

F. Peratrovich Calls For Forestry Hearing

Frank Peratrovich, chairman of the West Coast Development Association of the Prince of Wales Island in Southeastern Alaska, is asking the Alaska Congressional delegation in Washington, D. C., urging them to use their influence in granting a public hearing "in the immediate future in regards to changing the present timber management policy of the U. S. Forest Service in Southeastern Alaska and to modify their method of conducting the sale of timber to avoid monopolistic tendencies that have been the results of recent sales."

A meeting in Ketchikan

last August attended by Deputy Chief of the Forest Service, M. M. Nelson, Regional Forester W. H. Johnson of Juneau, Gerry Van Gilst of the Forest Service in Ketchikan and Frank Peratrovich of Klawack, Peratrovich said was supposedly to explore "if the Forest Service felt a hearing was necessary and also what type of hearing

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Forestry . . .

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and when and where it should be held."

Peratrovich said that seven weeks have expired since that meeting and still there was no word of any kind received.

The WCDA feels the hearing is very necessary in order to have a better understanding of the policies now in use by the Forest Service such as demonstrated by the recent Shoal Cove sale where the Panhandle Logging Co., for the second time purchased a major sale outbidding experienced legitimate timber operators who had facilities to handle the timber themselves.

"The West Coast Development Association feels that such a sale is purchased purely for speculation in as much as the Panhandle Logging Co. does not have the necessary facilities to harvest the timber for market," said Frank Peratrovich.

"Our thinking in regard to the urgent need for this public hearing," continued Peratrovich, "is additionally substantiated by the recent request by the management of the presently entrenched

industries for even more timber than they already have been allotted or have purchased on the so-called competitive market."