

membership of this group that I think is making a real contribution. Something has got to be done, and it is the congressional assertion of responsibility which is needed, as I see it. We have got to do more of it.

Congressman CURTIS, may I just say this. The level there of expenditures that you gave, did that figure for \$7.3 billion over the budget—I believe Congressman Brock used that figure——

Representative CURTIS. I think what he was doing was taking your expenditure figure.

Senator STENNIS. Oh, yes.

Representative CURTIS. Of \$7.3 billion plus and then projecting out the expenditure figure at a level of \$6.7 billion times 12 gives us \$80.4 billion.

Senator STENNIS. Yes.

Representative CURTIS. And that is where the \$7 billion comes from.

Representative BROCK. That is correct.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Is there a word of caution in order here? It is very hard to take a 1-month figure.

Senator STENNIS. Yes.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Or a 2-month figure, and then multiply it by 6.

Senator STENNIS. Yes.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Because there are seasonal aspects to it.

Senator STENNIS. Yes.

Representative CURTIS. Let me comment on that. I considered that when I took this monthly figure in September 1965. Of course this might be so, but the interesting thing is that Government expenditures really have no seasonal aspect, month by month, except the month of June.

Senator STENNIS. Yes.

Representative CURTIS. Right before that magic date you see something happen. This was quite interesting and, of course, this was the answer of the administration, but it turned out that that expenditure level was quite accurate.

I did the same thing in October last year, when the President sent up the suspension of the investment credit.

Senator STENNIS. Yes.

Representative CURTIS. I described again the way I look at these expenditure figures, and project them forward, and again they argued that the monthly figure had to be treated with caution.

Indeed it does. But I would observe that going back several years, there seems to be no pattern of seasonality in monthly expenditures. The real pattern is what we are going to see, and I think very clearly.

This has been escalation. The President hasn't told us this. This has actually occurred. We are now reading a figure that indicates what happened say about a month and a half ago.

Senator STENNIS. Yes. Well, I think your remarks are very timely, but, if there is no stepup in the manpower, I wouldn't want to say that I believe now that there is going to be a \$7.3 billion figure over the budget militarywise, although I believe the budget is very tight and it will run over some.

When you escalate the war, as you said, you are going to escalate the cost and it could very well run 7.3, even without putting any more