

Mr. HUGHES. Exclusive of the utility area where they would be more substantial, the best we can appraise it.

Chairman PROXMIRE. I am surprised at that.

Mr. HUGHES. This is something we are looking into.

Chairman PROXMIRE. That could make a difference, could it not? You have some decisions decided at less than 2 percent?

Mr. HUGHES. By and large, it is our judgment as we indicated in the longer statement that the inclusion of taxes in the computation would probably not significantly affect decisions but we are reexamining it in the course of our present review of the circular and we certainly will consider Mr. Gainsbrugh's views in the context of that.

Chairman PROXMIRE. I will have some more questions in connection with that. My time is up.

Congressman Moorhead?

INCOMPATIBILITY IN ADPE

Representative MOORHEAD. I have just two questions.

Mr. Hughes, in your statement you bring out this point about the incompatibility that exists among different types of data processing equipment. Just recently another subcommittee I am a member of visited the Marine headquarters where they are trying to work toward an integrated information center and it seemed to me the key to the success of the operation was—or will be—that each marine will be able to communicate with each other marine and this is of great importance in the Government.

RAPID TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE CREATES PROBLEMS

Mr. HUGHES. Indeed, it is, Mr. Moorhead. The problem is complicated further by the rapid technological change and evolution in the field data processing. This makes it difficult to even keep track of the equipment and the nature of the equipment that is in the Government, let alone to work toward standardization.

But the proper utilization of the equipment really increase the need for compatibility, so that agencies can share, and so that a program or problem having one type of equipment which has more than it can handle can utilize another agency's equipment which has, perhaps, some idle time.

We are fully aware of the problem. It is a technical as well as a management problem. One of the purposes of both Public Law 89-306 and the circular I referred to is to improve the degree of compatibility within the equipment. The Bureau of Standards in the Department of Commerce is the technically responsible agency, but we hope that the inventory which our circular will bring about will facilitate achievement of a greater degree of information exchange and compatibility in the equipment.

Representative MOORHEAD. I hope the Bureau of the Budget, with its power over purchases, will keep pushing toward this among agencies.

Mr. HUGHES. We will do our best.