

this order will have on the Navy's future in the research and development field?

Secretary CONNALLY. Within the limits of my knowledge and information, let me try to answer it this way, Mr. Congressman:

Prior to the issuance of this directive, previous Secretaries of Defense had assigned to the Air Force the responsibilities with respect to booster development and research and operations of boosters. Now, this—and I am going to ask Dr. Wakelin to interrupt me here if at any point I get off in the background of this—is that correct?

Secretary WAKELIN. That is right, sir.

Secretary CONNALLY. This directive certainly goes beyond that point. This directive says, in effect, the Air Force has not only the responsibilities for the boosters, as such, but for the payloads.

Mr. KARTH. Yes, sir, I understand the directive.

I would like to find out what your interpretation is of its effect, other than to say that you have the assurance of the Secretary of Defense that if you have a problem you would like to pursue, about all you have to do is to go to the Secretary of Defense and you are quite assured of approval.

Now, if that is the effect of the order, I don't see that it has changed anything from what we have had. But I have a feeling the order was issued for a purpose other than that.

Secretary CONNALLY. No.

Mr. KARTH. What effect do you think this directive will have on your research and development program, if any, and if it won't have any, in your opinion, I would like to have that answer.

Secretary CONNALLY. I think it certainly will have some effect.

Mr. KARTH. Yes, sir. And what will that be?

Secretary CONNALLY. In the first place, the mere assignment of the payload responsibility, in itself, is a tremendous effect. The development of the payload responsibility is of considerable consequence.

Mr. KARTH. Let me ask you this question, sir:

Will this, then, adversely affect your pursuance of objectives?

Secretary CONNALLY. I don't say it will adversely affect it. That I don't know. The directive has just been issued. We don't know what the application is going to be.

It does mean this: If in our research and development programs we conceive an idea and do the preliminary basic research on those ideas, if we then get to the point of development of procurement under those ideas, as the directive now stands, at that point in time the Air Force will take over the program. With respect to the development and procurement—

Mr. ANFUSO. Will the gentleman yield?

Secretary CONNALLY. —and only in unusual circumstances would we be permitted to engage in those activities, specifically the boosters, the payloads, the development, and the procurement, which are covered under this directive, and any research beyond the preliminary basic phase, that would go to the Air Force, so that the Navy as well as the Army are now in a position more clearly than ever—it is not alone a budgetary matter at this point—but we are more clearly in a position, if we want to pursue a particular concept, beyond the point of basic preliminary research, then we will have the burden of proof, so to speak, to show that this particular program, its develop-