

provisions for where the Service general counsels would fit into the organization. There are, no doubt, additional instances of the sort. The problem is that nobody knows for sure.

Finally, the legislation prescribes substantial cuts in personnel, not only for the military departments but also for the combatant commands and for the defense agencies. The members of the Committee clearly believe that substantial reductions in personnel can be made, but the Committee has not attempted to find out, through hearings, what the effects of such reductions can or may be, or whether there may be better ways of reaching the same goal.

The lack of hearings about the bill's provisions and consequences may, in fact, be most serious for the Military Departments, since they are the agencies that, through the control of funding for R&D and procurement, have the most active interaction with the private sector and for which, because of their small size, personnel reductions could have major and unforeseen consequences.

CONCLUSION

The Committee's efforts, which benefitted greatly from the leadership provided by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member, resulted in a bill that was much improved over the draft.

At the same time, however, it must be recognized that the legislation is so broad and sweeping that it may well have consequences that are not intended and that are now unforeseen.

If our goal is to improve the organization and functioning of our defense establishment, then we should be sure that whatever legislation we pass will bring about that result. We should be willing to expend sufficient time to ensure that we will not, in the near future, have to reopen the complicated and sensitive issue of defense organization in order to remedy problems that were created by the very legislation that was intended to eliminate problems.

Both the Committee and the membership of the Senate as a whole should be willing to devote the necessary time and effort to produce truly effective legislation.

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