

General LEMNITZER. Until March 2d I was busily engaged with my own staff in analyzing the problem and in preparing my recommendations and comments.

Mr. FULTON. So actually the directive to the Joint Chiefs was of not any importance because there was no consultation and no meeting held on it?

General LEMNITZER. As I indicated, the individual members of the Joint Chiefs were able to get their comments to their Secretaries. This frequently happens.

Mr. FULTON. Do you know the position of the other members of the Joint Chiefs, what they took in regard to this directive?

General LEMNITZER. No, I do not, because I have not seen the memorandum submitted by the other officials who were also requested to provide comments.

Mr. FULTON. Had you consulted prior to your taking a position with, for example, Lieutenant General Trudeau, the Army Research and Development, or with Vice Admiral Hayward of the Navy Research and Development?

General LEMNITZER. No, sir, I did not because I think that it would be quite improper for me to go down within the departments, and consult with their staffs on this matter. If I had consulted with anyone, I would have consulted with the respective Service Chiefs. I was, however, familiar with the views of the individual Chiefs on the subject of the directive.

Mr. FULTON. Were they unanimous?

General LEMNITZER. No, they were not.

Mr. FULTON. Who disagreed, if I might ask?

General LEMNITZER. I don't know the detail in which there was agreement or disagreement with the draft directive because I have not seen the other comments which were submitted, Mr. Fulton.

Mr. FULTON. Was there any meeting on March 6 of the Joint Chiefs with the Secretaries of the particular departments? Do you recall any such meeting?

There was a rumor on the grape vine that there was. I am just checking that.

General LEMNITZER. There may have been a meeting of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on March 6. There was not a meeting on this particular subject, and there was not a meeting of the Secretary with the Joint Chiefs upon this specific directive. If anyone has indicated that there was such a meeting, I am not aware of it. If someone would put me in touch with the individual who says that there was, I think we could quickly straighten this matter out.

Mr. FULTON. There is quite a grape vine that comes up to the Capitol.

General LEMNITZER. The grape vine is frequently wrong.

Mr. FULTON. It is one of the longest vines in the world.

The CHAIRMAN. Will the gentleman yield?

As I understand from you, the Joint Chiefs of Staff did not make any recommendation, as such, on this directive.

General LEMNITZER. With respect to this particular directive, that is correct. I understand that Secretary Gilpatric, in his testimony before this committee, confirmed that fact.

Mr. FULTON. I am amazed that they didn't. Because here is a directive that has effect on 9 percent of the space; the Air Force has 91 per-