

WLP

17 June 1947.

MSC

Edson Testimony on H.R. 2319.

1. Attached herewith is the text of the prepared statement of General Merritt A. Edson, USMC, in testifying this morning before the House Expenditures Committee on H.R. 2319. References to CIG are to be found on pages 4, 7, 9 and 10.

2. After reading his prepared statement, General Edson was questioned concerning his testimony on CIG by Representatives Chat Holafield, (D., Cal.), Mitchell Jenkins, (R., Pa.), and John McCormack, (D., Mass.). (Brown of Ohio was absent and Busbey of Illinois left before CIG came up for discussion!) The questions and answers concerning CIG were substantially as follows:

HOLAFIELD: I was quite concerned about your testimony regarding the Central Intelligence Agency — your statement that this could very easily work into a Gestapo or NKVD. In what way does the proposed CIA differ from the present CIG in scope?

EDSON: As I understand it, the CIG is largely a clearing house for all the intelligence information which is collected by the various departments and agencies. There the information is collected, evaluated and disseminated. In that respect, the CIG is an extremely desirable agency. Under no circumstances, however, should the CIG have any domestic police power.

HOLAFIELD: It does not have such power now. Do you think that it would have under this bill?

EDSON: I think there is a possibility that it might. I think that Congress should definitely set forth in this piece of legislation what its intention is for the powers, functions and scope of this Agency.

HOLAFIELD: I agree with you on that point. Your contention, then, is not that the bill goes too far. It is that you feel that it does not go far enough in providing safeguards.

EDSON: That is right.

JENKINS: I think that the matter with which Mr. Holafield is concerned is that nowhere in the provisions of the bill are the functions of the Agency defined. The present functions of the CIG are defined by Executive Order, are they not?

EDSON: Yes.

pp. 3, 4, 9  
First class page  
Copied

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 18, 1947.

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 respective secretaries, under the direction of the Secretary

of National Defense; also that the secretary of any

matters of administration that pertain to the three departments. In the second place, the Navy had decided views as to the soundness of these reservations, and I have no hesitation in saying that it will be of lasting benefit to develop the type of organization that commands the support of Army and Navy alike. I am therefore unqualifiedly in favor of these provisions.

I will not detain you with a discussion of the other features of the bill, important as they are. Other witnesses will take them up in detail.

---

In conclusion, I urge that you report this measure favorably. It will give the United States an efficient organization of the armed services. It will strengthen national defense without calling for the expenditure of more funds. It is unique in that respect; the other measures to strengthen national defense call for the spending of more money. It will strengthen the national defense, and I am confident that throughout the world it will be viewed in that light.

End