

ning—is that the group from the executive offices that deals really with civil defense—which used to be considered as civil defense?

Mr. KNOTT. Right.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Do you mean that these medical items are only in community hospitals—and what is a community hospital?

Mr. KNOTT. This is in addition to these prepositioned hospitals which are packaged hospitals. This is a further step in which we are putting the hospitals in local communities and allowing them to use these materials and then to pay back out of new acquisitions.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Is that in all hospitals in any community?

Mr. KNOTT. It is in addition—this is in a substantial number. How much?

Mr. HARLAN. 2,300.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Are there not a lot more hospitals than that?

Mr. HARLAN. We have in addition to community hospitals, some 2,300 hospitals placed around in firehouses and places where they can be activated in the even of an emergency. They are all packaged and ready for activation.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Out of the firehouses are you sure that these shelf items are then made available to other hospitals or for purchase or some other way?

Mr. HARLAN. We inspect these hospitals each year. As the materials in the kits need to be replaced they are removed from the kits and taken back into our storage centers where an examination and analysis is made of them to determine whether they are fit for further utilization or processing or must be destroyed. One of the reasons why we are moving to the community hospitals sort of thing is to avoid so much of that destruction by asking the community hospitals to feed from the short shelf-life items in the kits and replace them from their new procurement so there would be a continuing turnover and rotation.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Unless you mean by “community hospital” any hospital in any community, I sincerely trust that you will change the definition because I do not see any reason why it should not be any hospital, private or otherwise.

Mr. HARLAN. I am not sure why they refer to it as a “community hospital.”

Representative GRIFFITHS. You point out that the Office of Emergency Planning keeps out 20 million tons of such material. Who makes the determination of which material is necessary?

Mr. KNOTT. The Office of Emergency Planning.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Who in the Office of Emergency Planning, and how many employees do they have? Who determines it?

Mr. KNOTT. I don't know how many employees they have.

Mr. HARLAN. They are a very small staff.

Representative GRIFFITHS. They have practically nobody, do they not? So who really makes the determination?

Mr. HARLAN. This is made as a result of an interagency material advisory committee which consists of representatives of about 10 or 11 Government agencies, including the Department of Defense, Department of Commerce, Department of the Interior, GSA, Department of