

policies of the Department of Interior, which made absolutely no sense. Subsequently we got it changed.

Senator MORSE. Your statement setting forth your qualifications in the area of the Bureau of Land Management problems when you were Assistant Secretary of Interior makes it unnecessary for me to ask the other questions that I was going to ask to lay the foundation for your qualification to answer the question that I pose to you now.

As a former Assistant Secretary of Interior, as an exceedingly able lawyer, who I happen to know has had a practice that deals in the field of litigation and the great problems that involve national resources, is it your opinion that the executive branch of our Government has under existing law, which deals with the administration and maintenance of our Federal forests, the legal authority to place restrictions on the exportation of logs from Federal timberlands?

Mr. DAVIDSON. I appreciate your kind remarks, Mr. Chairman, and to give a yes or no answer I will, but then I think I would like to make a comment. The answer is "yes." There is presently sufficient authority within the various agencies of Government to take the type action I am recommending.

I think we must understand though that any government administrator finds himself very much in the position of a Senator or a Congressman but a little different. A Senator or a Congressman has the national interest and he also has a constituency interest.

Senator MORSE. There is one difference——

Mr. DAVIDSON. And he gets elected.

Senator MORSE (continuing). One difference, the administrator can get fired. We can get defeated.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Right; but you are both out of office then. But the administrator in looking at the problem is faced with the same kind of conflicts and the same kind of arguments, coming from all sources that you have experienced here in these hearings.

Now, the administrator is only human also, and he is also a political animal. As you say, he can be fired. He wants to do the right thing just as the Senator and the Congressman wants to.

But for him to sign a paper saying do this, when he is going to have the longshoremens and the ports, and everybody on his neck—when he is going to have the State Department on one side and the Treasury on the other, to ask the Chief of Forest Service or the head of the Bureau of Land Management to take specific action is asking them to do quite a job, unless he can get considerable support from the Senate and House, or some of the committees of the Congress.

Therefore, I think these hearings are excellent. But I think you could help tremendously, and it is necessary, because I doubt that the administrators are going to take action unless they know they are going to have some defense over here when all hell breaks loose.

Senator MORSE. I asked the question, Mr. Davidson, to elicit from you the response that you have given. Neither the Chief of the Forest Service, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, the Secretary of Agriculture nor the Secretary of Interior should be expected to proceed with laying down administrative regulations unless he knows those regulations are approved by the administration that he serves. I understand that, I think we all understand that. And the administration is not going to give authorization to carry out the policy, which is discretionary, without taking some cognizance of