

During your time as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Mr. Bundy was the President's National Security Adviser, was he not? And Mr. McNamara was Secretary of Defense.

Recently, earlier this year we had testimony from these two gentlemen with respect to the size of the military budget. They made recommendations of eliminating a number of systems, such as the MX, B-1, nuclear carrier, I think virtually much of the shopping list that we have received from the Secretary of Defense. And they said that would save \$135 million but would not impair our defense.

My question is, on the basis of your association with these gentlemen during that period, would you feel that they had the expertise to tell us exactly what systems to fund and what not to fund?

Admiral MOORER. Absolutely not. It boggles my mind that they could make such a statement. Mr. McNamara, when he was Secretary of Defense, in real purchasing power, had a larger budget than we are talking about now. And you have to realize, Mr. Stratton, that an administration or a President in office today, because of the long lead time, of which you are well aware, associated with the development of weapons, depends entirely upon the weapons provided him by his predecessors.

But it is his responsibility to try to make certain his successor has at least the same or adequate strength to carry out whatever the foreign policy happens to be, or the policy of the country, and the security of the country.

So I was astounded at what Mr. McNamara said, because he is, in effect, saying that Secretary Weinberger should not prepare his successor or President Reagan's successor in the same manner that he was spending money to prepare his successor, because—to cut out all those systems and so on. At least I will say one thing, I am consistent. I am appalled at so many people who take one position 1 day and then they reverse themselves.

Mr. BARRETT. Admiral, last year you made the statement that you made your views known to the President. In other words, you gave the President your personal military advice, particularly if you didn't agree with the JCS.

Do you feel that is a responsibility of the Chairman?

Admiral MOORER. Absolutely. It is a responsibility of every member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. That is the whole reason for having people representing different kinds of combat environments. If they don't agree—you know, the whole purpose is not to freeze out and prevent the military command authorities from getting information from everyone.

Mr. BARRETT. But, of course, you as Chairman would have a lot more opportunity to give your advice because the others don't see the Secretary and the President nearly as much.

Admiral MOORER. I probably have more opportunity to sell my advice, but not more opportunity to give the advice. Because each member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is personally free, and they frequently did write a dissent. In other words, you know, the Joint Chiefs of Staff really don't vote. You have a Joint Chiefs of Staff position, but you could easily have, and often have, a dissent.

And as far as the Chairman is concerned, what I did was, in the Chairman's memo, tell what my personal position was. And I did