

combined—is much more basic than that. British Columbia does not sell logs. In buying finished lumber in Canada from Canadian mills, the Japanese are not setting up the competitive mill base to bid against their own efforts to buy raw timber. To buy this lumber from our mills would mean they would be helping to create and keep alive a healthy American economy and mill structure which in turn, could meet the prices the Japanese are paying for our logs.

I have never seen a Canadian mill, and I have seen quite a few, which has any magic crew, or magic saw, or magic timber that allows it to produce a product to better or different standards than Roseburg Lumber Co., or Jones Lumber Co., or Bohemia Lumber Co., or any of the dozens of other good American mills can produce.

We all “pull our pants on, one leg at a time,” in this business; there are no supermen.

My recommendations today are brief because of the pressure of your time, but they are made with the sober reflections in mind that we have prime responsibilities to our own country and we cannot ignore our responsibilities to our friends and allies, the Japanese. You cannot set up an operation as they have and have the raw material shut off from full speed ahead to dead stop without causing much economic distress and pain in that country. Still, we must shut it off.

You have Government projections available to you and certainly we have industry trade association projections which show that in the next 5 years to 10 years, even without the Japanese bidding for our timber, there will not be enough wood to meet the domestic demand. There will not be enough for the housing needed to solve the problems of our ghettos; there will not be enough to provide replacement housing needed to rebuild and renew our cities; there will not be enough for the shipping and container demand; there will not be anywhere near enough raw wood resources in all of this country to meet our basic wood demand.

We then become something akin to the oil industry, a dwindling supplier of our own raw material and we then go abroad and begin to seek the wood we need from other countries, and at that point, I suggest we will get the lesson we need, and should fear.

The industrially developed countries, and increasingly, the undeveloped countries won't sell their forest resource in unprocessed form: we will have to take what we can get—in whatever form we can get it.

So what should we do? We should give notice now, today, to the Japanese of a 5-year plan to eliminate the acquisition of raw logs from Federal lands.

I think our industry can survive in the United States through these years if the Japanese are held through the first 2 years to no more than they purchased in 1966. Certainly, not a stick more. Then, perhaps through forest management, we can provide a larger cut to help offset that drain. I would hope so.

After the 2-year period, it would seem they should be developing sources of raw material in other areas of the world where the demand is not so great for domestic consumption. By that time, it is reasonable through the 3 years to follow, in this tapering-off period, we could reduce our log exports by 30 percent a year until at the end of the fifth year we would have stopped with a minimum of pain and pressure on all sides.