

Mr. ABERSFELLER. Well, it depends so much on the component part. There is in my view at least a lack of capacity, when we are talking about the total Government. Some agencies may have the capability of doing it. At the moment I think there is a lack of capacity to put it together. But if as Mr. Caveney says it is a matter of plugging it in, it is not the kind of technical problem I understood it to be.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Do you want to follow that up, Mr. Abersfeller? Go right ahead.

Mr. ABERSFELLER. I was just going to say one of the first things we must do is that we must get the product on the Federal Supply Schedule. Mr. Caveney has referred to talking to a lot of people. But unfortunately we have not had the opportunity of discussing this matter with him to establish a contract with his company for the products which they make. We do have contracts with 40 accessorial and periphery manufacturers now. But we do not have any with his company, nor to my knowledge—I do not have the list of the 50 companies—but, certainly, that is the first effort we must make. We hope to do that Friday.

Chairman PROXMIRE. You say you are buying from 40 peripheral manufacturers similar to Mr. Caveney's and you feel that there is not any significant or serious obstacle in the way of procurement?

Mr. ABERSFELLER. Not at the moment. I feel there is no particular obstacle at the moment in putting this item on the schedule.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Mr. Caveney?

Mr. CAVENEY. Let's clarify one thing here now. GSA is not giving the total picture.

I am talking about the big procurements, like the Buick program, the Bull's Eye program, the Air Force phase II contract, which GSA has no control over whatsoever.

Chairman PROXMIRE. You are talking about defense?

Mr. CAVENEY. Yes. This is where the dollars are located.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Will you add to the Navy program—the GSA in their procurement—

Mr. CAVENEY. We hold the highest esteem for GSA. In fact, we like the Brooks bill, but we feel it does not have enough teeth. And we feel the GSA is doing a tremendous job for everybody, not just one side of the coin. We feel that the Brooks bill has not got the proper teeth in their area of procurement of EDP equipment.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Mr. Chairman, may I ask the GSA?

If you could buy a part, one of these peripheral systems, to update a system, a computer system, do you have the knowledge and the authority to do it—in place of tossing that out and buying a whole new system?

Mr. ABERSFELLER. We have the authority to do it. I do not know whether we have the knowledge. It would depend on the peripheral equipment. We would have to examine it in some depth. But I would like to clarify something Mr. Caveney has mentioned. Apparently he does not know that we do have to do with the procurement the Defense Department makes. We are now negotiating the Air Force phase II, and not the Defense Department. So I do want to clear it up. GSA, under the Brooks bill, and under a recent decision of the Comptroller General has the exclusive authority in the executive branch of the Government to buy general purpose ADP.