

There are times in a Nation's life when its armies must be equipped and fielded, and the Nation's business must still go on. For America that time is now.

The Nation's unfinished agenda here at home must be pursued as well. The poor must be lifted from the prisons of poverty, cities must be made safe and livable, sick and undernourished bodies must be restored, our air and water must be kept clean, and every hour of our future must see new opportunities unfold.

This, then, is the story behind the facts and forecasts, and the recommendations I submit today.

Last January I told the Nation:

"I wish I could report to you that the conflict in Vietnam is almost over. This I cannot do. We face more cost, more loss, and more agony. For the end is not yet. I cannot promise that it will come this year—or come next year. Our adversary still believes, I think tonight, that he can go on fighting longer than we can, and longer than we and our allies will be prepared to stand up and resist.

"Our men in that area—there are nearly 500,000 now—have borne well the 'burden and the heat of the day.' Their efforts have deprived the Communist enemy of the victory that he sought and that he expected a year ago. We have steadily frustrated his main forces. General Westmoreland reports that the enemy can no longer succeed on the battlefield.

"I must say to you that our pressure must be sustained—and will be sustained—until he realizes that the war he started is costing him more than he can ever gain.

"I know of no strategy more likely to attain that end than the strategy of 'accumulating slowly, but inexorably, every kind of material resource'—of 'laboriously teaching troops the very elements of their trade.' That, and patience—and I mean a great deal of patience."

Those words are even more true today.

The test before us as a people is not whether our commitments match our will and our courage; but whether we have the will and the courage to match our commitments.

I urge the Congress to respond to the fiscal challenge that faces the Nation. I hope that in the National interest you will act promptly and favorably upon these recommendations.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, August 3, 1967.

[PRESS RELEASE, THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1967]

CHAIRMAN WILBUR D. MILLS (D., ARK.), COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, ANNOUNCES PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PRESIDENT'S TAX PROPOSALS

Chairman Wilbur D. Mills (D., Ark.), Committee on Ways and Means, today announced that public hearings on the President's tax proposals would begin on Monday, August 14, 1967. The details of the President's proposals are contained in his Message which he transmitted to the Congress today. Copies of this Message will be available in print at the Committee Office, Room 1102 Longworth House Office Building, Friday morning, August 4, and will be mailed to all persons requesting to be heard.

Lead-Off Witnesses.—Chairman Mills stated that the first witnesses to appear at the hearings, which will begin on Monday, August 14, will be Secretary of the Treasury Henry H. Fowler and Budget Director Charles L. Schultze, and possibly other Government witnesses. The hearings will continue on Tuesday, August 15, and then will be suspended for two days, Wednesday and Thursday August 16 and 17. The hearing will resume on Friday, August 18. It is hoped the Government testimony will be completed by that date and that public witnesses can begin on Monday, August 21.

Cut-Off Date for Requests to be Heard.—The cut-off date for requests to be heard is not later than the close of business Tuesday, August 15. The requests should be submitted to Leo H. Irwin, Chief Counsel, Committee on Ways and Means, 1102 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Witnesses will be advised as promptly as possible after the cut-off date as to when they have been scheduled to appear.

Time Allotted for Hearing.—The limited time available requires that all persons and organizations with the same general interest designate one spokesman to represent them so as to conserve the time of the Committee and the other