

STATEMENTS CONTRADICTING COMPTROLLER GENERAL

Chairman PROXMIRE. Let me just say—my time is up again—that you are saying that this is a very difficult law to carry out. The Comptroller General said that he did not think it would constitute a heavy burden. You are saying that there is a substantial compliance or virtually complete compliance. He said there is a serious lack of compliance.

I get the feeling from your answer, Mr. Malloy, that your department feels that there are serious difficulties in this law as it is presently written to comply with it. It seems to me that a law of the Congress that has been on the books for four and a half years, that there is something wrong with it, if it is difficult for the agency which is given the responsibility for enforcing it, that you should have been up here on the Hill long ago indicating what is wrong with it, how it can be improved, how it would be possible to comply with it, if it is unrealistic what it is unrealistic.

At the same time it is hard for me to believe, to make any conclusion except that the position of the Comptroller General is right, and that there should be the accurate, current and complete cost data in every case, and on the basis of his findings, and I must say on the basis of your responses, my feeling is that we aren't getting that, in this enormous amount of procurement which costs tens of billions of dollars a year.

Mr. MALLOY. Mr. Chairman, I—

SUGGESTED CHANGES IN THE LAW?

Chairman PROXMIRE. Do you have any change in the law to suggest—so that you can comply with it?

Mr. MALLOY. I do not at this time have any changes in the law that I would suggest to the Congress. We are working as the Secretary indicated very diligently in defining some of the terms that are used in the law in the way in which they will be given practical effect at the working level.

This is the type of situation that requires training and education and precise regulation writing, and we have made a major change along these lines in 1964.

CHANGE DUE IN REGULATIONS

Now we are taking all of the experience that we have learned in the past 2 years, and we are about to put out another change in our regulations, and adopt a major training program along with it, to be sure that the people at the working level understand clearly what the requirements are.

I must say, Mr. Chairman, that we have been working very cooperatively with the General Accounting Office in this regard.

Chairman PROXMIRE. I know you have, and I don't mean to be critical of your efforts, and so forth.

Mr. MALLOY. They are very helpful to us.

Chairman PROXMIRE. That just is very, very difficult for us to understand here in the Senate and in the House, when we pass a law