

My good Democratic friends are in control of the Congress, and I just plead with you to assume the leadership that has been dropped in the White House. Otherwise we are in for serious problems, but at least we might start to cope with them.

One specific thing, Senator, that is in your field of expertise. Yesterday I asked the Director of the Budget whether or not it wasn't true that the first part of the Vietnam war was financed to a degree out of use of pipeline and inventories. He agreed. Then I raised the question, what does that mean in terms of forward projections? Aren't we going to have to restock inventories afterward? I notice you emphasized this point.

Senator STENNIS. Yes.

Representative CURTIS. I just wanted to state I was glad you did emphasize it. It certainly is not emphasized in the presentation of the Administration. Not that Mr. Schultze disagreed, but he simply didn't emphasize it. Apparently he didn't think it was of consequence because he didn't have it in his preliminary paper.

Do you have an idea how much we might be talking of in terms of billions?

Senator STENNIS. No, I do not. I mentioned it because I know it is a fact, and that is more in the field that I have been working in. I think you correctly stated that this committee's overall problem is to get that entire overall picture, but I cannot answer your broad question.

While I would not know how to estimate it, it is not a small amount. I can't estimate how much it would cost to replenish those inventories, because some of it you wouldn't replenish. It would be outdated. In many cases, you would want more modern materiel, equipment, and weapons. But it would be a tremendous undertaking to replenish it. Perhaps we should be doing some of it now. But there has been a crash, as you know, for items required in the war so far.

Representative CURTIS. I see my time is up. I again want to thank and compliment you.

Senator STENNIS. Thank you, Congressman, for what you are doing, too.

Chairman PROXMIER. Thank you, Congressman Curtis.

Once again a Republican and member of the committee has been very gracious. Senator Percy has deferred to Senator Symington, who has to be at the same Foreign Relations Committee executive session as Senator Sparkman. Senator Symington.

Senator SYMINGTON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the courtesy of the Senator from Illinois.

I did want to come to hear our distinguished colleague from Mississippi, who, as you say, is one of the foremost authorities in this country, or any other country, on what is now going on in Vietnam.

I would congratulate the chairman on these hearings. They are most constructive both to the Congress and the people; and I commend my colleague for his frank and objective presentation this morning.