

The Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense, Public Affairs, by semantics is seeking to deny to the public the facts: facts the public is entitled to know. The release of Sunday, March 12, by the Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense Sylvester is a clearcut distortion.

This deliberate attempt to gloss over the true facts is difficult to understand when on Tuesday, March 14, Mr. Edward R. Murrow, the new director of the U.S. Information Agency, categorically stated the United States must tell the truth both to Americans and to the world. On this date Mr. Murrow lectured members of the Senate on complete frankness both at home and abroad. I suggest that this honorable approach be conveyed or transmitted to the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Public Affairs. He should follow the same guidelines in the future even though his office did not do so in this specific case.

Mr. BASS. My distinguished friend is a good lawyer, an able lawyer, and he knows this was not a statement of General Lemnitzer, it was what somebody else attributed to General Lemnitzer.

The CHAIRMAN. I don't see how we can serve a useful purpose in putting one Member against another.

General Lemnitzer will be available to testify and we ought to ask him what he said.

I have read the Record. I have a copy of it here. I know just what Mr. Ford put into the Record, but I would like to hear General Lemnitzer say what he had actually said.

Secretary HITCH. I don't know what General Lemnitzer said and I would like to see the whole of the statement before I answered the question.

Mr. FULTON. May I restate, sir, that we are clear that if you had heard that General Lemnitzer had stated that the Joint Chiefs of Staff did not have a full opportunity to study this matter, and that it has far-reaching military implications, then you would have wanted to wait and go slow on such a directive before it was put into effect, would you not?

Secretary HITCH. Well, sir; I would want to know more about the circumstances.

Mr. FULTON. And I admire you for your statement.

Secretary HITCH. And how long this would take, I don't know.

Mr. FULTON. The next question is this: If you had learned that the Joint Chiefs of Staff had felt that there would be an over-all loss of its effectiveness through the failure to utilize the full potential of our total defense resources, then you as the Comptroller would like to look into that, would you not?

Secretary HITCH. If there had been a corporate act by the Joint Chiefs to this effect?

Mr. FULTON. If they had individually felt, or jointly in a meeting, this, then if that had come to your attention you would like to look into that directive a little further, wouldn't you?

Secretary HITCH. Well, sir; if it were a corporate act of the Joint Chiefs, yes, I would certainly want to look into it further. But I have no evidence that there was any such act.

Mr. FULTON. Any individual acts you would like to look into, too?

Secretary HITCH. The individual acts of one of the Joint Chiefs? Not necessarily, no, sir.

Mr. FULTON. If each of the individuals or a majority of them felt such was the case and it had come to your attention, you would have asked for further time for consideration of the directive, would you not?