

STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT

In the short time available it has not been possible to make a complete canvass of all possible sources of information or to make an exhaustive analysis of the facts which have been ascertained. Moreover, much of the information available is not susceptible of full verification. We believe, however, that the general size and character of log export activity to Japan in Oregon and Washington can be summarized as follows:

1. The rate of log exports from Oregon and Washington to Japan in the first four months of 1961 was 3.5 times the rate for the corresponding period in 1960. The volume of exports has increased month by month. If the average rate for the first four months is maintained, total log exports in 1961 will be about 115 million board feet (Scribner log scale); at an average monthly rate equal to export volume for April, total exports in 1961 would be about 200 million board feet.

These figures do not include Port Orford cedar for which there is little market other than for export to Japan, and which is not involved in the present problem. Production of this species is confined principally to a limited area in southwestern Oregon tributary to the Port of Coos Bay. Twenty-nine million board feet of Port Orford cedar logs were exported in 1960. In the first four months of 1961, 17 million board feet were exported.

WFIA COMMENTS

The Department bases its projections of total 1961 log exports upon the average of the first four months of 1961 and, in the alternative, upon the volume shipped in April 1961. Each projection smacks of the schoolboy.

If the Department had chosen to project on the basis of 1960, or 1959, or the average of some lengthy prior period, the mere arithmetic would disclose no problem whatsoever. Clearly, then, the problem can be neither defined nor solved by simple, schoolboy arithmetic.

In any event, as the Forest Service should know, mere recitation of export figures is, of itself, misleading. In terms of jobs and mill operation, the raw material that is quarantined against use in the Northwest includes both the volume already exported and, in addition, the substantial volume that has been purchased by the Japanese and is now segregated for export as ships become available. This is to say, the Departments open their statement of July 6 with a failure to tell about both the heavy increase in actual exports during May and June, 1961, and, of even greater significance, the tremendous volumes of logs and timber that have been barred to American use through purchase by the Japanese. (Minutes, p. 3, lines 2-8; p. 5, line 29 et seq.; p. 6, lines 11-28; p. 8, lines 23-37; p. 9, lines 12-28.)

There is a basic problem. It involves the welfare and lives of people. It is to the needs of human beings and to the natural resources available to them that we must look first to define and then to solve the problem.

Better than 60% of the area of Japan is forest land. Since the onset of World War II, Japanese forest lands, based upon Japanese calculations of allowable cuts, have been seriously overcut. As Hitoshi Yamasaki, Director-General, Japanese Forest Agency, has graphically stated:

"The excess felling to the increment is still going on, particularly in accessible area the felling three times as much as the increment is continued." (Forestry in Japan: Published by Forestry Agency; Tokyo, Japan, 1960).

To the Japanese the obvious answer to the problem of severe overcutting is the heavy importation of logs to supply the Japanese lumber manufacturing and related plants while long-term efforts are inaugurated to step-up Japanese timber growth increments. In this context, it is apparent that the Department's projections based upon the first four months of 1961, or upon April shipments, or upon the shipments that may occur a week from next Tuesday, simply ignore the basic economic and resource facts.