will carefully evaluate many of the things that have been said in testimony here. I think one of the real significant things that has been brought forth in these discussions is in the past several months the reforestation practices that are now coming into the scene in our forests.

We talked about tree farms. Now we are talking about high-yield forests, and this certainly is an opportunity to put a great amount of additional wood fiber into the marketplace in the years to come, if we follow the practices that are now being developed.

Certainly new logging techniques are being developed that are bringing out material that is suffering from natural mortality, as was indicated by the Treasury Department's staff report.

I think, too, that we have to give consideration to the fact that there has been a lot of material left laying on our forest floors historically to rot that should come out and should be utilized by industry. We have an example of that in the community that I come from, Grays Harbor, where in February the U.S. Forest Service is going to hold a public hearing.

They are going to consider for the first time the advisability of declaring wood chips a primary process and allow them to be exported from a working circle. The world market conditions indicate that material can be brought out of that working circle, chipped and exported. This is a complex problem, but certainly it doesn't make good sense to many of us in that community to leave that material lay there and rot when it could come out and be used for the benefit of mankind.

I certainly can appreciate the chore that the committee has in the subject we are discussing today, and I would hope that if there are limits placed on log exporting in the future, that consideration will be given to the many millions of dollars that ports have invested in public facilities to handle this commerce, and it has built up rapidly in the past few years, and there are long-term obligations to the ports to pay these facilities off.