In an electronic accounting machine, a single line display shows both guiding messages entered by the programs of the machine and reply messages entered by an operator through a keyboard. The display is divided into a left part and a right part whose lengths are programmed by the machine. This latter enters a guiding message formed by a permanent part indicating the current work of the machine and a temporary part indicating the data required by the running program. These parts are displayed respectively on the left and the right part of the display. The keyboard reply message replaces the temporary part, whereby the reply message is displayed in the right part of the display simultaneously with the permanent part of the guiding message present on the left part.

6 Claims, 13 Drawing Figures