

To me, I can see certain advantages in handling and the shipping if this be the judgment of those who are in the policy position, and making the decision. Wouldn't there be some advantages to this, from the standpoint of shipping? I realize you are not a shipper.

Mr. McCracken. Well, certainly, there are shipping advantages in shipping things that have a rectangular or square shape, as compared to a round thing like a log. The efficiency is substantially enhanced, no question about it. You use all of the space of the ship, rather than just part of the space.

Representative Clausen. So, that if the primary processing did take place in this country, it would yield jobs to the areas that we are concerned about, but at the same time serve the so-called international purpose of giving them the necessary resources consistent with an export quota factor that would be acceptable as recommended either by this committee or the administration?

Mr. McCracken. Yes.

Representative Clausen. As you know, you and I have been working on access roads problems for many, many years, and this question of balloon logging does intrigue me, but there is one thing that I am very much concerned about, and that is that I don't want to lose any ground as it relates to our access road programs. Do you see any problem where we would lose ground, as I just explained?

Mr. McCracken. I see absolutely no problem whatsoever. I would certainly hope that you would avail yourself of the opportunity of asking the Chief of the Forest Service, too, and other responsible officials. That can be confirmed.

I have heard no one indicate that the balloon logging techniques in any way is going to replace conventional logging techniques, which are based upon access roads.

The main purpose, the main thrust of this program, is to open up areas, not wilderness areas or parks, but areas that the Forest Service has kept out of the allowable cuts because they simply do not foresee that they can put access roads into them, and therefore they don't know how to log them.

There are areas of central Idaho, for example, of extremely fragile soils that they just don't feel they could put access roads into at all.

Representative Clausen. Do you know any area where you would find opposition to exploiting these possibilities—let me correct that—exploring these possibilities?

Mr. McCracken. Would you repeat that, please?

Representative Clausen. I say, do you know of anyone that would be in opposition to the Federal agencies' exploring this balloon logging possibility?

Mr. McCracken. I most certainly do not. I have heard nothing but strong approbation from every quarter that I know of.

Representative Clausen. It seems to me that we do have some short-term objectives and there has to be some long-range objectives, and I think that all of you people who have spent many, many hours, including the previous witnesses, are certainly to be commended and, of course, I think that this particular hearing, as initiated by the great Senator from Oregon, is going to serve not only a domestic purpose as it relates to Oregon, Washington, and California, but certainly it is going to be a national purpose and, I think an international purpose, because I have been talking of getting at this question of international