

fit from their use. The Department did not agree with our proposals directed toward achieving the needed coordination. We do not agree with the Department's views on the matter, and intend to pursue the need for coordination through additional review work.

ADEQUACY OF INTERNAL AUDITS

While I am talking on this point, I would like to emphasize something else that we are doing, and that is a series of reports we are making to Congress on the adequacy or inadequacy of internal audit in the agencies. This is where the responsibility basically rests, that is with the agency head. If we can help them strengthen internal audit, it not only helps solve some of our problems, but it also puts the responsibility basically where it belongs, namely with the agency head.

CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Chairman PROXMIRE. I agree with that. This takes exactly that kind of specific correction, and the highlighting of errors and the need for improvement.

But I just cannot get around the fact that we are human, and unless attention is called to this in a vigorous way and a vehement way by those in Congress who are elected to discharge a public duty, we just know that this big Government of ours is going to continue to make big mistakes at a big cost.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR NOT IN ACCORD WITH GAO

Mr. WEITZEL. Mr. Chairman, for your information, in the meantime we might just observe that of all of the examples that were given in the Comptroller General's statement, the only one where we think the Department is not wholeheartedly in accord with our conclusions is the first one, the Department of Interior, which feels it is a healthy situation to let two of its bureaus, Bonneville Power Administration and the Bureau of Reclamation, find solutions which they feel will meet their own peculiar conditions, and they felt that, perhaps, our report did not go sufficiently into underlying conditions when we made the recommendations that we did as to footings and so forth. We still stand on the conclusions that we made in our report to Congress.

In the second case, that of the Post Office Department, we had recommended that a provision be put into legislation that was pending for long term leasing authority for the Postmaster General. We are informed now that the Post Office Department and GSA standards will be more applicable to post office building construction. So, that has been taken care of administratively.

The other agencies have gone along generally with our recommendations.

INSUFFICIENT RENTALS COLLECTED FOR USE OF GOVERNMENT EQUIPMENT

Chairman PROXMIRE. Very good. That is, as far as the itemized corrections of the Comptroller General's statement are concerned.

Mr. Staats, where you say "although corrective action was promised, the incidence of discrepancies"—this refers to some floor checks and so forth, inventory control—"The incidence of discrepancies rose from 7.5