



## DC OUTPUT

*from our man in Washington*

The Federal Communications Commission has started a public inquiry into the regulatory and policy questions raised by the growing interdependence of computer services and communications services of common carriers. FCC is seeking answers to a number of policy and regulatory questions which come under its authority. Specifically, FCC wants to know whether legislation is needed for government regulation of computer service or is required to protect the privacy and proprietary nature of data; if, and under what respect, public policy requires regulation of computer services or whether those services will evolve better in a free, competitive market; if the services and facilities offered by communications common carriers are compatible with present and anticipated communication requirements of computer usage; and what measures are being taken by the computer industry and communications common carriers to protect the privacy and proprietary nature of data stored in computers and transmitted over communications facilities.

A National Data Center to be responsible for assembling in a single facility all large-scale systematic bodies of demographic economic, and social data generated by the data collection or administrative processes of the Federal Government has been urged by a Bureau of Budget task force. The task force made it clear that even with a National Data Center it is obvious that every policy agency, as well as many administrative units, will require analytical capabilities for program planning and program evaluation. But, they add, current technologies, including distant consoles connected with a central computer facility by telephone links, make compatible decentralized use of data for analytical purposes with highly centralized data storage and processing.

Japanese buyers have a strong interest in U. S. advanced electronic equipment, reports an export mar-

ket survey of the Commerce Department. The survey shows a heavy demand for industrial instrumentation, especially automation and process control equipment tied into digital and analog computers. Reliability and multi-function capability are stressed, with emphasis on solid-state and non-contact devices. Instruments with high sales potential include those capable of monitoring steady value control as well as proportional and variable control.

Small businessmen will profit from efforts of the Senate Select Committee on Small Business to spread information on how they might use EDP. The Senate group is working with the Small Business Administration on a program for small businessmen in the use of computers as tools to improve management. These activities are expected to result in a SBA handbook, accompanied by seminars and other aids, to provide guidance to small business on the subject.

### Recent Government Contracts

**SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CORP.**, Santa Monica, Cal., received a \$2,000,000 increment to a previously-awarded contract for the procurement of satellite control computer systems. The Headquarters, Air Force Satellite Control Facility, L. A., Cal., is issuing the contract.

**LEAR SIEGLER, INC.**, Grand Rapids, Mich., has been awarded a \$3,528,183 fixed-price contract for loft bomb computer systems. The Naval Air Systems Command is issuing the contract following competition in which two bids were received.

**LITTON INDUSTRIES, INC.**, Guidance and Control Systems Division, Woodland Hills, Cal., has been selected by NASA for negotiations on a contract for the design, fabrication, and checkout of the data automation subsystem (DAS) for the unmanned Mariner flights to Mars in 1969. Total value of the work on the subsystem is estimated at \$3 million.