

Mr. WILLIAMS. That is correct. This condition is illustrated by comparing the first 4 months of fiscal year 1967 with the first 4 months of fiscal year 1968. During these comparative periods, the record communications system cost was up \$40,000 or 3 percent from the fiscal year 1967 period and the number of words transmitted was also up 106 million or 71 percent. However, the cost per word was down 37 percent from the fiscal year 1967 period. Similarly, the Intercity Voice Communications System cost was up \$800,000 or 6 percent from the fiscal year 1967 period and the number of calls completed was up 4 million or 30 percent but the cost per call was down 18 percent from the fiscal year 1967 period.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Is there any way at all that we can put reasonable limits on this? It seems to me you open it up in a way that makes it so simple, there might be a lot of unnecessary calls.

As I understand it, now you can make unlimited long-distance calls through GSA without charge to an agency pretty much, can't you—and you make a modest initial payment?

Mr. WILLIAMS. No, sir. The agencies pay for the calls that they make.

Chairman PROXMIRE. On a per-call basis?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Yes, sir.

Chairman PROXMIRE. How do you control it?

Mr. WILLIAMS. The only controls which are possible are through administrative means which the agencies themselves must apply.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. Chairman—one of the things that forms a brake here, or a control, is that the total cost of the system is equally prorated among its users by statistical sampling. Therefore, each Government agency must pay for that service.

Now, in the administrative practices within an agency, therefore, they control the amount of usage that they have of the system. Now, we continually argue with them about the price, and the administrative officers around town have various means of controlling the usage of the system, to keep their costs from rising. But the more they use it, the more their costs will go up, in terms of volume of calls they make.

Chairman PROXMIRE. How do you do it? A fellow picks up the phone and calls San Francisco. How do they exercise this control?

Mr. WILLIAMS. What was the question, sir?

Chairman PROXMIRE. What I am thinking about is—we have just gotten into this in my own office. I have a man out in Wisconsin who is on a system where you make a certain payment, and then you can call any place in the country. Senators can get on that, too, now.

Mr. KNOTT. Seventy-five Senators receive FTS service from GSA.

Chairman PROXMIRE. And, I take it that you can put people throughout the Government on this kind of thing?

Mr. KNOTT. Yes.

Chairman PROXMIRE. And, my question is how you control excessive use of this, or doesn't it matter how much it is used?

DIFFICULT TO CONTROL USE OF SYSTEM

Mr. KNOTT. I do not think that it is economically feasible to mechanically control use. There are no reasonably priced mechanical con-