

Not only what we want, but the reasons why this information is so vital and necessary for sensible judgments in our economy, so that businessmen could have it, so that economists throughout the economy could have it, so that the Members of Congress could have it, and so forth.

Mr. WEIDENBAUM. I would be pleased to, Senator.

Chairman PROXMIRE. That would be wonderful. That would be very helpful. Now, I would like to ask you to give me your interpretation and your estimates and analysis of the testimony which we had yesterday from an extraordinarily able man, Senator John Stennis of Mississippi, who as you know is chairman of the Preparedness Subcommittee and very well informed, and twice he has hit right on the nose the spending which the Federal Government has had, and has disagreed sharply with the administration; but he has been right and they have been wrong.

Yesterday, he indicated that the assumptions on which the administration had posited its budget failed to take into account an escalation which he felt was very likely, up to 500,000 men by the end of this calendar year, which would be the middle of the coming fiscal year.

He thinks they are short, apparently, about 50,000 men. He did not say that, but he said if they are short 50,000 men, the cost of these additional 50,000 men would be, in his judgment, \$4 to \$6 billion for all the factors that are involved.

Now, Robert Anthony, the Assistant Secretary of Defense, testifying the day before, said that in his judgment the cost of one soldier in Vietnam is \$30,000. Of course, Senator Stennis was basing his estimate on a different assumption. He was including the cost of training, the cost of transporting, as well as the cost of maintaining, supporting, and supplying men in Vietnam.

Would you feel that the assumption that 50,000 additional troops in Vietnam would probably require \$4 to \$6 billion—do you think that may be a fairly reasonable estimate?

Mr. WEIDENBAUM. If you can just wait a moment—

Chairman PROXMIRE. You go ahead, take your time.

Mr. WEIDENBAUM. With my hand calculator, 50,000 men at \$4 billion?

Chairman PROXMIRE. Four to six. Yes, I think the mid-figure would be five, give or take a billion.

Mr. WEIDENBAUM. I claim no expertise of precision of per man costs of the Vietnam war, but under the assumption—and this has been stated by a number of observers, that on the average there is one man in logistical support for each man in Vietnam, which would mean for a 50,000 buildup directly in Vietnam, we are talking about a total increase in the Armed Forces of 100,000 men—it strikes me that the Senator may be toward the high end of the range.

Mr. Anothony may be at the very low end of the range, but I think the average would be closer to the Senator's estimate. I have a great respect for someone whose forecasts have been as accurate as Mr. Stennis.

Chairman PROXMIRE. You indicate that one of the big troubles, and we of course agree with you wholeheartedly, has been the uncertainty