

Representative CURTIS. Thank you very much.

Chairman PROXMIER. Are there any other questions? Congressman Mathias?

CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES

Representative MATHIAS. Mr. Chairman, if I may comment further on Mr. Curtis' line of thinking, I think we ought to give credit where credit is due. The Comptroller General issued a very full and complete report on the Naval Academy Dairy Farm which confirms my feeling on it. Then Secretary Nitze went forward and took the necessary steps within the Department of the Navy to do what ought be done. I am afraid that the slowdown is not due to either the Comptroller General or to the Department of the Navy, but the root of the problem today will be found in the report of the special subcommittee on the proposed disposal of the U.S. Naval Academy Dairy Farm published by the Committee on Armed Services. So, we ourselves have a little self-discipline to do in the Congress.

Representative CURTIS. Is that the House Armed Services Committee?

Representative MATHIAS. Yes, sir.

Representative CURTIS. Is this where they claim they cannot get rid of any of these things without referring it back to the Armed Services Committee?

Representative MATHIAS. Well, the final conclusion and recommendation was that no disposal proceedings be instituted by the Secretary of the Navy.

Representative CURTIS. I think there is a law, is there not, to the effect that certain dispositions of properties by the military must be referred to the Armed Services Committee of the House and the Senate; am I correct? Does anyone know?

Mr. STAATS. Yes, this is correct. A report must be made to the committee 30 days prior to action being taken, if the estimated value is more than \$50,000. I believe, however, that that may not be the specific problem in this particular case.

Representative MATHIAS. I know the law you are referring to which holds that before property goes to surplus for ordinary surplus disposal the services have a last crack at it, and the committee has a last crack at it.

But the problem here, before you even get to the disposal of the real estate, is the shutting down of the farm, which is a purely executive function, which is—

Representative RUMSFELD. Is the gentleman saying the approval has to be made by the committee or by the House and Senate?

Representative CURTIS. Regrettably the way that law was written it said the committees of the House Armed Services Committee.

Representative RUMSFELD. Is that a violation of the rules of the House?

Representative CURTIS. Not when we go ahead and pass a law. But we run into that in my own Committee on Ways and Means frequently, where I have insisted that it not be the Ways and Means Committee, but that it be the House of Representatives. I know Speaker Rayburn was quite jealous that it be the House and not a committee. You are right in saying there needs to be some self-discipline because some