

ployees that have not been required before, as to whether or not these people should fall into a special category and what their relation would be to the other post office employees.

Mr. WATSON. I have no doubt in my mind that existing postal employees, when jobs are lost because of the machines, they can be brought back in through a training program and remain a part of the postal system. My background of some 10 years ago in watching people being trained to do a job that they may not have known existed 2 years before and then watching the success of that leads me to believe that obviously it would be true in the postal system.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you very much.

Mr. BROOKS. I think the increase in the Postal Department's request for money for research was 55 percent. Is that correct?

Dr. PACKER. Fifty-five and a half percent; yes, sir.

Mr. WATSON. I must point out, however, that if Congress granted the entire amount requested by the Department for research and development—which the House didn't—but if we received all of it, we would still have only 3 percent of our investment based on our income in research which in the utility business is a very small amount.

Mr. BROOKS. One other thing—on facilities, it has long been established that it is cheaper to buy the land, build the building, pay for it all out of public money, and use it for 10 years, 30 years, or 40 years. The difficulty has been that for some years now Congress has refused for budgetary reasons to appropriate enough money for the Post Office Department to meet the need for new facilities. They have not even come close. As a result of this, we have taken—I say this very sadly—the pennywise, dollar-foolish system of leasing facilities all over the country.

In your district and in mine we lease them for 5 years, renew it for 5 and they are paid out. We have nothing left. We don't own the building. We don't own the land. We still have the requirement. The next 10 or 20 years is strictly gravy to the owner at additional cost to the Federal Government. This is the problem the Post Office Department is facing. We will go over it and get the facts outlined but the real problem is with the Congress in not facing up to the necessity. Right now we are trying to cut everything but every time you cut you don't always save money. This is an excellent example of the foolishness of failing to spend the money that is necessary to maintain the facilities that the country has to have.

We certainly appreciate your testimony here, General Watson. We are honored to have you and delighted you could come. Is there anything further you want to add?

Mr. WATSON. I thank you. The other committee members might want to know why I feel it necessary to leave for this prior commitment. We are unveiling a research center and the "Register and Vote" stamp today. It is nonpartisan and so I thought that maybe we could get a few more people to vote in your districts and it would be helpful to you individually.

Thank you very much.

Mr. BROOKS. Thank you very much, General.