

however, and watch someone's dream become another's nightmare.

The United States has over four million forest landowners, with approximately 20,000 logging facilities, sawmills and planing mills, which employ over 700,000 employees. In the past year, lumber prices in the United States have plummeted by 33 percent while Canadian imports have grown to record levels. Approximately 3,500 mills have already closed, and I have heard from those with sawmills in Maine that are still open that they are close to laying off their hard-working employees and using their lumber to board up their businesses. Their message, as is mine, is for free trade that is also fair trade.

I would like to note that, the problem of the subsidized lumber is not coming from Maine's good neighbors to the North—those small sawmills of the Canadian Maritimes—as they do not have vast amounts of crown, or government-owned, forest, but also get their wood from private forests, and they do not fall under the current quotas of the Agreement. There are only four provinces that actually fall under the quota system, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, and the large integrated sawmills—those that have both pulp and sawmill operations, are doing very well. On the other hand, the small sawmills in the Maritimes are hurting just as much as our sawmills in the United States. This is a trade problem that we must negotiate with Canada in the interests of the United States while they also work to solve their own inequities.

The U.S. timber prices for lumber are set by the market for both public and private forests, while the Canadian Government sets the price of timber from Quebec to British Columbia at a level that is one half to one-quarter the actual market value of timber. Some of the Canadian provinces with vast crown forests use government timber to subsidize lumber production and employment by providing timber to Canadian lumber companies through non-competitive, administered pricing arrangements for a fraction of the timber's market value.

These unfair subsidy practices have fueled shipments to the United States to the point that subsidized Canadian imports are at record levels and now control over one-third of the U.S. softwood lumber market. The highly subsidized Canadian lumber imports

have gained sales volume from U.S. lumber companies, depressed U.S. timber values, and jeopardized thousands of U.S. jobs, and contributed to a collapse in lumber prices.

Canadian lumber subsidy practices have been identified by a variety of independent analyses. U.S. Government officials in the Reagan, Bush and Clinton administrations, the U.S. industry and timberland owners, and labor unions all have called for an end to the subsidies and for fair trade.

We are calling upon the President, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, and the Secretary of Commerce to take every possible action to end Canadian lumber subsidy practices through open and competitive sales of timber and logs in Canada for fair market value, or if Canada will not agree to end the subsidies immediately, the subsidies must be offset pending some sort of reform.

In addition, if Canada will not reach an agreement to vigorously, promptly, and fully enforce the trade laws against subsidized and dumped imports and explore all options to stop unfairly traded imports, and to limit injury to the U.S. industry pending further action, the administration should be prepared to vigorously and fully enforce the trade laws against subsidized and dumped imports from Canada.

I hope that these efforts today will jump start the administration as soon as tomorrow to start working towards negotiations with Canada. There are no surprises here, as the issue has been around since the 1930s. There have been years of investigations, assessments, petitions, rulings, imposed duties, and a 1986 Memorandum of Understanding to address the inequities.

As a matter of fact, a major reason for bringing Canada to the negotiating table for the 1996 Agreement, along with a lawsuit by the Coalition for Fair Lumber Imports, was the implementing legislation for the GATT Uruguay Round Agreements. Congress approved the President's "statement of administrative action" that stated that lumber imports from Canada could be subject to countervailing duties under the Uruguay Round.

Every possible action must be taken immediately, to end Canadian lumber subsidy practices through open and competitive sales of timber and logs in Canada at fair market value. This trade must be both free and fair. I thank the Chair.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 7, 2001, to conduct a hearing on "Establishing an Effective, Modern Framework for Export Controls."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 7, 2001, at 10:30 a.m., to hold a business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Wednesday, February 7, 2001, at 9:30 a.m., in Dirksen 226.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 7, 2001 at 10 a.m., to hold a hearing on intelligence matters, and at 2:30 p.m., to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, on behalf of Senator BIDEN, that Paul Foldi, a State Department fellow on the staff of the Foreign Relations Committee, be granted floor privileges during the consideration of S. 248.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FOREIGN CURRENCY REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following report(s) of standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel: