

Defense. Accordingly, I support legislation that will accomplish the following objectives:

- Designate the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as the principal uniformed military advisor to the President, the National Security Council, and the Secretary of Defense;
- Place the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff under the exclusive direction of the Chairman, to perform such duties as he prescribes to support the Joint Chiefs of Staff and respond to the President and the Secretary of Defense; and
- Create the new position of Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and make the Vice Chairman a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

While recognizing and providing for the special role of the Chairman in the law, the basic structure of the Joint Chiefs of Staff should be retained. The advantages and disadvantages of the current system, in which the Chiefs of the Services provide advice concerning both their military Service and joint issues, have been debated for many years and are well known. I believe that certain disadvantages will be remedied by a stronger Chairman without sacrificing the advantages of the current system. I find that the Chiefs of the Services are highly knowledgeable regarding particular military capabilities. And, just as important, joint military perspectives on both resource allocation and operations, developed under the Chairman's leadership, must be upheld and supported at the highest levels of the Military Departments.

For these reasons, as we take the appropriate steps to strengthen the role of the Chairman, the law must ensure that:

- The Service Chiefs remain members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and that, in addition to the views of the Chairman, the President is also provided with the views of other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- In addition, in creating the new position of Vice Chairman, the law must provide flexibility for the President and Secretary of Defense to determine who shall serve as Acting Chairman in the Chairman's absence.

In our efforts to strengthen the ability of the Chairman and the Joint Chiefs of Staff to be responsive to the civilian leadership, we must also make certain that the military establishment does not become embroiled in political matters. The role of the Chairman and other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is strictly advisory in nature and, with the armed forces as a whole, they serve the American people with great fidelity and dedication. In my view, change in the tenure of the Chairman or other senior officers that are tied to the civilian electoral process would endanger this heritage. I oppose any bill whose provisions would have the effect of politicizing the military establishment.

ACQUISITION REFORM

The Packard Commission has pointed out what we all know to be true: that our historic ups and downs in defense spending have cost us dearly over the long term. For many years there has been chronic instability in both top-line funding and individual pro-