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Statement of Hon. Robert P. Patterson, Secretary of  
War, before Armed Services Committee of U. S. Senate,  
re S. 758, creating National Defense Establishment,  
March 1947.

20,

I give unqualified support to the bill to unify  
the armed forces, S. 758.

Provisions of bill.

The bill creates a National Defense Establishment,  
consisting of the Department of the Army, Department of  
the Navy and Department of the Air Force.

The head of the National Defense Establishment  
is the Secretary of National Defense, with the power and  
duty:

- (1) to establish policies and programs for  
the National Defense Establishment and  
for the departments and agencies in it;
- (2) to exercise direction, authority and  
control over such departments and agencies;
- (3) to supervise preparation of budget estimates  
by the departments and agencies, to determine  
the budget estimates of the National Defense  
Establishment for submission to the Bureau  
of the Budget, and to supervise and control  
the budget program of the National Defense  
Establishment.

The proviso is made that the three departments  
shall be administered as individual units by their re-  
spective secretaries under direction of the Secretary