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COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

B-118638

May 4, 1979

The Honorable Ronald V. Dellums
Chairman, Committee on the District
of Columbia
House of Representatives

Re 00900

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter dated April 26, 1979, requesting our recommendations and report on [H.R. 3672, a bill to authorize additional appropriations for the Temporary Commission on Financial Oversight of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes]. If enacted, H.R. 3672 would amend Public Law 94-399, approved September 4, 1976, entitled "An Act to provide for an independent audit of the financial condition of the government of the District of Columbia" to increase the amount authorized to be appropriated to the Commission from \$16 million to \$38 million.

The Director of our Financial and General Management Studies Division, Mr. Donald L. Scantlebury, testified on H.R. 3672 on April 25, 1979, before your Committee's Subcommittee on Fiscal Affairs and Health. As stated in his prepared statement, we support H.R. 3672 because we believe that without it the Commission will be unable to fulfill the responsibilities assigned to it by Public Law 94-399.

Mr. Scantlebury also commented on Section 1.(b), which provides that the increase in the authorization will be effective October 1, 1979. If this provision is retained, it is doubtful that the new central system can be implemented on October 1, 1979, as planned by the Commission. This, in turn, would delay the first audit from fiscal year 1980 to 1981. An audit of the District government's financial statements for fiscal year 1980 is authorized by Public Law 94-399 and is one of the Commission's primary objectives.

If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

Acting Comptroller General
of the United States

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