

Mr. RASMUSSEN. I suppose it would. However, we have not reached that point yet.

Senator HATFIELD. I understand.

You have very carefully outlined first the negotiations with Japan, No. 2, recommendations to the Secretary of Interior action to be taken under existing authority, and then, three, you are putting us on guard or warning us, I think here, that even there may be no action taken, even then there may not be action taken in conformity with what would be your recommendation because you are not the final decisionmaker, but the final decisionmaker would have to be making a decision on a political base, really, rather than on a professional forestry base?

Mr. RASMUSSEN. Yes.

(Mr. Rasmussen subsequently supplemented his answer to Senator Hatfield's question, as follows:)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT.
Washington, D.C., January 26, 1968.

Hon. WAYNE MORSE.

Chairman, Subcommittee on Retailing, Marketing and Distribution, Select Committee on Small Business, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: It was nearing 11 p.m. on January 23 when I answered Senator Hatfield's questions about how a decision to require BLM timber to be primary manufactured locally might come about. This testimony is on transcript pages 1485 to 1488.

He asked if the final decision were not in conformity with my recommendation whether it would be on a political base rather than on a professional forestry base.

While I answered "yes"—I would like to clarify the context because there are not just these two bases for a decision.

I am sure Senator Hatfield and I know that the term "political", which was used to compare with the phrase "professional", means the exercise of the functions vested in those charged with the conduct of government. There are, however, some readers of the record who may be misled by my answer. The log export issue is one of the knottiest, most complex, many sided ones I have ever seen and this compounds charting the best course.

Actually, as I see it, there will be many other professional contributions beyond the forestry recommendations which the decision makers will consider in deciding on the Government's course of action. These will include professional judgments on trade, commerce, regulation and national policy.

We have the authority and are now exercising it to assure the sustained yield forest output from BLM lands. The issue presented in applying the O&C Act and forest policy is how to reap the best economic benefit from it locally. The overall log export subject reaches not only the public timber resource but also all of the timber and beyond into the vast area of public and private policy decisions.

It is for these reasons I would like my response to fully reflect the complexity of the issues I believe face those who must make the decisions.

I would deeply appreciate having this letter placed in the Record at the point where the question was raised. I am sending a copy of this letter to Senator Hatfield.

Sincerely yours,

BOYD L. RASMUSSEN, *Director*.

Senator HATFIELD. On the matter of not having any impact, on the bottom of page 22, you say if any restrictions were placed upon Federal timber at this time it would have little impact on total log exports during the current year.

Mr. Rasmussen, are there any current bids or any immediate future bids—let me rephrase it. Let's assume, hypothetically, we did have restrictions placed within the next month. Are there not bids that are going to be coming into the picture here, say, in 2, 3, or 4 months?