

and the competition, it was not clear just how much of this was coming from or was involved with national forest logs. Throughout it seemed somewhat futile to try to dam the stream by building a dam across one-third of it.

Then came along the period from 19—well, during the period since the Columbus Day storm. As other witnesses have testified, the outlet for a large amount of timber which came onto the market through the salvage programs had some beneficial effects, and there was not very much complaint. The complaints died down during that period. The imports, however, continued to grow through 1966, and especially it started spiraling up in 1967, the early part of 1967. This accompanied by mill closures caused me to be greatly concerned because of the impact on our local communities and our local workers, and I think it is a matter of real concern to them. The more of these logs that we can get through our domestic sawmills and then onto foreign trade, if that is their destination, I think the better it is for our economy, and that is a conviction which I have very strongly.

Senator HATFIELD. Mr. Cliff, in this approximate 7-year period, with the exception of the act of God, the Columbus Day storm of 1962, what has your Department been doing about this problem?

Mr. CLIFF. Other than having numerous discussion with the industry and among ourselves, I cannot say that we have done much of anything to try to curtail log exports. We did start last June, when it became apparent what was happening in 1967, to move to get this whole problem on the agenda of the meeting of the Cabinet Ministers of the two countries. They met later in the year. Then of course recently we have been engaged with the other Departments in the negotiations with Japan.

One of the problems, which I am sure you are aware of, has been the recognition on our part that this problem is one that involves the responsibilities of about four other major Departments, and the feeling that one Department cannot move unilaterally to take direct action. It has to be and should be a matter of teamwork, within the administration. At least we have not seen fit enough up to now for the Department of Agriculture to take unilateral action, and there have been some doubts and there is still some doubt as to how effective it might be unless there is other actions across the board.

Senator HATFIELD. Mr. Cliff, is there any question in your mind as to whether you have the staff or resources, or whether or not there is sufficient legal basis? Are there any of these factors or others which have contributed to the fact that you have done nothing?

Mr. CLIFF. No, nothing beyond what I have already said, the matter of being a member of the administration team, with the many facets to the problem, the real honest question as to the effectiveness. I still have some doubt in my mind that restrictions on logs produced on Federal land alone would curtail in any way or in any material way the export of logs from the Pacific Northwest, as long as the half, over half of the land is producing timber in the Northwest is privately owned, and about two-thirds of the logs that have been going to Japan as near as we can tell have come from non-Federal lands.

Senator HATFIELD. In this problem of interagency, I certainly can appreciate the situation you are in, when you have I believe you said four agencies which would normally be involved. Have you initiated