

President and would serve for a term of five years. One of the members of the Board would be designated as Chairman by the President. The Board would meet at least once a month, or at the call of the Chairman, and would receive only a per diem and reimbursement for transportation expenses. This Board, which would have no responsibility for problems such as procurement, training or personnel, which take so much of the time of the service Chiefs, could focus exclusively on matters of strategy, tactics and long-range planning, thereby supplementing the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

#### DEPARTMENTAL VIEWS

The Department of Defense has provided no formal views on H.R. 6954.

The Secretary of Defense, in response to a request for his views on H.R. 6828, the earlier bill, provided the following comments:

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,  
WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,  
*July 29, 1982.*

HON. RICHARD C. WHITE,  
*Chairman, Armed Services Investigations Subcommittee, Committee on Armed Services, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I appreciate your interest in the organization of the national military command structure and assure you that, with the full cooperation of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I will pursue any initiatives which clearly will result in more effective planning, operations and resource management to strengthen our defenses. I have asked the Joint Chiefs of Staff to examine a number of possible changes in the law against a specific set of criteria. A quick reading of your draft changes to the law leads me to believe that your proposals are included in those I have asked the JCS to examine. General Vessey, Admiral Watkins, and General Gabriel testified to your Subcommittee yesterday. I am sure that they addressed the review I have asked the JCS to make.

We agree with you that changes to Title 10 U.S. Code deserve most careful consideration by the Administration and the Congress. Accordingly, I would like to withhold comment on your specific proposals until the Joint Chiefs of Staff and I complete our study of their implications.

Sincerely,

CASPAR WEINBERGER.

#### COMMITTEE ACTION

The Committee on Armed Services on August 11, 1982, without objection agreed to report H.R. 6954.

#### FISCAL DATA

##### FIVE-YEAR COST PROJECTION

In compliance with clause 7 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee requested the Department of De-