

tion that, all right, there would be a Deputy Chairman. Now let's sit down and write the duties of the Deputy Chairman, recognizing what the duties of the JCS are under law in relationship with the commanders in chief of the unified and specified commands and with the Secretary of Defense and President. We agreed we would try to write the duties of the Deputy Chairman, and where he sits in this hierarchy of things, and what he is to do.

Well, as a body we all tried to do that and we couldn't come up with satisfactory answers. As a result, we concluded that we were better off without a Deputy Chairman. The Chairman had to work hard and we would have to do without a deputy.

Mr. BRITT. The Senior Strategy Advisory Board was included in last year's bill. What are the objections to such an approach?

General VESSEY. Well, it obviously has some value, and to a certain extent it probably has great value. On the other hand, the strategic advice for the United States is how to use the forces we have, or how to build the forces we should have, to do the things that the Nation needs to do. Here, in this group of four service chiefs you have the heads of the four services, you have the people who know more about those services than anybody else. We conclude that, yes, it takes a lot of time. In wartime this body would probably have to devote almost full time to the strategic direction of the war. The building and maintaining of the forces would have to be done by the Vice Chiefs of Staff, perhaps with more authority and a little more assistance. However, in peacetime these Chiefs concluded that with difficulty they could do the job, and they bring unique talents to that job of providing the strategic advice.

The Chiefs might want to add something to that.

Mr. BRITT. No further questions.

Mr. NICHOLS. Let me pursue that just a little with you. The gentleman from Missouri, a very able member of our committee, and very much interested in this issue, is suggesting this advisory committee; and he envisions that on that committee would be five military officers plus one civilian. They would be perhaps former Chiefs of Staff; perhaps you might call General Barrow away from his fishing hole down in Louisiana.

Mr. SKELTON. You will recall I nominated two retiring members for that.

Mr. NICHOLS. That has a good ring to it. I can think of any number of retired people who still are quite active in following the military and the defense posture and often times are outspoken in their viewpoints. I have some concern over the additional slots that would be needed. We would have to go to Congress and ask for those slots.

I have another concern because when a man retires, there is an old saying that "a setting sun throws off very little heat." I am just wondering if it would not be probable that these advisory members of the board, with all of their expertise and knowledge and well wishing, would not be sort of looked at as the over-the-hill gang in many respects, despite their input and the knowledge they might have.

How would you react to former Secretaries of Defense and former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs? They would be out to pasture, say 4 or 5 or even 16 years, serving in an advisory capacity.