

Before you proceed, General, I would like to add, on behalf of the Investigations Subcommittee, our sincere welcome. As an old soldier who served in Normandy, Luxembourg, and Germany, I well recall the 101st Division, and I had the pleasure on one occasion of following that division, and if there were ever great soldiers, great Americans in the defense of this country, it was that division, sir.

We are aware that this is the third occasion in less than a year that you have testified on the reorganization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and we sincerely appreciate the sacrifice that you are making to improve our defense structure.

Copies of your testimony last year have been distributed to members of the subcommittee. An additional copy is before them.

So, General, again, we are glad to have you, and you may proceed with your testimony at this time, sir.

**STATEMENT OF GEN. MAXWELL D. TAYLOR, U.S. ARMY (RET.),  
FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF**

Mr. NICHOLS. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And may I also thank my Missouri friend, Mr. Skelton.

I am very happy indeed, Mr. Chairman, to have the opportunity to testify again before this subcommittee.

I should say at the outset—I should apologize at the outset—for my very hoarse voice. If I am not being heard properly, please let me know.

The subject of this discussion is the organization, and inevitably also, the procedures of the Joint Chiefs. Both are matters of long-time interest to me. I understand you have my testimony of last year, and I have not referred directly to it.

Since that time, my views have changed little, if at all, and are quite similar to those expressed by Congressman Skelton's bill, H.R. 2560, presently before you.

The most important event bearing on the Joint Chiefs of Staff issue since our last meeting has been the submission of the DOD bill, H.R. 3145, which I shall comment on at some length.

As you know, it contains two proposals, the first being to insert the Chairman, JCS in the chain of command.

Although the Secretary of Defense refers to it as "an important Defense initiative," I find it little more than a legislative legitimization of most of the DOD Directive of December 2, 1971, which reads, as follows:

The National Command Authorities [NCA].

The NCA consists only of the President and the Secretary of Defense or their duly deputized alternates or successors. The chain of command runs from the President to the Secretary of Defense and through the Joint Chiefs of Staff to the commanders of the unified and specified commands.

The language used in H.R. 3145 reads as follows:

The chain of command runs from the President to the Secretary and through the Chairman, JCS to the combatant commands. Orders to combatant commands shall be issued by the President and the Secretary through the Chairman, JCS.

Thus, the only difference between the bill and the old DOD directive, now 12 years old, is the omission of the title, "National Command Authorities," no reference to "duly deputized alternates or successors," and the replacement by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as a body in the chain of command. The only news