

The subcommittee today is looking at the programs of the GSA to determine if it is operating efficiently and effectively. We plan to look first at the overall management of the agency and then we want to look at each of your programs, with particular emphasis on how much it is costing, how it is being performed, and what the taxpayer is getting in return.

First we would be honored to hear from the distinguished Administrator of the General Services Administration.

I would say, Mr. Knott, without further ado, we welcome you to the committee.

STATEMENT OF LAWSON B. KNOTT, JR., ADMINISTRATOR, GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION; ACCOMPANIED BY JOE E. MOODY, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR; WILLIAM A. SCHMIDT, COMMISSIONER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS SERVICE; HEINZ A. ABERSFELLER, COMMISSIONER, FEDERAL SUPPLY SERVICE; JOHN G. HARLAN, JR., COMMISSIONER, PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL SERVICE; DOUGLAS E. WILLIAMS, COMMISSIONER, TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE; DR. JAMES B. RHOADS, ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES; AND W. L. JOHNSON, ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. KNOTT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is always a pleasure to appear before this committee, a committee that has demonstrated in many ways its interest and support of GSA's varied functions.

We are pleased, and I think we can demonstrate as we proceed with this hearing—which, I might say parenthetically, has been outlined in a very comprehensive fashion by your staff—that we have made some strides in many areas.

There are some areas that I think we will—and I certainly hope we will—point out with equal candor in which we feel we could make more progress. This also will be developed in the course of the hearing.

But just to indicate some of the things that we believe we have made some progress in—because statistics, while they don't always tell the whole story, they are indicators—I would like to point out just a few of them.

Our stores stock procurement volume, for example, has increased from \$269 million in 1963 to \$646 million in 1968, and our unit costs of this procurement decreased from \$1.86 to \$1.57 per \$100 during the same period. The volume of stores stock issues increased from \$260 million in 1963 to \$530 million in 1968, while our unit costs of this issue decreased from \$4.52 to \$4.07 per \$100 of issue.

The average square feet of space managed by GSA has increased 64 percent in the past 10 years, whereas the average employment assigned to this function during the same period has increased only 28 percent. The average square feet of office space assigned to an individual Federal employee has been reduced from 150 square feet in 1963 to 135 square feet at the beginning of fiscal year 1968.

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Administrator, how has this particular reduction worked out? Has the reduced space seemed to be as serviceable and practical in the agencies?