

**Testimony of**  
**Edna M. Barber**  
**Concerned Federal Employee**  
**Before the**  
**Commercial Activities Panel**

**June 11, 2001**

General Accounting Office  
Office of the General Counsel  
Attention: William T. Woods  
Room 7476  
44 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Woods:

I am writing to you to request an opportunity to present my written and my oral testimony to the Commercial Activities Panel. I am writing to you on the basis that I have been through three (3) reductions-in-force (RIF's) in my 36 years Federal career service.

I have experienced the first hand exposure of seeing Federal jobs contracted out for doing (or promised) services by contractors. None of these promised services were provided by the contract help that were done at the same level as the in house work force.

Additionally, I have enumerated several concerns about the A-76 Process. They are as follows:

- The Metropolitan Washington Area has no major industries to absorb the job loss that would result in the displacement of the Federal workforce.
- The major industry in this geographic area is the Federal Government. As 45% of the job market here, privatization would have an economic depression on the local economy and a shrinkage in the tax base both on the Federal and City level.
- That shrinkage would have a negative ripple effect upon the entire area.
- Contractor costs per labor hour is almost 3 times that of the in house labor force. Moreover, contractor costs escalate after the contract has been awarded due to the change orders in order for all aspects of the work to be covered.
- The Federal Government has the liability of the contractors' work. Yet, the Governmental agency has no control over the results of the contracted out goods or services. Additionally, the corporate knowledge and the database file maintenance gets lost in the turnover of the contracted out work.
- At present, outside contractor bid on work and provide goods and services that require the in house work force to repair or redo the work that was done by the contractor. Further, the contractor will not return to do the repair or provide the services.
- Another, cost savings the contractor does is bring in workers who are unskilled, cannot speak the principal language, nor are paid at the rates that the contractor has provided to the Government.
- Commercial Activities Studies (CA) must be documented under the social economic aspects where large numbers of workers face the potential of losing their primary source of income. These studies must undergo the full blown Environmental Impact Assessment and not merely categorical exclusions. Multiple civil suits will result if this process is ignored.

Thank you for allowing me to speak before this august body today.

Sincerely,

Edna M. Barber