

Do you believe that this is necessary for the most efficient and economical administration of the program?

Mr. BOUTIN. If this were not so, Mr. Chairman, I would say that the whole matter would come tumbling down. We just could not possibly administer the provisions of the bill unless it is without regard to fiscal year.

Mr. BROOKS. Now, from the standpoint of officially administering the program, what safeguards do you suggest will assure continued legislative control over any expenditures for this costly equipment?

Mr. BOUTIN. Mr. Chairman, I think that the safeguards are here already. As I have testified, we have the Bureau of the Budget, and its relation, as far as any financial requests are concerned, with the program of the President. We have the Government Operations Committees of the House and Senate, the watchdog committees. In addition to that there are the Appropriations Committees who hear the appropriation requests of the various using agencies, where the money has to come from, to go into the revolving fund.

So I would say that we have ample safeguards right now.

Mr. BROOKS. In addition to these safeguards, would it be possible for your agency, with this responsibility, to give a prospective analysis of the projected cost of this program, so that the Appropriations Committees could have some idea next year of what you are planning to expend, and what you are going to program?

Mr. BOUTIN. Mr. Chairman, I think it goes without saying—I am sure that you know, your coming from Texas, as well or better than I do—Congressman Thomas, who is chairman of our Appropriations Subcommittee, would not let us sit across from the table from him very long unless we were able to give him a good, firm projection of financial requirements.

So, definitely, this is true.

We would have to be able to project the requirements from the information we have at hand, for a minimum of a 5-year period. I am sure you also know that if you were to locate him on the floor of the House, or over in his office right now, he could probably tell you within a few dollars the balance of any one of our revolving funds as of this morning.

So there is going to be quite a lot of safeguard and very careful evaluation.

TIMELINESS OF H.R. 5171

Mr. BROOKS. I fully realize you are not requesting directly or indirectly that this authority be extended to your agency, and did not know I was introducing the bill until I talked to you about it. Furthermore, I think there would be no question as to the difficulties which would be encountered. Obviously, some of these agencies are not going to welcome somebody suggesting that they use an available machine that will do the job, when they would like to go buy a new, fancy one that would do their job and six others that they do not need to have done.

But I do not think we can overlook the importance to the taxpayers in the development of this centralized program. And with these