

as TVA which conducts extensive engineering and business-type activities. TVA has found EDP equipment of immense benefit in carrying out its program of regional development, such as in predicting and controlling the flow of the Tennessee River, in operation of its extensive power system, and in production of fertilizer materials. We believe TVA, which has responsibility for the success of these activities, is in a much better position to determine how and what items of EDP equipment can be used most effectively therein than any central agency operating out of Washington and without such responsibility would be. Actually, as far as these programs of TVA are concerned, they would not appear to be affected by the provisions of H.R. 5171 since the bill does not alter the existing exemptions under section 602(d) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act, but we believe that remote, centralized control of such vital equipment as applied to any agencies is wrong in principle and should be avoided.

TVA has given careful attention to economy and efficiency in its acquisition and use of EDP equipment. TVA first acquired an IBM-704 machine several years ago under lease but it was purchased outright as soon as we could determine that it met our needs. Smaller units of EDP equipment have been temporarily leased for special use but these will be replaced with purchased equipment as soon as we can determine with greater preciseness what we need. Also, we have made our EDP equipment available to AEC and other Government agencies when they need it and it can be spared. We see no reason why similar cooperative action should not be taken throughout the Government without additional legislation on the subject.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the bill.

Sincerely yours,

AUBREY J. WAGNER, *Chairman.*

(b) *Federal Aviation Agency*

FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY,
Washington, D.C., May 10, 1963.

MR. PHILLIP S. HUGHES,
*Assistant Director for Legislative Reference,
Bureau of the Budget,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. HUGHES: This is in response to your request for this Agency's views on H.R. 5171, a bill to authorize the Administrator of the General Services Administration to coordinate and otherwise provide for the economic and efficient purchase, lease, maintenance, operation, and utilization of electronic data processing equipment by Federal departments and agencies.

This measure would appear to vest complete authority in the Administrator of the General Services Administration to control the purchase, lease, maintenance, and use of electronic data processing equipment by Federal agencies. It is the opinion of this Agency that the establishment of such a highly centralized control over the acquisition and use of EDP equipment is both unwarranted and unwise. We fear that the attendant administrative, coordinative, and restrictive procedures which would flow from this bill would prove to be a serious impediment to the conduct of our air safety programs which rely to a great extent upon the application of EDP.

This Agency now makes extensive use of special EDP equipment in air navigation and air traffic control, flight inspection, and related communications systems. As an example, the computer systems used in the air traffic control centers to control movement of aircraft have attached to them specially designed equipment to work in conjunction with the computers. This highly specialized equipment is built to specifications which are required to satisfy the unique operational requirements for control of movement of aircraft in the air. These computer systems are used 24 hours a day and every day of the year in a "real time" environment. Information fed to the computers comes from various other special system equipment in the center and adjacent control centers, entering the computer with no intervention. The computer immediately processes information and displays the information on cathode ray tubes or prints the information on specially prepared paper strips or electromechanical displays for immediate use by the controller in making decisions relative to control of air traffic. This is but one example of how EDP equipment as used in this Agency is an integral part of an operational system which, to be properly managed, requires Agency control over all physical resources, including EDP equipment.