

here at the table that these taxes last for a definite period of time up to June 30, 1969, or the end of hostilities, whichever comes earlier? Is that what you are saying?

Mr. SURREY. Earlier or later I guess.

The CHAIRMAN. I thought that is what the President had said in his message.

Mr. SURREY. I think the President said that this should be for a definite period of time to June 1969.

Now if Vietnam hostilities cease earlier or later, the 1969 date would have to be reexamined in the light of the situation with respect to Vietnam.

The CHAIRMAN. Are you just getting us in a position in the Ways and Means Committee to have more legislative responsibility here by putting this termination date in anyway?

We stopped having to extend all these taxes on an annual basis which we went through for a long time. Can we make it December 31, when Congress won't be in session and be certain then that it is temporary?

Mr. SURREY. I am not sure whether that would buy absolute certainty.

The CHAIRMAN. You are not?

Mr. SURREY. No.

The CHAIRMAN. You evidently look at it something like I do. There is no such thing as a temporary tax.

Mr. SURREY. There is no such thing as absolute certainty.

The CHAIRMAN. I think that covers the questions I had in mind.

Do you have any questions, Mr. Conable?

Mr. CONABLE. No. I just want to say one of the difficulties with having a contingent termination date is that it would be very difficult to determine when an undeclared war involving several parties actually ends.

We would be in trouble if we simply said the termination of this war without having a definite date.

The CHAIRMAN. I know from the information that has gone out it might not last as long as this date, that this tax might terminate earlier. That is the impression I got.

Maybe I am the only one that did.

Mr. SCHULTZE. The nearest thing I know to a kind of specific statement on that was in the state of the Union message with respect to the 6-percent when the President stated—

The CHAIRMAN. You mean I am that far behind?

Mr. SCHULTZE. That is right.

He explicitly said:

I will promptly recommend an earlier termination date if reduction in these (unusual Vietnam) expenditures permit it.