

made in these various study reports have followed the same general pattern, calling for improved and careful planning and coordination of the efforts of Federal agencies. Many suggestions have been made for improvement of the management and utilization of automatic data processing resources throughout the Government.

The Comptroller General in his report to the Congress, previously mentioned, of March 6, 1963, concludes that—

The only practical 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 General Services Administration concurs in this conclusion of the Comptroller General. We believe that in order to achieve for the Government the full use potential of automatic data processing equipment, the requirements for which have shown stupendous growth during recent years, to assure full coordination of procurement by and use within the Government, and to obtain for the Government the most economical cost possible, it is essential that centralized management of and control over the procurement and utilization of all such equipment be established. We are, therefore, in complete accord with the purpose of H.R. 5171 which would accomplish these objectives.

We have not sought and are not now seeking the authority which would be vested in the Administrator of General Services by the enactment of this proposed legislation. However, if the Congress should determine, as a matter of policy, that the management of and control over the procurement and use of automatic data-processing equipment should be centralized in a single agency of the executive branch of the Government, it would appear that the General Services Administration would be the logical and appropriate agency to provide such a central management function for the Government. The provision of this service for all Federal agencies by the General Services Administration would be consistent with the declared purpose of the Congress in creating this agency to provide, for the Government, an economical and efficient system for the procurement of personal property and nonpersonal services, including related services such as contracting, the utilization of available property, the disposal of surplus property and the management of records. The utilization of automatic data-processing equipment has become so vital to the successful performance of these and many other functions of the Government that they no longer can be successfully handled without the use of such equipment.

As the volume of Government transactions required to be handled continues to grow during the ensuing years, and as automatic data-processing equipment becomes more technologically sophisticated, its potential for even greater application in the transaction of Government business affords the principal means by which the ever-increasing volume of Government business may be successfully carried out without proportionate increases in staff costs. At the same time, it must be recognized that Government utilization of such equipment either as owner or lessee entails substantial costs.

Accordingly, in my opinion, to achieve for the Government the maximum economic benefits from the use of such equipment, it is