

their timber which belongs to them and not to the BLM or the Forest Service? Are you saying that our Government has a right to traffic in the people's timber by selling it out from under them and exporting it to Japan, when their lumber needs call for its remaining in this country in order to support our timber industry and supply our people with their lumber needs? Certainly you couldn't mean that.

Mr. RASMUSSEN. Mr. Chairman, may I talk to the point a minute?

Senator MORSE. Yes. I got a little lost when you said it was a difficult question to answer. I don't see anything difficult about it.

Mr. RASMUSSEN. I would like to explain what is difficult about it. In the area that we operate in Oregon, we are selling to the customers we have always had. We have always offered, since 1952, the full allowable cut. We have offered, in addition to this, this salvage and these thinnings. We sell to the customers we have always had.

Now, they, in turn, sell some of their logs to the Japanese. So, in our case it is difficult to prevent this at the present time.

Senator MORSE. Is that major premise true? We have even the testimony from the Forest Service in this case. Mr. Cliff today showed no hesitancy in saying that if they don't work out a workable solution with Japan the Forest Service will make recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture as to restrictions that ought to be placed upon the exportation of logs from Forest Service lands. Why can't you take the same position with regard to the BLM land?

Mr. RASMUSSEN. I am sorry. I think I have. It is getting late in the day, and while I didn't get here as soon as you did, I did arrive about a quarter to ten. I am having a little trouble understanding your question.

Senator MORSE. I am sorry. That is my fault, not yours. Any time you want me to clarify or restate a question, I will be glad to.

Mr. RASMUSSEN. I agree that I did say there was no doubt that the Oregon-California Railroad Act did intend that this timber would be used for local use.

What I was telling you, we still have some problems with some of our customers.

Senator MORSE. You see, that shouldn't bother you, if you accept the trusteeship philosophy that I have talked about. Under this partnership arrangement, the partners have to police each other. That is very true of the law of partnership. But if you are going to accept the thesis of the trusteeship philosophy which I have said underlies these hearings, then we get back to the major premise, that export of excessive quantities of logs to Japan is going to result in a detriment of the interests of the American people in their forests. If your customers try to do something that will result in that detriment, then we have to step in and stop your customers from doing it. The principals involved in this problem are not your customers. The principals are the American taxpayers.

They are putting up the money to support BLM and support the Forest Service. Congress is putting up the money by way of appropriations to carry out the congressional intent of our Federal timber laws.

One of my difficulties with the administration's position to date, and with this case, is that they apparently think that for reasons that have nothing to do with this trusteeship obligation, including perhaps a