

Timber Plan Gets Stiff Fight

Register-Guard, Eugene, Ore., Friday, Jan. 23, 1948, Page 7
between discussion of the entire O & C land holdings and of the Mohawk proposal, was a statement that "the cooperative unit plans envision coverage of only 40 per cent of the administration's total timber lands."

MEANNE PETERS (Special Story Page 5)
hours of constant the proposed forest unit Friday, but no- able to predict what the secretary of interior, C. would decide returns to Washington. of the plan to the last minute of

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GOD'S WORD
Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.
I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.
Galatians 2: 16, 21

approach is needed to the sustained yield objective.
Selling Issue
The last hour of the hearing brought out charges of unfair selling practices by the Oregon and California Revested Lands Administration.
Walter Horning of Portland, regional administrator of the Bureau of Land Management, had just completed his speech in favor of the Fischer firm, when R. U. Bronson of Trio Lumber Co. asked the question:
"Isn't it true that the O. and C. has favored the potential sustained yield cooperators in the sale of timber?"
Horning generally denied the responsibility to the War Production Board, which he said made all decisions when bids were filed during the war.
Bronson then cited a particular case in the Cottage Grove area, in which he said an unfair decision had been made in the sale of O. and C. timber. The assistant secretary, immediately alert to the charges, questioned Horning closely.
Titus Irked
Davidson then turned to the question of possible hardships which other mill operators in the Mohawk River unit would suffer if the 100-year agreement is signed. The secretary brought fire from R. T. Titus, head of the Western Forest Industries Assn., when he asked why no individuals had appeared in their own defense.
Titus answered: "Individuals who would be hurt cannot say so because they would not be able to buy any more O. and C. timber."
Angrily for the first time during the hearing, Davidson said he didn't like "loose charges against government officials who have sworn to perform their duties justly, unless the charges can be substantiated."
Frank Reid, attorney for the opposing lumbermen, enlarged on Bronson's charge by saying that "there are a number of instances where O. and C. would not put up the timber for sale unless a potential cooperator asked that it be sold."
Davidson promised to discuss

the charges with Horning, and to make an investigation in Washington, D. C.
When the hearing ended at 2 p. m. Thursday, dozens of men had spoken against the 100-year plan for sustained yield agreements between O. and C. and private lands. The rebuttal from the Fischer Lumber Co. did not come until noon Thursday, when Dale Fischer listed the firm's total employment and output.
Fire Losses
He said the firm was almost wiped out by fire in 1940, but that its output in lumber last year was approximately 30 million board feet.
He said employment had increased from 111 in 1941 to 173 in November, 1947. The plant investment, excluding logging equipment, is approximately three times that in 1941.
Under the proposed agreement the company will cut only 20 million board feet annually during the next 10 years. Mike Mogan of Mogan Lumber Co. asked Fischer if he would buy some lumber from outside to make up for this reduction inside the unit.
Fischer's answer was that "our degree of purchases is problematical," adding that the firm's production would be on the basis of about two million board feet per month. This, he said, would total 24 million per year (in excess of the allowable cut), but would be reduced to 20 million through lost time.
Carl Davidson of Portland, attorney for the Fischer Lumber Co., argued that the agreement would not create a monopoly or hardships for two reasons:
1. "Because there are no operators in the unit who have been using O. and C. timber for any length of time; and
2. "This is not the kind of monopoly which would operate in restraint of trade because it is an agreement to sell timber at a price not yet determined."
Mike Mogan questioned Davidson (the attorney) on the matter of interest. "If I borrowed money from the bank to buy this same stand of timber, I would have to pay interest on the loan," said Mogan. "Here you sit for 100 years with a great stand of timber on which you pay no taxes nor interest."
To Have Trees
Time did not allow the investigation of this question, however, and Davidson went on to say: "The sole purpose of this plan is to have some merchantable timber when the present stand is out."
"No operator can grow timber unless he has some assurance that he will still be in business when that timber reaches maturity. The longer the term of agreement, the better opportunity we would have to invest in utilization facilities."
"The obligations of the company include limiting its cut, giving up the right to sell its property, agreeing to practice forestry. In exchange we get the right to purchase this timber at the appraised price."
Although most of the hearing was taken up with testimony from the opposing lumbermen, they failed to provide an alternative program.
Opponents' Views
Their theory appeared to be that cooperative agreements were not necessary for obtaining sustained yield, that 100 years was too long to predict economic changes and revisions in forestry practices, that the government is proposing to use too large a piece of bait to get sustained yield in this unit, and that only competitive bidding would give the counties a fair tax return on the timber sales.
Some pro and con questions and answers made during Thursday's hearing follow:
Earl Mason, former dean of forestry, OSC: "This plan sets up a landed aristocracy in which you would inherit the right to get into the lumber business."
Secretary Davidson: "Who would be damaged by this agreement?"
"Limitation"
Mason—"My son's son would be damaged. You would limit the opportunities for the youth of Oregon. If you only tied up this one unit, you would limit them to that

extent." Mason then suggested that cutting be controlled by building the roads only a section at a time.
Davidson—"How would that work on private lands?"
Mason—"It would work because the roads won't be there, if they are constructed only a section at a time."
Asks Details
Davidson—"What would permit the owner from cutting the timber before it is matured?"
Mason—"Those fellows 30 years from now will have to consider that."
T. R. Tyrrell, regional forester from Portland—"Mr. Mason, can you give a fuller explanation of your proposed road system?"
Road Problem
Mason—"If you fellows had been doing your job, you would have had an answer to the road situation. This is not my problem as a private citizen to come here and tell you what to do, when you spend your full time on it."
A. Z. Nelson, forester for the Bureau of Land Management in Washington—"Are you willing to agree that perhaps this unit and several others on the entire O. and C. area should be established on the basis of an experiment to try to arrive at a solution?"
Mason—"We do need maximum use, but we should be sure of this program before we start. Once you set up these units, you speed up overcutting in other areas. I'd like to see the O. and C. study the whole problem and bring us a better program."
Frank Reid—"We couldn't have predicted in 1846, or even in 1936, what the next 100 or the next ten years would bring. You say the little guys should have helped themselves to this land."
Other Plan
"They did not have the money and it was only through outside capital that Fischer was able to buy the land. We have suggested giving Fischer the same amount of O. and C. land which he owns, and dividing it on the same basis for the other owners."
Merton Fells of the Isaac Walton League had given a lengthy testimonial charging that the cooperator would not have to open the government lands to hunters and fishermen. Horning assured him Thursday that a clause in the usual timber sale contract protects the hunter and fisherman from being locked out.

Chamber Resolution, Figures Reported

A report that the Eugene Chamber of Commerce had endorsed the Mohawk sustained yield unit at public hearings this week was in error. According to the statement submitted at the hearing by John R. Snellstrom, president of the chamber, the group endorsed the principle of sustained yield but entered no support for any particular unit or plan.
In a resolution, the chamber directors recommended "that all owners of private forests and all publicly-owned lands under the jurisdiction of state and federal agencies be placed under such operating policy and management as will insure this vitally necessary objective" of managing forest lands in conformity with the "principles of sustained yield so as to provide a permanent timber supply."
Also in error, due to a mix-up

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