

Mr. ALEXANDER. No, sir, it is not.

Representative CURTIS. Well, of course, I have been very disappointed. When I interrogated Secretary Wirtz this year about what that Board was doing, if I understood him correctly, he said that they had made no major changes or evaluations since 1963. In other words, as far as utilization of skills is concerned, the Vietnam war might as well have not occurred. That commission apparently has not changed its views. Yet it is right at the heart of what I think your prepared statement is discussing.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Would you like to respond to that?

Mr. ALEXANDER. If I may respond.

Representative CURTIS. Sure. Please do at any point here.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Without arguing whether we ought to be represented on such a commission, I believe that they are familiar with the research on manpower problems that we have had done.

Representative CURTIS. Yes. Just referring to some specifics, referring to the section in your statement "Impact on industries"—your studies on the reduced defense demand for electronics, shipbuilding, and machine tools. I am putting in a plug. I think textiles would be a very good industry to study. It was heated up by the Vietnam demand, and is, as I understand it, in some economic difficulties right now. This would possibly be a good area to study. I would like to see something on that myself.

Now, in talking about the impact on employees, Secretary McNamara, in testifying before this committee last year and again in the testimony of the Defense Department this year, discussed some of the programs that the Defense Department has when military operations and bases are closed down. Have you all been involved in that?

Of course, I think you have responded by saying you know about them and know what they have done. But have you been involved in any way in the planning of the adjustment features, when those bases have been closed down?

Mr. ALEXANDER. No, sir. We have not. We are involved in making a study more precise than any that has yet been made of what does happen to the people in the surrounding community, but with respect to existing policies, we have not been involved.

Representative CURTIS. They are actually doing this, or did do it. Decatur, Ill., is one where there was a big closedown. That is even better than a study, to be actually involved.

One other point. You emphasized two studies dealing with the transferability of skills from defense to civilian-oriented production. I am deeply concerned about this. Some studies indicate that the correlation between skills needed by the military and skills in the civilian sector is over 80 percent today.

I, myself, think it is higher than that. I think it is most important, both from the standpoint of deescalating as far as skills are concerned, and in escalating the war and the further use of skills. I am glad to see those two studies.

You say, "We shall have to plan"—talking about the country in this instance—"our economic moves so as to be prepared for both increases and for decreases in defense spending."

This is the point I directed Mr. Schultze, the Director of the Budget, yesterday, and others. I would agree that your agency probably has