

# Loggers plan expansion of blockade to third site

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Of the NEWS Staff

ST. PAMPHILE, Quebec — A dozen American woodsmen Wednesday morning expanded their blockade to stop Canadian loggers from entering the northern Maine woods by blocking roads at St. Pamphile and also at Daaquam, Maine.

This morning, the blockade is expected to expand farther south to the Quebec border community of St. Juste, about an hour's drive south of Daaquam.

There were no disturbances at either site Wednesday nor have there been during two previous days of the blockade. State police have been monitoring both sites.

Canadian loggers aren't being

allowed to enter Maine, while American log trucks headed to Quebec mills aren't being allowed to enter the province. Hunters and other people are being allowed through, according to blockaders. Maine woodsmen are complaining they have been losing jobs to Canadian workers, who will work for lower wages. The woodsmen also are concerned about Maine

lumber being transported across to Canada for processing.

At St. Pamphile, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Wednesday morning impounded four American vehicles that were parked in a lot across the woods road from the Canadian Customs House. The four vehicles were owned by American truckers, who

*See Blockade, A9, Col. 1*

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# Loggers to extend blockade to third border crossing

**Blockade, from A1**  
were on their way to Canadian mills.

In an unrelated event, it was announced Wednesday that J.D. Irving Ltd. of Saint John, New Brunswick, which already owns large expanses of the northern Maine woods, purchased 1 million acres of land from Bowater Inc. Much of the land is located in Aroostook County.

Irving employs about 300 Mainers in the woods and at its Fort Kent sawmill operations. An Irving official said Wednesday the company's employment plans were no different from what it has done in the past at its Fort Kent operations.

Allagash lumberman Hilton Hafford, 48, who is leading the civil disobedience along the Maine-Canada border, said Wednesday, "We don't care who owns the land. All we want are jobs which allow us to get a fair rate of pay for our work. It does not matter to us who owns the land. We have been exploited by lumber companies for years. We want jobs to make a living."

Hafford led the crew of woodsmen blocking the road Wednesday at Daquann, about 40 miles south, through Canada, from St. Pamphile. He reported that Canadian workers and truckers "came to the border and left."

"We have been told some may be going to St. Juste, and we will look to blockade that road Thursday morning," Hafford promised late Wednesday afternoon.

The American woodsmen have

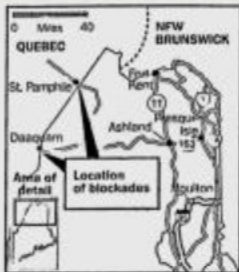
said they want Canadian bonded labor out of the Maine woods. State Rep. Duane Belanger has been negotiating for the woodsmen with federal agencies in Washington, D.C. They hope to get U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman to issue a work stoppage order to the commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization, which would close the border to the bonded Canadians.

A representative of the woodsmen met Tuesday with Belanger, U.S. Sen. Susan Collins, U.S. Rep. John Baldacci and several state officials to discuss the matter. The last time a similar work stoppage order was issued in support of Maine loggers was in 1974.

"While this action [the work stoppage order] was intended to assist during labor strikes, it also has a clause about American workers who are adversely affected by the use of alien labor," Belanger pointed out Wednesday. "No one in Washington is seeing that."

Belanger was not optimistic about the declaration from the start of negotiations, which began Monday. He said Baldacci was the only politician who was seeing the adverse effect bonded Canadians were having on American woodsmen.

"We have been getting more information on the work stoppage and laws contractors have to comply with," Baldacci said Wednesday afternoon. "We hope to have a good discussion with loggers on Friday."



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The congressman wouldn't divulge the information he has been gathering to take to the woodsmen Friday. Baldacci said he hopes other members of the congressional delegation and the Department of Labor will meet with the loggers in northern Maine.

"We want to see the labor laws complied with," Baldacci continued. "The issue is becoming a lot clearer, and I hope to see this resolved."

He pointed out that Stacey Kelly, the woodsmen's representative who met with him, "had a heartfelt message for us at Presque Isle on Tuesday. He has a family and two kids, and those are immediate concerns."

Belanger said he was told that federal Department of Labor officials weren't seriously contem-

plating the order until Belanger brought it to their attention Monday. Belanger had been told it would take at least 72 hours to look at the issue. As of Wednesday, he hadn't received any word on the work stoppage order.

"There is a strong argument for the adverse effect on wages," Belanger said Wednesday. "I will continue to push the woodsmen's request."

Belanger is running against former House Speaker John Martin in the Nov. 3 election. Answering allegations that Belanger's motivation for helping the loggers may be political, the state representative said, "The woodsmen are running this show. I had no input in the timing of this blockade."

"As a matter of fact, I was against a blockade, but I agreed to help them by being their spokesman," he said.

Belanger said he "knew this allegation would come up."

"The election was the furthest thing from my mind," he continued. "I've dealt with Hilton [Hafford] for several years now. I

really did expect this allegation to come up."

Late Wednesday, Hafford commented that "Duane [Belanger] is not politically motivated" in helping the Maine woodsmen.

"He has had nothing to do with calling the shots on this situation," Hafford said. "I was surprised when he agreed to come and talk for us, to explain our situation to the government. He has just been here to do this job to help us, his citizens."

Hafford said his supporters are being spread thin with more and more blockades going up.

"We will keep moving to push our point of view forward," the blockade leader said. "We will do what we have to do. Everyone is calm and that is the way we want it, cool and calm."

Woodsmen representative Stacey Kelly said Wednesday he was concerned that American truckers waiting to take their lumber to the Quebec mills would blame the blockaders for their vehicles being impounded Wednesday morning.

RCMP Constable W.G. Provencal confiscated the four vehicles and had them impounded at a local garage, while the vehicle owners planned to make arrangements to get their vehicles back. The owners could be made to pay up to \$250 Canadian to get the vehicles back.

"This had nothing to do with the blockade," Provencal said Wednesday at the Canadian Custom House at St. Pamphile. "The vehicles were parked on Canadian soil and are registered in Maine. The cars were unlocked, and the keys were in the ignition. They could be used for criminal activity in Canada."

The RCMP officer said the action wasn't the first time vehicles were confiscated this way.

Nelson Dubay of Fort Kent owns one of the confiscated vehicles. The others are owned by Herman Theriault, Leo Pelletier and Dave Pelletier, all of Fort Kent.

"The RCMP are not happy with us because of the blockade," Dubay said late Wednesday. "We left the vehicles there too long. We should have moved them on the weekend."

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