

figures were in the neighborhood of 250 to 300 million on this show. We made a contract with Soderberg to complete the logging of that particular unit in 10 years. He finished logging it in five, and I have forgotten what his figures were that he gave in testimony last night, but I believe it was——

Senator HATFIELD. 150.

Mr. MACDONALD. Yes, so obviously much less than we had cruised, and our total cruise was much less than the Forest Service cruise, so you see by applying that same reason it would appear that when the joint inventory is completed, that we will find we have less timber than we originally contracted for.

Now, we are not worried except in the case that the allowable cut is exceeded, and we find ourselves with less timber than will justify or fulfill our contract obligation.

Senator HATFIELD. When the Government puts up for bid certain tracts of timber under the allowable cut program, what percentage of that is purchased?

Mr. MACDONALD. What percentage?

Senator HATFIELD. Is it all purchased, all the allowable cut?

Mr. MACDONALD. Well, the allowable cut and the sale I think are two different things. For instance, in our sale we were guaranteed five and a quarter billion feet over a 50-year period. As I pointed out in my testimony here, the Forest Service very wisely allowed for purchase of additional timber off of our allotment, which gives employment and business to local concerns. And so we still have to have a background of timber to, you might say, fall back on when there is not enough of logs that can be bought from independents.

Senator HATFIELD. Let me approach it another way. Do you feel that the present cutting policies as exercised by the control of the Federal agencies could be increased in volume in relation to the amount of timber that is standing in the great State of Alaska? Do you think you are undercutting, are you about even or are you overcutting?

Mr. MACDONALD. I think we are about even on the southeastern Alaska areas. I am not familiar with the interior of Alaska where I understand a great volume of timber exists.

Senator HATFIELD. Is this where the very devastating forest fire took place about 2 or 3 years ago?

Mr. MACDONALD. That is in the interior?

Senator HATFIELD. That is the interior?

Mr. MACDONALD. Yes.

Senator HATFIELD. And about how many acres did it burn do you recall?

Mr. MACDONALD. I could not answer that. I do not have those figures.

Senator HATFIELD. It was a very large fire though, was it not?

Mr. MACDONALD. What?

Senator HATFIELD. I say it was a very large fire.

Mr. MACDONALD. Yes.

Senator HATFIELD. And was there any effort made or any program to fight that fire?

Mr. MACDONALD. I am sure there was. The Bureau of Land Management has a very positive fire protection program, and I am sure that they made a great effort.