# UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

## WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

February 26, 1979    IN REPLY
REFER TO:

PROGRAM ANALYSIS
DIVISION

Mr. Garner J. Cline
Staff Director
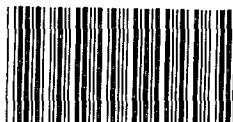Committee on the Judiciary
House of Representatives   HSEO25UD

Dear Mr. Cline:

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 Congres-
sional Budget Act of 1974 that the Comptroller General (1)
develop and maintain standard classification 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 Appen-
dix 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 ob-
tained 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 legisla-
tion (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)
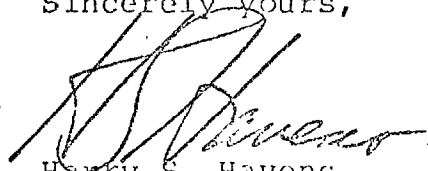and 1980 (President's budget request).

PAD-79-59

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 com-
mittee'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 ef-
fective 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 pro-
grams 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.