

Mr. NUGENT: The point I am getting at is that while you have been here you have heard the members of this Committee press on with all speed. There seems to be some urgency that we must press on with this bill and get the unification legislation passed in a hurry. The only point I wanted to make in my questioning of you, Admiral, is that from reading your criticisms of this program it is obvious that a good deal of time must now be spent on the steps of integration that have already been taken, either to improve them or reverse them, but certainly to analyse them and see how effective they are and what is the best use which can be made of them. Is that correct?

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: Yes, you have expressed that very clearly. That is exactly what I feel and why I consider unification in relation to that particular thought untimely. I do not feel we ought to create such conditions that the backbone of our naval force, at any rate, who can help us with their experience and knowledge in putting these things right, should all be rushing out to get jobs on civvy street.

Mr. NUGENT: The longer these faults go uncorrected the more money, I presume, it is costing us?

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: Yes.

Mr. NUGENT: I note in your brief you say that by putting unification through at the same time it will cause a further upheaval, which will necessarily delay an appraisal of some of the faults already existing in the integration steps that have been taken. Is that right?

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: Yes.

Mr. NUGENT: In other words, by rushing on with unification we are unnecessarily complicating the necessary corrective measures and therefore ensuring that we shall continue to waste more money through some of the errors now existing.

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: I think you can look at it that way.

Mr. NUGENT: I was looking for reasons for the necessity for speed in bringing about unification. I think you said, in answer to a question this morning, that at the present stage of integration the services can function all right and that you would be able to continue applying these corrective measures where necessary, but that this will not take place if you stop at this point. It is a ridiculous situation, is it not?

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: No, there is nothing ridiculous about that. This would clear the whole thing up very quickly.

Mr. NUGENT: There is no necessity to go on to unification?

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: None whatsoever.

Mr. NUGENT: It is not as if this were a process which had started and it must be carried through to unification?

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: I think there has been a lot of planning done, assuming, that unification was going to be effected. I think that planning, of course, would be wasted because they could then devote themselves to personnel matters in relation to the services as they exist.