world except Guatemala and El Salvador, and one other country that I can't recall offhand.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Secretary, we have to be better because we are the world's banker.

Secretary FOWLER. Of course.

Mr. CURTIS. And if we go down, the whole system of international exchange goes down, so I don't think this is a way of dismissing these criticisms that are directed by responsible, not irresponsible, people.

I again say I hope that we are not in this kind of position. I note that just the other day, and this is news media terminology, responsible people in Great Britain are now talking about devaluing the pound, and certainly the dollar is very closely allied with the pound. But let me come to specifics.

I started my remarks by saying I was sorry we lacked more and better rhetoric on the dangers involved in the deficit in international payments, comparable to the rhetoric on the dangers that come from high interest rates and inflation. But this administration has done nothing about foreign expenditures, governmental expenditures abroad.

Even with the Vietnam war commitment we are spending abroad in the area of foreign aid, in the area of development loan funds, and just the other day the administration reiterated its policy of substantial military commitments in Western Europe.

Secretary FOWLER. Mr. Curtis, I can't accept the statement, and I don't think that we wanted to take the time to go into it—we did it here just a couple of months ago in connection with the interest equalization tax. There has been a great deal done. There has been a great deal of effort exerted in this area with some results, not as much as I would like to see, insofar, as our balance of payments is concerned. I will just refer to the statements that were made here in some detail on the interest equalization tax.

Mr. CURTIS. On these things, Mr. Secretary, I am going to get the record on domestic expenditures. We are not interested, or I am not, in words and rhetoric. I can read the figures and the figures demonstrate quite clearly to me the administration has done nothing; quite the contrary, it has continued to increase our commitments in foreign aid, and I am including development loan funds, Public Law 480 funds, and military funds. Although you yourself recognize that our commitments have gone up in Vietnam, yet there has been no compensating cutback by the administration in these other programs.

I am not talking about words. I am talking about dollars.

Secretary FOWLER. Mr. Curtis, perhaps we could leave it this way: That you and I will both agree with all of our hearts and minds that the balance of payments is a serious problem and that is why, among other reasons, we need a tax increase and that is we are here. And I hope that given the emphasis you have been giving to the seriousness of the problem, to the concerns that are voiced in various, as you call them, responsible quarters we can agree on this. I am concerned about the balance-of-payments problem, and one of the primary reasons for this tax increase is to avoid a deterioration in our trade situation and to keep us on the course that we have resumed since last fall of having that trade surplus expand.