

well computers valued at \$8.6 million. The computers will process data on Defense Department contracts. They will be used to report on the status of vendor production, quality assurance, invoice control, accounting services and other functions necessary for production and timely delivery of Defense items. The multicomputer system will lease for about \$172,000 a month when the system is fully implemented, Honeywell said. The Government has the option to purchase the equipment at any time.

Do you know if these are for a pooling arrangement?

Mr. ABERSFELLER. I do not.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Does GSA have any part in these DSA transactions?

Mr. ABERSFELLER. Well, we are generally informed. I happen to be uninformed about that particular one. But, we are generally informed of the intent to procure. First the intent to buy or to lease—that notice comes to us first. And then, subsequently, any decision that might be made comes to us. I am not familiar with the case you mentioned, but I do not think it would be pooled within the general Government framework.

Chairman PROXMIRE. This looks like a big and important element, sufficient to warrant a story in the Wall Street Journal, and it is a lot of money.

Mr. ABERSFELLER. I just do not happen to be personally informed, Mr. Chairman. I would like to check with my staff and provide the details for the record.

(The following information was supplied for the record:)

The General Services Administration is responsible for contracting for the Defense Supply Agency requirements for the purchase and/or rental of 22 Honeywell Computer Model 200 Series Systems. On September 15, 1967, the Defense Supply Agency requested GSA to contract for these systems. Representatives of GSA have been meeting with Honeywell, Incorporated, in order to consummate contractual agreement. We expect to complete this by January 15, 1968.

The computers are required by the Defense Supply Agency for use in status of vendor production, quality assurance, invoice control, accounting services, and other functions related to the production and timely delivery of defense items. The multi-computer system will be located and installed during Calendar Year 1968 at various DSA installations located in Detroit, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, St. Louis, Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, Philadelphia, Atlanta, and Dallas.

Chairman PROXMIRE. You are confident that GSA has been informed?

Mr. ABERSFELLER. I am not; no.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Are there occasions when they do not inform you?

Mr. ABERSFELLER. Yes, sir.

Chairman PROXMIRE. How can that be? Shouldn't there be intercommunication if you are going to have an efficient operation?

Mr. ABERSFELLER. Yes, sir; it should be. And we have very recently issued a Federal property management regulation on this point, requiring that agencies do this. Until we had done that, there were occasions when we had not been informed.

Chairman PROXMIRE. I would like to ask if it is permissible, Mr. Knott—because you have, as you say, a lot of ground to cover, and Senator Percy and I will be asking you questions on it—if you would mind if Senator Brooke, who has now appeared, could come in and testify, and then we will resume your testimony?