

(At this point in the hearing a short recess was taken.)

Chairman PROXMIRE. Senator Percy is not back. But, why don't you go ahead with your answer to his question—if you can recall.

Mr. KNOTT. All right, sir.

The only additional point I was going to make is this. I had just stated we had been able to accomplish a great deal, by people strategically located, dealing with agencies that had need for equipment, and we had been able to get agencies to cooperate. NASA for example, has, in one recent instance, actually canceled a procurement because we were able to show them where they could get the equipment that was already available through another agency. This type of cooperation is going on.

Another example is that the Federal Communications Commission has entered into an 18-month agreement that will save over half a million dollars for the Navy by providing services to the Navy on FCC equipment, in lieu of new procurement or leasing by the Navy.

These are simply two of a number of examples that could be cited.

The final point I was going to make about indirect means of control is that many of the public buildings that were authorized several years ago, particularly in the larger cities, have reached the point where we are laying out space in them for occupancy. One of the controls that we can properly and do exercise is not only the amount of space that agency is going to occupy per person, but, for example, control over the printing and duplicating shops. We simply will not allow the duplicate assignment of space for printing and duplication plants. In a similar manner, we simply will not allow agencies to have, on different floors in the same building, several different computer operations. We insist that if they will not share, or cannot share the same computers, that they be placed side by side, looking forward to the day when the walls that may exist between them now can come down—because the installation costs themselves are rather extensive.

These are then, indirect controls that we can exercise through our assignment responsibility on space that does give us a control over the utilization.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Now, would you favor repealing that last paragraph or last part of the last which gives the agency the final word on whether or not they can hold on to their own computer?

Mr. KNOTT. Certainly, Mr. Chairman, I believe that it could be stronger than it is now. Perhaps not repeal it, but certainly—

Chairman PROXMIRE. Just that last part.

Mr. KNOTT. We should place the burden on the agency to make a case, which it does not have to do now. The agencies now make determinations to share equipment or to obtain other equipment where sharing will interfere with their program mission.

Chairman PROXMIRE. In your view, this could save some of the \$3 billion annually we spend on computers?

Mr. KNOTT. Yes; I think this would be simply another step along the way toward strengthening the hand of the agency that has been vested with the authority and responsibility to move in this direction.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Would you suggest to us the wording of such an amendment?