

Chairman PATMAN. Mr. Bolling of Missouri is recognized.

Representative BOLLING. Mr. Chairman, I really do not have any questions but I have got a couple of comments.

We have seen two examples at least today of the difficulties that these gentlemen have faced for their tenure in office, in dealing with an institution which likes to place all the blame for any misadventure on the Executive. I cannot understand frankly—and I think I can say that all of these gentlemen before us are friends of mine—how they have managed over the years to keep their good humor and even their sanity in dealing with an institution which, while they themselves head relative modern institutions in the executive, has not troubled to modernize itself.

As one—and it is no help to be a Cassandra as most of you have been—as one who supported publicly a tax increase in January 1966, I should think that by now the institution to which I belong which must start all tax measures and the institution to which others on the committee belong, might recognize that we have not been overwhelming success in acting in a timely fashion on fiscal matters.

I have been an advocate of a limited authority for the President to increase and decrease tax rates for so many years I am not quite clear as to when I first started. And I would like to say categorically that as an observer with some experience in the House of Representatives, that the delay in the enactment of a tax increase falls in the lap of the House of Representatives in particular. It was long delayed there and it was the House's fault, and plenty of room for plenty of bipartisan complaints because both parties were responsible.

Now, as far as this question of the waste and inefficiency in Defense are concerned. I think again it might be very, very well if we in the Congress looked to ourselves because I have some awareness of the occasional pressures that are brought by regions and areas on the Defense Establishment and the Executive, and I get a little tired as a 20-year member of the House of Representatives, of hearing people criticize the Executive for things that are actually done largely on the Hill. That is not to say for a moment that the Executive is perfect. I do not think so. But I do think that it is time that we began to look at the place where the greatest difficulty lies.

Mr. Rumsfeld was talking about the need for greater information and I think Mr. Zwick's reply made a lot of sense. It is not an adversary situation because we are not an adversary. I think that we in the House of Representatives have taken modern methods of storing and retrieving information to the extent of installing one computer in the Clerk's office. I hope the Senate has done better. We are using techniques on the Hill and we pass on the budget just as the administration submits it, which are not even up to the day of the early Model "T." And frankly, I compliment you gentlemen for your service. I wish you well, and I hope that each one of you separately will tell me how you kept your sanity and your sense of humor in dealing with the Congress. [Applause.]

Senator PROXMIRE (now presiding). Senator Percy?

Secretary BARR. Mr. Bolling, I will speak for all my colleagues. It has not been difficult. After all, you know you get harassed a little bit but when you meet the fellow who has been harassing you at a cocktail party it seems in the last analysis that you are all pretty good