

boys, send them out to fight and take the chance of losing their lives, when a large company making profits in the hundreds of millions of dollars can't see its way clear to devote a very small percentage of its effort to help build a ship which is important to the defense of the United States.

In short, Admiral, I want you to give us your frank observations and recommendations on what you think the Government needs to do to insure it is receiving a dollar's value for a dollar spent. Please feel free to discuss whatever you think should be brought to our attention.

In the past, you have always responded to questions from Members of Congress in a frank and forthright manner, expressing your views without fear or favor. It is most refreshing to have a witness who does not reply with cryptic statements or nonresponsive oversimplifications.

We realize, of course, that witnesses from the executive branch are required to support the programs approved by higher authority in the Government, but when requested by the committee for their own personal views it is permissible for witnesses and officials to give us their personal views. I am therefore asking you for your personal views on the matters we will discuss today. We hope you will feel completely free to express your views regardless of what they may be and regardless of how they may fit into the views of others.

I know your presence here today takes you away from your primary responsibility of directing the naval nuclear propulsion program and we appreciate the time you are devoting to these matters.

In this general context I welcome you before this committee. I understand you have no prepared statement so I suggest we might begin by you responding to my opening remarks, and then I have some questions I would like to ask you, and other members of the committee will also want to interrogate you.

Now, Admiral Rickover, if you are prepared to start, any way you desire, I am quite sure the committee will be glad to go along with your desire.

STATEMENT OF VICE ADM. H. G. RICKOVER, U.S. NAVY, ACCOMPANIED BY M. C. GREER

BASIS FOR TESTIMONY

Admiral Rickover. Mr. Chairman, first I must say how deeply I appreciate appearing before your committee.

I am sure you know the deep respect I feel for Congress because Congress is the representative of the people. You are the ones who express the people's will. The officials in the executive branch have all been appointed; they have no constituency. They do not have to run for office periodically. So when I talk to you, I feel that through you I am talking to the people of the United States.

The views I express today are my own. I have no personal aspirations. I can get no higher in the Navy or anywhere else in Government. In some of my remarks, I may express views contrary to those of my superiors in the Navy and in the Department of Defense. You are aware there are basic differences in our opinions. I must make it clear that I claim no superior wisdom. Furthermore, my superiors have responsibilities and problems different and more onerous than mine. These responsibilities and problems may require different solutions than I propose. I make no claim that my views are right and theirs are wrong.