

In your statement I noted that your views on restructuring are quite similar to those which are expressed in Congressman Skelton's bill, H.R. 2560.

That bill contains several provisions designed to strengthen the joint military staff which are not contained in the administration proposal. Most important is that the Chief of Staff would control the joint military staff. As you know the JCS Chairman does not have a staff of his own. My question really is, with these increased responsibilities, should the Chairman be given a separate staff of his own?

General TAYLOR. God protect us from more staff. We should have one master military staff at the top of the military pyramid. They can give military advice to the President and to the Secretary of Defense, and the necessary staff support to the Chief of Staff.

Let's keep it as few and as simple as we can, I would say.

Mr. RAY. Now, General Jones had proposed that the Chairman be given greater control over the Joint Staff. What would be your opinion on that?

General TAYLOR. I don't think it makes any real difference.

Mr. RAY. I see.

General TAYLOR. No difference. I am sorry to say that some of General Jones' points should have been settled over at the Pentagon and not bother you here.

Mr. RAY. Last year, you recommended that two Deputy Chiefs of Staff be created to assist the proposed Chief of Staff which you recommended.

You also stated and mentioned that, despite frequent disclaimers that have been made, service chiefs, but not the Chairman, have been overloaded by the combination of their service and joint responsibility.

As you know, the JCS has initiated a system whereby each service chief serves as the Deputy JCS Chairman for 3 months on a rotating basis. Since they are already overloaded, what do you think of this system?

General TAYLOR. I realize that over the years the testimony of the Chiefs, generally, has been that they are not overloaded.

My answer is that, if they are not overloaded, they are not doing their two jobs.

It is simply impossible to do all the things you should do as a double-hatted chief planning for the future, and meanwhile responsible for the readiness today of your service. So, I—incidentally, many of my thoughts, I am advancing, I would not have derived purely based on my own experience. But I read virtually all the testimony of every witness who appeared before your committee last year; and was very much impressed by a civilian that I knew very well, who when they were in office were very polite about this. They came out with cold, hard facts, and weren't getting any advice in time from their Joint Chiefs. So that my present extremism, if you want to call it that, is based on the fact that most of the qualified witnesses, with no ax to grind, say that the JCS system has failed.

I missed something in your question. What was it?

Mr. RAY. I think you covered it to satisfy me, but would it be your opinion that the Chairman ought to have a full-time deputy?