

Lumber Market Report Shows Confidence in Ike

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Register-Guard Correspondent
WASHINGTON — The Commerce Department has issued a report on the lumber demand and supply situation with comments from "leading lumbermen" which serves to illustrate why President Eisenhower retains much popularity.

The report notes that lumbermen "experienced a reduced demand for their products during the first quarter of 1960" while "generally favorable operating conditions in the West helped in maintaining a substantial overall volume of production."

Production, in fact, was 5 per cent higher than the previous year. But consumption fell off 3.4 per cent from the first quarter of 1959.

NO SIGNIFICANT UPTURN

The big cause of this drop in consumption, the report noted, was the fact that home construction fell off 18.1 per cent.

"Thus far, more favorable spring weather plus the reported moderate improvement in the availability of mortgage money have not been reflected in any significant upturn in housing statistics," said the Commerce Department. "However, some observers expect an improvement in the homebuilding rate later this year which would result in the start of about 1,200,000 (housing) units for the year"—compared with 1,401,000 units in 1959.

"MOST SIGNIFICANT"

Under the heading "notable comments," the Commerce Department ran the remarks of leading lumbermen who were not identified. The most interesting comment was this one: "It seems to me that the ques-

tion of whether there is going to be an overproduction of softwood lumber this summer with a consequent declining price is the most significant factor.

"While mortgage money is expensive, it is becoming more readily available. There is the danger that politics may enter into the picture, but there is every evidence that the President intends to prevent this if he can and that he will not hesitate to veto measures which would increase the availability of credit for building which he does not consider necessary."

NEW HOUSING BILL

This western lumberman, obviously, is confident President Eisenhower will do whatever is right and necessary to prevent "politics" from entering the pic-

ture. Politics, to this business man, is something great men rise above, something little men indulge in for partisan gain, something the President will protect the country from.

The politics he refers to probably cover the efforts in Congress by some Democrats to enact a new housing bill which would broaden the coverage of the government's FHA-mortgage insurance program.

GENERALLY CHEERFUL

The Senate last week passed an omnibus housing bill, which provides more mortgage credit through government housing agencies. The possibility of a veto is strong. The House Banking Committee has approved a different version, which among its fea-

tures would make housing easier to buy through lengthening the maximum mortgage period from 30 to 35 years and eliminating any down payment requirement on the first \$13,000 of the cost of a new home.

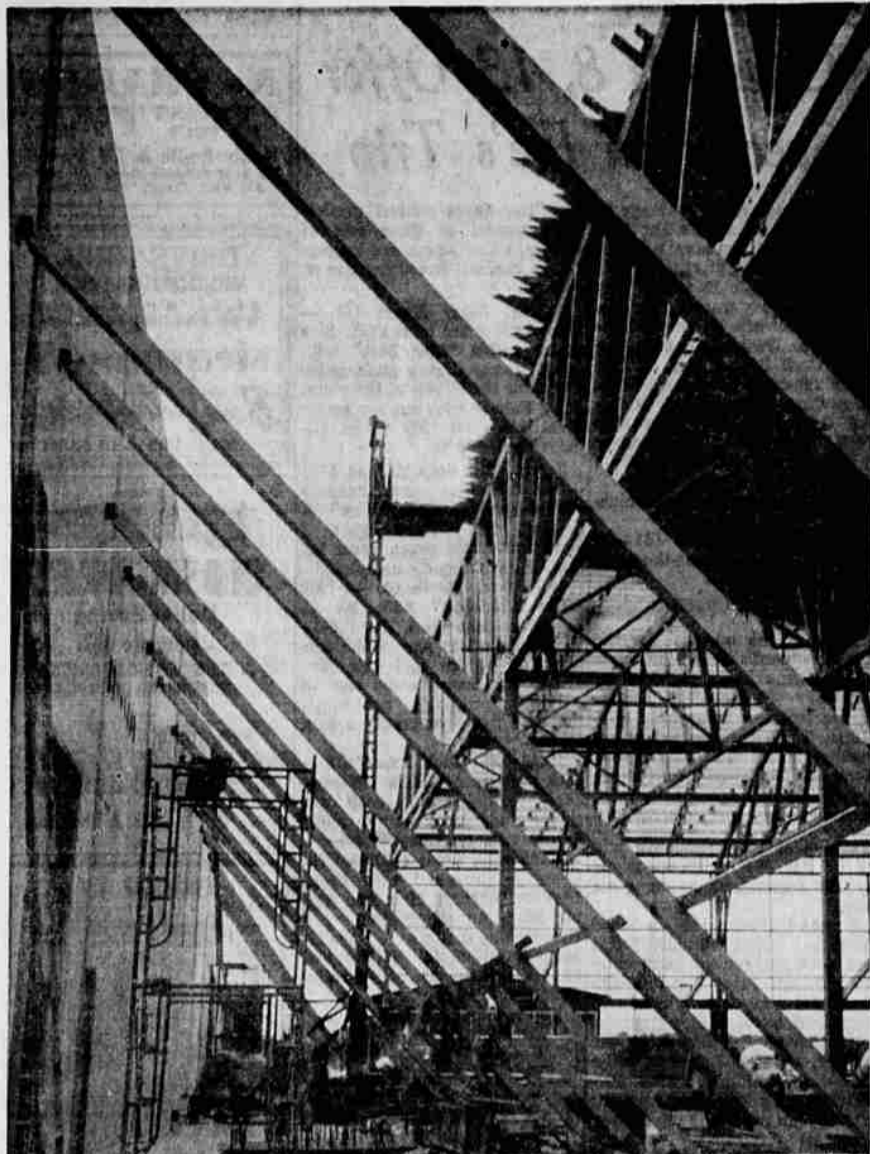
Generally, lumbermen who submitted comments were cheerful in their outlook for the rest of 1960. One comment was this:

"While the consumption of lumber in housing will probably be well under that of 1959, the use in all other types of construction as a group should increase. Consumption for non-construction uses should increase and... total consumption for this year should not be far from that of 1959."

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July CORONET



ROOF GOING ON AMERICAN CAN—A roof 40 feet above ground is being completed at the American Can Co. building, which covers nearly two acres at the Seneca Road industrial tract in west Eugene. Laminated truss beams and tilt-up concrete slab walls (left) recently were erected. Completion of the 74,000-square-foot building is tentatively set for early August. Installation of machinery will follow. The million dollar manufacturing firm expects to employ some 50 persons. It will manufacture more than 100 million food cans annually.

Bowling Alley Being Built

A 24-lane bowling alley—Lane County's largest—is being constructed in north Eugene at the intersection of Coburg Road and Oakway Drive.

Work began Monday on the \$500,000 Emerald Lanes, which is scheduled to open in September.

The bowling alley will be equipped with automatic pin setting machines, underground ball returns, a snack bar, meeting room, child care room and seating for some 150 spectators, according to Joe J. Pottmeyer, of Eugene.

Pottmeyer will manage the bowling alley and is one of the principal stockholders in Emerald Lanes, Inc., which will lease the facilities from Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Haynes, owners. Other corporate members include Russell W. Jones and LeMoyné E. Bedient, of Eugene.

Robert Morrow, Inc., of Salem is the general contractor. Kenneth H. Wollenweber is the architect.

The building will be constructed block with a concrete slab floor. A heat pump will supply heat and air conditioning to the structure, which will encompass 21,000 square feet.

Pottmeyer, who has been associated with bowling firms more

than ten years, has been a Eugene resident the past 17. He said Emerald Lanes expects to employ 15 persons, some on a part-time basis.

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Sisters Reunited After 53 Years

PORTLAND (P)—Two sisters, separated while small children, met again for the first time in 53 years Monday.

Mrs. Lester Valentine, 57, came from her Kansas City home to visit Mrs. Alfred Indermuehle, 59, in Portland.

Mrs. Valentine rushed up the walk of Mrs. Indermuehle's home and embraced her at the door.

The death of their father at Amoret, Mo., forced their mother to send one to live with her parents and one to live with the father's family. They were four and six, respectively, at the time.

Years later they established contact, but every time a reunion was planned something prevented it until now.

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