

Senator METCALF. That certainly could be influential and have an effect upon some of the decisions that were made. As we both know—you as a member of the Ways and Means Committee and I as a member of the Finance Committee—there seems to be an undue concern about balance of payments among some people down at the Treasury at the cost of many of the programs in which we are both interested.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Congressman Moorhead, would you care to ask any questions?

Representative MOORHEAD. Yes, thank you, Madam Chairman.

First, let me commend you, Senator, on an excellent statement. This prompts me to remark how much we miss you on our side of the Capitol.

Senator METCALF. I feel that I come home when I come home to your side.

SAVINGS POTENTIAL IN PROCUREMENT OF DRUGS AND UTILITIES

Representative MOORHEAD. As I understand your proposal, it is that Government agencies as consumers, large consumers, particularly in the field of drugs and public utilities can, by a change of policies, save the people of America first as taxpayers and second as consumers large sums of money. This is the essence of it?

EXPERTS NEEDED TO HELP CONSUMERS

Senator METCALF. Tremendous sums of money. By virtue of the very fact that they are the largest consumers in these areas there should be some trained people to assist consumer organizations who have not had the opportunity to get the benefit of this kind of advice. Where do you learn to be a counsel or a statistician for a utility company? You cannot learn it at any college. You have to learn it just by trial and error or working for a utility. And you go into a rate case, even in a State such as Montana where we have a relatively small but very important and influential power company, the Montana Power Co., and you have a battery of lawyers and a battery of accountants, and a battery of statisticians and all sorts of experts and a couple of people representing the Montana Public Service Commission who spend most of their time checking truck licenses or going out and looking and seeing whether the oil wells are capped, and know nothing about that. The very few times that we have been successful in rate cases have been the times when GSA sent a rate expert out there to testify to a fair rate that was needed. And they met some of the issues presented by the vast battery of accountants, statisticians, engineers, vice presidents and public relations people and politicians and all present on one side of the case, with a couple of truck inspectors on the other.

Representative MOORHEAD. And few customers have enough at stake to get into this, but the Federal Government does.

Senator METCALF. The only other customer in Montana who has enough at stake is the Anaconda Co., which is a user of a considerable amount of electricity. You have to have a consumer's organization and they have to hire a lawyer who has experience in the presentation of that. It is our responsibility, it would seem to me, as the biggest con-