

the curve before it broke. But in any event so far as your statement to us is concerned, Mr. Cliff, you have come down on the point that instead of taking this action: namely, to place any sort of restrictions on exports first is concerned, you have come to the conclusion that you should delay taking those proposed actions until after the negotiations are completed, is this correct?

Mr. CLIFF. That is our judgment, and I appreciate there is a difference of opinion. There can be differences in judgment on this, but I am sure I am correct when I say that the departments involved feel it would be better to go without predetermined action on controls. We can have a position developed as to what action we might take. But to have the action taken before you sit down with them may be regarded as an act of bad faith. After all, at the December meeting we didn't talk about the action program. We just used that to explore the problem.

Representative DELLENBACK. Do you feel that the Japanese would think we were acting in bad faith then, if we took such action first?

Mr. CLIFF. That is the general feeling among the agencies that are dealing with this.

Representative DELLENBACK. Do you, in part, get this feeling then, from the other agencies which have been involved in the negotiations rather than this being your own initial idea?

Mr. CLIFF. This is the conclusion we reached in Agriculture independently as well, when we were discussing this very point.

Representative DELLENBACK. Let's assume that the negotiations on February 20 or 21 or 22, whatever date they may conclude, didn't come to a really meaningful solution. How long would it take to come to a point of action thereafter?

Mr. CLIFF. I don't know. It wouldn't take me very long to come to a point of action, but how long it would take from there on I can't predict.

Representative DELLENBACK. When you say it wouldn't take you very long to come to a point of action, do I assume we are talking here about a matter of hours or days at the most, or are we talking a matter of weeks before you could make recommendations to your Secretary?

Mr. CLIFF. I would say within a matter of a week or so.

Representative DELLENBACK. Again I don't ask you to trespass beyond the limits of your authority, but are you able to state to us from your own knowledge anything about what the Secretary's probable reaction to your recommendations would be?

Mr. CLIFF. The Secretary authorized me to say that if we didn't make material headway, that we would just have to take some action.

Representative DELLENBACK. So this now has the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture, this statement you have just made?

Mr. CLIFF. Yes. However, I am sure that the Secretary will want to assess what comes out of the Japanese conference.

Representative DELLENBACK. I understand.

Mr. CLIFF. There could be several degrees of progress. After the conference he will have to assess just where he stands and decide what to do from there, so it is hard to say right now how fast and what kind of action will be proposed. But unless something comes out of it that gives some promise of relief to the people concerned with Federal timber then I think we will be led to make the next move.