

Mr. Knott, may I ask you another question? You mentioned the air-conditioning of automobiles. We did have some discussion on this committee, and a piece of legislation concerning that. But there was one statement that you made that I was very interested in. You stated that you hoped that this would curtail the practice, I assume, of some agencies, of leasing air-conditioned automobiles. Do you mean that you and the other people who have jurisdiction do not have the authority to curtail the leasing of non-Government-owned automobiles at present?

Mr. KNOTT. I don't think we can control it, no.

Mr. THOMPSON. You don't think you can control it?

Mr. KNOTT. No, sir.

Mr. THOMPSON. And you feel by making air-conditioned automobiles available that basically there would be more economy flow to the Government than having these people go out and lease their own?

Mr. KNOTT. That's right.

Mr. THOMPSON. But you have no means at present of determining whether an individual is going to use a Government-furnished automobile that is not air conditioned, or go out and lease, at Government expense, an air-conditioned automobile?

Mr. KNOTT. Well, there are various ways in which an individual can get a car—we have 97 motor pools. On the other hand, there are individuals who are stationed away from motor pools, or who come into an airport where we don't have cars available, and they rent cars. And most of the cars that are available for rent—

Mr. THOMPSON. May I ask you at this point: Do you feel that the providing of air-conditioned automobiles to the motor pools is going to cure that situation, where they come into an airport and they don't have cars available? Almost all "U-Drive-It's" are air conditioned now anyway. But that is not going to cure that situation.

Mr. KNOTT. It is going to help, if we have air-conditioned automobiles and we place them in locations where they are accessible.

Mr. THOMPSON. But of course if you don't have them available, then it wouldn't cure the situation there.

Mr. KNOTT. Well, there are various ways and various justifications that are perfectly valid that an agency or an individual can use to avoid the use of motor pools if they want to do that.

Mr. THOMPSON. Well, in certain areas, would it not be more economical to the Government to continue the leasing of these automobiles rather than stationing an automobile in one particular area where it may not be utilized to a very high degree?

Mr. KNOTT. Well, of course, we figure that a car that is not being properly utilized has to be reassigned, and we check the mileage on our cars regularly so that if they are not being utilized, they are reassigned where they will be utilized.

Mr. THOMPSON. The point I am trying to make in this particular area is that if it does improve the efficiency of the particular operation to have an air-conditioned automobile, I would have no particular objection to it. But I don't buy the idea that you should say we have to air condition the automobiles because we have no control over the leasing of these automobiles by other agencies, and that they are going to go out and lease air-conditioned automobiles anyway. I think we should have this control. And if we don't have it—