

Mr. SCHULTZE. It is primarily a matter of a fiscal policy shaped for a given stable growth with low unemployment. That is right, yes.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Now I would like to say something about the decisionmaking process, too. If you had come in last year at any period during the year, with anything other than an absolute firm statement as to what the deficit would have been or is going to be, would you not in your opinion have been then forced to say you needed a tax increase, because of a buoyant economy, because we can afford a tax increase, or we should have to prevent inflation?

Mr. SCHULTZE. I am not sure how to answer that. Let me try.

The first thing that scares me a little bit about the question is after the last 4 days, which I believe you, Mr. Curtis, can attest to, if we had come in with an appropriation request not based upon firm requirements, on the basis of that 4 days' experience I hesitate to think what condition a number of us would have been in.

Representative GRIFFITHS. This is exactly right.

Mr. SCHULTZE. What the fiscal policy requirements would have been then, I can't even try to tell you, because I am not sure. I would have to go back and look at the whole thing.

Representative GRIFFITHS. But the real answer is that a large part of the decisionmaking process rested within this body. If you had come in and said that these are firm estimates, you would have probably been told, "Well, you can't prove it." If you had said they are anything but firm estimates, and we needed a tax increase, you certainly could not have anticipated getting it.

Mr. SCHULTZE. I think that is right.

Representative GRIFFITHS. And you are in grave danger this year of not getting a tax increase, no matter what you say, and no matter how you say it. So while we are putting you through the hoops, and taking you over the coals, for what you are doing, it is time, in my judgment, that the Congress of the United States, which would like now to say "Ah, last year was the year to have had a tax increase; this year we must wait," to think back on its own attitude at that time. Last year was not a year that you could get a tax increase, either. I know some of the recommendations and thinking current then.

I think we, Congress, should step up and take our full share of the responsibility for all of these decisions, and I am sure that if you would have come in with anything less than absolute statements, you would have been laughed off the Hill. I think you have done a very good job, Mr. Schultze.

Chairman PROXMIRE. The next questioner will be Congressman Curtis.

Representative CURTIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad to see Mr. Schultze here in a different arena.

Mr. SCHULTZE. Welcome back, Mr. Curtis.

Mr. SCHULTZE. Is that a paraphrase of a better known quote? Will get a chance to get a word in edgewise.

Mr. SCHULTZE. Is that a paraphrase of a better known quote?

Representative CURTIS. You know, listening to this maybe others since the Democratic Party controls the Executive and—

Representative REUSS. What party?