

Mr. BROOKS. You would like to increase it to 86,000?

Mr. McMILLAN. To a total of 86,000.

Mr. BROOKS. Virtually double it?

Mr. McMILLAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. BROOKS. This should increase morale. This ought to help. I think he would be a little better off to ride around than to have to walk and carry it.

Mr. BELEN. The area Congressman Reid was talking about is pretty hard to motorize—New York, downtown New York.

Mr. BROOKS. Where you have large concentrated populations and big buildings.

Mr. BELEN. And traffic. The carrier doesn't know where to leave the vehicle when he delivers the mail.

Mr. BROOKS. Off the record.

(Discussion off the record.)

Mr. BROOKS. I am sorry, we forgot to tell you when to go back on the record. The discussion was on a question relating to the mechanization of postal delivery vehicles, and the truck developments which they are going into. Now he is giving us an idea of what they are buying.

Mr. McMILLAN. Our procurement for 1969, if we get the allocation we have asked for, will include some 13,000 right-hand delivery, light delivery trucks. I think this has a cubic foot capacity of around 300. And we have some 7,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton right-hand-drive trucks.

Now these are primarily for mounted carrier delivery. It is a right-hand drive that enables the carrier to drive up to the curb and without any great effort serve the boxes. And we have bought in the past a number of Scout-type vehicles. We have no present plans for going back into the Mailster procurement. We hope we are away from that. We would like to get rid of the 15,000 we have and we will as soon as they are outdated.

Mr. BROOKS. What are you going to give the carriers in lieu of those Mailsters? These right-hand-drive delivery trucks, the small ones?

Mr. McMILLAN. Yes, sir. Almost half of our procurement for next year, about 20,400, is for this particular mechanization and almost half of these will be replacement vehicles. Not all for Mailsters, but other outdated old-age vehicles will be replaced and only about half of them will go on new routes.

Mr. BROOKS. I will say I was much impressed by the general courtesy of the Post Office Department. I just moved and it was necessary that I put up one of these rural route boxes. When I put it up, I dug the hole, and there is a pipe that runs right there, so I put it behind the pipe, a little far from the curb. It was a little pipe, and when I dug down I hit the pipe, so I moved it to the other side, rather than going through the pipe. I got a neat little handwritten note from the carrier, whom I have never met, that said, "Sure would appreciate it if you could move it about four inches closer to the curb, I can't quite reach it." So I moved it to the other side of the pipe and he has been very happy ever since.

Off the record.

(Discussion off the record.)