

Mr. ROBACK. I believe the General Accounting Office stricture is that you should be in on the ground floor. Is that what they are saying?

Mr. MORRIS. I believe it is what they are saying as to the future, and I interpret that to mean for a new systems design of a major nature which cannot start taking place until the mid-1970 time frame.

Mr. ROBACK. Do you have in your office the capability to do that kind of work for the future? Are you developing it?

Mr. MORRIS. We have a good nucleus capability which importantly will be supplemented by this joint staff that I have described.

Mr. ROBACK. Let me interpose and ask if the concept of the joint staff is to make it clear that this is not an OSD-imposed operation? Is that the philosophy?

Mr. MORRIS. That is partially the philosophy, but primarily we need to bring the precise and unique experience of each service together and pool its understanding and knowledge. This is the way, if you will examine our history, that we have progressed in many fields over the last decade. It is the kind of evolutionary development that brought integrated management, for example, to full fruition in 1962.

Mr. ROBACK. What is your nucleus? Have you got one man working in this field, say?

Mr. MORRIS. I would say we have a half dozen very knowledgeable people, which in terms of our staffing is pretty rich.

Mr. ROBACK. And do you intend to expand that?

Mr. MORRIS. I am not certain that we will find it desirable or necessary, Mr. Roback. The services have several hundreds of people in their various central systems design and review offices. That is where I think the real concentration of talent belongs, as long as we can put a cap on it, both in terms of policy through the Assistant Secretaries in terms of knowledgeable staff experts working for those Assistant Secretaries as a body.

Mr. ROBACK. Can you explain the recent redirection of automatic data processing management from your office to the Comptroller's Office? What is involved there?

Mr. MORRIS. Yes.

Mr. ROBACK. And what is the status of that?

Mr. MORRIS. Starting in the late fifties, when it first became apparent that the Secretary of Defense should exercise some coordination over the acquisition and use of computers, this function was assigned to the Assistant Secretary Comptroller—Mr. McNeil originally and later Mr. Hitch. A staff was formed there whose main job was to examine all proposed new procurements or leasing of computer systems.

In 1962 that was transferred to my office at Mr. Hitch's request, because I had had a particular interest in this which he was aware of. It has now been decided that the long term best home for this function is the Comptroller's Office. It has to do primarily with the acquisition of hardware. It does not relieve us in any way of our interest in or responsibility for software or program design in the logistics field.

Mr. ROBACK. That transfer of responsibility is pointed toward procurement.

Mr. MORRIS. Acquisition.

Mr. ROBACK. Toward the market.