

corresponding figures are 46,559 for 1966 and an estimate of 44,000 for 1967—a decline of 2,559.

These figures are substantiated by our own membership records. We suffered a decline of approximately 4,200 jobs during the past 2 years.

Testimony already has been presented regarding the number of mills which have gone out of business during the past 2 years. Therefore, the figures do not need repeating. The mills which have closed are gone and little can be done about reviving them. Our real concern is that 20 to 40 additional mills are undoubtedly doomed to close in the next year unless a more constant and adequate supply of logs is assured.

I scarcely need to point out that every mill closure works a tremendous hardship on the workers involved. Many of the mills which have already closed and those which probably will close if relief is not forthcoming are located in smaller towns. When the people are forced out of work in these rural communities they have little choice but to move to the populous centers and thereby add to the employment problems in the cities.

While a great deal of attention has been given to plant closures brought about by log shortages and/or excessive log prices, I want to touch briefly on the hardships which are accruing to all our members in Oregon and Washington because they feel a sense of insecurity and fear.

It is a difficult situation for a man to constantly fear that his job will be eliminated by a plant closure. He cannot commit himself to purchase a home. He cannot plan for the future of his children, and worry constantly knaws at his family.

Furthermore, the ability of our members to improve their economic lot through collective bargaining is severely hampered when mills are squeezed by constantly increasing log prices which reflect themselves in decreased profits.

At the outset, let me say that we do not object to reasonable exports to Japan or to any other nation. But, we do believe that the forest industries of our Western States need to be given consideration to the extent of assuring an adequate supply of logs.

I believe it is the obligation of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Interior to adhere to such a policy. The Organic Act on National Forests, adopted June 4, 1897, provides:

No public forest reservation shall be established, except to improve and protect the forest, within the reservation, or for the purpose of sharing favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of citizens of the United States.

The act of April 12, 1926, reiterates this policy based on giving our domestic industry first call on logs produced from Federal lands.

Therefore, it is our conviction that the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have not only a responsibility but an obligation to insure an adequate supply of logs for the benefit and behoof of the domestic lumber industry.

Our concern for the potential loss of jobs resulting from log exports dates back to the early fifties. In 1953, we first exhibited our concern over the export of logs to Japan. We expressed our alarm to many Congressmen over the depletion of our forests being hastened by exportation of logs and we stated then, as we do now, that this would only help to nullify all the efforts that have been put forth and the