

Most of the work is being performed in-house. A contract with Ling-Temco-Vought, Inc., was let in the area of progress reporting on individual research and engineering projects.

29. What main benefits do you feel your management information system will provide in the management of your agency's activities?

When the Department management information system requirement is fully identified and implemented, it should provide a cost benefit for supplying timely recurring data inputs on an automated basis for the planning-programing-budgeting decisionmaking process. In addition, the use of computer-based models for simulating cost-benefit analysis for alternative courses of action should improve the effectiveness of the decisionmaking process. In the area of automated storage and retrieval of technical information the management information system should contribute substantially to the availability of required knowledge without wasted time and effort on research for and identification of pertinent sources of desired information. This should improve the quality of technical inputs in determining the best solution toward modernization of Post Office Department operations.

30. What is your estimated dollar cost for the completion and operation of the basic parts of your management information system?

Development of a large-scale management information system is a multi-million-dollar undertaking requiring leadtimes on the order of 3 to 5 years. We have already acquired hardware and communication lines for use in collecting, processing, and reporting some data. What remains to be done is the development of the concepts and software required to convert our individual data processing subsystems to fulfill the needs of our management information system. This portion would still require significant investment and up to 5 years leadtime. Until a master plan is formulated, specific costs are not available.

31. At what level is the determination made concerning what is needed in the management information system?

Until the Department's master plan for accomplishing an integrated, automated management information system is developed in its entirety, it will be difficult to state such specific responsibilities. The overall responsibility for any determination of these requirements is that of the top managers, the decision-makers, who must assume active participation in the design and implementation of the system. The specific requirement of operating managers and middle-management is fairly well covered in the existing, previously described, data subsystems.

E. Internal Auditing

In 1963, this subcommittee, in cooperation with the Comptroller General, promulgated the essential criteria for effective internal audits in Federal departments and agencies. The subcommittee would be interested in determining whether or not your agency has accepted the recommendations made at that time.

32. Do you have a centrally organized internal audit system within your agency which operates independently of department and agency operations?

Responsibility for internal auditing in the Post Office Department has been delegated to the Chief Postal Inspector. He reports to the Postmaster General and the Deputy Postmaster General; he advises them and other principal assistants on the conditions and needs of the service and directs the execution of policies, regulations and procedures governing all investigations, inspections and audits of the postal service. The Bureau of Chief Postal Inspector functions independently of other Department operations.

33. Is your internal audit staff made up of persons with experience in accounting and auditing?

All audit positions in the Internal Audit Division require training and experience in accounting and auditing. Prospective postal inspectors are required to have 4 years of postal experience; college training may be substituted for 3½ years of postal experience, but candidates must be able to solve postal account problems. Inspectors receive intensive in-house training in their duties and responsibilities.

34. Is the scope of review by the internal audit staff limited in any way?

The scope of internal auditing is not specifically limited in any way.

35. Are all reports and recommendations of the internal audit staff submitted in full directly to the head of the agency?

All internal audit reports containing audit recommendations are sent to the head of the department and are transmitted over his signature to the organization(s) designated to effect the recommended action.