

I urge you to take time to see those pictures. Some of them were in the newspapers, though only a few I think. But you will really see what happened. Actually the President held it up 5 days and there wasn't any activity on the fifth day, because they had completed their planning. It was an amazing thing to see.

Senator SYMINGTON. I thank the chairman and I thank the able Senator from Illinois for his courtesy.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Senator Percy?

Senator PERCY. Senator Stennis, I want you to know that what you said in 1966 about the budget was given careful attention by many of us who had the responsibility of conducting responsible campaigns. As a matter of fact, it led me in St. Louis to indicate that I felt a tax increase was necessary last year.

Senator STENNIS. Yes.

Senator PERCY. That is not a very easy thing for a candidate to public office to say, but as a result of following your figures very closely I estimated the budget deficit would be about \$10 billion, as against the 1.8 forecast. Do you think a tax increase should have been enacted in 1966, based on your best judgment?

Senator STENNIS. Well, I didn't advocate it then, so my lips are buttoned up now on what should have been done in 1966. I certainly expect to support one in 1967, unless we should make economies in other programs that would make it unnecessary.

Senator PERCY. I think we will support you in the economies, but the other one is subject to some questions. If I interpret your comments correctly, our troop forces in the approved budget was, as of the end of calendar 1967, 448,000. If the increase of 60,000 would bring us to 500,000 what does that include, when you say troop forces? Does that include the Air Force and the Navy? What would be our total estimated military force commitment then in the Vietnamese situation by your estimate by yearend, calendar yearend this year?

Senator STENNIS. The question is a little long and I will not go back to the first part. When I said I thought that by the end of this calendar year we would have perhaps 500,000 men, I was talking then in terms of men on land in South Vietnam. That would not include the men on the sea, you see, in the ships, and those in other countries, such as Thailand.

We have considerable naval forces offshore, as you know. The number, I think, is about 45,000. I don't know whether the figures have been published about other countries in Southeast Asia. I believe they have for Thailand. Not being certain, however, I would rather not mention the figure.

Senator PERCY. Senator, is it your feeling that if we have to step up 60,000 men on the ground this year, part of it being for combat, part for the pacification program, that this job could be done just as well by Philippine, Malaysian, possibly even Japanese forces, rather than just American forces?