

Then in the next paragraph you say: "In brief, the Treasury staff paper."

Now my question to you is, Has the Department of Agriculture undertaken this study, and have you been involved in terms of the forestry product and forestry problems?

Mr. CLIFF. Senator Hatfield—

Senator HATFIELD. Or did I misread this?

Mr. CLIFF (continuing). This paper has just been in our possession for a short time, and since it was prepared and made available to us, we have had some conferences with the members of the Treasury at the staff level, but most of our time has been spent getting ready for these hearings.

Senator HATFIELD. Yes. You do not indicate the time factor here and I was just curious.

Mr. CLIFF. We have not studied it in depth, but these problems, many of the suggestions that were made are not new suggestions to us. They are suggestions that have been made before and have been studied in depth.

Senator MORSE. And rejected?

Mr. CLIFF. Some rejected and some good. We welcome the support of Treasury for better financing of the road development program and stand improvement and a stepped-up reforestation program. We agree with this. But we have not been in agreement with the suggestions on Alaska or the acceleration of allowable cuts until we earn those accelerations by making investments that will make them possible.

Senator MORSE. May I interrupt for just a moment on a procedural matter? Senator Hatfield, I am going to place you in the position of acting chairman, the chairman has to leave, I suggest that you continue asking questions until 12:30 and recess until 2:30, with Mr. Cliff resuming at 2:30. In the event that Mr. Cliff for some reason finds it inconvenient, because of other duties, to be back at 2:30, I suggest that Mr. Greeley could continue the answers to the questions, because I know these two public servants well enough to know that Mr. Greeley would be a very accurate representative of the point of view of Mr. Cliff in answering any questions. I regret that another matter of duty compels me to leave. I want Congressman Wyatt to return this afternoon to continue the questioning. I want to thank you very much, Mr. Cliff. After Senator Hatfield recesses the meeting, at such time as he does, I hope at 12:30, we will reconvene at 2:30.

Senator HATFIELD. What I am trying to get at, Mr. Cliff, is this. Is this statement here related to the Treasury report? Do I interpret that the Department of the Treasury asked the Department of Agriculture to study ways in which national forest management can facilitate easing balance-of-payment deficits? Is that one request, and then moving into the issue of the Treasury staff paper, is that a separate matter only because of the content that does relate back to this first subject?

Mr. CLIFF. No.

Senator HATFIELD. Or did they ask this question of you or ask this request of you, and then give you the paper as an indication of what they had already found?