

Roseburg Lumber Co. owns in fee a little more than 1 billion feet of timber, which among privately held companies is considered a large holding.

We are asked sometimes why we oppose the unregulated export of American logs and sometimes we face the challenge that we have a vested interest in asking that the Government restrict the export of this raw material.

I would like to make clear two points on this subject before getting into a discussion of the economic consequences of selling our timber to foreign manufacturers.

First, with our plywood and lumber production, with the entire complex of plant and equipment, it is safe to say we would be able to operate 4 years, maybe 5, if we cut only our own timber. We would then be cut out.

In discussing this recently with a major retail merchant in our area, I made this analogy to him: If you have a grocery store and if for some reason the people who shop at that store all move away or the road leading to that store is cut off, or better still, you suddenly cannot get goods to sell in your store, then your store is worth nothing, or very little at best.

It is safe to say that our entire mill complex, the entire industrial strength of Roseburg Lumber Co. and the payrolls and the economic contribution of this company would disappear if we cut our own timber. America has a record of what happens when an area is cut out. Remember Minnesota and Michigan where the timber policy of "cut and run" was practiced. You can have the finest sawmill in the world, the best plywood plant, but if you are not able to operate them, they are not worth a darn.

Our vested interest is in stopping the export of Federal logs. We have had to build this company and manage its timber reserves by working with the Federal Government agencies through the years. Companies like ours, and many of them have already gone out of business, have provided the marketing base for Government timber sales for the past 50 years or more. Because of the flow of Government timber, we have seen our way clear to invest in plant and facilities that would provide the manufacturing base for that timber.

Through the years we have bid fairly and competitively for that timber, providing the dollars the taxpayers are entitled to for their resource, and in turn purchasing the raw materials we require to stay in business.

With a proper balance of Federal timber cutting and tapping our own reserves, we have been able to keep our own limited stands on a sustained yield basis and work with the Government's timber sales which are also on a sustained yield basis. Up until the frightening turn of events which we are discussing today, this was a reasonable and well-balanced economic community of activities, feeding our Government direct revenue, as well as tax dollars; feeding our community prime payroll dollars, and feeding the American economy a useful and necessary range of manufactured goods. The resource was harvested and utilized intelligently.

Now, there has been a great deal of confusion surrounding these sales of Government timber, and there has been a great deal of confusion also in the discussions of the mills that have been shut down.