

Mr. BROOKS. I want to say, Mr. Boutin, that we appreciated having you here.

NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Did you have any questions, Mr. Rosenthal?

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Yes.

Could the purposes of this bill have been handled just as well by Executive order, by the President, rather than by legislation?

Mr. BOUTIN. We could have probably gotten there under the provisions of the 1949 act. There would have been some questions, some legal questions.

I would prefer to see it accomplished by passage of this legislation, Congressman, for a number of reasons:

No. 1, it clearly identifies the interest and the intent of Congress, itself. So, then, there is no question in anyone's mind of exactly what the Congress wants to have done.

No. 2, it spells out the authorities very clearly and very concisely, so there is no doubt in anyone's mind there.

So which is more desirable between the two? I say the legislation is substantially more desirable.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. I only asked that because I suspect some of our colleagues on the floor might ask that very same question.

Mr. BOUTIN. Well, you have a great many problems if you do not have the legislation. For instance, the revolving fund and how that was going to be administered. You would probably end up with a requirement for some legislation anyway, clarification, authorization for revolving fund.

I would say that this is the way to do it, clearly.

AMOUNT OF CAPITAL IN ADP REVOLVING FUND

Mr. ROSENTHAL. And, once again, can you tell us briefly why you feel there should not be any amount specified to be authorized in this legislation?

Mr. BOUTIN. Well, No. 1, we do not have a fix, and I do not think anyone else has, as the Comptroller General has testified and Mr. Mahoney, on exactly the requirement there is going to be on a continuing basis.

What are the assets that would be transferred to GSA at the outset of it? What are going to be the requirements for replacement equipment?

I cite as an example of that the importance of an agency's program, itself. General Services is a very good example.

In order to conform with the MILSTRIP requirements, single-line requisitioning of the Department of Defense, which became effective last July 1 on a crash basis, we changed our whole concept of ADP utilization within a matter of about 5 months. This, however, is not the end that we are seeking. We are now going from that plateau into a long-range program.

It would have been foolish for us to have purchased at that time. But it is prudent for us to purchase when we go into the long range.

So we are going to have to take a look at the requirements of each specific agency and department in order to pinpoint exactly what the financial requirements are going to be.