

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

OF

**H. E. SHEAR
MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR**

ON

BEHALF OF

THE

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BEFORE THE

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE
MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

ON

**H.R. 3289, A BILL "TO ESTABLISH A
COMMISSION TO STUDY DEFENSE-RELATED ASPECTS
OF THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE."**

APRIL 12, 1984

STATEMENT OF ADMIRAL H. E. SHEAR, MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR,
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON MERCHANT
MARINE OF THE HOUSE MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE WITH
RESPECT TO H.R. 3289, A BILL "TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO STUDY
DEFENSE-RELATED ASPECTS OF THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE."

April 12, 1984

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee on Merchant Marine. My name is Garrett E. Brown, Chief Counsel, Maritime Administration, and I am presenting this statement on behalf of Harold E. Shear, the Maritime Administrator.

It is a pleasure to appear this morning to present the Administration's views with respect to H.R. 3289, a bill "To establish a commission to study defense-related aspects of the United States merchant marine.

H.R. 3289 would establish the Commission on Merchant Marine and Defense (Commission) for the purpose of studying problems relating to transportation of cargo for national defense purposes in time of war or national emergency and the capability of the U.S. merchant marine to meet the need for such transportation.

The Commission would make appropriate specific recommendations, based on the study, to be included in a report. The five members of the Commission would be the Secretary of the Navy (or his delegate) as chairman, the Administrator of the Maritime Administration (or his delegate) and three members appointed by the President who would represent the interests of the operators of U.S. merchant ships, shipbuilders and maritime labor.

The bill provides for an executive director, additional staff and assistance from the Navy and the Maritime Administration (MARAD). The bill authorizes \$1 million to be appropriated for fiscal year 1984 to carry out its provisions.

The Administration fully supports the objectives of this legislation. However, we believe that those objectives are now being achieved and that there is no need for new legislation.

The task set for the proposed Commission is the subject of continuous communication between the Department of Transportation and the Department of Defense (DOD), particularly between the Navy and MARAD. The Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of the Navy have met and plan to meet frequently in the future on the matter.

In addition, a Maritime Advisory Committee has been established to present fresh ideas to the Secretary of Transportation and MARAD for the purpose of revitalizing the U.S. maritime industry. This Committee meets regularly and has formed working groups. MARAD participates directly in all DOD studies of requirements for sealift and shipyard mobilization capability.

Finally, MARAD has close ties to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, particularly in the area of joint exercises in which sealift and shipyard mobilization plans are tested.

In summary, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, I believe that the work of the Commission proposed by H.R. 3289 is being accomplished as a matter of course, so that the proposed legislation is not required at this time.

Mr. Chairman. That concludes my prepared statement. I will be pleased to answer any questions you or the Members of the Subcommittee may have.

Thank you.