

Mr. MILLER. Mr. Secretary, we are glad to have you there and you just keep that Irish up. We look to you and your namesake over here for protection.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Van Pelt.

Mr. VAN PELT. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Riehlman?

Mr. RIEHLMAN. I have one. In response to a question by the chairman, apparently you were not too happy with the decision. I wondered if, during the discussion with the Secretary of Defense, you had an alternative plan you offered to them.

Secretary CONNALLY. I certainly discussed with him the possibilities that rather than making an overall designation of responsibility, perhaps an alternative suggestion would be to allocate responsibility on a program by program basis.

Now, let me say this, when you talk about being happy or unhappy. I feel that I have a responsibility first to make whatever contributions I can to the overall defense efforts of this country. Secondly, I feel in the position of the Secretary of the Navy I must at all times pursue the course that I think will permit the Navy to make its greatest contributions in the performance of its missions. Now, there are times of course when I do not have all of the information that the Secretary of Defense has, so very frankly, I view my position as one at times of being a judge, as a part of the overall civilian defense team, and at other times as being an advocate for the Navy.

Now, I recognize the fact that I will not always be in possession of all the facts surrounding any particular program and I will express my opinion so long as I am there, sir. But beyond that I do not assume that I have all of the intelligence or all of the information and so when a decision is made by my superiors, I will do my utmost to carry it out.

Mr. RIEHLMAN. I was not here to hear you read your statement but I was just wondering if you could tell us briefly what you feel the mission of the Navy at the present time under the directive is.

Secretary CONNALLY. I do not think it materially altered any missions we have. In the first place, all of our existing programs, the existing assignment of responsibility with respect to programs was unchanged, was unaltered. We will continue to have those. We will continue to have the right to do preliminary basic research and when we develop something that we feel is of paramount importance to the Navy that would materially increase our capabilities then we certainly have the right to go to the Secretary of Defense and ask that we pursue that particular program, which all of the Services have to do anyway, and then once a program becomes operational, if its primary concern is toward the Navy missions, then I would anticipate and expect that the Navy be assigned the operational role of that particular program.

Mr. RIEHLMAN. One other question, Mr. Secretary. In view of this committee's interest, particularly in the development of the NASA program, is there anything you see in this directive that would alter your working agreements between NASA and the Navy?

Secretary CONNALLY. Not at all, sir. We are continuing to work with them daily and shall continue to do so.

Mr. RIEHLMAN. Suppose a specific program comes up that lies possibly outside of your jurisdiction as you see it today, you would then