

Chinese tour plant

Weyerhaeuser shows off technology

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

China's "very ambitious" modernization program brought 14 Chinese engineers to the Springfield Weyerhaeuser Plywood Plant Monday, but so far there is no indication the tour will enhance prospects of timber exports to that country.

The 12-man two-woman delegation of engineers visited the plywood plant early Monday morning as part of a program to increase trade between the United States and China.

According to Dick Gillespie of the National Council for U.S.-China trade, the delegation was interested in the technology and equipment used to run the plant. Gillespie, who acted as both speaker and host

for the delegation, said the ultimate aim of the tour was to sell U.S. timber technology and processing plants to China.

The delegation is just one of several "survey" groups touring the U.S. this year. The group traveled for three weeks in Germany before arriving in this country two weeks ago. The engineers also toured similar timber processing plants in the Midwest and Washington.

Most of the delegation represented industries that could eventually import U.S. technology and goods, Gillespie said. The engineers will make key decisions about which products and technology to buy when they return to China next month.

Those decisions could mean technology developed by the Weyerhaeuser corporation

could be exported to China, Weyerhaeuser representative Bob Williams said.

"We feel we are the leaders in particle board and plywood manufacturing and they (the engineers) will see technology here that they won't see anywhere else," Williams explained.

Gillespie said Weyerhaeuser could possibly build large, modern timber processing plants in China if the Chinese government decided to buy the technology.

"They have plants in China," he explained. "But they're more interested in larger and more modern processing plants. Actually, the more computerized, the better."

Gillespie and Williams refused to speculate on possible timber sales from the

Northwest to China. Those decisions would have to come after the Chinese government was satisfied that it could buy the timber at the best possible price, Gillespie explained.

Although the tour visited nine other states, the engineers have so far refused to talk directly with the news media. During a meeting with reporters Gillespie said the delegates asked him to make statements to the press. The Chinese government may not want the group to talk to the press, Gillespie speculated.

"This is not a delegation that is here for political pronouncement," he explained. "This is just a delegation of highly trained engineers who wish to engage in low-key discussions about U.S. technology."

Americans favor balancing federal budget

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans overwhelmingly favor a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced federal budget because they don't trust politicians to put a lid on government spending, an Associated Press-NBC News poll shows.

The public, weary of continuing inflation which they blame in part on deficit spending, says cutting

waste in the federal bureaucracy would save enough money to balance the half-trillion-dollar budget.

But Americans' distrust of politicians is so deep that they don't believe their elected officials will act. Thus, they are split over whether the deficit actually could be wiped out in the next few years.

The AP-NBC News poll found

70 percent of those interviewed Feb. 5 and 6 favor a budget-balancing amendment. Eighteen percent opposed such a move, and 12 percent were not sure.

Support for an amendment has slipped in the past three months, however. The current level is 5 points below the finding of the November AP-NBC News poll

and 9 points below the December results.

Despite the high level of support, Americans don't think their elected officials will actually accomplish the balancing act.

Only one in four said politicians will work to balance the budget. Seventy percent said politicians will not work to wipe out the deficit. Six percent of the 1,600 adults in-

terviewed were not sure.

Seventy-one percent agree that wiping out waste would balance the budget. Twenty-three percent don't think so. And 6 percent were not sure.

But there is a contrast between what the public would like and what it realistically sees happening. Only 45 percent think that a balanced budget is actually possible in the next few years. Forty-nine percent say it's impossible, and 6 percent are not sure.



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Willard's leave only temporary

Citing family and health problems, Myra Willard has taken a temporary leave-of-absence from her job as University affirmative action director.

Bean McFadden, an assistant compliance officer, is presently acting director, according to University Pres. William Boyd. Willard's return is expected shortly, an office worker said Monday.

The office, located in 472 Oregon Hall, monitors affirmative action compliance for the University.

Bill Sargent presents

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