

respect to conserving and preserving and developing our forests, a policy which will assure each generation of Americans in perpetuity an adequate supply of wood sources to meet their wood product needs in order to carry out that trusteeship. I say it is a trusteeship based upon an obligation to see to it that such generation leaves these natural resources, which constitute God's gift to the country, in a better condition than that in which the given generation found those resources.

Now, I pause to ask you if you think that philosophy is sound?

Mr. RASMUSSEN. I certainly agree with you.

Senator MORSE. You think this is what we are trying to do in the Forest Service and BLM. Then my next question is, if we are to carry out that trusteeship, then we have to adopt policies and programs in partnership with the private entrepreneurs in the lumber industry that harvest those timber resources, within the limits of the framework of sound conservation and sustained yield, that the departments develop from time to time. Is that true?

Mr. RASMUSSEN. I think the original O. & C. charter was based on cooperation between the private industry.

Senator MORSE. Then, in your judgment, does that place a clear responsibility upon the private segment of the industry, to follow a lumber policy on the basis of a recognition of a partnership responsibility with the Federal Government, a partnership responsibility by which they see to it that they don't follow a course of action, either in their relationship to Federal timber or to their own private timber, that violates that trusteeship?

Mr. RASMUSSEN. In my own personal opinion, I certainly agree with you.

Senator MORSE. Applying this philosophy, which I call "trusteeship," to the issue in the present case, it seems to me that partnership places a responsibility upon the Federal Government to see to it that it follows a timber policy that gives protection to private industry whereby it can rely upon an adequate supply of logs within a sound sustained yield program. It seems further that industry should not need to endure the handicap of having a supply of logs denied to them through export of logs off of the public domain to Japan or any other country. Does not an excessive amount of log exports create an unfair competition situation with our local mills by raising stumpage prices so high, due to the Japanese competition, that mills are denied an adequate supply of logs to such a degree that they have to go out of business? This record, I think, clearly shows that that is one of the results of export of logs to Japan. Do you think there is a corollary trusteeship responsibility on the part of the Federal Government to see to it that such protection as my questions have suggested is given to our local mills?

Mr. RASMUSSEN. That is a difficult question for me to answer.

Senator MORSE. It may be a difficult question, but it is a pretty vital one.

Mr. RASMUSSEN. I would like to say this—

Senator MORSE. Are you implying, when you say it is difficult to answer, that you think that the Federal Government, through the Forest Service and the BLM, has any right to follow a Federal timber policy of exporting logs to Japan, when they know that the amount of that exportation is going to put our lumber mills out of business, and to that degree going to deny to the people of our country protection of