

area, once you contract for and have so much capability, they fill the airplanes up once they have committed themselves.

Mr. ROBACK. Do liquor glasses go by air? On that point, although it seems a little amusing, supposing there were an order—and maybe there is an order, in view of the gold flow problem—that causes a lot of things that ordinarily would be purchased on the local economy to be brought in from the United States.

What would be a high response supply item from the local economy now becomes a slow response if you are going to ship it by water, let us say, through the extended supply chain. Perhaps there is some rationale for priority movement of the things you mentioned here, like davenport or liquor glasses that seem inconsequential as far as combat is concerned. Is there anything like that involved?

Mr. FASICK. I don't have a specific, Mr. Roback, but there is not a doubt that this has some impact. As a matter of fact, it probably had an impact on the requisitioner when he found he couldn't get the quick local response through a normal requisition, he says let's put the high-priority designator on it and get it quick. We need the items. The ICP's in the Army admit that over 50 percent of the requisitions they are receiving today are still high-priority designated.

Mr. ROBACK. The consequence of overdesignating high-priority items is that the system doesn't work. If everything becomes high priority, nothing is high priority—that is the end result.

Mr. FASICK. Precisely. This overtaxes the system and causes the whole system then to be adversely affected.

Mr. ROBACK. On the other hand, since there is a priority system, every commander knows that for each request, if he puts it low, it is going to be treated low. Therefore, he might be disadvantaged. So there is a natural compulsion to upgrade the request.

Mr. FASICK. It is absolutely natural, I can understand it. I think this illustrates the point we are trying to make regarding supply discipline. Until this is deeply imbued and implemented within the whole Army structure, then this type of violation or excessive use of these designators will continue to occur.

Mr. ROBACK. Along the line of Mr. Horton's question, couldn't you compress the number of eligible items for high priority; in other words, you can say by definition that certain kinds of supplies are not going to be high priority?

Mr. FASICK. You could.

Mr. ROBACK. Even though the commanding officer needs liquor glasses to properly entertain, let us say, visiting dignitaries, including Congressmen, nevertheless, you could say that item will not be on the priority list.

Mr. FASICK. Right. For example, if refrigerators are for the officer's quarters, that is one thing; but if they are for the hospital, that is another thing. I would consider that combat essential. For the officer's quarters, I think they can wait a while for the refrigerators.

It would be difficult to put down one broad sweeping criterion that you could say is applicable without exception.

Mr. HORTON. Let me ask you another question. With regard to the challenge system. What is the comparison between the Army situation and the Navy and the Air Force? Do you have the same problems in the Navy and the Air Force that you have in the Army?