

Senator MORSE. Please go head and read it.

Mr. BROOKS (reading):

Veneer logs, saw logs, pulp logs, cordwood and other primary forest products shall not be transported for manufacture outside of the Territory of Alaska without the consent of the Regional Forester, but such consent will not be withheld for the export of such products having special value so long as in the opinion of the Regional Forester competitive markets for such special products do not exist within Alaska.

Representative DELLENBACK. Would it be your interpretation of that last phrase or the last sentence that if there were to be a price offered by any foreign bidder that was far in excess of what the local market would bear, that this would not be considered comparable markets and so therefore it would be possible to get that permission?

Mr. BROOKS. I can only answer that by saying that I have posed this question to the regional forester and they said that price was not the object. That the mere fact that we could get more money for the logs someplace else would not be a reason for him to issue a permit for us to export.

Representative DELLENBACK. So that you have the assurance of the regional forester that you dealt with, that they really do mean to enforce their provisions in Alaska against the export of the round log?

Mr. BROOKS. That is correct.

Representative DELLENBACK. Then just going a little bit further, let me ask this and again I do not know of which of you gentlemen. Except for these shipments of cedar, to which there has been reference now, has there been any round logs shipped from Alaska in the last 5 or 10 years into foreign export?

Mr. BROOKS. There have been very minor shipments of private timber.

Representative DELLENBACK. Do you have any idea of what amount approximately?

Mr. BROOKS. My colleague reminds me that shipment is permitted from lands that are under control of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I would say the total volume would be under 12 million feet in the last 15 years.

Representative DELLENBACK. Twelve million board feet. That is from private ownership?

Mr. BROOKS. Private and Indian lands.

Representative DELLENBACK. There have been statements of a variety of strength that appear either in some of your formal presentations or else made by one or another of the gentlemen already this morning that the export of round logs from Alaska would wipe out existing Alaskan timber industry or would do serious injury to the industry. Would you pin down for me exactly what you mean by saying it would wipe it out?

Let me give you just a question that is in my mind in this regard. Part of the difficulty that we face in Oregon you see, one of the factors that has contributed to the loss of mill capacity and the loss of employment is the fact that because it is possible to export logs, some of our mills are unable to go into the market and get the logs, and this has thus an effect, we feel, in my district. It has caused wiping out of jobs because the export market has taken away the availability of the product.