

It may be that in this rapidly spiraling scientific and technological age this is the best way to marshal our resources, both for our national security and for optimum economic use of manpower and resources. If this is so, a great responsibility rests on the Congress and on the executive branch to see to it that these giant organizations do not become, in effect, a fourth branch of government—a fourth branch, but without corresponding legal responsibilities.

For this reason the Congress must constantly bear in mind the growing autonomy of the Federal bureaucracy, the increasing lack of control by the Congress, and of the bureaucracy's tendency to make accommodations with industrial corporations. If this is not checked or controlled, we will, in effect have a fourth branch of government, with men exerting power without political responsibility.

Mr. BARRETT. Admiral, I just want to digress here. I started to give you the title of general in my admiration for you.

Admiral RICKOVER. I am indeed honored to be joined to my "brother service." Perhaps I should say "sister service" in honor of my shipmate, the charming and beautiful member of this committee at your right, Congresswoman Leonor Sullivan.

Shortly after the *Nautilus* was commissioned, I had the pleasure of accompanying Congresswoman Sullivan on a cruise of that ship. I believe she was the first member of the gentler sex to ride a submerged atomic submarine. If she handles herself as well on your committee as she did in the *Nautilus* you are fortunate and you should indeed be proud.

Mr. BARRETT. I have been making those statements for a long time. You have proved that I am not wrong.

Admiral, we are hopeful we can give all the members a chance to ask questions. We are going on the 5-minute rule and we will adhere to it in order to give everybody an opportunity.

INDUSTRY OBLIGATIONS IN NATIONAL DEFENSE

I have a few questions I want to ask first. I will steal the other time that I asked you a question and start now on the 5-minute rule.

Admiral, don't these large companies, namely General Electric and Westinghouse, who have the capabilities to do the things that are necessary for national defense, and who are at the same time interested in commercial work because they apparently feel there is a greater profit in designing and manufacturing commercial equipment—doesn't this leave us in a very precarious position in respect to the defense of the United States?

Now, isn't it true, Admiral, you made this statement "We older men should go to war and not the young men"?

Isn't it true that if the young men are going to war the big companies ought to contribute their part in defense of those young men going to war by accepting Government contracts forthwith in order to give us the national defense posture we must have?

Admiral RICKOVER. Do you want me to answer that, sir?

Mr. BARRETT. Yes. I would like you to.

Admiral RICKOVER. Yes; I think the big companies should accept forthwith the defense contracts for which they are qualified, as required by law. But Mr. Chairman, we are dealing with human beings, and human nature hasn't changed much since Adam's time.