

Senator STENNIS. You are right.

Representative RUMSFELD. With respect to the budget.

Senator STENNIS. That is correct.

Representative RUMSFELD. And try to make some judgments as we proceed.

Senator STENNIS. Yes.

Representative RUMSFELD. Using the best information we can find. It seems there is a pattern here over a period of 2 years.

Senator STENNIS. Yes.

Representative RUMSFELD. And I am pleased to see you indicate that this is at least a tighter budget.

Senator STENNIS. Yes.

Representative RUMSFELD. I assume by that you mean more accurate.

Senator STENNIS. Yes, a more accurate budget.

Representative RUMSFELD. You would guess then that the margin for error is going to be less than it was in the past 2 years.

Senator STENNIS. Oh, yes. I don't think there is any doubt about that.

Representative RUMSFELD. Given the anticipated project buildup.

Senator STENNIS. That is right, the anticipated level of operations. There is no doubt about it being much more accurate.

Representative RUMSFELD. How long can we go without figuring into the budget the replacement costs for the drawdowns on such things as the Atlantic Fleet and other military units around the world outside of Southeast Asia, from a military standpoint? I think this will give us information on future budgets.

Senator STENNIS. That is correct. I am hardly in a position to say how long we can go. I would have to have a list of the items before me, the major items at least, and get some kind of an evaluation by military men that would give better guidelines.

I know that those things have been happening in a large way from time to time, and they can't continue forever, and it is running into money. There are some replacements I am sure, but nothing like full replacement.

Representative RUMSFELD. You indicated that you didn't care to estimate the costs of these drawdowns that have not yet been replaced.

Senator STENNIS. Yes.

Representative RUMSFELD. Because you recognize, as all of us of course do, that some of the things will not be replaced.

Senator STENNIS. Yes.

Representative RUMSFELD. Excluding that category of items that wouldn't be replaced, can you give us an estimate of the drawdowns, assuming they were all to be replaced?

Senator STENNIS. Gentlemen, it is such a relative matter as to what should be replaced and how much should be replaced, in view of modern conditions, that I would hurt the cause, I think, if I tried to give an estimate in dollars. I am not informed enough to do it this