Mr. PETTY. Not to my knowledge, sir. It was in response to a specific request from individual delegations that quits normally we would respond to.

Senator HATFIELD. I understand.

But I understand our chairman read about it in the newspaper out in Oregon.

Mr. PETTY. And was quite properly disturbed.

Senator HATFIELD. I merely wanted to make it clear that the Treasury Department had briefed certain individuals, but it was not because they had made any comments prematurely to the press.

Mr. PETTY. Not to my knowledge; no, sir.

Senator HATFIELD. I see.

Senator MORSE. The chairman will put in the record at this point the columns to which he referred that were published in the Portland Oregonian by their able editor, Mr. Gerry Pratt, which was the first knowledge that the senior Senator from Oregon had about the Treasury report. The first of these is the column he read to the Forest Service for its enlightenment. We will see that that goes in the record.

Thank you very much.

(The material referred to follows:)

[From the Portland Oregonian, Jan. 5, 1968]

TIMBER PLAN DEVELOPED—PROPOSAL URGES INCREASED CUTTING

(By Gerry Pratt)

The U.S. Treasury Department has come up with a new proposal to ease the American balance of payments problems involving the timber resources of the Northwest.

News of Treasury's move into the critical log export picture came from U.S. Rep. Al Ullman, senior member of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee.

Ullman was briefed on the proposals designed to yield more foreign dollars to the United States and resolve the log export problems of the Northwest.

Ullman said Treasury believes that the problems of log exports and balance of payments can be resolved with benefits to the U.S. balance of payments in the range of $250 to $500 million a year.

Treasury says the key and solvable element is the "unnecessary shortage of top-quality U.S. logs available to domestic mills."

CUT COULD RISE

Treasury points out that federal agencies together administer 71 per cent of the total timber inventory available in Alaska.

Treasury says the Forest Service has estimated that the annual allowable cut in Oregon and Washington can be increased by 500 million board feet a year. The budgetary cost would be $80 million over 10 years.

The balance of payments value of this increased harvest is in the range of $40 to $80 million per year in the form of log export sales; and $70 to $100 million a year in the form of lumber and plywood exports . . . all for the $8 million a year appropriations.

Proposal two, according to Congressman Ullman, says the Forest Service has a balloon logging technique under development for logging steep slopes, areas supporting substantial timber volumes not currently a part of the allowable cut.

According to published Forest Service estimates an additional one-billion-board feet increase in the allowable cut in Washington, Oregon and Alaska timber should be possible with this technique.

ADJUSTMENT IMMEDIATE

The budgetary cost of the necessary final development work for balloon logging is estimated at $2 to $3 million.