

I would point out also that the Chief of Staff of the Army and Chief of Staff of the Air Force put their programs together this last year with each one sitting in on the other's program construction for next year.

So the possibilities are there.

General BARROW. There is not much I can add. I am in general agreement with what has been said.

I think we should keep the JCS involvement in resource allocation at a macro level as the Chairman indicated when he spoke about guidance and that sort of thing, as opposed to getting us involved in too much detail.

Mr. NICHOLS. Mr. Ray.

Mr. RAY. Thank you very much.

Thank you, gentlemen. This morning we are glad to have you before the subcommittee.

General Vessey, last year both General Jones and General Meyer indicated there was insufficient time for the chiefs to do a good job as chief of a service and as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. They maintained that each responsibility is a full-time job.

Now, in your statements, I believe on page 4, you reject establishing a Deputy Chairman and you favor a system of rotating this duty among the current chiefs on a quarterly basis.

My question is, How can the chief serving as your deputy, who is already overburdened and doing a good job, how can he perform an additional full-time job thoroughly for 3 months of the year?

General VESSEY. Well, I guess the chiefs themselves would be better able to answer that question, but it is part of their duties in the law to serve as members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. And certainly, of course, during the 3 months of the year that I ask them to serve as Acting Chairman, they must keep up to speed with the things that I do as Chairman. It requires extra effort on their part. And it is full-time work. There is no question about that. These people have long hours and a lot to do, and this does, in fact, add extra hours to that job of theirs.

At the same time, I would say it has been my experience that working that way has made them better members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff because they have gotten into the other end of the decisionmaking. I would ask the chiefs to comment on that because they can tell you better on the time business.

Jim?

Admiral WATKINS. I was assigned first as the Acting Chairman in the absence of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff upon taking the job of Chief of Naval Operations. Because I had had 2 years of prior duty in the Joint Staff, I had a good solid feeling for the staff. But I had no real feeling for the magnitude of the task. Being adviser to the President at the National Security Council meetings and the like on a broad range of subjects was indeed a heavy new task for me.

On the other hand, I found that putting in the extra time—spending the time down in the Joint Staff getting the joint briefing, getting up to speed on Central America and the Middle East issues, many of which involved maritime strategy to which I had been closely allied—was not that difficult for me. With the extra effort I found myself comfortable with the Joint Staff effort. At the same