

committee. My understanding, however, is that the Ackley committee is only beginning its work and that it probably——

Chairman PROXMIRE. That is the difficulty, yes.

Mr. ALEXANDER. It will probably take some months before they actually have contingency plans.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Let's understand, that is why we did not press him. He preferred, I am sure, until he had more information before he came before the committee, and for that reason we are waiting until late August or September to ask him to come before us.

But you see, we are very concerned about what may happen. We should be prepared for every possible eventuality. What you are telling us, however, is that the Ackley committee itself is beginning and it will be some time before they would have very useful recommendations?

Mr. ALEXANDER. That is my understanding, sir.

May I make one other comment on that point?

Chairman PROXMIRE. Yes.

Mr. ALEXANDER. If there is a cease-fire for reasons referred to by Senator Stennis and by the Secretary of Defense, there would be some appreciable period, I think before the reductions which will occur, take place. So that I think, I trust, there will be time to prepare these contingency plans.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Yes and no. There is a tremendous difference between having a shooting war going on with all of the attrition of equipment, with the use of ammunition, with the fact that we have 500,000 troops there. We may have to have a force there perhaps for some time to help protect Vietnam, though it is debatable. But how big a force? It certainly wouldn't be 500,000 troops. It could be 300,000. It could be 100,000. It could be far less than it is now.

After each war in the past, whether rightly or wrongly, certainly after Korea, especially after World War II, there was an extraordinarily rapid reduction in Government purchases of goods and services. We brought that out yesterday on a statistical basis, and in 1 year after World War II, it was cut to one-third of what it had been.

The economic impact was dramatic and sudden. The Korean war was quite sudden too. While I think that Senator Stennis might be right, he may not be right about whether or not we have substantial troops over there. But still it would seem to me that we might have a sudden, swift economic impact, although I think you are right to caution us that it might not be as swift as it has been in the past.

I would like to ask you in your "Measurement of Impact," you say that the census has been done in 1963, and within a relatively short time, 1965 will have been covered covering a period from when the buildup was begun. It seems to me this would be very helpful, if this was brought up to date, to 1967. How long is that likely to take?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Sir, that is perhaps based on the calendar year 1966 or calendar year 1967?

Chairman PROXMIRE. Yes.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Based on calendar year 1967?

Chairman PROXMIRE. Well, yes, I presume so. I see your problem. Calendar year 1966.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Sir, usually there has been a timelag of the order of 2 years in the preparation of these, because of the fact that the