

its being submitted as a confidential document. I did not feel I was able to do that but I did not wish to embarrass the outgoing President and make him take responsibility for tax reform proposals which he could not carry on. I understood his desire, though I could not accord with it, and I have asked that at least the staff report be made public.

Now, is it a fact—and please do not answer, Mr. Secretary, unless you feel able to——

Secretary BARR. I am prepared to answer that. I knew you were going to ask it and I have the answer.

Senator JAVITS. I do not want to embarrass you but can you tell us if the report has been requested by members of the proper committees of the Congress which I understand is the President's willingness? Will then, the report be made available generally?

Secretary BARR. Senator, in the past week I have had about as much pressure from the Congress for this data as I have ever had in my life, including a request from the vice chairman of this committee. The pressure was so great that I called the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, who is now chairman of the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation, and said that I did not like to leave public office turning down requests from Members of Congress for data that should be available to them.

He convened a meeting of the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation. Secretary-designate Kennedy accompanied me to this meeting and it was agreed at this meeting that when the Ways and Means Committee is organized next week, Ways and Means will transmit a request to Secretary-designate Kennedy for the information. They will then publish it as a committee print. Secretary-designate Kennedy and I both agreed to this proposal.

Senator JAVITS. Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary. This is most reassuring.

Chairman PATMAN. Very well then—after the three of you finish your statements we will then ask you questions.

Secretary BARR. Now, may I move ahead, Mr. Chairman, to another subject. Over the past 8 years I have had a growing concern that in the area of trade, the United States is disadvantaged in exports because of our tax system compared with the tax systems of other nations. I have been concerned because I felt that an export, let us say a Caterpillar tractor, leaves the United States carrying all the burden of our tax load when it moves into export trade, while the same item of equipment as it leaves Germany or France is exempted from a large share of the tax load that is imposed in those nations. U.S. products such as automobile, cigarettes and alcoholic beverages, on which the Federal Government levies excise taxes, are exempt from the excises if exported.

Now, I can only confess that the academicians have not agreed with me in many instances but I do believe that the events of last November—when Germany reduced its border tax adjustments and France increased its border tax adjustments for the purpose of reducing trade imbalances would tend to lend credence to what I have thought, and