

The concomitant effect of the elevation of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to a position unparalleled and unprecedented in American history is the diminution of the roles of the other members of that body, particularly the Service Chiefs. The original proposal considered by the Committee would have completely destroyed the corporate nature of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and deprived not only the Chairman but also the country of the benefit of their *collective* consideration of major problems.

The provisions contained in the bill as reported represent a compromise by the Committee to preserve some of the corporate nature of the Joint Chiefs of Staff without impairing the power of the Chairman to act as the Principal Military Advisor. By retaining the requirement that the JCS meet together under the Chairmanship of the Chairman and that the Chairman consult with and seek the advice of the other members of the JCS "unless impracticable," the compromise language seeks to broaden the advice that the Chairman provides and keep the other members of the JCS actively involved in the process.

The Report language cites the interim Report of the President's Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management in defense of the bill's unprecedented grant of power and authority to the Chairman. The bill does not, however, include the language recommended by the President's Blue Ribbon Commission:

Current law should be changed to designate the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) as the principal uniformed military advisor to the President, the National Security Council, and the Secretary of Defense, representing his own views as well as the corporate views of the JCS.

That specific language was offered as an amendment, but was rejected by the Committee.

Since the language of the President's Blue Ribbon Commission specifically would require the preservation of the corporate nature of the JCS and the representation of its corporate views to senior decision makers, and that requirement was intentionally rejected for inclusion in the bill, it is inaccurate to say that the bill is "consistent" with the President's Blue Ribbon Commission on this issue.

The bill assigns to the Chairman a substantial number of powers and authorities, both those currently assigned to the JCS as a body and several new ones as well. Many of them are specified in Title I, Section 152(d). That listing is not comprehensive, however, and other powers and authorities are contained in other sections of the bill, as are a number of provisions allowing for discretionary grants of power and authority to the Chairman.

The Committee did not consider whether the Chairman could adequately and effectively handle all the powers and authorities, or what kind of staffing support the Chairman would require. It did not consult with outside individuals, even including the current Chairman and members of the JCS, about that matter.

The powers are so substantial, however, that the Chairman will require a large staff, and the bill allows him to have one.

In fact, the many powers and authorities granted to the Chairman will not be exercised by him but will perforce be delegated to