

Mr. NICHOLS. Mr. Skelton, we are delighted to have you with us, and you may proceed at this point.

Mr. KAZEN. Before our colleague begins, I am going to have to excuse myself. I chair a Committee on Water and Power Resources, and I have several witnesses that have come in from the Western part of the country, so I must be there.

Mr. NICHOLS. Would that be Texas?

Mr. KAZEN. No, sir, Utah, Arizona and California. If it were Texas I would have taken care of that situation already and saved them the trouble to come up here.

Let me commend our colleague, Mr. Skelton, for his interest in this subject. For a couple of years he has been very tenacious in following the imposition of his ideas. He has investigated the situation, and he is here before us this morning to testify. I have already looked at his testimony; and hopefully I will be able to return before you finish your meeting this morning. So if you do not mind, I will excuse myself now and I assure you, Mr. Skelton, that I am very interested in your testimony. I am taking it with me and will talk to you about it later.

Mr. NICHOLS. Thank you.

#### STATEMENT OF HON. IKE SKELTON, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM MISSOURI

Mr. SKELTON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, as has been indicated, I have a formal statement that I wish to be entered in the record.

Mr. NICHOLS. Without objection, your statement will be entered as part of the record.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, the famous British historian, Liddell Hart, once said, "There are over 2,000 years of experience to tell us that the only thing harder than getting a new idea into the military mind is to get an old one out." I think that we should begin our hearing today with that thought.

Back in the War Between the States, it was only at the direction of President Lincoln himself that the Union Forces began to use Springfield repeating rifles. After the war they reverted back to the single-shot breech loaders.

Mr. Chairman, despite the fact that the Wright Brothers demonstrated the feasibility of powered heavier-than-air flight in 1903, the United States was compelled to rely on war planes built by foreign manufacturers all through World War I. Despite the fact that the Wright Brothers were Americans, and demonstrated the feasibility of powered flight, the possibilities of air power were unrecognized by our military until a rather graphic demonstration by someone named Billy Mitchell in the 1920's.

The American, Dr. Robert Goddard, pioneered rocketry during the 1920's and 1930's, but it was German ingenuity, not the American military ingenuity, that put his theories to a practical test in a very devastating way in World War II.

Mr. Chairman, despite the development of tanks, automatic weapons, and air power, the U.S. Armed Forces maintained horse cavalry units through the 1940's. In fact, the current Commander