

Mr. WEIDENBAUM. That is right.

Chairman PROXMIRE. For instance, this doesn't include the manpower information which you suggested.

Mr. WEIDENBAUM. Or the data on the industry side, the defense industry side, the contracts, the backlogs, inventories. I think the two recommendations are certainly consistent.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Let me ask you this. You say this would be a very long table. How many tables would this amount to if it were comparable to the economic indicators? Seven or eight tables?

Mr. WEIDENBAUM. I really haven't sat down to design it, but say, six to 10 pages.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Six to 10 pages?

Mr. WEIDENBAUM. That should do it.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Now, is this information available now to the Defense Department?

Mr. WEIDENBAUM. Yes, sir. All of this information is released, but not on a regular basis, and often it is buried in a variety of either operational reports or other statistical releases of the Department of Commerce or the Department of Defense, but it is not put together in any one single place, and it is not released in a regular fashion.

Chairman PROXMIRE. How big a job would it be, how big a staff would it take, to do this job, and how many hours would they have to work? Could two competent men do this, in your judgment, or would it be a matter of 10 or 20?

Mr. WEIDENBAUM. I think much more of two than of 10 or 20. I also think, though, what it really would take is official policy that the data would be made available.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Can you think of any reason at all why the availability of this data wouldn't serve the national interest and the interests of the President and the Congress?

Mr. WEIDENBAUM. I could think only of positive reasons why this data would foster intelligent public policy action.

Chairman PROXMIRE. There is nothing that is classified.

Mr. WEIDENBAUM. Not at all.

Chairman PROXMIRE. It is all disclosed.

Mr. WEIDENBAUM. Yes, sir.

Chairman PROXMIRE. But it is not pulled together and it is not regularly recorded.

Mr. WEIDENBAUM. That is right.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Do you know of any request for this kind of information that has been denied or turned down?

Mr. WEIDENBAUM. There have been many recommendations, including recommendations by economists testifying before this committee for this kind of information. There have been reports of this committee which recommended not an identical set of data, but many of these data. The point on the inventories of Government producers, suppliers, this recommendation appeared in a report submitted to the Joint Economic Committee, as I recall, in the early fifties. There is a long history behind this.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Well, I will tell you this. In view of your particular knowledge, would you work with the staff of this committee for the purposes of composing a memorandum on which you would specify the case for securing this information?