

'Hill' Probers P Shakeup at P

Merger of Three

Collins Urges One Service Intelligence

Gen. J. Lawton Collins yesterday proposed merging the Army, Navy and Air Force intelligence forces and expanding the role of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The Army chief of staff was asked for his views on possible changes in the setup of the armed forces at a hearing of a Senate subcommittee investigating ammunition shortages. He disclosed he had submitted these three recommendations to the Rockefeller commission studying the Pentagon command structure:

1. Creation of one military intelligence organization, under the Joint Chiefs of Staff, covering broad matters in that field, to eliminate duplication among the three services. Each, however, should retain an intelligence force for field and "close" intelligence.

2. Give the Secretary of Defense a "military executive for administrative matters" of general officer rank, who should have a small staff. Such an officer could greatly reduce the workload of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by assigning problems that do not involve strategic or controversial matters to one of the three departments. The Secretary now must send many matters to the JCS because there is no other competent staff to handle them.

3. Make it the duty of the JCS chairman to bring matters in dispute among the Joint Chiefs to the Defense Secretary and President, stating the conflicting views in detail, and give his own recommendations as to which answer is best. Collins added he would have the JCS chairman also give his own recommendations where he disagreed with a unanimous recommendation of the Chiefs of Staff of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

At present, the JCS chairman can give his own views of disputes to higher authority, but rarely does. What happens is that the chiefs usually work out a compromise, which often is neither satisfactory to the services nor to the taxpayer.