

(See Comptroller General decision, app. 10, p. 556.)

Chairman PROXMIRE. GSA would have the authority to buy automatic data processing and computers generally for the Defense Department?

Mr. ABERSFELLER. That is correct.

Chairman PROXMIRE. So you do assume the responsibility for this difficulty that Mr. Caveney refers to?

Mr. ABERSFELLER. Indeed. And we do hope we will work this out and put it in schedule. In furtherance of Mrs. Griffiths' point—we would hope that by using the revolving fund, provided for by the Brooks bill, and by using the information provided under our management information system, be able, in the future, to identify those pieces of equipment which otherwise might not be used and update them as she suggested by the addition of more high speed peripheral equipment.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Why don't you call up the Navy and ask to borrow their people? They will lend them.

Mr. ABERSFELLER. I am not too sure at the moment any people are necessary. I simply do not know how complicated this matter is at the moment.

Mr. CAVENEY. Mr. Chairman—

Chairman PROXMIRE. Mr. Caveney.

Mr. CAVENEY. Now, the statement here—granted he might have the prerogative of these big systems. But then I have a question. If this is true, I would like to know why the Government then sends all the RFQ's to the computer manufacturer and why we must go through the computer manufacturer, not direct to the Government.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Why is that, Mr. Abersfeller?

Mr. ABERSFELLER. Only because Mr. Caveney's firm is not on the Federal Supply Schedule. Generally only those firms who are on the schedule are invited to bid.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Are those people on the schedule the people who make or assemble the total computer system? Are those the only people on the schedule?

Mr. ABERSFELLER. At the moment, other than the 40 accessorial and periphery manufacturers—the other people on the schedule are the original equipment manufacturers.

Mr. CAVENEY. Then I have a followup question. If this is true, how can we get requests for quotes from CDC, Defense, Lytton Industries, RCA—

Chairman PROXMIRE. You say you are on the schedule?

Mr. CAVENEY. We are not on their schedule. But we get RFQ's on the programs via the computer manufacturer.

Chairman PROXMIRE. It sounds to me—and again I do not want to be abrupt—it sounds to me, Mr. Caveney, as if you can get together with Mr. Abersfeller and solve the problem. I am sure you are not interested simply in yourself. You say you are testifying for other peripheral manufacturers, you want to see that justice is done generally, and that the Federal Government saves money.

Mr. CAVENEY. That is correct.

Chairman PROXMIRE. So I think this is a broader question than simply satisfying Mr. Caveney his particular company's problem.

What steps are taken, Mr. Abersfeller, to see that the Defense Department has as comprehensive and full a listing of qualified suppliers