

GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,
Washington, DC, October 25, 1985.

Hon. LES ASPIN,
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,
 House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a follow-on to my letter of October 18, 1985, which provided the DoD position on H.R. 3622, "Joint Chiefs of Staff Reorganization Act of 1985." At this time, so far as we can determine, H.R. 3622 will have no budgetary impact on the Department of Defense.

Sincerely,

CHAPMAN B. COX.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE

In compliance with clause 2(1)(3)(C) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office and submitted pursuant to section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is included below:

U.S. CONGRESS,
 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, October 30, 1985.

Hon. LES ASPIN,
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,
 U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed H.R. 3622, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to strengthen the position of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to provide for more efficient and effective operation of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Armed Services on October 29, 1985.

This bill makes the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff the principal military adviser to the President, the National Security Council, and the Secretary of Defense. The bill amends the national military chain of command to include the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and requires that the Joint Chiefs of Staff provide unified direction of combat forces. The Chairman would also be required to participate in National Security Council deliberations. The bill removes the statutory limitation on the size of the Joint Staff and relaxes the existing restrictions on the tenure of Joint Staff officers. In addition the bill creates the position of Deputy Chairman.

By removing the statutory limit on staff size, this bill could lead to a larger Joint Staff with a consequent increase in costs. Such costs could be offset, in total or in part, by reductions in other activities of the Defense Department, which operates under personnel ceilings established in annual authorization bills. CBO does not know if the Defense Department would seek additional appropriations, but expects no significant additional costs to federal, state, or local governments if this bill is enacted.