United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

My dear Senator:

Thank you for forwarding to me the letter which you recently received from Herbert E. Gaston, Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of Washington.

The proper and most effective, as well as the most economical, system of planning research and procurement in the armed services is, as you know, one of the over-all, basic problems in building our national defense.

This Committee has given consideration to the matter and we have done some work in this field. However, due to the magnitude of the problem, I think it requires very careful analysis and consideration. As you are aware, it is difficult at best to change the ingrained habits and procedures of the military. We have made considerable progress in that direction by our efforts to instill "cost consciousness" in the armed services. I hope that in the future the problems raised by Mr. Gaston can be given the attention they deserve.

In any event, I appreciate your forwarding me the letter and enabling me to have the benefit of Mr. Gaston's ideas on the subject.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson, Chairman
Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee

The Honorable Herbert H. Lehman
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.