

money spent to develop proper practices and utilization of our forest products for the future and would hasten depletion of our forests and create unemployment.

The export of logs at that time were minimal, but our concern and our fears for the future are substantiated by the astronomical figures of log exports from the Oregon and Washington customs districts, totaling 1,230,242,000 board feet, Scribner scale in 1966. The estimates for 1967 appear to be about 1.7 billion board feet.

In 1957, at the request of the International Cooperation Administration, representatives of our organization met in Portland, Oreg., with a team of Japanese industry representatives, members of the "Japanese Logging Roads, Sawmilling & Woodworking Study Team."

We learned from these industry representatives that Japan planned to seek an increasing supply of logs from our Northwest area to be processed in their own country.

As recently as 1966, a member of a Japanese Trade Mission, in conference in Portland, Oreg., was quoted as saying that Japanese importation of logs, especially American logs, will continue on an upward trend in the years ahead. The increasing flow of logs to Japan in the intervening years shows quite conclusively that they have successfully carried out their intentions.

We cite this brief background as a basis for our constant concern for the economy of the Northwest timber industry and the continuing loss of jobs.

Since 1953, we have raised our voices in protest. We have passed resolutions proposing limitations on log exports. We have had much correspondence with Members of Congress. We have been through many hearings on this subject, conferences with the Secretary and Under Secretary of Agriculture. Petitions have been submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture for the establishment of marketing areas through which some restrictions could be placed on these ever-growing exports. Conferences have also been held with other agencies, such as the Department of Commerce, the State Department. To date, none of these have produced any solution.

We sincerely hope that your deliberations will produce conclusions and recommendations that will serve as an acceptable basis for preserving our jobs in the Northwest lumber industry.

The export of logs does not tell the entire story. Competition for timber is at its greatest peak in history. Competition from Japanese log buyers constantly forces the price of stumpage up. The prices paid for logs by Japanese buyers have made it prohibitive for many mills to compete in the domestic market. This naturally added to the burden of many marginal mills.

When, as it happened in Oregon just recently, a company with large timber holdings sells some 12,000 acres of timber to Japanese interests and gives as their reason for selling that it is no longer profitable to manufacture plywood, it certainly is evident that log exports are adversely affecting the health of the Northwest lumber industry and future of the towns which depend on the industry for continuing existence.

In the early fifties, a comprehensive study of timber resources was made by the "Timber Resources Review," developed under the auspices of the U.S. Forest Service. This study and a number of others have all