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REVIEW OF CERTAIN ACTIVITIES OF WASHINGTON DATA PROCESSING CENTER
STATISTICAL RESEARCH SERVICE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

B-167008
4-23-70

RESTRICTED

Report to Congressman William L. Scott pursuant to his request for information with which to respond to a constituent, Mr. W. Porter Stone, President, U.S. Time-Sharing, Inc., who alleged that the Washington Data Processing Center, Department of Agriculture, was competing unfairly with private industry by going into the computer services business far beyond its needs and without budgetary support.

The report contained information that the Washington Data Processing Center (1) provided computer services only to agencies of the Department of Agriculture and to other agencies within the Federal Government, (2) operations were financed by reimbursements from the users of its data processing services, and (3) details of these reimbursements were included in supporting documentation submitted with the budget to the appropriations committee of the Congress.

U. S. Time-Sharing

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REVIEW OF AUTOMATIC DATA
PROCESSING ACTIVITIES,
WASHINGTON DATA PROCESSING
CENTER, DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

B-167008
4/23/70

RESTRICTED

The review was made at the request of Congressman William L. Scott to provide information for use in replying to a constituent who alleged that the Washington Data Processing Center was competing unfairly with private industry by going into the computer services business far beyond its needs.

Our review indicated that the Center provided computer services only to agencies of the Department of Agriculture and to other agencies within the Federal Government. Charges for such services were made at rates designed to recover the out-of-pocket and certain depreciation costs of the services.

We noted that the sharing of computer time and services within the Government is a well-established policy of both the legislative and executive branches of the Government. In this connection, we referred to Public Law 89-306, a Presidential memorandum, Bureau of the Budget Circular A-54, and a General Accounting Office report to the Congress on problems relating to management and administration of automatic data processing in the Federal Government (B-115369, April 30, 1964).

Revised