

The provisions of H.R. 5171, its purpose, and potential effect, stem from a recent report of the Comptroller General and the continuing interest of this subcommittee in getting a full dollar's worth of efficient, responsive Government for every tax dollar paid. In his report the Comptroller General emphasized in the strongest terms the need for centralized management, acquisition, and utilization of this costly but highly useful data processing equipment. He authoritatively outlined the cash savings which can result from such a program. In this report, submitted to Congress in March of this year, the Comptroller General advised, and I quote:

Our study shows that very substantial amounts of money could be saved if the Federal Government purchased more of its data processing equipment needs. The detailed cost comparisons of 16 different electronic machine models, which constituted the principal part of our study, indicate potential savings of about \$148 million over a 5-year period. These significant possible savings apply to only 523 of approximately 1,000 electronic data processing systems installed or planned for installation on a lease basis by June 30, 1963. For additional use of the 523 machines after 5 years, there would be further savings at the rate of over \$100 million annually.

The Comptroller General continued by saying that:

Decisions as to the financial advantages of purchasing will have to be made from the standpoint of the Government as a whole, and not primarily from the standpoint of individual using agencies as has been the practice in the past. In addition, more attention needs to be given to obtaining more complete utilization of the equipment acquired. We believe that the only practicable way in which the kind of coordinated management can be practiced to achieve the possible financial savings cited is through the establishment of a small, highly placed central management office in the executive branch of the Government.

The record of the House of Representatives in effecting responsible savings in expenditures and providing for increased economy and efficiency in Government is a commendable one. And, I believe, the contribution to these efforts of this subcommittee and the Government Operations Committee as a whole has been significant over the years.

Among the specific responsibilities of this committee is the obligation to receive and examine reports of the Comptroller General of the United States and of submitting such recommendations to the House as may be deemed necessary. H.R. 5171 constitutes such a recommendation. Following review of this measure, the Comptroller General, speaking for the General Accounting Office, in a letter dated May 15, 1963, advised that—

We believe enactment of the bill would be in the best interest of the Government and will result in considerably more economical procurement and utilization of electronic data processing equipment.

According to the provisions of H.R. 5171, the General Services Administration is charged with the managing of automatic data processing equipment. This authority, of course, is to be exercised under the existing authority of the Bureau of the Budget in its exercise of comprehensive budgetary and policy control.

The GSA, as an operating agency of the executive, has been given the responsibility for assigning, regulating, or performing for executive agencies, as it finds advantageous in terms of economy, efficiency, or service, functions pertaining to procurement, supply and maintenance of real and personal property and nonpersonal services. The overall record of the GSA in assisting the President and the Bureau