

to GSA or, in the case of public domain which is no longer required for the program for which withdrawn, reported to the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, or, if covered by other statutes, disposed of as provided by applicable law.

Growth of Real Property Holdings

We share the committee's concern relative to the growth of Federal real property holdings which totaled \$69.4 billion as of June 30, 1966. To assure that acquisitions are kept to an absolute minimum as to area, A-2 instructs Federal agencies to acquire only those amounts of real property necessary for effective program operation.

Control of New Procurements

Also, before an agency acquires new property the agency head must make a determination that the best economic use is being made of existing holdings and, in the first instance, attempt to fulfill the need by using property under the agency's jurisdiction. If the need cannot be met by using existing agency holdings, the possibility of utilizing other satisfactory existing Federal properties must be exhausted. Procedures are provided for notifying the General Services Administration and the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, as appropriate, to ascertain if excess, surplus, or unreserved public domain lands are available which might fill the need. When existing holdings are not available for transfer, agencies then are to consider the possibility of joint use of real property held by other agencies before action can be instituted to condemn, purchase, construct, or lease.

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GSA'S RESPONSIBILITY AND CAPABILITY CONCERNING PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES

Mr. HUGHES. The last matter that you wish us to discuss, Mr. Chairman, was GSA's responsibility and capability concerning public utility services.

GSA's authority and responsibility stems from section 201(a)(4) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, and reads as follows:

With respect to transportation and other public utility services for the use of executive agencies, represent such agencies in negotiations with carriers and other public utilities and in proceedings involving carriers or other public utilities before Federal and State regulatory bodies; * * *

GSA's authority is, of course, limited to representing the Federal agencies as users of utilities services. While the Government's use of utilities is substantial, GSA has taken the position in the past that its staff assigned to this work, plus its ability to utilize other professional staff to supplement the work of assigned staff, is adequate to assure effective representation of the Government as a user.

Also, I believe, Mr. Knott, the Administrator of General Services, has testified before your subcommittee this week as to cumulative savings attributable to GSA efforts as well as to savings made since the hearings last May. We also have been advised of a recent reorganization by the GSA of its Transportation and Communications Service which it believes will make for a more efficient and effective organization. With this recent reorganization in mind, we are exploring with GSA as a part of our budget review its ability to handle the workload involved in representing the Government as a consumer of utility services.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my prepared statement.