

STATEMENT OF PATRICK A. SODERBERG, PRESIDENT, CLEAR CREEK LOGGING CO., INC., AND ALASKA LOGGERS ASSOCIATION, KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

Mr. SODERBERG. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Pat Soderberg, president of Clear Creek Logging Co., Inc., and president of the Alaska Loggers Association.

The Alaska Loggers Association has 64 logging company members. This is almost 100 percent of the logging companies in southeast Alaska.

We became aware of the Treasury staff recommendation a short time ago. We became alarmed. It looked to us like they were trying to solve the Oregon and Washington log export problem by opening up Alaska forests to round log export. We hope this isn't so. I would like to describe an Alaska logging camp operation, so you might better understand some of our problems.

This logging show was Rodman Bay located 60 miles from Sitka, Alaska. The only way to Rodman Bay is by water, 60 miles, or by airplane, 35 miles. We moved our camp buildings, logging equipment by barge to the campsite. After several months of work building streets, sewers, waterlines, roads, docks, and airplane floats for supplies, mail, and passengers, we were finally ready to start moving people into camp. We had to provide family housing, bunkhouses, cookhouse, recreation hall, electric power generating plants, schoolhouse, and supply boat to haul camp supplies from Sitka.

This is a far cry from a logging show that you can drive to on a good highway. All our communication is by radio or mail service three times a week.

Now, Rodman Bay, by Alaska Lumber & Pulp Co.'s forestry department spot cruise and aerial photo, which have consistently been lower in estimate and cruise than the U.S. Forest Service, was estimated between 250 and 300 million board feet. We signed a contract to log this area in 10 years. We finished it 5½ years later—150 million board feet. This is about one-half of what we had hoped to get off of this area.

Now I am sure that both of the large pulpmill allotments are going to be way short of what they were cruised. I think the allowable cut for Alaska of 860 million may be too high. Now getting back to the logging camp operation. Getting competent and good people to come to a logging camp located 60 miles from the nearest town by boat or plane is not as easy as you might think. We have to take care of our employees. We pay top wages, provide a good camp, have a pension plan, health and accident medical plan, recreation movies, playgrounds, and transportation to hunting and fishing areas. Some of our people have been with us since we came to Alaska 8 years ago. They come to depend on us for almost everything.

Now we don't think the type of a market that is "cut out and get out" is what we want. We are confident that with the primary manufacture of lumber, pulp, and other wood products in Alaska we will continue to have the stable market that we have had in the past. We logged in Oregon and California for many years before going to Alaska.