

implication of the question that there was a suggestion that this accomplishment is a result of the military effort and the war activity. That is not my judgment of it. But, I think, by making the reference date, the Korean conflict, there is that implication. And it is that that makes me say that I think this record does not depend on what you call the plugging in of the military, and would be just as good without it, and will be just as good.

Mr. Ross. Mr. Secretary, the unemployment rate in 1952 averaged 3 percent, and in 1953 it averaged 2.9 percent.

Representative RUMSFELD. So, we are comparing 3.5 today with 3 to 2.9?

Secretary WIRTZ. If you take just those two periods. We would be glad to set out that whole stretch.

In general—there were the two sets of ups and downs in the later 1950's, and then we came into our responsibility on it in a purely political sense at a rate of about—let us see—it went to 6.8 percent in 1958—but I know you did not have the political implications in mind.

Let me just take the key dates, and the record for the last 18 years is that in the early 1950's it went down to 2.9 or 3 percent. It then went up and down during the 1950's, went to a high of nearly 7 percent in 1958, went down again, but went up to nearly 7 percent again in 1961—the average for the year was 6.7. It went down nearly steadily until 2 years ago and for the last 2 years it has leveled out. I do not believe that the war factors have been a serious factor.

Representative RUMSFELD. Well, I am very interested to hear that, because that has not been my impression. And if I had to speculate, I would think that the curve for the next 5 to 10 years, assuming there is a termination of the conflict in Vietnam, would more closely follow the previous curves than what you are suggesting.

Secretary WIRTZ. I think the significant thing, Mr. Rumsfeld—and there is nothing partisan about this—I think the significant thing is that the country, the Congress and the administration have learned in the last—and I make it 10 years, or whatever period—have learned how to make the economy its servant instead of its master. And I believe that there would be complete bipartisan support for turning whatever energies are released in Vietnam to the improvement of the human race at home. And I believe it would be done right quickly. And I believe it would be done within 60 to 90 days.

We are quite clear about those things which we would like to get on to faster.

So, in a very very sincere way, I say to you that I think—well, I cannot wait, and neither can you.

Representative RUMSFELD. I am afraid we have absorbed my 10 minutes—

Secretary WIRTZ. I am sorry.

Representative RUMSFELD (continuing). With one question.

Chairman PROXMIRE. I would like to pursue with you, Mr. Secretary, the notion that this economy is moving too fast, expanding too fast, and that our main danger is inflationary pressure.

This may or may not be your impression. It is the impression I have gotten from other administration witnesses, and many of the independent economists who have appeared.