

Secretary HITCH. Not necessarily, no, sir.

Mr. FULTON. That is all.

The CHAIRMAN. Questions?

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Teague.

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Secretary, did you enjoy your illness?

Secretary HITCH. It came at a most inopportune time.

Mr. TEAGUE. We have a number of votes over here where I would thoroughly enjoy a case of pneumonia.

Secretary HITCH. They took very good care of me in Walter Reed.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Chenoweth.

Mr. CHENOWETH. I have been curious, Mr. Secretary, just what is the function of the Comptroller in the Department of Defense?

I am not quite sure in my mind whether you are consulted on all these matters of policy and operations in the Department of Defense. Is it your role to pass on them, give them your opinion, or are you confined more to the fiscal and economic aspects of the Department of Defense?

Secretary HITCH. If any such order has any important financial or fiscal implications, I would be consulted on it. My office would be consulted on it.

Mr. CHENOWETH. You are consulted solely on the fiscal impact?

Secretary HITCH. Yes, sir.

Mr. CHENOWETH. Not on whether it was good or bad or wise or unwise, or whether it is to the best interests of the Department, but solely on the fiscal applications?

Secretary HITCH. That is true as far as my role as Comptroller is concerned, yes, sir.

However, the Secretary does encourage each of the principal advisors to express his opinions freely, and I would certainly not be out of order if I expressed an opinion on such an order that was not entirely based on the fiscal implications.

I have a special responsibility to look at the fiscal implications and comment on that.

Mr. CHENOWETH. As I get the situation, the directive then was in direct opposition or violation of certain statements you made in this book that you had written.

Secretary HITCH. No, sir. I think I have explained that I do not consider it necessarily in opposition to the statements that I had made in the book.

Mr. CHENOWETH. Of course if they were, you would be in a very embarrassing situation, wouldn't you? Now to be a part of the team down there where the captain makes a decision, and you would be going in an opposite direction, and it would be an impossible situation.

Secretary HITCH. Fortunately, this book was written by two authors, and I can always maintain that when something is quoted against me, that particular paragraph was written by McKean.

Mr. CHENOWETH. This is all, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. I assume you have different colored type in your book for each one?

Secretary HITCH. If I had known that I was going to have this job, Mr. Chairman, I probably would not have written this book.

The CHAIRMAN. I want to commend the witness for a very candid statement.