

and do our very best to try and eliminate what is obviously an unintended discrimination against handtools.

Senator BROOKE. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**STATEMENT OF HON. LAWSON B. KNOTT, JR., ADMINISTRATOR,
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION—Resumed**

Senator PERCY. Mr. Chairman, before we go on to public utilities, could I ask one question about computer systems.

Computer systems for any agency or company are almost a status symbol. Everyone has to have his own, and they all like to have the system under their own control. How much authority do you have when a Government agency puts in a request for a system, to scour around to see whether a modified or up-dated system some place else would not serve their purpose, and direct them to use such service, and get it transferred to them or made available to them, rather than them having their own system installed and put in, which might be utilized only a smaller percentage of the time against maximizing 7 days a week, 24-hour-a-day utilization of a system that exists some place else?

Mr. KNOTT. Yes.

This was the whole thrust of some legislation that was enacted a couple of years ago.

The unfortunate thing is that in the course of a last minute compromise, the act ostensibly gave GSA some broad authority for management of computer systems, it dropped its voice, so to speak, in a later section when it reserved to the agencies the final authority for determination as to the type and kind of equipment that it needed to carry on its program mission.

In other words, GSA, as a service agency, is always in the position that it must stand aside when whatever it attempts to perform in the way of a service function can be said to interfere with the mission of the other agency involved.

However, despite this fact, there are ways in which we can approach the problem.

For example, the Comptroller General—within the last 10 days or 2 weeks—has made it eminently clear in a rather lengthy opinion that he believes that GSA's authority for the purchase of—the acquisition of—ADP equipment supersedes the authorities of other agencies, and that they must clear purchases with us. I believe that is the substance of the opinion. (See app. 10, p. 556.)

We believe this reaches a new plateau in GSA assumption of a greater role of management of ADPE.

The ADP sharing exchanges, as I pointed out earlier, have been largely voluntary, but with some pretty good salesmen scattered around the country, this has been a fairly successful effort.

Now, one other device—

Chairman PROXMIER. I am going to have to interrupt you. You might make a note so you can return to it. Senator Percy and I have to go down and vote again. We will be back in a very few minutes. We apologize.