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Senator Wayne Morse
Old Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

LOG EXPORTS TO JAPAN

Dear Senator Morse:

The press, more particularly some of the business editors, seems to be doing a magnificent job of stirring up a tempest. Certainly the people most directly involved have their own economic well-being to protect. However, the press has managed to lead the 'man on the street' into believing that log exports, as such, are bad. If a complete study weighing all of the factors of the matter is made, I am sure the legislators will be convinced that the average citizen is being helped rather than hurt by log exports. Then if the press would try to tell the true story rather than resort to sensationalism to sell newspapers, the average citizen could also be convinced.

You already have a copy of my letter dated November 24, 1967, to Mr. Edward Westerdahl. In my letter I have pointed out some of the factors that should be taken into consideration. In addition, I would like to say that I am in favor of your stand on the Small Business Set-Aside Program for timber sales.

The problem that still exists is with the medium size mills. Consideration must also be given to them in arriving at a solution to the overall problem. Certainly if the Japanese will agree to buy lumber on a 50/50 basis - in other words, 50,000 FBM sawn lumber for every 50,000 FBM of logs - this should satisfy everyone. However, such a solution would be impossible unless our sawmills are willing and capable of producing the sizes and quality of lumber required by the Japanese market. If we ban log exports and have nothing to replace it, we will have damaged not only the timber industry, but all the rest of the economy as well.