

General HEISER. Or if he does want to build it up, at least there is going to be negotiation.

Mr. HORTON. He has to justify it?

General HEISER. Yes, sir; he is going to have to justify it, and at that point the Army Materiel Command in the Department of the Army really will then decide is the field commander going to have this exception to do something the Army Materiel Command says he should do or not.

#### HIGH PRIORITY REQUISITIONS

Mr. HORTON. One other question I have, and that has to do with this matter of priorities.

We heard some testimony the other day about requisitioning on a priority basis and really it should be classified high priority, but requisitioned on that basis. What are you doing to correct that situation?

General HEISER. Sir, I will be brief because it is in the record.

Mr. HORTON. Yes.

General HEISER. We have a challenging system and we are strengthening this challenging system beginning right at the unit commander level who initiates requisition. He has to review it before it becomes high priority, or his written designated representative has to approve high priority.

Now, sir, there are weaknesses in this challenge system because it relies on human beings and people make mistakes and errors in judgment. The fact is, priority requisitioning is being policed at the unit level.

Secondly, priority requisitioning is also policed at higher levels such as the 14th ICC. For example, the inventory control center in Vietnam today has a block, a machine block on nonessential types of high priority requisitions. Where we have a high priority because it is supposed to be a deadline piece of equipment in the hands of the soldier, we do not challenge the requisition at that point because it takes too long and you may have lost lives, et cetera. But where the requisition is not for a combat essential kind of equipment—for example, furniture, mess equipment for base camps, this sort of thing—right now the 14th ICC has blocked priority requisitions.

As a result of hearing the discussions that you all had here Monday, sir, I went back home the night before last and we sent out a wire saying why can we not further extend this challenge into other areas that would be noncombat essential so that we could be sure that we are not misusing priority requisitioning.

Secondly, sir, at the CONUS level, the NICP's have a responsibility for challenging when it meets a certain criteria, for example, if it is an exorbitant amount, in terms of past experience, et cetera, they challenge this.

And then, in the last analysis, at the port we have what we call Logistics Control Office, Pacific, which goes through what we call an evaluation process, and every shipment that involves 1,000 pounds or more, is evaluated every night. The 14th ICC in Vietnam is queried as to whether this is a valid requirement to begin with or has something happened that they no longer need it that fast.

And so, while it is not perfect, Mr. Horton, we do have a challenge system, and we have inspections to supervise the fact that we correct