

So, I think the computer is furnishing the five Board members with information from which those members make their decisions, but I do not think—whether this is good or bad, I don't think we are at the point—

Mr. FASCELL. OK, how about operating awards, for example? Are examiner's decisions laid down in a computer?

Mr. CROOKER. No, sir.

Mr. FASCELL. Board decisions?

Mr. CROOKER. They are not. Neither the examiner's decisions nor the Board's decisions.

Mr. FASCELL. Rules and regulations?

Mr. CROOKER. I don't know of any rules and regulations that come out of the computer, sir.

Mr. KIEFER. May I say a word, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. CROOKER. Let me comment on one other thing. It goes without saying on your origin and destination studies the examiner has the benefit of this information from the computer and the Board members have the benefit of this information.

But the interpretation of the data of origin and destination—

Mr. FASCELL. Is his alone.

Mr. CROOKER. Sir?

Mr. FASCELL. It is his interpretation, but he reduces it to writing.

Mr. CROOKER. Yes, sir.

Mr. FASCELL. And the Board reviews it?

Mr. CROOKER. Yes, sir.

Mr. FASCELL. This is what I have reference to.

Mr. CROOKER. Yes, sir.

Mr. FASCELL. And none of that is now in the computer? This is the whole point.

Mr. CROOKER. No, sir; the awards of operating authority and the fixing of the rates are not now on the computer, and frankly, sir, I don't foresee that they are going to be on it.

Mr. FASCELL. I understand. It is a question of how much discretion you want without the computer, and I would daresay the computer might prove embarrassing.

Mr. CROOKER. It is often said, sir, if the computer is going to make the decision, all I want to be is the programmer.

Mrs. HECKLER. Along those lines, on your chart the Data Processing Division is under the Division of Accounts and Statistics. Is this the most efficient arrangement? Would it not operate more effectively as a part of central management, or does it actually in practice?

Mr. CROOKER. Let me answer briefly and have Mr. Kiefer elaborate, if I may. Except for the offices of the members, the Office of the Executive Director, the secretary of the Board, and some other small functions, we do have our personnel assigned to the different Bureaus, and the Bureau of Accounts and Statistics is the office which now processes all these figures from the carriers and gives us this information.

We have assumed that this was a logical internal division of work, but, of course, Mr. Kiefer has been there substantially longer than I have and he may wish to speak to the question also, if you would permit.

Mrs. HECKLER. Certainly.