News Release #68-166

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Congressman Charles W. Whalen, Jr. (R-Ohio) tonight said that the Nation's long-range military research has suffered as a result of the demands of the Vietnam War.

"In effect, we are almost pouring our future qualitative military superiorities through a very small crack in the floor labelled 'Vietnam', mortgaging the future to pay for the present," declared Whalen, a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

He made the statement in remarks prepared for delivery at 9 p.m. this evening before the Wayne Township JayCees meeting at the Cassano Lounge.

Whalen described the problem as "another example of the description of priorities related to the 'fiscal bind' in which we find ourselves."

Although research and development funding has increased, more of it has gone into meeting Southeast Asian requirements at the expense of long range research programs, he said.

Whalen said he has detected growing concern about this in private conversations with Wright-Patterson Air Force Base engineers and scientists, "that it borders on the impossible to obtain approval for an advanced development project unless it can be shown to be 'SEA-oriented' (Southeast Asia)."

"Some of these men have had to engage in ludicrous semantical exercises even to obtain a hearing for concepts they feel will advance the state of the art."

Whalen said he hoped that his committee, in the next session of Congress, "will see fit to examine in detail the effect of the Vietnam War on our overall advanced research and development program."

The committee and the Congress have shown a growing awareness of the problem, he said.

"But this awareness has been too slight yet to have been translated into any meaningful review of priorities."

Whalen said the problem represents "another aspect of the Vietnam War that few people have had occasion to consider."

"Not only has it cost us the lives of almost 30,000 of our young men, it also is costing us the quality of a future airplane or associated system, for example, because our talent and treasure are being expended on the so-called 'limited war' in Vietnam."

NOTE: An excerpt of Congressman Whalen's remarks on this subject is enclosed.

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Another example of the disruption of priorities related to the "fiscal bind" in which we find ourselves has received only periodic attention, at best.

This concerns expenditures for military research and development. The level of R & D spending has increased at a greater rate, on a percentage basis, than total military spending during the last several years. However, an increasingly greater portion of this effort has centered on needs generated by Southeast Asia requirements.

The result has been that our long range research has suffered. The impact of this diversion of resources obviously will not be felt until some time in the distant future. In effect, we are almost pouring our future qualitative military superiority through a very small crack in the floor labelled "Vietnam," mortgaging the future to pay for the present.

This is no idle comment. The hundreds of engineers and scientists at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base engaged in aerospace R & D are living with this problem on a daily basis. Many of them have apprised me privately of their growing concern about this deficiency - that is, that it borders on the impossible to obtain approval for an advanced development project unless it can be shown to be "SEA-oriented (Southeast Asia)." Some of these men have had to engage in ludicrous semantical exercises even to obtain a hearing for concepts they feel will advance the state of the art.

There has been a growing awareness of this difficulty in Congress and within my own committee, the House Armed Services Committee. But this awareness has been too slight yet to have been translated into any meaningful review of priorities.

I point out this problem to illustrate another aspect of the Vietnam War that few people have had occasion to consider. Not only has it cost us the lives of almost 30,000 of our young men, it also is costing us the quality of a future airplane or associated system, for example, because our talent and treasure are being expended on the so-called "limited war" in Vietnam.

I am hopeful that in the 91st Congress, the Armed Services Committee will see fit to examine in detail the effect of the Vietnam War on our overall advanced research and development effort.

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