

Kennedy, Pearson Agree To Discuss Lumber Industry

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune

Washington Correspondent
Washington—President Kennedy and Prime Minister Pearson of Canada reportedly have agreed to set up future government-industry talks in hopes of alleviating distress in the lumber industry by expanding the markets for American and Canadian lumber rather than erecting tariff or other trade obstacles. The Kennedy administration, according to informed sources, has shelved tentative plans developed several months ago for imposing a modest quota on Canadian lumber imports. The mood at the White House is to avoid actions or new policies of this sort that would place a strain on the renewed American-Canadian comradship which became evident in the recent Hyannis Port talks.

Segments of the American industry, led by the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, have been urging a six per cent quota limiting Canada to that portion of the United States market. This would more than halve Canada's present share of the market. NLMA officials have also been pressing the administration to adopt a policy requiring lumber imports to be stamped with their country of origin, so that American builders and other lumber purchasers can distinguish between foreign and domestic lumber. If this were done, lumber industry pressure on local home building inspection agencies might cause them to pass the word that American lumber is preferred, with the result that less Canadian lumber would be used.

Idea Opposed
The Kennedy administration has decided to oppose this idea, and it has so advised Congress. Two changes have apparently figured large in the administration's current attitude: the change at Ottawa from Conservative John Diefenbaker, who capitalized on hostility to American influence in Canadian affairs, to Liberal Lester Pearson, who is amenable to closer cooperation between the two governments; and secondly, the obvious decline of vocal insistence from Pacific Northwest members of Congress that the government take action to protect domestic lumber from foreign competition.

This latter change was highlighted by a speech delivered by Sen. Wayne Morse in the Senate the day before Kennedy flew to Hyannis Port in which he said: "There is now evidence

which suggests that instead of constantly flailing away at the Canadian lumber industry, the domestic industry of the United States should join hands with its Canadian counterpart to determine a course of action which will protect and develop markets for lumber."

Shifts Within Industry
The burden of Morse's speech was to point up the shifts within the industry from production of lumber to plywood and the threat to the lumber industry from competing building materials, such as steel, which is now being developed for use as a foundation system for a house to replace entirely the foundation joists, stringers and sills normally made of lumber.

"This development," said Morse, "carries far greater impact on our domestic lumber industry than any lumber imports from Canada, and in addition, it can have a far greater impact on the Canadian industry."

With lumber on his agenda to discuss with Pearson, Kennedy took Morse's speech along to Hyannis Port. In effect, it superseded all the "get tough with Canada" speeches of the past year or more that have been heard in both House and Senate. A presidential aide later told this correspondent: "The president found Senator Morse's speech very helpful to him."

Advocate of Talks
Sen. Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.), who with Morse last year led the congressional effort to "do something for lumber," has introduced the industry's bills for a quota, marking imported lumber, and to require only American lumber in FHA-insured housing. But he isn't pressing for them in the face of administration resistance. Magnuson, too, is an advocate of further trade talks with Canada.

Both senators point out that the lumber market is a bit stronger this spring than it was last year. The latest government figures on residential housing construction are also encouraging. Housing starts in April were the greatest for that month since 1950, and the highest for any month of the year since June, 1955.

For the first four months of 1963, housing starts were five per cent above the level for the same period last year.

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The Medical Roundup

by *Walter Tidway*
Emeritus Consultant in Medicine
Mayo Clinic
Emeritus Professor of Medicine
Mayo Clinic
(Register and Tribune syndicate, 1963)

X-Rays Not Dangerous

Every so often I get a letter which shows me that many people are being too badly frightened by alarming articles on x-rays and other forms of radiation—articles which, for the past 10 years or more, have been appearing in my magazines. I have read many of them, and have been distressed to see them because I could not believe they were justified.

Many years ago I knew as good friends most of the early leaders in x-ray work—men who, like me, had used the rays in the first few years of this century. Although many of us in those early years were much more careless of exposure to the rays than men are today, very few of us ever got into any trouble that could definitely be ascribed to the rays.

A few of the old-timers had much trouble with cancerous changes in the burned skin of their hands; but I cannot remember many of those old friends who died prematurely, or who died of a disease such as chronic leukemia, which could conceivably have been ascribed to the radiation.

I knew the children of a number of these men and, so far as I remember, they were normal. Hence it is that to me it seems foolish to worry about having one's teeth or one's chest, or even one's stomach x-rayed once a year. One point which may perhaps cheer those who are much afraid of x-rays is that recently, with the coming of a much faster film, x-ray exposures are being cut down in a remarkable way. Today the exposure required for making a film of a tooth has been cut from several seconds to a fraction of a second.

Injury Doubted
A number of men have tried to frighten us by saying that the x-rays to which we are exposed will injure our grandchildren, but I doubt this. I was glad recently to read the report of a Committee of the National Academy of Sciences in which they said that the genetic effects from small doses of atomic radiation are probably not as dangerous as some have thought.

Professors Neel and Schull, expert geneticists, who went to Japan to search for children who had been injured by the tremendous dose of radiation suffered by their mothers at Hiroshima, could not find effects that they could be sure were due to that radiation. I should emphasize here that I have been talking about the small dosage of x-rays used in making diagnosis-

tic films. I am not talking about the big doses that have to be given to cure a cancer.

It has been shown that the later incidence of a disease like leukemia is a little higher in persons so treated than it is in the general population. But this fact would not bother me if I had a cancer that could be cured by some form of radiation. I would say, "Go ahead and save my life now; never mind what may happen 20 years from now."

A while ago I sat at luncheon with one of America's greatest atomic physicists, who is certainly competent to discuss this problem, and he said that he had no patience with the recent excitement stirred up about a few dozen x-ray exposures in a lifetime.

Soviets Fire Rockets Into Central Pacific

Moscow—UPI—The Soviet Union, in tests designed to boost its manned space program, has fired rockets nearly 7,500 miles into the central Pacific Ocean, Tass said today. The Soviet news agency said the final stages of the rockets hit their target areas "with a high degree of accuracy."

The tests were carried out May 13 and 25, Tass said. It did not say how many rockets were fired.



FOR PROTECTION—Mailman Ken Lincicome, who for six times in two weeks needed first aid after being attacked by dogs along his route in the "tough" district of Fremont, Calif., finally drew the line and enlisted the aid of his dog, Schann, a German shepherd who manages to keep other dogs at a respectable distance. But on Lincicome's day off recently his substitute got a leg bite which required 17 stitches, prompting Fremont Postal Supervisor Phillip Souza to suggest "every mailman should have a dog." (UPI)

Cable Maps for Russians Attacked

Washington—UPI—A Democratic congressman said in testimony made public today it was "utterly fantastic" that the United States gave Russia maps locating the undersea cables that link Distant Early Warning line stations. The Pentagon replied that it would not do Russia any good to cut the cables before an attack, because radio communications are virtually jam-proof.

The DEW line is a network of radar stations in the Far North which are supposed to sound an early alarm in the event of a bomber attack on Canada and the United States.

The subject came up in House defense appropriations subcommittee hearings May 2, when Rep. Daniel J. Flood (D-Pa.) and others brought up breaks in the undersea cables. Brig. Gen. J. F. Raulof Jr., director of command control and communications for the Air Force Office of Programs and Requirements, said he believed breaks caused by Soviet fishing boats were accidental.

He said the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. had given the Russians maps showing the location of shallow water cables.

Flood said this was "utterly fantastic, ridiculous, and in certain areas it would be criminal." He said the maps should be canceled and the lines relaid.

FARES SKYROCKET
Jakarta, Indonesia—UPI—Indonesian railway fares will be raised 300 per cent to 300 per cent beginning next Saturday, the State Railway service here announced today.

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Eugene-Junction City Gas Pipeline Planned
Portland—UPI—Northwest Natural Gas Co. today announced plans to build a \$600,000 natural gas pipeline from Eugene to Junction City. Arrival of natural gas in Junction City is expected in early August.

TOO MUCH COLOR
Fort Worth, Tex.—UPI—Mrs. Royce Cochran sued a beauty shop Monday for \$5,000, charging a "frost" treatment left her shoulder-length tresses "several shades of orange, yellow, pink and white."

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