

has been my experience that the greatest sole reason in the last generation has been the lack of wood. Most of the mills that are shut down have been cutting private timber, and I think if you would go out and make a thorough examination and get the true facts today, you will find that the majority of the mills that are shutting down have cut out their own private timber, and there is not enough available Federal timber to supplant this.

Now, I want to add an illustration if you will pardon me for one more minute. I have under my control two plants. We picked them up from other operators. They are on liquidation. They are cutting out the private timber that we acquired with those plants and the Government sales which they have. In from 2 to 3 years from today those plants are going to be forced to shut down. There is nothing that I can do, you, nor anybody else. There is not enough available wood. This is just going to be one of the facts of life. As in my statement, our Government agencies, our leaders have been telling us and warning us of this for a number of years, so that people that are overcutting and have been overcutting their own private timber, if given an opportunity, will back out of their own private timber and use the Government's and let their own grounds regenerate so they can get back.

Senator HATFIELD. As one who has been committed to the free enterprise system and has been so successful within that system, when I read within your testimony that you feel that within this 5-year period the Japanese could well develop other sources, would the Soviet Union, Russia, be a possible other source? Would you feel this would be good or bad as it relates to the foreign policy and the foreign relations of this country?

Mr. FORD. I am not a student of foreign policy and this I would not attempt to answer. I do feel and know from my travels around through the South Pacific that it would be difficult, sure, but they can get all of the wood they need today in the form of logs. I do think that sooner or later that the Japanese will have to go to buying a finished product.

Senator HATFIELD. So it is just not a question then of buying logs in Russia or not. It is just a matter perhaps of meeting their needs in the finished product field that Japan would find itself in the future?

Mr. FORD. That is my opinion.

Senator HATFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I close with just one comment if I may. I think we have here a very interesting witness, because he speaks in language that represents neither dreary pessimism nor Pollyanna optimism. I am impressed by a very realistic approach here to problems. He may not evoke common agreement among all his listeners, but I do feel that the realism with which Mr. Ford approaches this subject is very refreshing and very helpful, and I think again that his background and his achievement puts him into a very important category of men to be listened to and I guess to be reckoned with. I want to thank you again, Mr. Ford, as our chairman has done so very eloquently before. I, too, appreciate your contribution, and I know it will be very helpful to me and everyone who will avail himself of your testimony in this record.

Senator MORSE. Senator Hatfield, I want to commend you for your exceptionally able examination of Mr. Ford. You have greatly