

Mr. GRIFFIN. Actually, Mr. Chairman, it has always been our practice and our belief in executing our regulation responsibility that we deal at the departmental level, and we do. We deal on a day-by-day basis with the Department of Defense. And I agree with practically everything I heard Colonel David say. I didn't hear Mr. Riley's testimony.

Now, actually GSA sat in with great frequency on the development of the DOD policy statement. In fact, we helped DOD in drafting it—their policy statement to the field.

Now, as a result of the incident involved in the aircraft components and parts, it is Mr. Tuttle's plan to meet with Colonel David or with Mr. Riley, and see if we should not institute some steps and procedures, with the approval of the Department of Defense, in coordinating further the implementations by the individual military services. It has not been our belief in the past and it has not been necessary in the past to take this last step because—and I would ask Mr. Tuttle, who is on this on a day-by-day basis—it has not been brought to my attention that a mistake of this nature has happened in this program, a mistake in implementation.

Now, I think, just hindsight, and I think that Colonel David probably would agree with me, it would have been preferable that instead of just disseminating and distributing the copies of the correspondence between the DOD and GSA, which were eminently clear, it would have been better if DOD at the departmental level had reduced the instruction to a concise memorandum or directive rather than relying on their interpretations of the correspondence. I think this is where the mistake took place.

Mr. MONAGAN. Well, you have answered my next question already. You have anticipated me. So we can't ask for any better statement of intention than you have already given.

Mr. GRIFFIN. There is absolutely no desire on our part to withhold any information on any of this from DOD or from HEW. We have some judgments to make, but, in GSA we have a multiplicity of programs, and I know of no other program in GSA which has a better exchange of information among the major participants than in this program, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MONAGAN. Well, you have indicated that better coordination is possible—

Mr. GRIFFIN. Right, sir.

Mr. MONAGAN (continuing). Desirable, and that you are looking into it, and that's what we want to accomplish.

Oh, by the way, I think we should put this letter in the record. This letter has been sent?

Mr. GRIFFIN. Oh, yes. It went July 3. Absolutely.

Mr. MONAGAN. This may be made—

Mr. GRIFFIN. Mr. Romney brought the problem to our attention and also told us we were going to have a hearing, so we certainly wanted to get the letter sent before the hearing.

Mr. MONAGAN. Even hand-delivered.

Well, this letter may be made a part of the record at the beginning of Mr. Griffin's testimony where he refers to it, if there is no objection.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Would you want these annual reports as part of the record as well, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. MONAGAN. Well, we will accept them for the file.