

at any time any recommendation or any suggestions to any of these other agencies dealing with this problem?

Mr. CLIFF. I am sure we have in preparing for the negotiations with the Japanese. We have explored many of the alternatives.

Senator HATFIELD. But that is only of recent date, is it not?

Mr. CLIFF. That is correct.

Senator HATFIELD. But in this 7-year span where we have been aware of this growing problem, and there has been no action taken, is this something that you have attempted to do but found that within the inner agency framework in which you have to work you have been frustrated in this, or has there been no action, in terms of recommendations to the other agencies to get some sort of united effort, to get these four agencies coordinated, to get some kind of solution to this, rather than merely saying it is four agencies and therefore if someone does not come to me I do not go to them. Is there communication, is there a breakdown of communication between these agencies? Why have we not seen some action from one of the four agencies, or have we seen it and the other agencies have not cooperated?

Mr. CLIFF. Well, of course I am sure the other agencies have been aware of these problems. Several years ago an effort was made to get the Department of Commerce to utilize authority that it has to control exports, to provide some relief, and I am sure the committee is familiar with the findings and conclusions of the Department of Commerce. I have forgotten the exact date of that, but it dates back several years. The Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture cooperated with the other departments that are involved in furnishing all the information we could on this problem.

As I said before, there was a lull in this concern because during the cleanup of the Columbus Day storm through 1965 this was a good thing for many people that were engaged in salvage logging operations.

Senator HATFIELD. But is was only a temporary matter that you knew would be cleared up?

Mr. CLIFF. The Columbus Day storm started in 1962, did it not, October in 1962? There was a big cleanup job, salvage job. This was an outlet for material that needed to be gotten out of the woods. One of my colleagues has reminded me that we started a formal fact-gathering and reporting process in 1962. If I remember correctly, this was at the instigation or the encouragement of Senator Morse. We have been preparing quarterly reports following the progress of the Japanese log export business since 1962.

Four years ago Commerce, the Forest Service and the others analyzed the situation in depth, and came up with no solution. I think that is the report and analysis that I mentioned previously.

Senator HATFIELD. They came up with no solution.

Mr. CLIFF. That is right. The Commerce Department as I remember, concluded that under the circumstances there was no nationwide shortage of softwood, and therefore their authority did not permit them to act.

Senator HATFIELD. Mr. Cliff, regardless of reports on an interagency basis, regardless of Columbus Day storms, regardless of all these other matters, does not the law require your agency to provide for the domestic economy regardless of what attitudes of other agencies may be toward log exports? You are still required by law according to