

The Senate recesses with an amendment to require the Chairman to convene regular JCS meetings. The conferees intend that the Chairman shall consult, unless impracticable, with the other JCS members on issues which he judges to be of major importance. On matters that the Chairman considers to be of lesser significance, the conferees expect him to consult, when he considers appropriate, with the other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Chairman to Present Range of Advice

The House amendment contained a provision (section 606) that would amend existing section 142(b)(3) of title 10 to require the JCS Chairman to inform the Secretary of Defense, and, when the President or the Secretary of Defense considers it appropriate, the President, of the military advice of the JCS as a body on those matters for which advice is requested by the President or the Secretary of Defense (including advice on matters on which JCS members have not agreed).

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recesses with two amendments. First, the Chairman is required, as he considers appropriate, to inform the President, the National Security Council, or the Secretary of Defense of the range of military advice and opinion on a matter for which advice has been requested. Second, the relationship of this provision to section 151(d) of title 10 (as amended by section 201 of the conference substitute amendment) is clarified. The conferees do not intend to alter the responsibility of the Chairman to submit other JCS members' dissenting views (under section 151(d) of title 10, as amended by section 201 of the conference substitute amendment) by giving the Chairman discretion in informing senior civilian officials of the range of military advice.

Dissenting Views of JCS Members

The Senate amendment contained a provision (section 111) that would authorize any JCS member to submit advice in disagreement or in addition to the advice provided by the Chairman to the President, the National Security Council (NSC), or the Secretary of Defense. If a member submits such advice, the Chairman would be required to present that advice at the same time he presented his own advice to the President, the NSC, or the Secretary of Defense.

The House amendment contained a similar provision (section 606).

The House recesses with an amendment to ensure that the dissenting views of other JCS members will not unduly delay the presentation of the Chairman's advice.

JCS Members' Advice Upon Request

The Senate amendment contained a provision (section 111) that would direct JCS members (other than the Chairman), in their capacity as military advisers, to provide advice on a particular matter in response to a request from the President, the National Security Council, or the Secretary of Defense.

The House amendment contained a similar provision (section 606) that would direct the JCS, as a body, to provide advice to the