

Redwood Forest

Bill Disastrous For Coast Area

H.T. ————— 7/25/51
Warning that passage of the Helen Gahagan Douglas bill means the socialization of the Redwood lumber industry with the probable eventual socialization of the entire lumber industry, J. Stanley Woodman, Arcata attorney, yesterday vigorously denounced the measure in an address delivered at the Lions club weekly luncheon in the Hotel Vance.

"The Helen Gahagan Douglas bill to create a memorial national park and forest in honor of the late Franklin D. Roosevelt is a measure which was created by and introduced at the request of the Political Action committee of the Congress of Industrial Organizations," Woodman declared. "It should be scanned very seriously by those who have the interest of this area at heart."

Pointing out that the federal government already owns 46 per cent of the timber resources of the state of California, Woodman declared that the formation of the memorial forest, consisting of more than two million acres, would increase the federal holdings to 69 per cent in California, appropriating 95 per cent of the timbered area of Del Norte county and 75 per cent in Humboldt.

The former naval commander explained that under the bill, 25 million dollars a year for five years would be expended by the government in the purchase of lands for the memorial forest.

"But the appraisal of that land for purchase by the United States will not be set by local appraisers who know the value of timber," said Woodman. "Instead it will be set by appraisers from Washington appointed by the Interior department."

Woodman expressed the belief that passage of the bill not only would seriously cripple the lumber industry but would likewise jeopardize the entire cattle and sheep industry along the Redwood coast of Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino.

Other business of the Lions during the luncheon included the preparation of final plans for the local service organization to be represented at the Interantional Convention of Lions which will start in San Francisco Sunday. Members representing the local organization will be Don Wilkinson, president; Charles Hartwig, secretary; George Thompson, vice president; George Trotman and John Ryan.

Wilkinson presided at the meeting which has had as guests two Lion members from opposite areas

of the United States. They were
Walter Koetz of Monterey Park,
Calif., and Dr. Russell S. Powell,
dentist, of Roanoke, Va.