

Honorable Wayne Morse

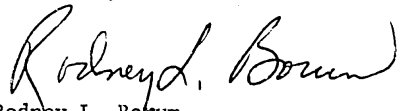
accessibility of supply, export demand for logs and others. These prices, composite average for all species, were reported by the U.S. Forest Service to be 27 percent lower during the second quarter of 1967 than in the preceding first quarter and 21 percent under the average for the year 1966.

The Department of Commerce has worked with the forest products industry by giving assistance to three industry-organized, government-approved trade missions to Japan. These were the American Plywood Association missions in August 1964 and April 1965 and the West Coast Lumbermen's Association mission in April 1965. Currently, this Department is assisting the American Plywood Association regarding a plywood exhibit in Tokyo, Japan, in the spring of 1968.

Further, the Department has participated in and has endorsed and supported programs to obtain added production from timberlands in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska; expansion of the Forest Development Roads and Trails Program; the Set-Aside Program for Small Business; and other positive action programs. The Department of Commerce is a member of the Softwood Log Task Force which will meet the representatives from Japan on December 11-12, 1967, in an effort to reconcile conservation and trade interests in the use of timber resources of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

The Task Force met with representatives of the Pacific Northwest forest products industries on November 27, to discuss all aspects of the problem preparatory to discussions with the Japanese. Further, the Task Force plans to discuss with industry representatives the results of the meeting of December 11-12 and points which should be explored in a subsequent meeting. This thorough preparation should result in an expeditious and satisfactory solution of the softwood log export problem.

Sincerely,


Rodney L. Borum
Administrator

Enclosure