

a long way away and it is quite a trip there, I recognize that it is an even longer trip for you gentlemen. If our process here is to work soundly, as the chairman has stated, all along, our intention not to make a case for a preconceived opinion, but to search out as many facts as we can that pertain to the problem, and we need the sort of testimony that you gentlemen bring. As one Member of the Congress, I express my appreciation for your taking the time, going to the expense of coming this far to help us in this regard.

Senator MORSE. Congressman Dellenback, we appreciate your thanking these witnesses for coming. I associate myself with everything you have said. The committee is grateful for your testimony, Mr. Reekie.

I will now call upon Mr. Clarence Kramer of Sitka, Alaska, who is president of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce.

STATEMENT OF CLARENCE F. KRAMER, PRESIDENT, ALASKA STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, SITKA, ALASKA

Mr. KRAMER. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Clarence Kramer of Sitka, Alaska, and am here to speak on behalf of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce of which I am president.

Our organization is made up of approximately 356 members and embraces a good share of the businesses in our State from the small two-man operations to our largest corporations. Even though Alaska has enjoyed a modest growth in the last 15 years and especially since statehood our industrial base is still quite thin.

Alaska's forests are one of our greatest resources and the fact that they are self-renewing makes them doubly so. Our forest products industry is Alaska's second largest industry exceeded only by fishing.

Because it gives steady employment to more people and leaves more money in the State in taxes, payroll, and local purchases, I feel it could soon have the greatest impact on the economy of our State.

Naturally, when something threatens the stability and future growth of this industry we are deeply concerned.

I feel the size of the delegation that has made the trip to Washington, at considerable personal expense, indicates the depth of their concern. Our Alaska State Chamber of Commerce has long been on record supporting primary manufacture.

This position is reviewed and it is our firm belief that without the protection of a primary manufacture law we would not have the vigorous expanding wood products industry that exists in Alaska today. Our State chamber is interested in the health and growth of all of our industries and in the last 5 years has made three trade missions to Japan to further expand foreign markets, the last one in September of 1967, headed by our dynamic Governor, Walter J. Hickel.

It was my privilege to make two of the trips as a representative of the wood products industry.

Many times my colleague and I were cornered by top Japanese businessmen and asked why we were opposed to round log export from Alaska.

When properly explained and a firm stand taken they would admit that export of raw material—round logs—was a shortsighted policy and one they realized would be limited or abolished in the near future.