

While these are totally contradictory pressures, they are also clearly of a momentary nature. A year or two from now, it is quite conceivable that they could again reverse themselves. An international union, charged with the responsibility of developing a sound long-term policy position, cannot reverse itself from year to year based on what is expedient at any given point without losing its credentials with its own membership, not to speak of Congress and the public in general.

As a consequence, we may well find ourselves in the position of being the only organization testifying before this committee which frankly confesses that it is not convinced at this hour as to what is sound and fair to all parties involved—the industry's workers, with whom we are by definition most concerned; the employer community, which is clearly divided against itself by short-range self-interest considerations; and, finally, although not lastly, public-interest considerations ranging from the long-term health of the regional economy and revenues, to counties for educational purposes, to our mushrooming population's need for adequate recreational resources in the future.

It is not our intent to beleaguer you with statistics that we know you have already heard repeatedly from other witnesses on both sides of this matter. We know, just to cite one example, that revenues to Washington schools have soared from \$4 million to \$9 million a year since 1961, due to higher stumpage prices. Higher stumpage prices have also resulted in the Forest Service's ability to pursue intensified management practices which can't help but contribute to the long-term stability of the resource in the Northwest.

We know also that the picture is complicated by capital gains and depletion allowance advantages that can be realized for some of these employers by alternating utilization of timber purchased from public lands with that harvested from their own private holdings.

We seriously question that Japan, if cut off from a log supply in this country, would solve her problem by purchasing U.S. dressed lumber. There are a variety of alternatives available and we feel certain her choice would be dictated by that which is most economical from her standpoint. And what makes us so certain that Japan won't find ways in which to retaliate?

Now have we understood the argument that curtailment of log exports from public lands would make any real difference so long as exports remained unrestricted insofar as privately owned logs are concerned.

As a labor organization interested in maintaining its reputation for being concerned with the public interest and the health of the regional economy, we are conscious of many other questions to which no easy answers are readily available. Certainly it is true, for example, that log exports appear to entail higher stumpage prices. And higher stumpage prices will surely be one of the cries of impoverishment the employers will raise to our demands for contract improvements during our next negotiations.

Yet this of itself is only one factor in the problems besetting our Northwest membership as a whole. It is exceedingly unlikely, for example, that many of the hundreds and thousands of jobs that have disappeared during the past year or two would be restored by the elimination or serious cutback of log exports. Many other factors are at work in the situation.