

Our system under which we have operated in the past was approved by the General Accounting Office in 1957. That has been revised now. We have submitted a new manual to GAO for their approval.

Mr. SCHMID. Mr. Chairman, we have informal approval already. We had a phone call this morning that said our system is approved and it is going to be formalized in the next few days.

Mr. BROOKS. Is it cost based?

Mr. SCHMID. Yes.

Mr. BROOKS. I always had a feeling that the GAO shouldn't approve them, they should lay out the objectives and the guidelines and let you work them out, and then if you are wrong, nail you.

D. MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

What is the status now of your management information system, sir?

Mr. TIERNEY. Our management system now, to which we will apply the computer, includes payroll, budget, leave administration, personnel and property inventory. And we have what we call our central status system which is used to control or manage our proceedings docket. As a case is processed, information is fed into the computer at the various stages. Later, we can extract information from the computer which will advise us as to the condition of our docket—where there are weak areas, where we can take particular action to achieve a more expeditious position of our proceedings area which is really our prime responsibility.

Mr. BROOKS. I have a good many questions on that which I will submit to you that are a little more detailed, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. TIERNEY. We will be happy to answer them, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. RANDALL. Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BROOKS. Congressman Randall.

Mr. RANDALL. Mr. Chairman, first, I would like to inquire, what effect did the creation of the Department of Transportation have upon your commission? You were an independent agency to start with?

Mr. TIERNEY. We still are, sir.

Mr. RANDALL. You feel you still are?

Mr. TIERNEY. I feel confident that we are. There is no doubt about it. Our responsibilities as to motor carrier safety, rail safety, and pipeline safety were transferred from the Commission over to the Department.

Mr. RANDALL. And that is the size of it?

Mr. TIERNEY. That is it. There was also the transfer of jurisdiction with respect to standard time zones, but this was very limited, inconsequential really.

Mr. RANDALL. The fact that you are here means, I assume, we would have jurisdiction which would not be true if you were a part of DOT? The fact that you are an independent agency is the reason you can be here with us this morning before this committee?

Mr. TIERNEY. That you would have no jurisdiction?

Mr. RANDALL. No; that we do have jurisdiction, which is proved by the fact you are here this morning.

Mr. TIERNEY. Yes, sir.