

radical leadership. The leadership is very adept at playing to the concerns of the uninformed members on an emotional level, and that keeps the funds flowing in to these national organizations. They don't deal with facts; facts are their enemy! Instead, they deal in perceptions, easily conveyed perceptions at that, and I'll be the first to admit, they're very good at it.

For example, they compare tropical forest devastation with modern North American silvicultural practices. It's just absurd, the two are light-years apart, both as to concept and as to effect, but their appeals are aimed at the unwary.

EIR: We have reported terrorist acts against the timber industry by a group called "Earth First," whose founder, David Foreman, was formerly chief Washington lobbyist for the Wilderness Society. Are you encountering this kind of thing?

Harbin: In addition to reading about it in your publication, I've heard reports about equipment vandalism and sabotage, including in western North Carolina recently. The blame hasn't been fixed in any of this, but some people suspect Earth First-type activists.

Frankly, I have trouble distinguishing between terrorists in fatigues and terrorists in pin-stripe suits. If one's livelihood is gone, whether it's through the efforts of a covert knife-wielding misfit, or a well-attired, erudite political activist, the effect is the same: you've got no future. And jobs are at stake. Not only timber and lumber jobs, but carpenters, woodworkers, builders, developers.

And more than just jobs. Think about the consumers of these products. Think about all we hear about the homeless and the underhoused, in America and in other nations.

How far back would these forces push us?

EIR: What efforts are being made, and what should be made, by the industry to influence legislation and public opinion?

Harbin: There's the National Forest Products Association, an old group, and the American Forest Resources Alliance, which has just come together in response to some of the more recent attacks. AFRA had an organizational meeting recently, there were hundreds of companies represented, some of them quite large. They raised in pledges just under \$6 million to inform and educate the public.

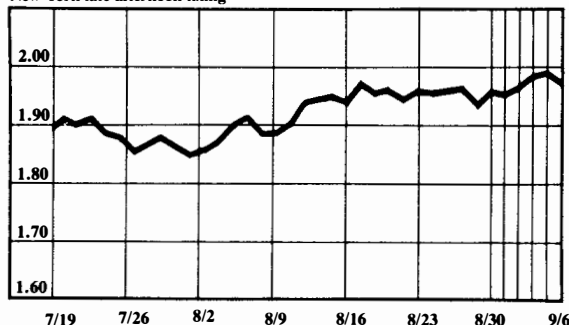
But the Wilderness Society itself has an *annual* budget over \$10 million, and that's just one of a whole host of groups we're up against. The top ten so-called "environmentalist" groups—and I object to that term being applied to these people, but I'll use it, under protest—the top 10 groups alone have an annual budget of \$160 million!

They have a 15-year jump on us in getting out their story, and awesome media influence. Our side has a lot of catching up to do. We may get a boost from public opinion when the average American sees the cost of building materials skyrocket, or when he gets upset that he can't afford to buy decent furniture anymore.

Currency Rates

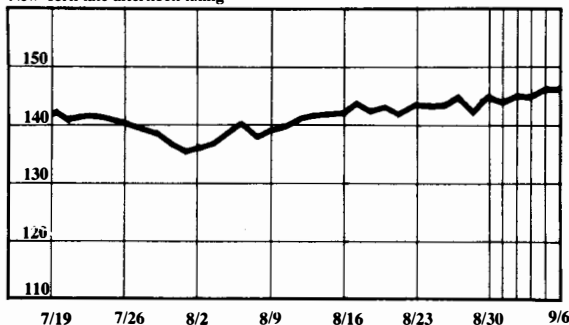
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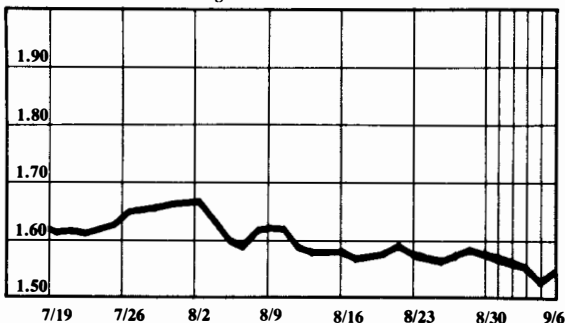
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