

# Issues Involved In Lumber Dispute Discussed

## Association's Views:

**Editor's Note:** This is management's side of the current lumber dispute as outlined by Lowry Wyatt, vice president of Weyerhaeuser Company, and chairman of the negotiating committee of the six firms involved.

"I would like to explain the position of the six companies involved," Lowry Wyatt told a group in Klamath Falls Friday afternoon.

"It is important that all communities involved know how this situation developed, why it did, and what is being done to get out of it. I am not here to argue the issues nor to ask you to be judge or jury on the merits.

"Historically, in the past, the pattern of labor negotiations by lumber firms has always been an individual approach. It was this way until this group bound itself to a common result, a typical arrangement around the country.

"Back as far as two years ago, these six companies (Weyerhaeuser, International Paper, Rayonier, Crown-Zellerbach, St. Regis Paper and U.S. Plywood), and others discussed the need for such an organization because we did not have a proper vehicle to handle negotiations with two unions. Just as surely as the equipment and type of operations of 10 years ago were not sufficient for today, so was our former individual approach.

"We were looking at the long range program, of costs, union position, competition, trying to plan for the future and remain as open minded as possible not knowing what our competition would do.

"We realized we faced such problems as automation, travel time, mechanization and would not be able to solve these issues by the individual company approach. We decided we needed a totally bound organization.

"We discussed this type of association with both unions, presenting an exposition of such an association and the desirable reasons for it.

"Both unions indicated that this was constructive. This was not a patronizing conversation with them, but one of arriving at mutual acceptance of the organization.

"The six companies decided to join together and announced we

were ready to meet with the unions on their 1963 demands and would be bound as a group to what the negotiations developed.

"The first day we met for two long discussions on what was the association, what was its bargaining rights, who did it represent, and what issues would we talk about. Then the bargaining started. Both sides bargained for a settlement and we have been criticized for offering up to 22 cents. If we had been bargaining for a strike we would have stopped at 10 cents, not 22.

"At the time negotiations fell apart, the six companies combined had offered \$20 million in increased wages over the next three-year period. The unions considered this insufficient and struck two members of the group, U.S. Plywood and St. Regis.

"We met after the union had struck these members to decide on a course of action. The discussion had nothing to do with retaliation or use of power, but purely whether the group we had formed was good, and whether it still made sense. If it did, our course of action was clear. Our conclusions were that it was a good association, we had not changed our minds and the difficulties even highlighted more the need for such an association. The next step was automatic. If we were to preserve our association, the decision to shut down was automatic.

"The mills shut down, but not in retaliation.

"The other side of the coin was that if an agreement was reached in the negotiations, all six firms were bound to it, if negotiations fell apart and action was taken against one, we would all face the same action.

"I understand that the association has been challenged legally by the unions who may be doing this to try to validate unemployment claims, although I don't know their strategy.

"The major issues are two, wages and economics.

"The original position of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers (LSW) was for a 60-cent an hour increase over the next three years. Their position is still the same.

"The original position of the International Woodworkers Assn-

## Views Of The IWA:

**Editor's Note:** The following is a statement released by Otto E. Hall, business agent for the IWA, Local 3-12 regarding the union's viewpoint in the current lumber controversy.

By OTTO E. HALL  
Business Agent IWA - Local 3-12  
Facts and issues leading up to the lockout imposed by the "Big Six" lumber operators on Friday, June 7, 1963:

In order to fully understand the IWA's position on this matter let us go back to the year of 1961 at which time the IWA opened their contracts with the lumber operators for wage increases and certain fringe benefits. At this time, after months of negotiations and listening to the companies' claims of inability to grant any wage increases, the contracts were signed with the companies granting a one per cent wage increase.

In 1962 the union again opened their contracts with the employers for a wage increase and other revisions of the contract. Again the story was the same with the exception that the employers used the issue of Canadian lumber imports as their reason for not being able to grant a wage increase. The companies did a marvelous job of brainwashing the public into believing that they were on the verge of financial ruin due to the imports of Canadian lumber. The IWA at that time, being the responsible union that it is, and realizing that the propaganda campaign put on by the lumber operators had been an effective one upon the general public, closed out their contracts without any wage increase and extended them until June 1, 1963.

In March, 1963, in accordance with the contract language, the IWA again opened their contracts with the lumber operators on the matter of wages and other contract revisions. The IWA on the matter of wages was asking for a 40 cents per hour wage increase over a three-year period in addition to a revision of the pension plan at Weyerhaeuser and St. Regis Paper Company. The union also sought some sort of travel pay for loggers who are required to travel long distances on their own time from the logging camps in order to reach their work areas.

The lumber operators, including Weyerhaeuser, opened the contract to revise the hours of labor clause, the payment of overtime and the grievance procedure. At the present time the contract provides for a work week beginning on Monday and ending on Sunday. The normal work schedule consists of five eight - hour

work days beginning on Monday and ending on Friday, which means that all work over eight hours per day and 40 hours per week as well as all work performed by an employee on the sixth and seventh days in his work week shall be paid for at time and one-half. We have had this provision in our contract since 1942. It is the desire of the company to amend this provision so that they can split the work week up and work the employees on Saturday and Sunday for straight time, taking away any increase they have offered.

It is also the desire of the company to amend the grievance procedure which is the very heart of any labor contract, to work in exactly the reverse manner than it has been working in for the past 20 years or more.

These are the issues which led to the breakdown in negotiations. The last proposal of the union to the lumber operators called for 15 cents per hour wage increase for 1963 - seven and one-half cents per hour in 1964 and three and one-half per cent wage increase in 1965 plus 2 per cent wage increase for certain job classifications where gross inequities are known to exist. In making this proposal the Union scaled down their demands from 40 cents to 35 cents over the three-year period.

On May 31 the "Big Six" lumber operators offered the union a package deal amounting to 20 cents per hour spread over the three-year period with the provision that the union accept the changes in the hours of labor clause as the company had proposed. They offered nothing for travel time pay for loggers. On Tuesday, May 4, the union met with the lumber operators in Port-

land in a final effort to reach an agreement with the "Big Six" association. At this meeting the "Big Six" spokesman stated that they had no proposal to make to the union and negotiations were discontinued. At midnight Tuesday, June 4, which was the deadline set for the completion of negotiations, the Lumber and Sawmill Workers and the International Woodworkers of America set up picket lines at United States Plywood and St. Regis Paper Company, both members of the "Big Six" lumbermen's association.

On Thursday, June 6, IWA Local 3-12 received a letter from J. B. Bishop, branch manager of the Klamath Falls Weyerhaeuser plant, informing the union that the company was closing their operations at the end of the day shift on Friday, June 7.

The local union had no pickets out and had no intention of putting any out, as it was decided at the meeting in Portland by the IWA Executive Board that they would not strike Weyerhaeuser. This amounts to only one thing, a layoff of the employees by Weyerhaeuser Company and the "Big Six" Association.

The employees of the IWA at Weyerhaeuser are ready and willing to return to work anytime the company is ready to end the layoff.

As to the claims by these lumber operators that they are un-

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HERALD AND NEWS, Klamath Falls, Oregon Sunday, June 16, 1963 PAGE 3-A



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## U.S. Space Funds Slash May Depend On Russians

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The U.S. space budget may be in for a \$500 million cut in Congress unless the current Soviet flight shows the Russians are racing for the moon.

House space committees already have voted to trim about half a billion. In the Senate Space Committee, which opened hearings on the \$5.7 billion request this week, there are also rumblings of a \$500 million cut.

Both Sens. Margaret Chase Smith, R-Maine, and Howard W. Cannon, D-Nev., asked the National Aeronautics and Space Administration NASA to find some areas where cutting can be done.

So far, NASA has not supplied the requested information.

While the Senate committee is examining several aspects of the budget, the key question is whether the Russians are trying to beat the U.S. goal of putting a man on the moon by 1970.

Several scientists told the committee that the resources required for a manned lunar flight are so great the Russians may have decided to concentrate instead on other areas of space and technology.

The space program will cost the United States about \$35 billion during the next 10 years, space chief James Webb said.

The scientists, while divided on whether the moon trip should be made at all, generally agreed that it would have little direct military value and would be a very costly project for the amount of scientific information it turns up. The main thing, they said, would be the prestige of reaching the moon first.

The budget trimming, if there is any, is likely to be in the \$1.2 billion which NASA wants authorized next year for the Apollo moon flight. This would represent more of a delay than a cutback.

A truly spectacular Russian achievement could have the effect of heading off, or lessening, deeper cuts in the U.S. space budget that appear to be in the works.

### HORSE SIGHT

A horse can see forward, sideways and even a little way backward. Pupil of the equine's eye is oval-shaped, cutting down the scope a horse can see when it is looking straight ahead. The animal cannot see above the level of its eyes.

Jon Provost began acting at the age of three, made 10 motion pictures before he joined the CBS Television Network's "Lassie" at age seven.

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