

Mr. CAVENEY. No, I do not. However, I do feel that GAO has access to this.

Representative GRIFFITHS. And they could give us that answer?

Mr. CAVENEY. I am 100-percent confident they could, because of the fact they have access to Government contracts.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Mr. Chairman, will you ask one member of the staff to find out from GAO the markup on a periphery system in a computer?

Chairman PROXMIRE. Yes, indeed.

Representative GRIFFITHS. And let's put it in the record at this point.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Is there a representative from GAO here today who might know offhand? If not, we will certainly find it out and put it in the record. We will do that, Mrs. Griffiths.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(NOTE.—GAO is currently formulating an answer to the preceding question and at the time these hearings went to press had not completed the study.)

Representative GRIFFITHS. I have just come from the Ways and Means hearing on the tax bill, in which the Secretary of the Treasury is asking us to defend the dollar. I personally feel that if the Secretary of Defense were to look at the mission of defending the country, it would not really be necessary to ask the Secretary of the Treasury to defend the dollar. Here is the place to take the money. And the savings you have already shown us, and the savings that we have already shown in this hearing, if these are made, we are in no problem.

The real truth is that the Defense Department is overpaying on almost every item that they purchase, because they do not know the price of anything—they do not know the cost of making anything—at least that is my judgment—as one ex-purchaser to another.

Mr. Ward would like to know, is it possible for one control point to keep an inventory of 4 million items and match requirements against it?

Mr. CAVENEY. Is it possible to do this?

Representative GRIFFITHS. Yes.

Mr. CAVENEY. Yes; I would say that I could handle 4 million line items and control them, and have a positive inventory.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Thank you very much.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Thank you, Mrs. Griffiths.

I would like to ask, before Mr. Caveney leaves, whether GSA representatives wanted to make a statement clarifying their position on this problem. I may have phrased the question differently to them yesterday, and I want to be sure I am fair to them. Mr. Abersfeller, in this case, is there an opportunity for these particular manufacturers to sell to the Government directly?

Mr. ABERSFELLER. Mr. Chairman, I think that opportunity exists. I talked to Mr. Caveney last night. He is coming in to see me on Friday, to explore this further.

Chairman PROXMIRE. What I wanted to clarify particularly was the impression that I got yesterday that you felt that the Federal Government was not in a good position to buy component parts, or in this case component systems, perhaps, because of the lack of the capacity to put these together.