

ness of proposed fees, and that contracting practices include negotiations with appraisers concerning fees and other matters after proposals are received.

The Assistant Attorney General, Lands Division, advised us that, in accordance with our proposals, the Lands Division would prepare and issue formal policies and procedures for negotiating with and selecting appraisers and that it was the Department's intention to adopt our proposal that appraisers be required to furnish cost data. He stated, however, that our proposal that negotiations be carried on with prospective appraisers presented a number of problems.

Although adoption and implementation of these measures should improve the contracting procedures for the employment of appraisers, we believe that additional improvements are needed. Accordingly, we are recommending that the Attorney General, to improve contracting activities, provide for periodic reviews of the contracting activities of the individual attorneys for determining whether prescribed policies and procedures are being effectively carried out at the operating level. We are recommending also that the Attorney General prescribe methods and criteria for guiding individual attorneys in determining the reasonableness of proposed fees. We are further recommending that the Attorney General, to afford the Department a better basis for determining that appraisal fees are reasonable, require contracting officials to negotiate with appraisers, on the basis of proposed costs or other information, after initial proposals are received.

In response to our request for all pertinent records, the Department denied us free access to such records applicable to 20 cases then in litigation and furnished us with only those records which, in its opinion, were needed for, or pertinent to, our review. Because the Department did not permit us to make the selection of the documents needed for our review, we were unable to make a completely independent review of the contracting activities. Consequently, we are not aware of any additional information in these files which might affect the matters discussed herein.

We are reporting these matters to the Congress because they show the need for the Department of Justice to strengthen its contracting procedures for employing appraisers to value Indian lands, which is especially important in view of the large number of future contracts which the Department has estimated will be required. Also, prior congressional interest in this area had been expressed by individual members of the Congress and by the Subcommittee on Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, the Judiciary and Related Agencies Appropriations, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives.

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THE UTILIZATION AND DISPOSITION OF EXCESS BEDS AND RELATED BEDDING, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

In 1963 and 1964 the Defense General Supply Center reported to Headquarters, Defense Supply Agency, that the Army beds and mattresses were in long supply and that the Center proposed to issue these beds to the Air Force and Navy in lieu of new procurement.