

Mr. BROOKS. Do you feel that this authority to delegate this responsibility within limits would be helpful to you during the transition period of setting up this program?

Mr. BOUTIN. I do not think there can be any question about it, Mr. Chairman. I am sure you recognize and members of the subcommittee recognize that this is not going to be an easy job. The whole program that this bill speaks to, is not anything that will be accomplished overnight. It is going to require a great deal of research and careful planning. We do not want to make any mistakes. We do not want to go into this like a bull in a china closet. In the early stages we might conceivably want to delegate some authority on an interim basis. I would say it would be short term.

PERIOD OF TIME NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT ADP PROGRAM

Mr. BROOKS. How long do you feel that it would take to fully implement the program on a Government-wide basis?

Mr. BOUTIN. Mr. Chairman, that is a difficult question and one that I have not been able to think through completely because of the various ramifications. As the Comptroller General testified this morning, with the changes that have taken place in the art itself, with the changes in equipment, with the new opportunities for applications—you say fully implement. It could be quite a long time.

When you say to implement, in a reasonable sense, where we would have a good hold on exactly what the problems are, to have issued our regulations controlling the use of this equipment, and to have made a careful evaluation and analysis of financial requirements, you are probably talking of a length of time, perhaps less than 3 years.

I would like to feel, Mr. Chairman, that if this bill, as I hope it will be, is passed by the Congress and approved by the President, that General Services will have the opportunity to work very closely with this subcommittee.

Already the Comptroller General has testified of his willingness to work with General Services. Naturally, we will work closely with the President and the Bureau of the Budget. But I think we have to have a very close relationship, in addition, with the Appropriations Committees and with this subcommittee of Congress. I think it would be highly desirable. We ought to make a real good start on this in 1 year, so that a year from now we ought to be able to make a real significant report to this subcommittee.

I also agree, with what little I know of the statistical background from reading the Comptroller General's report, that the estimates of savings are conservative, as the Comptroller General has already pointed out.

ADP FUNDS—AVAILABLE WITHOUT FISCAL YEAR LIMITATION

Mr. BROOKS. You can be sure of our continued interest in this problem. H.R. 5171 provides that the automatic data-processing fund shall be available without fiscal year limitation.