

1 Fort Bragg, California is considering an offer to sell the Japanese
2 200 million feet of Douglas Fir timber that his company has in reserve and
3 closing that company's sawmill.

4 Mr. Claude Ballard, First Vice-President of the International Wood-
5 workers of America, accompanied by Mr. Phil Frost, Editor, International
6 Woodworker, stated that his union is gravely concerned at the export of logs
7 to Japan.

8 Mr. Will Ritchie, of Aberdeen Plywood and Veneer Company, at Aberdeen,
9 Washington, confirmed the facts related by Mr. Rose. Mr. Ritchie stated that
10 for many years his company has supplied to the sawmills the non-peelable
11 sawlogs out of the public timber sales that his company acquires. Mr. Ritchie
12 added that he has invoices to show that he can sell these sawlogs to the
13 Japanese for from \$5 to \$10 more than the sawmills can afford to pay him.
14 He pointed out that this puts him in a very difficult position. First, his
15 company is concerned at selling its non-peelable logs for less than the
16 Japanese want to pay. Second, sales to the Japanese would cause local com-
17 munity and economic dislocation because his company has been supplying the
18 sawmills for many years. As the Japanese continue to send their agents to
19 buy and force up the price of timber, his company will have no choice, if
20 it is to break-even on its timber purchases, but to keep for its own use
21 the peelers and peelable sawlogs, selling the rest to the Japanese for all
22 that the market will bear. Mr. Ritchie said that unless something is done
23 soon, his company will have to cut off the supply of logs to the local
24 sawmills.

25 Mr. Ritchie further stated that he had been asked to tell about the
26 other mills in the Aberdeen area. On Grays Harbor there are 11 operations -
27 7 sawmills and 4 plywood plants. They are all living from raft to raft.
28 Mr. Ritchie stated that the combined log inventory of all 11 mills is less
29 than the log inventory that any one of these mills had a year ago. Hence,
30 this fall and winter there will be mill closures and severe unemployment
31 in the Grays Harbor area. In this connection Mr. Ritchie referred to a
32 letter from Mr. Richard Middleton, of Anderson-Middleton Lumber Company, at
33 Aberdeen. Mr. Middleton's letter, a copy of which is appended hereto,
34 points out that since World War II his company always managed to have
35 sufficient log supply to operate and that it has never shut down in even
36 the worst of conditions. Mr. Middleton now states that because of the log
37 shortage resulting directly from the heavy export of logs to Japan, his mill