

Senator HATFIELD. Well now, at this point, Mr. Ramussen, as you know, I am a freshman here in this Senate and I am not clear in my own mind. This negotiation team that consists of Mr. Greenwald, and others, including perhaps yourself, had you at any time, those who are going to be involved gotten together and discussed your common position or your strategy or what you hope to obtain from these negotiations?

Mr. RASMUSSEN. We are still working on that.

Senator HATFIELD. What do you mean by still working? Had you had any sessions yet to discuss what might be the directions that you will move or the concert in which you will move?

Mr. RASMUSSEN. Yes; we have.

Senator HATFIELD. You have had meetings with Mr. Greenwald and others who will be on the team?

Mr. RASMUSSEN. Mr. Greenwald has been out of the country some of the time. But Mr. Greeley and Mr. Cliff and I and other members have met, including Mr. Greenwald.

Senator HATFIELD. What kind of discussions have you held in these discussions that you have had?

Mr. RASMUSSEN. We have discussed what we might do.

Senator HATFIELD. In what terms? You mean as negotiators?

Mr. RASMUSSEN. Yes, and as agency administrators.

Senator HATFIELD. What you might do? Tell us a little bit about some of the things that you have discussed as what you might do? What does that include?

Mr. RASMUSSEN. I would prefer not to do that. As a negotiator I would say that compared to Senator Morse I am a freshman.

Senator HATFIELD. I have trespassed upon privileged information.

Mr. RASMUSSEN. I also play cards once in a while. I like to have my hand where nobody is looking at it until I play it.

Senator MORSE. I think it is quite proper for the Senator from Oregon to elicit from you very bit of information that you feel that you are free that you can give him. I think it is also quite proper for you to plead privilege, if you feel that you are not free, because of your responsibilities to your superiors and as a negotiator, to decline to answer. Is it the interpretation of the Chairman that in response to the Senator's question you do plead privilege.

Mr. RASMUSSEN. Yes, sir.

Senator MORSE. Let the record so show the witness is sustained.

Senator HATFIELD. Then could I ask you this? You have not reached then a common position or an agreement on a common position because you are continuing discussions as I believe I understand it?

Mr. RASMUSSEN. Yes; I believe this is correct.

Senator HATFIELD. Could you tell me whether or not you anticipate that your common position might include restrictions on log exports?

Mr. RASMUSSEN. I believe it might.

Senator HATFIELD. Now, when you say in the same paragraph that you are going to be prepared to discuss with the Secretary of Interior the actions to be taken under our existing authorities, would you re-emphasize again what the actions would include under existing authorities that you would discuss with the Secretary of Interior to help relieve this problem, in case the discussions broke down?

Mr. RASMUSSEN. I think we are back to the same question we were a while ago.