

Mr. ST GERMAIN. Is any consideration given to the type of work which the backhoe, the crane or the bulldozer might be required to do, and as such, doesn't that sort of go against the grain of a set standard or criteria?

In other words, as we know, a backhoe, for instance, ordinarily—even though it be in good repair—the value of the backhoe is computed on the basis of the number of hours it has been in actual operation. And there are some operations that can be performed by a backhoe that has been in operation for a great many hours, whereas in other instances requirements would be more stringent. I am wondering if you have a scale there also within the criteria that you mentioned?

General HEISER. Mr. St Germain, there is a graduated scale for the economic repair limits within which we will repair an item. However, recognizing that we are comparing ourselves on a basis of readiness for an emergency, which is our mission, we do not have a graduated scale, sir, within which we will claim an item to be serviceable. As a result—it is either serviceable or it is not serviceable, because as you well recognize, sir, this a worldwide situation—we have to be prepared to fight under any circumstances, and so there is a standard of serviceability that is not graduated, sir.

The thing that is graduated is the economic repair limits within which we operate.

Mr. ST GERMAIN. The thought occurred to me, if you had equipment in France, and there were requirements in Germany or in Italy, you are not there operating under fighting conditions as we are in Vietnam. Many of these pieces of equipment are being used in what you might call regular domestic work at this time, and we hope for many years to come in these areas, and that is why I wondered about this.

General HEISER. There is local judgment used in the local area, sir. For example, at the post, camp, or station—many times you will find them using equipment just as you were talking about, sir. However, when we are talking about standard equipment issued to troops, this is based upon a standard of serviceability. It is constant, sir.

Mr. ST GERMAIN. Once again, when you say "issued to troops," this implies troops no matter where they may be, but it doesn't recognize what they are doing.

General HEISER. Tactical units required to be ready to act in emergencies, such as the 7th Army in Europe, would be the kind I am talking about.

Mr. ST GERMAIN. When an item of Department of Defense equipment is declared excess and is turned over to AID or disposed of to AID, do the excess parts for that particular piece of equipment go along also?

General HEISER. This is a mixed answer, if you don't mind.

If the end item happens to be an end item on the tail end of a situation where it is the last of a kind, as opposed to being washed out because it is not economically reparable, and there are no requirements for repair parts other places in DOD, then the repair parts will logically be excess to our needs.

However, sir, this is mostly the abnormal situation. Normally, sir, for the equipment that is disposed of through the DOD, or the equipment made available to AID—usually it is found that there will be