

REVIEW OF SOUND TRANSMISSION CONTROLS IN THE JAMES
FORRESTAL BUILDING--GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

B-162276
4-7-70



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RESTRICTED

Report to Congressman Charles W. Whalen, Jr., pursuant to his
request.

The report contained information that the James Forrestal Building had been accepted by the General Services Administration (GSA). The results of the laboratory and field tests of the room components generally showed that, except for the suspended ceiling system, the components met specified sound transmission requirements. A GSA official informed us that the ceiling system installed in the building probably meet specified requirements, if tested. We believed that testing of the ceiling system installed, to verify this information, was not warranted. A Department of Defense official informed us that the general office space in the Forrestal Building was suitable for the Department's security needs.

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Congressman Charles W. Whalen, Jr. asked us to determine whether the room components of the Forrestal Building met specified sound transmission requirements. The results of the laboratory and field tests of the room components generally showed that, except for the suspended ceiling system, the components met specified sound transmission requirements. However, acceptable tests were achieved only after the resolution of earlier problems with some of the tests.

In the case of the ceiling system, the test results did not appear to be meaningful because the laboratory test was applied to a ceiling with a different suspension system than that installed in the Forrestal Building. An article by the head of an independent testing laboratory states that "the performance of a ceiling may depend crucially on the details of the method of suspension as well as the selection of the materials." A GSA official told us that the ceiling system installed in the Forrestal Building probably would meet specified requirements, if tested. The building has been accepted by GSA and we expressed the belief that testing of the ceiling system installed, in order to verify this information, was not warranted.

Revised

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Problems in obtaining acceptable sound
transmission test results for room
components

Revised