

STATEMENT OF HON. LAWSON B. KNOTT, JR., ADMINISTRATOR,
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION; ACCOMPANIED BY H. A.
ABERSFELLER, COMMISSIONER, FEDERAL SUPPLY SERVICE; AND
JOHN G. HARLAN, JR., COMMISSIONER, DEFENSE MATERIALS
SERVICE

Mr. KNOTT. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

I brought to the table with me Mr. John Harlan, who is the Commissioner of our Defense Materials Service and Commissioner Abersfeller, who is the Commissioner of our Federal Supply Service. These are the two areas that seem more importantly involved in the subcommittee's areas of interest.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Since your statement is quite short, would you please read it? I think that probably would be best. I personally discovered that it takes longer to summarize these things.

Mr. KNOTT. I appreciate the opportunity to appear today before your Subcommittee on Economy in Government, to discuss the programs and activities of the General Services Administration concerned with procurement, supply, and property management for the Federal Government and to tell you about some of the things we have done, as well as other actions we plan to take to reduce the costs and improve the efficiency of these operations.

ANNUAL REVIEW BY COMMITTEE

Before discussing these programs, I wish to reiterate the statement I made during my testimony at the hearing in March 1966, to the effect that the stimulus provided by the annual review of the Joint Economic Committee of the Congress of GSA's role in the field of Federal procurement, supply, and property management had led to many improvements.

GAO REPORTS

Also, during the past year the General Accounting Office has examined several GSA operations. In each instance, the approach was fair and reasonable and we were afforded an opportunity to comment upon proposed findings and recommendations prior to publication of the final GAO report. Although we do not always agree with the GAO findings and recommendations, we do agree with the majority of them and our views and statements of corrective action taken are included in GAO's final report to Congress. The GAO recommendations are constructive and helpful to our management of the affairs of GSA and the GAO examinations supplement our own self-evaluation capabilities which we are taking steps to strengthen.

In my testimony today I will, as requested, give an account of the actions taken concerning the recommendations contained in the May 1966 report of your predecessor Subcommittee on Federal Procurement and Regulation which involve GSA and I will discuss, also, other matters mentioned in your letter to me of April 26, 1967.

Mr. Chairman, we work continuously toward elimination of avoidable duplication and overlap between the supply systems within the executive branch. We believe this the key to the further success in this area.