

Forest management to do this and no change in this objective is contemplated. If we find in future examinations that rotations can be shortened somewhat, it would be done only with balanced management of all the multiple uses in mind, together with providing proper protection for soil and water.

We think the Report's discussion on Alaska is only a partial presentation of Alaska's problems. Much that is desirable could be lost by changing the prohibition against export from Alaska of unprocessed logs. Instead, it seems to us that if there is to be a change from present practices, it should be to obtain, by agreement with the Japanese, shipment from Alaska of processed lumber rather than logs. This possibility is largely overlooked in the discussion in the Treasury Department Report.

Another major recommendation of the Treasury Department proposal is the repeal of the Jones Act, or its modification to exempt Alaska from its provisions. Administration of the Jones Act is not one of the responsibilities of this Department, and it seems inappropriate for us to comment on that part of the proposal.

You have specifically asked if we intend to change the policy in Alaska and make it possible to export from Alaska, in unprocessed form, logs that have been cut from the National Forests. We do not plan any change in this policy.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Orville L. Freeman