

THE ABM HEARING

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Commentator: We take you now to the hollow heads of (excuse me, the hallowed halls of Congress, where a hearing is now proceeding dealing with the very essence of our survival as a nation. Melvin Laird is explaining the need for the ABM before Sen. Wm. Halfbright of Arkansas, Sen. Albert Bore of Tennessee, and Sen. Clifford Mace of New Jersey.

Mel: (facing Senators across table) Its a personal and passionate thrill for me to sit here, Senators. You see, I weigh over 600 pounds and I had to take a stand-up shower this morning. The head of my little yellow plastic duck was plugging up my bathtub drain.

Sen Halfbright: (irritated) Haven't you come to tell us about the ABM bill?

Mel: No No No: I already told you. It was the duck bill.

Sen Bore: Now that's dumb.

Mel: (folksy) Anyway Senators, you people are my kind of patriots. I sat 16 years on your side of the table when I was in Congress and I know that its easy to ask good questions. Now that I'm on this side of the table I only hope that I can ask good questions. (confusedly) Now wait a minute. I mean I want to ask good answers. (more agitatedly) Or rather, I'd hope to answer any good asks you might question. (giving up, hands thrown in air) Well what about welfare chiseling?!

Sen. Half: (to the other Senators) If I may, I'd like to begin the detailed questioning on the ABM system by launching a 2 1/2 hour tirade against the Vietnam war.

Sen. Bore: Please, my learned plough boy. Publicity-wise the war just doesn't have it any more. As Spiro Agnew said, you've seen one napalmed baby or shell shocked oldster, you've seen 'em all. Why don't you take a Biafrican to lunch.

Sen. Half: Will the ABM protect us from the Chinese threat or the Russian threat?

Mel: (excitedly) Its the Anguillian threat, Senators!

Sen. Bore: Now that's really dumb.

Mel: Why just hours ago we received a cable from our ambassador, Ches Bowels, directed to this committee.

Sen. Mace: The public has a right to know what he said!

Mel: He said, (pausing dramatically) "The British are coming."

Sen Half: (distractedly) I think we're getting mired down like a bunch of pigs trying to jump out of their pens.

Mel: Pertaining to that, Senator, Bowels went on to advise, (picking up cable and reading from it) "Don't mire til you see the heights of the styes."

Sen. Mace: Was there anything else?

Mel: Yes, with regards to the political situation Bowels said he expected a movement.

Sen Bore: That's crazy, was there a post script?

Mel: "P.S. I am curious (brown)."

Sen Half: Next you'll be telling us that Mickey Mouse wears a Spiro Agnew watch.

Sen. Mace: He's all Greek to me.

Sen. Bore: No, its all Greece to Jackie.

Mel: (picking up the spirit) Hey. If Mati Hari married Aristotle Onassis, she'd be Mati Hari Ari!

Sen Bore: I heard Jackie's boozing and running around with John-John.

Sen Half: She's ruining our relations with Greece.

Mel: (correcting) No. She's having relations with a Greek.

Sen Mace: Gentlemen, let's get back on the trajectory. Mr. Secretary, how do you describe the SAFEGUARD ABM system?

Mel: I call it a people protector.

Sen Bore: Why's that?

Mel: Because it will protect out Minuteman missiles, which are designed to visit a nuclear holocaust on millions of unsuspecting humans.

Sen Bore: (enlightened) Oh I get it. You call it a people protector because it helps you kill people.

Mel: That's it. We got the whole idea from Joseph Heller, who originally got the idea from Hitler, I believe.

Sen Half: Besides protecting us from the Anquillan threat, what will the ABM do?

Mel: We'll be able to nuke Peru back to the stone age.

Sen Mace: Will you need the full Phase III deployment to counter the Jerry Rubin- Abbie Hoffman threat?

Mel: Yes. There're thousands of these knee jerking, gypsy loving, outside agitating mother lovers and I want to chase their tails back to Soviet godless Russia and Red I'd rather be dead China. I figure it'll take 3.5 warheads to chase 1000 of their dead asses out of the country.

Sen Half: Let's see. That makes a 3.5 megabun warhead.

Sen Bore: Well, you aren't going to get an ABM to handle anti-war demonstrators. You'll have to continue using the control weapons you've already got.

Sen Half: (turning to Mel) By the way, What does make up your Yippy control arsenal.

Mel: Arsenic and old Mace.

Sen Half: (in angry ad homonim finale) I hope your teenager daughter uses Easy Off for her acne and runs away with Eldridge Cleaver.

Mel: (not to be outdone) Yeah! I hope your college age son forgets his coin purse on his way to conduct a sit-in at a pay toilet.

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