

Colonel DAVID. GSA is putting the instructions out as a change of the Defense Disposal Manual, 4160.21-M. This is a manual—

Mr. ROMNEY. I beg your pardon. I misheard you, Colonel David. I thought you had said GSA and you meant DSA.

Colonel DAVID. Excuse me. I meant DSA if I said GSA. They are putting it out as a change to the Disposal Manual, 4160.21-M.

Mr. ROMNEY. These letters or memorandums and instructions that have been put out by the Navy, Air Force, and the Army all have slight variations. None of them seems to follow the previously prescribed format. Some are more detailed than others. I am wondering whether you feel that there should be some review, perhaps at the DOD level, to make sure that there are not interim inconsistencies of such a serious nature as to make disposal problems and the recipients of disposal property confused.

Colonel DAVID. In this particular case, it is my understanding that once the Disposal Manual instruction has been put out, that will be the guidance that all of the field activities will be using. As an internal procedure, however, the military departments have gone out with this guidance that you have copies of to inform the military field activities as to how to conduct the exchange/sale program since it is, as you know a permissive program. Included are items which will be declared as ineligible and these two classes, 15 and 16, that have been given a full or partial exemption.

Mr. ROMNEY. I would point that the draft of the Defense Disposal Manual rewrite which was provided to us contains a relatively brief section dealing with the exchange/sale activity. By contrast, the Department of the Navy has issued NAVSUP Instruction 4540.1 which covers 10 pages. If the DSA Defense Disposal rewrite is to supplement this, then it would seem that much of what is contained in the Navy instruction would be superseded, is that right?

Colonel DAVID. No. It is, however, my understanding at the present time that the Navy during their coordination of the Defense Disposal proposed revision is submitting comments requesting changes to the Defense Disposal proposal.

Mr. ROMNEY. I see. You mentioned a short time ago, Colonel, that under the ASPR change, the procurement officers have certain responsibilities under an exchange/sale situation. This ASPR suggests that procuring or administrative contracting officers will actually be selling exchange/sale property, not simply exchanging it but selling it. Can you explain what this reference means?

Colonel DAVID. Yes, it basically pertains to that exchange/sale property in the hands of contractors. Property in the hands of contractors that is eligible for exchange/sale, is handled directly through the contracting officer or the administrative officer of the contract. Now, there may be actual cases also whereby we authorize a particular activity to conduct a local spot-bid sale, say, for instance, it may be 10 items of exchange/sale which does not warrant a national screening as we normally go through on the larger sales of property, and we authorize the contracting officer to conduct the sale.

Mr. ROMNEY. Colonel, I would like to go to a slightly different subject. We were advised that the Naval Supply Center in Oakland, Calif., on the first of May proceeded to move into full implementation of the new Defense Department exchange/sale policy, and did so on