



UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548



PROGRAM ANALYSIS
DIVISION

FEB 26 1979

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

Mr. W. E. Williamson
Deputy Commissioner
Committee on Interstate
and Foreign Commerce
House of Representatives

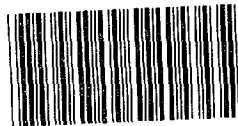
HSE 02300

Dear Mr. Williamson:

The enclosed computer printout is forwarded for your information and use in preparation of your committee's views and estimates report to the Budget Committee on the fiscal year 1980 budget. The General Accounting Office has prepared this information as part of our efforts to respond to the requirements in Title VIII of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 that the Comptroller General (1) develop and maintain standard classifications for fiscal, budgetary and program-related information and (2) assist committees in developing their information needs.

We have attempted to identify all the Federal programs and activities that are within your committee's jurisdiction using available source documents, such as the Budget Appendix and agency budget justifications, and in consultation with cognizant congressional and executive agency officials. We want to emphasize that the list of programs/activities in the enclosed document is an effort to capture the existing inventory of programs; it is not a "standard classification" of program and budget data. Also, the budget data was obtained directly from the agencies, and except for certain test checks that we performed, we relied on their input as to the accuracy and validity of the data.

For each program or activity identified, we have displayed the program authorizing and funding legislation (public law and U.S. Code citation) and the relevant budgetary information (authorization, budget authority, obligations and outlays). The requisite budget data are provided for fiscal years 1978 (actual), 1979 (estimate) and 1980 (President's budget request).




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We hope that this information will assist you in the performance of your responsibilities under Section 301(c) of the Budget Act and in meeting your other program information needs.

Sincerely yours,



Harry S. Havens
Director

Enclosure - 1

GAO LEGISLATIVE AUTHORIZATION, PROGRAM AND BUDGETARY
INFORMATION SYSTEM (LAPIS)
OVERVIEW OF COMPUTER PRINTOUT CONTENT

The attached computer printout from the LAPIS data base lists the programs and activities that are authorized in law and under your committee's jurisdiction. The basic unit for which a complete set of data is provided is a record. Each record may be a program, an activity, or even an individual project. What are included as records depends on the committee's expressed information needs, the data available from the agencies, and our perception of the level of detail that should be reported to enable the committee to perform an effective analysis of each agency's plans and activities. The following data is provided, where available, for each program or activity.

- Administering agency and bureau, or independent commission.
- Budget function and subfunction.
- Citation of the law that authorizes the programs, including the public law name and the relevant title and section of the U.S. Code.
- Name of program, activity, or item.
- Appropriation account number.
- House and Senate authorizing committee jurisdiction.
- Amounts authorized, if specified, and/or narrative description of funding limitations.
- Expiration dates of the legislation or programs (available for most programs in LAPIS).
- Related budget authority, outlays, and obligations for the past, current, and budget years.
- Specialized data, if requested.

The functional/subfunctional distribution of the records and their associated budget authority and outlays are provided as the first part of the computer printout. The detailed records of programs and activities and related data follow.

If you have any questions about the data provided, agency contacts, or other use of the data, please contact Roger Sperry or John Luke at 275-1907.