

highly desirable that prompt action be taken to assure (1) proper economic evaluation of such equipment now in use and proposed in the future; (2) maximum utilization of all such equipment owned or leased by the United States including arrangements for multiple agency use; and (3) that the total Government requirements for such equipment is fully brought to bear, both as to price and terms, in negotiating contracts with manufacturers for its use through purchase, lease, or other arrangements.

In my judgment, the many related purposes can best be achieved through the centralization of coordination and control of all aspects of automatic data processing in a single agency of the executive branch of the Government.

In view of the foregoing, the General Services Administration wholeheartedly endorses your bill, H.R. 5171, and urges its early enactment by the Congress.

This concludes my prepared statement, Mr. Chairman, but if you or members of your subcommittee have any questions you wish to ask, we shall endeavor to answer them at this time or supply the desired information for the record.

GSA—LOGICAL AGENCY TO PERFORM CENTRAL MANAGEMENT FUNCTION

Mr. BROOKS. Thank you very much, Mr. Boutin. Then you do agree, I take it, that GSA is the logical and most appropriate agency to provide this central management function that we all desire.

Mr. BOUTIN. Absolutely, Mr. Chairman, for a number of reasons. GSA, from its original conception by the Hoover Commission, by the Congress of the United States, and by President Truman at that time, was to be the business service organization for the entire Federal Government. It was intended that GSA perform many of these service functions, as we do now, in buildings and procurement and supply, management of personal and real property, and records management. This is the very concept of our agency.

I would absolutely agree with your statement. I would like to add that we agree completely with the statement of the Comptroller General that regardless of where this authority is placed, the whole concept of the bill itself in relation to the report of the Comptroller General is eminently sound. So if this legislation were to place this proposed central management function in some other agency, we would still favor its enactment.

Mr. BROOKS. You do feel that it probably ought to go to an operating agency of GSA's type, do you not?

Mr. BOUTIN. Absolutely. As I said, I think GSA is the logical place for this to go because of the experience we have had with revolving funds, and in servicing and working with the other agencies.

Mr. BROOKS. The Comptroller General was encouraging the full rapport between the President and his personal staff and the agency which would conduct this coordination. You have not been unavailable when the President has called, have you?

Mr. BOUTIN. Mr. Chairman, in answer to that, as you and members of the subcommittee know, the Administrator of General Services reports directly to the President. We do not go through any department. We go directly to the President.