

"WELCOME" by

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for the

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Thank you, Dick, and good morning ladies and gentlemen. I appreciate the opportunity to take part in the combined meeting of these two organizations, whose work is so important to us all.

To those of you from other regions of the country, Canada and elsewhere, I would like to welcome you to Boise and to the Intermountain West. While your agenda over these three days is a busy one, I trust you'll be able to enjoy our community and Southwestern Idaho. Although Boise Cascade Corporation has grown over the years to touch many parts of North America, the company's roots are here in the Intermountain West, and we're very proud of it.

As the opening year of a new decade, this seems like an appropriate time to stop and look at where we are, and see what the future holds for forestry. As a matter of fact, the National Forest Management Act requires that we do just that.

As this nation charts its future for managing our abundant timberlands, a point which the American philosopher Will Durant left us with is worth repeating. Durant observed that "At 20, I knew everything and my father knew nothing. But when I was 30, I was surprised to see how much my father had learned during the past 10 years."

As I look back, I can relate to what Durant was saying. I'm sure you can too.

In growing the timber for a whole spectrum of forest products which have contributed so much to society over the past 200 years, and has helped raise our standard of living to unprecedented heights, we have learned a lot about growing trees. Especially in the past 20 to 30 years, forest management has advanced dramatically. Developments in genetics research, mechanization, computer sciences and other technologies have brought about quantum gains in our ability to increase the potential productivity of timberlands for many uses.

In looking over the agenda for this seminar a few days ago, I was impressed by the range and depth of subjects to be covered here. The information to be exchanged will certainly be valuable. It must be, because each of us here today is faced with a very major challenge. Today's and tomorrow's forests must provide for dramatically increasing social and economic needs. Domestic demand for paper and wood products, according to the Forest Services's Resource Planning Act assessment, will more than double within the next 50 years.

Between 1976 and the year 2030, demand will rise from 13.3 billion cubic feet to 28.7 billion cubic feet. And largely, with the exception of the shorter crop rotation areas of the South, it will be the trees already in the ground today that must meet this need. And it is to the credit of those in the audience that many of those trees in the ground today that will help sustain this harvest were developed in your nurseries.

If I sound concerned about this challenge, I want you to know that in fact, I am. On the one hand, the expanse and productive potential of this nation's forests is so great, that not only can the public demand be met, but, at the appropriate time, the U.S. could become the world's wood products basket, the major supplier to other nations of building materials paper and related products. But ironically, we know that present levels of forest management are inadequate.

Forests comprise about one-third of the U.S. land mass. Of these timberlands, about 500 million acres are classified as commercially productive. And of these commercial acres, more than half are almost totally unmanaged.

Industry owns 14 percent of this commercial timberland base, and provides 37 percent of the nation's softwood fiber supply. The federal government controls 20 percent of the U.S. commercial timberland base but only supplies 23 percent of the harvest. The remaining 40 percent of the harvest comes from the 66 percent of the resources held by the non-industrial private and other public ownerships.

With only 16 percent of the U.S. commercial timberland base, the forest industry accounts for over 50 percent of new tree planting and direct seeding; 50 percent of timber stand improvement carried out on non-federal land, and produces more than 40 percent of the tree nursery stock.

In Oregon and Washington alone, industrial nursery capacity has grown from 26 forest tree nurseries in 1973 to 53 nurseries operated today by the Industrial Forestry Association and other private interests. Annual capacity in these nurseries now totals more than 300 million trees, of which 60 million are container production. And on all industrial lands in Oregon and Washington, the forests being replanted each year exceed the number of acres being clearcut harvested by some 10,000 acres -- and this planting trend is increasing.

As a result of these and other efforts, the annual growth of timber on industry lands is closer to full production potential than on lands in any other ownership classification. Certainly, the commercial forest areas on the National Forests must be managed for objectives beyond timber production alone. But it has been clearly demonstrated that greater fiber productivity is compatible with increased recreation opportunities, wildlife propagation and clear waters. A very good example of this is the Big Creek salmon and steelhead hatchery located just downstream from some Boise Cascade timberlands in northwest Oregon. The story of this timber shed and fish hatchery is featured in a magazine called the BOISE CASCADE QUARTERLY. For those interested, copies of the QUARTERLY and a descriptive brochure called BOISE CASCADE FORESTS are available on the literature table.

Meeting the challenge of increasing fiber demand will take a combination of time, money, silvicultural know-how and responsible management by government, industry and the private non-industrial sector. If money grew on trees, our problems would be over. But the reality is that trees grow on money, hence, substantial investments must be made to achieve greater forest productive potential including increased investments in forest nurseries and nursery research. That money must be backed up by a lot of faith and conviction, since the focus of timber investment is very long-term.

A major trade association estimates that industry, for example, must generate more than \$3 billion dollars annually to cover all necessary costs of acquisition, reforestation, maintenance, silviculture, taxes, interest, roads and other management aspects. Adequate levels of investment also are needed on private non-industrial and government lands to bring them up to the needed levels of fiber growth and yield.

Investment in the private sector -- both industrial and non-industrial - can be encouraged by far-sighted, responsible regulation and legislation. Excessive restrictions and taxation levels that discourage needed investments will do nothing to avert a wood fiber shortfall. The national economy, and ultimately, the American consumer, will be the losers. This just isn't necessary.

Certainly, it is highly important to address the growing of new trees. And it is equally necessary to address ourselves to the need for responsible management of existing forests, including control of destructive pests such as the gypsy moth, the pine bark beetle, the tussock moth and the spruce budworm that has heavily infested large acreages in this and other regions and absolutely must be controlled.

Having the tools to practice silviculture is critical to responsible forest management. I'm highly concerned that we are losing necessary tools such as pesticides and herbicides that are proven to be safe and effective, without having developed suitable replacements for these forest chemicals.

In recent years, through work being done by organizations and individuals such as those of you here today, we have truly begun to understand that we can manage and control the volume, qualities, and form of wood fiber and its many products. Based on the promise of new research and development, forest management programs of the year 2000 might make some of today's practices look rudimentary by comparison.

To see that this potential to provide fiber can be realized, here are some things that I would ask you to do beyond the work that you're presently involved in:

- o Work to promote understanding of the fact that government, industry, private landowners and conservationists should be allies in forest management. It is time to accentuate the positive by firmly establishing common areas of agreement instead of adding to the cycle of action and reaction.
- o Second, be vocal about the need for government and its regulatory agencies to improve the climate for capital investment in timber productivity. Let's encourage investment that is in the public interest.

- o Next, give vigorous support at all levels of government to legislation promoting wise use of national resources. A good place to start on this is to give active support to the release of productive commercial forest lands that were studied in the Forest Service's Roadless Area Review and Evaluation but not recommended for wilderness designation.

Through these public policy actions, we can contribute even more to the shaping of the future of forestry. There was never a more important time for it.

I'd like to leave you with a thought often expressed by Boise Cascade's chief forester. He says it is a lot of fun to manage a big, thriving second growth forest because you can play the role of a physician. But if you're managing an overmature old-growth forest, you're somewhat akin to a mortician.

Most of us in this profession, I'm sure, would rather be the physician. In fact, those of you in the audience might think of yourselves as being somewhat of a pediatrician. It all starts with the work you're doing. Having brought the baby into the world, none of us wants to leave it out there to perish.

Thanks for this opportunity to be with you today. I'm sure that you will have a very successful seminar here in Boise.