



FOREST ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Editors: Michael Jones and David Cope

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DEPARTMENTAL PERSONNEL

FOREST ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT,
FINNISH FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Head of Department:

Prof. Lauri Heikinheimo

Prof. of Business Economics (acting):

Prof. Lorenzo Runeberg (plastics and wood)

Prof. Emeritus:

Prof. N. A. Osara (Finland's forestry in the world economy)

Research specialist (acting):

Dr. Esko Salo (removal measurement)

Senior research scholarship:

Dr. Matti Palo (forecasting and optimization models)

Researchers:

David Cope (outdoor recreation)
Matti Heikinheimo (standard of living of forest workers)
Jan Heino (social benefits of forests)
Terho Huttunen (wood consumption)
Jouko Hämäläinen (economics of thinning)
Dr. Michael Jones (land tenure)
Heikki Juslin (consumer behaviour)
Kari Keipi (wood-purchase budgeting)
Simo Penttilä (nursery economics)
Aarne Reunala (structural change in forest ownership)
Olli Saastamoinen (social benefits of forests)
Sampsä Sivonen (regeneration economics)
Ilpo Tikkanen (forestry behaviour of non-farmer forest owners)
Hannu Vehviläinen (forest labour)

Extra-departmental researchers:

Prof. Seppo Ervasti (forest balance)
Dr. Veli-Pekka Järveläinen (silvicultural behaviour of forest owners)
Heikki Kunnas (forestry in national accounting)

Research secretary:

Marja Harmanen

Research assistants, typists and others:

Erkki Berg, Juhani Hongisto, Aune Kankkunen, Anita Korvenranta,
Maija Kuusijärvi, Antero Mäkinen, Erkki Raittila, Katarina Salo,
Rakel Seppälä, Brita Sjöstrand, Maija-Liisa Soveri, Kaija Westin.

Colloquium:

The Department's final colloquium for this spring will be held on Monday, June 5th, and will take the form of an all-day research seminar on the Institute's island of Träskö, near Porkkala. In the morning, small groups will have the opportunity of suggesting and discussing ideas for future research, and in the afternoon the results of these discussions will be presented at a meeting of the whole Department. There will be a sauna at the end of the day.

World Bank Appraisal Mission

Robert J. Dewer and Lennart Ljungman from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development were in Finland for two weeks before Whitsun on an appraisal mission in connection with Finland's application to the Bank for a loan to finance the MERA forest-improvement programme. They made a number of visits to the Department and Institute during this time.

"MERA" discussions in Sweden

From Zachris Tamminen, head of the Department of Timber Measurement and Statistics of the Swedish National Board of Forestry, we have some details of recent discussions which are of interest in the light of the Finnish MERA forest-improvement programme.

At the 1972 forestry week in Sweden, a report was presented by Director-general Ingvar Widén entitled "Localization of forestry industry in southern Sweden". In connection with this presentation, Director-general Fredrik Ebeling suggested that it should be important for the community to investigate for the whole country the probable annual costs and income that could be expected from various forestry programmes designed to expand timber production and industrial capacity to certain alternative levels.

In spring 1970, representatives of forestry and the forest industry in Norrland (Sweden north of the Ljungan Valley) appealed for increased financial contributions for measures to increase timber production in the area. It was suggested that the structural rationalization and expansion of the forest industry in recent years in this part of Sweden had led to a situation in which available raw-material resources were beginning to be insufficient, especially taking into consideration continuing and planned enlargement.

In March 1971, the National Board of Forestry requested the government to make arrangements as soon as possible for a new comprehensive investigation of timber balance based on fresh growth calculations.

An investigation of forest policy, which is now going on and expected to be ready by the end of the year, is expected to put forward views on the present timber-balance situation in Sweden.

Forest-improvement plans in Soviet Karelia

Alternative projects of allowable cut similar to the Finnish studies have been the object of research in the Soviet Union. They are described in a recent article by Professor Kullervo Kuusela ("Neuvosto-Karjalan metsä- ja puutalous" (Forestry and the forest industry in Soviet Karelia), Suomen Puutalous, no. 11, Helsinki 1971), which is based in part on a publication by Anatolij P. Petrov entitled "Forest industry of the USSR: its development, location, trends and prospects" (Institut for skog/ekonomi, Norges landbrukshøgskole, Vollebakk 1971, mimeographed).

As a result of exhaustion of reserves due to heavy cutting, especially of coniferous stands, some reduction of roundwood removals can be expected in Soviet Karelia. The allowable cut can be considered in two alternatives.

Alternative II is based on the existing forestry methods and the present felling systems of concentrated clear-cuttings and clear-cuttings leaving small and inferior trees. If this is followed, a marked decline of the allowable cut would result, necessitating a stop to exports of wood from Karelia and requiring imports from other areas to supply the region's pulp and paper industries. This alternative is considered as an unreal possibility.

Alternative I envisages a gradual decrease in cutting to a level sufficient to meet the demand for wood, especially pulpwood, in Karelia and neighbouring districts. A relatively high allowable cut is ensured by changing existing felling systems by the introduction of large-scale intermediate fellings and the substitution of clear-cuttings by selective and shelterwood principles. To increase productivity, the use of fertilizers and other forest-improvement measures such as drainage are envisaged. Increased use of non-coniferous species is also planned.

Other regions of the European part of the Soviet Union which are exhausting their forests are faced with a similar choice: to decrease the allowable cut while retaining existing methods, or to introduce new felling systems and intensify forest management. Intensification of forestry in the European U.S.S.R. is a more economic proposition than moving logging to remote parts of Siberia and the extreme north of European Russia.

Forest Economics Outside Finland, VI

The Forest Economics Department of the Agricultural College of Norway in Vollebakk has recently published its 10th Annual Report, which appears in the Norwegian Journal of Forestry (Tidskrift for Skogbruk, 79:4, Oslo 1971). We include here summaries of the research projects outlined in the report.

Head of Department: Professor Frits Jørgensen,
Institutt for skogøkonomi
Norges landbrukshøgskole
N-1432 Vollebakk,
Norway

1. Indian forests and their logging problems

Researcher: Anil Berry

Indian forests cover 75.3 million ha, of which 93.5 % are broad-leaved species (including 12.1 % teak). A total of 93.1 % of the forest area is State-owned, 5.2 % is communal forest and the remaining 1.7 % is privately owned.

The main system of planting used in India is the "Taungya System", in which an agricultural crop is grown with the trees for the first 2 or 3 years.

Logging has been commonly undertaken by private contractors, whose methods have been frequently primitive and wasteful. Now, logging is being increasingly taken over by the State or State-backed companies, which has allowed some rationalization. Certain Norwegian logging methods could be introduced in India, but would require adaptation to Indian conditions as well as training of manpower.

2. The impact of a new State subsidy on investments in rural districts
Researcher: John Eid

In autumn 1971, the Norwegian government introduced a new system of State subsidies with the purpose of creating industry in rural districts. The impact of this new public incentive is analysed through a series of formulas. The impact of the subsidy appears to be considerable. The effect is largest for short-term investments, but long-term investments will also be significantly affected. Certain investments in forestry as well as forest industries should benefit from the subsidies.

3. Professional forestry education in East Africa - a tool for economic development
Researcher: Frits Jørgensen

Higher education in forestry was established at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, in 1970. A comparison made between the value of education at a national or regional university and at universities overseas suggests that students educated in the region benefit, because they have a better understanding of the possibilities of influencing directly the development of their own country.

4. The structure of ownership and methods of co-operation in forestry
Researcher: Narve Lid

The Department is involved in two research projects in this field:

- A. A study regarding improvement of the ownership structure by exchanging forest land between individual holdings on a voluntary basis.
- B. A study of methods of co-operation.

The ownership structure in forestry is an increasingly detrimental factor. Statistics indicate that the tendency to partition forest holdings further is continuing. A prerequisite for efficient use of forest resources is co-operation among forest owners.

5. Some aspects of the development of revenue and expenditure in forestry in the period 1962 - 1970

Researcher: Torstein Opheim

The analysis is based on accounting data from the Norwegian national forests, comprising two groups: State forests and educational-foundation (primarily Church) forests. The latter are generally more centrally located and with higher yield capacity than the former. The educational-foundation forests may be said to be characteristic of the more favourably located and better yielding forests, while the State forests comprise the less favourable part of Norway's forests. The analysis indicates that the former shows higher gross revenues, lower harvesting expenditure and a considerably higher conversion surplus than State forests. The conversion surplus is the difference between gross revenue and harvesting expenditure. It is assumed that the results also reflect the situation in a considerable part of the privately owned forests in Norway.

6. Money-yield tables for Scots pine

Researcher: Asbjørn Svendsrud

In 1969, the Norwegian Forest Research Institute published comprehensive yield tables for Scots pine in Norway. On their basis, the Department of Forest Economics has worked out a set of tables for estimating output in terms of money.

The value of production has been compared for two different thinning programmes: "normal" thinning and a programme involving 2 thinnings. Under identical cost conditions, the latter programme will yield higher capital value, but the difference between the programmes is only about 3 %.

A comparison has also been made for two different levels of regeneration density. The capital value of the "sparse" regeneration turned out to be higher, due to more favourable distribution of dimensions in the stand. The difference is estimated at 21 %.

7. Market factors for lumber in Norway

Researcher: Hans Øy

Today 80-90 % of the lumber consumption in Norway is used in the building and construction sector, on which this analysis concentrates.

The analysis shows that for the years 1959-69 the variation in the supplied quantity of lumber can be explained by the variation in the deflated wages in private construction, the deflated prices of lumber, and the floor area of dwellings under construction at the end of each year. Lumber prices and floor areas account for 97.4 % of the variation.

In the existing market conditions, it is assumed that regulation of the supply together with the development of better products and a more effective marketing procedure are the best means of increasing lumber prices, especially for those products which have the greatest price elasticity.

FAO/ECE symposium in Helsinki

A symposium on the Co-ordination between Forestry and Wood-using Industries was held in the Finlandia Hall, Helsinki, from 23rd to 27th May. The symposium was organized by the Timber Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe and the European Forestry Commission of FAO in collaboration with the Finnish Government. Professor N. A. Osara acted as the symposium's chairman.

Attending the symposium from our Department were Prof. Lauri Heikinheimo, Matti Palo, Esko Salo, Aarne Reunala, Hannu Vehviläinen and Matti Heikinheimo. Matti Palo presented one of the background papers, entitled "Impact of social, economic and technological change on forestry and wood-based industries".

Following the symposium, an excursion to eastern and central Finland was made, lasting from 28th to 31st May. Professor Osara, Matti Palo and Aarne Reunala took part from our Department.

SITRA project

SITRA (The Finnish Independence Fund) is financing a group of research projects to be undertaken by the Finnish Forest Research Institute on the

principles and aims of Finnish forestry. The whole research programme is under the direction of Professor Kullervo Kuusela. Two parts of the research are being undertaken in the Department of Forest Economics:

1) Rural labour-force reserves, the mechanization of forest work and the relationship between labour force and machine capacity on farms.

Researcher: Hannu Vehviläinen.

2) Marginal profitability of investments in wood production, investigated on the basis of the Finnish silvicultural and forest-improvement programmes. Researcher: Hannu Valtanen.

Project no. 2.14 d

(Supplement to Folia Forestalia, 87)

Project title. Opportunity costs of the recreational use of forests

Personnel: Jan Heino

Date of commencement: 1973

Planned date of completion: 1974

The aim of the project is to investigate the opportunity costs in wood production when outdoor recreation is taken into consideration as an aspect of the management of forests. Material from the most recent national forest inventory in Finland will probably be used. The project is connected with an inter-Nordic investigation into the multiple use of forests.

New publications

Heino, Jan & Rolf Oinonen. Kansallispuistot - kansanpuistot? (National parks - people's parks?) Matkailumaailma, 3:3. Helsinki, 1972.

David Cope: English in the Department, 1968-1972

Active English-language work began in the Department during the summer of 1968. Professor Heikinheimo, pursuing his aim of making it possible for the members of the Department to improve their language skills, offered me a job for two months. I spent the time talking individually and informally with people, encouraging them to speak and actually use the English they had learned in school. Nearly everyone knew enough to read with the aid of a dictionary and to understand carefully spoken English, but there was a great reluctance to speak the language on the part of most people. I concentrated on getting them to overcome this shyness. In two months during the summer, however, very little could be accomplished.

Nevertheless, a beginning was made, and from January 1969 the Department employed for 5 months a lively Irishman, Rory Harrington. He encountered the same problems: a lack of practice with spoken English; a general shyness to speak; and an unoriented feeling for the language ("Finglish"). His approach was to divide the staff into groups of 2 or 3 for regular day-long discussion sessions every week and a half. After a few months of these sessions, which were made as relaxing and informal as possible and were often held away from the Department, people began to forget their shyness and started to converse more spontaneously. By the time Rory left in June, nearly all the hesitation in speaking had vanished; researchers; assistants and secretaries alike could comfortably use all the knowledge of English they possessed.

In July, Michael Jones arrived in the Department to begin work as a researcher and general English-language editor. Then in September, I returned in the same capacity as Mike. At first, we continued the regular conversation sessions, but these have gradually been discontinued as the use of English has become more firmly established. There are no longer special practice sessions, only normal day-to-day contacts and such things as the monthly research colloquium.

The use of English is now a completely natural part of life in the Department. This is not to say that everyone can speak perfect English. Having English-speaking researchers is no substitute for formal language lessons, especially for those who know little or no English. Major errors can be corrected and pronunciation improved, but it is

difficult to do more than this without a regular instruction programme. Rather, the main benefit comes from having English as part of the normal working environment, with frequent opportunities for talking on a wide variety of subjects. That this approach can be successful has been convincingly demonstrated here. I can see this clearly when I remember what a difficult time I had in the summer of 1968 getting people to overcome their shyness and speak with me.

Foreign researchers in the Finnish Forest Research Institute

The Board of the Institute on May 18th accepted a report on the principles to be observed in employing foreign researchers. The report was drawn up by a working group consisting of Professors Heikinheimo (chairman), Huikari and Kuusela. Foreign researchers can be employed under the following conditions: the period of employment will be for a fixed period; foreign researchers will be employed to do the work of the department to which they are attached; there will be a maximum of one foreign researcher for each professor in charge of a wider area of research; and foreign researchers will have the same salary and benefits as Finnish researchers.

Osara in North America

Professor Osara returned from North America on 23rd March after a visit lasting one-and-a-half months. In New York, he gave a talk entitled "Some trends in world forestry and Finland" to the annual luncheon of the Survisors' Club, which was attended by about 100 senior executives of the North American pulp and paper industries. He also spoke on the present economic situation in Finland to a lunch given by the Finnish-American Chamber of Commerce in New York.

Following a visit to the U.S. Forest Service headquarters in Washington, D.C., Professor Osara made a study tour in Canada to find out the

present situation of Canadian forestry and forest industry. During the trip, he visited the headquarters of the forest service in seven Canadian provinces as well as Ottawa, Montreal and Vancouver.

Runeberg at large in Europe

On 19th May, Professor Runeberg returned from his fact-finding trip to England and France. The trip was part of his project to determine the influence plastics will have on the raw-material requirements of the European forest industry. He left at the beginning of April and spent the first two weeks in the London area talking with various people about the situation in England. He also managed to fit in a trip to Oxford and the Commonwealth Forestry Institute. From London he travelled to Paris for more discussions and then on to Grenoble. Here he acquired some valuable contacts with researchers at the Technical Centre for the Paper Carton and Cellulose Industry who are just beginning to study the problem of infiltration by plastics in the forest-products industry. Following this, he took a couple of weeks of much-needed rest further south in France.

International visits

Ontario. Mr. A. Nausedas, an economist with the Division of Forests of the Canadian Ministry of Natural Resources, will be visiting the Department in the beginning of June. He is interested in the statistical analysis and model-building of commercial roundwood removals and flows to wood-using industries. He is in Finland for the FAO/ECE symposium and will be talking with Matti Palo.

Wisconsin. On 15th June, Professors Darius Adams and J.D. Brodie from the Department of Forestry of the University of Wisconsin will be visiting the Department as part of their tour of forest research establishments. The tour is made possible by a grant from the newly founded Institute for International Forestry at their university. They will be

discussing forest economics, operations research and the international aspects of research and graduate studies.

Lectures and seminars

Tyrvääntö. On 4th and 5th May, Jan Heino participated in a seminar on "Environmental conservation as part of a forester's field" held at the Tyrvääntö seminar centre.

Viikki. Matti Palo lectured on "The problem of optimum allocation of State research funds" at a meeting of researchers held on 9th May by the National Research Council for Agriculture and Forestry. Aarne Reunala also attended the meeting, which was held in the agricultural buildings of Helsinki University at Viikki.

Helsinki. Prof. Lauri Heikinheimo gave a lecture on "Trends in the forest labour force" at the educational centre of the Employers' Association of the Woodworking Industries in Helsinki on 18th May. The lecture formed part of a course for the forest workers of these industries.

Espoo. Heikki Juslin gave a talk entitled "Teaching for the forest examination in the whole structure of forestry education" on 30th May. The talk was part of a seminar dealing with lower education in forestry. The seminar was arranged by the National Board of Forestry and was held on 30th and 31st May at the Polar Hotel in Espoo.

Viitasaari. Prof. Heikinheimo will be speaking on labour-force projections and wage-cost questions at Viitasaari on June 14th.

Comings and goings

Hannu Valtanen joined the Department at the beginning of May to work on an investigation of the marginal profitability of investments in wood production. He left us again on 21st May to spend two months in England, where he is working with a timber-importing firm as part of his training

as a forestry student. He will return to the Department in August for a further three months.

Anna-Leena Simula and Mikko Tervo are also working as trainees with timber firms in England. Anna-Leena left in May for 3 or 4 months and Mikko departed for 12 weeks at the beginning of June.

Kari Keipi reappeared in the Department on 9th May looking very pleased with life. He had been discharged from the army the same day on the completion of his military service.

Tatu Ollikainen left the Department on 19th May. He leaves for Rome on 4th June for two weeks' briefing at FAO before going to Chile to take up his new position as associate expert in the field of forest-industries statistics with the FAO/ECLA/UNIDO Forest Industries Advisory Group for Latin America. Tatu's address will be: Oficina Regional de la FAO, Casilla 10095, Santiago, Chile.

From the beginning of July, Stig-Olof Lillqvist and Erkki Raittila (both of whom have been working in the Department for short periods this year) and Timo Peltola will spend three months carrying out interviews for Terho Huttunen's study of small sawmills in Finland.

Buddhi Jha is spending three months from the beginning of June as a trainee with Enso-Gutzeit at Kotka.

Simo Penttilä is spending the period from 15th May until the end of September working as an instructor at Helsinki University's forestry field centre at Hyytälä.

Departmental news

Scholarship. Ilpo Tikkanen has been awarded a scholarship of 2 500 marks by the Society of Forestry in Finland for his research project on the forestry behaviour of non-farmer forest owners (Project no. 2.12 b). The Society has also given him a prize of 500 marks for his laudatur paper (for Bachelor of Forestry), which dealt with forestry promotion among farmers and non-farmer forest owners.

Multiple-use secretary. Jan Heino has been made secretary of the multiple-use section of a State working group formulating a future forest-policy programme. The working group includes representatives from the Finnish Forest Research Institute, Helsinki University, the National Board of Forestry, the Central Forestry Board Tapio, the Central Association of Finnish Woodworking Industries and the Central Association for Regional Planning.

Committee man. Veli-Pekka Järveläinen has been elected a member of the committee of the Society of Forestry in Finland.

Finnish Academy researchers. The National Research Council for Agriculture and Forestry, which is part of the Finnish Academy, has appointed Matti Palo to the position of a senior researcher, effective from the beginning of 1973, and Veli-Pekka Järveläinen as a junior researcher, beginning in June, 1972.

Ostrobothnian research. Michael Jones spent a week after Whitsun in Vaasa, where he was undertaking archive research and interviews in connection with his research into land tenure along the Ostrobothnian coast. He will be returning to Vaasa and the going on to Oulu for two weeks in June.

Future researcher? Marja Harmanen will be absent from the Department from 26th June on maternity leave. The project has general approval but so far no official number. Does this mean it has not been officially approved by the Board?

Summer. On 1st June, summer officially begins. From then until 31st August, the working day will end at 3.15 p.m. But remember - the lunch hour is also shortened, to 45 minutes.

Correction

It was inaccurately stated in the last number of the Newsletter that the Agricultural Economics Research Institute was part of the Agricultural Research Centre. The Institute is in fact a separate institution directly under the State.

What's so good about a tree?

"I still think," said a builder, "that it is good to save trees, but I don't understand why."

Dr. Abraham Kaplan, a philosopher, replied, "What is so good about it is that it is not experienced as the product of a design committee nor as the result of the efforts of an association of builders."

"31 minds explore the environment" - NAHB, 1965

Underground research

According to the official list, the Institute has a project numbered 523231 and entitled "Myyrätutkimus" or "Mole research". Is this the origin of last year's campaign to have a mole as the symbol of Helsinki's planned underground railway?

Newsletter distribution

This issue of the Newsletter has a distribution of 351. This consists of 40 for the Department, 50 sent to the rest of the Institute (including 6 sent out of Helsinki), 19 to Helsinki University, 77 elsewhere in Helsinki and 14 to the rest of Finland. The foreign mailing list numbers 156 and the area of distribution is shown on the map on the front cover. The U.S.A. tops the list of recipient countries with 50 copies. The U.K. receives 19, Sweden 17, Norway 14 and Canada 11. Other countries receiving 5 or more copies are West Germany (9), the U.S.S.R. (6) and Italy (5); 15 other countries receive from 1 to 4 copies each.

The axe falls

We regret to have to announce that this will be the last issue of our Newsletter. The Finnish Forest Research Institute, acting on instructions

from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, has ordered that the Newsletter cannot continue to be published using official time and money. The reasons, as far as we understand, are as follows: a single department within the Forest Research Institute should not take initiatives of this nature in public relations; the Newsletter contained too much "intimate" personal news; it cost too much to produce; and Finnish and Swedish are the only permitted official languages for the distribution of official information in Finland.

Since many of our readers have expressed a great deal of interest in the Newsletter and given it positive support, we feel that the Newsletter cannot come to an end without some explanation. At a meeting of the Department's personnel on 2nd May, 1972, it was decided that a final issue should be published to explain what has happened and to give the Newsletter a decent burial.

This issue of the Newsletter has been prepared and published by the personnel of the Forest Economics Department using their own free time. We owe special thanks to the Post Office Bank (Postipankki) for stencilling and mailing the Newsletter. The Department of Geography at Helsinki University kindly reduced the map for the front cover. The map was drawn by Maija Kuusijärvi.

Statement from the editors

Many of our readers may find it hard to understand what was so controversial and disturbing about our Newsletter to make the powers that be take the step, for all intents and purposes, of forbidding its publication. While there has been a certain amount of verbal criticism from certain quarters within the Institute and the Ministry, we have felt that this has been due to a lack of understanding of the purpose of the Newsletter. We would like to summarize, therefore, the history of the Newsletter, its aims and achievements, and attempt to answer the criticisms which have been raised. The 2 1/2-year-long history of the Newsletter falls into three phases. For the first year, it was primarily an internal news sheet for the Department, with a few issues being sent to people outside who had close contacts with

us. During the second year, the scope of the Newsletter was widened by the inclusion of short articles of topical interest, and the circulation was extended both within Finland and abroad. The positive response we had from recipients, particularly those abroad, encouraged us during the last nine months to expand the mailing list and to give the Newsletter a more international character by including contributions from other institutions undertaking research in forest economics.

The initial aim of the Newsletter was to give the Department's personnel practice in using and communicating in English. This was considered important since English is the international research language in literature, at conferences and in personal contacts. The Department has employed English-speaking researchers since 1968 to help promote the use of English in the Department, and the Newsletter was started in October, 1969, in conjunction with an English-language research colloquium, to further this object. The colloquium and Newsletter gave researchers the opportunity to speak and write English and to come into daily contact with English-speaking researchers. Besides announcing the colloquia, the Newsletter helped bring the members of the Department closer together by telling them what each other were doing there.

The second aim of the Newsletter was to spread information within Finland about what the Department was doing. At the same time, we hoped to spread news about the success of English-language activities in the Department, in the hope that others might be encouraged to follow our example.

The third aim was to promote international research contacts. The Newsletter was seen as a means of informing people in different countries with interests in the field of forest economics about what forest economists were doing in one of the world's leading forestry nations. It provided an exchange of research information and personal news, not only by including information about ourselves but also through contributions from abroad which helped to provide a two-way flow of ideas.

The criticism that our Department should not take initiatives of this nature in public relations is somewhat hard to understand. The Department has always sent out news about its activities by means of personal letters. The Newsletter provided a means of making the information more widespread and more frequent. It helped to solve the problem that most busy researchers have in keeping up to date with their correspondence. It should

also be borne in mind that the contacts of a subject such as forest economics are not necessarily the same as the contacts of the Forest Research Institute as a whole. Our Newsletter was never conceived of as a substitute to the Institute's news sheet, which is in Finnish only and inevitably different in character and interest in a large Institute such as ours. It is perhaps relevant to mention that the Forest Economics Department is larger than some institutes, for example the Agricultural Economics Research Institute.

The criticism that the Newsletter contained too much personal news is more serious. The editors, in fact, at first shared the view that, if the Newsletter's distribution was to be expanded, the Newsletter would have to change its character, and the amount of "intimate" news would have to be reduced (as in fact has happened to a certain extent). However, the reactions from abroad when the first few were tentatively sent out convinced us that this was not necessarily so. We heard that the personal news made the Department seem more "human" and that our Newsletter was one of the few that was read with interest from cover to cover. Not only did visitors to the Department, who knew some of the people here personally, react positively to the Newsletter, but others, too, told us that they enjoyed our "different" approach in trying to make the Newsletter enjoyable as well as informative.

In discussions with our Finnish colleagues, we have found that many (although not all) take the view that a person's home life should be kept strictly separate from his work life, and that our inclusion of personal news was in some way an invasion of people's privacy. This we fully accept if it is a question of including news without the agreement of the people concerned. However, our Newsletter was not a gossip sheet. The members of the Department have been quite willing to provide us with information about their activities outside their place of work.

The argument that official information should only be spread in the official languages of Finnish and Swedish cannot be taken seriously if it is remembered that the Newsletter was not solely for home consumption. English is generally accepted as an international language and is one of the main languages of research even within Finland. The Department has reacted favourably to using English as a medium of communication, and many researchers elsewhere in the Institute have taken a positive attitude.

The cost argument is essentially a matter of what one considers should be as a priority. The time-budget study indicated that the editors spent approximately two days each a month on the Newsletter; 28 hours at an average of 12 marks an hour equals 336 marks. Typing, stencilling and addressing envelopes might take a little over two days if one person was doing it: say 16 hours at 6 marks an hour, totalling 96 marks. Add 62 marks to this for the cost of stencils, paper and envelopes (mailing within Finland is free for State offices and the foreign distribution was by courtesy of the Post Office Bank), and we have a total cost per month of less than 500 marks (£ 50 or \$ 120). This does not take into account the hidden benefits of practice in typing and using English, nor the benefits of spreading information of a general nature which could otherwise only be done by writing numerous personal letters.

We regret that the Newsletter has aroused so much controversy; this certainly was not one of its aims. However, we are encouraged by the many positive written and verbal comments we have received from readers both in Finland and abroad. We would like to thank those who have communicated with us about the Newsletter. We hope that they and others of our readers will work with us to see that the international contacts which the Newsletter has helped to promote will continue without its assistance.

Tuomas Heiramo: Thanks for a job well done

Leuchtende Tage, nicht weinen dass sie vorbei,
sondern lächeln, dass sie einmal gewesen.

These German words have come to my mind when I have thought about the feelings of the staff of the Economics Department in recent days. The chain of events that have made us face this final issue of the Newsletter is as complicated as it is unpleasant. It is composed of misunderstanding, one-sidedness and lack of goodwill, coupled with feelings from which even envy has not been excluded. I believe that the final decision at the highest level to stop publishing the Newsletter for financial and other reasons has deeply touched everyone in the Department. Each depart-

ment in our Institute must look after its particular public-relations activities through efforts of its own. Now the genuine, popular and obviously effective PR channel of one department has been eliminated. Restrictive decisions of this kind cannot be expected develop positively the internal spirit of our Institute.

The style and contents of the Newsletter were no doubt often curious and unusual in respect of its anticipated role as an international information medium, so the opposition and criticism aroused by it are not essentially amazing. Outsiders could not easily understand the character and image of the paper as being the key to its success abroad and its basic source of vitality. Its familiarity will not and cannot be continued in the new official information bulletin which has been planned as the successor the the Newsletter at the institute level.

Feeling that I have not been able to affect enough in favour of the Newsletter, I want to express my personal sympathy to its friends and thank cordially the good and active editors for their valuable and unselfish work. I am convinced that the fine capabilities of the Department will in the near future find a new and successful means of filling the gap left by the Newsletter.

(Tuomas Heiramo is the information officer of the Finnish Forest Research Institute.)

Questionnaire

If you have found this Newsletter useful or of interest (or even if you have not), we would be most grateful if you would send back the following questionnaire. We hope your answers will assist those who are responsible for conducting our public relations in planning for the future on the basis of what people feel is most valuable in this field. (If you find certain questions rather strange, remember that this questionnaire is being sent to readers both in Finland and abroad.)

1. Do you feel that the Forest Economics Department Newsletter was worth the expenditure of time and money? Yes/No
2. Do you feel that the Newsletter contained too much personal news? Yes/No
3. Should the Newsletter have included more news about the rest of the Finnish Forest Research Institute? Yes/No
4. Would the Newsletter have been more valuable in Finnish or Swedish? Yes/No
5. Do you think that the Newsletter helped to promote international research contacts? Yes/No
6. Did you find the Newsletter entertaining and/or informative? Informative/Entertaining/Both/Neither
7. Was the Newsletter of any help in improving your knowledge of English? Yes/No
8. Would either of the following proposed alternatives to the Newsletter be useful to you? (If so, please ring the x in one or both cases.)
 - x An English-language newsletter published by the Finnish Forest Research Institute twice a year
 - x A Nordic Forest Economics Newsletter (embracing Finland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark) published perhaps 4 or 6 times a year
9. You may not wish to sign your name, but it would help us if you would state your country:
.....
10. Other comments

Please return to:

M. Jones & D. Cope, Forest Economics Department, Finnish Forest Research Institute, Kaisaniemenkatu 1, SF-00100 HELSINKI 10, Finland.