

went with us when we went in. Therefore, no one was directly obligated to stay with us. That is the way it is almost.

Senator PERCY. Thank you, Senator Stennis, very much.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Congressman Rumsfeld?

Representative RUMSFELD. Senator, you have heard comments from Senator Symington and Congressman Curtis and Chairman Proxmire about remarks that were made before this committee by the Director of the Budget, Mr. Schultze, and by Mr. Anthony. You on at least two occasions have considerably more accurately forecast the budget costs of the conflict in Vietnam than has the administration.

As I recall, Congressman Laird also made a statement on the floor of the House of Representatives highlighting your statement, adding some thoughts of his own on the fact that the administration was grossly underestimating the cost of the war in Vietnam.

I wonder how you can explain this. Why is it that you, Congressman Curtis who indicated he noticed the indicators changing, and Congressman Laird could considerably more accurately predict what the total costs are going to be than could the administration? Do you think they know what the costs are going to be, or is it that they don't know, and you in fact do, and Congressman Laird does? You were accurate.

Senator STENNIS. Well, I don't deserve any credit for the estimate I made. It was just an effort based on information I had to make the calculation.

Representative RUMSFELD. Was the same information available to the administration?

Senator STENNIS. Why of course, of course, and I called on them to make an estimate, because at that time I happened to be handling the appropriation bill, and was conducting hearings, and my fellow Senators were asking me how much was in the bill for the war.

Representative RUMSFELD. So they had the same information, and yet they refused to—

Senator STENNIS. Why of course. They had more information than I had. They were more capable of doing it than I was. It wasn't a question so much of them giving the wrong estimate. They just didn't give any estimate for the 2 years that you referred to, and the second year, that was covered by saying, well, they just figured it to June 30, 1967, and that was it.

Representative RUMSFELD. Did they excuse this on the basis of security, that they don't want to telegraph to the world what their anticipated efforts are going to be?

Senator STENNIS. Well, I don't know. You know as much about that as I do. I am not here to pass on the other fellow. I was just trying to give you the benefit of what little I know, and have seen, and you are going to have to make a judgment on that, gentlemen.

Representative RUMSFELD. The problem is, of course, as you indicated, for the Joint Economic Committee, and for the Members of both Houses, to try to look at the broad picture.