

Secretary BELIEU. I am not too certain on that, sir.

Mr. HÉBERT. It affects the daily life of the individual. This is a morale factor.

Admiral Beardsley (nods).

Mr. HÉBERT. Now, if you are in doubt, probably I shouldn't pursue it, because you can't answer that question.

I just wondered in that particular area, has it shown that it is cheaper to contract out for laundry than to have it done in-house?

You don't know the answer, so we can't pursue it. But there is an example.

Now, these are some of the things that have an impact on the local community.

How about bakeries? What does the Navy do about bakeries? Is that contracted out?

Admiral BEARDSLEY. I think so—most of it.

Mr. HÉBERT. It is or it isn't.

Secretary BELIEU. I think most of it it, sir. But then, obviously, you need bakers aboard ship, too.

Mr. HÉBERT. That is right.

You see, these are the areas that we discuss. Then we talk in generalities and the overall picture as to the effect on the local economy, when in reality a close analysis, an intelligent analysis, would reveal that the cost in the ultimate is more to the Government in letting out because you don't have your trained personnel to keep up your own in-house capability.

Now, I admit that these things are things that are rather difficult to define. And yet, on the other hand, it spreads the question all over—

Secretary BELIEU. Yes. Take laundries, for example.

In the States, the costs being equal, I don't see any reason not to go out, because it doesn't in my mind impair our military effectiveness, as long as you get the service properly done.

Overseas, I have been in positions where you had to take your clothes right down to the creek near you and beat them out yourself if you wanted to get them washed. And it would have been fine to have a laundry unit there, after a period of 10 or 12 days in combat.

Aboard ship this is not necessarily the same problem, as it would be with the marines.

(The following was supplied by the Navy in reply to subcommittee inquiry:)

CODE 7211: POWER LAUNDRIES AND DRYCLEANING PLANTS

A total of 47 laundries and drycleaning activities were reported during the 60-2 survey program. While there are undoubtedly other activities of this nature, this total represents those functions which were reported as separate functions, rather than a component unit within a larger activity. For example, the survey made of the Naval Supply Center, Oakland, Calif., and the MARCORPS Supply Center, Barstow, Calif., included this type of activity as a component of the larger activity.

Of the 47 laundries and drycleaning activities evaluated, 32 were approved for continuance and 15 were discontinued. Continued operation by the Navy was justified on the basis of clear unfeasibility.