It may be that EPRO's interest in mechanical equipments derives in part from the greater competition for them, for it is obvious that most federal agencies—and the states—desire to obtain such equipments. Perhaps in the excess property market, as in other markets, demand determines value. In any event, the opposition of those antagonistic to AID utilization of excess property springs perhaps more from envy over mechanical equipments acquired by AID than from any other single source.

Whereas the EPRO's have acquired large quantities of mechanical equipments and some electrical equipments, they have acquired very, very few electronic equipments. A number of MR/GPR personnel possess backgrounds endowing them with some knowledge of mechanical equipments, but few, if any, possess familiarity with electronic items.

While dollar data on equipments are useful in assessing the makeup of the total Advance Acquisition inventory, it reveals little or nothing about the utility of such equipments to their ultimate users, the missions. Utility—in part, at least—is determined by the age of the equipment, the assumption being that the older the equipment is, the less useful it is. Accordingly, as part of this study, an analysis was undertaken of the ages of equipments listed in the current domestic excess property catalog. This analysis revealed that of the 2,601 items listed, some 535 (or about 20 percent) had the model year specified in their catalog descriptions. The results of this analysis are presented in Exhibits VIII and IX. Exhibits VIII, which indicates ages of equipments by five-year increments, reveals that more than 50 percent of all equipments analyzed were 16 or more years old, with more than 90 percent of all such equipments being 11 or more years old.

EXHIBIT VIII.—EXCESS EQUIPMENT AGES,[1] NUMBERS AND PERCENTS

EXHIBIT IX.—EXCESS EQUIPMENT AGES

	Number of items	Total original acquisition cost	1 to 5 years	6 to 10 years	11 to 15 years	16 to 20 years	21 to 25 years	Over 25 years	Equipmen ages specified
Machine tools	694	$1,404,429	1	15	38	64	53	11	182
Vehicles	332	1,343,203	2	12	72	22	6	0	114
Construction equipment	275	3,321,716	0	1	37	36	9	1	84
Materials handling equipment	72	338,159	0	1	11	1	0	0	13
Compressors, generators, and pumps	443	539,162	0	14	21	9	4	8	56
Other	785	743,763	2	0	17	49	17	1	86
Totals	2,601	7,690,432	5	43	196	181	89	21	535

Source: "Domestic Excess Property Catalog No. 4," May 31, 1966, published by MR/GPR, Washington, D.C.

Exhibit IX presents these same data broken down into several arbitrary classes of equipment: machine tools, vehicles, construction equipment, materials handling equipment, compressors, pumps and generators, and others. As this exhibit reveals, the composition by age varied according to classification, machine tools being the oldest. For them, the sixteen-to-twenty-year interval was the mode; whereas for vehicles, it was eleven to fifteen years. Dated construction equipment (which accounted for nearly one-half of the dollars in the equipment