

# MANAGEMENT AND ACQUISITION OF AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT

In June of this year, the House Government Operations Subcommittee held extensive hearings on the management of automatic data processing equipment. At that time, we reported on the progress being made in the implementation of Public Law 89-306 which provided for a coordinated, Government-wide approach toward improving the procurement and utilization of this equipment.

A basic requirement for strengthening this program has been the need for more comprehensive and current information which would enable us to manage our inventory more effectively.

## COMPLETE INVENTORY OF ADPE NEEDED

Chairman PROXMIRE. Does this mean we do not have an inventory of this valuable equipment?

Mr. HUGHES. We have not to date had a complete inventory of equipment in the Government. This is a massive problem, Mr. Chairman, which Mr. Cunningham can talk to more effectively than I, in simply defining what is a computer, what is automatic data processing equipment, and where the lines are drawn between various types of equipment.

Chairman PROXMIRE. So, we do not know what we have.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. That is not correct, sir. We do have an inventory of computers in the Federal Government; but, it is an inventory of total computer systems. The new information system which has been set up—and the inputs to it are now being processed—is an inventory by component, for each computer. This new inventory is to be maintained on a perpetual basis. It will give us a basis for planning actions, et cetera. We have had, until now, an inventory of the total number of computers, and their total operating cost. We have not had the specifics of the ingredients which made up the various computer systems. We have not had it broken down into detail so you could tell how many various components there are.

It is a brandnew system and with its newness, we are having some difficulty. But, I would hope, within a month or so, we will be operating on a permanent basis.

## INVENTORY TO BE COMPLETED IN A MONTH

Chairman PROXMIRE. So you will have an inventory in a month?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Oh, yes. As a matter of fact, we have portions of it now.

Mr. HUGHES. I think as somewhat of an aside, Mr. Chairman, some of the problems here, and some of the problems that Mr. Caveney and Mrs. Griffiths were talking about, relate to the question of what is a computer, what the components are, and how complex does the equipment have to get to be counted. And, for these reasons, a numerical count by itself, without the kinds of classifications to which Mr. Cunningham referred, is not real useful. This relates, I think, to Mr. Caveney's problem of which kinds of components can simply be plugged together and which have to be wired together in highly com-