

for the B-52. Here the wing not only serves its traditional purpose aerodynamically, but is itself a large fuel tank that provides maximum range to this intercontinental strategic bomber. It was through the extrusions from our heavy presses that wing panels of the required strength and at reduced weight were produced, all at considerably less fabrication and machining cost than would have been possible by other methods. *Although we have never completely analyzed the cost effectiveness impact of the presses on the B-52 program, we believe that the savings resulting from the forging and extrusion techniques have exceeded the entire cost of the heavy press program.*" (Underscoring added.) The reference in the Air Force statement to the savings exceeding the entire cost of the heavy press program is to the \$220,000,000 total investment in the heavy press program.

It is unfortunate that those to whom the GAO report is submitted are unaware of the significant accomplishments of the heavy press program and of the savings that have accrued to our Government. It would seem upon reading the report, that the return to the Government has been predicated solely upon rentals without any consideration being given to the savings realized as set forth in this letter and in the testimony of the Air Force.

It would be helpful to all vitally interested in and concerned with the heavy press program to be given all of the facts and history of the program. It would serve to create a much better understanding for all and particularly to members of the Congress.

We are proud of our accomplishments with our portion of the heavy press program and believe that we have adhered to the philosophy embodied in our lease agreements and propounded at the inception of the Program and further believe we have contributed most significantly to the defense capabilities of this nation.

Sincerely,

SACKETT R. DURYEE.
Vice President and Treasurer.

WRITTEN STATEMENT PRESENTED BY THE AIR FORCE ON MARCH 11, 1964, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY OPERATIONS, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS ON DEVELOPMENT AND PROCUREMENT OF SATS

ORIGINS OF THE HEAVY PRESS PROGRAM

The Air Force heavy press program actually had its genesis during the days of World War II. Allied intelligence teams inspecting German aircraft downed behind our lines discovered that they contained extremely large and complex major structural elements. Our appraisal of the situation, confirmed immediately after the end of the war, was that the Germans had produced these aircraft components with the aid of huge forging and extrusion presses possessing capabilities far in excess of those in our own industrial complex.

The implications were far-reaching. If forgings and extrusions large enough to comprise key aircraft structural elements could be produced in this country not only would fabrication time be reduced greatly, but costs would be lowered. In addition, such a technique held the promise of producing these components with greater strength-weight ratios, an extremely desirable attribute from the standpoint of aircraft design.

Just before the conclusion of the war, we embarked upon an urgent program to build a press able to match our estimates of the productive capability of the German equipment. The Mesta Machine Company of Pittsburgh was awarded a contract to construct on 18,000 ton forging press, and the Wyman-Gordon Company of North Grafton, Massachusetts, was selected to operate it. Since the press was so enormous, a pattern to be followed when the press program went into full swing was established—a plant had to be built around the press to house both it and its supporting equipment. The war ended, however, before the project was fully completed.

When our technical/industrial teams visited Germany after the cessation of hostilities, they found that the Germans had indeed developed and learned successfully to operate presses ranging up to 30,000 metric tons. In all, three heavy die forging presses, two with a capacity of 15,000 metric tons and one with a 30,000 ton capacity, were discovered in more or less useable condition.