

The total computer equipment costs in Manned Space Flight have been going down. They are, in fiscal year 1967, \$7,800,000 less than the fiscal year 1966 costs and the fiscal year 1968 costs are \$6,500,000 less than those for fiscal year 1967.

Mr. FULTON. On the general purpose of computers rather than specifically built components, what is your policy—do you favor the Government owning the particular computer or do you favor leasing, everything else being equal?

Dr. MUELLER. We have some careful guidelines prepared by the Bureau of the Budget and by the General Accounting Office which provide criteria for making a selection depending upon which is the least expensive total cost for the Government and we are applying those procedures to each of our purchases.

Mr. FULTON. Did you ask each individual computer whether it should be bought or leased and did it reply to you: "Buy me or lease me?"

Dr. MUELLER. We ask another computer to arrive at the answer to this rather complex question.

Mr. FULTON. That is all.

Dr. MUELLER. We want to avoid a conflict of computer interest.

Mr. FULTON. That is all.

Dr. MUELLER. That is all I had, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. TEAGUE. I am sorry Mr. Rumsfeld wasn't in here. It was his question.

George, while Don is out, I wish you would discuss support services at the different centers. Every time you change your procedure, all of us get swamped with letters and calls from contractors all over the country. They all come to see us. Would you comment on how you make a determination for contracting the in-house support service functions? Are they uniform in each center?

Dr. MUELLER. Most of the changes that we have been instituting have been in the direction of bringing uniformity of applications of our support services contractors between the centers. Of course, their missions are different so you can't get absolute uniformity, but, as you recall about 2 years ago, we established a new support contractor structure and those structures were deliberately different at Marshall, MSC and KSC because we were trying to learn how best to utilize support contractors in the operation of these facilities. We have been learning from this process. In general, we have adopted the use of a contract involving a determination of an award fee, and insofar as we could do so, objective fee criteria. We are using an incentive fee structure for our support contractors and this has worked quite well. We are in the process of consolidating certain of the contracts in order to provide for both better management on our part and also to reduce the administrative overhead which it would appear, because of the way the contract structure has developed, could be done by consolidating certain contracts.

Mr. TEAGUE. Take Cape Kennedy. What do you go to? Eight to four down there?

Dr. MUELLER. From seven to four.

Mr. TEAGUE. Seven to four.

Dr. MUELLER. Yes.