

I have taken a long time to give you the background for my question. Nevertheless, it is a policy question this committee has got to make a recommendation on, and I would like to have your expert judgment on it.

What would you do if you sat in my chair on that policy question?

Dr. GRAVES. Well, I think this is the position that lots of nations have taken. That is one reason why we are deriving most of our newsprint supply from Canada as processed paper.

I think that it is a position that could be readily defended, to seriously consider the feasibility of importing a raw produce versus a processed product. There is the other question, however, of what is in the national interest from the standpoint of all facets of policy and not necessarily either the wood resource or the ancillary considerations attached to it, and I do not feel qualified to make a judgment on the other issues.

From the standpoint of wood I think it is fairly clear. We need all of the wood that we have.

Senator MORSE. One final question. Because of your expertise as a professional forester, I am satisfied that you are pretty well versed on the legal powers of the BLM and the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture. It has been argued in these hearings that because of the purpose of our forestry laws that have been passed down through the decades, legal authority already exists in those two departments to impose restrictions on the exportation of Federal logs from Federal forests. Further along those lines, the determination of a policy at the higher levels of the executive branch that permits of the export of those logs without exercising the legal authority to restrict the exports under existing laws results in a collision course, at least to those in the Congress that think that conservation of this natural resource ought to come first. If we can't work out a satisfactory understanding with the Forest Service and the BLM, then that collision course results in the drive for legislation.

That may create more policy problems for the administration than they may confront in the field of foreign relations if they say to Japan, "We are sorry, we will sell you lumber but we won't sell you logs."

Now, my question to you, with that background material again: Do you think, on the basis of your knowledge of the authority of the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture, that those two Departments have the authority under existing law to impose restrictions on the exportation of logs taken off the Federal forests?

Dr. GRAVES. I in no way wish to pose as a legal expert, but in my judgment, Mr. Chairman, the two agencies in question do have legal authority to take that position.

Senator MORSE. I want to thank you very much. We may find it necessary to ask you to supplement your statement by answering specific questions we may want to submit to you in writing. Such a submission would, of course, be at your option and at your convenience at a later date.

Dr. GRAVES. I will be very pleased to do so.

Senator MORSE. I am through with my examination.

If anybody has further questions of Dean Graves, then go ahead. If not, we will proceed to examine Mr. McCracken.