

Mr. MORRIS. Yes.

Mr. ROBACK. And not toward management systems, internal management systems.

Mr. MORRIS. Of course you can never fully separate these. As I pointed out, our monitorships since 1962 in this hardware field has involved being sure that the specifications upon the basis of which new equipment was to be leased or bought were adequate before the procurement action took place. The Comptroller's Office will still have properly that kind of a review interest.

Mr. ROBACK. Now, if the Comptroller's Office is interested, let us say, in a competitive procurement base, and best pricing to the Government based on competition, your office would be concerned also, not only with that but whether this might interfere with some types of equipment for management purposes.

Mr. MORRIS. That is correct.

Mr. ROBACK. This is the problem of machine independence; is it not?

Mr. MORRIS. That is correct, and of course these things happen today even though my office is the coordinating point. Any financial management systems involving computers are functionally the responsibility of the Comptroller, research and development is the responsibility of the Director of Research and Engineering; manpower is the responsibility of the Assistant Secretary for Manpower and so on. This will continue to be the case.

Mr. ROBACK. Do you believe in machine independence?

Mr. MORRIS. I would like to know a little more precisely your definition.

Mr. ROBACK. Well, as I understand the problem, and we have heard some expression about this, do you get locked into particular kinds of hardware? Now, maybe I am not using the term right, but I understand the problem of machine independence to be: On the one hand you want to have everybody competing when you buy all these computers, of which there are many, and they are expensive.

On the other hand, after procurement you need programing and a language which will be able to permit communication between these different hardware types.

Mr. MORRIS. This is the reason that basic systems designs must be worked out over periods of often 1, 2, or more years to completely blueprint it before we go out for major computer acquisitions.

As in the case of aircraft systems or missile systems, you can get competition at the outset—either price or design competition—but once you have made your selection on a competitive basis against your master blueprint, then you are frequently and quite properly desirous of standardizing on your hardware elements, as long as you retain that particular system.

Mr. ROBACK. Well, the Air Force made an award to Burroughs for computers for base logistics management and control.

Mr. MORRIS. Right, sir.

Mr. ROBACK. Now, can Burroughs talk to IBM, so to speak?

Mr. MORRIS. To the extent that the systems need to communicate in terms of requisitions or transportation instructions and so on, machine independence is not a problem.

Mr. ROBACK. That is not a problem?