

troller General overturned this proposed award, and ultimately it went to Burroughs.

Now, suppose the Air Force wanted for some other purposes to extend their data processing equipment. Would they be stuck with Burroughs, so to speak?

Mr. FASICK. It depends on what the system is used for, but I believe for a period of time they may be locked into Burroughs.

Mr. ROBACK. The reason I raise this question is that within Army and possibly other circles there is a concern and a feeling, at least I have encountered it, that competitive procurement of the equipment is a drag on standardization. "If we have to go out and be sure that everybody is competitively bid, how can we standardize?" That is the gist of the question.

Mr. FASICK. I think the equipment can be compatible between different levels of supply and yet be different equipment. There probably is something to be said that once you make a decision, and then competitively procure a type of equipment for a given level or for a certain purpose, that you would be locked in for a period of time with that equipment.

Mr. ROBACK. Do you think that these equipments should be dedicated equipments or general-purpose equipments?

Mr. FASICK. I think as an office we generally advocate as broad a usage of equipment as possible, and within that framework general purpose would be more desirable. However, there are some cases where the complexity and the scope of the task to be performed happens to be such that it would merit a system of its own.

Mr. ROBACK. We will come back to that. Perhaps you ought to finish your statement, and we will discuss some of these matters across the board.

Mr. FASICK. In addition, the different systems developed and maintained prevents the Army from making the most effective use of the limited number of skilled systems analysts and data processing programmers that are available.

While design and operation problems are considered to be normal in any new computer installation, it appears that standardization of systems and equipment could reduce these difficulties to a minimum. Furthermore, the efforts of skilled data processing technicians could be utilized to the best advantage if standard programs were developed and applied. By permitting each command to design and install its own system, problems are magnified because the experience gained by personnel in one command cannot be immediately and effectively utilized in another command.

Another result of the logistics procedures existing in the Army is the absence of a focal point that could provide more effective control over supply transactions. Army officials estimate, and our limited tests have confirmed, that significant quantities of requisitions are being lost or misplaced somewhere between the requisitioners and the supply points. It appears that the number of organizations that must process each document and the lack of control over documents during transmission are major factors in the loss of requisitions.

Because of the Army's organization and dispersion of inventories, requisitions must often be passed from one echelon to another before