

SURVEY OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

PART 10—GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 1968

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
*Washington, D.C.***

The subcommittee convened at 10:15 a.m., in room 2247, Rayburn Building, Hon. Jack Brooks presiding.

Present: Representatives Jack Brooks, William J. Randall, and Fletcher Thompson.

Also present: Ernest C. Baynard, staff administrator; William M. Jones, counsel; Irma Reel, clerk; Lynne Higginbotham, clerk; and Thomas Smith, minority staff member.

Mr. BROOKS. The Government Activities Subcommittee, having been duly organized under the rules of the House of Representatives and a quorum being present, the meeting will come to order.

Our hearing today involves the General Services Administration. The General Services Administration was established under legislation recommended to Congress by the full committee in 1949 to provide for the Government an economical and efficient system for the management of its property and records, including such phases as construction and operation of buildings, procurement and distribution of supplies, disposal of surplus property, transportation and communications management, the stockpiling of strategic and critical materials, creation and preservation and disposal of records.

As this description suggests, Congress has extended heavy responsibilities to this agency. In fact, GSA probably has more diverse responsibilities than any other Government organization, with the possible exception of the Department of Defense.

The intent of Congress was to centralize procurement of common-item goods and services so that the Government could acquire the obvious benefits of a business-like single-purchaser procurement system. Under GSA procedures, the Government makes volume purchases, and these volume purchases mean discounts which, in turn, mean savings of millions of dollars to the taxpayers annually.

GSA has a difficult and demanding job requiring the very best of its employees. At this time, we are fortunate to have as Administrator of General Services, Lawson B. Knott, Jr., a dedicated public servant with many years' experience in the Government, a man who rose to his present position through recognition of his capabilities.

Also with us this morning is the Deputy Administrator, Joe E. Moody. He, too, has a long and distinguished career in Government service.