

come into conflict with actions of the Administrator directing joint utilization or pooling arrangements, the mandatory nature of this provision could be in conflict with the Commission's responsibility for safeguarding information. For this reason we oppose the provision giving the Administrator authority to require joint utilization or pooling arrangements.

Another complication raised by the proposed bill is the fact that most of the procurement and utilization of electronic data processing equipment is accomplished for the Commission through its many contractors rather than by the AEC directly, and in many of these situations the highly specialized nature of the equipment needed prevents orders being placed under Federal supply schedules. The Commission could not take over these procurement and utilization functions from its contractors without dislocating its present method of conducting major portions of its programs through its contractors, with resulting problems which in administrative and staffing implications alone could outweigh any economies the bill might otherwise permit. It would, of course, not be feasible or consistent with contractual relationships, and would not be contemplated by the bill as we understand it, for another agency to attempt to exercise control over AEC contractors.

We have no objection to an expansion of the activities of the Administrator in entering into open-end contracts for the purchase of electronic data processing equipment which the various Federal agencies will be free to avail themselves of when they believe that the contracts meet their needs and specifications.

In essence the Atomic Energy Commission believes that the connection between its procurement and uses of electronic data processing equipment and the fulfillment of its appointed tasks is so essential as to make it incompatible with the Atomic Energy Act to place this procurement and use under the control of another agency. Accordingly, we oppose the passage of H.R. 5171 as it applies to the Commission.

Sincerely yours,

DWIGHT A. INK,
Assistant General Manager.

(d) *Post Office Department*

OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL,
Washington, D.C., May 9, 1963.

Hon. KERMIT GORDON,
Director, Bureau of the Budget,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. GORDON: This is in reply to the request of the Assistant Director, Legislative Reference, for the views of this Department with respect to H.R. 5171, "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."

The Post Office Department does not favor the establishment of a central control organization for the procurement or management of electronic data processing equipment for all Federal agencies.

The use of electronic data processing equipment is vital to the day-to-day conduct of the Post Office Department business and is considered to be an essential administrative sanction of the Department.

While the bill would permit the Administrator of General Services Administration, in his discretion, to delegate the control of electronic data processing equipment in certain cases, we believe that because an exceptionally high degree of responsiveness to the data processing needs of the Department is required, it is imperative that all phases of administrative management of the equipment, personnel, job schedules, and contact with vendors remain under the direct control of the Postmaster General or his designated representative.

This Department is currently participating in the experimental regional sharing plan for electronic computers sponsored by the Bureau of the Budget. The Department intends to continue in this effort in order to help secure maximum utilization of data processing equipment. However, it is not considered advisable to relinquish authority over the management of this function since data processing services are fundamental responsibilities of the Postmaster General.