

of all research and development in the Department of Defense outside of basic research and outside of operational systems?

Secretary HITCH. I think it is very important, yes, sir.

Mr. FULTON. Did you know there has been a protest by General Lemnitzer that the Joint Chiefs of Staff were being by-passed in the making of such a directive without adequate consultation? And if you knew of that, when did you first hear about it?

Secretary HITCH. No, sir, I did not know. I first learned of the opposition to this directive when I read a draft of Mr. Gilpatric's testimony to this committee.

Mr. FULTON. So when you hear that General Lemnitzer as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff stated that the Joint Chiefs of Staff did not have a full opportunity to study the matter, which according to many had far-reaching military implications, you would then recommend to go slow on such a directive had you known that, would you?

Mr. BASS. Would you yield a moment?

Mr. FULTON. I would rather proceed with my questioning. You are on the other side of this.

Mr. BASS. I believe you are stating something that hasn't been brought out at all. I haven't heard evidence that General Lemnitzer complained that he was bypassed.

Mr. FULTON. At page 3857 of the Congressional Record, my colleague, Mr. Gerald Ford, Representative of Michigan, put in the Record: "The Truth is All-Important." And I would take his statements to be true, and I would put it, when he hears that that has been the case, what would he do. I am asking his judgment, "when he hears," not had he heard.

(The article referred to is as follows:)

[Congressional Record—House, p. 3857]

THE TRUTH IS ALL-IMPORTANT

(Mr. Ford asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, on March 12, 1961 the office of Assistant Secretary of Defense, Public Affairs issued the following statement:

"The report that General Lemnitzer has protested to Secretary McNamara that the Chiefs are being bypassed or edged out of crucial military decisions by the Kennedy administration is simply without foundation."

This statement was carried on Monday, March 13, in many of the newspapers and other news media of the United States and probably in many of the newspapers throughout the world. This statement was issued by the Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense, Public Affairs, because the public charge had been made previously that Gen. L. L. Lemnitzer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, had protested the transfer of control of space development to the Air Force.

The aforementioned statement issued by the Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense, Public Affairs, is, to say the least, a half truth. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs knew or should have known the facts and he should not now try to cover them up. General Lemnitzer as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs did submit a statement dated March 2, 1961, in opposition to the draft directive on assignment of space systems development. In General Lemnitzer's reply to the Department of Defense draft directive he stated that the Joint Chiefs did not have a full opportunity to study this matter which according to him has far-reaching military implications.

General Lemnitzer's reply or memorandum also strongly protested the Department of Defense draft directive on the basis that such a move would result in an overall loss of effectiveness through the failure to utilize the full potential of our total defense resources.