

of the commodity managers having responsibility for that particular kind of item. The manager in turn then looked at his total requirements and his net requirement to see if anything was being procured or would have to be procured, and he then determined if he had a requirement for the item. If he had no requirement for it, it was then referred to Defense Logistics Service Center, of which General Case once was the commander. This is the Defense agency which screens for requirements of all the services.

If DLSC knew of a requirement, they so informed our people, who took proper action for the distribution of the materiel. If there was no requirement known at DLSC, then the NICP here in CONUS would report back to Europe to General Case's organization that there was no requirement here.

If you would like, General Case could tell you how they went about doing further screening within Europe in order to be sure that, as was indicated earlier, we would make the maximum use of the item for its original intended purpose rather than putting it into a property disposal yard and selling it for scrap or something else and not getting the value out of it.

Mrs. HECKLER. It seems to me that on page 6 of the statement in the first sentence, there is some question raised about the significance or the performance of the initial screening process; is that right?

Mr. ZARETZKY. Yes, ma'am. I have never yet been to a disposal yard that I have not seen something that I would like to have, and wonder, how in the world did that ever get there? In fact, the first place I went to in Europe last January was the first disposal yard I could find. There was an open box of what we call blind rivets. They are used in the repair of aircraft. They looked brand new, so I took a handful and put them in my pocket. I asked wherever I went, "How come we dispose of these things which we buy every day?" The people I asked embarrassed me very quickly. They looked at the handful of rivets and said, "There are seven sizes in your hand. This is the reason they were disposed of. They got mixed up somewhere."

It is sometimes easy when you go to a disposal yard to find things that should not have gotten there. I would like General Case to take over and explain why he then set this program in motion to make sure that nothing slipped through the cracks, so to speak.

General CASE. I did it for just the reason you mentioned. I, too, often find things in disposal yards that horrify me. I know that we will be buying these same items somewhere in the world soon. We put 14 checks into the computer, and if the items survived these checks they went through the process that General Heiser mentioned. Then I released these items, and this left me with 34,000 items still excess which the NICP did not want. So I released 5,000 of these on a test basis. I found that in 92 percent of the cases the computer was right. The item was excess. A visual check and examination showed that there was an 8-percent error. This arose because, maybe the price on the computer was wrong, maybe a decimal point was in the wrong place, maybe the unit issue had been changed, or for some other reason.

We then followed through the operation so that we could catch the 2 percent. I then sent teams into the depots and their major criterion was commonsense. Maybe on a purely mathematical calculation you could say, this was not demanded three times in the last year and