

the organic act amended June 14, 1937, to provide a continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of citizens of the United States. Is this still not your responsibility?

Mr. CLIFF. Yes, sir. The responsibilities spelled out under the Organic Act are our responsibilities. The definition of what is for the benefit of the citizens of the United States, I suppose, is open to some debate. Those people engaged in export of logs might consider that beneficial to the people of the United States through the beneficial use of material.

There has been in these hearings, statements by industry witnesses about our legal authorities, with which we do not entirely agree. The authorities under the act of 1926, as interpreted by industry spokesmen and industry attorneys, do not agree at all with the interpretation that our general counsel makes, the interpretation being that if this authority is invoked, you would have to prohibit the export of forest products from one State to another. The basic law of 1897 provided for a prohibition against the export of timber and timber products from one State to another, and the purpose of the 1926 act was to lift this prohibition in permanent legislation.

Prior to 1926 there was a provision in each of the appropriation acts from 1905 to 1926 to except this provision in the basic act. And there are some other differences in our interpretation of that law and just what authority it gives us.

I am not an attorney. I do not propose to carry on a discussion of the law with such learned attorneys as are on this committee, but I do have, and I think it needs to go in the record for your consideration, the opinions of our general counsel's office as to our basic authorities under these basic acts. This is available, Mr. Chairman, specifically on the issues we are talking to, the discussions start on page 8 of this rather exhaustive opinion of the general counsel of the Secretary of Agriculture. And, as I have said, there is some difference in opinion between our lawyers and the industry lawyers as to just what these statutes do mean and what authority they do give us.

Senator MORSE. Senator Hatfield, would it be agreeable with you if I insert the legal opinion of the General Counsel of the Forest Service just described by Mr. Cliff, in the record at this point? It will be so inserted. Thank you very much.

(The document referred to follows:)