

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF REORGANIZATION

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
INVESTIGATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE,
Washington, D.C., Tuesday, June 14, 1983.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:45 a.m., in room 2212, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Bill Nichols (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. BILL NICHOLS, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM ALABAMA, CHAIRMAN, INVESTIGATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. NICHOLS. The subcommittee will come to order.

Let me state to the witness and those in attendance that we have a good bit of competition this morning for members. The Democratic Caucus is being held at this hour and the Budget Committee is meeting. We appreciate Mr. Kazen's attendance, and we will proceed.

In early 1982, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and Gen. David C. Jones, who was then the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, appeared before the Committee on Armed Services in a closed hearing on the fiscal year 1983 budget. During that hearing, General Jones revealed that he believed there were fundamental flaws in the structure of the Joint Chiefs of Staff which prevented it from performing adequately. Subsequently, General Jones was joined by Gen. Edward C. Meyer, the Army Chief of Staff, in his condemnation of the JCS organization.

Prompted by these unprecedented criticisms from incumbent members of the JCS, the Investigations Subcommittee conducted a comprehensive inquiry into the matter later in 1982. Those hearings resulted in a bill intended to overcome the most pressing problems identified during the hearings. The bill was reported by the Committee on Armed Services and passed the House. It died in the Senate at the close of the 97th Congress.

A crucial factor missing last year was an expression of the administration's position on JCS reorganization. This year the administration has developed such a position and submitted a legislative proposal for our consideration.

Recently, Secretary Weinberger met informally with several members of the Investigations Subcommittee and explained the administration proposal. Subsequently, Secretary Weinberger sent the subcommittee a letter for the record formally explaining the proposal. Without objection, Secretary Weinberger's letter and related documents will be entered in the record.