

STATEMENT OF
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY W. JOHN KENNEY
BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
ON S. 758

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My statement is directed primarily towards the problem of supplying a military establishment and the character of organization best designed to do that -- with particular emphasis on purchasing and procurement. I am stressing that phase of the problem of logistics because of the interest that has been evidenced in it. If the Committee desires an amplification on the other phases, the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Logistics, Vice Admiral Carney, can explain from the military point of view how requirements are determined and how material procured is delivered to the fleet.

S. 758 will, in my opinion, create a more efficient organization. It makes possible a military establishment that is both responsive to military needs and to the related diplomatic and industrial requirements. However, the ultimate determination of the effectiveness of any military organization is proven only by its ability first to prevent war, and second if war occurs to win that war. The procurement of material to supply a military establishment is a function of service and to that extent is a subordinate and ancillary function. Its importance should not, however, be underestimated as it is the foundation on which the fighting force rests. The supply organization must be properly related to the military establishment it supports or the efficiency of the latter will be affected.

A supply organization must be able---

(1) to provide for expansion in time of war without disruption of organization or reassignment of functions;

(2) to have the flexibility to respond to operational and technical requirements;

(3) to provide strategic dispersion of stocks and records within practicable limits;

(4) to have effective coordination with all operating and technical agencies of related organizations within and without the government;

(5) to permit economy of operation through mobility of support and control of material.