

not here to advise Washington and Oregon, but I will say that due to the fact that the timber in Alaska is principally owned by the Federal Government, that everybody has the same shake as far as acquiring the timber. It puts us in an entirely different position, and we certainly would not want to go backward into something that was not as good.

Representative POLLOCK. Now, earlier today Senator Hatfield made a query about the feasibility of some kind of a sliding scale with an increase in primary processing, perhaps also get into the business in Alaska of shipping round logs to Japan. I wonder if you might comment on that.

Mr. KRAMER. Well, sir, that is a very dangerous area, and I would with due apology to any underaged or nervous people here, I would say I would liken it to a woman being a little bit pregnant. I do not think you could have a little export.

Representative POLLOCK. Of rounded logs you mean?

Mr. KRAMER. That is correct. If you penetrate that policy or that barrier, and allow round log export, what will happen, you are talking about areas that are underdeveloped, and you are saying, well, up where there are no manufacturing facilities let us export the round log.

Well, after spending most of my life in this business, I can predict what will happen. The venture will not be successful, but fellows like my friends Mr. Reekie here and the banks will become involved, and when the operation fails, then the plea will be, "Well, give us a little better chance like you have down Southeast. Let us export a little down there." And pretty soon you are in the same position as if you threw the thing wide open.

I do not see what round log export would do for you that primary manufacture won't do. Now, I mentioned that I am on the Government's timber task force. Last spring we took a trip of 4,000 miles through all of the timber areas of Alaska, and there are stands of timber there that have not even been properly inventoried. But when you are in an airplane flying at 100 miles an hour and you fly for an hour and do not see a railroad, road, dock, navigable stream or any other means of transportation to utilize that timber, what good is round log export going to do for those areas? You are talking strictly of the coastal areas, and through the efforts of this group, with the help of the Federal and State governments, we have come up with additional industry for areas that are underdeveloped that in my opinion would utilize every stick of timber in Alaska up to an allowable cut on a sensible basis.

Now, what else do you want to do?

Representative POLLOCK. Clarence, one other question. Has the Forest Service generally been conducive to opening areas when there has been interest in the industry in getting timber? I am thinking about the Chugach National Forest, perhaps around the Cordova area where there is apparently a lot of timber but not much lumbering going on.

Mr. KRAMER. Well, we argue back and forth all the time, but as far as our region in Alaska, I feel that they have done a very good job. They have been naturally looking out for what laws and rules are laid down to them. They have a handbook to go by, and they have things that they have to do. But on the whole, I think they have been doing