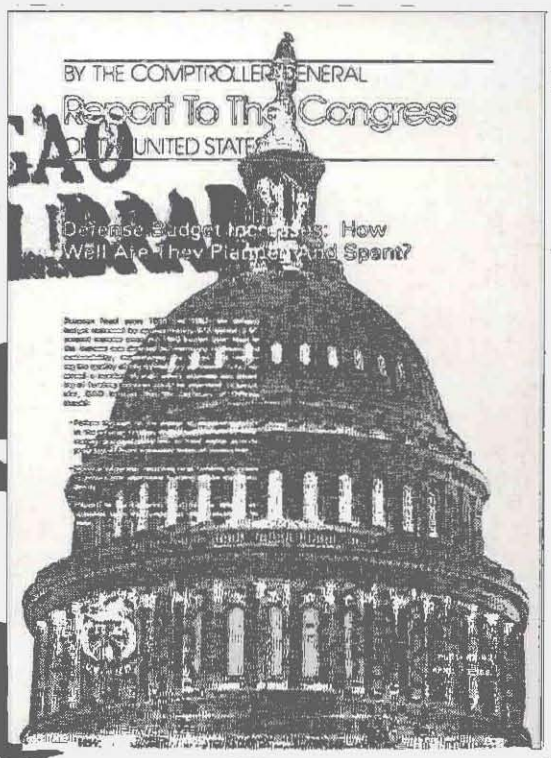
GAO Annual Report 1982/Volume I

United States General Accounting Office



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

This past year was my first as Comptroller General. I found GAO to be an excellent organization with dedicated staff, and I intend to build on its fine tradition of service to the Congress and the American people.

During fiscal year 1982, the Congress faced many critical issues relating to the Nation's security and economic and social well-being. To present most clearly what GAO has done to assist the Congress, I have divided the annual report into two parts. This brief overview highlights some of GAO's major efforts and accomplishments. Volume II is similar to previous GAO annual reports and contains detailed information on fiscal year 1982 activities, legislative recommendations, and financial and other benefits from GAO's work.

Charles A. Bowsher

Comptroller General
of the United States

What Is GAO?

Serving the Congress

The General Accounting Office (GAO), headed by the Comptroller General of the United States, was created by the Congress in 1921 as an independent, nonpartisan agency to help in congressional oversight of the executive branch. Today, GAO's major responsibility is to assist the Congress by providing information for its legislative and oversight activities. This is principally done by auditing and evaluating Federal programs, functions, and financial operations and providing legal opinions and comments on proposed legislation.

GAO employs 5,000 people. Half of these people work in its central office and elsewhere in the Washington, D.C., area. The other half are located where they can review Federal Government operations across the United States and around the world. GAO has 15 regional offices and one branch office (Honolulu) in the United States and foreign branch offices in Frankfurt, West Germany, and Panama City, Panama. The organization's fiscal year 1982 budget was $236 million.

To fulfill its responsibilities in fiscal year 1982, GAO issued 949 reports to the Congress and Federal agency officials, testified 177 times before congressional committees, provided written comments on proposed legislation 357 times, and assisted the Congress in many other ways.

The full effect of GAO's work—which includes financial benefits, improved Federal Government operations, and more effective Federal policies and programs—cannot be measured. However, when the Congress or Federal agencies take action in response to GAO recommendations and measurable benefits occur, a record is kept. During fiscal year 1982, the record showed that an estimated $5.9 billion in such benefits were attributed to GAO's work.

Defense

Defense Budget Continues to Grow

To strengthen America's military, the U.S. defense budget was increased by $72 billion—from $142 billion to $214 billion—between fiscal years 1980 and 1982. This is approximately a 50-percent increase, and significant growth in defense expenditures is expected to continue. Military spending was 24 percent of the total Federal budget in 1980; by 1985 that proportion is projected to rise to about 33 percent. The Department of Defense is investing large sums to acquire more and newer weapons, improve readiness, enhance the skills and quality of life of military personnel, and retain skilled personnel in the service.

GAO Task Force Studied Defense Spending

The Congress and the American taxpayers have expressed much concern about whether the Defense Department can efficiently and effectively manage these huge sums. GAO initiated a study to provide Congress with the information it would need to analyze how the Department planned to spend its rapidly increasing budget.

Generally, GAO found that the Department followed through on its pledge to emphasize readiness and sustainability and to invest heavily in force modernization. It also increased military pay to recruit and retain critical skills and increased funding for real property maintenance to improve not only readiness but also the quality of military life. GAO found, however, that the Department had only limited success in eliminating marginal weapon systems to make funds available for higher priority programs.

GAO also found that increases in operations and maintenance funds could be spent more prudently and that more needs to be done to define the objectives for using these funds. Also, top managers in the Department must increase their oversight of how the funds are used.

Regarding the Defense Department's method of budgeting, GAO recommended that the Department develop a system that will identify what, specifically, is to be achieved with each increase to the Defense budget and over what period of time. Then the Department should be able to report to Congress what has been accomplished for any major program or specific appropriation relative to established goals.

GAO Monitored Cost Growth of Major Weapon Systems

The Congress and the public continue to be concerned with the ever-increasing cost of weapon systems. Defense Department reports showed that between June 1981 and June 1982 the estimated cost of 40 major systems increased from $289 billion to $412 billion. This large increase occurred primarily because the Department plans to purchase more individual units of the various systems.

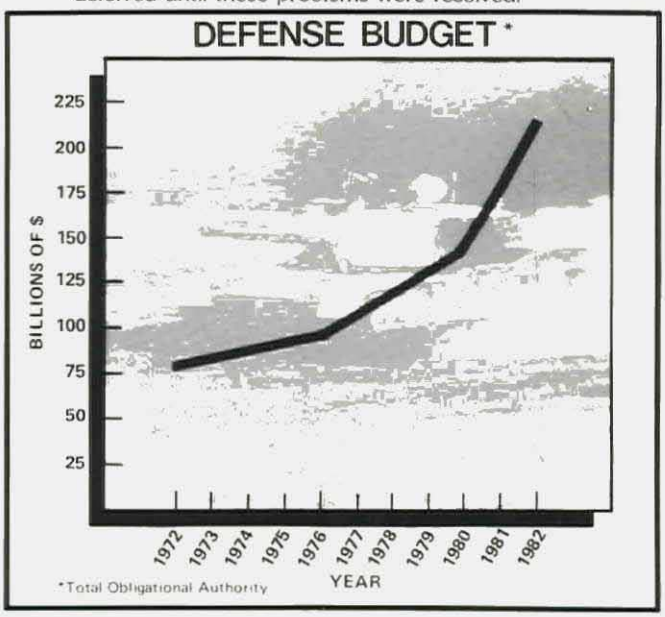
The estimated costs for individual units have grown markedly. Although initial cost estimates include provisions for inflation, inflation has been higher than the Department anticipated; and this has accounted for much of the cost growth. Unit costs have also grown because the Department has not foreseen some technical difficulties in designing weapon systems and, in order to pay for additional systems, has slowed ongoing production to less economical rates. The following table shows unit cost growth for three weapon systems that went into development in the early 1970s.

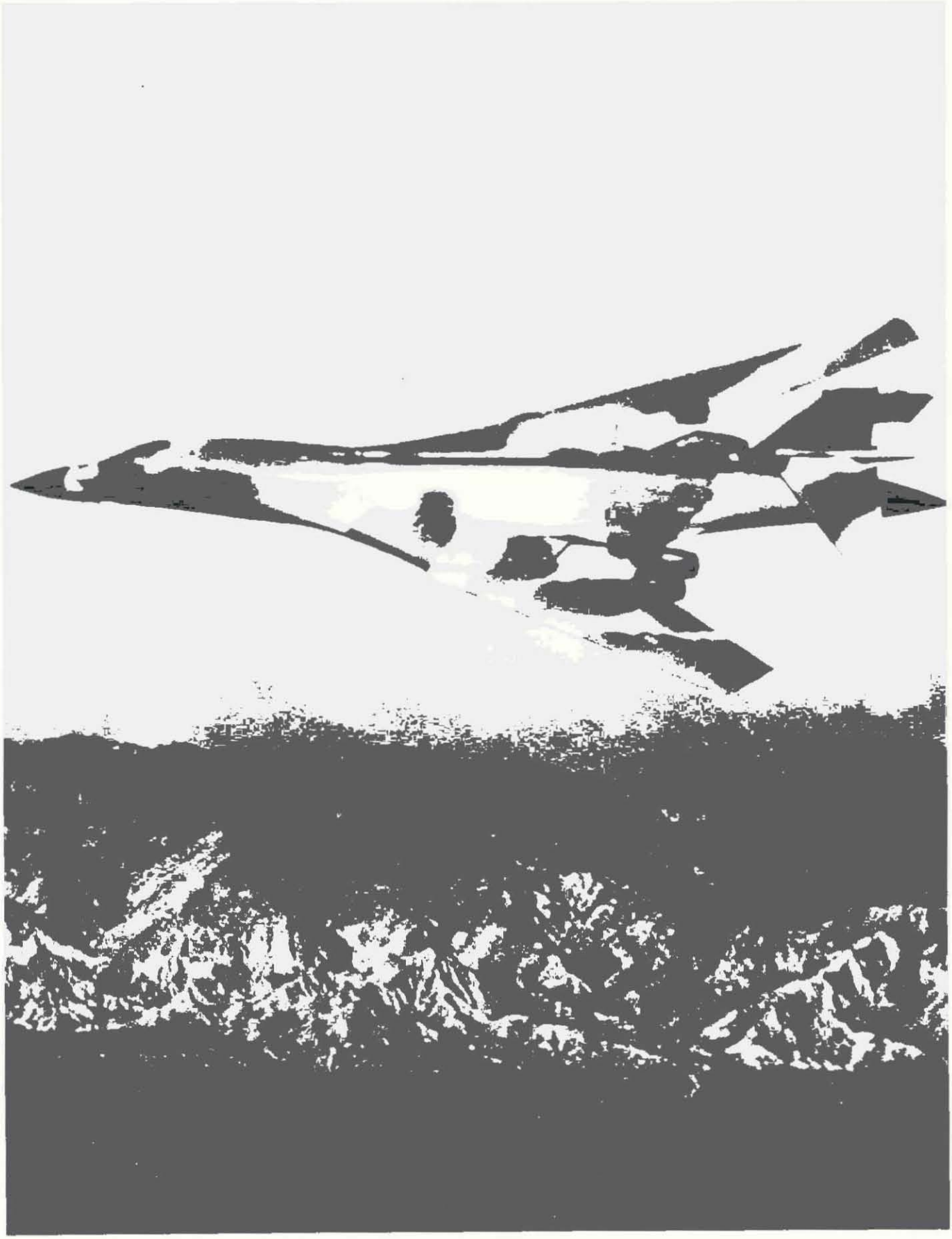
	Year of introduction	Estimated unit cost (millions) Initial	Current
F-15 Aircraft	1970	$9.8	$28.7
M-1 Tank	1972	$1.3	$2.6
Trident Submarine	1974	$690.3	$1,369.5

Recent congressional and public interest has centered on the new B-1B bomber. The Defense Department has estimated that 100 new B-1B bombers will cost $20.5 billion—some $200 million for each aircraft. Should the B-1B encounter cost growth similar to current weapon systems, the cost will, of course, be considerably greater. GAO expects congressional interest in the B-1B will remain high. As it has done in the past, GAO will continue to analyze B-1B cost estimates for the Congress.

Since 1969, GAO has assisted the Congress in its oversight of major weapon systems by reviewing cost growth, schedule slippages, and performance capabilities. This past year, GAO selected 24 systems for review, two of which are discussed below.

- The Navy was planning to buy out-of-date trainer aircraft for its AV-8B program. GAO suggested that a more modern trainer be procured. The Navy agreed and estimates it will save about $400 million as a result.
- The Army was planning to go into production on its new attack helicopter (AH-64) even though testing of its development models was not complete and the risks of producing it in a new plant with a new work force had not been assessed. At GAO's urging, production was deferred until these problems were resolved.





B-1B bomber

Entitlements

Entitlement Programs Cost More Every Year

Entitlement programs now make up almost half the Federal budget. The Office of Management and Budget's estimates put Federal spending in fiscal year 1982 at $726 billion. Of this amount, entitlement programs accounted for $340 billion, or 47 percent—a considerable increase since fiscal year 1972, when entitlements accounted for $88 billion, or about 38 percent of that year's budget.[1] So any significant reduction in the overall Federal budget demands consideration of substantial curbs in the increase of entitlement costs.

Entitlement programs are either insurance-based or needs-based. Insurance-based programs include Social Security, Federal Civilian and Military Retirement, Railroad Retirement, Unemployment Insurance, and Medicare. These programs benefit persons and their families who have contributed to the programs or on whose behalf contributions have been made, usually through payroll deductions. Benefits usually are paid without regard to other income or wealth.

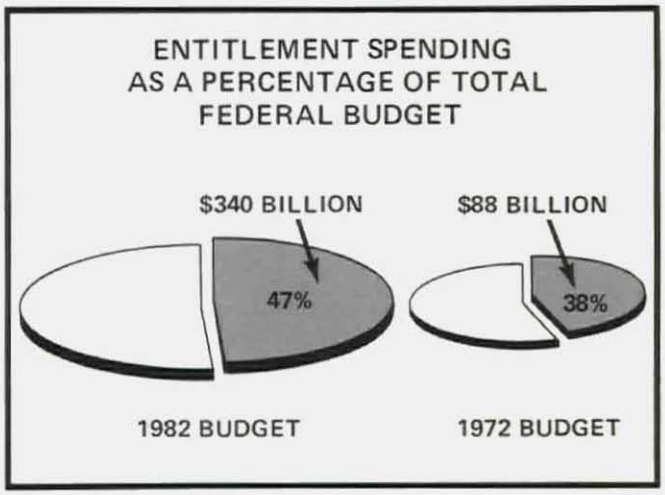
The needs-based programs focus primarily on low-income persons whose eligibility is determined by their income, assets, and needs, not their prior contributions. Needs-based programs include Medicaid, Food Stamps, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, and Supplemental Security Income. Financed from general revenues, these programs provide cash or other benefits and are administered at several levels of government.

GAO Reviews Entitlement Costs

In response to congressional and taxpayer concern about the size and growth of entitlement programs, GAO has examined various ways to control costs. Many opportunities exist.

Social Security, Food Stamps, Federal Civilian and Military Retirement, and Supplemental Security Income benefits are indexed; that is, they increase with the cost of living. This practice, adopted to offset the eroding effects of inflation, is very costly. Today, each additional percentage point of inflation adds $1.5 billion to $2.5 billion in Federal expenditures from indexing. A Congressional Budget Office estimate puts the effects of indexing in fiscal year 1981 at $23 billion. Also, indexing has generated inequities. In recent years, wages and salaries have not kept up with the cost of living, while indexed benefits of Federal programs have been fully protected. As a result, some retirees have fared better than workers.

GAO has recommended that the President and the Congress be given discretion to modify the amount of adjustment indicated by the consumer price index. Consistent with another of GAO's recommendations, the Bureau of Labor Statistics will soon change its method of measuring home ownership costs to correct statistical shortcomings that have overstated the rate of inflation.



Another problem is that weak internal controls leave entitlement programs vulnerable to fraud and abuse. GAO has reported that inadequate controls in Social Security's computer system have led to erroneous payments. Also, hundreds of millions of dollars are improperly paid annually to beneficiaries of other entitlement programs who either fail to report their income or assets or report only part of them. GAO recommended changes in Federal law and regulations to correct erroneous information on file and to detect and prevent improper and inaccurate payments.

Internal control weaknesses have also plagued the Food Stamp program. Over the past several years, GAO has reported that such weaknesses have led to billions of dollars of "overissuances"—benefits that should not have been paid out. The Federal Government pays 100 percent of the cost of the food stamps, but State and local governments run the program. In the past year GAO testified on internal control weaknesses that did not catch duplicate issuances and recommended that the Agriculture Department refuse to pay for locally preventable losses and bill the States for duplicate issuances.

GAO will continue its efforts to identify ways to eliminate or control improper entitlement payments and thereby slow the rate of entitlement program growth.

[1]*Interest payments on the national debt are excluded.*

Taxes

Tax System Faced with Problems

Our Nation's well-being depends, in large measure, on the willingness and ability of people to voluntarily determine and pay their taxes. That, in turn, depends on the public's perception of and confidence in the integrity, equity, and effectiveness of the tax system.

In recent years, the tax system has been seriously threatened and substantial revenues have been lost due to a growing disregard for the tax laws. For example, IRS has estimated that the total tax revenue loss due to taxpayer noncompliance was as high as $97 billion for 1981, more than twice the estimated loss for 1976. In addition, at the end of fiscal year 1981, IRS' backlog of identified, but uncollected, delinquent taxes was an estimated $20.5 billion. Compounding the problem are the growing complexity of the tax laws and the resulting administrative burden on IRS' limited resources.

GAO Has Been Working to Strengthen the Tax System

Recognizing the importance of the tax system to the Nation's well-being, GAO has devoted considerable effort over the last decade to evaluating IRS' administration of the tax laws. Before October 1977, the executive branch did not recognize GAO's right to obtain tax records, so GAO's efforts were limited to specific audits requested by, and conducted as agents of, the Joint Committee on Taxation. On October 7, 1977, however, the Congress passed Public Law 95-125, which amended the Accounting and Auditing Act of 1950, to specifically grant GAO independent access to tax records. Since then, GAO has concentrated on improving taxpayer compliance with the law by seeking to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, and fairness of the system. GAO's work has surfaced important tax issues and problems and has helped the Congress and IRS develop solutions to those problems.

GAO Contributed to Recent Legislation

Much of GAO's work in the tax administration area over the last few years was acted on when the Congress passed the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982. Numerous provisions of that act incorporate suggestions and recommendations made in GAO reports, testimonies, and briefings. For example, the new law followed GAO's advice by:

- Strengthening IRS' ability to work with other law enforcement agencies to detect and tax the profits of illegal activities, such as drug trafficking. According to IRS, the tax revenue loss from such profits amounted to as much as $10 billion for 1981.
- Penalizing those who file their tax returns only after being caught by IRS. In this regard, the act restricts the extent to which these nonfilers can receive interest on any refunds and provides for a late filer penalty. According to Treasury Department estimates, these provisions will yield $320 million through 1987.
- Changing the way interest is calculated on unpaid taxes. Treasury has estimated that these provisions of the law will yield $291 million in revenues through 1987.
- Eliminating interest-free installment payments of income tax for corporations. The Treasury Department has estimated that this provision will yield $692 million in revenues through 1987.

Similarly, GAO has contributed to the recent legislation through its work on tax policy issues. In framing the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982, the Congress used several policy recommendations contained in GAO's extensive study on life insurance company taxation. GAO called for the revision of life insurance company taxation to reflect changes in industry structure and the introduction of new products. For example, on GAO's recommendation, the 1982 act eliminated tax advantages from modified coinsurance arrangements and revised certain provisions for revaluing cash reserves.

GAO Contributed to Administrative Improvements

Through testimonies and a recent report, GAO identified for the Congress and Administration the revenue benefits of providing IRS with more resources to better enforce compliance with the tax laws. The Administration recommended increasing IRS' compliance resources for fiscal year 1983. Also, the 1982 tax act contains a "sense of the Congress" resolution to grant the Administration's request that IRS be provided sufficient funds to hire additional staff in fiscal years 1984 and 1985 to collect $3 billion more in taxes owed the Government.

During fiscal year 1982, GAO made other recommendations which resulted in administrative improvements to the tax system and which should have direct revenue benefits. For example, in a May 1982 report on the Crude Oil Windfall Profit Tax Act of 1980, GAO showed that IRS' rules led to inconsistent treatment of oil well properties. Treasury and IRS subsequently issued new guidance which should enhance IRS' ability to collect the $227 billion due the Government over the life of the act.

GAO Will Continue to Help Improve the Tax System

In the future, GAO will continue to work toward improving the administration and enforcement of the tax laws. It will place more emphasis on making tax laws easier to understand and administer and on assessing IRS' use of computer technology in its operations. Also, in response to recent congressional interest, GAO will expand its work on insurance tax policy by including property/casualty companies and will study the feasibility and advisability of a broader-based individual income tax, such as the flat-rate tax.

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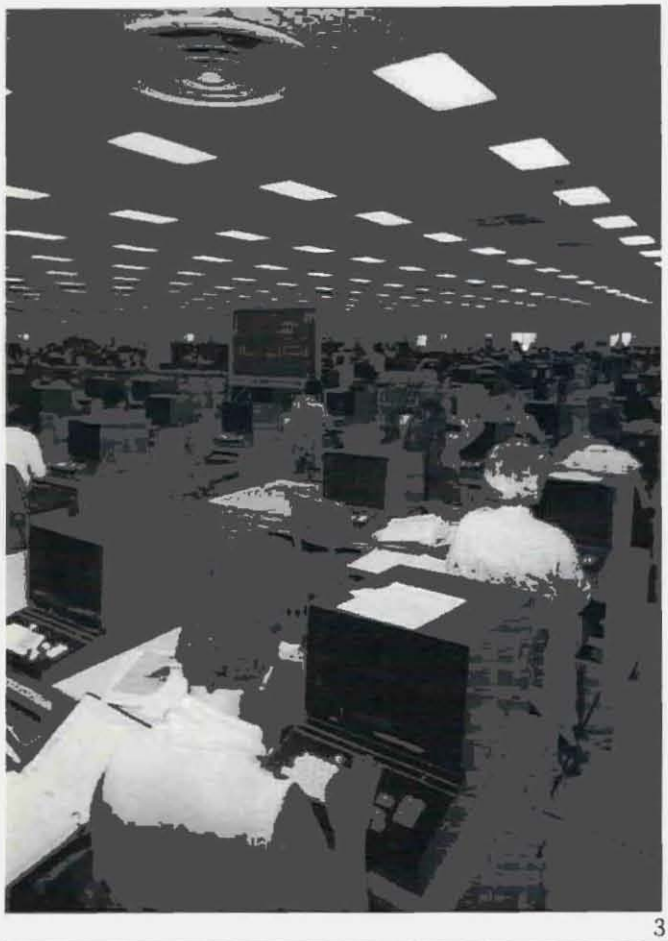

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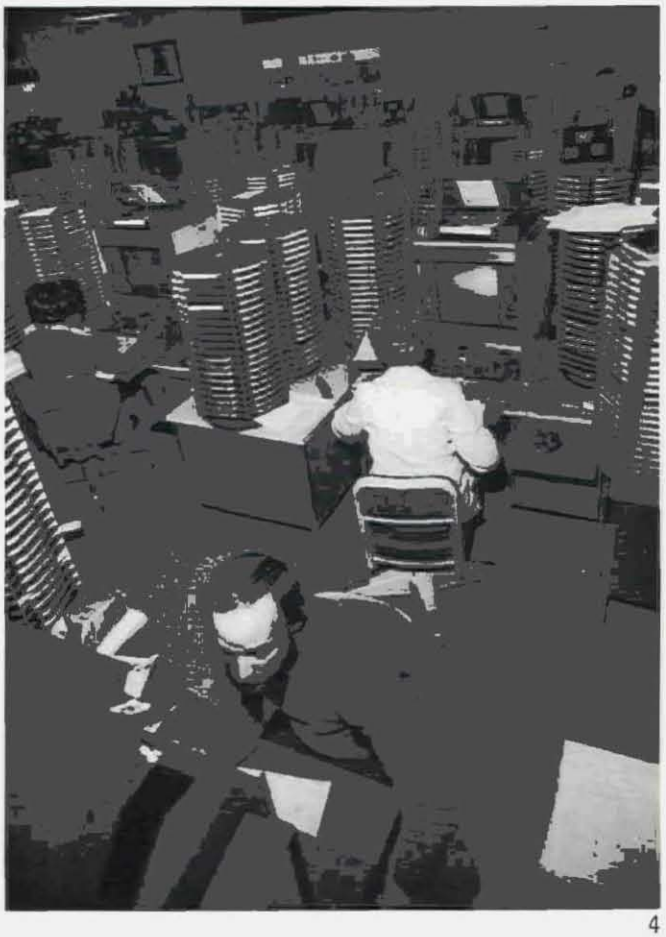

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Four steps in processing tax returns:

1. *Machine opens and sorts tax returns.*
2. *Tax returns sorted further at specially designed "Tingle Tables."*
3. *Data from returns entered in computers.*
4. *Data stored on microfilm for future use.*

Budget
Consolidated
Financial
Statements
of the United States Government
Report To The Congress
Report To The Congress

Financial Management

Need for Financial Accountability Grows

The Congress and American taxpayers are asking questions about the adequacy of financial management and control of Federal Government operations. They have a right to be concerned. Their questions relate directly to the capability of Government officials to discharge their responsibility to the public. With the national debt over $1 trillion and interest on that debt currently over $100 billion annually, the public will continue to demand efficient and effective management of its tax dollars. While recent financial management improvements have been made, major problems remain that urgently need attention.

During fiscal year 1982, GAO was involved in a number of important areas to improve financial management in the Federal Government. Highlighted below are the major areas in which improvements must be made, along with a discussion of some of GAO's efforts.

Overall Budget Process Must Be Improved

GAO has testified several times on the critical need to improve the cumbersome and complicated Federal budget process. The present process is too complex and is beset with timing and duplication problems. Congress is finding it more and more difficult to use budget information to assess program results and set national priorities.

The Federal budget process was last examined comprehensively in 1967. Since then, the size of the budget and the number of programs have grown dramatically. GAO has advocated a high level study group or commission to suggest improvements in the budget process.

Accounting Systems Need to Conform with GAO Principles and Standards

One of GAO's major responsibilities is to set accounting principles and standards for executive agencies. Another related responsibility is to review and approve accounting systems to assure that good accounting practices are followed. The record of executive agency compliance with those principles and standards to date has not been satisfactory. Of all the systems reported by agencies as subject to GAO approval, more than a third remain unapproved. These include some of the biggest and most important systems which, when combined, account for more than half of the Federal budget.

GAO is currently examining its approach to approving Federal accounting systems to better encourage agencies to seek review and approval of their systems and to operate them more effectively and efficiently. Any changes in GAO's approach will depend on how successfully agencies implement those sections of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 requiring them to conform their accounting systems with GAO principles and standards.

Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act Expected to Strengthen Internal Controls

Requiring improved accounting systems is only one facet of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. Important to the passage of the act, which resulted from 4 years of effort by the Senate Governmental Affairs and House Government Operations Committees to strengthen financial management in the Government, was an awareness of the need for a comprehensive system of internal controls. Internal control systems—properly conceived, soundly based, and effectively monitored—are the essential prerequisites for achieving good accountability.

GAO's audit efforts in the past few years have disclosed numerous instances where Federal Government agencies have accounting and administrative control systems that are vulnerable to physical losses and waste of property and money, as well as susceptible to fraudulent or otherwise improper acts. For example, one GAO report disclosed that over a 2½-year period, 21 Federal agencies experienced thousands of cases of known fraud. GAO estimated that the monetary loss totaled between $150 million and $220 million.

The Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act requires ongoing evaluations of the adequacy of each executive agency's systems of internal control, including compliance with standards to be set by GAO. The legislation also calls for an annual statement, signed by the agency head, reporting on the effectiveness of the agency's internal controls. GAO will monitor the agencies' compliance with this and all other requirements of the act. Improving internal controls in the Federal Government is one of GAO's top priorities, and this legislation should help achieve that goal.

Financial Reporting Relies on Effective Systems

Financial reporting is the primary means by which Federal officials review their operations and communicate to the taxpayers their accountability over the funds entrusted to them. Until budget and accounting systems are improved, Federal managers will continue to be hindered by less than adequate information when making their reports. Better systems would have alerted them years earlier to the growing problem of billions of dollars of unpaid debts.

In this regard, GAO is working to identify improvements needed in the Federal Government's central accounting systems at the Treasury Department. Much of GAO's near-term work on financial reporting will set the stage for the development of consolidated financial statements for the entire Federal Government. This longer term improvement will provide useful and necessary information to the President, Congress, and taxpayers in assessing the financial health of the Government.

Economic Policy

Recession Hits Economy

During 1982, the U.S. economy was in the midst of its eighth recession since the Second World War. Particularly hard hit by the slump were the housing, mortgage finance, and automobile industries, but weaknesses were seen throughout the economy.

Many economists saw a conflict between a restrictive monetary policy and a stimulative fiscal (tax and spending) policy and feared that this conflict would intensify. If the projected budget deficits persisted during a recovery, while monetary policy continued to stress restraining inflation, they felt the combination would choke the recovery. But, if monetary policy were relaxed substantially and the large deficits continued, they believed the combination might rekindle inflation.

GAO Requested to Study U.S. Government Fiscal and Monetary Policy

The House Appropriations Committee asked GAO to study the Nation's fiscal and monetary policies and to make suggestions for change. In response to this request, GAO consulted a wide range of senior economists and convened a panel of experts to discuss current economic conditions and the costs and benefits of policy changes. Government, business, and financial leaders were consulted for their perspectives on current policy, particularly their views on the effect of high interest rates. Macroeconomic models were used to test several options for monetary and fiscal policy.

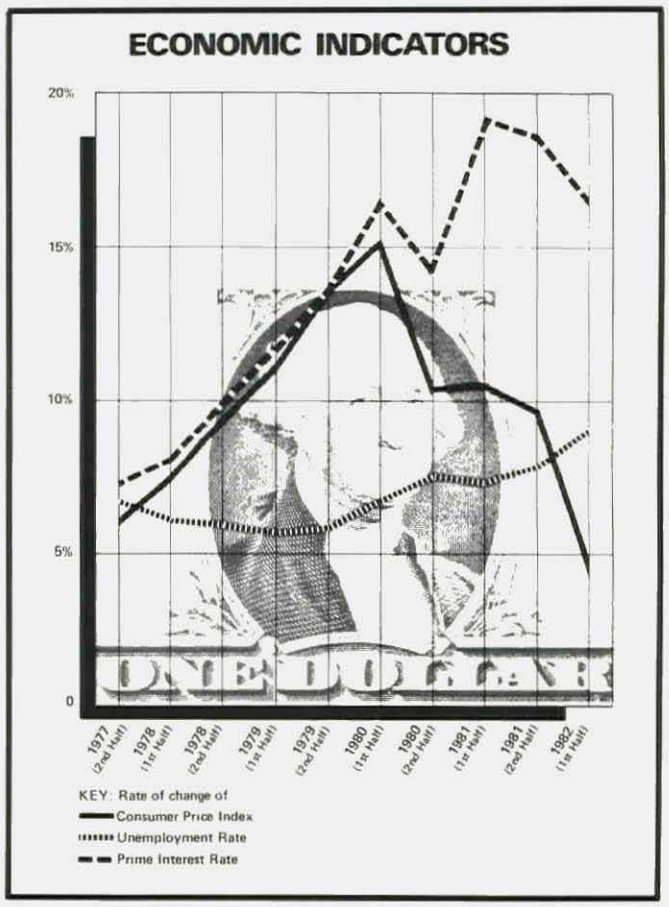
From the discussions, general agreement emerged on five principles that should guide U.S. economic policy:

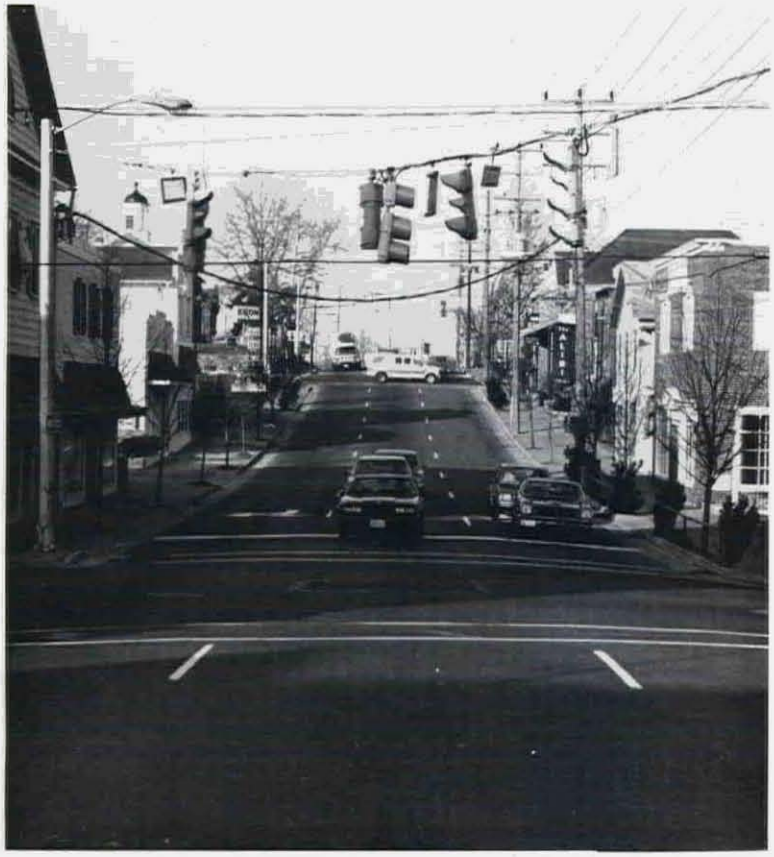
- Economic policy should be based on a long-run objective of moderating inflation.
- Unemployment should not be reduced by either expansive monetary or fiscal policy to levels where inflationary pressures are renewed.
- Policy adjustments should be gradual and moderate so that uncertainty about and instability in financial markets and investments are minimized.
- Long-run growth should be a paramount goal in any policies designed to stimulate investment.
- Monetary and fiscal policy should be based on a consistent and achievable set of long-run goals for employment, price levels, and economic growth.

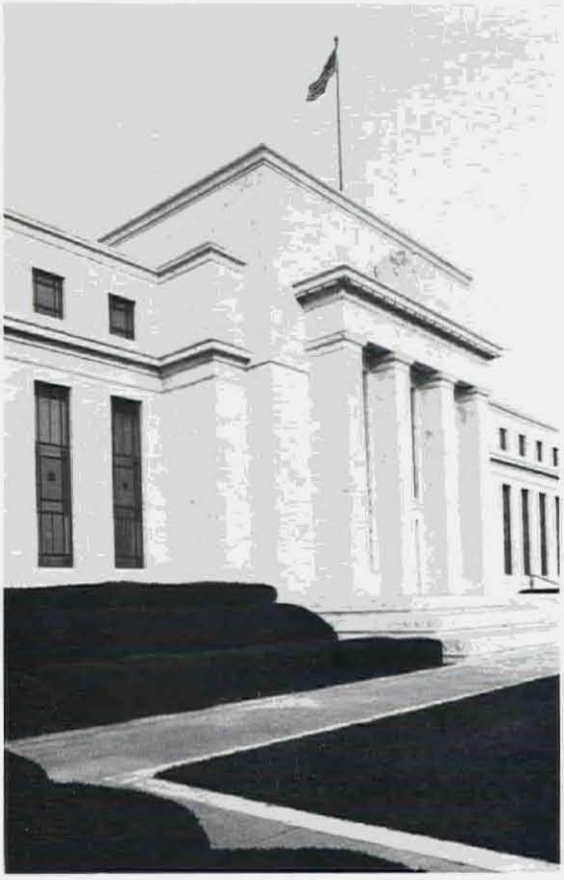
These principles suggested a moderate easing of monetary policy and a concerted effort to substantially reduce the budget deficits projected for fiscal year 1984 and beyond.

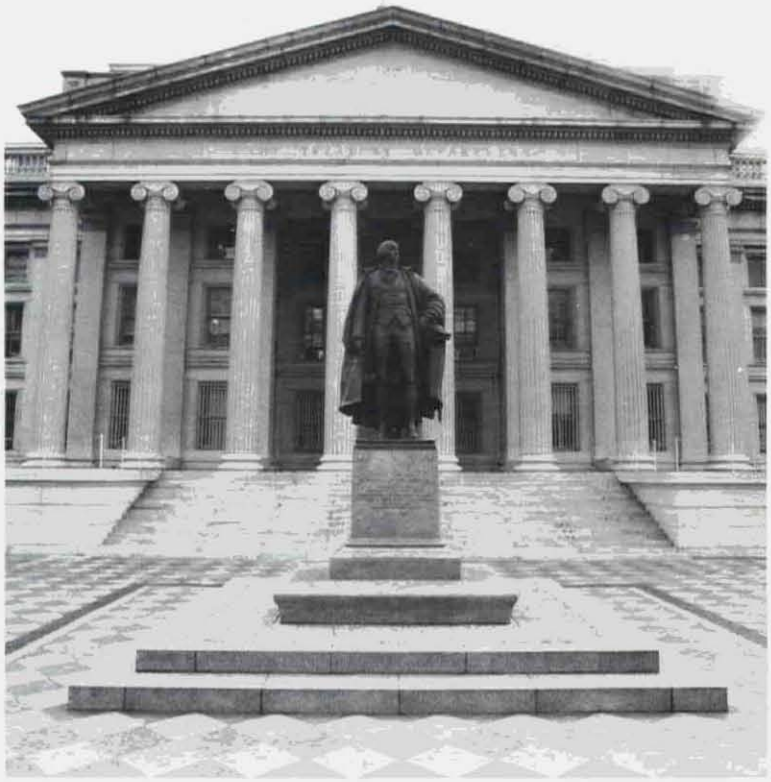
GAO took no position on the detailed composition of actions needed to close the future budget deficits. As a practical matter, however, GAO concluded that it will be necessary for the Congress to constrain the growth of both defense spending and entitlements, by far the largest elements in the Federal budget, while also generating additional revenues.

There is a growing recognition that it is the mix of fiscal, monetary, and, at times, income policies that affect economic conditions. The integration of these policies will depend on agreement by the Administration, the Congress, and the Federal Reserve Board on long-range goals for the economy and on the policies necessary to achieve those goals.









"Main Street." (Top left) Wall Street. (Top right)
Federal Reserve Building. (Above left) Department of the Treasury Building. (Above right)

Public Facilities

America's Public Facilities Are Deteriorating

America's infrastructure—the vast, vital network of roads, bridges, water and sewer lines and treatment facilities, dams, airports, railroads, mass transit systems, and parks and recreation areas—is rapidly deteriorating. This network of public facilities, much of which was financed through Federal grant, loan, and construction programs, provides the basis for the economic and social well-being of the Nation.

The deteriorating condition of these public facilities and the problems of financing their construction, repair, and replacement are issues receiving congressional and public attention. In constant dollars, the Federal, State, and local government investment in public capital stock declined 19 percent between 1965 and 1981 while the gross national product increased 62 percent. In 1965, 3.9 percent of the gross national product was spent on public works compared to 2.0 percent in 1981.

Deteriorating conditions and declining investment could become a critical bottleneck to national economic renewal if actions to reverse this trend are not soon taken. Although estimates vary widely of the cost to maintain, repair, and rehabilitate existing public facilities, such actions will not come cheaply. For example:

- The Council of State Planning Agencies recently estimated that $2.5 *trillion* to $3.0 *trillion* could be required just to maintain, restore, or, if necessary, replace existing public facilities.
- The Federal Highway Administration estimated in 1980 that the 40,500-mile interstate highway system will need $1.4 billion *annually* over 10 years for major preservation work. This is after taking care of $7 billion of repair work which has been backlogged.
- The Department of Transportation estimates that over $40 billion will be needed to rehabilitate and replace structurally deficient or obsolete bridges.
- $1.6 billion is needed to correct health and safety deficiencies at National Park Service facilities.

GAO Examined Problems

To understand the scope of the public facilities problem and identify options for congressional and executive consideration, GAO has undertaken a broad range of studies. It has assessed selected aspects of current conditions and trends and how Federal, State, and local governments currently plan, budget, finance, and manage the construction, repair, and maintenance of public facilities.

This past fiscal year GAO reported to the Congress on wastewater treatment plants. Many billions of Federal, State, and local dollars have been invested to build them. Once these plants were built, the Congress intended that municipalities would raise sufficient funds, through equitable user charges, to cover operation and maintenance costs. For half the plants GAO surveyed, users were not being charged enough.

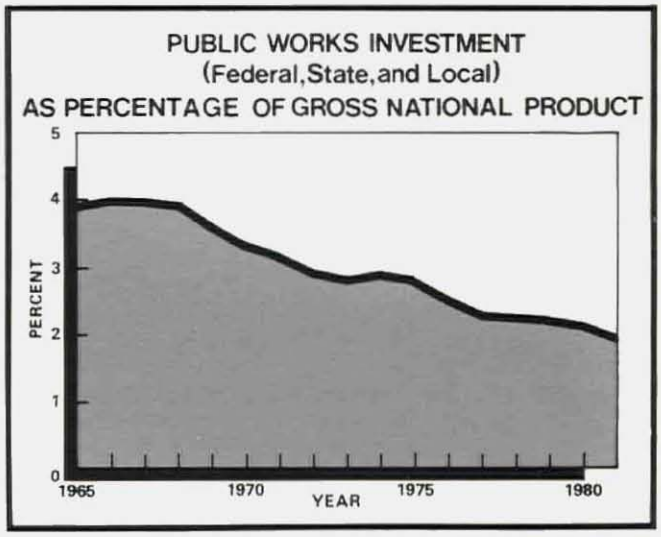
In another report, GAO documented that 33 of 47 small airports in 10 States were deferring critical runway paving. In nearly every case, the problem was attributed to the shortage of funds needed to perform adequate maintenance.

Planning and Budgeting for Capital Investments Must Be Improved

GAO raised questions about the process by which the Federal Government decides both the level and allocation of investment in public facilities. Capital investment decisions should have greater visibility and should be based on a better framework than is now provided in the Federal budget process.

Business organizations and most State and local governments account separately for operating and capital investment outlays. In contrast, the Federal Government does not distinguish between operating and capital outlays, because it is not required to do so and is not subject to the same restrictions on borrowing as are State and local governments.

In testimony before the Congress this past fiscal year, GAO stated that investment in public facilities is an important issue that warrants greater policy consideration in the budget. GAO pointed out that separately identifying capital investment needs within the current unified Federal budget, rather than in a separate capital budget, is an essential step in improving decisionmaking, helping to set priorities, and improving legislative oversight.



Nuclear Energy

Nuclear Power's Future Is Uncertain

For the last decade, nuclear power has been among the most controversial of energy issues. Viewed one way, nuclear power offers a virtually inexhaustible energy source from reactors which "breed" enough nuclear material to refuel themselves and other reactors. Still, doubts persist about the ability to safely operate nuclear power plants, dispose of long-lasting nuclear wastes, and safeguard nuclear materials that could potentially be made into weapons.

In 1972, the then Atomic Energy Commission projected that from 800 to 1,500 conventional nuclear power plants would be operating by the year 2000. By the mid-1970s, the breeder reactor was the Nation's highest priority energy research and development project, and plans were set for a demonstration plant to be operating on Tennessee's Clinch River by the mid-1980s. The future capacity of existing Government plants to produce enriched uranium was fully committed to current and expected domestic and foreign utility needs. Consequently, authorization was granted to begin constructing a plant designed to use the newer gas centrifuge enrichment technology.

For the last several years, however, orders of new nuclear power plants have ceased, and many utilities have canceled or deferred construction of plants already ordered. A 1982 Department of Energy projection indicates that between 145 and 185 domestic nuclear power plants will be on line by the year 2000; other estimates are even lower. To a degree, this situation is the result of the decline in the rate of growth of electricity demand, compounded by the utility industry's financial problems and escalating nuclear power reactor construction costs. But other factors have also figured in: factors such as the continuing concern over the safety of nuclear power, intensified by the 1979 Three Mile Island nuclear accident; the lack of agreement on the best way to dispose of highly radioactive waste; and overall uncertainty about the Government's policy regarding nuclear power.

The potential hazards of nuclear proliferation also have become an important international issue. U.S. initiatives, such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978 and the decision to indefinitely defer reprocessing of nuclear fuel, have been met with mixed and often unfavorable reaction among our allies. At issue is how best to balance the goals of promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and maintaining U.S reliability as a nuclear supplier with the competing goal of ensuring adequate non-proliferation controls.

Congress Called on GAO to Evaluate Major Programs

Because of the uncertainties surrounding nuclear power and its role in our Nation's energy future, Congress, with assistance from GAO, has been carefully evaluating the level of and need for Federal support of such major programs as the breeder reactor and uranium enrichment. Considerable interest has also been expressed in Federal activities related to nuclear power plant construction.

Breeder Reactor Program Remains Controversial

In July 1982 GAO reported on its fourth major evaluation of the breeder reactor program and the role of the controversial Clinch River project. The report summarized GAO's earlier work and provided a current perspective on nuclear power from which to judge the pace and direction of the breeder program. Against that backdrop, GAO discussed the tradeoffs among the three fundamental options open to decisionmakers: (1) continuing the project and overall program as planned, (2) restructuring the overall program by delaying the construction of development plants, and (3) terminating the overall breeder reactor program.

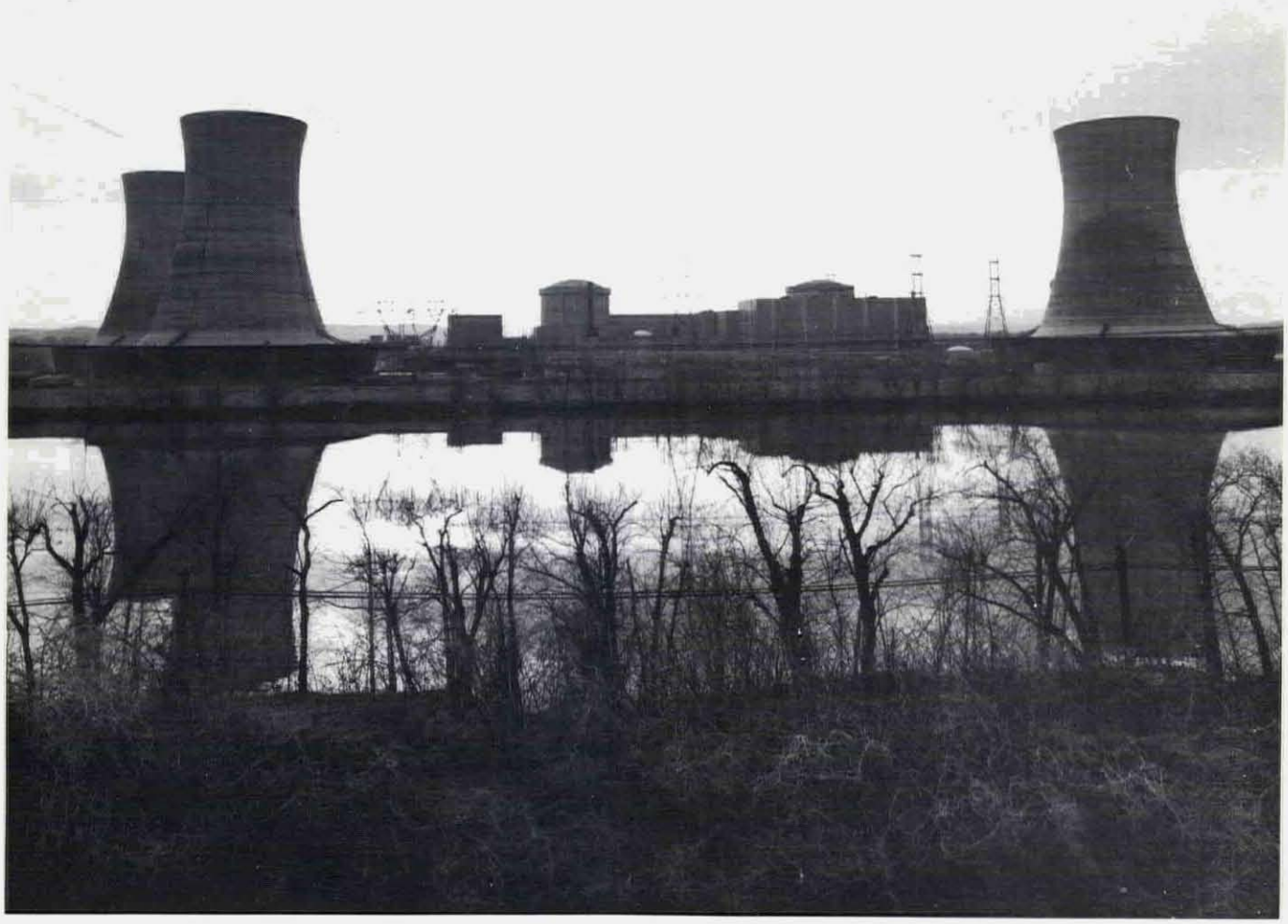
Uranium Enrichment Plant Is Questioned

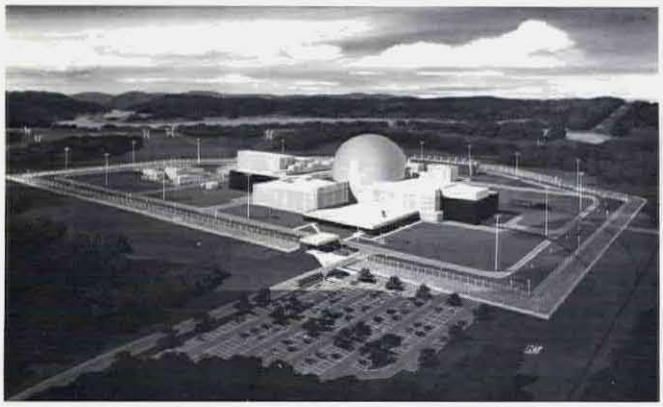
To date the Government has spent about $1.2 billion in the new Portsmouth, Ohio, enrichment plant and expects costs, in 1983 dollars, to total $7 billion by the 1994 completion date. In May 1982 GAO reported on a number of issues the Congress should consider in making future funding decisions for the Ohio facility. The key issue revolved around whether the plant's production capacity was needed to meet the demand for enriched uranium, given the sharp drop in nuclear power plant construction and the development of foreign enrichment capacity. The Government is committed to supply enrichment services to domestic and foreign nuclear power plants. Based on current estimates of the probable number of these nuclear power plants in the year 2000, the Government has adequate capacity in existing enrichment facilities—which have only been operating at about 40 percent of capacity—to meet its commitments to that date and beyond.

GAO discussed the budget implications of completing, slowing, or terminating the plant. The plant's first section represents only about 16 percent of total capacity, yet its completion will require over half the plant's total cost. GAO pointed out that a decision to complete the first section should be viewed as a decision to complete the whole plant.

Nuclear Construction Programs Cut Back

GAO's work in the nuclear plant construction area has centered largely on two issues—the adequacy of the demand forecasts which led to the overcommitment to build nuclear power plants and the implications of numerous plant cancellations and deferrals. Two agencies—the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)—have been involved in controversial cancellations or deferrals of nuclear power plants, including some with substantial irrecoverable costs. TVA, which had planned to construct 17 plants, canceled 4 and deferred 4 others. BPA, which had agreed to underwrite most of the construction costs of three nuclear power plants of the Washington Public Power Supply System, deferred one of the plants; the costs of the other two have escalated sharply. In addition, Bonneville's role in the recent cancellation of two other nuclear plants of the same system has been questioned.

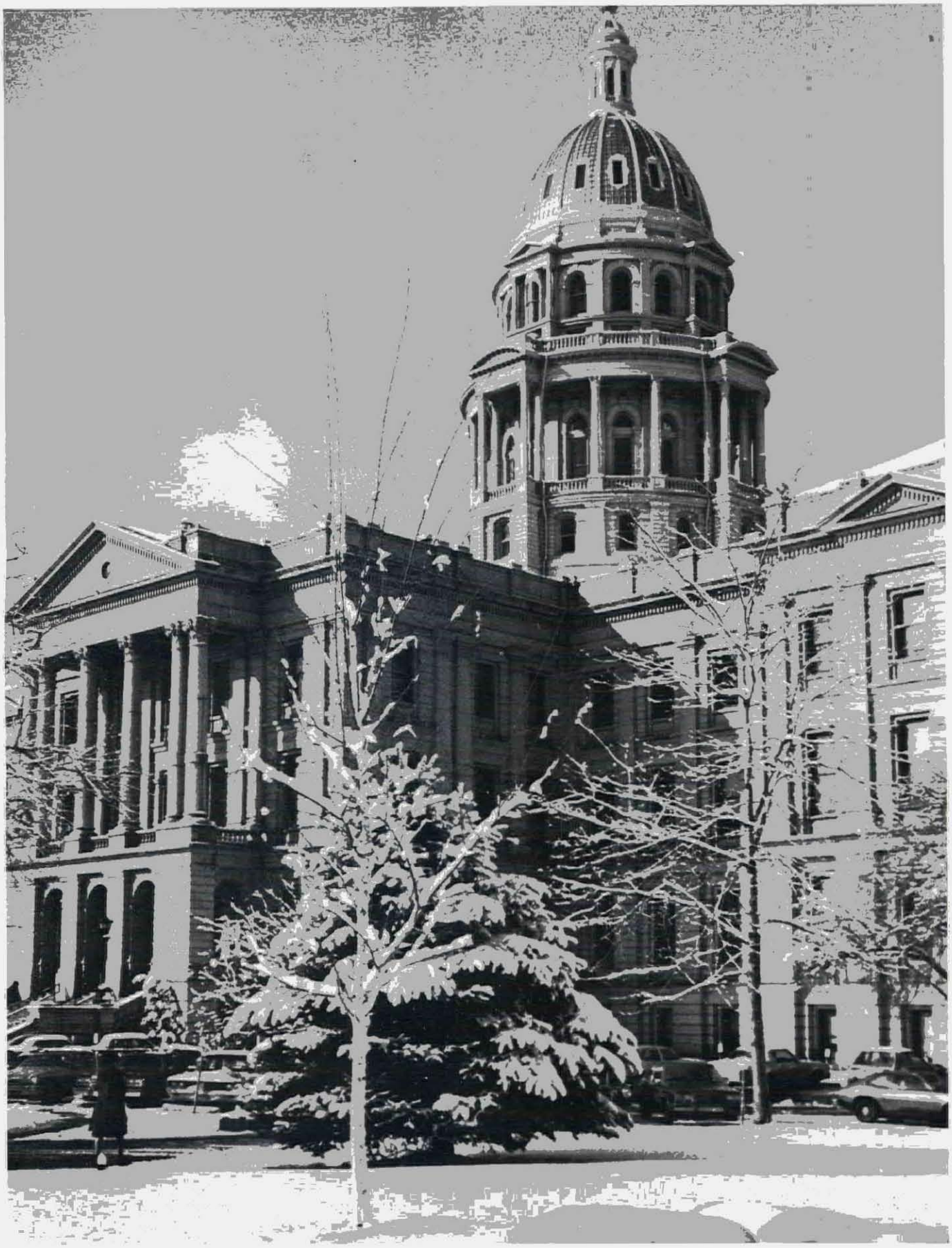




Three Mile Island Power Plant. (Top)

Portsmouth, Ohio, Nuclear Fuel Enrichment Plant Building. (Right)

Architectural concept of the Clinch River Breeder Reactor Plant. (Above)



16 *Colorado State capitol*

New Federalism

Administration Initiatives Aim to Reduce Federal Role

The Administration's New Federalism initiatives intend to bring about a fundamental reordering of the Federal role in domestic programs. The basic thrust of these changes is to reduce the size and scope of the Federal role by transferring authority for program priorities, implementation, and accountability to the States and their local governments. Ultimately, shifts in power among levels of government could significantly alter "who gets what and how much" from Federal programs.

The Congress has already consolidated numerous narrow purpose, "categorical" programs into 9 new, broader purpose "block" grant programs. For these 9 block grants, States now are responsible, within certain limits, for determining program needs and priorities, allocating money, and performing oversight. The President has proposed to realign Federal, State, and local responsibilities even further by turning back a number of existing Federal programs entirely to the States.

GAO Provided Information on the Effects of Intergovernmental Change

GAO initiated a work program designed to assist the Congress in its oversight of block grants. To carry out this work, GAO sent teams to 13 States to review program organization and management changes that States have made in implementing their new responsibilities.

GAO concluded that the States made reasonable progress in the first year of the transition to block grants. Where the States had previous experience under the categorical programs, the transition was eased considerably. For instance, States were already heavily involved in administering the programs preceding the Social Services and Low Income Home Energy Assistance block grants, and the transition was not difficult. Ways to oversee block grants and to account for their use are evolving, and State legislatures are beginning to become more involved in block grant decisions. Also, States are establishing procedures both to audit block grant spending and to allow the public to participate in the block grant process.

Certain concerns did, however, arise in the 13-State survey. One is whether Federal requirements that cut across individual programs—requirements such as fair labor standards—will apply under the block grants. Another concern is whether State reports on block grant activities will be sufficient for the Congress to oversee how well the programs are working nationwide.

THIRTEEN STATES VISITED IN GAO SURVEY

GAO Will Study Future Changes

Additional changes in the delivery of services and in intergovernmental responsibilities will no doubt unfold as the block grant experience continues. And the record of the transition to block grants may also shed light on the intergovernmental changes that could be expected if the more far-reaching tax turnbacks proposed by the President are adopted. Accordingly, GAO plans to visit the same 13 States periodically to update the Congress on changes occurring under New Federalism. In addition to following up on its 1982 observations, GAO will be addressing other concerns, including:

- What impact have block grants had on the level of service provided the public?
- Are States managing block grant funds to assure both financial accountability and compliance with the objectives the Congress established?

In its review of these issues, GAO is also exploring ways to improve its lines of communication with State and local governments.

Program Evaluation

Are Federal Government Programs Accomplishing Their Purposes?

GAO often focuses on specific questions for the Congress about how programs operate and whether they are effective. The assessment of program effectiveness means determining the extent to which Government programs, or components of programs, are accomplishing their purposes. In the late 1960s, when the Congress asked for extensive studies of Great Society programs, GAO intensified its efforts to address effectiveness, often through program evaluation. Over the years, the number of program effectiveness evaluations has increased and the demand for them continues to grow.

GAO Looked at CETA and Student Aid

Among the effectiveness evaluations GAO performed for the Congress this past year was an examination of the effects of the CETA program on participant employment and earnings. GAO showed that, on the average, persons trained under CETA had better employment and earnings after their training than before and their reliance on various forms of public benefits decreased. While only a small proportion of the increased earnings could be directly attributed to CETA, some improvement was evident, and the improvements were greater for the most economically disadvantaged participants.

Another recent evaluation looked at requirements for academic progress placed on students receiving Federal financial aid for education beyond high school. GAO visited 20 schools and found that only 10 had established specific standards for satisfactory academic progress. Of those 10, only 1 was fully enforcing the standards. And many of the schools that had some standards did not have such basic requirements as a minimum grade point average or a minimum rate of movement toward graduation or program completion. GAO found many cases where a student receiving Federal aid had only a D average after a number of school terms or years. Students also could stay in school for inordinately long periods of time. At the schools GAO surveyed, some students had been there up to 8 academic years.

Nonexistent, inadequate, and unenforced standards for the academic progress of students receiving aid have led to wasted tax dollars. For example, under one Federal agency's program, an estimated $1.28 million was overpaid because schools had not enforced their standards. To make sure schools set and enforce adequate standards, GAO recommended various changes in the Social Security and Higher Education Acts and in Federal regulation.

Home Health Care Also Reviewed

A third evaluation was made to meet congressional needs for information in the area of health services to the elderly. There are four reasons why this issue is important. First, the proportion of the elderly with respect to the total American population is steadily increasing. Now at 11 percent, or 25 million, persons 65 or older are expected to make up between 14 and 18 percent of the total population, or about 45 million, by the year 2020. Second, life expectancy continues to rise both for men and women. Third, the disability and health care needs of people 65 and over is steadily increasing. And, last, increasing the eligibility for health care services and liberalizing their coverage will also likely increase the Nation's overall health bill.

GAO looked at the impact of expanded home health care services on patients' health and on health costs. The findings, presented in testimony to a Senate committee, were that patients receiving expanded home care services live longer—considerably longer—and are more content than those who use currently available health services. It was unclear, however, whether home care services improve patients' physical and mental functioning. With respect to health costs, GAO focused its attention on whether high Government expenditures for nursing home and hospital care could be reduced through expanded home health care. The findings were twofold. First, expanded home health care could not be shown conclusively to reduce either nursing home or hospital use. Second, even when the use of specific services, such as hospital or nursing home care, saved money, overall health costs were increased by expanded home health care.

GAO compared nursing home and hospital care to expanded home health care.

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- *This is Volume I of GAO's Fiscal Year 1982 Annual Report. Volume II details GAO activities, legislative recommendations, and accomplishments.*

- *Requests for copies of GAO's Annual Report, Volumes I and/or II, should be sent to:*

  U.S. General Accounting Office
  Document Handling and Information Services Facility
  P.O. Box 6015
  Gaithersburg, Md. 20760
  Telephone (202) 275-6241

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GAO Annual Report 1982/Volume II

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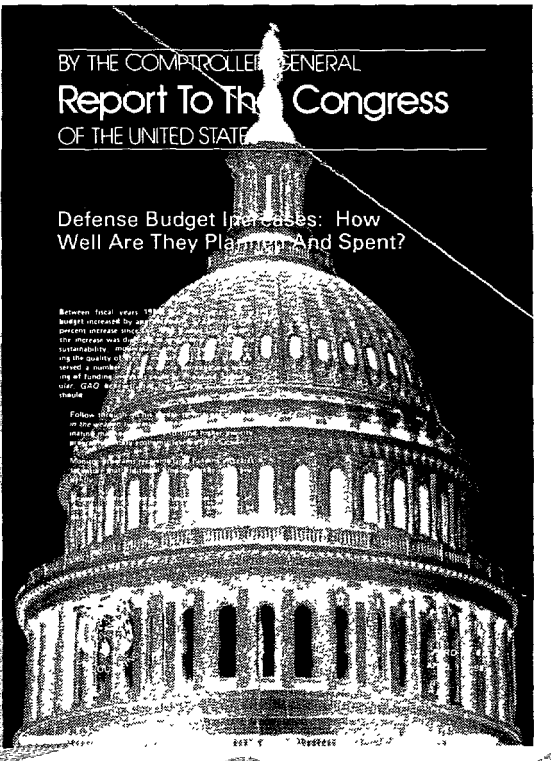

United States General Accounting Office

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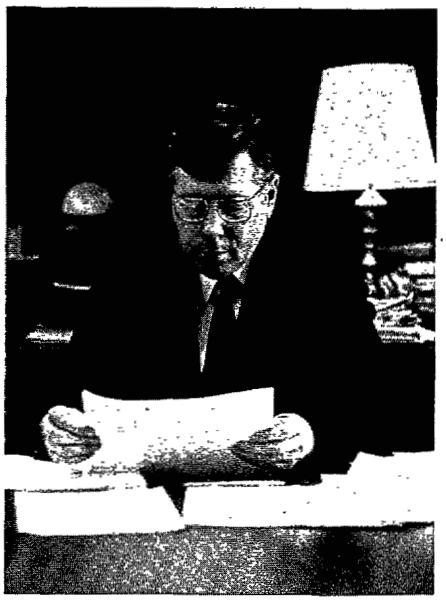
Washington, D.C. 20548

Comptroller General of the United States



B-119600

February 28, 1983

To the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives

In accordance with section 312 (a) of the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921, I respectfully submit the annual report of the activities of the U.S. General Accounting Office during the fiscal year ended September 30, 1982.

Charles A. Bowsher

Comptroller General
of the United States

The Comptrollers and Deputy Comptrollers General[1] are appointed to their 15-year terms by the President. In determining whom to nominate, the President considers selecting one of at least three nominees provided by a Commission of the House and Senate leaders. The Comptroller General also serves on the Commission which develops a list of nominees for the Deputy Comptroller General position. The Senate must confirm both appointments.

Comptrollers General of the United States

John R. McCarl
July 1, 1921 - June 30, 1936

Fred H. Brown
April 11, 1939 - June 19, 1940

Lindsay C. Warren
November 1, 1940 - April 30, 1954

Joseph Campbell
December 14, 1954 - July 31, 1965

Elmer B. Staats
March 4, 1966 - March 3, 1981

Charles A. Bowsher
October 1, 1981 -

Deputy Comptrollers General of the United States

Lurtin R. Ginn
July 1, 1921 - November 11, 1930

Richard N. Elliott
March 9, 1931 - April 30, 1943

Frank L. Yates
May 1, 1943 - June 29, 1953

Frank H. Weitzel
October 12, 1953 - January 17, 1969

Robert F. Keller
October 3, 1969 - February 29, 1980

[1]Prior to enactment of Public Law 92 – 51 (approved July 9, 1971), this position was entitled Assistant Comptroller General

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Graphic Designer: Ken Psira
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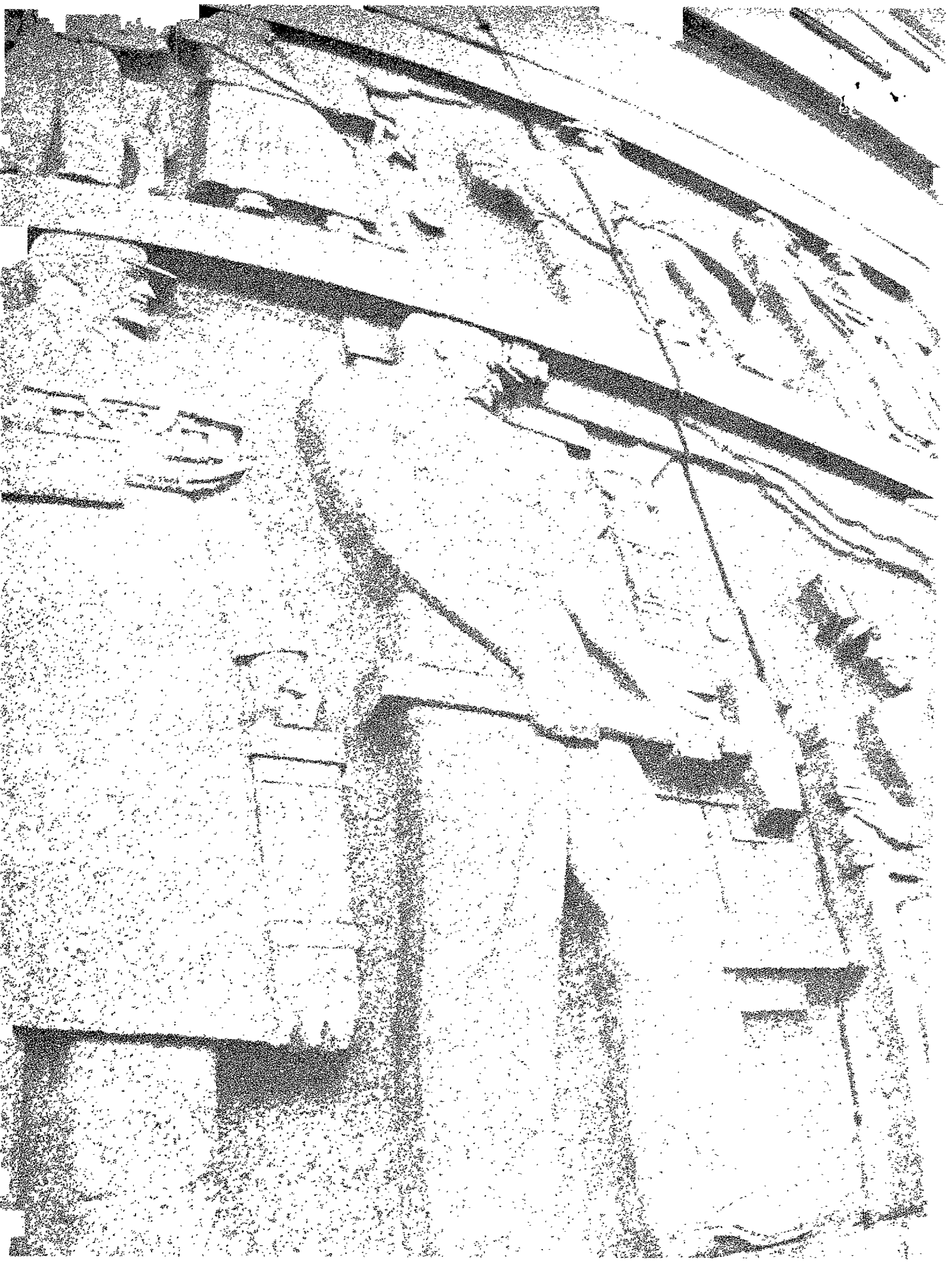
Kevin Mattingly



Chapter 1

Summary of Activities

Reducing waste and inefficiency in Federal expenditures has been the General Accounting Office's primary mission since its beginning in 1921. GAO's major functions are to

- assist the Congress in its legislative and oversight responsibilities,
- audit and evaluate programs, activities, and financial operations of Federal departments and agencies,
- prescribe standards for financial control and related functions with respect to most Federal Government programs and operations, and
- provide legal services and perform accounting and claims settlement work.

Fiscal year 1982, GAO's 61st year of operation, has seen widespread public, congressional, and executive branch concern in improving Government performance and reducing Federal spending. The Congress is being called upon to make monumental decisions regarding what the Federal Government will do and how it will do it. As the magnitude and complexity of issues facing the Congress have increased, the Congress increasingly relies on GAO's assistance in carrying out its oversight responsibilities.

GAO's mandate is to assist the Congress domestically and internationally. To achieve this goal, GAO maintains a headquarters office and about 80 audit sites in the Washington, D.C., area, 15 regional offices throughout the United States, a branch office (Honolulu), and foreign branch offices in Frankfurt and Panama City.

During fiscal year 1982, the Comptroller General continued to emphasize that GAO's work should have a direct bearing on improved management and redistribution of existing Federal funds and on major issues to be debated before the Congress within the next 2 to 3 years. The Comptroller General also emphasized the need for GAO to increase its efforts to improve financial management in the Government by showing agencies the benefits of sound financial management systems and by working with the agencies to approve and implement, on a more timely basis, sound financial management reporting systems. The Comptroller General believes that, by working with agencies to implement these systems, GAO will help restore public confidence in the Federal Government's ability to manage resources on behalf of all American citizens.

Assistance to the Congress

All of GAO's work is done in response to requirements of basic statutes, to specific legislative mandates, or to requests by committees or Members of the Congress. Work in the latter two categories accounted for about 40 percent of the total effort of GAO's professional staff during fiscal year 1982.

During the year, GAO issued 949 reports on audits and special studies. About 65 percent of these were submitted to the Congress, its committees, or Members. In addition, copies of many of the 339 reports addressed to Federal agency officials were also provided to interested committees or Members.

Statistics on the number of reports completed do not tell the full story of GAO's operations, but they do provide some indication of the work done. A breakdown of the number of reports issued in fiscal year 1982 follows. (A summary of these reports by subject and addressee is included in Appendix 1, with a detailed listing in Appendix 2.)

Congressional reports:	Fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 1982
To the Congress	139
To congressional committees	305
To Members of the Congress	166
Reports to Federal agency officials:	339
TOTAL	949

Many of GAO's reports recommend congressional or agency actions to correct problems or improve Federal programs and activities; the most important recommendations are summarized in annual publications. Chapter 2 of this report presents legislative recommendations that the Congress acted on this year, along with those on which final action has not been taken.

Two other special annual reports—one on civil activities, the other on defense activities— highlight matters deserving special congressional attention. Each January, these reports summarize important GAO conclusions and recommendations on which satisfactory department or agency actions have not been taken and which should be considered during the appropriation process.

The final step of GAO's reviews is not the issuance of a report. It is, of course, the agency or congressional action on the report's recommendations which leads to improvements in the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of Government operations. GAO cannot compel the agencies or the Congress to accept recommendations. Success in bringing about improvements depends basically on the adequacy of GAO's factual analysis and the persuasiveness of the arguments. Agency management and the Congress must be convinced that it is in their interest to take the actions GAO recommends.

Keeping track of actions taken on GAO's recommendations has always been difficult. In June 1982, GAO instituted a new automated system to improve followup. This system will enable GAO to deliver to the Congress, when needed, current summaries of the status of reports and recommendations on specific subjects. The system will also allow the Congress to have more complete and precise data on improvements in Federal programs which result from GAO's work.

A *Monthly List of GAO Reports* (required by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970) is sent to every committee and Member. This publication identifies and summarizes reports released each month and provides information for obtaining copies. This list is also published monthly in the *Congressional Record*.

GAO staff maintain close contact with congressional committees to communicate relevant, timely, and useful information. GAO's Office of Congressional Relations, responsible for coordinating GAO's assistance to the Congress, maintains close and continuous contact with committees and Members.

Committee and Member Requests

The Budget and Accounting Act of 1921 requires GAO to perform investigations and furnish information and assistance to the Congress and congressional committees having jurisdiction over revenue, appropriations, or expenditures. The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 directs GAO to review the results of Government programs and activities at the request of any committee having jurisdiction over such matters.

To the extent practicable, GAO complies with the requests of all committees, subcommittees, and individual Members of Congress on a priority basis. In fiscal year 1982, our operating divisions received 823 requests from committees and 626 requests from Members for specific work. Some require substantial work; others are answered readily. In addition to formal written reports issued to committees and Members, GAO satisfied many requests through briefings, correspondence not classified as reports, or by furnishing the needed information informally.

Nearly every congressional committee and subcommittee has requested GAO to furnish information and assistance. Table 1 lists the committees for which formal written reports were completed during the year. Some reports were addressed to more than one committee.

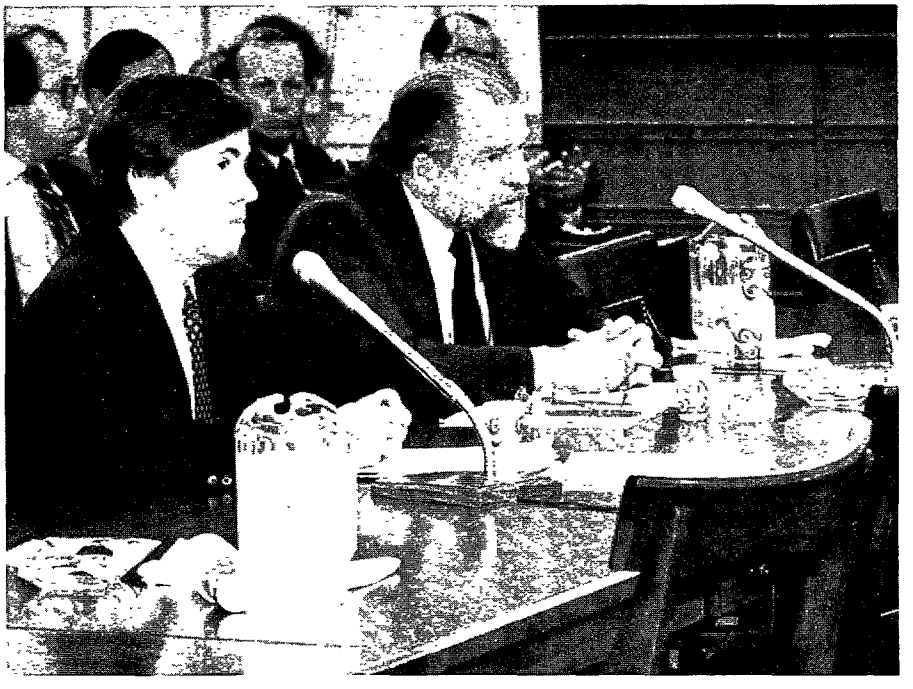
GAO also responded to 170 Member requests concerning claims by and against the U.S. Government involving Government contracts, employee pay and allowances, and travel and transportation.

Many requests from committees and Members concern information needed in their legislative and oversight roles. Others involve controversial matters affecting congressional districts and States. When requested work affects a wide audience, GAO usually arranges with the requester to issue the report to the Congress as a whole.

The new automated system at GAO's Information Handling and Support Facility will enhance GAO's responsiveness to the Congress

Table 1
Committees Receiving Reports in FY 1982

Senate Committees:	
Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry	5
Appropriations	26
Armed Services	15
Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs	10
Budget	1
Commerce, Science and Transportation	4
Energy and Natural Resources	12
Environment and Public Works	5
Finance	5
Foreign Relations	2
Governmental Affairs	21
Judiciary	4
Labor and Human Resources	15
Special Aging	2
Veterans' Affairs	3
TOTAL	130
House Committees:	
Agriculture	1
Appropriations	32
Armed Services	20
Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs	4
Budget	2
Education and Labor	11
Energy and Commerce	55
Foreign Affairs	7
Government Operations	38
House Administration	2
Interior and Insular Affairs	23
Judiciary	2
Merchant Marine and Fisheries	6
Post Office and Civil Service	13
Public Works and Transportation	5
Science and Technology	14
Select Aging	1
Small Business	3
Veterans' Affairs	3
Ways and Means	10
TOTAL	252
Officers of the Congress	10
Joint Committees:	
Economic	4
Printing	1
Taxation	4
TOTAL	9
TOTAL COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS	401



F Kevin Boland (1), senior associate director of GAO's Community and Economic Development Division, and Peter Hunt, a consultant to GAO, testify to the Congress on methanol usage

Testimony and Briefings

The Comptroller General and his principal assistants testified before congressional committees on 177 occasions during fiscal year 1982. This compares to 111 occasions 5 years ago and only 38 occasions 10 years ago. This increase is an indication of GAO's growing ability and capacity to serve the Congress on critical issues and pending legislation.

GAO's professional staff also brief congressional committees, Members, and their staffs on GAO work of interest to them. These briefings include the results of completed work or information on ongoing work which has progressed far enough to provide meaningful data. We also provide committees with questions for use during hearings.

Staff Assignments to Committees

On request, 92 GAO staff members worked with the staff of 16 committees and subcommittees during the year. As required by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, details concerning these assignments are shown in Appendix 3.

Legal Opinions and Comments on Pending Legislation

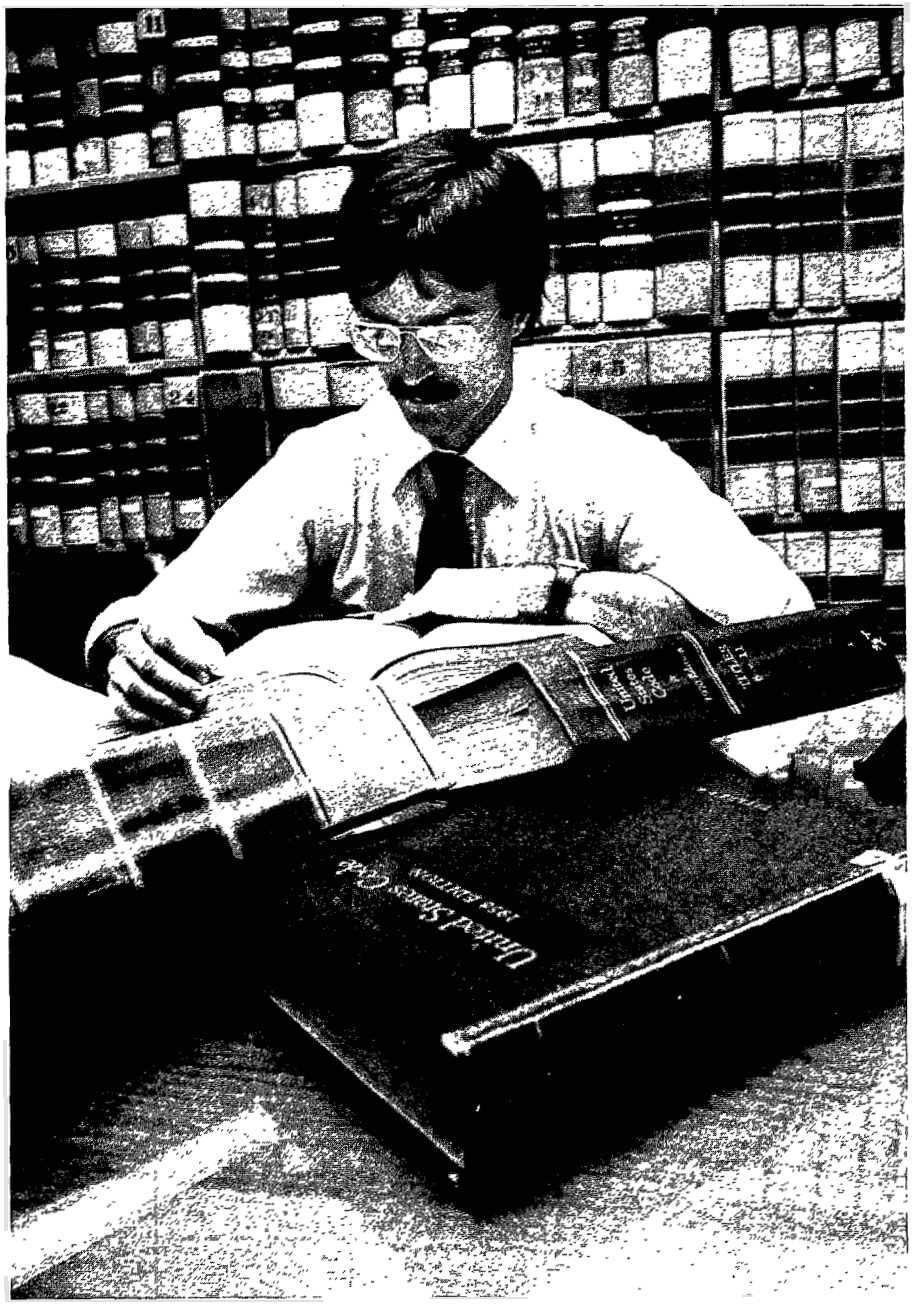
Committees and Members of Congress frequently ask GAO for formal and informal legal opinions, advice, and assistance; its views on contractual, fiscal, and administrative provisions of law; its opinions on drafts of or revisions to legislation; and its views on administrative regulations.

GAO's continuing review of Government programs and activities and its expertise in law and the Federal legislative process enable it to give congressional committees objective comments on proposed legislation. During the fiscal year, GAO provided 357 reports on pending bills: 63 to the Senate, 293 to the House, and 1 to a miscellaneous unit. Table 2 shows a profile of this work.

Table 2

FY 1982 Reports on Pending Legislation

Senate Committees:	
Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry	2
Appropriations	5
Armed Services	3
Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs	2
Budget	4
Commerce, Science and Transportation	3
Energy and Natural Resources	3
Environment and Public Works	1
Governmental Affairs	34
Labor and Human Resources	3
Judiciary	1
Rules and Administration	2
	63
House Committees:	
Agriculture	5
Appropriations	5
Banking and Finance	4
Budget	11
Education and Labor	11
Energy and Commerce	42
Foreign Affairs	1
Government Operations	86
House Administration	1
Interior and Insular Affairs	1
Judiciary	46
Merchant Marine and Fisheries	12
Post Office and Civil Service	46
Public Works and Transportation	8
Rules	1
Science and Technology	3
Small Business	1
Veterans Affairs	2
Ways and Means	7
	293
Miscellaneous Units:	1
TOTAL	357



GAO often provides legal opinions, advice, and assistance to congressional committees and Members. Here, GAO evaluator Chet Michewicz researches a legal citation during the course of an audit.

Auditing/Evaluation

GAO's audits and evaluations of ongoing Federal programs, activities, and financial operations have, as their basic objective, helping the Congress and agency officials improve Government operations. GAO examines Federal departments and agencies and their contractors and grantees to

- evaluate the efficiency, economy, legality, and effectiveness with which they carry out their financial, management, and program responsibilities and
- provide the Congress and Federal agency officials with significant and objective information, conclusions, and recommendations that will aid them in carrying out their responsibilities.

GAO's audits and evaluations involved almost every Federal agency. During fiscal year 1982, assignments were performed in the United States, Diego Garcia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, and 58 foreign countries. At any given time, GAO had about 1,200 assignments underway.

Because of limited staff, GAO must be selective in determining which Federal programs and activities to review. Primarily, GAO considers programs, activities, and operations of direct interest to the Congress or of such importance that GAO should audit them under its basic statutory mandate. GAO's policy, except as otherwise required by law or congressional request, is to use staff where their work will do the most to promote improvements in Government operations. GAO is continuously in contact with congressional committees to keep abreast of their interests and also shares information with the Congressional Budget Office, the Congressional Research Service, and the Office of Technology Assessment to enhance GAO's products and avoid duplication of effort.

To help focus on important national issues, GAO's Program Planning Committee, chaired by the Comptroller General, has specified 37 issue areas for attention. Each issue area is assigned to one of the operating divisions (GAO's organizational units are

described in Appendix 4). That division takes the lead in developing plans, identifying matters to be examined, and formulating approaches. Table 3 lists the 37 issue areas and the responsible lead divisions.

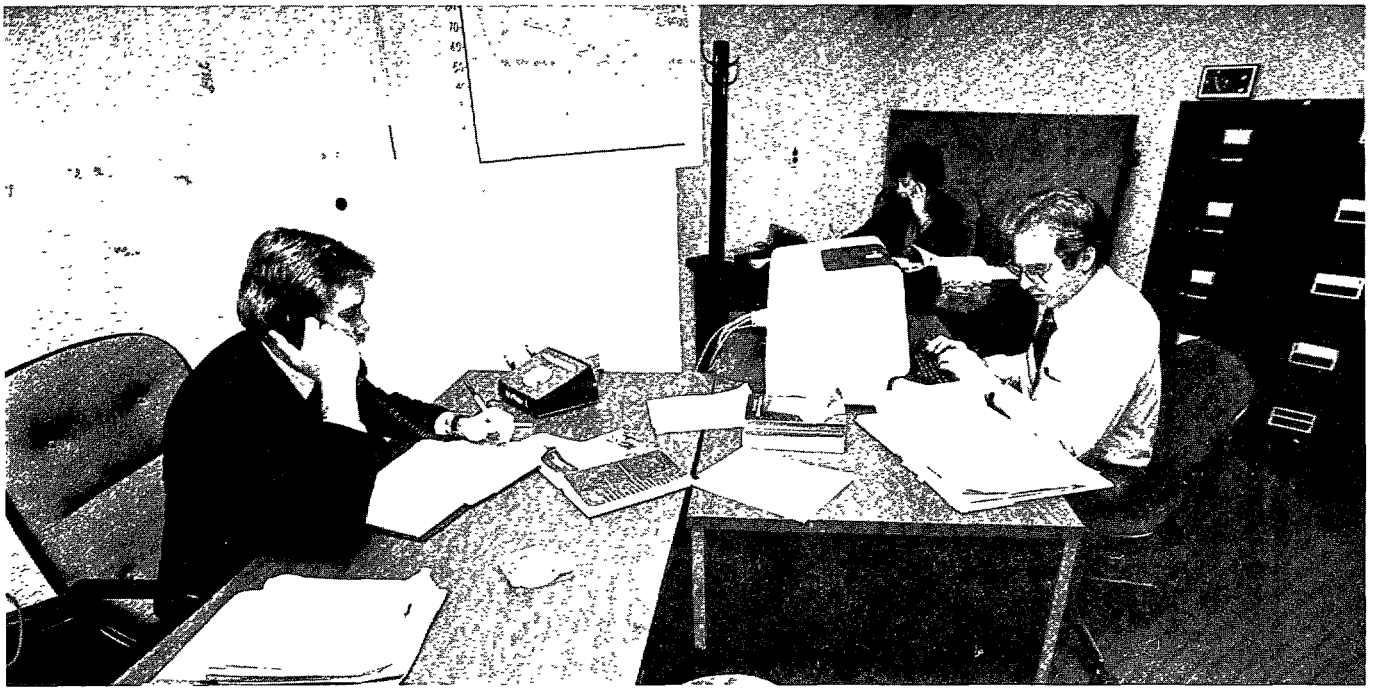
During the year, the Comptroller General took several actions and developed new initiatives to make sure GAO does a better job of providing the Congress with the information it needs. As mentioned earlier, the Comptroller General emphasized the need to increase GAO's efforts to improve financial management in the Government. In line with this, he appointed a committee of outside experts to review and make recommendations concerning the future role and direction GAO should take in the areas of Government accounting and financial management. The Comptroller General also established

- a special defense budget task force to closely monitor how the Defense Department spends the additional monies appropriated to it by the Congress,
- a multiyear plan for auditing the new block grant programs passed by the Congress, and
- several new initiatives to improve GAO's ability to assess the overall management of a Federal department or agency.

In June 1982, the Comptroller General established a top management task force to study GAO report timeliness, quality, and content. The group explored options to shorten the time it takes to conduct audits and evaluations and issue reports, looked at alternatives to GAO's present report format, and evaluated the effectiveness of the vehicles GAO uses to communicate. Another task force, also formed in June, was asked to determine what needs to be done to improve and enhance GAO's work in the automatic data processing area.

Table 3
GAO Issue Areas and Responsible Lead Divisions

Accounting and Financial Reporting Automatic Data Processing Internal Audit National Productivity	Accounting and Financial Management Division
Food Domestic Housing and Community Development Programs Environmental Protection Programs Land Use Planning, Management and Control Transportation Systems and Policies Water and Water-Related Programs	Community and Economic Development Division
Energy Materials	Energy and Minerals Division
Civilian Personnel Management Military Personnel Management	Federal Personnel and Compensation Division
Federal Oversight of Financial Institutions Information Management Intergovernmental Policies and Fiscal Relations Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention Tax Administration	General Government Division
Administration of Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity Programs Consumer and Worker Protection Employment and Training Federally Sponsored or Assisted Education Programs Federally Sponsored or Assisted Health Programs Income Security and Social Services	Human Resources Division
International Affairs	International Division
Communications, Command, Control, and Intelligence Mission Analysis Systems Development and Acquisition	Mission Analysis and Systems Acquisition Division
Economic Analysis of Alternative Program Approaches Program and Budget Information for Congressional Use Science and Technology	Program Analysis Division
Facilities Acquisition and Management General Procurement Logistics Management Military Readiness, Mobilization Planning, and Civil Preparedness	Procurement, Logistics and Readiness Division
Evaluation, Assistance, Performance, and Utilization	Institute for Program Evaluation



GAO's Fraud Prevention Group receives reports of alleged intentional wrongdoing in the Government Pictured above are (l to r) Byron Matson, Nancy Helmer, and Gary Carbone

Audits Related to Fraud and Abuse

GAO's Governmental Internal Audit and Fraud Prevention Group continues to accept reports of alleged fraud and waste in Government on its national hotline (800-424-5454). GAO's regional offices also respond to calls of this nature. GAO preserves the anonymity of callers who have information on or allegations of kickbacks, overtime abuses, misuse of Government credit cards, illegal contract awards, and so forth.

One of GAO's objectives is to determine the validity of the tips received and decide whether cases should be referred to appropriate agencies for investigation or audit. In fiscal year 1982, about 11,000 calls were received on the hotline. Of these, over 2,000 were referred for appropriate action. About 23 percent of the cases referred fell into the category of mismanagement, while 77 percent involved intentional wrongdoing.

GAO does some follow-up work on the cases referred. Cases are also entered into a computer to track weaknesses in programs, agencies, and locations. Certain cases received over the hotline are investigated by GAO when the reported agency has no statutory Inspector General or has not agreed to conduct an investigation.

Legal Services and Decisions

GAO's legal work covers the full range of the Government's activities. GAO renders legal decisions and advice to

- congressional committees, Members of the Congress, the Attorney General, the Office of Management and Budget, and other Federal officials,
- heads of Federal agencies and disbursing and certifying officers on the legality or propriety of proposed expenditures of public funds,
- officers or employees with delegated authority to request relief on behalf of accountable and certifying officers,
- contracting and procurement officers and bidders, in connection with Government contracts,
- debtors and creditors of the Government who are dissatisfied with the handling of their affairs by other agencies, and
- GAO staff in their reviews of agency programs and activities.

The Comptroller General's decisions on the legality of expenditures are binding on the executive branch. Payments made contrary to them may be disallowed. Private firms and individuals have further recourse to the courts in most instances.

During fiscal year 1982, GAO's Office of the General Counsel disposed of 5,210 separate legal matters, as shown in table 4.

Table 4
Legal Matters Resolved In Fiscal Year 1982

Procurement and Transportation Law	2,794
Personnel Law	1,069
General Government Matters	643
Special Studies and Analysis	704
Total matters disposed of	5,210

Financial Management Improvement

The Budget and Accounting Act of 1950 established and assigned basic responsibilities for financial management within the Federal Government. The act charges GAO with

- prescribing accounting principles, standards, and related requirements to guide the executive agencies,
- cooperating with executive agencies in developing and improving their accounting systems, and
- approving executive agency accounting principles, standards, and system designs when they are found adequate and in conformance with the prescribed principles, standards, and related requirements.

Under the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program, the Comptroller General, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management are charged by the Budget and Accounting Act of 1950 with improving financial management practices throughout the Federal Government. GAO continued cooperative work in the program during the fiscal year. The program's progress is reported separately for use by the Congress, Federal agencies, and the public.

Settlement of Claims

Claims against the United States are referred to GAO for settlement because of statutory requirements or because they involve questions of law or fact. In fiscal year 1982, GAO settled 5,680 claims for $279.7 million. During the same period, GAO

- disposed of 6,180 debt claims and collected over $4.4 million and
- granted 961 full or partial waivers of repayment of erroneous pay and allowances out of 1,061 requests, a total of $3.4 million out of $3.7 million.

Accomplishments

It is not possible to determine the full effect of GAO's activities in terms of quantifiable financial savings, improvements in Government operations, and increased effectiveness of Government programs and activities. However, GAO records actions attributable to its work which result in measurable dollar accomplishments or other benefits to the Federal Government, contractors, grantees, and the public. These actions are usually taken by the Congress, Federal agencies, and others in response to GAO's suggestions and recommendations.

For fiscal year 1982, GAO identified estimated accomplishments of about $5.9 billion attributable to its work. Of that amount, about $1 billion involved actions advocated by others as well as by GAO. These dollar accomplishments, however, are not the total. Many accomplishments resulting from management improvements frequently cannot be measured; this is also true for improvements which make programs work better but not cheaper. For example, in testimony before the House Subcommittee on Human Resources of the Education and Labor Committee, GAO presented generally favorable findings about the National Runaway and Homeless Youth Program. As a result, the Congress significantly increased the program's appropriation so that additional runaway and homeless youth centers could be funded.

In one of its reports, GAO stated that, for safety inspections, the Department of Transportation's Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety was not systematically identifying high-risk carriers of hazardous materials and flammable liquids. As a result of that report, the Bureau took corrective action which should provide for better identifications of safety violations, thus making transportation safer and reducing injuries. Such improvements to Government operations are important results of GAO's work.

Examples of accomplishments from GAO's work are in Chapter 3.

Impact of New Legislation on GAO Operations

New legislation continues to assign GAO added responsibilities. As a result, work programs constantly need adjustment. Certain of these laws direct the Comptroller General to audit specific programs or activities. For example, Public Law 97 – 100 (Dec. 23, 1981, 95 Stat. 1391) provides for GAO to audit all financial transactions of the territorial and local governments, including transactions of all agencies or instrumentalities established or used by such governments. The governments include the Offices of Government Comptroller of the Virgin Islands, the Government Comptroller of Guam, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Government Comptroller of American Samoa.

Other laws expand GAO's audit authority by granting access to records needed to carry out regular audit responsibilities. For example, Public Law 97 – 98 (Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1213) contains two amendments to the Food Stamp Act of 1977 which ensure that, for purposes of audit, GAO has access to information on retail and wholesale food concerns that want to accept and redeem food stamp coupons and on applicant and recipient households. The law also provides GAO access to records when performing audits in connection with annual grants to local units of government through State soil conservation agencies.

Appendix 5 shows legislation enacted in fiscal year 1982 directly related to GAO's work.

Officials from the People's Republic of China spent 2 weeks at GAO in May 1982 Left to right Sheng Hunadeh, Ministry of Finance, Song Xinzhong, new Auditor General, U S. Comptroller General Bowsher, Zhang Yansheng, Minstry of Finance, Xu Wenqing, State Planning Division

Noteworthy Activities

GAO is involved in a number of projects which expose its accounting and auditing standards and its way of doing business to an ever-widening audience. Discussed briefly here are some of GAO's activities in the intergovernmental and international areas.

GAO helps the Congress oversee federally assisted programs by promoting and strengthening audits at State and local government levels. GAO also provides direct and indirect assistance on auditing techniques to State and local audit organizations and professional and public interest groups interested in intergovernmental auditing.

Intergovernmental audit forums have promoted the acceptance and implementation of GAO's *Standards for Audit of Governmental Organizations, Programs, Activities, and Functions.* These standards, initially issued in 1972, were revised and reissued in 1981. The standards are generally recognized as authoritative guidance for Federal, State, and local government audit agencies as well as private-sector auditors when auditing government programs, activities, and functions.

In May 1982, members of the 11 Intergovernmental Audit Forums met, as they do every 2 years, to discuss and resolve current issues affecting Federal, State, and local government auditors. Subjects discussed included block grants, single audits, financial management systems, fraud, and cash management. A number of GAO officials participated in this conference.

GAO is often looked to for guidance by auditing organizations in other nations, particularly those in less developed countries. The United States has a direct interest in strengthening the audit institutions in those countries which receive substantial U.S. financial assistance. Several times a month, members of foreign national audit offices and other governmental entities visit GAO to learn how it functions or to study a particular aspect of its work. For example, in May 1982, four senior Chinese officials spent 2 weeks at GAO gathering ideas to help them establish their own national government audit office. During fiscal year 1982, GAO hosted 259 foreign visitors.

Also during the year, GAO sponsored its fourth International Auditor Fellowship Program. The program's purpose is to share GAO's knowledge of techniques for expanded-scope audits with auditors from developing nations. Fifteen auditors arrived in July 1982 to begin the 3-month program. The participants were from Brazil, Gambia, Kenya, Korea, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Thailand, and the United Arab Emirates. At the end of their stay, the participants returned to their countries to share in their own training programs what they have learned.

Operating Expenses

The fiscal year 1982 appropriation for GAO was $236 million. Total operating expenses for the period were $233.7 million with an unobligated balance of $2.3 million lapsing back to the U.S. Treasury. Personnel compensation and benefits comprised $180.9 million, or 77 percent of total expenditures, while travel and other objects comprised 5 percent and 18 percent respectively.

During the year, GAO received approximately $526,807 in reimbursements for services rendered to House and Senate Committees, private organizations, etc., all of which was applied to GAO's appropriation. GAO deposited $.7 million in receipts for audit services and other miscellaneous services in the U.S. Treasury.

Staffing

GAO's greatest asset is a competent, dedicated, and enthusiastic staff. As of September 30, 1982, GAO had 4,986 employees, a slight decrease from last year. Of these, 4,088, or 82 percent, were members of the professional staff. Table 5 shows staff changes during the year.

Because in the past several years GAO has expanded its expertise to evaluate increasingly complex Government programs, GAO is employing and developing individuals with varied backgrounds and levels of expertise. Maintaining high professional standards is a priority.

In fiscal year 1980, the "GAO evaluator" job series was adopted to describe more accurately the unique nature of GAO's work. The series takes into account the direct congressional contact, political sensitivity, and multiagency purview that characterize much of GAO's work. For the most part, GAO evaluators were previously classified as accountants, auditors, and management analysts. Table 6 summarizes the composition of our staff at year's end.

Table 5

Analysis of Staff Changes

	Professional	Other	Total
Employees on rolls at Oct. 1, 1981	4,130	970	5,100
Appointments	20	300	320
Transfers between categories	70	-70	0
TOTAL	4,220	1,200	5,420
Separations:			
Retirements	17	47	64
Appointments in other agencies	28	81	109
Other separations	87	174	261
TOTAL separations	132	302	434
Employees on rolls at Sept. 30, 1982	4,088	898	4,986

Table 6

Composition of Staff (at Sept. 30, 1982)

Professional:	
Evaluators[1]	3,141
Management auditors/analysts	54
Accountants and auditors	128
Program analysts	17
Attorneys	152
Actuaries and other mathematical scientists	58
Engineers	3
Computer and information specialists	74
Economists and other social scientists	73
Personnel management specialists	60
Writer-editors	53
Other	275
Total professional staff	4,088
Other:	
Administrative and clerical	852
Wage board	46
Total other staff	898
Total	4,986

[1]*Evaluators form the core of the GAO staff who assess Federal programs and activities. Accountants and auditors are those who do primarily financial audits, while management and program analysts tend to work on internal GAO assessments and analyses.*

GAO's diverse and complex responsibilities require staff members who have functional expertise, supervisory capability, and versatility. The evaluation staff members can get wide experience and broaden their own perspectives of Government operations by auditing a variety of Federal programs, or they can expand their expertise by remaining in a functional area. GAO considers both individual and Office needs in making staff assignments.

Although its total professional staff decreased by 1 percent during fiscal year 1982, GAO's equal employment profile at the professional level remained at 31 percent. Minorities and women comprise 42 percent of GAO's total work force.

Participation on Boards, Councils, and Commissions

Periodically, statutes establishing special commissions or councils have named the Comptroller General as a member. Currently he serves as

- a member of the Advisory Council for the Office of Technology Assessment (Public Law 92-484, Dec. 13, 1972, 86 Stat. 800),
- a member of the President's Management Improvement Council (Executive Order No. 12157, Sept. 14, 1979),
- a member of the Chrysler Corporation Loan Guarantee Board (Public Law 96-185, Jan. 7, 1980, 93 Stat. 1324),

- chairman of the Railroad Accounting Principles Board (Public Law 96 – 448, Oct. 14, 1980, 94 Stat. 1935), and
- a member of the United States Railway Association Board (Public Law 97 – 35, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 674).

Organization

The chart on the next page shows GAO's organization at September 30, 1982. As of October 1, 1982, several changes in GAO's organizational structure became effective.

The Office of the Comptroller General was expanded to include two new positions:

- The Assistant Comptroller General for Planning and Reporting, responsible for determining the overall direction of GAO's work and for the quality of GAO's products.
- The Assistant Comptroller General for Operations, responsible for the day-to-day management of GAO's technical and administrative activities.

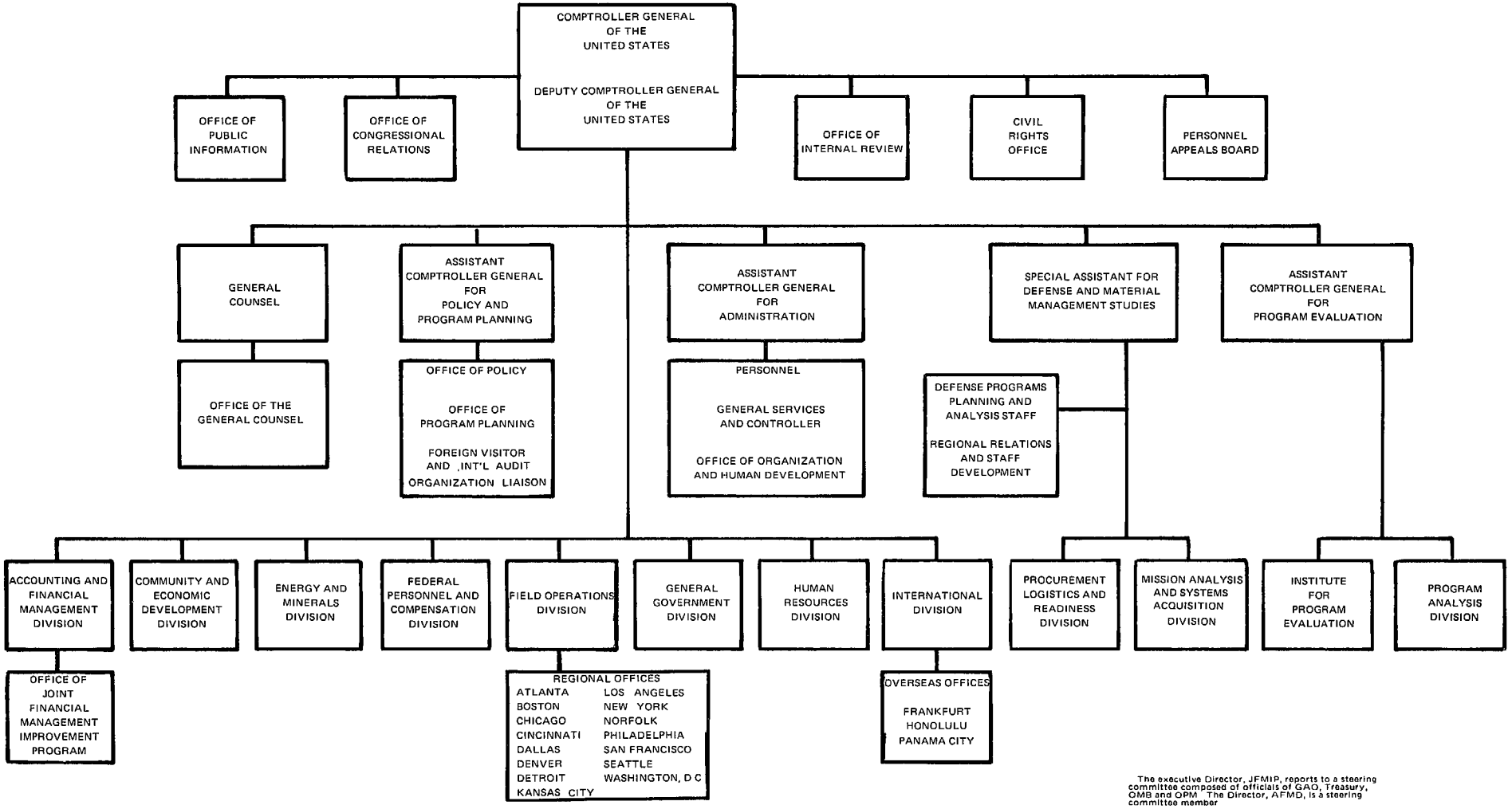
These two new offices, in conjunction with the Comptroller General and the Special Assistant to the Comptroller General, will provide a single focus for coordinating and directing the entire organization.

The other Assistant Comptrollers General will provide advice and guidance to the Office of the Comptroller General in specific areas. They are

- the Assistant Comptroller General for Human Resources,
- the Assistant Comptroller General for Policy, and
- the Assistant Comptroller General for Program Evaluation.

In addition, the Energy and Minerals Division was merged with the Community and Economic Development Division to create a new Resources, Community and Economic Development Division. These appointments and changes are part of the Comptroller General's long-term goal to build a more cohesive organization which will better serve the Congress and be a more rewarding place to work.

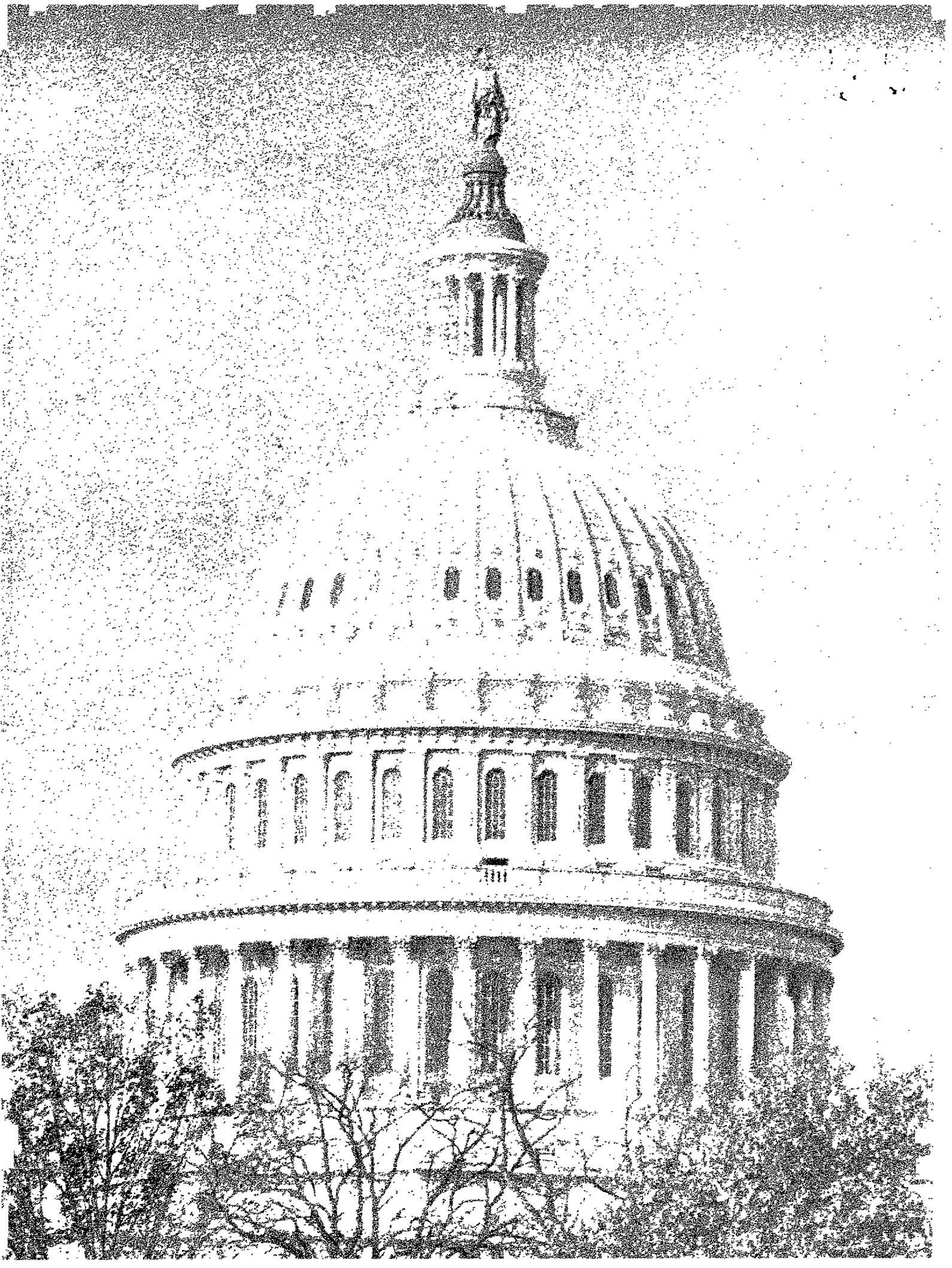
UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE



The executive Director, JFMIP, reports to a steering committee composed of officials of GAO, Treasury, OMB and OPM The Director, AFMD, is a steering committee member

Charles A. Bowsher
Comptroller General Of The United States

September 30, 1982



Legislative Recommendations

Legislative Recommendations Acted on by the Congress During the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1982

The Budget and Accounting Act, 1921, requires GAO to make recommendations to the Congress "looking to greater economy and efficiency in public expenditures" and report such recommendations at the beginning of each congressional session or in special reports at any time. When an audit shows that corrective legislative action is required or desirable, the report includes a proposal for legislative consideration by the Congress or a recommendation to the affected agency to sponsor a legislative proposal.

This chapter summarizes the legislative recommendations considered by the Congress during the fiscal year ended September 30, 1982, and lists open legislative recommendations, made during this period and in prior years, which we still recommend to the attention of the Congress.

Administration of Justice

Fraud in Government Programs—We recommended that the Congress consider enacting legislation to allow agencies to assess civil monetary penalties against persons who defraud Federal programs. A bill based on this recommendation was introduced in the Senate on October 27, 1981. S. 1780 would provide agencies with a mechanism to impose civil penalties against those who knowingly make false claims or statements for money, property, or services provided by the Federal Government. We testified on behalf of this legislation on April 1, 1982. This bill was still pending before the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs as of September 30, 1982. (AFMD – 81 – 57, June 25, 1981)

Taking the Profit Out of Crime—We recommended that the Congress amend the criminal forfeiture provisions of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations' (RICO) and Continuing Criminal Enterprise (CCE) statutes to

- make explicit provisions for the forfeiture of profits and proceeds that are (1) acquired, derived, used, or maintained in violation of the RICO statute or (2) acquired or derived as a result of violation of that statute,
- clarify that assets forfeitable under the CCE statute include the gross proceeds of controlled substance transactions, and
- authorize forfeiture of substitute assets, to the extent that assets forfeitable under the statutes (1) cannot be located, (2) have been transferred, sold to, or deposited with third parties, or (3) have been placed beyond the general territorial jurisdiction of the United States.

As of September 30, 1982, eight bills have been introduced into the 97th Congress which amend the two criminal forfeiture statutes: S. 1126, S. 1455, S.2320, S. 2572, H.R. 2646, H.R. 2910, H.R. 4110, and H.R. 5371. Three of these bills were introduced this fiscal year: S. 2320, S. 2572, and H.R. 5371. S. 2320 was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on July 12, 1982 (S. Rept. No. 97 – 520). (GGD – 81 – 51, Apr. 10, 1981)

Changing the Disclosure Provisions of the Internal Revenue Code—Through the Tax Reform Act of 1976, the Congress tightened the rules governing disclosure of tax information, thereby affording taxpayers increased privacy. However, the disclosure provisions also affected coordination between the Internal Revenue Service and other members of the law enforcement community.

We recommended that the Congress amend the disclosure provisions set forth in section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code with a view toward striking a better balance between legitimate privacy concerns and equally legitimate law enforcement information needs.

This matter was discussed in several reports and in numerous testimonies before Senate and House subcommittees. In August 1982, the Congress enacted the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (Public Law 97 – 248, Sept. 3, 1982). Sections 356 and 357 of the act significantly revised the rules governing disclosure of tax information for use in nontax criminal investigations and fully implemented the intent of our recommendation. (GGD – 78 – 110, Mar. 12, 1979; GGD – 80 – 76, June 17, 1980)

Increasing the Integrity of Social Security Numbers—Crimes based on false identification, which frequently include false and legitimate social security numbers, are estimated to cost American taxpayers more than $15 billion annually. We recommended that the Congress enact legislation making it a felony to alter, reproduce, counterfeit, buy, or sell a social security number or card.

Our recommendations were incorporated into section 4 of the Social Security Amendments of 1981. (Public Law 97 – 123, Dec. 30, 1981) This legislation amended section 208 of the Social Security Act by making it a felony to misuse social security numbers. (HRD – 81 – 20, Dec. 23, 1980)

Clandestine Manufacture of Dangerous Drugs—We recommended that the Congress amend the Controlled Substances Act to increase the maximum penalties for trafficking in all Schedules I and II nonnarcotic drugs, including phencyclidine, to equal the maximum penalties for trafficking in Schedules I and II narcotic drugs.

This recommended legislation was introduced verbatim in the Senate (S. 1951) on December 14, 1981. (GGD – 82 – 6, Nov. 6, 1981)

U.S. Marshals Can Serve Civil Process More Efficiently—United States Marshals are responsible for serving civil process when directed by the courts. Private litigants are charged a fee by marshals which varies by type of process served. These fees are set by statute and have not been changed significantly in 180 years. So that these duties might be accomplished at less cost to the Government, we recommended that Congress amend section 1921 of title 28, United States Code, to

- give the Attorney General authority to periodically revise the fees that marshals charge for serving civil process for private litigants in Federal court and
- require that the established fees provide full recovery of marshals' actual operating costs to serve private civil process exclusive of the cost incurred to service process for indigents.

In response to our recommendations, S. 2588 was introduced to provide for setting fees in the service of civil process. This bill has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. (GGD – 82 – 8, Apr. 22, 1982)

Agriculture

National Policy On, and Federal Role In, Retaining Farmland—We recommended that the Congress formulate a national policy on protecting and retaining prime and other farmland and delineate the role the Federal Government can and should play in guiding and helping State and local efforts to retain farmland.

The Farmland Protection Policy Act, subtitle I of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (Public Law 97 – 98, Dec. 22, 1981), established a Federal policy with respect to U.S. farmland and made the Department of Agriculture primarily responsible for implementing the policy. The policy is intended to minimize the extent to which Federal programs contribute to the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses and to assure that Federal programs are administered in a manner that, to the extent practicable, will be compatible with State, local government, and private programs and policies to protect farmland. The act also states that the Department of Agriculture may make available information and provide technical assistance to States, local government units, individuals, organizations, and other units of Federal Government to be used in restoring, maintaining, and improving the quality and quantity of farmland. (CED – 79 – 109, Sept. 20, 1979)

Improved Planning for Agricultural Research—During our review of long-range planning for the Chairman, Subcommittee on Department Operations, Research, and Foreign Agriculture of the House Committee on Agriculture, we suggested that the Congress amend title XIV of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 to improve planning for agricultural research and development by requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to (1) develop a long-term needs assessment for foods and fibers in conjunction with the States, land-grant colleges, and State directors of agricultural research stations and cooperative extension services and (2) determine the research required to meet the identified needs. On March 17, 1981, we provided the Chairman with proposed legislative language to accomplish this.

The Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (Public Law 97 – 98, Dec. 22, 1981), among other things, amends title XIV of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to take the initiative in overcoming barriers to long-range planning by (1) developing, in conjunction with the States, State cooperative institutions, the Joint Council on Food and Agricultural Sciences, the National Agricultural Research and Extension Users Advisory Board, and other appropriate institutions, a long-term needs assessment for food, fiber, and forest products and (2) determining the research requirements necessary to meet the identified needs. The needs assessment is to be included in the Secretary's January 1, 1984, annual report to the President and the Congress, on the Nation's agricultural research, extension, and teaching activities. (CED – 81 – 141, July 24, 1981)

More Authority To Assess User Charges—We recommended that, to help eliminate differences in the degree to which recipients bear the costs of the Department of Agriculture's special benefit services and in keeping with the general Federal policy on user charges, the Congress require that all costs of many marketing and regulatory services, except any quantifiable public benefit costs, be financed with user fees. To accomplish this, we recommended that the Congress amend certain legislative provisions which required appropriations funding and/or limited user charges.

The Department's appropriation bill for fiscal year 1983 (H.R. 7072), as reported by the House Committee on Appropriations on September 9, 1982 (H.R. 97 – 800), does not include appropriations for supervisory costs incurred in the poultry and fresh fruit and vegetable grading programs or for issuing export permits for tobacco seed and plants, as authorized by the Tobacco Seed and Plant Exportation Act of 1940 (7 U.S.C. 516 – 517). This proposal addresses the basic purpose of our recommendation. (CED – 81 – 49, Apr. 16, 1981)

Commerce and Housing Credit

Reauthorizing Existing Federal Commodity Regulatory Programs—In July 1982, we reported that Federal regulation of commodity futures trading is essential and recommended that Congress reauthorize the existing Federal commodity regulatory programs scheduled to expire September 30, 1982.

In our review, we found that, since the last reauthorization in 1978, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) has made progress in developing a regulatory framework to protect commodities customers. However, to improve this function, we recommended that the Congress authorize CFTC to disclose large-trader information so that information can be developed to prevent market manipulation. We also recommended that the Congress improve trader registration procedures by allowing registered futures associations to register commodity pool operations and trading advisors,

futures commissions merchants, and floor brokers, and to allow these associations to develop testing and security procedures for association members.

These recommendations are substantially addressed in S. 2109, reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry (S. Rept. No. 97-384) and by the House Committees on Agriculture (H.R. 97-565, pt. 1) and Energy and Commerce (H.R. 97-565, pt. 2). (CED-82-100, July 15, 1982)

Need for Changes in the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act—The Foreign Corrupt Practices Act contains significant internal control and recordkeeping requirements and makes the payment to foreign officials to obtain or influence business illegal. We recommended that the Congress amend the act to repeal the criminal penalties associated with its accounting provisions. To help assure against abuses, we recommended that the Congress consider criminal penalties for the willful falsification of corporate books and records. We also recommended that the Congress closely monitor the status of U.S. efforts to reach an international antibribery agreement.

S. 708, which introduced amendments to the act, including provisions which correspond to our recommendations, was approved by the Senate on November 23,1981. This bill has been sent to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Consumer Protection and Finance. (AFMD-81-34, Mar. 4, 1981)

Improving Management of the Federal Communications Commission—To provide a more efficient and effective organization at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), we recommended that the size of the Commission be reduced from seven to five members. Such action, we believed, would facilitate decisionmaking and management at FCC as well as resulting in substantial cost savings.

As part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982, the Congress approved reducing the Commission's size from seven to five members, effective June 30, 1983. (Public Law 97-253, Sept. 8, 1982) The reduction is expected to save $500,000 per annum. (CED-79-107, July 30, 1979)

Developing a Fee Schedule—Since January 1977, the Federal Communications Commission has not charged fees for its services. One month earlier, the U.S. Court of Appeals overturned previous Commission fee schedules and called for it to clarify the justification for the schedules and recalculate its fees accordingly. In our 1977 report, we stated that the Commission could and should recalculate previous fee schedules, refund excess fees collected, and establish a new fee schedule. We noted that the Congress could provide additional legislative guidance in this area by either amending the Independent Offices Appropriation Act of 1952 or enacting new legislation.

S. 1629, which was passed by the Senate in March 1982, establishes a schedule of fees to be assessed by the Commission. This bill was referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee in April 1982. (CED-77-70, May 5, 1977; GAO testimony, May 1, 1981, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, Subcommittee on Communications; B-203297, June 9, 1981)

Improving the Broadcast Licensing Process—To make the broadcast licensing process more effective, we recommended that the Congress amend the Communications Act of 1934 to eliminate the requirement that the Federal Communications Commission provide competing applicants for a broadcast license which the Commission is considering for renewal an opportunity for a full evidentiary hearing. Such a process has not acted as a competitive spur to the incumbent licensee and is both time-consuming and expensive.

On March 31, 1982, the Senate passed S. 1629, which sets forth new criteria for the renewal of broadcast station licenses and bars the Commission from considering applications from other parties for a license for which renewal is being sought. S. 1629 was referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee in April 1982. (CED-79-62, June 4, 1979)

Community and Regional Development

Requirement For Flood Insurance—The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) usual practice is to reimburse State and local applicants for the reconstruction or repair of structures that were not insured. In some instances, however, a deliberate decision has been made by responsible officials not to insure, or to underinsure, such property.

The Disaster Relief Act of 1974 stipulates that State and local governments be encouraged to protect themselves by obtaining insurance to supplement or replace Government assistance. Presently, State and local governments are not required to be insured against initial losses to property as a prerequisite to receiving disaster relief for losses. FEMA requires insurance, if available, only after disaster relief funds have been received, and then only in the amount of the relief provided.

In testifying on S. 2250 on April 20, 1982, we recommended that the Congress amend the act to require that, as a condition for receiving Federal public disaster assistance, State and local governments have in force appropriate hazard and flood insurance as is reasonably available, adequate, and necessary to protect against the loss of public buildings, facilities, and equipment.

Section 9 of S. 2250, the Disaster Relief Act Amendments of 1982, adopted the recommendation in regard to flood insurance. This bill was reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on May 12, 1982. The Committee will consider the extension of this provision in the future to other forms of insurance or its application to other groups receiving Federal assistance (S. Rept. No. 97-459). (GAO/CED-82-98, July 23, 1982)

Clarification of Disaster Assistance—In 1980, Federal emergency assistance was provided to assist States in handling such situations as the Love Canal chemical contamination and the Cuban refugee influx. These actions stirred considerable controversy regarding whether nonnatural "catastrophes" are within the purview of existing law. The current law is not clear on this matter, but it does allow the President to make declarations for "other catastrophes," as well as for specifically identified natural catastrophes.

We recommended that the Congress reevaluate the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 and clarify its intent regarding the types of incidents that may receive disaster assistance.

Section 5 of S. 2250, the Disaster Relief Act Amendments of 1982, would address this concern by amending the definition of "major disaster" to limit disasters in this category to "natural" disasters. At the same time, section 3 would amend the definition of "emergency" to make it clear that the President could declare an emergency for any type of catastrophe. This bill was reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on May 12, 1982 (S. Rept. No. 97-459). (GAO/CED-82-4, Dec. 7, 1981)

Clarification of Cost-Sharing Issue—In May 1980, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) adopted a general policy of requiring State and local governments to agree to pay 25 percent of the eligible costs of the public assistance portion of disaster relief provided by the Federal Government. This policy was intended to remove administrative problems associated with attempting to determine a "reasonable" commitment of State and local funds for each disaster. It also helps assure compliance with the statutory intent that the Federal aid be supplemental.

Our review of FEMA's cost-sharing policy found that it is consistent with the Disaster Relief Act of 1974. However, the policy created controversy among the States. State officials contend that the policy forces them to pay for disaster relief costs which the States believe are beyond their capability to pay or which will consume more than a reasonable amount of State and local funds. To put the controversy to rest, we recommended that the Congress clarify the extent of the State and local contribution that should be committed before supplemental Federal assistance is provided.

Section 14 of S. 2250, the Disaster Relief Act Amendments of 1982, would provide needed clarification of congressional intent on cost sharing by limiting Federal contributions for public assistance projects to 75 percent of net eligible costs. This bill was reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on May 12, 1982 (S. Rept. No. 97-459). (GAO/CED-82-4, Dec. 7, 1981)

Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services

Tougher Academic Progress Standards Needed for Student Financial Assistance Programs—Due to differing and often inadequate Federal requirements, many institutions of higher education have not established appropriate academic progress standards for students receiving assistance from the Department of Education, the Social Security Administration, and the Veterans Administration. In December 1981, we reported on serious inadequacies in the standards then in place and made recommendations on setting better Federal requirements. We recommended that the Congress amend the Social Security Act to place academic progress requirements on students receiving postsecondary student benefits. We also recommended that the Congress authorize the Social Security Administration and the Department of Education to set forth general guidelines that schools must follow in setting academic progress standards.

As a result of our recommendation, S. 2822 was introduced on August 10, 1982. This bill would require that all postsecondary students receiving financial aid under Department of Education programs have a C average by the end of their first year. After a probationary period of one term, students failing to meet this requirement would lose the right to further aid unless they could show an undue hardship. This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources. (HRD-82-15, Dec. 3, 1981)

The Davis-Bacon Act Should Be Repealed—On April 27, 1979, we reported that repealing the Davis-Bacon Act and removing its wage determination requirements would result in substantial saving on Federal or federally financed construction projects. The Davis-Bacon Act and 77 related Federal statutes require that wages paid on most federally assisted construction projects be based on wages determined by the Secretary of Labor to be prevailing for the laborers and mechanics employed on projects of similar character in the area in which the work is to be performed. This requirement results in unnecessary construction costs of between $200 and $500 million annually and has an inflationary effect on the economy as a whole.

More recently, we made a review of one of the largest Federal construction projects which would benefit from repealing the Davis-Bacon Act: the Washington Regional Rapid Transit System (METRO). In a report issued on October 1, 1980, we found that setting prevailing wages for METRO construction—as required by the Davis-Bacon Act— may increase the construction cost by about 6.8 percent, and future METRO construction costs could be increased by about $149 million.

Since the 97th Congress convened in January 1981, various members of both the Senate and House have introduced numerous bills to either repeal, amend, waive, or delete the Davis-Bacon Act and related Copeland Anti-Kickback Act requirements and certain of the 77 related statutes which require use of the Davis-Bacon Act requirements on federally assisted construction projects.

In the House, for example, on February 10, 1982, H.R. 5540 was introduced to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to revitalize the defense industrial base. The bill provided for use of Davis-Bacon rates on the construction, repair, or alteration of projects and installation of equipment funded by a guarantee, loan, or grant under the act. On September 23, 1982, the amendment was introduced on the House floor to delete this requirement; however, it was rejected by the whole House.

On August 12, 1982, an amendment (H.R. 6100) was introduced to the National Development Act and the Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 1982 to exempt certain contractors from the Davis-Bacon provisions. The amendment provided that firms could bid on construction contracts basing their bids on wages that were not in accordance with the Davis-Bacon provisions. If such bids were within 10 percent of the lowest bid that took into account wages under the Davis-Bacon provisions, and if such bids were awarded the contract, the bidder would be exempted from the Davis-Bacon requirements. The amendments failed to pass.

On September 17, 1982, the Chairman, Senate Labor and Human Resources, Subcommittee on Labor, introduced legislation (S. 2929) to amend the Davis-Bacon Act to increase the contract-dollar threshold level above which the Davis-Bacon Act would be applicable from $2,000 to $100,000, mandate the Department of Labor to determine wage rates for helpers classifications on Davis-Bacon projects, and delete the 30-percent rule in a given wage classification and define the prevailing wage rate as that rate paid to 50 percent or more of the construction workers in a given class. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated budget authority savings through 1987 from raising the threshold from $2,000 to $100,000 would amount to approximately $5.1 billion. The Congress has not acted on this bill as of September 30, 1982.

All of the proposed legislation on the Davis-Bacon Act in the 97th Congress made extensive use of our reports. (HRD – 79 – 18, Apr. 27, 1979; HRD – 81 – 10, Oct. 2, 1980)

Investigation To Reform the Teamsters' Central States Pension Fund Found Inadequate—At hearings on July 26, 1982, before the House Subcommittee on Oversight, Ways and Means, we testified that the Congress should enact an additional safeguard under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), as proposed by the Department of Labor and of the Treasury, to help assure that trustees and administrators of certain multiemployer pension plans, such as the Teamsters Central States, Southeast and Southwest Areas Pension Fund, comply with conditions relating to asset management which are contained in Internal Revenue Service determination letters. Labor and Treasury stated that IRS' potential disqualification of the Fund's current tax-exempt status may not be effective in deterring the trustees from regaining control over the assets when the existing asset management agreement expires. In view of the abuses in the trustees' management of the Fund's assets that led to the disqualification of the Fund in 1976, as documented in our April 1982 report, the Departments believed that action was needed to prevent the trustees from regaining control over the $3.4 billion in assets until the trustees could demonstrate that such action would not be harmful to the interests of participating employees.

On September 14, 1982, the Subcommittee introduced legislation (H.R. 7094) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 to impose a tax on plan trustees or administrators who fail to adhere to conditions of determination letters relating to independent management of assets of multiemployer plans. The House, by a voice vote, passed H.R. 7094 on September 20, 1982, as the Multiemployer Pension Plan Management Act. This act is consistent with our testimony and report. (HRD – 82 – 13, Apr. 28, 1982)

Strengthening the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program—The National Runaway and Homeless Youth Program was designed to deal with the immediate needs of runaway or homeless youths and their families. In testimony before the House Subcommittee on Human Resources of the Education and Labor Committee, we presented

generally favorable findings about the program in the areas of program participants, service offerings, center environment, and perceptions of participants, staff, and community service providers associated with the program. As a result of our testimony, the Congress significantly increased the appropriation for the program provided in the Continuing Appropriations Resolution for 1983 (Public Law 97 – 276) so that additional runaway and homeless youth centers could be funded. (GAO testimony, May 5, 1982, Subcommittee on Human Resources, House Committee on Education and Labor)

Proposed Changes to the Refugee Act of 1980—In testimony before the Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and International Law, House Committee on the Judiciary, on April 22, 1982, we recommended that (1) the Refugee Act of 1980 be amended to require that priority attention be given to quick employment and economic self-sufficiency including placement in unskilled, entry-level jobs, if necessary, (2) this priority be adhered to notwithstanding provisions for attendance at language and other employment training, and (3) that portions of the act exempting refugees from employment registration and acceptance of job offer requirements during the first 60 days after entry be repealed.

H.R. 5879, which extends for fiscal year 1983 the authorization for refugee assistance, uses our testimony as a basis for requiring strengthened program management including a greater emphasis on employment and tracking refugees' progress toward self-sufficiency. This bill was passed by the House on June 22, 1982, and by the Senate on October 1, 1982. (GAO testimony, Apr. 22, 1982, House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and International Law)

Energy

Required Staffing Levels for Conservation and Renewable Energy Programs— In July 1982, we reported on how fiscal year 1981 reductions in force and resignations occurring in Conservation and Renewable Energy Programs at the Department of Energy have resulted in (1) a loss of continuity in headquarters top management and staff and ability to provide adequate program monitoring for State and local assistance programs and (2) a loss of continuity in top management and staff and a continuing high attrition rate affecting the management of Conservation and Renewable Research and Development Programs.

The Supplemental Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1982 (Public Law 97 – 257, Sept. 10, 1982) included language requiring the Department of Energy to maintain specific staffing levels for certain programs, including Conservation and Renewable Energy Programs. In commenting on the required staffing levels, the Conference Committee managers (H.R. 97 – 747) expressed their concern that recent and proposed Department of Energy personnel reductions may contribute to ineffective execution of certain programs and cited our report as confirming their concerns (EMD – 82 – 100, July 19, 1982)

Accelerating the Oil Fill Rate for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve—Our report to the Congress noted that the Department of Energy (DOE) planned to fill the 750-million-barrel Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) at an average rate of 189,000 barrels per day from 1982 through 1989. This rate, which reflects constraints in DOE's program to create permanent storage capacity, is significantly below the Congress' fill rate goal of 300,000 barrels per day. We recommended that the Secretary of Energy evaluate options, including leasing interim storage capacity, to accelerate the SPR fill rate. We also stated that the Congress should explore these options with DOE, and, based on this assessment, reaffirm or provide new guidance on the desired fill rate.

In March 1982, the House and Senate subcommittees that have oversight responsibility for the SPR program held hearings on the need to accelerate the SPR fill rate and the availability of storage capacity for an interim storage program. We testified at these hearings on the findings of our report. Also, at the request of the oversight committees and an individual member, we issued three additional reports that assessed the amount, cost, and availability of interim storage that would be required to raise the average annual SPR fill rate to 300,000 barrels per day.

In August 1982, the Congress enacted the Energy Emergency Preparedness Act of 1982 (Public Law 97 – 229). The act requires the administration to fill the SPR at a rate of at least 220,000 barrels per day or a rate that uses all available SPR oil acquisition funds. The act also authorizes the use of funds for interim storage. (EMD – 82 – 19, Dec. 31, 1981)

Repeal of Unneeded Outer Continental Shelf Production Rate-Setting Functions —The Department of the Interior, under various laws, requires Outer Continental Shelf lease operators to submit information regarding the rate at which oil and gas can be produced from the leases they operate to Interior's Mineral Management Service. Data for three different rates of production are currently being requested and compiled by the Department. We found that most of the data being submitted and the rates being calculated were of little value or not needed.

We recommended that the Congress repeal section 606 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978 to eliminate the data gathering and reporting requirements for one of the three production rates. Based on our recommendation, the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, on September 16, 1982, included and passed an amendment to H.R. 7076 repealing this requirement. (EMD – 82 – 97, September 10, 1982)

Annual Report on Outer Continental Shelf Shut-In and Flaring Wells Not Needed—The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978 require (1) the Secretary of the Interior to submit a report annually to the Congress on offshore oil and gas wells shut-in (not producing) or flaring (burning off) natural gas and (2) the Comptroller General to examine and annually report on the methodology used by the Secretary in allowing this activity. We found that Interior's report does not satisfy the congressional intent behind the requirement and that Interior's report is not now necessary in view of recent measures decontrolling oil and gas prices. We recommended that the reporting requirements be repealed, releasing resources of both the Department of the Interior and GAO—about $280,000 annually—to serve higher priority needs.

Based on our recommendation, the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee on September 16, 1982, included and passed an amendment to H.R. 7076 to repeal this requirement. (EMD-82-17, Nov. 19, 1981)

More Information Needed To Facilitate Arctic Research—Expensive and controversial requirements to minimize environmental impact are being imposed by the Federal Government on arctic energy-related projects. We found that present research is insufficient to evaluate the effectiveness or necessity of these requirements. Arctic research is expensive and is conducted by several Federal agencies. More site-specific data and research findings are needed to develop these requirements and could result in more timely and less costly energy development. The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee has reported a bill (S. 1562; S. Rept. No. 97-660) which provides for three critical elements (coordination, prioritization, and a source of funding) that we recommend be included in legislation providing for arctic research. In addition, an identical bill has been introduced in the House. (EMD-82-44, June 17, 1982)

Contingency Programs Need To Be Developed and Ready for Use—In a September 1981 report to Congress, we stated that contingency programs for coping with oil import disruptions must be fully developed and ready for use. Further, we stated that Government programs must be supported by adequate legal authority. In August 1982, the Congress passed Public Law 97-229 (Energy Emergency Preparedness Act of 1982) requiring the President to submit to the Congress no later than November 15, 1982, a memorandum of law which discusses the nature and extent of the authorities available to him under existing law. The memorandum of law is to address several subject areas we analyzed and made recommendations on in our report, such as the international energy program, the development and use of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and Government incentives to encourage private petroleum stocks. The law requires additionally that the President subsequently submit to the Congress a report identifying and describing the comprehensive energy emergency response procedures which have been developed to implement these authorities. (EMD-81-117, Sept. 29, 1982)

Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act Authority Should Be Replaced—In a September 1981 report, we recommended that Congress replace the expiring Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act authority with a standby system to help assure oil availability during disruptions. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee sent a bill to the full Senate to provide such authority. In its accompanying report, which recommended Senate passage of the bill, the committee cited our report extensively, including our recommendations. Our work was also cited extensively during debate on the bill. Subsequently, a bill was passed: S. 1503, "Standby Petroleum Allocation Act of 1981." A House bill providing similar authority was also passed, and a compromise bill was approved by both houses. The final proposal, however, was vetoed by the President. (EMD-81-117, Sept. 29, 1981)

Need for Improvements in Controls Over Commercial Nuclear Activities of U.S. Firms and Individuals—In May 1981, we recommended ways to improve the controls that the Department of Energy administers over commercial nuclear technology exports and other unclassified foreign nuclear activities of U.S. firms and individuals. A bill (H.R. 6032) was introduced on April 1, 1982, to strengthen such controls. This bill contains provisions that would implement our recommendations calling for

- a strengthening of the statutory requirements governing the Department's authorizations,
- a statutory requirement providing for termination of authorizations to nations that engage in certain prohibited activities, and
- congressional and public notice of authorizations granted by the Department.

(OGC-81-2, May 21, 1981)

Burdensome and Unnecessary Reporting Requirements of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act—The Department of Energy is required to report annually to the Congress on State and utility actions on electric ratemaking and regulatory standards, but the act is unclear on the specific contents of the reports after the third one. We recommended that the Congress (1) ensure, through the appropriations process, that the Department of Energy has sufficient priority to prepare and submit its third annual report to the President and the Congress in a timely fashion and (2) repeal the annual reporting requirement (section 116) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act, effective after the completion of Energy's third annual report, to reduce the paperwork burden on both the Federal Government and the private sector and eliminate the cost to the individual taxpayer. If there is future interest in the ratemaking status of States and utilities that is not satisfied by available reports, the Congress can request the preparation of such reports at future times.

As a result of our report, on November 30, 1981, S. 1966 was introduced to repeal section 116, effective after submission of the Department of Energy's third annual report in 1982. On April 19,

1982, the Subcommittee on Energy Regulation, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, held a hearing on the bill. No further action has been taken as of September 30, 1982. (EMD – 81 – 105, Sept. 14, 1981)

Retention Bonus for Top-Level TVA Officials—The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors approved in early October 1981 an executive bonus plan to slow the loss of top executives in its power program. The plan would have paid bonuses of up to $36,000 per year to top executives whose pay is limited due to the Federal pay cap. At the request of several members of the Tennessee congressional delegation, we examined (1) the legality of the plan, (2) the rationale and justification for it, and (3) the effect it would have on power rates.

We found that, while the effect of the bonus plan on power rates was miniscule, TVA's rationale and justification for the plan was lacking. Also, our Office of General Counsel issued an advisory legal opinion stating the plan "improperly contravened the TVA Act." During our work, we briefed the requesters on our findings, and language was placed in the 1982 Energy and Water Development Appropriation bill (H.R. 4144) prohibiting the TVA Board from implementing the plan. After our advisory legal opinion was issued, TVA rescinded the bonus plan. (B – 205284, Nov. 16, 1981)

General Government

Improving Debt Collection—A series of our reports and testimonies highlighted the necessity for improving the Government's debt collection process. Our report, "The Government Needs To Do A Better Job Of Collecting Amounts Owed to the Public," dated October 20, 1978, indicated that major improvements were needed in collecting amounts due the Government. Another report, "The Government Can Be More Productive in Collecting Its Debts By Following Commercial Practices," dated February 23, 1979, disclosed that debt collection in the Federal Government is a slow and expensive process with significant potential for improvement.

On March 20, 1979, a special hearing before the Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch of the Senate Committee on Appropriations was held to review ways in which Federal agencies can improve their debt collection practices.

S. 1249, the Debt Collection Act of 1981, contains a number of specific actions to improve debt collection efforts. The bill was reported by the Senate Committee on Finance (Senate Rept. No. 97 – 287, Dec. 3, 1981) and the Committee on Governmental Affairs (Senate Rept. No. 97 – 378, May 3, 1982). On September 28, 1982, the Senate passed H.R. 4613, after substituting the language of S. 1249, as amended. The Senate approved final passage of the act on October 1, 1982, concurring with House amendments to tax-related provisions. (FGMSD – 78 – 61, Oct. 20, 1978; FGMSD – 78 – 59, Feb. 23, 1979)

Agencies Need Better Guidance for Choosing Among Contracts, Grants, and Cooperative Agreements—The Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act provides the criteria Federal agencies are to use in distinguishing between procurement and assistance relationships and further distinguishing between grant and cooperative agreement types of assistance. We reported that the act's criteria were sound, but the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) must improve its guidance on the act and more actively oversee implementation to assure proper selection of procurement contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements.

In addition, we found that OMB's authority to except individual programs or transactions from the act's criteria was beneficial. The Congress provided the authority to avoid unintended hardships and administrative problems that might occasionally result from strict adherence to the act's criteria. However, the authority lapsed in March 1981. We recommended that the Congress renew the exception authority without time limit. Public Law 97 – 162, approved April 1, 1982, amends the act and permanently authorizes the Director of OMB to issue exceptions. (GGD – 81 – 88, Sept. 4, 1982)

Government Agency Transactions with the Federal Financing Bank Should Be Included in the Budget—In August 1977, we reported that credit assistance through the Federal Financing Bank should be better reflected in the budget. We recommended that Congress require

- the Bank's receipts and disbursements be included in the Federal budget totals,
- the receipts and disbursements of off-budget agencies that borrow from the Bank be included in the budget, and
- certificates of beneficial ownership be treated as agency obligations and therefore as borrowing in the budget.

During fiscal year 1982, S. 2162, a bill to amend the Federal Financing Bank Act of 1973, was introduced. The proposed legislation would implement two of our recommendations. Specifically, it would place the receipts and disbursements of the Federal Financing Bank on-budget and would require that certificates of beneficial ownership sales be treated as debt transactions. (PAD – 77 – 70, Aug. 3, 1977)

Minting Coins To Commemorate the 1984 Summer Olympic Games Without Using Indirect Federal Financing— On April 6, 1982, we testified before the Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs and Coinage, House Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs, on legislative proposals to mint commemorative coins to help finance the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympic Games and U.S. amateur athletics without the use of tax revenues. A bill to mint legal tender U.S. coins had passed the Senate on December 9, 1981, and was virtually assured passage in the House.

In our testimony, we showed how the Federal Government would forego seigniorage revenues of about $260 million and Federal tax revenues of about $100 million under the Senate-passed bill. These issues had not been previously identified and considered by the Congress in evaluating the proposed legislation. We also showed how a bill, drafted by the subcommittee chairman with our assistance, favorably resolved the issues we had raised.

The Senate-passed bill was reported out of committee on May 17, 1982. On May 20, 1982, the Committee of the Whole House held a debate, during which reference was made to us on a number of occasions, and our testimony and subsequent congressional letters were quoted with excerpts included for the *Congressional Record*. The subcommittee chairman's bill, which favorably resolved all the issues we had raised, was passed by a vote of 302 to 84. On July 1, 1982, the Senate concurred with the House bill. On July 22, 1982, the Olympic Commemorative Coin Act, Public Law 97 – 220, which eliminated an estimated $360 million in indirect Federal financing in the original Senate-passed bill identified by us, was signed by the President. (EMD – 82 – 24, Jan. 11, 1982)

Changes Needed in the Relocation Act To Achieve More Uniform Treatment of Persons Displaced by Federal Programs—In March 1978, we reported that the Federal Government had not provided uniform treatment to people displaced from their homes and businesses by Federal or federally assisted programs. The root cause of this lies within the Uniform Relocation Act. The act does not provide sufficient coverage and benefits to protect all who suffer hardships when displaced. Also, as long as each Federal agency has the authority to issue its own relocation regulations, inconsistencies and inequities can be expected to continue.

We recommended that the Congress consider whether the act should cover all displacement caused by Federal or federally assisted acquisition and nonacquisition projects. We also recommended that the Congress consider providing additional benefits to displaced businesses. To provide authority to manage effectively the requirements of the act, we recommended that the Congress amend the act to require the President to issue a single set of relocation regulations and designate a central organization to direct and oversee uniform procedures.

S. 2363, as reported by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, broadens and clarifies the coverage of the act, provides additional benefits to displaced businesses, and gives the President authority to designate one agency to coordinate the implementation of the act. (GGD – 78 – 6, Mar. 8, 1978)

The Federal Audit Function in the Territories Should Be Strengthened— We recommended that the Congress amend the organic acts for Guam and the Virgin Islands and public laws relating to the Northern Mariana Islands and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and enact legislation relating to American Samoa to strengthen the Federal audit function in the territories. Among other things, the legislation we proposed would

- transfer the audit authority and staff from the U.S. Government Comptrollers to the Office of Inspector General, Department of the Interior, for the purpose of establishing an independent audit organization in the territories,
- eliminate the provisions which require the U.S. Government Comptrollers to provide reports at the request of the territorial Governors and submit an annual report of the fiscal condition of the government to the territorial Governors, the High Commissioner, and the Secretary of the Interior, and

- require the territorial Governors and the High Commissioner to (1) prepare, publish, and submit a comprehensive annual financial report, (2) arrange for an independent audit of the comprehensive annual financial report, and (3) submit a written statement of actions taken on Federal audit recommendations within 60 days of the issuance of the audit report.

With only minor modifications, our legislative recommendations were passed by the House (H.R. 6680) on September 9, 1982, and the Senate (S. 2633) on September 30, 1982. (AFMD – 82 – 23, Mar. 25, 1982)

Changing the Basis for Computing General Schedule Pay—Under the Federal Employees Pay Act of 1945 (5 U.S.C. 5504), the General Schedule (GS) hourly pay rate is computed on the basis of 260 workdays, or 2,080 hours, even though some years contain 261 or 262 workdays.

We pointed out to the Congress that computing General Schedule pay using 2,087 hours rather than 2,080 hours would result in savings. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that this would result in savings of $261 million for fiscal years 1984 and 1985.

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982 (Public Law 97 – 253, Sept. 8, 1982) adopted the 2,087 hour method. (FPCD – 81 – 60, Aug. 26, 1981)

Special Travel Benefits for Certain Federal Employees in Alaska and Hawaii—In 1954, a law was enacted authorizing the Government to pay round-trip travel and transportation expenses as a recruiting incentive to persons in the continental United States to accept Federal employment in Alaska and Hawaii.

We recommended that the law be changed to authorize such trips only when needed for recruiting and retention purposes.

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982 (Public Law 97 – 253, Sept. 8, 1982) revised the law terminating these benefits unless the head of an agency determines that the benefit was needed to recruit or retain an employee. Estimated savings for fiscal year 1983 are $2 million. (FPCD – 76 – 65, Mar. 2, 1977)

Status Report on Major Civil Programs—For several years, we have recommended that the Congress receive periodic reports on the status of major civil acquisitions. On December 9, 1981, at the request of the Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations, we commented on H.R. 4685 which required such reports. Subsequently, the Chairman, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, requested our comments on S. 1604, a companion bill to H.R. 4685. Using our comments, the Senate bill was revised as S. 2397. In our 1982 annual status report, we again recommended that the Congress consider requiring the executive branch to submit an annual status report on major civil acquisitions. Hearings were held on April 22, 1982, at which we testified as to the advantages of establishing such a reporting system. Although S. 2397 was not passed, it is to be reintroduced in 1983. (MASAD – 82 – 24, Apr. 22, 1982)

Federal Agencies Should Be Given General Multiyear Contracting Authority for Supplies and Services—In January 1978, we assessed the advantages and disadvantages of multiyear procurement. We reported that most Federal agencies are prohibited from contracting for more than 1 year, but where authority for multiyear contracting did exist, substantial savings and benefits accrued. We recommended that the Congress enact legislation authorizing general multiyear contracting authority for Federal agencies.

Public Law 97 – 86, December 1, 1981, contained provisions expanding the use of multiyear contracting within the Department of Defense. (PSAD – 78 – 54, Jan. 10, 1978)

Less Sole-Source, More Competition Needed on Federal Civil Agencies' Contracting—In fiscal year 1980, Federal civil agencies reported $23.3 billion in contract actions over $10,000. Of this amount, about $10.9 billion, or 47 percent, was categorized as noncompetitive. The lack of competition can often be attributed to ineffective procurement planning and unquestioned reliance on requesting officials' sole-source justifications. We recommended that Federal regulations be amended to

- require a market search for competitive sources before approving a sole-source justification,
- define the criteria that must be met to justify sole-source procurement, and
- require agencies to establish effective procurement planning systems.

The Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs introduced S. 2127, which incorporates several of the report's recommendations. The bill was pending in committee as of September 30, 1982. (PLRD – 82 – 40, Apr. 7, 1982)

Timeliness of Bill Paying by the Federal Government—For many years, contractors have complained that the Government has not paid its bills when due. We initally reported on bill payments in a February 24, 1978, report. We recommended that clear and practical payment standards be developed and actions be taken to facilitate timely payments. On October 8, 1981, we reported that our recommendations had not been implemented. The reports showed that Government agencies, while paying some bills late, paid others too early. Both late payments and early payments are costly. Late payments cost contractors while early payments cost the Government millions of dollars annually.

On May 13, 1981, and January 26, 1982, we testified on proposed legislation requiring Federal agencies to pay interest on overdue payments made to private contractors. We worked closely with the committees' staffs to develop the legislation and with the Office of Management and Budget to develop an implementing regulation to ensure the law is complied with and that payment practices are consistent with the principles of sound cash management.

On May 21, 1982, the Prompt Payment Act (Public Law 97 – 177) became law. This act should improve the timeliness of the Government's bill-paying to small businesses, improve relations with firms doing business with the Government, and eventually increase competition for Government business, resulting in lower prices. (FGMSD – 78 – 15, Feb. 24, 1978; AFMD – 82 – 1, Oct. 8, 1981)

Changes Are Needed in Law on Reuse of U.S. Pavilions at International Expositions—We recommended, in a March 1981 report, in briefings, and in testimony before a congressional subcommittee, that legislation be enacted to amend Public Law 91 – 269 relating to Federal participation in international expositions to minimize expenditures of pavilions and to maximize their residual use.

We reported that the Department of Commerce was building a permanent rather than temporary pavilion at the Knoxville Expo '82 even though there were no firm plans for its use after the exposition. The law governing reuse of U.S. pavilions did not mandate construction of a less costly temporary pavilion nor did it direct Commerce to design pavilions that would meet the immediate needs of exhibitions as well as the subsequent needs of the Federal Government.

We recommended the law be amended, and our recommendation was included in S. 1482, introduced on July 14, 1981. On August 10, 1982, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations added S. 1482 to H.R. 6409 which authorized U.S. participation in the New Orleans exposition and favorably reported it.

H.R. 6409, as amended, was passed by both the House and Senate on August 19, 1982, and the President signed it into law (Public Law 97 – 254) on September 8, 1982. (PLRD – 81 – 11, Mar. 20, 1981)

New Formula Is Needed To Calculate Interest Rate on Unpaid Taxes—The interest rate assessed by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) fails to reflect properly two elements necessary to any interest rate determination:the cost of the lender's funds and the cost of the lender's credit administration. Also, since IRS' rate is currently lower than the rate at which most taxpayers can borrow money, it provides little incentive for taxpayers to pay taxes promptly.

A new formula is needed that calculates an interest rate for unpaid taxes which includes the Government borrowing rate plus an overhead factor for administrative costs. Not only would this new formula appropriately compensate the Government for the costs related to unpaid taxes, it would provide a greater incentive for taxpayers to pay taxes promptly.

We recommended that the Congress amend the Internal Revenue Code to require IRS to (1) establish an interest rate reflecting the prevailing Government borrowing rate plus a factor for administrative expenses and (2) establish semiannual adjustments of the interest rate stating it to two decimal places and limiting changes to 0.25 percent.

Section 711 of the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 (Public Law 97 – 34, Aug. 13, 1981), passed last fiscal year, provided for an interest rate at 100 percent of the prime rate, to be adjusted each year. Section 345 of the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 (Public Law 97 – 248, Sept. 3, 1982), provides for a semiannual determination of the rate of interest. (GGD – 81 – 20, Oct. 16, 1980)

Need To Provide for Late Filing Charge for Nonfilers Due Refunds—To make the law regarding tax return filing more equitable and to encourage voluntary compliance, the Congress should consider various alternative ways to amend section 6651 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code to provide for a late filing charge on nonfilers due refunds as it imposes penalties on nonfilers who owe taxes.

To assist in its consideration, the Congress should request the Commissioner of Internal Revenue to provide a series of alternative ways for imposing charges on nonfilers due refunds.

Section 318 of the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 (Public Law 97 – 248, Sept. 3, 1982) provides for a penalty of $100 or an amount equivalent to the tax owed, whichever is less, when an income tax return is not filed within 60 days of the due date. Section 346 of the act provides that taxpayers who file late returns will be paid interest only from the date of filing. Together, these provisions implement the thrust of our recommendations. (GGD – 79 – 69, July 11, 1979)

More Efficient and Effective Use of Summons Provisions of the Internal Revenue Code—Through the Tax Reform Act of 1976, taxpayers gained the right to be notified of the issuance of a third-party Internal Revenue Service (IRS) summons. Taxpayers were further authorized to stay summons compliance by third parties pending a court action in which they could participate. However, actual experience with the law showed that many taxpayers were staying compliance solely for the purpose of delaying an IRS investigation.

We recommended that the Congress amend the summons provisions set forth in section 7609 of the Internal Revenue Code by adopting the stay of compliance procedures contained in section 1105 of the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978 (Public Law 95 – 630, Nov. 10, 1978). Taxpayers would retain the rights granted them in the Tax Reform Act but no longer could use these rights as delaying tactics.

This matter was discussed in several reports and in numerous testimonies before Senate and House subcommittees. In August 1982, the Congress enacted the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (Public Law 97 – 248, Sept. 3, 1982). Sections 331 through 333 of the act significantly revised the rules governing IRS' use of third-party recordkeeper summonses and fully implemented the intent of our recommendations. (GGD – 78 – 110, Mar. 12, 1979; GGD – 80 – 76, June 17, 1980; GGD – 81 – 83, July 6, 1981)

Need To Reassess Casualty and Theft Loss Provisions of the Internal Revenue Code-We recommended that the Congress reassess the need to retain the personal casualty and theft loss provision (section 165 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code in its present form.

In making such a reassessment, the Congress could consider several alternatives, such as

- repealing the personal casualty and theft loss deduction on the ground that is inherently inadministrable;
- repealing the personal casualty and theft loss deduction and allowing a deduction for all or a percentage of the cost of premiums for casualty insurance covering real property and personal effects;

- amending the statutory personal casualty and theft loss deduction provision to limit the allowable loss to an amount in excess of the stated percentage of adjusted gross income, restricting the category of loss events and loss property, repealing the netting rules of section 1231, and treating an excess casualty or theft loss as a net long-term capital loss carryforward; or
- amending the Treasury Regulations to limit the recognized loss to the amount of realized loss attributable solely to the casualty or theft.

Section 203 of the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 (Public Law 97-248, Sept. 3, 1982) provides, among other things, that nonbusiness casualty losses are deductible only to the extent that total losses sustained during the year exceed 10 percent of adjusted gross income. This implements one aspect of the third alternative listed above but does not fully implement any one of the alternatives. (GGD-80-10, Dec. 5, 1979)

Billions of Dollars Are Involved in Taxation of the Life Insurance Industry-Some Corrections in the Law Are Needed— In September 1981, we reported to the Congress that the Life Insurance Company Income Tax Act of 1959, under which the Nation's life insurance companies are taxed, should be revised. We suggested that the industry's economic environment and its product offerings have changed substantially over the last 2 decades. Because of the changes in the economy and the industry, certain provisions of the act require modification. We recommended that the Congress change the methods by which a life insurance company calculates and revalues its insurance reserves and determines its taxable income. We examined and evaluated the revenue consequences of the alternative methods and recommended specific revisions in the 1959 act.

Our recommendation relating to reserve revaluation was incorporated as a possible option to increase revenues in the Senate Finance Committee Report dated June 15, 1982. In framing the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 (Public Law 97-248, Sept. 3, 1982), the Congress followed our recommendation and reduced the allowance for approximate revaluation of life insurance reserves (sec. 818 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code). This change is estimated to increase revenue collections annually by approximately $220 million. (PAD-81-1, Sept. 17, 1981)

Unnecessary Delays in the Effective Dates of FTC Rules—Federal Trade Commission (FTC) rules must be submitted to the Congress for review before becoming effective. If both Houses do not adopt a concurrent resolution disapproving a rule within "90 calendar days of continuous session," it becomes effective on the date promulgated by FTC.

In April 1982, we reported that, because of the way the 90 calendar days were computed, the congressional review process may unnecessarily delay the effective dates of FTC rules. We suggested that the Congress consider terminating the congressional review period after a short period of time if a concurrent resolution of disapproval is not introduced.

On May 28, 1982, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation recommended the enactment of S. 2499 (S. Rept. No. 97-451) which would shorten the congressional review period to 45 days of continuous session if a disapproval resolution has not been introduced and reported by or discharged from one of the appropriate House or Senate committees. On August 17, 1982, H.R. 6995 was introduced into the House of Representatives which provides that, if a concurrent resolution of disapproval is not introduced within 35 calendar days of continuous session after a rule is submitted to the Congress, the FTC-approved rule may become effective prior to expiration of 90 days of continuous session. (HRD-82-56, Apr. 26, 1982)

Health

Threat of Potentially Severe Fiscal Penalties Is Not Achieving Desired Results— Medicaid's quality control program identifies problems which result in erroneous payments and is supposed to devise methods for overcoming these problems. Potentially severe penalties against States whose quality control error rates exceeded target error rates resulted in an emphasis on data collection instead of corrective action. In view of numerous problems found, we recommended that the Congress suspend its directive for Federal sanctions against States based on quality control error rates and substitute a balanced system of rewards and penalties tied to error rates.

Section 133 of the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 (Public Law 97-248, Sept. 3, 1982) suspended penalties against States until fiscal year 1983 and also defined erroneous payments in such a way as to eliminate a number of problems we had found in the way that they were being reported. (HRD-82-6, Oct. 23, 1981)

Delaying Proposed Regulations for Modifying Nursing Home Survey and Certification Procedures—On May 27, 1982, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), proposed revisions to the inspection (or survey) and certification procedures in nursing homes. These procedures are designed to ensure that Medicaid and Medicare nursing home residents are cared for in facilities that meet certain health and safety standards. One of the proposed revisions would allow the surveying of homes every 2 years rather than annually. Another would delete the rule that on-site inspection be conducted within 90 days of identifying deficiencies in a nursing home during a survey.

We reported that trends in the nursing home industry show an increasing disability and dependence of nursing home patients and increasing difficulties experienced by States in paying Medicaid nursing home expenditures. Because these trends are expected to continue over the next several

years, the type of care provided to Medicaid patients is likely to change significantly. Adequate inspection procedures should take these trends into account to ensure that participating facilities meet the health and safety standards required by law. On August 19, 1982, the House and Senate gave final approval to the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 (Public Law 97 – 248) which was subsequently signed by the President. Included in the act was a 6-month moratorium preventing the Secretary of Health and Human Services from putting into effect the proposed revisions. As stated in the conference report, the intent of the moratorium is to provide opportunity for further review, revision, or withdrawal of the proposed regulations. The conferees also anticipated, as noted in the report, that the Secretary would consult with the Congress, GAO, and others during this period. (IPE – 82 – 4, July 15, 1982)

Evaluation Language for Hospice Care Program—We suggested changes in the evaluation provisions of a bill that would amend the Medicare component of social security to provide coverage for hospice care, e.g., home health and counseling services for terminally ill persons. The bill (H.R. 5180) initially required us to conduct a study of the methods used by the Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse for hospice care. In a March 1982 briefing to House Committee staff representing both Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce, we pointed to the need for a broader evaluation of hospice care. We also indicated that we have previously suggested in bill comments that the administering agency be required to conduct evaluation as part of its management responsibility and that our office be assigned to monitor the agency's evaluation. The bill was passed by the Congress and signed into law (section 122, Public Law 97 – 248) with our suggestions incorporated. (GAO briefing, Mar. 18, 1982)

Health Screening and Treatment of Indochinese Refugees—The incidence of several serious and contagious diseases, such as tuberculosis, is far greater in Indochinese refugees resettling in this country than in the U.S. population. To compound this situation, several barriers exist which hinder the ability of health departments to effectively deal with refugees' health problems after they arrive in the United States.

We recommended that the overseas medical examination of refugees be improved, that treatment for certain diseases be initiated and completed overseas before the refugees are allowed to enter the United States, and that medical waivers be granted only when there are compelling reasons to do so.

This issue was discussed in our September 23, 1981, testimony before the Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and International Law, House Committee on the Judiciary. Similar testimony was delivered on September 13, 1982, before the same Subcommittee.

On June 22, 1982, the House passed H.R. 5879, the Refugee Assistance Amendments of 1982. This bill authorizes funds to defray costs for medical screening and treatment of resettled refugees. In addition, it instructs the Department of Health and Human Services, the State Department, and the Department of Justice's Immigration and Naturalization Service to improve the existing system of overseas medical screening and treatment of refugees headed for the United States. (GAO/HRD – 82 – 65, Aug. 5, 1982)

Income Security

Improved Verification of Welfare Recipients' Income and Assets—One possible means of identifying assets of welfare recipients is Internal Revenue Service (IRS) records on taxpayer unearned income. IRS requires that data on taxpayer-unearned income be reported through third-party information returns so that it can verify the accuracy of taxpayers' Federal tax returns. This information is maintained in IRS' Information Return Processing File. The Tax Reform Act restricts the release of this return information.

The Congress should amend the Tax Reform Act of 1976 to permit disclosure of the IRS Information Return Processing File data on sources and amounts of unearned income to Federal, State, and local agencies administering federally funded needs-based programs. S. 2352, introduced in April 1982, included a provision based on our recommendation. Section 712 would allow disclosure of return information to officers and employees of the Federal, State, and local agency administering federally funded needs-based programs. (HRD – 82 – 9, Jan. 14, 1982)

Need To Increase Efficiency of Federal Domestic Food Assistance Programs—We recommended that, to eliminate the principal benefit gaps and duplications in Federal food assistance programs and to improve their overall coordination, the Congress should, among other things

- adopt a uniform definition of the term "needy" and establish consistent criteria and procedures for determining who is eligible for Federal food assistance and
- eliminate duplicative benefits by allowing consideration of benefits from one Federal food program when determining eligibility and benefit levels under others.

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982 (Public Law 97 – 253, Sept. 8, 1982) offers some movement toward uniformity of the term "needy." It provides that households in which all members receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children benefits and meet the Food Stamp Program's gross income test shall be deemed to have satis-

fied resource limitation requirements for food stamp eligibility. Also, a provision of S. 2480, introduced but not adopted, reflected our recommendation to eliminate duplicative benefits by proposing to reduce food stamp benefits for households having a member also receiving school lunch benefits. (CED – 78 – 113, June 13, 1978)

Increasing States' Share of the Cost of Food Stamp Program Errors—In congressional testimony in March 1982, we pointed out that a legislative change to increase States' financial responsibility for food stamp overissuances would provide them a major incentive for better administration, especially since program benefits are totally financed by the Federal Government. We concluded that under then-existing procedures, there was little hope for a quick reduction of program errors resulting in over $1 billion of overissued benefits during fiscal year 1981. We pointed out that the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program had much more stringent criteria for securing State financial participation in the cost of excessively high error rates.

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982 (Public Law 97 – 253, Sept. 8, 1982) modified existing legislation to strengthen program integrity by increasing States' financial liability for excessive program errors and thus encouraging them to lower existing error rates. Failure to meet legislated error rate goals for fiscal years 1983 through 1985 will result in a State's forfeiture of some or all of its otherwise federally reimbursable administrative costs. (GAO testimony, Mar. 24, 1982, Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing, Consumer Relations, and Nutrition, House Committee on Agriculture; Mar. 29, 1982, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; and Apr. 1, 1982, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies, Senate Committee on Appropriations)

Food Stamp Workfare Design Improved—In congresional testimony in March and April 1981, we pointed out the need to amend the workfare provision of the Food Stamp Program to

- eliminate the automatic exemptions for registrants in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Work Incentive Program, recipients of unemployment insurance benefits, and certain students and wage earners,
- eliminate mandatory job-search periods before workfare job assignments can be made, and
- strengthen the sanctions that can be imposed for noncompliance with workfare requirements.

The Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, Public Law 97 – 98, and the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982, Public Law 97 – 253, removed exemptions for unemployment insurance recipients and for certain participants in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Work Incentive Program (AFDC-WIN). Currently, administering jurisdictions do not have to exempt any AFDC-WIN participants but may do so if their work training is at least 20 hours a week. The 1981 legislation also eliminated the mandatory 30-day job-search period and strengthened the penalty for not working by increasing the food stamp benefit suspension period from 1 month to 2 months and making it applicable to the entire household rather than to only the individual responsible for completing the workfare obligation. Although several exemptions which we recommended be deleted are still in effect, the Congress has addressed many of the basic issues included in our testimonies. (GAO testimony, Mar. 19, 1981, and Mar. 30, 1981, Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing, Consumer Relations, and Nutrition, House Committee on Agriculture; and Apr. 2, 1981, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; CED – 81 – 117, July 31, 1981)

Changes to Black Lung Eligibility and Evidence Requirements—To ensure that benefits are awarded only to coal miners disabled from pneumoconiosis or to their survivors, we recommended that the Congress consider amending the black lung legislation to

- redefine black lung as coal workers' pneumoconiosis,
- eliminate the presumption of pneumoconiosis or disability due to pneumoconiosis based on years of coal mine employment,
- eliminate the use of affidavits to establish death or disability from pneumoconiosis,
- allow the Department of Labor to reread X-ray interpretations to evaluate and decide black lung claims, and
- require that medical evidence be the basis for establishing the presence of pneumoconiosis and disability due to black lung.

In our reports, we stated that legislation allowed the Social Security Administration and the Department of Labor to approve black lung claims based on conflicting or inconclusive medical evidence, affidavits from spouses and others, or presumptions based on years of coal mine employment. We believed that medical evidence should be the basis for determining disability and death from black lung and that benefits should be awarded only to miners who are totally disabled by black lung or to their survivors.

The Black Lung Benefits Revenue Act of 1981 (Public Law 97 – 119), among other things, (1) repealed three of the presumptions based on years of coal mine employment, (2) eliminated restrictions on Labor's rereading of X-rays, (3) restricted the use of affidavits, and (4) required a study of the current medical methods for the diagnosis of pneumoconiosis and of the nature and extent of impairment and disability from the disease. (HRD – 80 – 81, July 28, 1980; GAO testimony, July 28, 1981, before the Subcommittee on Oversight, House Committee on Ways and Means; HRD – 82 – 26, Jan. 19, 1982)

Amendments to the Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act Needed
We reported that (1) the unclear jurisdiction of the longshoremen's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act has resulted in much litigation and has made insurers reluctant to provide workers' compensation coverage and (2) some employers and insurance carriers had limited their liability for certain compensation payments by obtaining relief from a special fund that assumed liability for these payments. In the latter case, the Department of Labor stated that it lacked the resources to challenge claims against the fund. We recommended that the Congress

consider (1) defining the act's jurisdiction as explicitly as possible, (2) permitting the contributors to the special fund to challenge questionable claims, and (3) more clearly defining the circumstances under which the fund should assume liability for employees' compensation payments.

The Senate passed S. 1182 on July 27, 1982. This bill contains provisions that would more clearly define who is covered by the act (jurisdiction) and would establish a Special Fund Conservation Committee to protect the financial integrity of the special fund by ensuring that all distributions from the fund are made in accordance with the act. (HRD – 82 – 25, Apr. 1, 1982)

Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) Restraints and Other Reforms of Federal Employee Retirement Programs—For the past 6 years, we have urged the Congress to change provisions of the Federal retirement systems to control their costs.

We recommended that Congress adopt a policy of less than full inflation and that the Congress change the earning capacity test period for disabled retirees from 2 years to 1 year to remove economically recovered persons from the rolls more quickly.

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982 (Public Law 97 – 253, Sept. 8, 1982) enacted a series of reforms which (1) limited COLA increases for retirees under 62 years of age, (2) adopted a 1-year earnings test, (3) placed further restrictions on early retirements, and (4) increased interest rates on monies owed the funds. (FPCD – 76 – 80, July 27, 1976; FPCD – 76 – 61, Jan. 19, 1976; FPCD – 78 – 2, July 10, 1978; FPCD – 78 – 48, Aug. 15, 1979; FPCD – 81 – 18, Dec. 15, 1980; FPCD – 81 – 8, Dec. 15, 1980; FPCD – 82 – 39, Aug. 2, 1982)

International Affairs

The Roles and Functions of Overseas Security Assistance Offices Need To Be Clarified— In reviewing the activities of Department of Defense overseas Security Assistance Offices, we found that they performed a wide range of functions, some of which may not be recognized by the Foreign Assistance Act. The act listed management functions the offices were authorized to perform; however, they also engaged in activities not directly related to managing the security assistance program. We recommended that the Secretaries of State and Defense identify the roles and functions of the overseas Security Assistance Offices and recommend to the Congress changes to the act to better recognize their activities.

Both the Senate Foreign Relations and the House Foreign Affairs Committees adopted substantial revisions to the authorized functions of these offices. These changes were incorporated into section 515 of the Foreign Assistance Act by passage of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1981 (Public Law 97 – 113, Dec. 29, 1981). The new legislative language of section 515 parallels the functions for these offices as described in our report. (ID – 81 – 47, May 9, 1981)

Recouping Administrative Costs of Foreign Military Sales—The Department of Defense is unable to determine whether the surcharge on sales to foreign customers is sufficient to recover, as required by law, the full costs of administering the foreign military sales program. We recommended actions necessary for Defense to recover the full administrative costs of foreign military sales from the governments making the purchases. Because Defense disagreed with us on the definition of full cost recovery, H.R. 6370 was introduced which would amend the Arms Export Control Act to require Defense to recoup the full cost of administering the program, excluding a pro rata share of fixed-base operating costs. This bill was reported favorably by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on May 17, 1982, H.R. 97 – 547. (AFMD – 82 – 10, Feb. 2, 1982)

Reporting Waivers of Nonrecurring Costs—In September 1978, we recommended to the Congress that the Arms Export Control Act be amended to require that Defense include the values and explanations for waivers of production and research and development costs in the required notification reports on foreign military sales. The Congress has made clear its intention that the sales program should not be subsidized by Defense appropriations. The only exceptions to this are those cases where the act authorized cost waivers. We reported that the reporting of such waivers would ensure that the program is not subsidized and would strengthen congressional oversight and control.

House and Senate conferees for the 1982 Department of Defense Appropriation bill (H.R. 97 – 410) adopted the House position requiring Defense to report to the appropriations committees the reasons for and amounts waived for nonrecurring production or research, development, testing, and engineering costs on a foreign military sale when Defense believes it is in the national interest to do so. (FGMSD – 78 – 48, Sept. 26, 1978)

Underpricing in the Foreign Military Sales Program—Our office and Defense audit groups have issued over 40 reports on Defense's poor pricing practices, but the need to recover all required costs continues. We offered various recommendations to alleviate this underpricing situation, including that the Secretary of Defense seek authority from the Congress and the Office of Management and Budget to exempt foreign military sales administrative positions from personnel ceilings, thereby providing the additional positions necessary to help alleviate Defense's pricing problems. The cost of these positions would be reimbursed by foreign governments. House and Senate conferees for the 1982 Department of Defense Appropriation bill (H.R. 97 – 410) adopted the House position to exclude from personnel ceilings employees who spend more than 50 percent of their time performing foreign military sales functions for which Defense is reimbursed by a foreign customer. (AFMD – 82 – 34, May 3, 1982)

Proposed Arms Sales Legislation Should Be Subject to Arms Export Control Act—We recommended that, when the U.S. Government sells Government-furnished equipment to U.S. contractors for export, such sales should be subject to the protective provisions of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), and the sale of defense services should be restricted to those services required to install, test, and certify the equipment into a contractor's end item. These recommendations have been included in a Senate bill (S. 2920) which amends the AECA. This bill was reported favorably by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. A similar bill (H.R. 6758) passed by the House prior to completion of our analysis did not contain these provisions. (B – 208698, Sept. 2, 1982)

Improving Procedures for Leasing Defense Property to Foreign Governments—We recommended that the Congress amend 10 U.S.C. 2667 to prohibit rent-free or nominal-rent leases of defense property to foreign governments. Transfers of military equipment on this basis should be done exclusively under foreign assistance legislation.

The International Security and Development Act of 1981 (Public Law 97 – 113, Dec. 29, 1981) added Chapter 6, "Leases of Defense Articles," to the Arms Export Control Act. The act authorized the President to lease defense articles to foreign governments and removed the prior authority for leases by the military departments under 10 U.S.C. 2667. It requires full reimbursement to the United States of all costs incurred for leases under chapter 6 except when a lease is for cooperative research or development, military exercises, communication or electronics interface projects, or when the article leased has passed three-quarters of its normal service life. The new law established a 5-year limit on the duration of leases and requires congressional notification of all leases at least 30 days prior to execution or renewal of a lease having a duration of 1 year or more. Furthermore, leases of at least 1 year duration of major defense equipment valued at $14 million or more and defense articles valued at $50 million or more are subject to congressional disapproval, except when the lease is to a NATO country, Japan, Australia, or New Zealand. (ID – 81 – 36, Apr. 27, 1981)

National Defense

Oversight of Cost Growth in Major Defense Programs—The Chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services, asked us to examine the unit cost reports submitted under Public Law 97 – 86, section 917, and to study improvements to the Selected Acquisition Reporting (SAR) system. In a May 10, 1982, report, we suggested that unit cost reports be substituted for the March, June, and September SARs. We stated that this same suggestion has been proposed by the Congressional Budget Office and others.

The Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1983 (Public Law 97 – 252, Sept. 8, 1982) amended the SAR legislation, reducing the frequency of the SAR to an annual report. The legislation would make permanent the requirements for unit cost reports. (GAO/MASAD – 82 – 36, May 10, 1982)

Suspending the Sale of Stockpile Silver Pending a Redetermination That It Is Excess—The United States maintains a National Defense Stockpile of materials to avoid military setbacks and economic damage in wartime. In 1976 and again in 1980, the Federal Emergency Management Agency determined that the supply of silver from domestic production and reliable imports exceeded the estimated quantity required to sustain the United States in the event of a national emergency and concluded that the 139.5 million troy ounces of silver in the stockpile were not needed for national defense. The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, Public Law 97 – 35, authorized the disposal of 105.1 million troy ounces, or about 75 percent of the stockpile silver, in fiscal years 1982 through 1984.

On October 15, 1981, we briefed the staff of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources concerning the results of our work which indicated that (1) the factors used to establish a zero silver stockpile goal have changed, (2) congressional goals have not been met, and (3) a bullion coinage program appears to be a viable disposal alternative. At the Committee Chairman's request, we drafted legislation to suspend the disposal pending a redetermination that the silver to be disposed of is excess to stockpile requirements and pending consideration of alternative disposal methods.

On December 3, 1981, the Chairman introduced an amendment to the fiscal year 1982 Defense Appropriations Act, suspending the disposal pending a July 1, 1982, redetermination that the silver to be disposed of is excess to stockpile requirements. In making such a determination, the President is mandated to consider certain factors, including the findings and recommendations in our January 11, 1982, report, "National Defense-Related Silver Needs Should Be Reevaluated and Alternative Disposal Methods Explored" as well as additional factors included in our briefing and draft legislation.

On December 29, 1981, the fiscal year 1982 Defense Appropriations Act, Public Law 97 – 114, suspending the disposal and requiring congressional approval of any proposed disposal method, was signed by the President. (EMD – 82 – 24, Jan. 11, 1982)

Disposing of Stockpile Silver by Minting Coins May Better Meet Congressional Goals— Silver in the National Defense Stockpile was being disposed of by holding weekly auctions. While the auctions were expedient and complied with applicable competitive procedures, they had not met congressional goals to minimize or eliminate any short-term market price disruption or assure that the disposal is for domestic consumption. Further, they did not make the silver available to most American families. Moreover, the disposal may not have maximized revenues to acquire other strategic and critical materials.

Because the weekly auctions had not met all the goals of the Congress, we explored alternative methods to dispose of the stockpile silver. One—a bullion coinage program—appeared to be an attractive alternative. Effectively implemented, it may (1) increase Federal revenues to acquire other strategic and critical materials over selling the silver at auction, (2) minimize or eliminate any short-term market price disruption, (3) better assure that the disposal is made for domestic consumption, and (4) make the silver available to more American families.

Based on our conclusion and recommendation, S. 2598, introduced on May 27, 1982, requires that any excess stockpile silver be sold through the minting and distribution of silver-bearing coins. The legislation was pending as of September 30, 1982. (EMD-82-24, Jan. 11, 1982)

Alternatives to the Northern Mariana Islands Land Lease—The Defense Department requested $35 million to pay a long-term lease for land in the Northern Mariana Islands. At the request of the House Appropriations Committee, we looked at the justification for the payment and found that Defense could not document a need for most of the land. We outlined some alternatives that would save the U.S. Government money and still meet the limited military needs. In addition, our suggested approach would make more land available in the Marianas for badly needed commercial development. The Committee deleted the full $35 million from the Military Construction Appropriation bill (H.R. 6968), and the full House passed the bill in that form. Senate action on the request included the full $35 million for the lease. The Senate-House Conference agreed to fund $33 million for this request. (ID-82-55, Aug. 19, 1982)

Legislation on Sizing Military Medical Facilities Needed—The three military services are required to limit the size of new hospitals and clinics to that needed for active-duty members and their dependents. Additional capacity, normally not exceeding 5 or 10 percent, may be added to meet training and teaching requirements. This additional capacity is the only space provided to meet the needs of retirees and their dependents in new or replacement facilities. Eligible beneficiaries not accommodated in military facilities can receive care from civilian providers, on a reimbursable basis, through the Civilian Health and Medical Programs of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS).

Studies have shown that the current limitation on the space allowed for retirees and their dependents may not lead to the most cost-effective size options available. In fact, strong evidence exists that treatment for retirees and their dependents within military facilities may, in some cases, be more cost effective. We therefore recommended legislation that could allow the Department of Defense flexibility in planning space requirements in new or replacement facilities. Specifically, we recommended that the sizing of military medical facilities be based on cost effectiveness, projected staff availability, realistic workload projections, and teaching and training requirements.

Three bills (H.R. 3278, H.R. 3017, and S. 2834), introduced in the 97th Congress, would provide Defense with the flexibility we recommended. H.R. 3278, which would permit sizing based on the four considerations we recommended, was passed as amended by the House of Representatives on September 28, 1982, and by the Senate on October 1, 1982. (HRD-81-24, Dec. 17, 1980)

Sharing of Federal Medical Resources—We previously reported that opportunities existed for better use of Federal medical resources through interagency sharing. However, legislative and administrative obstacles have prevented the effective use of these resources. We also reported on the Department of Defense (DOD) civilian-military contingency hospital system, established to treat returning battlefield casualties because DOD had insufficient resources of its own. The system relied, in part, on support from the Veterans Administration (VA) health care system which, in VA's opinion, it could not provide without modifications to its legislative authority and responsibilities. In both instances, we recommended that the Congress enact needed legislation.

On May 4, 1982, the Veterans Administration and Department of Defense Health Resources Sharing and Emergency Operation Act (Public Law 97-174) was enacted. The purpose of the legislation is to promote greater sharing of health-care resources between VA and DOD and to direct the heads of these two agencies to plan for the provision of health care by VA to active duty members of the armed forces during periods of war or national emergency. Thus, this act provides the needed legislation identified in both of the above reports. (HRD-78-54, June 14, 1978; HRD-80-76, June 26, 1980)

Natural Resources and Environment

Reforming Interest Provisions in Federal Water Laws—Federal water laws generally require that, when water projects are completed and water is delivered, water users who receive irrigation water must repay their share of construction costs. However, reclamation law does not require repayment of interest on irrigation costs. Because construction costs and interest rates have risen and repayment periods are longer, we suggested that the Congress take a fresh look at the interest-free subsidy in deciding future project authorizations. Also, as debates on the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 proceeded, we briefed numerous congressional committees and helped draft a specific interest rate calculation provision for use in repayment charges for irrigation water deliveries.

H.R. 5539, passed by the House on May 6, 1982, and S. 1867, reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on April 29, 1982, contained full cost interest rate provisions to be applied to selected irrigation water users. (GAO/CED – 82 – 3, Oct. 22, 1981)

Establishing a Great Lakes Research Office—There are many uncertainties regarding the source, extent, and effect of various pollutants in the Great Lakes. Efforts to address these issues have either not been undertaken or not coordinated among the various participants. We recommended that Congress pass legislation currently pending which would establish a Great Lakes research office within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. On August 17, 1982, the House passed H.R. 6324, a bill which would establish such a research office. (GAO/CED – 82 – 63, May 21, 1982)

Improving the Coastal Discharge Waiver Program—Many communities were discouraged from applying for ocean discharge waivers, which could save billions in wastewater treatment construction and operation costs, because of legislative constraints and restrictive Environmental Protection Agency regulations. We recommended that the Congress

- eliminate the requirement that treatment facilities have an existing marine outfall to qualify for a waiver,
- indicate that the waiver provision is not intended to preclude communities already achieving secondary treatment from obtaining waivers where primary treatment is both cost effective and environmentally sound, and
- remove the statutory deadline for filing waiver applications and provide for a continuous waiver process.

The Municipal Treatment Construction Grant Amendments of 1981, Public Law 97 – 117, contained language adopting the first two recommendations; the amendments also reopened the statutory deadline for filing waiver applications for a 1-year period. (CED – 81 – 68, May 22, 1981)

Better Accountability in Constructing Wastewater Treatment Plants—To reduce treatment plant performance problems in the construction grants program, we recommended that the Congress require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to test alternatives to the current program. These alternatives included (1) using turnkey contracts, (2) becoming a signatory to the contracts, and (3) assuming an advisory role.

The Municipal Treatment Construction Grants Amendments of 1981, Public Law 97 – 117, require that the plant's architect/engineer make certain the treatment plant operates properly and help train operating personnel for 1 year after completing construction. Further, the owner and operator of the treatment plant must certify to the Administrator that the plant meets design specifications and effluent limitations and, if the plant does not, corrections must be made at other than Federal expense. These requirements implement the salient features of the turnkey concept. (CED – 81 – 9, Nov. 14, 1980)

Strengthening the Federal Indoor Air Pollution Control Program—Research shows that some pollutants exist in indoor air in concentrations greater than allowed in outdoor air. The problem of indoor air pollution may be further increased by efforts to "button up" buildings for energy conservation.

We found that Federal efforts to identify and deal with the problem were largely uncoordinated. We recommended that the Congress amend the Clean Air Act to provide the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the authority to address the problem.

In May 1982, the House passed H.R. 6323, which required that EPA conduct research on indoor air pollution and coordinate Federal, State, and local research on the subject. The bill authorizes $4 million in fiscal year 1983 for this endeavor. (CED – 80 – 111, Sept. 24, 1980)

Creation of a New Federal Land Acquisition and Conservation Policy—A number of our reports on Federal land acquisition and natural resources management were used by the President's transition team to formulate his economic recovery plan for the natural resource areas, which set the stage for a new Federal land acquisition and conservation policy.

To bring the budget under control and make additional funds available for restoration and improvement of the National Park System, the President's plan proposed to refocus substantially the Department of the Interior's conservation and preservation programs. In commenting on the President's economic recovery plan, we agreed with the President's proposed (1) moratorium on Federal land purchases, (2) elimination of the State recreation grant program, and (3) use of the Land and Water Conservation Fund for restoration and improvement of the existing National Park System.

In congressional testimony on May 7, 1981, the Secretary of the Interior cited our reports to support Interior's position in calling for a moratorium on land acquisition funds. For fiscal year 1982, the Congress reduced the budget request for Federal land acquisition by $253 million. On June 22, 1981, just prior to the House Committee on Appropri-

ations' consideration of fiscal year 1982 funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Director, Office of Management and Budget, sent a letter to committee members referring them to our reports and urging them to reject State assistance for acquiring parks. A joint House and Senate conference committee responded by reducing State assistance by about $338 million. When this amount is added to the $253 million reduction for land acquisition by Federal programs, the 1982 fiscal year budget estimate of $740 million was reduced by a total of $591 million.

This reduction was incorporated into Public Law 97 – 100, which was signed by the President on December 23, 1981. (CED – 78 – 96, May 22, 1978; CED – 80 – 14, Dec. 14, 1979; CED – 80 – 23, Nov. 1, 1979; CED – 80 – 115, Oct. 10, 1980; CED – 81 – 10, Jan. 22, 1981; CED – 81 – 32, Apr. 22, 1981; CED – 81 – 78, May 8, 1981; CED – 81 – 107, Aug. 24, 1981; CED – 81 – 135, Sept. 11, 1981)

Transportation

Deteriorating Highways and Lagging Revenue—The condition of the Nation's highways is declining, with the Interstate System showing the most serious decline. Billions of dollars will be needed to preserve these roads. The increasing cost to complete the Interstate System and to continue other highway programs will cost additional billions. The mounting cost of highway construction and maintenance and lagging State and Federal revenues are compounding these problems.

We recommended that the Congress reassess the Federal highway program, giving consideration to priority needs and funding levels. The Congress should address, among other things, priority funding for preserving existing roads, with emphasis on the Interstate System and assessing the goal of completing the Interstate System as currently defined.

The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1981, Public Law 97 – 134, December 29, 1981, expanded the Interstate resurfacing, restoration, and rehabilitation program by including reconstruction and by increasing funding for this preservation work. The act also limited Interstate completion work to construction necessary to provide a minimum level of acceptable service. This provision substantially reduced the estimated completion cost and should enable an earlier completion of the system. The eligible costs deleted from Interstate construction would become eligible under the expanded Interstate preservation program.

H.R. 6211, the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, would further increase the funding for Interstate preservation and would revise the fund allocation formula to channel more funds to the heavily traveled Interstate routes. This bill would also increase funding for the primary and secondary systems. This bill was reported favorably by the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation on May 17, 1982, H. R. 97 – 555. (CED – 81 – 42, Mar. 5, 1981)

Improving the Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program—We reported that program funds are being allocated to the States based on outdated and incomplete needs data. The 1978 Surface Transportation Assistance Act, which established the allocation factors, did not provide for annual updates to reflect current needs and to include bridges off the Federal-aid highway system.

In addition to the funds allocated to the States, $200 million of each year's authorization for the program is designated for high-cost bridges to be selected at the discretion of the Secretary of Transportation. We pointed out the Secretary was selecting bridges in relatively good condition when other eligible bridges were in worse condition.

We recommended that the Congress have the Secretary of Transportation use the latest available needs data, including off-system bridge data, to annually revise the allocations to the States. We also recommended that the Congress consider allowing the States greater flexibility to address severe off-system bridge problems. We recommended that the Secretary develop a formal selection process for discretionary projects, properly weighing such factors as costs, benefits, and structural and safety conditions.

S. 2574 requires allocations to the States to be made using the latest available data, including off-system bridges, which is to be updated annually. It also gives the States greater flexibility by eliminating the 35-percent ceiling for the amount of their allocated funds that can be used for off-system bridges. In addition, the bill requires the Secretary of Transportation to develop a formal selection process for discretionary projects, considering costs, benefits, structural and safety conditions, and other factors. The bill was reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on May 26, 1982, S. Rept. No. 97 – 421. (CED – 81 – 126, Aug. 11, 1981)

Termination of Federal Ownership and Operation of the Alaska Railroad—In February 1982, we reported that the factors leading to the Federal Government's ownership and operation of the Alaska Railroad have changed considerably, and the Federal role is no longer justified. Thus, we recommended that the Congress enact legislation leading to termination of the Federal Government's ownership and operation of the Alaska Railroad.

We pointed out that the Congress will have to decide, in addition to determining whether to end the Federal role in the Railroad, whether to give the Railroad away or sell it; how a selling price will be determined if it is to be sold; whether to emphasize State or private ownership and/or operation; and how such emphasis is to be made.

As of September 8, 1982, two bills, S. 1500 and H.R. 6308, have been introduced, both of which would transfer Federal ownership of the Railroad to the State of Alaska. S. 1500 would transfer the Railroad at no cost; H.R. 6308 would transfer the Railroad at 75 percent of the Railroad's net liquidation value. In late August 1982, H.R. 6308 was passed by the House. S. 1500 was favorably reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transporation on June 22, 1982, S. Rept. No. 97-479. (GAO/CED- 82-9, Feb. 25, 1982)

Federal Funding Proposed for Privately Owned Reliever Airports—Many major U.S. airports have peak, congested periods when air traffic exceeds runway capacity and causes aircraft delays. In 1977, these delays detained and inconvenienced the traveling public, caused the airlines to use an additional 700 million gallons of fuel, and cost the airlines over $800 million.

We recommended that the Congress amend section 207 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 to direct the Secretary of Transportation to use peak surcharges and/or quotas to reduce aircraft delays at congested major U.S. airports. If peak surcharges or quotas were used to divert general aviation from major airports, the development and continued operation of privately owned relievers would be even more necessary. We also recommended that the Congress amend section 14(a) and 15(a) of the Airport and Airway Development Act of 1970 to make privately owned reliever airports eligible for Federal funds.

Title V of Public Law 97-248, September 3, 1982, authorizes funding for airport and airway improvement programs through fiscal year 1987. The act provides that airport development and planning funds may be used under certain conditions at privately owned reliever airports. (CED-79-103, Sept. 4, 1979)

Increased Efficiency and Reduced Costs in the Ocean Liner Shipping Industry—On July 2, 1982, we reported that the current regulation of the U.S. ocean liner shipping industry by the Federal Maritime Commission has led to inefficiencies and higher costs. Although we found no evidence to support the claim that the viability of the U.S. Merchant Marine is threatened, we analyzed two options that the Congress should consider in revising the Shipping Act of 1916.

We recommended that the Congress consider either increasing or decreasing the level of antitrust immunity granted to liner operators. Although we make no recommendation about which option is preferable, we stated that the probable effects of increasing antitrust immunity will be an increase in rates, a decrease in costs, and a lessening of diplomatic tensions with our trade partners. We also stated that the probable effects of decreasing antitrust immunity will be a decrease in both rates and costs, but an increase in diplomatic tensions. Other matters we asked the Congress to consider were (1) that if it does choose to increase antitrust immunity, that it also allow U.S. shippers to form shippers' councils to safeguard their interests and (2) that it consider changing current regulations to enable U.S. carriers to more easily form consortia to facilitate financing new vessels.

H.R. 4374, a bill to improve the international ocean liner commerce transportation system of the United States, passed by the House on Sept. 15, 1982, embodied our recommendations concerning shippers' councils and consortia to facilitate financing new vessels.

S. 1593, a bill to revise the regulation of international liner shipping operating in the United States' foreign commerce, was reported out of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. It also embodies our recommendations concerning shippers' councils and consortia to facilitate financing new vessels. (PAD-82-11, July 2, 1982)

Veterans Benefits and Services

Strengthening VA's Debt Collection—The Veterans Administration (VA) has had serious problems collecting educational assistance overpayments and other debts from veterans. The amount of educational assistance overpayments on which VA terminated collection action grew from about $10 million in June 1975 to $198 million in June 1980. Most veterans with delinquent overpayment accounts appeared able to repay these debts.

We recommended a number of actions that VA could take to strengthen its debt collection efforts without legislative action. We also recommended that the Congress

- monitor VA's collection activities to ensure prompt and effective implementation of the debt collection provisions of Public Law 96-466,
- enact legislation to amend 5 U.S.C. 5514(a) to permit involuntary collection of general Government debts from the current salary of Federal employees, and
- enact legislation to specify that the 6-year statute of limitations contained in 28 U.S.C. 2415 applies only to court action by the Government, and that it does not include administrative collection actions by Federal agencies.

S. 1249 provides (1) for the involuntary offset of debts owed the Federal Government from Federal employees' salaries, (2) that the 6-year statute of limitations does not prevent the collection of amounts due the Government by administrative offset, and (3) for reporting of Federal agencies' debt collection activities to the Congress.

On September 28, 1982, the Senate passed S. 1249 as a substitute for H.R. 4613. (HRD-81-5, Feb. 13, 1981)

Open Legislative Recommendations Made During the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1982

Commerce and Housing Credit

To make Federal credit assistance programs more consistent with fiscal and monetary policy, the Congress should consider adding to its present efforts to control Federal credit assistance flows a mechanism for controlling Federal loan programs that will support Federal economic stabilization goals. (PAD – 82 – 22, Oct. 21, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs**
Budget
House: **Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs**
Budget
Joint: **Economic Committee**

Community and Regional Development

If enterprise zone legislation is enacted, the Congress should require the administering Federal agency to establish program effectiveness criteria supported by a systematic data collection and evaluation effort to analyze the benefits and costs of the program. (GAO/CED – 82 – 78, July 15, 1982)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Finance**
House: **Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs**
Judiciary
Ways and Means

The Congress should consider whether to continue providing Federal flood insurance for new or substantially improved structures in high-hazard areas of coastal and barrier island communities participating in the flood insurance program. The basic question is this: Does the Congress wish to have potential losses relating to new or substantially improved construction borne solely by those continuing to build or buy in these hazardous areas, or will it continue to have the Federal Government share in the potential losses? Any action by the Congress to deny flood insurance must also include difficult choices of retaining or denying the advantages, disadvantages, and consequences of other Federal financial assistance, disaster relief, and tax benefits, because denying only flood insurance on new construction and improvements in high-hazard areas will not eliminate other forms of Federal relief. Consequently, the Federal Government and potential victims of natural disasters would continue to share risks in high-hazard areas. (GAO/CED – 82 – 105, Aug. 16, 1982)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs**
House: **Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs**

To assess adequately the capability of State and local governments to handle their own disasters, the Congress should direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency to (1) prepare a comprehensive analysis of the effect of potential State inequities on Federal disaster assistance and (2) submit to the Congress a detailed plan and legislative changes to correct such weaknesses. (GAO/CED – 82 – 4, Dec. 7, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Environment and Public Works**
House: **Public Works and Transportation**

Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services

The Congress should amend the Control of Paperwork Amendments of 1978 to limit the Department of Education's review and coordination authority to Department of Education information collection requests. (GAO/GGD – 82 – 28, May 26, 1982)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Labor and Human Relations**
House: **Education and Labor**

When the Congress deliberates on proposed legislation designed to strengthen audit oversight of existing and future block grant programs, it should consider

- expanding audit provisions contained in the cross-cutting legislation to include all block grants, under the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act,
- making GAO's *Standards for Audit of Governmental Organizations, Programs, Activities and Functions* mandatory for audits of block grant programs performed by State, local, and independent public accounting auditors,
- requiring the establishment of an audit quality-review process at the Federal level, and
- including subrecipients under the audit requirements of the proposed amendments to cross-cutting legislation, and clarifying the definition of subrecipients to include purchase-of-service contractors. (AFMD – 82 – 25, Nov. 13, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Governmental Affairs**
House: **Government Operations**

The Congress should amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act to

- eliminate the requirement that Employee Benefit Plans routinely file copies of plan summaries with the Department of Labor,
- require the Plans to provide Labor with copies of plan summaries at Labor's request, and
- require Labor to obtain, on behalf of Plan participants and others, copies of plan summaries from the Plans when so requested.

(HRD – 82 – 12, Oct. 19, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Finance**
Labor and Human Resources
House: **Education and Labor**
Ways and Means

Energy

The Congress should designate the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) as the lead Federal agency for developing and monitoring the implementation of a national policy

for decommissioning nuclear facilities and sites. The Congress should also ensure that the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense provide assistance and input to NRC in developing this policy. Pending such a designation by the Congress, we believe that each Federal agency responsible for handling or licensing radioactive materials and facilities should act to strengthen its decommissioning program. (EMD – 82 – 40, May 25, 1982)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Energy and Natural Resources**
Environment and Public Works

House: **Interior and Insular Affairs**
Science and Technology

General Government

If the Congress wants to ensure the establishment of the Federal Information Locator System (FILS), it should amend the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) appropriation to provide specific funding for the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs' paperwork reduction and related information management activities. The Paperwork Reduction Act authorization requires that a sum be appropriated "to carry out the provisions of this chapter, and for no other purpose." The appropriation for OMB could be amended to more fully reflect the spirit of the Paperwork Reduction Act authorization language and to better ensure allocation of resources for establishment and operation of FILS. (GAO/GGD – 82 – 76, June 17, 1982)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Appropriations**
Governmental Affairs

House: **Appropriations**
Government Operations

To increase congressional oversight on space utilization and to enable the Congress to determine the reasons for agencies' increases in rental payments to the General Services Administration, the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations should require agencies to disclose in their budget requests to the Congress information on space usage and costs. (PLRD – 82 – 18, Dec. 11, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Appropriations**
Environment and Public Works

House: **Appropriations**
Public Works and Transportation

The Congress, in its current deliberations on the need to authorize an existing Federal agency to investigate structural failures, should provide that such an agency have the specific responsibility for the total Federal investigative effort whenever a major accident occurs on Federal and federally assisted construction projects. This authority should provide for the agency to conduct independent investigations of both the technical causes and systematic aspects of accidents. (GAO/CED – 82 – 120, Sept. 2, 1982)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Appropriations**
Commerce, Science and Transportation
Environment and Public Works

House: **Appropriations**
Public Works and Transportation
Science and Technology

In replacing lost and forged checks, the Treasury Department is making duplicate payments despite laws prohibiting them, and payments to forgery victims are not charged to the proper fund. If the Congress decides that the Treasury should continue its current procedures in issuing and paying substitute checks, the Congress should amend the law to permit the procedure and appropriate the funds to absorb the payments.

The Congress should also

- authorize the Treasury to charge *all* payments resulting from check forgeries to the Check Forgery Insurance Fund and
- provide the appropriations necessary for the fund's operation. The primary options for providing the resources are to (1) increase the fund's existing appropriation or (2) authorize a permanent indefinite appropriation for the fund. (AFMD – 81 – 68, Oct. 1, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Governmental Affairs**

House: **Government Operations**

To streamline the bank merger process, the Congress should amend the Bank Merger Act and the Bank Holding Company Act. These amendments would change the way bank regulators handle what is termed the "phantom merger" process, change the periods of comment on certain kinds of mergers, and alter the agencies' assessments of competitive effects of mergers. (GAO/GGD – 82 – 53, Aug. 16, 1982)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs**

House: **Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs**

The Congress should reduce unnecessary or duplicative reporting by commercial banks on loans to executive officers and shareholders by

- amending title IX of the Financial Institutions Regulatory and Interest Rate Control Act and the Federal Reserve Act or
- amending only the Federal Reserve Act.

The former would reduce the total reporting and place reliance on discovery of transactions through bank examinations. The latter would simply eliminate duplication. (GGD – 82 – 21, Feb. 26, 1982)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs**

House: **Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs**

The Congress could safely reduce the amount of Federal reviews of intrastate branching applications by amending the Federal Reserve Act and the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to replace the broad review requirement. Reviews of intrastate branches should be on an exception basis. The Congress should also differentiate between staffed branches and automated remote service facilities by amending the McFadden Act and

another section of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act. These two types of facilities have a much different effect on banking services and competition. (GGD – 82 – 31, Feb. 24, 1982)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs**
House: **Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs**

General Purpose Fiscal Assistance

The Congress should amend the State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act of 1972, as amended, to eliminate the tiering procedure, thereby making general revenue sharing allocations within States directly to all units of local government based on the three factors of population, relative income, and tax effort. (GGD – 82 – 46, Apr. 15, 1982)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Finance**
House: **Government Operations**

Income Security

The Congress should enact legislation requiring that the CPI – U (index for all urban residents) be used instead of the CPI – W (index for urban wage earners and clerical workers) to compute cost-of-living adjustments for federally administered retirement programs, such as social security, civil service, and military. CPI – U is a more precise measure of inflation than CPI – W. (GGD – 81 – 41, June 1, 1982)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Finance**
Governmental Affairs
House: **Post Office and Civil Service**
Ways and Means

Legislation is needed to ensure that cost-of-living increases in Federal programs will be considered on a more timely basis in computing Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. Section 1611 of the Social Security Act should be amended to require that the Secretary of Health and Human Services, under the retrospective accounting method, take into consideration, in the month in which they occur, Social Security cost-of-living increases and other similar Federal program benefit increases in determining SSI benefits. (HRD – 82 – 52, Mar. 26, 1982)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Appropriations**
Finance
House: **Appropriations**
Ways and Means

The Congress should

- amend the Federal Unemployment Tax Act to require that all States collect individual wage information on a quarterly basis for use in their unemployment insurance programs and in federally funded needs-based programs,
- delete section 303(d) of the Social Security Act so that State wage data is not restricted solely to the program for which it is obtained,
- amend the Tax Reform Act of 1976 to permit disclosure of data on individual wages, net earnings from self-employment, and payments of retirement income maintained by the Social Security Administration to Federal, State, and local agencies administering any federally funded needs-based programs, whenever comparable data are not available at the State level, and
- require that social security numbers be obtained for applicants and recipients of all federally funded needs-based programs.

(HRD – 82 – 9, Jan. 14, 1982)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry**
Appropriations
Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
Finance
House: **Agriculture**
Appropriations
Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs
Energy and Commerce
Ways and Means

The Congress should amend the Social Security Act to eliminate the currently insured benefit provision because it is irrelevant and inequitable in today's environment. Discontinuing the provision will not affect survivors now receiving benefits and could save the trust fund about $180 million through 1990. (HRD – 82 – 51, Apr. 23, 1982)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Finance**
House: **Ways and Means**

International Affairs

The Congress should amend the Export Administration Act to have the Department of Defense make the initial recommendation on export applications that must be forwarded to Defense and have the Department of Commerce limit its review on these applications to those that Defense recommends denying or approving with conditions. (ID – 82 – 14, May 26, 1982)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs**
House: **Foreign Affairs**

The Congress should amend the Arms Export Control Act to require advance notice by the executive branch when "cash flow" financing is to be authorized to fund foreign military sales for selected countries. This would help ensure full disclosure and consideration of this significant foreign policy decision. (ID – 82 – 15, Feb. 15, 1982)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Foreign Relations**
House: **Foreign Affairs**

The Congress should amend the Arms Export Control Act to require that all sales from Department of Defense inventories reflect the cost of normal inventory losses. This amendment would ensure that all foreign governments are treated equitably and that all indirect costs are properly charged under the foreign military sales program. (AFMD – 81 – 105, Oct. 5, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Armed Services**
House: **Armed Services**

National Defense

The Congress should not approve a permanent educational assistance program until the Department of Defense has performed a comprehensive test to determine the most cost-effective mix of recruiting incentives needed to attract the necessary quantity and quality of enlistees.

The Congress should enact legislation which would

- authorize selected educational assistance benefits for the period of the test (these benefits could be similar to those provided under the Educational Assistance Test Program);
- task the Secretary of Defense with expanding the scope of the bonus test program to measure the relative cost effectiveness of bonuses and other incentives and management prerogatives, including, but not limited to, educational assistance benefits, proficiency pay, increased recruiting resources, and increased advertising;
- task the Secretary of Defense with (1) conducting the test in a controlled environment, (2) developing an implementation evaluation plan, and (3) to the extent possible, preventing the reoccurrence of the problems encountered in the Education Assistance Test Program. (FPCD – 82 – 12, Jan. 26, 1982)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Appropriations**
Armed Services
Veterans' Affairs
House: **Appropriations**
Armed Services
Veterans' Affairs

The Congress should amend 37 U.S.C. 301b to

- extend the authorization of the aviation officer continuation bonus program to December 30, 1984, and to define eligibility to include all of an aviator's active duty service, and
- require the Secretary of the Navy to develop new bonus implementing procedures which would (1) target the bonus to specific aviation specialties where there are, and continue to be, critical shortages of aviators, and (2) limit the application of the bonus to those years of service where retention has been a problem. (FPCD – 82 – 56, Aug. 9, 1982)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Appropriations**
Armed Services
House: **Appropriations**
Armed Services

The Congress should repeal the 1-year "lookback" retirement provision authorized in 10 U. S. C. 1401a(e). This provision has outlived its initial purpose and could serve as a disincentive to retention beyond 20 years of service. (FPCD – 82 – 38, Aug. 20, 1982)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Armed Services**
House: **Armed Services**

Natural Resources and Environment

To ensure that municipal and industrial water users fully repay their share of interest costs, the Congress should require the Secretaries of the Army and Interior to

- use interest rates (developed by the U.S. Treasury) for computing interest during construction and interest on the unpaid balance that more appropriately reflect the Treasury's cost of borrowing funds,
- compute interest during construction using the interest rates (as developed in the preceding recommendation) in effect during each year construction funds are spent, and
- compute interest during construction on a compound rather than a simple interest basis. (GAO/CED – 82 – 3, Oct. 22, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Environment and Public Works**
House: **Public Works and Transportation**

The Congress, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, should determine (1) whether the 1978 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement objectives and commitments are overly ambitious and (2) whether sufficient funding to meet agreement objectives and commitments can be provided, given current economic conditions. (GAO/CED – 82 – 63, May 21, 1982)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Environment and Public Works**
Foreign Relations
House: **Foreign Affairs**
Public Works and Transportation

The Congress should amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to place more emphasis on a cost-benefit approach to funding advanced wastewater treatment projects. (GGD – 82 – 7, Jan. 6, 1982)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Environment and Public Works**
House: **Public Works and Transportation**

Millions of dollars in Federal construction grant funds could be saved by applying current regulations—which restrict the size of plants and ultimately the cost to construct them—to treatment plants that were planned under old regulations but are not yet built. The Congress should direct the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, to modify the agency's current policy prohibiting retroactive applications of program regulations. (GAO/CED – 82 – 82, July 8, 1982)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Environment and Public Works**
House: **Public Works and Transportation**

The Congress should consider whether the Federal Government will further participate in treatment plant replacement. If it should decide that State and/or local governments are to be held responsible, these governments must be made aware of this requirement so that they can begin planning for such future expenditures. (GAO/CED – 82 – 1, Dec. 2, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Environment and Public Works**
House: **Public Works and Transportation**

Transportation

In considering future revisions to the Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982, the Congress may want to require airport owners to provide greater assurances that funds for maintenance will be available and provided when needed. Such assurances could take the form of the requirement that a trust fund or similar dedicated funding source be established by the owners, or possibly the owner could be required to obtain a bond or similar guarantee that maintenance will be performed. The Congress also may want to provide financial aid for maintenance at small airports. (GAO/CED – 82 – 104, Sept. 13, 1982)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Commerce, Science and Transportation**
House: **Public Works and Transportation**

If the Congress decides to authorize continued funding of operating costs under the section 18 program, it should clearly state whether or not it intends that the funding of operating costs should be carried out in a way that precludes substitution.

In addition, if the Congress believes that Federal funding of project administrative costs should be consistent with the program of grants to urbanized areas, it should amend section 18 of the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended. Revised legislation should state that all eligible noncapital costs be classified as operating costs and subject to the 50-percent of net operating cost limitation. (GAO/CED – 82 – 24, May 28, 1982)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs**
Environment and Public Works
House: **Public Works and Transportation**

To improve the competitive position of subsidized U.S.-flag vessel operators, the Congress should amend the Merchant Marine Act of 1936 to extend and clarify the Secretary of Transportation's authority to allow subsidized operators to build vessels overseas. The Congress should require the Secretary, in permitting overseas building, to consider certain factors, such as vessel delivery dates, the availability of construction subsidy funds, and the effect of overseas building on the U.S. shipbuilding base. In revising the 1936 act, the Congress should consider the propriety of using such vessels in domestic trade and the role of other financial assistance programs in aiding the operator to build these vessels. Further, the Congress should consider revising U.S. policies for promoting the U.S. ship repair industry with the objective of making them more equitable to U.S.-flag operators. (GAO/CED – 82 – 2, Nov. 30, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Commerce, Science and Transportation**
House: **Merchant Marine and Fisheries**

Veterans Benefits and Services

To shorten the design and construction process for Veterans Administration (VA) medical facilities, the Congress should amend the definition of construction in 38 U.S.C. 5001(2) to allow VA to extend its Advanced Planning Fund to include final design work. (HRD – 82 – 49, June 4, 1982)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Veterans' Affairs**
House: **Veterans' Affairs**

The Congress should consider amending 38 U.S.C. 3203 to extend the pension reduction criteria to cover care being furnished in State veterans homes and authorize the Veterans Administration to transfer the money withheld to the States to help pay for the veterans' care. (HRD – 82 – 8, Oct. 22, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Veterans' Affairs**
House: **Veterans' Affairs**

The Congress should amend 38 U.S.C. 3202 to prevent relatives other than spouses, children, and dependent parents from inheriting estates of mentally incompetent veterans. (HRD – 82 – 1, Feb. 10, 1982)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Veterans' Affairs**
House: **Veterans' Affairs**

Open Legislative Recommendations from Prior Years

Administration of Justice

The Congress should amend the Speedy Trial Act of 1974 (Public Law 93 – 619) to clarify

- how and under what circumstances preindictment dismissals followed by an indictment affect the Interval I time limit,
- the starting date for Interval II,
- the 30 – day minimum period before trial, and
- whether dismissal waivers in advance of the expiration of the time limits are allowable and, if not, their effect on other provisions of the act. (GGD – 81 – 1, Nov. 18, 1980)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Judiciary**
House: **Judiciary**

The Congress should amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to provide that the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission may initiate litigation on a charge against a State or local government if the Department of Justice decides not to sue within a specified time. (HRD – 81 – 29, Apr. 9, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Labor and Human Resources**
House: **Education and Labor**

The Congress should strike the reference to $5,000 from 18 U.S.C. 2314 so that Federal jurisdiction can be directed to those quality offenses where an expenditure of Federal resources would have the most effect

on the Nation's property crime problem. This would bring interstate transportation of stolen property violations in line with other property statutes in not requiring a monetary standard for determining Federal jurisdiction. (GGD – 80 – 43, May 8, 1980)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Judiciary**
House: **Judiciary**

The Congress should enact legislation to
- authorize the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, the Army, and the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority to designate employees to maintain law and order and protect persons and property on Federal lands,
- authorize appropriate Federal officials to carry firearms, secure and execute needed Federal orders, conduct investigations, and make warrantless arrests in certain cases,
- apply certain Federal criminal statutes to land administered by Federal agencies,
- make appropriate authorizations resulting in placing such land in a concurrent jurisdiction status, and
- authorize appropriate Federal officials to cooperate with any State in the enforcement of State laws by appropriately reimbursing such States. (GGD – 77 – 28, June 21, 1977)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Judiciary**
House: **Judiciary**

Although legislation concerning Customs' penalties for civil fraud violations has been enacted (Public Law 95 – 410), the Congress should
- request the Secretary of the Treasury to provide a compilation of other applicable laws and
- amend these laws to allow the Secretary to consider violation facts, such as the amount of duty underpayment and the penalized party's degree of negligence, when assessing a penalty. (GGD – 78 – 5, Mar. 13, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Finance**
House: **Ways and Means**

Agriculture

The Congress should set a national goal for the amount and class of farmland that should be preserved to meet current and future needs and periodically assess whether the loss of farmland is eroding the maintenance of established goals. (CED – 79 – 109, Sept. 20, 1979)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry**
House: **Agriculture**

The Congress should
- either amend the User Charge Statute (title V of the Independent Offices Appropriation Act of 1952, 31 U.S.C. 483a) or enact new general user charge legislation to clarify that an agency may set fees to recover the full cost of a program that primarily benefits identifiable users,
- repeal the Tobacco Seed and Plant Exportation Act of 1940 (7 U.S.C. 516-517), and
- amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 *et seq.*) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to require all federally inspected meat and poultry processing plants to develop and implement quality control systems. (CED – 81 – 49, Apr. 16, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry**
House: **Agriculture**

If the Congress decides to keep the current parity price standard as a basis for establishing the milk support price, it should amend the Agricultural Act of 1949 to
- shift the base period from 1910 – 14 to a more recent period that is comparable with other national indexes,
- authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to eliminate the family living component from the parity index to more accurately reflect the cost of milk production,
- eliminate the requirement to set the milk support price at a level between 75 and 90 percent of parity,
- require the Secretary to set the support price at the level of parity that will balance the interests of producers, consumers, and taxpayers after considering changes in the cost of producing milk, milk product stocks, and demand for milk products, and
- require the Secretary to adjust the price-support level if the 12-month moving total of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) net removals of dairy products exceeds trigger levels established by the Secretary.

If the Congress decides to adopt a dairy parity price standard for the short term and a standard based on a more comprehensive formula for the long term, it should enact legislation to
- direct the Secretary, in conjunction with milk producer and consumer groups and with input from the Congress, to perform the research to select factors and assign weights needed to develop a comprehensive formula that will balance the interests of producers, consumers, and taxpayers and then, if appropriate, implement the formula and
- authorize the Secretary, until such a comprehensive formula can be developed and implemented, to (1) base the support price on 100 percent of the dairy parity price using a base period comparable with other national indexes and (2) adjust the price-support level when CCC purchases of dairy products exceed trigger levels established by the Secretary.

To provide more uniform participation in funding programs to encourage and promote the use of milk and milk products, the Congress should establish a Federal nationwide milk-producer promotion program and set the contribution rate as a percentage of sales. However, if after considering these recommendations the Congress decides to retain promotion programs under current Federal milk-marketing orders, it should amend the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 to
- eliminate the refund provision in Federal orders,
- make mandatory promotion provisions a part of all Federal orders, and
- set the contribution rate as a percentage of sales. (CED – 80 – 88, July 21, 1980)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry**
House: **Agriculture**

Commerce and Housing Credit

If it wishes to endorse the development of competition in common carrier telecommunications, the Congress should

- amend title I of the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to rely on competition and the private sector to the maximum extent possible to achieve the overall goals of the act and
- amend title II of the Communications Act to allow FCC, upon a finding that it is in the public interest, to exempt any carrier from any or all provisions of title II.

To improve the FCC's program for regulating domestic telecommunications common carriers, the Congress should amend the Communications Act of 1934 to

- explicitly authorize FCC to require carriers to (1) submit to it for approval applications to construct any new facilities or extensions thereof which are subject to its regulatory jurisdiction and (2) file with it long-term facilities construction plans in lieu of or in addition to such applications and to establish such conditions and reporting requirements as are necessary to assure that such plans are followed,
- give FCC the authority to prescribe an interim tariff based on the cost data which a carrier submits in support of its tariff, and
- give FCC regulatory authority over all interexchange telecommunications facilities and services. (CED – 81 – 136, Sept. 24, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Commerce, Science and Transportation**
House: **Energy and Commerce**

Because of the controversy over the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) role in ensuring equal employment opportunity in broadcasting, the Congress should define FCC's equal employment opportunity responsibilities.

Recognizing that controversy also exists as to whether the equal opportunity requirements for political candidates contained in section 315 of the act and FCC's fairness doctrine are achieving their basic goals, the Congress should

- clarify the balance to be struck between promoting coverage of political events and providing equal opportunity for political candidates and determine the proper way to achieve this balance and
- amend the Communications Act to provide FCC legislative authority to consider and test alternate methods to determine whether market forces are adequate to ensure full and fair broadcast coverage of controversial issues. (CED – 79 – 62, June 4, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Commerce, Science and Transportation**
House: **Energy and Commerce**

To maximize service of the section 8 program to its intended beneficiaries, the Congress should consider whether a stricter limitation should apply to admission of ineligible households to section 8 projects already under contract. This could be achieved by either enacting legislation to apply a 5-percent limitation to completed projects already under contract or directing the Department of Housing and Urban Development to change its regulations to have the same effect. (CED – 81 – 74, Apr. 27, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs**
House: **Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs**

Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services

The Congress should repeal the Davis-Bacon Act and rescind the weekly payroll reporting requirement of the Copeland Anti-Kickback Act.

The Congress should also repeal the provisions in 77 related statutes which involve federally assisted construction projects and which require that wages paid to contractor employees not be lower than those determined by the Secretary of Labor to prevail in the locality, in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act. (HRD – 79 – 18, Apr. 27, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Labor and Human Resources**
House: **Education and Labor**

The Congress should amend section 7 of the Service Contract Act of 1965 (41 U.S.C. 356 (1976)) to exclude act coverage for automatic data processing and other high-technology industries' commercial product-support services—i.e., services procured by the Government from these industries on the basis of established market prices of commercial services sold in substantial quantities to the public. (HRD – 80 – 102, Sept. 16, 1980; HRD – 80 – 102(A), Mar. 25, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Governmental Affairs**
Labor and Human Resources
House: **Education and Labor**
Government Operations

The Congress should amend the Fair Labor Standards Act (29 U.S.C. 201, *et seq.*) to

- give the Department of Labor authority to assess civil money penalties large enough to deter recordkeeping violations,
- eliminate the act's section 16(c) liquidated damage provision and, in its place, give Labor authority to deter minimum wage and overtime violations,
- give Labor authority to formally assess a violation of the act as well as the amount of illegally withheld back wages, including interest, and provide for a formal administrative process to adjudicate cases when employers appeal Labor's assessments.

The Congress should also amend section 6 of the Portal-to-Portal Pay Act of 1947 (29 U.S.C. 255) so that the statute of limitations tolls when a violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act is formally assessed by Labor. (HRD – 81 – 60, May 28, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Labor and Human Resources**
House: **Education and Labor**

The Congress should amend the Fair Labor Standards Act to require that back wages resulting from violations of the act found to be due employees, who cannot be located, be deposited in the U.S. Treasury as miscellaneous receipts. (HRD – 81 – 15, Jan. 30, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Labor and Human Resources**
House: **Education and Labor**

In support of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and Internal Revenue Code policies protecting the rights of pension plan participants to promised benefits, the Congress should enact legislation that would make pension plan determinations by the Internal Revenue Service mandatory for tax qualification of terminating private pension plans before plan dissolution. (HRD – 81 – 117, Sept. 30, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Finance**
Labor and Human Resources
House: **Education and Labor**
Ways and Means
Joint: **Taxation**

If the Congress determines that the pension benefits of contractor employees who work for long periods of time at Federal installations should be protected, it should direct the Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy to establish a Government-wide policy and implementing regulations to help ensure such protection. The Department of Energy's pension protection arrangements are a good model for such a policy. (HRD – 81 – 102, Sept. 30, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Finance**
Labor and Human Resources
House: **Education and Labor**
Ways and Means
Joint: **Taxation**

Energy

The Congress should adjust the Department of Energy's Schools and Hospitals Conservation Program to fund additional energy audits so that these audits may be available to all institutions that want and could benefit from them. If this is done, overall energy savings could increase without increasing program funding. (EMD – 81 – 47, Mar. 23, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Energy and Natural Resources**
House: **Energy and Commerce**

The Congress should enact new legislation on the issue of energy use and management in the Federal sector which consolidates various existing laws. The legislation should

- require the President to develop and implement, through the Department of Energy (DOE), an aggressive and comprehensive Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) and clearly define the roles, authority, and responsibilities that DOE and other executive branch agencies are to fulfill in the program,
- require, under FEMP's purview, the development and implementation of specific plans and programs,
- require the President to complete action on the above items within 18 months after legislation is enacted and report to the Congress, and
- provide to DOE central funding and control over energy conservation funds and earmark and restrict such funds to energy conservation use. (EMD – 80 – 11, Dec. 12, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Energy and Natural Resources**
House: **Government Operations**
Public Works and Transportation

The Congress should determine whether it wishes to be excluded from reviewing decisions to close lands to mineral leasing. If not, Congress should

- amend section 202(e) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) to provide that management decisions closing lands to mineral leasing affecting smaller tracts be reported to the Congress and
- amend section 3 of the Engle Act so that the withdrawal information for military applications conforms with FLPMA section 204 (c) (2). (EMD – 81 – 40, Feb. 12, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Armed Services**
Energy and Natural Resources
House: **Armed Services**
Interior and Insular Affairs

The Congress should amend the basic law authorizing Federal and State emergency energy conservation efforts during oil supply disruptions. The Congress should amend the law to provide for implementation of the Federal Emergency Energy Conservation Plan in any State if (1) 60 days after the Governor has been notified of an emergency energy conservation target, the President determines the State plan is not working effectively, or (2) immediately, if a State plan has not been approved. The Department of Energy (DOE) should be required, within 60 days, to provide States with criteria by which their plans will be reviewed. These should include how much reduction in energy consumption State demand restraint programs should be capable of realizing within specific time periods. Finally, the Congress should require State plans to be submitted for approval to DOE within 9 months. (EMD – 81 – 117, Sept. 29, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Energy and Natural Resources**
House: **Energy and Commerce**

The Congress should enact legislation requiring that the Department of Energy develop emergency electric plans. H.R. 3704 was introduced on May 27, 1981, to require the Secretary of Energy to develop emergency electric plans within 180 days after the effective date of the act, but no action

was taken on that legislation during fiscal year 1982. (EMD – 81 – 50, May 12, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Energy and Natural Resources**
House: **Energy and Commerce**

The Congress should take legislative action to authorize production at Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve above current maximum efficient rates during oil supply emergencies when there is minimum risk of damage to the oil fields. This change would make it possible to "surge" the production of Federal oil at Elk Hills if needed to combat an energy emergency.

The Department of Energy has prepared a draft plan for implementing surge production, but legal authority still does not exist. (EMD – 81 – 117, Sept. 29, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Armed Services**
Energy and Natural Resources
House: **Armed Services**
Energy and Commerce

The Congress should enact legislation giving the Department of Energy the necessary authority to minimize pipeline disruptions. This authority could include
- onsite visits to pipeline facilities to identify and analyze critical pipelines and
- periodic inspections to determine compliance and reassess physical security. (EMD – 79 – 63, Aug. 27, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Energy and Natural Resources**
House: **Interior and Insular Affairs**

The Congress should consider establishing a statutory Office of Inspector General at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Such an office could help ensure that the Congress and the Commissioners receive objective information on problems within NRC and might enhance public trust in the regulation of commercial nuclear power. (EMD – 81 – 72, July 9, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Governmental Affairs**
House: **Government Operations**

The Congress should (1) amend the Price-Anderson Act to provide protection for the Department of Energy's contractor activities that is equal to the protection for licensed commercial operations and (2) amend the definition of a nuclear incident contained in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to include coverage for precautionary evacuations that result because a radioactive release appears imminent but then does not occur. The Congress should determine whether a new limit on liability needs to be set and whether the limit should be tied to an index to allow for periodic readjustment. (EMD – 81 – 111, Sept. 14, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Energy and Natural Resources**
House: **Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs**
Energy and Commerce
Interior and Insular Affairs
Science and Technology

The Congress should consider legislation requiring the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to review and evaluate a number and variety of the Department of Energy's nuclear facilities and processes, including plant operations, the contractor's safety analysis methodology and reports, and actions taken to mitigate hazards. These evaluations should also examine the adequacy of Energy's safety analysis document review. NRC should be required to report the results of its review and evaluation to the Congress within 1 year. (EMD – 81 – 108, Aug. 4, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Energy and Natural Resources**
House: **Science and Technology**

The Congress should enact legislation to adopt fair-value pricing of Federal uranium enrichment services. Such a change would require amending the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to depart from the cost-recovery basis and instead use a basis which would permit recovery of additional charges that a private enterprise would otherwise levy, such as return on investment. (EMD – 78 – 66, Apr. 19, 1978)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Energy and Natural Resources**
Environment and Public Works
House: **Energy and Commerce**
Interior and Insular Affairs

To increase the incentives for administrative law judges to expedite the hearing process, the Congress should
- require regulatory agencies, such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, to develop administrative law judge performance standards and
- assign the responsibility for periodic evaluation to an organization other than the employing agency, such as the Office of Personnel Management or the Administrative Conference of the United States. *(EMD – 80 – 54, July 15, 1980)*

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Energy and Natural Resources**
House: **Energy and Commerce**

General Government

To avoid interruptions in the normal functions of Federal agencies when appropriations bills are not passed on time, the Congress should
- consider shifting more programs to authorization and appropriations cycles of 2 or more years,
- consider establishing and adhering to a reserve for fall and spring adjustments for emergencies and uncontrollable cost growth, and
- enact permanent legislation to allow all agencies to incur obligations, but not expend funds, when appropriations expire (except where program authorization has expired or the Congress has expressly stated that a program should be suspended pending legislative action). (PAD – 81 – 31, Mar. 3, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Governmental Affairs**
House: **Government Operations**

To improve the efficiency and equity of Federal user charge policy and practices,

the Congress could (1) require agencies to determine correspondence between current user charges, whether mandated by statute or set by the agencies, and the principles presented in our report, (2) require agencies to present this information to it through the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and then decide what changes, if any, were necessary, and (3) amend existing legislation or instruct agencies to implement these changes, monitored and assisted by OMB. (PAD – 80 – 25, Mar. 28, 1980)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Appropriations**
Governmental Affairs
House: **Appropriations**
Government Operations

To improve congressional budgetary control over revolving fund loan programs, the Congress should place specific limits on the gross obligations or gross loan obligations allowed and require that such limits be treated as the relevant budget authority amounts. (PAD – 80 – 29, July 2, 1980)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Appropriations**
Budget
House: **Appropriations**
Budget

The Congress should amend title V of Public Law 95 – 134 to address the following questions:

- Should Federal agencies be required to consolidate grants to U.S. Insular Areas, and which financial assistance grants should be required for inclusion in the consolidations?
- May Federal agencies properly modify existing rules and regulations of programs included in consolidated grants for Insular Areas, and what is the scope of their authority to do so?
- Should all Federal agencies be required to waive all matching requirements for Insular Areas?
- May restrictions properly be placed on the Insular Areas' flexibility to allocate funds under a consolidated grant? (GGD – 81 – 61, July 10, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Energy and Natural Resources**
House: **Interior and Insular Affairs**

The Congress should amend the law to further limit the President's use of alternative plans for Federal white-collar comparability adjustments to ensure that they will be used in situations which are more indicative of national emergencies or economic conditions affecting the general welfare.

This recommendation can be accomplished in a number of ways. We are providing the following options to the Congress in order of preference:

- Require a majority vote of both Houses of Congress for the President to implement an alternative plan.
- Require the President to demonstrate how the plan contributes to remedying the national emergency or severe economic conditions and to ensure that Federal employees are treated consistently with private-sector employees.
- Specify in the law what constitutes a "national emergency or economic conditions affecting the general welfare" in justifying alternative plans. (FPCD – 80 – 17, Nov. 13, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Governmental Affairs**
House: **Post Office and Civil Service**

The Congress should improve the pay-setting process for Federal executives by

- allowing the annual adjustments for executives under Public Law 94 – 82 to take effect,
- discontinuing the practice of linking congressional and Executive Level II salaries, and
- allowing Senior Executive Service performance and rank awards to take effect without further restrictions on payments. (FPCD – 80 – 72, July 31, 1980)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Appropriations**
Governmental Affairs
House: **Appropriations**
Post Office and Civil Service

For Federal blue-collar employee pay-setting procedures to achieve comparability in both pay and benefits with the private sector, legislation is needed to revise

- the five-step system for each nonsupervisory grade,
- wage rates which are based on the private-sector rates paid in another wage area, and
- night-shift differentials that are not determined in accordance with prevailing industry practices but are based on a percentage of the scheduled wage rate. (FPCD – 78 – 60, July 21, 1978; FPCD – 80 – 12, Oct. 29, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Governmental Affairs**
House: **Post Office and Civil Service**

The Congress should ensure that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) analyzes locality benefits and, if they vary materially, should require OPM to consider such benefits in any locality compensation adjustment.

The Congress should also

- require OPM to provide (1) detailed information and justification for the major assumptions used in its benefit measurements, including the cost implications of these assumptions, (2) assurance that benefit provisions can be gathered and accurately classified, and (3) some method for ensuring that benefit differences by employee type are considered in its total compensation comparability analysis, and
- require OPM to assess the extent of secondary benefits and, if feasible, develop appropriate measures of these benefits so they may be included in any assessment of total compensation comparability between the Federal and non-Federal sectors. (FPCD – 81 – 12, Dec. 5, 1980)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Governmental Affairs**
House: **Post Office and Civil Service**

The Congress should direct the Office of Personnel Management, in coordination with the Department of Defense, to study the feasibility of (1) having the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) do the nonappropriated fund

wage surveys or (2) linking or indexing nonappropriated fund wages to the Federal Wage System appropriated fund pay system. The Congress should also

- amend the Federal Pay Comparability Act of 1970 (5 U.S.C. 2305) to eliminate the requirement to conduct the comparability survey each year and to provide for interim-year pay adjustments by using the BLS Employment Cost Index and
- amend the Prevailing Rate Systems Act of 1972, making BLS responsible for conducting the blue-collar appropriated fund surveys as part of its area wage survey programs. (FPCD – 81 – 50, June 23, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Governmental Affairs**
House: **Post Office and Civil Service**

The Congress should amend the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Act to

- increase the minimum post-age 65 coverage to 50 percent of the coverage at retirement and correlate postretirement benefits with length of participation in the Group Life Program and
- rescind the requirement that Group Life pay insurance company risk charges. (FPCD – 81 – 47, Aug. 21, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Governmental Affairs**
House: **Post Office and Civil Service**

The Congress should amend 5 U.S.C. 2302(a)(2)(c)(i) by deleting the term "Government Corporation" and inserting instead the following: *** *Government Corporations exempted from Civil Service law and regulations governing the appointment and removal of officers and employees of the United States.* (FPCD – 81 – 28, Apr. 7, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Governmental Affairs**
House: **Post Office and Civil Service**

The Ethics in Government Act of 1978 was enacted to require public financial disclosure by Members of the Congress and other high-level officials in all three branches of Government. Because of the absence of both a well-defined disclosure system and strict enforcement, the Congress should

- conform the ethics law definition of a candidate to that of the Federal Election Campaign Act,
- amend the law to lower the required filing salary to the pay ceiling of $50,112, or some other specific pay level to allow those individuals equivalent to a GS-16 to continue to file,
- determine whether the law should be amended to impose a civil penalty to discourage late filing, and
- consider legislation to delete the requirement that member and candidate disclosure reports be forwarded to the appropriate States. (FPCD – 81 – 20, Mar. 4, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Select Committee on Ethics**
House: **Standards of Official Conduct**

The Congress should include Tennessee Valley Authority employees in the coverage under labor-management relations legislation of either those statutes applicable to the private sector or those applying to other Federal employees. (FPCD – 78 – 12, Mar. 15, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Governmental Affairs**
Labor and Human Resources
House: **Education and Labor**
Post Office and Civil Service

The Congress should resolve both the open legislative recommendations of the Procurement Commission discussed in our July 1978 report (PSAD – 78 – 100, July 31, 1978), and the legislative matters in our 1979 report relating to architect-engineering services and patent policy. (PSAD – 79 – 80, May 31, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Governmental Affairs**
House: **Government Operations**

The Congress should amend Public Law 95 – 507 to exempt successful offerors on individual procurements for commercial items from submitting small business and disadvantaged business subcontractor participation information. (PSAD – 79 – 66, May 11, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Governmental Affairs**
Small Business
House: **Government Operations**
Small Business

The Congress should enact legislation requiring Federal agencies to fully disclose when consulting service contractors assist in preparing congressionally mandated reports. The Congress should also act on our earlier recommendation to legislate a national policy of reliance in the private sector for goods and services. (FPCD – 81 – 43, June 19, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Governmental Affairs**
House: **Government Operations**
Post Office and Civil Service

The Congress should amend the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 so that it clearly defines the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board's role and is consistent with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Specifically, the Congress should

- establish the Board as the principal authority to provide leadership and ensure compliance,
- require the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Defense, the General Services Administration (GSA), and the Postal Service to consult with the Board and to obtain its concurrence that standards conform to the guidelines and requirements, and
- require the Board, rather than GSA, to report all Federal activities pertaining to standards issued, revised, amended, or repealed under the Barriers Act. (FPCD – 80 – 51, June 6, 1980)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Environment and Public Works**
Labor and Human Resources
House: **Education and Labor**
Public Works and Transportation

We continue to strongly support a Federal income tax refund offset program for collecting otherwise uncollectible debts, and we reiterate our earlier recommendation in FGMSD – 79 – 19, March 9, 1979, the Congress should provide funding for the Internal Revenue Service to test and adopt an offset program. (FGMSD – 80 – 68, July 19, 1980)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Appropriations**
Finance
House: **Appropriations**
Ways and Means

To provide the Internal Revenue Service with the authority to require the information it needs from foreign-controlled U.S. corporations, the Congress should amend section 6038 of the Internal Revenue Code to further provide that every United States person, as presently defined by the code, shall furnish such information as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe by regulation with respect to any foreign corporation which controls such person. (GGD – 81 – 81, Sept. 30, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Finance**
House: **Ways and Means**
Joint: **Taxation**

The Congress should amend section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, and title XIII of the United States Code to allow the Bureau of the Census to provide certain information on business establishments to Federal and State cooperative agencies for statistical purposes. Amendments to these laws would help improve the quality and comparability of economic statistics and reduce business response burden from numerous Federal statistical surveys. (GGD – 79 – 17, May 25, 1979)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Finance**
House: **Post Office and Civil Service**
Ways and Means

To better protect the interests of the Government and taxpayers, the Congress should amend section 6335(e)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code to provide that, if no person offers to purchase for-sale property at the minimum bid price, the property shall be declared purchased at the minimum price for the United States or released back to the taxpayer if the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) determines it is not in the best interest of the Government to purchase the property. Such a determination must be made by IRS prior to the sale. The criteria used by IRS to make the determination should be developed by the Commissioner. (GGD – 78 – 42, July 31, 1978)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Finance**
House: **Ways and Means**
Joint: **Taxation**

The Congress should amend section 117 of the Internal Revenue Code and add a new educational expense deduction section. (GGD – 78 – 72, Oct. 31, 1978)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Finance**
House: **Ways and Means**
Joint: **Taxation**

The Congress should amend the Bank Secrecy Act to require a reauthorization of the act's reporting requirements in 1984. On the basis of current progress, Treasury should be able to provide sufficient data before that time for the Congress to make a decision on the act's continuation, modification, or elimination. (GGD – 81 – 80, July 23, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs**
House: **Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs**

The Congress should enact a moratorium on future foreign acquisitions of U.S. banks with total assets of $100 million or more. The moratorium should continue until the basic policy issues, which have given some foreign purchasers of banks an advantage over potential U.S. purchasers of banks, are fully addressed. The moratorium should exclude foreign acquisitions necessary to prevent bankruptcy or insolvency of domestic banks. The moratorium should not continue indefinitely; rather, the Congress should set an expiration date for the moratorium and establish a specific timetable for the actions it will take to address the policy issues. (GGD – 80 – 66, Aug. 26, 1980)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs**
House: **Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs**

Health

To achieve a more uniform regulation of substances added directly to food and to give the public and industry more information about the regulation of direct additives, the Congress should amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to eliminate exemptions currently allowed for generally-regarded-as-safe (GRAS) and prior-sanction substances. Changes to the law should encourage the use of information already available and recognize that different types of scientific evidence may be appropriate to support the safety of food additives. The amendment should also provide a date on which the safety of all GRAS and prior-sanction substances must be subject to Federal review and approval. (HRD – 80 – 90, Aug. 14, 1980)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry**
Labor and Human Resources
House: **Agriculture**
Energy and Commerce

Under the Social Security Act, Medicare-allowed reasonable physician charges must

not be higher than those allowed under Medicare carriers' private business for comparable services under comparable circumstances. The Congress should consider either deleting the comparability language in the law or defining comparability so that it applies to all private health insurance plans which reimburse on a current reasonable-charge basis. (HRD – 79 – 111, Sept. 6, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Finance**
House: **Energy and Commerce**
Ways and Means

The Congress should enact legislation disallowing the Railroad Retirement Board to select a nationwide carrier to process part B Medicare claims and should transfer responsibility for claims processing and payment to the area carriers handling those claims for other Medicare beneficiaries.

The Congress should also amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require Medicare contractors to process Medicaid liability for crossover claims using integrated data processing systems, unless a State can present the Secretary of Health and Human Services with evidence that another system is equally efficient and effective. (HRD – 79 – 76, June 29, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Finance**
House: **Energy and Commerce**

Income Security

Because of the income security system's far-reaching social impact, deeply rooted difficulties, and projected future cost growth, the Congress should enact legislation to establish a national body—such as a National Income Security Commission—to provide central system leadership and bring about changes in its policymaking management and evaluation. In developing such legislation, the Congress should determine, with the assistance of the executive branch and others, the body's (1) most appropriate organizational form, structure, and location, (2) authorities and jurisdiction, (3) membership, staff, and tenure, and (4) specific goals and duties. The body should be an independent entity and serve the Congress and the executive branch in an overall advisory capacity. It should have a long-term, continuing charter, subject to periodic evaluation by the Congress.

Also, while the legislation is being developed, the Congress should establish select Senate and House committees or a joint committee to begin working toward improved management of the system. (HRD – 80 – 33, Feb. 29, 1980)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Argriculture, Nutrition and Forestry**
Appropriations
Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
Budget
Finance
Governmental Affairs
Labor and Human Resources
House: **Agriculture**
Appropriations
Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs
Budget
Education and Labor
Government Operations
Ways and Means

To eliminate the principal benefit gaps and duplications in Federal food assistance programs and to improve their overall coordination, the Congress should

- adopt a uniform definition of the term "needy" and establish consistent criteria and procedures for determining who is eligible for Federal food assistance,
- approve an explicit national policy on how much food assistance should be provided to needy Americans by the Federal Government,
- consolidate Federal food programs,
- authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to implement individualized food stamp allotments nationwide, if demonstration projects show the feasibility of such allotments,
- eliminate duplicative benefits by allowing consideration of benefits from one Federal food program when determining eligibility and benefit levels under others, and
- require a single State/local agency to be responsible for certain administrative aspects of designated Federal food programs to help ensure a more efficient delivery of food assistance to needy Americans.

Legislative revisions in the 1981 and 1982 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Acts, Public Laws 97 – 35 and 97 – 253, allowed States to reduce duplicate benefits by counting food stamp benefits as income for the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Program. In addition, resource limitation tests for food stamp benefits were more closely connected to AFDC eligibility. However, further changes would be needed to fully address our recommendations. (CED – 78 – 113, June 13, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry**
House: **Agriculture**
Education and Labor

The Congress should revise the authorizing legislation for the special supplemental food program for women, infants, and children to clearly require that participants receive needed health services where such services are available, accessible, and acceptable, with possible exceptions based on participants religious beliefs. (CED – 79 – 55, Feb. 27, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry**
House: **Education and Labor**

To improve cost efficiency of housing assistance programs and ensure greater equity of service to families and the working poor, the Congress should

- require the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to use taxable bonds rather than tax-exempts for State agency section 8 financing;
- require HUD to report periodically to the housing oversight committees during the next 2 years on how well the needs of families and nonpoverty, lower-income households are being met by the various housing programs (such reports should compare the housing assistance provided to all income

groupings in accordance with need on a national basis);

- enact legislation requiring that some percentage of housing assistance funds go to nonelderly households and particularly larger eligible households above the poverty level (this would be based on HUD's national needs assessment.); and
- provide necessary funding shifts to allow HUD to emphasize public housing, the least costly alternative over a 20-year subsidy life. (PAD – 80 – 13, Sept. 30, 1980)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Appropriations**
Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
House: **Appropriations**
Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs

The Congress should amend section 1612(a)(2)(A) of the Social Security Act related to the Supplemental Security Income program to treat in-kind support and maintenance the same, regardless of the living arrangement of the recipient. This would result in recipients being treated more uniformly and equitably. (HRD – 77 – 101, June 23, 1977)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Finance**
House: **Ways and Means**

The Social Security Act, section 205(c), should be amended so that persons who have not paid the required tax on income from self-employment are prohibited from receiving credits toward social security benefits. (GGD – 77 – 78, Aug. 8, 1977)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Finance**
House: **Ways and Means**
Joint: **Taxation**

The Congress should establish a Federal retirement policy which outlines the principles, objectives, and standards to be followed in providing retirement benefits to military and civilian personnel. The policy should cover such matters as benefit levels, social security coverage, costing and funding, vesting, and administration. While recognizing that special provisions may be justified for particular groups, the guiding principle should be that all Federal personnel are to receive consistent benefits.

The Congress also should adopt actuarial valuation methods and funding provisions that reflect the full cost of accruing retirement benefits and charge to agency operations all costs not covered by employee contributions. (FPCD – 78 – 49, Dec. 29, 1978)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Armed Services**
Foreign Relations
Governmental Affairs
Judiciary
House: **Armed Services**
Foreign Affairs
Judiciary
Post Office and Civil Service

The Congress should amend the Federal Employees Compensation Act to

- reconsider at what level Federal workers' compensation benefits should be set to lessen inequities among beneficiaries and to reestablish the original congressional intent of providing economic incentives to return to work and
- integrate the Federal workers' compensation and Federal retirement programs to provide for the transfer of compensation beneficiaries to the retirement program. (HRD – 81 – 19, Mar. 9, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Governmental Affairs**
Labor and Human Resources
House: **Education and Labor**
Post Office and Civil Service

The Office of Personnel Management should propose a change to section 5 U.S.C. 339 so that, upon remarriage, a retiree's survivor reduction would be determined according to the reduction formula applicable to other retirees. (FPCD – 81 – 35, Feb. 26, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Governmental Affairs**
House: **Post Office and Civil Service**

International Affairs

The Congress should amend the antidumping law to include two methods for valuing products from nonmarket economies and two methods for suspending investigations of dumping by nonmarket economies. (ID – 81 – 35, Sept. 3. 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Finance**
House: **Ways and Means**

The Congress should amend the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, to delete an unnecessary report currently required by section 264, to require that petitioners submit specific adjustment strategies and to prohibit one segment of the manufacturing process to petition, e.g., labor or management, unless it is evident that this segment is the only one from which specific adjustment commitments will be sought. (ID – 81 – 42, Aug. 5, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Finance**
House: **Ways and Means**

The Congress should, by clarifying legislation, direct the Export-Import Bank to emphasize either its statutory mandate to be competitive or its longstanding and congressionally accepted policy of remaining self-sustaining. (ID – 81 – 48, June 24, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs**
House: **Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs**

National Defense

The Congress, in coordination with the executive branch, should establish a clearly defined and comprehensive national policy regarding industrial preparedness. This policy should encompass the preparedness

expectations for the industrial base as well as what the United States is willing to invest to achieve it. (PLRD – 81 – 22, May 22, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Appropriations**
Armed Services
Governmental Affairs
House: **Appropriations**
Armed Services
Government Operations

If the Congress wishes the Air Force to continue to fund multiyear depot maintenance contracts through the industrial fund, legislation should be enacted to provide the necessary budgetary resources. To do this, the Congress should authorize contract authority to the industrial fund by adding a new subsection to section 2208 of title X, United States Code. (AFMD – 81 – 53, Aug. 14, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Armed Services**
House: **Armed Services**

The Congress should establish a permanent independent military compensation board and direct the board to
- evaluate the alternatives and recommend in legislation to the Congress which military pay principles should be established,
- see that pay principles are appropriately implemented, and
- continuously monitor and make recommendations for changing the military compensation system, consistent with established principles.

The Congress should eliminate the requirement for the quadrennial review of military compensation once the board is established. (FPCD – 79 – 11, May 9, 1979)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Armed Services**
House: **Armed Services**

The Secretary of Defense should propose legislation to
- provide authority for a househunting trip for uniformed personnel under orders for a station transfer in the conterminous United States,
- provide a temporary lodging and subsistence allowance in lieu of basic quarters and subsistence allowance when uniformed personnel occupy temporary quarters incident to a move within the United States, its possessions and territories, and Puerto Rico,
- replace the (a) mileage allowance in lieu of transportation and (b) station transfer mileage allowance with a mileage reimbursement plus per diem for uniformed members and their dependents on temporary duty and station transfer travel, and
- set maximum per diem rates in title 37 by reference to title 5, U.S. Code. (FPCD – 81 – 13, Dec. 24, 1980)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Armed Services**
House: **Armed Services**
Government Operations

The Congress should terminate noncontributory security wage credits for future military service. (FPCD – 79 – 57, Aug. 8, 1979)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Appropriations**
Finance
House: **Appropriations**
Ways and Means

Natural Resources and Environment

To improve water-related research and development efforts scattered among 28 Federal organizations, the Congress should amend section 406 of the Water Research and Development Act of 1978 to establish a water resources research committee to coordinate water-related research. This committee should be composed of representatives from the major Federal organizations involved in water resources research and report directly to the Office of Science and Technology Policy. The Congress should also amend section 406 to require the committee to coordinate research to
- establish priorities for water conservation and augmentation technologies based upon the results of overall comparative assessments of these technologies,
- provide leadership and guidance to other agencies in developing formal multiagency and single-agency plans for the technologies with specific objectives, milestones, technology transfer goals, and provisions for independent periodic evaluations,
- make recommendations annually to the Congress concerning the adequacy of the funding levels of water research, development, and technology transfer activities, and
- consider the data developed pursuant to section 103 of the act in coordinating research and establishing research priorities. (CED – 81 – 87, June 5, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Energy and Natural Resources**
Environment and Public Works
House: **Interior and Insular Affairs**
Public Works and Transportation

Because both the Corps of Engineers and the Soil Conservation Service have built water projects that primarily benefit only a few land owners or businesses, the Congress should clarify its intent regarding cost sharing for future water resource projects which provide significant special local benefits. Congress should also give additional guidance to the Federal agencies involved in water resource development concerning such projects. (CED – 81 – 12, Nov. 13, 1980)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Environment and Public Works**
House: **Public Works and Transportation**

Because the Safe Drinking Water Act is unclear concerning the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) authority to administer a safe drinking water program in States which are unable or unwilling to establish their own program, the Congress should consider amending the act to clarify EPA's authority in day-to-day operations of a drinking water program in these States. If authorized to operate such a program, EPA may require additional resources. (CED – 81 – 58, Apr. 23, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Environment and Public Works**
House: **Energy and Commerce**

To prevent unnecessary expenditures associated with constructing secondary treatment facilities, the Congress should amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to permit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to grant waivers, deferrals, or modifications when dischargers to fresh water can demonstrate that the environmental impact of secondary treatment will be minimal or insignificant. (CED – 78 – 76, May 12, 1978)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Environment and Public Works**
House: **Public Works and Transportation**

The Congress should require the Environmental Protection Agency to report annually on (1) how many wastewater treatment plants constructed with Federal funds are experiencing serious operations problems, (2) what is being done to repair these facilities, and (3) whether the Government or the private sector will pay for the repairs. (CED – 81 – 9, Nov. 14, 1980)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Environment and Public Works**
House: **Public Works and Transportation**

Because the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA) is not clear as to whether, or to what extent, the interests of fisheries must give way to marine mammals and whether marine mammals must be considered in fishery management plans, the Congress should amend both the MFCMA and the Marine Mammal Protection Act to clarify the extent to which the interests of each law must be considered in fulfilling the objectives of the other. (CED – 81 – 52, May 11, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Commerce, Science and Transportation**
House: **Merchant Marine and Fisheries**

The Congress should
- consider enacting legislation establishing a preference program for recycled products in Federal agency procurements and
- direct the Administrator of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy to take a more active role with the Environmental Protection Agency. (EMD – 81 – 7, Dec. 5, 1980)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Appropriations**
Energy and Natural Resources
House: **Appropriations**
Energy and Commerce

To develop an effective policy toward the U.S. steel industry, the Congress should
- enact legislation to define a performance objective for the domestic steel industry,
- consider the need for labor and management commitments to industry revitalization, and
- enact legislation to require the Executive Office of the President or other executive branch agencies to undertake a biannual assessment of steel capacity conditions. (EMD – 81 – 29, Jan. 8, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs**
Commerce, Science and Transportation
Environment and Public Works
House: **Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs**
Energy and Commerce
Science and Technology

If the Congress decides to continue the Resource Conservation and Development Program, it should
- discontinue using program funds for installing project measures currently authorized for financing under cost-sharing arrangements and
- require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish procedures for periodically reviewing project operations and deauthorizing projects which are no longer active or can continue operating without Federal involvement.

In addition, the Congress should direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish several pilot projects where sub-State organizations would assume the resource conservation and development projects. Upon completing such tests, the Secretary should be required to provide the Congress with (1) an evaluation of the test results, (2) recommendations for transferring additional project functions to sub-State organizations, or (3) the reasons for retaining the functions within the existing program structure. (CED – 81 – 120, Aug. 11, 1981)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry**
House: **Agriculture**

The Congress should amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act to require a renewable resource program providing long-range, quantified resource production goals for the bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior. The Congress should also (1) revise the 1872 Mining Law to authorize the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to permit or prevent development of mineral deposits on public lands, (2) modify the Federal Land Policy and Management Act to authorize Bureau employees to ticket persons violating Federal resources protection laws, (3) enact legislation authorizing the Forest Service to sell or give away small scattered land holdings, (4) review Bureau and Service staffing and funding levels, and (5) provide for a more realistic balance between the agencies' responsibilities and capabilities by either reducing responsibilities or appropriating more funds. (CED – 80 – 82, July 16, 1980)
Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Appropriations**
Energy and Natural Resources
House: **Appropriations**
Interior and Insular Affairs

The Congress should not increase the statutory land acquisition appropriation ceiling for the North Cascades National Park and the Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area above the $4.5 million

already approved until the National Park Service has defined compatible and incompatible development, prepared a land acquisition plan justifying the need to acquire land from private owners, and spent the funds obtained from selling all compatible land back to private individuals.

The Congress should also exempt land acquired pursuant to Public Law 90-544 from the 2-year limitation in 16 U.S.C. 4601-22(a). This would give the last owner(s) the right to match the highest bid price and reacquire property sold to the National Park Service. (CED-81-10, Jan. 22, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Appropriations**
Energy and Natural Resources
House: **Appropriations**
Interior and Insular Affairs

The Congress should amend the Declaration of Taking Act (40 U.S.C. 258a) to allow landowners a more equitable rate consistent with prevailing conditions. (CED-80-54, May 14, 1980)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Energy and Natural Resources**
House: **Interior and Insular Affairs**

To reduce potential problems from large possessory interests allowed park concessioners managing facilities in national parks, the Congress should finance construction of needed facilities to accommodate park visitors whenever possible. However, because the Congress may not always be able to provide the needed funds to lessen the effect that possessory interest can have on National Park Service management, the Congress should amend the Concessions Policy Act of 1965 to allow possessory interest only in those instances where no other alternative is available.

The Congress should also amend the act to eliminate the right of preference for contract renewal and preferential rights for new and additional services. (CED-80-102, July 31, 1980)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Appropriations**
Energy and Natural Resources
House: **Appropriations**
Interior and Insular Affairs

Transportation

In addressing mass transit legislation and funding, the Congress should consider both the full cost effect of a large transit capacity expansion and the types and extents of benefits that are likely to be realized in deciding what level of support, if any, to provide for such expansion. The Congress should also consider separate Federal funding of ride-sharing activities. (CED-81-13, Nov. 14, 1980)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs**
Environment and Public Works
House: **Public Works and Transportation**

The Congress should reconsider the 1974 legislative finding that the continued increase in fares is undesirable and should adopt a goal for the section 5 program that promotes efficient and equitable transit pricing.

The Congress should also amend the urban Mass Transportation Assistance Act of 1964 to give governors the authority to reallocate section 5 surpluses from urbanized areas with populations between 50,000 and 200,000 to other, larger urbanized areas within the State that need the funds. (CED-81-28, Feb. 26, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs**
House: **Public Works and Transportation**

The Congress should retire Amtrak's debt to the Federal Government with a one-time appropriation. The guarantee authority backing the debt should also be cancelled. As a condition of retirement, the existing security in Amtrak's assets should be continued. (PAD-80-45, Mar. 28, 1980)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Appropriations**
Commerce, Science and Transportation
House: **Appropriations**
Energy and Commerce

Because of the limited achievements under the Department of Transportation's efforts to encourage development of contingency plans, new efforts are needed to ensure that urbanized areas will be prepared to help meet their populations' mobility needs during gasoline shortages. To overcome the resistance to contingency planning at the local level, congressional action is needed to support the needs for such planning. (CED-81-79, July 1, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs**
House: **Public Works and Transportation**

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Chapter 3
Accomplishments

As a result of work done by GAO, the Congress and government officials are able to take actions which permit the Government to function more efficiently. However, GAO cannot compel agencies to accept the information, opinions, or recommendations it develops as a result of its work. Therefore, action on GAO's work rests on the persuasiveness of the arguments GAO presents. Accordingly, agency management and the Congress must be convinced that the analyses behind GAO's reports, testimony, briefings, fact sheets, and other products are sound and that it is in their interests to take action. We believe that agencies' awareness of the Congress' attention to GAO's work stimulates agencies' interest in and attention to any remedial actions that GAO suggests. This chapter summarizes the accomplishments that have resulted from GAO's work during fiscal year 1982.

The full impact of GAO's activities on improvements in Government programs and on spending matters cannot be measured. The increase in governmental effectiveness from actions taken in response to GAO's work simply cannot be stated in dollars and cents.

When actions taken by the Congress or an agency can be measured in dollar amounts, GAO records them. The following table summarizes the $5.9 billion in collections and other measurable accomplishments attributable to the agency's work. Of the $5.9 billion listed, about $3.6 billion represent nonrecurring accomplishments that will have a one-time budgetary impact. The benefits of the other $2.3 billion are recurring and will affect budgets in future years.

Often, GAO is not alone in advocating a particular action leading to dollar accomplishments. Of the $5.9 billion which the agency identified through its work, about $1.0 billion involved actions advocated by others as well as GAO. In the listing of Other Measurable Dollar Accomplishments, those comprising this total are indicated by an asterisk.

This chapter also describes accomplishments not fully or readily measurable and other benefits from GAO activities.

Collections

Collections attributable to GAO's activities totaled $10.5 million. Of this, $4.4 million represented GAO's recovery of debts that Government agencies had been unable to collect. Progress in developing the capability of other agencies to refer uncollectible debts directly to the Department of Justice has greatly reduced GAO's direct collection activity.

Other Measurable Dollar Accomplishments

Other measurable dollar accomplishments consist largely of actual or potential financial accomplishments from actions taken by the Congress and Federal agencies. In most instances, the potential benefits are estimated. An asterisk next to the dollar amount indicates that GAO was not alone in advocating the action taken or planned.

GAO's dollar accomplishments fall into two general categories. First, there are those involving budgetary savings. These result from an increase in Federal revenues or receipt accounts or a decrease in Federal spending in a particular area. Either of these situations may arise when the Congress or agency management takes action in response to GAO's work. For example, as a result of GAO's work at the Internal Revenue Service, the Congress enacted legislation that increased the interest rate on tax delinquencies. This change, which made the interest on tax delinquencies more reflective of the market rate, will increase the flow of revenue to the U.S. Treasury by about $32 million a year. For the most part, however, our accomplishments fall into a second category: better use of funds. These are costs that will be avoided as a result of congressional or agency commitment to implement needed changes identified during GAO's audit activities. It should be noted, however, that these avoided costs do not necessarily reduce budgetary outlays, and they do not necessarily represent budgetary savings since the dollar amounts of the accomplishments may be used in other, more effective and efficient ways by agency management. An example of this kind of accomplishment can be taken from GAO's work on the Department of Defense ammunition procurement program. In this case, we recommended that the fiscal year 1982 budget request for the Services' conventional ammunition procurement and the Army's base modernization and expansion program be reduced by $97.9 million. Our recommendation was implemented, and Defense's funding in this area was cut accordingly. This does not necessarily mean, however, that the total Defense budget was reduced by this amount.

GAO is now developing an automated work followup system that will, among other things, enable GAO to better track and identify exactly what portion of the agency's accomplishments represent actual budget savings for a particular fiscal year. Complete implementation of this system is expected in fiscal year 1983.

Collections and Other Measurable Dollar Accomplishments Attributable to the Work of the General Accounting Office Fiscal Year 1982
(000 omitted)

Department/Agency	Collections	Congressional action involved	Agency action involved	Total
Agriculture	$ 193	$ 165,300	$	$ 165,493
Air Force		197,500	464,817	662,317
Army	60	37,750	18,406	56,216
Commerce		• 17,800	26,453	44,253
Conrail		21,400		21,400
Defense		237,500	217,039	454,539
District of Columbia Government	13			13
Energy	90	117,000	9,804	126,894
Environmental Protection Agency	22			22
Federal Communications Commission		600	68,955	69,555
Federal Reserve Bank			1,600	1,600
General Services Administration	4,500			4,500
Health & Human Services	597	356,320	39,714	396,631
Housing & Urban Development		175		175
Interior		5,934	1,980	7,914
International Development Cooperation Agency			7,000	7,000
Interstate Commerce Commission			53	53
Justice			650	650
Labor	334	1,000	9,149	10,483
National Aeronautics and Space Admin.	216			216
National Archives			781	781
Navy	100	1,048,500	22,911	1,071,511
Office of Personnel Management			34,000	34,000
Postal Service			17,937	17,937
Small Business Administration	74		16	90
State			2,438	2,438
Transportation	78	82,900	23,130	106,108
Treasury		906,800	2,041	908,841
Veterans Administration	14	20,280	1,060	21,354
Government-wide		1,665,000	74,000	1,739,000
	$6,291	$4,881,759	$1,043,934	$5,931,984
General Claims Work	4,400			4,400
Total	$10,691	$4,881,759	$1,043,934	$5,936,384

Budget Request Reduction or Reprogramming of Funds

GAO is often requested to provide the Congress with information useful in making decisions on agencies' appropriation requests. Congressional action can include either direct reductions in program budgets or, as is sometimes possible, reprogramming funds not needed in one area or otherwise not obligated. GAO's major fiscal year 1982 accomplishments in this regard are described below.

Description of Accomplishment	Estimated Benefits in Millions of Dollars
Fiscal year 1981 funds of $19 million were appropriated to prefinance construction of NATO facilities. NATO funding became available and only $.6 million was spent. GAO informed congressional committees of the unused construction funds, and the Congress subsequently reprogrammed the funds to other authorized projects	$18.4
In 1978 and again in 1981, GAO reported that the methods used by the Department of Defense in pricing stock fund items sold to foreign customers would not recover replacement cost. The Congress reduced the fiscal year 1982 Defense stock fund budget and directed that DOD revise its stock fund pricing policy for foreign military sales	82.0
In a 1980 report, GAO recommended that the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations reconsider their direction to the Navy to overhaul FRAM destroyers. GAO reported an accomplishment in its 1980 *Annual Report* after the committees canceled one of the overhauls that would have cost $15 million. The Congress deleted $60 million from the fiscal year 1981 DOD appropriation bill for overhaul of three additional FRAM destroyers	60.0
The Navy had been seeking funds for some time to reactivate an Essex-class aircraft carrier. On numerous occasions, GAO provided congressional committees with data packages, briefings, fact sheets, and questions regarding the Navy's proposal. The Congress deleted reactivation-related funds from DOD's fiscal year 1982 budget request	93.0
DOD's efficiency review program saves money each year by eliminating unnecessary and inefficient work practices. However, about 80 percent of DOD's commercial activities were exempt from the program for various reasons. GAO reported that, by 1987, DOD could save $350 million in pay and benefits by expanding its efficiency review program. The Secretary of Defense concurred with GAO's recommendation, and Congress reduced DOD's fiscal year 1982 appropriation by the amount of estimated annual savings	50.0
For fiscal years 1981 and 1982, the Congress authorized the Army to hire additional civilians to allow soldiers performing civilian functions to be returned to combat units. GAO reported that the Army had not properly justified these additional hires. The Congress agreed and reduced the fiscal year 1983 authorization request by 1500 spaces until such time that the Army can provide specific evidence of why the additional civilians were needed	30.0*
The Productivity Enhancing Incentive Fund was established to enable the DOD to quickly buy and install equipment that will pay back its cost in 2 years. GAO reported, however, that very few pieces of equipment purchased by the Navy under this fund resulted in productivity improve-	

Description of Accomplishment	Estimated Benefits in Millions of Dollars
ments and cost savings. The Congress eliminated the Navy's fiscal year 1982 request for funds under this program.	3.2
In a report to the Secretary of Defense, GAO noted that many aircraft engine parts are coded as "reparable" by the Air Force and "nonreparable" by the Navy. Accordingly, GAO recommended that the Navy review its coding procedures and recode those that can be economically repaired by either the Navy or the Air Force. The Congress repeated GAO's recommendation and reduced the Navy's operation and maintenance budget.	3.0
As requested, GAO reviewed the justifications for the Army, Navy, and Air Force appropriation requests for conventional ammunition in fiscal year 1982. GAO found cases in which inventory would have exceeded requirements, and performance problems might have caused premature procurements. GAO also found a need for further analysis of alternatives. GAO recommended a number of line-item reductions which the Congress adopted.	97.9
In 1981, GAO reported that the Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation Commission was relocating reservation households to more expensive locations and paying benefits to households not required to relocate. GAO also questioned the Commission's payment practices. The Congress reduced the Commission's fiscal year 1982 budget request and scheduled a review of program policies and payment procedures	4.6
As requested, GAO reviewed the Navy's fiscal year 1982 proposal for acquisition, construction, or conversion of several types of ships and provided briefings, fact sheets, and questions. The Congress reduced the Navy's budget request by $337.4 million and reprogrammed an additional $102.4 million to help satisfy the Navy's budgetary needs.	439.8
GAO testified that the Army had not adequately considered the alternative of modifying existing .45 caliber pistols to use 9mm ammunition. In a report to DOD, GAO recommended that the 9mm procurement program be terminated. The Army decided to postpone its procurement, and the Congress deleted all funds in the fiscal year 1983 defense authorization	7.6
In GAO's 1981 *Annual Report*, the agency reported that one new cargo ship was not needed, which reduced the fiscal year 1981 shipbuilding and conversion appropriation by $79 million. GAO recommended that acquisition and conversion or chartering of existing ships might be better alternatives. The Navy has now withdrawn its fiscal year 1982 request for $195 million for new construction	195.0
As a cost-saving measure, GAO proposed eliminating 12 FFG-7-class ships scheduled for backfitting with the LAMPS MK III weapons system. During mark-up of its 1982 appropriation request, the Congress directed the Navy to cancel the backfitting of a number of ships proposed in the LAMPS MK III program schedule	250.3
In 1981 and again this year, the Congress has agreed to reduce the Department of Interior's request for funds for acquiring land and State recreation assistance. GAO had reported that, in the past, lands had been purchased that were not essential to achieving project objectives and were purchased before planning how the land was to be used and managed. We reported a $90 million recision of funds in our 1981 *Annual Report*. A much larger reduction was realized this year	591.0
GAO reviewed the Air Force's justification for its request to build the Strategic Satel-	

Description of Accomplishment	Estimated Benefits in Millions of Dollars
lite System (SSS) and reported that, instead of developing a new system, DOD could meet the Air Force's future strategic communications requirements by upgrading the present system of satellites. The Congress deleted requested development funds from the 1981 budget request. A joint-service, multimission satellite system is now planned	22.2
In a 1980 report, GAO concluded that Federal funding of the Highway Safety Grant Program was so small that it had little effect on what States and local governments do in highway safety. GAO suggested that the program be restricted to specific problem areas so that it could be better managed. The Congress reduced the obligation limitation of the program	82.9
The Coast Guard's fiscal year 1982 budget submission to DOT included funding to initiate a multiyear effort to modernize, improve, and expand the LORAN – C navigation satellite system. GAO reported that these efforts were unnecessary because the Coast Guard had been unable to demonstrate their need or cost effectiveness. DOT and OMB subsequently reduced the Coast Guard's budget request for modernizing and expanding the LORAN – C system	22.8
At the end of fiscal year 1981, DOD had not obligated its funds for the Long-Range Combat Aircraft due to a delay in deciding to proceed with the program. GAO brought this to the attention of congressional staff. DOD's fiscal year 1982 budget request for this aircraft was reduced and the unobligated funds reprogrammed to fulfill the request	179.1
GAO's review of the Army's Skill Qualification Testing program demonstrated that the program, as designed and implemented, did not supply accurate information on individual soldier proficiency. The Congress deleted $9 million from an $18 million request for fiscal year 1982 funds and instructed the Army to improve their program before additional funds would be programmed. The Army later requested that $9.3 million be reprogrammed to help finance the program for the balance of fiscal year 1982. GAO questioned their justification for the additional funds, and the Congress allowed the Army to reprogram only $4 million	5.3

Reduction in Costs

In reviewing agency programs, GAO has had considerable success in discovering ways in which operations may be changed so that costs are reduced with no significant change in program effectiveness. Because of GAO's intervention, funds are not expended that otherwise would have been. Below is a description of GAO's major cost-reduction achievements in fiscal year 1982.

Description of Accomplishment	Estimated Benefits in Millions of Dollars
GAO's review of the Air Force's recoverable item requirements computation system at the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center showed pending procurement actions for aircraft parts in quantities exceeding current requirements. The Center subsequently reduced or canceled many of its purchase requests not yet converted to contracts	$4.8
The Department of Labor awarded a contract to develop a new management information system. However, GAO questioned compliance with OMB procedures for justifying the system acquisition. After reevaluating the need, Labor canceled the work being done and decided to streamline the existing information system to meet its needs. These actions eliminated $2.2 million in developmental costs and an annual average of $5.2 million in operating costs	7.4
The Veterans Administration pays benefits to veterans enrolled in vocational training programs. A GAO survey showed that flight and correspondence training programs were satisfying recreational or personal goals rather than basic readjustment and employment objectives. The Congress amended the program's authorizing legislation	18.6*
The Social Security Administration spent an estimated $9.5 million providing toll-free, long-distance telephone service to the public during fiscal year 1980, including $7.0 million for collect calls by the public. GAO recommended that a series of management actions be taken to control these costs, including not accepting collect calls from the public. SSA is implementing GAO recommendations	7.0
The Department of Energy and the State of New York entered into a cooperative agreement in 1980 on the Western New York Nuclear Service Center. GAO's review of the agreement disclosed a number of problems. The Congress subsequently persuaded DOE and New York State to renegotiate the agreement, reducing the Federal cost of the program by at least $9 million	9.0*
The Navy has been buying significant quantities of material-handling equipment that can increase productivity in operations involving the physical handling of materials. GAO reported, however, that through better utilization and more effective control, significant savings can be achieved in future replacement, repair, and leasing costs. DOD agreed,and the Navy has initiated a 5-year program to increase equipment utilization rates and redistribute/dispose of excess equipment	17.1
In fiscal year 1978, the Congress limited the number of military personnel assigned to morale, welfare, and recreation activities. GAO reported that additional savings would accrue if civilians were substituted for these nonessential military positions and the number of military personnel were reduced accordingly. The Navy now plans to reduce the number of military person-	

Description of Accomplishment	Estimated Benefits in Millions of Dollars
nel assigned to its Navy exhange program by 43.5 percent, reducing personnel expenses in fiscal year 1983 and future years	3.6
The Postal Service and GAO cooperated to define more efficient ways of delivering mail over short, high-volume routes. As a result, in 1982 the Postal Service diverted 95 million pounds of mail from air to surface transportation. Additional annual savings are anticipated as shipping modes are changed for additional routes	14.0
Family planning services are offered through more than 5,000 clinics in the United States. After reviewing operations in several clinics, GAO recommended specific action to improve efficiency and reduce costs through specific procedural changes. GAO also recommended a revised fee structure. The Department of Health and Human Services issued new program guidelines, including some of the operating procedures GAO recommended and a revised fee procedure	30.0
GAO reviewed hospital contract management services and found that the fees for many contracts were based on a percentage of gross revenues. GAO proposed that the use of percentage contracts be limited in an attempt to control Medicare costs. The Congress included this limitation as part of the fiscal responsibility measures enacted in 1982. As a result, annual Medicare costs are expected to be reduced	17.3
The Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act previously authorized the Department of Labor to approve black lung claims based on conflicting or inconclusive medical evidence, affidavits from spouses and others, or presumption based on years of coal mine employment. GAO recommended that medical evidence be the basis for determining disability and death from black lung and that benefits be awarded only to miners who are totally disabled or to their survivors. Subsequent legislation which tightened eligibility and evidence requirements will result in annual savings to the black lung disability trust fund	3.8
GAO pointed out in congressional testimony that States had little incentive for reducing the current $1 billion a year in overissuances because food stamp benefits are totally financed by the Federal Government. The Congress passed legislation to reduce Federal reimbursement of State administrative costs if a State's error rate exceeded legislative goals. Annual Federal expenses should be reduced even if States do not reduce their errors, since the financial burden for these errors will no longer be borne entirely by the Federal Government	165.3
In GAO's 1981 *Annual Report*, the agency reported that the Agency for International Development (AID) could free about $1 million for program purposes if it entered into a contract that would extend Defense Base Act workers' compensation insurance coverage to AID-financed contracts between most governments and third parties. Since that time, AID has awarded the contract and, due to considerable competition, insurance costs will be reduced by about $8 million a year rather than the $1 million previously estimated. In addition, other agencies are considering similar actions that would result in further reduced costs	7.0
DOD planned to fill prepositioning requirements for supplies and equipment items for one of its programs through procurement actions above normal force requirements. GAO suggested that existing supplies and equipment could be used instead, and DOD agreed	142.7

Description of Accomplishment	Estimated Benefits in Millions of Dollars
In the past, the Army selected its combat vehicles for overhaul based on accumulated mileage. GAO reported that vehicle mileage is an imprecise and unreliable indicator of the need for overhauling and recommended that the vehicles be selected for overhaul based on their condition. The Army implemented our recommendation, reducing its combat vehicle overhaul program costs $18.2 million in fiscal year 1981	18.2
The Navy planned to buy limited quantities of SSQ−47 sonobuoys over the next several years. GAO suggested that, if it had sufficient funds, the Navy could make a one-time/lifetime buy to fulfill its requirements and save $3.2 million in procurement costs. The Congress subsequently provided the necessary funds, and a contract for the lifetime buy was awarded	3.2
The Congress enacted legislation to mint commemorative coins to help finance the 1984 Summer Olympic Games. When legislation was introduced, GAO reported that the bill could result in indirect Federal financing of the Olympics. The bill was revised to change the coins' pricing structure and to disallow marketing the coins as tax-deductible contributions	360.0
The Panama Canal Act of 1979 granted liberalized retirement benefits to Canal employees affected by the Treaty. Two procedures for computing the Commission's liability were being studied, and GAO supported one which would decrease the Federal Government's liability by $34 million over the next 20 years. OPM followed GAO's recommendation	34.0
In 1976, the U.S. Court of Appeals overturned certain fee schedules used by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and ordered FCC to refund any excess fees collected. FCC had decided, because of the complexities of the situation, to refund all fees above $5—a total of $127 million. GAO believed that a proper fee schedule could be established and urged FCC to make the necessary recalculations. The FCC followed our suggestions and reduced refunds by $68.9 million below those which would have been made had FCC proceeded with its initial plan	68.9

Description of Accomplishment	Estimated Benefits in Millions of Dollars
The Air Force planned to equip each B-52H bomber with a distinctive aerodynamic fairing or strakelet as each aircraft was modified to carry cruise missiles. GAO's evaluation revealed a questionable need for this modification and also revealed that strakelets may not be the most cost-effective means. The Air Force is now planning to forego equipping the bombers with strakelets	35.0

Description of Accomplishment	Estimated Benefits in Millions of Dollars
To meet a July 1986 deadline, the Air Force was considering a partial deployment of MX missiles with an existing, substitute warhead/reentry vehicle combination instead of the baseline warhead. GAO advised the Secretary of Defense that the Air Force's commitment to such a dubious date could unnecessarily increase program costs between $400 million and $1 billion. DOD later informed GAO that the Air Force could now meet its deployment goals in late 1986 without the costly retrofit	400.0

Reduced Government Payments to Employees and Program Beneficiaries

Compensation of Federal employees and payments to beneficiaries of financial assistance programs constitute a significant portion of Federal expenditures. GAO's efforts have led to reductions in these payments. Below is a description of the major reported accomplishments during fiscal year 1982.

Description of Accomplishment	Estimated Benefits in Millions of Dollars
Under the Federal Employees Act of 1945, the General Schedule (GS) hourly pay rate is computed on the basis of 260 workdays, or 2080 hours, even though some years contain 261 or 262 workdays. Responding to a congressional request, GAO issued a report discussing two alternatives for computing GS pay. One of these alternatives—using 2087 work hours to determine hourly rates—was enacted and will reduce Federal personnel costs in fiscal years 1984 and 1985	$261.0*
As of October 1, 1981, pay increases for Government managers and supervisors in grades GS-13 through GS-15 are based on performance. GAO reported that, contrary to the intent of the Civil Service Reform Act, OPM's method for computing agencies' merit pay funds was costing the Government more each year than if employees had remained under the General Schedule pay system. OPM subsequently changed its merit pay funding formula	74.0
In numerous reports, letters, and briefings over the past 6 years, GAO has urged the Congress to change provisions of the Federal retirement systems to control their costs, including the Government's policy of full, automatic cost-of-living increases for Federal retirees. The Congress enacted a series of our proposed reforms, considerably reducing the annual cost of Federal employee retirement programs	811.0
Minimum social security benefits were established to help the poor. GAO reported that, in recent years, the minimum benefit has mainly helped retired Government workers with pensions and homemakers supported by their spouse's incomes. The Congress eliminated the minimum social security benefit, reducing Federal payments an estimated $35 million in fiscal year 1982 and higher amounts in future years	35.0

Description of Accomplishment	Estimated Benefits in Millions of Dollars
In 1980 and again in 1981, GAO provided the Congress with information on proposals to change the amount of Social Security Administration payments made to the surviving spouse or the person responsible for funeral expenses of an insured worker. While not recommending that this "lump sum death benefit" be eliminated, GAO's reports focused on the potential for savings through modification of the benefit. Legislation eliminates the benefit where there is neither a spouse nor a child to receive survivor benefits	182.0*
On numerous occasions, GAO had suggested calculating social security benefits by rounding to the nearest penny rather than up to the nearest 10 cents, the method used. HEW proposed that benefit amounts be computed to the nearest 10 cents, and GAO supported this as an alternative to its own recommendation. Legislation proposed by the administration and enacted into law directs that interim calculations of social security benefits be rounded down to the nearest 10 cents and rounded down to the nearest $1.00 at the final computation. Savings are estimated at $83 million the first year and about $1.6 billion over the first 5 years	83.0*
The Regional Railroad Reorganization Act of 1973 led to the consolidation of bankrupt northeast railroads into Conrail. The act provided payments to employees losing their jobs as a result of the consolidation. GAO reported various inequities in the benefit program. The Congress amended the law as recommended, which reduced fiscal year 1981 payments	21.4

Increased Revenues

Many Federal programs create revenues. This revenue can be available to fund general Government operations or to help offset specific program expenses. GAO's studies have identified ways in which these revenues may be increased. The following describes the major accomplishments reported in fiscal year 1982 which have resulted from these studies.

Description of Accomplishment	Estimated Benefits in Millions of Dollars
For many years, the Customs Service classified trucks imported without cargo beds as "chassis" instead of "trucks," thereby permitting importers to pay a 4-percent duty on chassis rather than a 25-percent duty on trucks. After a 1978 GAO report which pointed out that importers were avoiding the higher duty by importing the cargo box separately, Customs classified imported, lightweight trucks without cargo beds as trucks. The change made by Customs was reported in GAO's 1980 *Annual Report;* however, this year GAO quantified the significant increase in annual revenues resulting from Customs' action	$294.0
By prior statute, the interest charged on delinquent taxes was calculated at 90 percent of the prime interest rate and adjusted every 2 years. GAO recommended that the Congress make the interest rate more reflective of the market interest rate. The interest rate is now based on 100 percent of the prime rate with adjustments made annually. In addition to increased annual revenues, this higher rate will provide a greater incentive for taxpayers to pay taxes on time	32.0
In a 1978 report, GAO recommended that the Congress amend patent and trademark acts to provide a more equitable balance between the benefits received by users of the patent system and the general public. Patent and trademark fees were increased. The estimated increase in revenues will be $15.2 million in fiscal year 1983, increasing annually to $25.1 million in fiscal year 1994	25.1
The income of life insurance companies is taxed under a special subchapter of the Internal Revenue Code that was enacted in 1959 and tailored to the life insurance industry as it then existed. GAO reported that many changes have occurred in the industry since then, rendering certain provisions of the code inappropriate. Following GAO's recommendation, the Congress increased annual tax revenues by changing the methods by which insurance reserves are calculated and valued	220.0

Termination of Program or Activity

GAO's reviews can result in questions as to whether the achievements resulting from or expected to result from a program or activity are justified on a cost/benefit basis. These concerns often lead to the termination of programs through the congressional appropriation process or through agency action. During fiscal year 1982, GAO's reviews led to the termination of four Federal programs or activities which are described below.

Description of Accomplishment	Estimated Benefits in Millions of Dollars
The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) proposed a computerized data bank of information on Aid to Families with Dependent Children program recipients and others receiving benefits from all levels of government. When HHS sought funds for the Federal portion of this 5-year project, GAO raised concerns over the cost data and use of the system. HHS subsequently dropped the proposal and eliminated the development funding	$35.0
The Department of Defense was developing facilities to test the survivability of satellites in a nuclear environment. GAO presented the Secretary of Defense with evidence that the program could not perform as required and that other measures could be used to test survivability. The Secretary directed that the program be terminated, eliminating funding for development and anticipated recurring operations costs	72.0
The Department of Energy, to obtain additional fuel behavior information, announced plans to again extend operations of a water-cooled breeder reactor. GAO questioned whether this information was worth the additional operating cost and the delay in achieving the project's primary purpose. Following GAO's recommendations, the Congress ordered the reactor to be shut down	117.0
The Census Bureau requested funds for a census based on administrative records after being denied funding for a more complete mid-decade census. GAO challenged the Bureau's ability to satisfy the intent of a mid-decade census with data obtained from administrative records. The Congress agreed and canceled the mid-decade census from the Bureau's budget	17.8

Collections

Some of GAO's activities result in the return of Federal funds to the Treasury. This generally involves identifying erroneous payments or allowances made by the Federal Government. GAO also remains involved in the settlement and collection of Federal debt claims. This latter activity, however, is not as significant as it once was because other agencies can refer uncollectible debts directly to the Department of Justice.

Description of Accomplishment	Estimated Benefits in Millions of Dollars
Airlines are to reimburse the Federal Government for the ticket differential when Federal employees exchange airline tickets for lower-cost travel accommodations. Airlines, however, were holding substantial amounts in refunds due the Government. This situation occurred primarily because Federal agencies, Government travelers, and airlines failed to follow certain procedures. We made specific recommendations to GSA for collecting the refunds and preventing the problem from recurring. As of April 1982, GSA had collected about $6 million, approximately $4.5 million of which resulted from GAO's involvement	$4.5

Description of Accomplishment	Estimated Benefits in Millions of Dollars
Federal agencies are required by law to attempt collection of all claims of the United States for money or property arising out of the activities of, or referred to their agencies. If an agency is unsuccessful either in obtaining full payment or in effecting a compromise, the claim may be suspended, terminated, or referred to GAO or the Department of Justice for litigation. In fiscal year 1982, collections of approximately $4.4 million were made on debt claims referred to GAO	4.4

Miscellaneous

In addition to those more significant dollar acomplishments already discussed, there are many more that, while not as large as those already discussed, are summarized in this section. Overall, this section is comprised of all measurable dollar benefits of less than $3 million and represents a wide variety of accomplishments. Accordingly, because of their diversity and their relatively small dollar values, all of these accomplishments are not listed individually. Instead, the following breakout gives the total dollar amount included under this heading and provides some examples of the accomplishments.

Total Dollar Accomplishment
$42.2 million

Examples:

Description of Accomplishment	Estimated Benefits in Millions of Dollars
Some Federal employees and their families in Alaska and Hawaii received periodic Government-paid trips back to their former residences as part of a 1954 law authorizing such payments as a recruiting incentive. However, the need for this incentive has changed since the law was passed. GAO recommended that it be changed to authorize such trips only when needed. The law was revised as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982	$2.0
As a result of a study of postal operations, GAO advised Postal Service officials in Philadelphia, Pa., to reduce absenteeism so that the amount of overtime payments could be reduced. Accordingly, the Philadelphia Post Office lowered sick leave usage. The increase in regular attendance reduced the need for overtime hours	2.2
As a result of GAO's review of the Veterans Administration's financial controls over its Predischarge Education Program (PREP), the VA conducted audits of schools participating in the program, as GAO recommended. In addition, VA has initiated collection action on surplus funds identified during their audits. The identified collection amount will be realized annually through fiscal year 1985	1.7
As a result of a review of the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, GAO recommended that the executive branch recover unused economic assistance funds which had been provided to the Exchange Support Fund for Cambodia (Kampuchea). On February 11, 1982, the Justice Department recovered the amount in question	2.4
As a result of GAO's review of boarding schools operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, GAO recommended, among other things, that the operating efficiency of the schools be increased by consolidating schools into the minimum number of facilities needed to meet existing standards. Subsequently, the Congress directed the Bureau to close two schools for the reasons cited in GAO's report	1.0
In reviewing the Small Business Administration's servicing of loan guarantee defaults, GAO found that efforts were not adequate to assure that losses are minimized. Accordingly, GAO recommended, among other things, that SBA collect all outstanding rents due the agency. In January 1982, SBA collected some cost-due rent	0.1

Additional Dollar Accomplishments Not Fully or Readily Measurable

Much of GAO's work recommends changes either to promote the efficiency of program operations or to achieve the results for which an activity or program was initially designed. Given the nature of this work, not all of the resulting accomplishments can be measured. Examples of achievements not readily measurable are presented here.

Congress Enacted Legislation Requiring the Judicial Conference To Experiment with Different Methods of Recording Court Proceedings

In a report to the Congress, GAO reported that the judiciary can expect to save $10 million annually through electronic recording of judicial proceedings in Federal courts. Prior to issuing this report, GAO testified before the Subcommittee on the Courts, Senate Committee on the Judiciary, regarding the Federal judiciary's court reporting system. In this testimony, as in the report, GAO illustrated the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of electronic recording systems and pointed out that, before the Federal judiciary can use electronic recording systems exclusively, the Congress must amend the Court Reporters Act to permit recording Federal district court proceedings without the presence of a court reporter.

In the interim period between GAO's testimony and report, the Congress enacted legislation (Public Law 97 – 164, Apr. 2, 1982) requiring the Judicial Conference to experiment with different methods of recording court proceedings. The judiciary is currently experimenting with electronic recording in 12 Federal district courts and one Federal bankruptcy court. (GGD – 82 – 11, June 8, 1982)

Improvements in the Management of Employee Development Programs by the Postal Service

GAO's report to the Postmaster General noted weaknesses in the management of the Postal Service's employee development programs. GAO recommended that the Service reduce the number of Postal Career Executive Service candidates to a manageable size consistent with Service requirements and ensure each candidate receives appropriate development. The Service developed a plan for a phased reduction of candidates and a system to use Postal Career Executive Service vacancies to provide developmental experience for candidates and executives.

GAO also recommended that performance evaluations be prepared for each employee completing a developmental assignment. The Service took action to increase emphasis on the proper preparation of performance evaluations.

Finally, GAO recommended that the Service improve controls over the length of officer-in-charge assignments and require budget and cost reporting to control the cost of Postal Career Executive Service candidate development. The Service revised its instructions to standardize selection and assignment procedures and provide better reporting on the length, suitability, and overall cost effectiveness of officer-in-charge assignments. Also, a cost system was established for the Postal Career Executive Service candidate program to provide data on salary, travel, training, and relocation costs.

The monetary impact of these changes cannot be readily established; however, the management of the employee development programs will be improved, and the reduced workload related to the elimination of unnecessary candidates will save administrative and travel costs. (GGD – 81 – 107, Sept. 30, 1981)

Tobacco Price Support Program Made More Responsive to Producers and Government Costs Reduced

In several 1982 reports, GAO discussed the Federal Government's Tobacco Price Support Program, its costs, and its effects on tobacco producers. GAO pointed out that

- most allotment and quota owners do not grow tobacco but lease or rent out the production and marketing rights,
- authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to adjust the price-support levels for the various kinds of tobacco could help curtail the amounts of low-quality U.S. flue-cured tobacco coming under loan to the Government,
- the Government has incurred large losses (about $591 million) because of tobacco loan repayment practices, and
- almost 26 percent of the flue-cured tobacco warehouses were marketing floor-sweepings tobacco in excess of their allowances established by USDA.

GAO's reports were a contributing factor to major changes in the program. Some of these were included in Public Law 97 – 218:

- To reduce Government losses, producers would be required to contribute to funds which would be used to offset all tobacco support loan losses.
- To limit leasing activity, the legislation requires corporation, utilities, and other entities which own tobacco allotments and quotas to sell them to active producers. The legislation also requires that all persons who buy flue-cured tobacco quotas must actively grow the crop or must share in the financial risk of growing it.
- The Secretary, under certain conditions, would be authorized to set the price-support level for various grades of tobacco to limit the Government's purchases.
- The amount of floor-sweepings tobacco that flue-cured warehouses can market has been reduced by more than 50 percent. (CED – 82 – 70 and 70A, Apr. 23, 1982)

Strengthening the Clean Water Act

In a November 1981 report GAO pointed out that the accountability and/or responsibility for fixing wastewater treatment plants has not been fully determined. GAO further pointed out that this situation could be improved by specifying who is accountable for ensuring that the plants, once constructed, will work as designed. Then, if deficiencies are noted in the plant's performance, the accountable party would be required to correct them at its expense.

The Clean Water Act, as amended by the Congress in December 1981, stated the following: (1) A grant for the construction of treatment plants shall provide that the engineer or engineering firm supervising construction or providing architect engineering services during construction shall continue its relationship to the grant applicant for a period of 1 year after the completion of construction and initial operation of such treatment plants. During such period, the engineer or engineering firm shall supervise training material for operating the treatment plants and will train operating personnel. Costs associated with such activities shall be eligible for Federal assistance. (2) One year after the completion of construction and initial operation of such treatment plant, the owner and operator shall certify to EPA whether the plant meets the design specifications and effluent limitations contained in the grant agreement and operating permit. If the owner and operator of the treatment plant cannot certify that the plant meets design specifications and effluent limitations, any failure to do so shall be corrected in a timely manner to allow such affirmative certification at other than Federal expense. (CED – 81 – 9, Nov. 14, 1982)

DOD Can Increase Revenues Through Better Use of Natural Resources It Holds in Trust

GAO's report pointed out that DOD can improve its national resources program and achieve additional revenues of over $3 million annually. Although DOD policy requires the military services to manage these lands under the multiple-use principle, GAO found that DOD and the military services were not making a concerted effort to ensure all bases were following this principle. Our report discusses how DOD's program can be improved through

- greater emphasis on planning for the effective use of land and natural resources,
- innovative planning and administration to increase forest productivity,
- increased efforts to identify and lease land for agriculture,
- greater emphasis on providing opportunities for public outdoor recreation on military bases, and
- assessing more equitable user fees for hunting and fishing on military lands to finance fish and wildlife programs.

Regarding GAO's recommendation that the Secretary of Defense determine the feasibility of operating the leasing program similar to the forestry program and seek legislative changes in the program if warranted, DOD agreed to do so.

Further, DOD did not expect any difficulties in implementing GAO's recommendations where they have existing authority. (PLRD – 82 – 9, Nov. 25, 1981)

More Effective Leasing Procedures and Practices Could Help GSA Reduce Delays in Meeting Federal Space Needs

GAO's review of General Services Administration's delays in meeting Federal agencies' space needs identified the extent of, reasons for, and effects of the delays on agencies and the actions needed to improve timeliness. The review in three GSA regions showed that GSA took longer than its stated goal of 6 months to complete about half of agency requests and longer than 1 year for about 30 percent of the requests. In some instances, these delays had an adverse effect on agency operations. There are many reasons for delays in acquiring space, but a contributing factor, in most cases, is that GSA cannot obtain adequate funding for Federal construction and must rely on leasing to meet agencies' space needs.

GAO recommended several actions to improve GSA's performance and to reduce delays. GSA agreed with most of the recommendations and has acted on the recommendations pertaining to reduction of delays in acquiring leased space. GSA plans to act on the other recommendations but believes that (1) annually reporting to the Congress information on GSA's performance in filling space requests would not be useful and (2) delegation of leasing authority to agencies is not warranted because of significant progress GSA has made in monitoring the nationwide leasing program and because of the need to improve agency space utilization and control the reduction in space requirements. (PLRD – 82 – 46, May 10, 1982)

Discontinuance of Premarket Certification of Antibiotics by the Food and Drug Administration

In an October 1981 report to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, GAO stated that the current level of antibiotic testing was not necessary. GAO recommended that FDA develop a strategy for reducing the level of antibiotic testing. HHS agreed with the recommendation, and on September 7, 1982, FDA issued final regulations which eliminated all premarket testing of antibiotics, effective October 1, 1982. The regulations contained a provision to reimpose certification requirements for particular antibiotics or for classes of antibiotics if FDA finds that it is necessary to ensure the safety and efficacy of the product. Eliminating the certification program will result in little, if any, savings to the Federal Government, but it will result in reduced Federal regulatory activity and save the drug industry an estimated $60 million per year in direct and indirect certification costs. GAO's report was used as part of the justification for eliminating the certification program. (HRD – 82 – 11, Oct. 28, 1981)

Action Taken To Properly Interpret Federal Regulations on Payment of Training Allowances

In a July 1981 report to the Department of Labor's Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, GAO identified several Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) prime sponsors that were improperly paying hourly allowances to participants who also received public assistance payments. The apparent cause of this problem was an improper interpretation of Labor's regulations by the prime sponsors.

Labor's regulations provide for the payment of basic hourly allowances to CETA participants for time spent in classroom training. An exception to this provision is that a $30 per week incentive allowance, in lieu of a basic hourly allowance, should be paid to participants who are receiving public assistance or whose needs or income are taken into account in determining public assistance payments.

GAO recommended that the Assistant Secretary (1) remind prime sponsors that both Federal and nonfederally funded assistance payments are to be considered when determining eligibility for training allowances and (2) direct the regional offices to ascertain how prime sponsors are determining eligibility for training allowances during their annual assessments and other periodic reviews. Both these recommendations were implemented by the Employment and Training Administration's issuance of Field Memorandum No. 13-82 on November 25, 1981. This action will help reduce future improper payments. (HRD-81-132, July 31, 1981)

More Efficient Administration of Federal Coal Leasing

In a 1981 report on the Federal Coal Management Program, GAO concluded that the development of coal under Federal leases could be accelerated and the administrative burden on the Department of the Interior could be reduced by simplifying many of the procedures for administering the leases. As a result, GAO made several recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior.

Interior concurred with GAO's findings and recommendations and promulgated regulations to

- eliminate the requirement that demonstrated reserves be made by coal bed, thus reducing the amount of time and work involved in processing Preference Right Lease Applications,
- no longer designate each pre-1976 lease as a logical mining unit, a requirement of questioned legality,
- revise the definition of "maximum economic recovery" by eliminating the term "opportunity costs" to eliminate complex, time-consuming, and potentially inequitable analyses, and
- give holders of pre-1976 leases until 10 years after the next lease readjustment to initiate production, thus providing for more orderly administration and development of these leases. (EMD-81-109, Aug. 20, 1981)

Revenues To Be Maximized from the Sale of Stockpile Silver

The fiscal year 1982 Defense Appropriation Act includes an amendment introduced by the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The amendment, based on information and draft legislation we provided at the request of the Chairman's office, suspended the disposal of 105.1 million troy ounces of silver from the National Defense Stockpile pending a redetermination that the silver is actually excess and pending exploration of alternative disposal methods.

In making such a determination, the President is mandated to consider certain factors, including the findings and recommendations in GAO's January 11, 1982, report and additional factors included in GAO's briefing and draft legislation. Consideration of these factors should maximize revenues to acquire other strategic and critical materials and better assure that congressional goals are met. (EMD-82-24, Jan. 11, 1982)

The Department of Defense Has Taken Steps To Improve the Accuracy of Its Cost-of-Living Allowances Computations for Uniformed Services Personnel

GAO's review of DOD's methodology for computing cost-of-living allowances (COLAs) for uniformed service personnel showed that DOD's policies resulted in overcompensation for some personnel and undercompensation for others and that several deficiencies in DOD's data collection and computation practices may result in inaccurate COLA payments.

We recommended that DOD (1) adopt a spendable income table based on the most recent consumer expenditure survey, (2) use a scientific sampling system to make living pattern surveys and direct field offices to use the results of the surveys as a basis for selecting outlets for price surveys, (3) use procedures that ensure consistent use of price data in the COLA computation, (4) revise the price collection schedule to minimize the timelag between base area and COLA area price surveys, and (5) use weighted sale prices to reflect the proportion of purchases made at sale and regular prices.

In April 1982, DOD said that the Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee had been directed to use a scientific sampling system for living pattern surveys, use procedures to ensure consistent use of price data, revise the price collection schedule to minimize the timelag, and use weighted price data. DOD said the use of the most recent spendable income table is appropriate, but the implementation of this recommendation will have to await funding, which DOD said will be addressed during development of the fiscal year 1984 budget. (FPCD-82-8, Feb. 25, 1982)

EPA Improved Internal Controls for Overtime

On March 16, 1982, GAO issued a report to the EPA Administrator summarizing the problems and deficiencies identified during GAO's review of overtime management and controls at EPA headquarters.

The review showed that much of the overtime work was not properly justified and necessary. The report stated that a high percentage of the overtime paid to employees in GAO's sample was not properly documented and that overtime system controls did not ensure that overtime claims were legitimate.

GAO recommended that, to improve the overtime control and management at EPA, the Administrator should

- reinforce agency requirements that overtime be held to a minimum and be approved only when absolutely necessary to avoid serious backlogs or to meet special workload peaks and unforseen circumstances,
- emphasize to managers that overtime and leave on the same day should only be authorized on rare occasions when there is no other alternative,
- emphasize the importance of the requirement to managers, supervisors, and timekeepers that all overtime must be properly documented and approved,
- establish procedures to prevent employees and timekeepers from gaining access to their timecards after certification,
- reaffirm to timekeepers and payroll clerks that all changes to timecards must be approved and initialed by the supervisor and that the original entries must remain legible, and
- require administrative officers to disseminate the biweekly feedback reports to first-line supervisors and require the supervisors to certify these reports. The certified feedback reports should be retained for 3 years by the administrative officers for audit and verification purposes.

EPA officials agreed with GAO's findings and recommendations and have started to take corrective action. (FPCD – 82 – 34, Mar. 16, 1982)

Congressional Oversight of Defense Property Leased to Foreign Governments Has Been Improved

GAO recommended that the Congress prohibit leasing defense property to foreign governments on a rent-free or nominal-rent basis using the authority of 10 U.S.C. section 2667. GAO said that leases of this kind should be made under the authority of the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA). On December 29, 1981, the President signed into law the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1981. Among other things, this act prohibits leasing defense property under the authority of 10 U.S.C. section 2667 and says that such leases will be made under the amended provisions of the FAA. This provision was based on GAO's report recommendations. (ID – 81 – 36, Apr. 27, 1981)

Other Benefits

Some actions taken in response to GAO's work result in accomplishments other than financial benefits. If the Congress enacts recommended legislation or if new agency regulations or procedures are adopted, day-to-day operations at Federal, State, and local levels can be improved. Sometimes the actions directly enhance the well-being of individual citizens. The following examples fall in this kind of accomplishment category.

HUD's Accounting and Reporting System for Assisted Housing Program Changed To Be in Conformance with Law

GAO reviewed HUD's accounting and reporting system and reported to the appropriations committees that HUD had overstated the progress of its assisted housing account by several billion dollars. Specifically, GAO found that the agency was reporting obligations on the basis of "reservation and commitment letters" rather than bona fide contracts. The net effect was that HUD was overstating obligations and understating its unobligated balance. GAO also reported that, over a number of years, HUD deobligated those funds at fiscal year end and then reobligated them during the ensuing fiscal year without full disclosure to the Congress. GAO pointed out that this practice could mislead the Congress and that, until corrective action was taken, HUD was in no position to accurately advise the Congress on the actual or projected balance in the assisted housing account.

As a result of GAO's work, HUD has revised the accounting and reporting system for the assisted housing account to correct the problems. For the first time, the fiscal year 1983 HUD budget request fully discloses the amount of funds that have been deobligated from prior years as well as the amount of reobligations from prior year funds. HUD officials told GAO that this revised approach will release some funds and will allow the Congress to rescind a portion of the assisted housing account. (PSAD – 80 – 41, Apr. 30, 1980; B – 197274, Feb. 16, 1982)

1990 Census Plans Changed To Evaluate More Cost-Efficient Methods for Taking the Census

In a report to the Congress, GAO (1) showed that inflation, population, and housing growth could increase the cost of the decennial census from $1 billion in 1980 to $4 billion in 1990 and (2) demonstrated that 1990 census costs could be minimized by using less costly census methods and redesigning individual census programs having relatively high per capita costs to make them more cost efficient.

As a result, the Census Bureau established cost reduction as a major objective for the 1990 census and agreed to

- conduct pilot tests to firm up GAO's preliminary cost data on having the Postal Service update the 1980 census mail list or provide the mail list. Based on 1980 census costs, using the Postal Service would save about $43 million to $86 million compared to procedures used for the 1980 census.
- test the feasibility of using mail reminder cards and follow-up mailings as less costly alternatives to personal visits used in the 1980 census. About $4 million could be saved for each 1-percent increase in the questionnaire response rate.
- evaluate the cost effectiveness of 1980 census programs specially designed to minimize the population undercounts. These programs, costing about $203 million in 1980, were inefficient, and some produced relatively low results. GAO identified less costly, more efficient procedures, such as sampling, and suggested eliminating some programs producing low results. Overall, the amount of potential savings GAO identified could triple by 1990 if inflation in the 1980's occurs at the level experienced in the 1970's. (GGD – 82 – 13, Feb. 22, 1982)

Department of Transportation Targets High-Risk Carriers for Safety Inspections

In a report to the Congress, GAO noted that, for safety inspections, the Department of Transportation's Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety was not systematically identifying high-risk carriers. GAO found that the Bureau had collected the data necessary for identifying these carriers, but the data was not sent to the field offices, and the investigators were not using it.

As a result of GAO's report, the Bureau has taken action to (1) collect mileage data necessary for computing accident ratios and (2) require regional offices to schedule safety inspections from the resulting lists of high-risk carriers. The high-risk carriers have accident ratios above the national average, carry hazardous materials or flammable liquids, have a higher than average number of inspection violations, and have not been audited in 2 years.

These changes in the selection of high-risk carriers for audit should enable the Bureau to more effectively use its investigations to select carriers and identify safety violations. Consequently, this should result in safer transportation, fewer injuries, and many lives saved. (GGD – 81 – 32, Mar. 3, 1981)

Agriculture Developed a Contingency Plan for Offsetting Impacts of Future Grain Suspensions

GAO's report recommended that the Secretary of Agriculture develop a contingency plan that includes

- an assessment of the flexibility of existing farm programs to efficiently and effectively offset the impact of a suspension on farmers,
- an evaluation of the date needed to quickly determine the extent of a suspension's impact on each of the agricultural sectors, and
- the extent to which the impact on each of those sectors should be offset.

The report also recommended that the Secretary submit to Congress any legislative recommendations for modifying existing programs or instituting new programs necessary to develop the contingency plan. Further, GAO's report said the Secretary should direct the Commodity Credit Corporation, before it purchases any exporters' contracts, to

- prepare an economic justification for each commodity involved in the suspension to determine if such a purchase is necessary,
- use estimates of both suspension-related benefits and detrimental effects in determining the extent of Federal assistance needed, and
- purchase only the types and grades of commodities suspended from shipment and at prices within a reasonable amount of the existing market price.

All of GAO's recommendations were included in the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, which became effective December 22, 1981. (CED – 81 – 110, July 27, 1981)

DOT Increases Emphasis on Alcohol Traffic Safety Activities

In GAO's report to the Congress, the agency stated that society's general acceptance of drinking and driving was the main obstacle to a successful campaign against drinking drivers. GAO concluded that a long-term, continuous commitment involving all government levels, educational institutions, and the general public would be needed before any significant reductions in alcohol-involved accidents would occur. GAO recommended a number of ways the Secretary of Transportation could emphasize the importance of alcohol countermeasure programs.

Since the report was issued, several events have occurred that GAO believes are related to its report findings and/or recommendations:

- In September 1981, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) issued an Alcohol Highway Safety Program Plan to provide States and their communities with the latest technology for solving the drinking-driver problem, to motivate States and communities into action in an organized and systematic manner, and to educate members of society as to the magnitude of the problem and possible solutions. The goals of NHTSA's plan are in line with recommendations provided in GAO's report.
- During the 97th Congress, bills in both House and Senate (S. 671 and H.R. 2488) have been introduced to require States to establish comprehensive alcohol safety programs.
- In April 1982, Congressmen Howard and Barnes introduced a bill (H.R. 6170) which earmarked funds from the Highway Trust Fund to be used as "seed money" for setting up States' comprehensive and self-sufficient drinking-driver programs. (CED – 79 – 33, Feb. 21, 1979)

More Emphasis Given Fares as Source of Transit Revenue

In a 1981 report, GAO pointed out that subsidies were replacing fares as transit's major means of financing operating costs and that transit systems frequently did not adequately consider the role of fares in financing their rapidly rising operating costs. To have local areas place greater emphasis on the role of passenger fares as a source of transit revenue, GAO recommended that the Secretary of Transportation require the appropriate organizations in their transportation plans to (1) establish local goals for the proportion of short- and long-term costs that fare revenue should cover and (2) assess the efficiency and equity of present fares and examine alternative fare structure that might better reflect equity and cost.

The Urban Mass Transportation Administration's National Emphasis Areas for fiscal year 1982 (issued in March 1982) included farebox management. An official in UMTA's Office of Planning Assistance indicated that this was a result of GAO's report and the administration's plans to phase out operating assistance. The National Emphasis Areas are issued to guide the development and preparation of work programs under the section 8 planning program. The establishment of equitable fare policies was identified as one of the four major areas of concern which should be the major focus of short-range transit planning activities. UMTA states that the metropolitan areas should develop 3- to 5-year operating expense and financial management plans which assess alternative farebox policies. UMTA also recommends that planning activities should focus on developing innovative fare-pricing techniques where appropriate. (CED – 81 – 28, Feb. 26, 1981)

Improved Utilization of Contracting Systems

GAO's review of the uniform Government-wide contracting systems for film and videotape productions noted that agencies' reports submitted to the National Audiovisual Center are sometimes inaccurate, incomplete, and untimely. In addition, use of the contracting systems could be improved.

As a result, the Office of Management and Budget has

- asked each agency reporting under Bulletin 81 – 16 to reconcile and correct any discrepancies,
- asked NAC to review a sample of agency reports to check accuracy of reports, and
- will coordinate data sharing between NAC and the Department of Defense Directorate for Audio Visual Management Policy to assure greater use of the uniform contracting system.

In addition, NAC has emphasized the need for agencies to verify data for accuracy and completeness. (PLRD – 81 – 61, Sept. 21, 1981)

Improvements in HUD's Procurement Practices

GAO's report to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development noted that housing-authority personnel responsible for procurement frequently lacked the skills and knowledge needed to make efficient and economical buys. HUD officials have

- issued a *Procurement Handbook for Public Housing Agencies* to HUD field offices and public housing agencies,
- developed a procurement training program, and
- established a system for monitoring and evaluating public housing agencies' procurement activities. (PLRD – 81 – 68, Sept. 30, 1981)

U.S. Citizens Trained in Foreign Medical Schools

In a report to the Congress, GAO noted that the education and training provided by foreign medical schools, in which several thousand U.S. citizens are enrolled, varied greatly and, in GAO's opinion, were not comparable to that offered in U.S. schools. Many U.S. citizens attend the foreign medical schools with the goal of returning to practice medicine in this country.

GAO recommended that the Department of Health and Human Services work with State licensing authorities to develop appropriate mechanisms ensuring that all foreign medical school students demonstrate medical knowledge and skills comparable to those of their U.S.-trained counterparts before being allowed to enter American medical practice.

Since GAO's report was issued, the Department solicited input from various private medical organizations to increase cooperation between itself and State licensing authorities and representatives. In addition, the Department initiated a meeting to study the overall issue of foreign-chartered medical schools and U.S. nationals studying medicine abroad. Through this effort, the Association of American Medical Colleges has acted on the problems identified in GAO's report. This action is consistent with one of the alternatives for dealing with the problem that GAO presented in its report.

In addition, several States have recently acted to restrict the use of their respective medical facilities to those individuals trained in U.S. schools. (HRD – 81 – 32, Nov. 21, 1980)

The Congress and HHS Have Implemented Several GAO Recommendations To Improve Head Start's Fund Distribution Formula and Management Control System

GAO's review of the Head Start Program revealed that management controls needed improvements. HHS has implemented five of GAO's recommendations. Specifically, HHS has

- assured itself that sufficient resources are available to operate a planning system covering all program components and major functions,
- developed a plan for the program reauthorization period (fiscal years 1982 – 84) setting forth the program's goals and the policies, strategies, and options to attain those goals,

- determined the additional funding needed by grantees to bring their programs into full compliance with performance standards and administrative requirements,
- directed its regional office community representatives to validate grantees' program information reports before entering the data into the performance indicator system, and
- determined that the staffing and administrative requirements for the program are adequate.

In addition, HHS has started to (1) study the possibility of gathering and analyzing data on the average cost per child and the average cost per child per contact hour, (2) develop and implement an overall planning system covering all program components and major functions, (3) develop and implement a management information system, (4) review the training planned for community representatives to see that it will produce consistency in interpreting program requirements and grantee monitoring, (5) prepare a manual for grantees which includes models of administrative forms, records, and procedures, and (6) work with the HHS Audit Agency and the OHDS Grants and Contracts Management Division to eliminate the requirements for independent audit work which duplicates functions performed by ACYF monitoring teams. (HRD-81-83, July 23, 1981)

Promotion of High-Energy-Efficient Equipment in VA Guaranteed Housing

In its report, GAO recommended that the Veterans Administration (VA) promote, through their contacts with builders and buyers, the benefits and encourage the installation of high-energy-efficient equipment in their guaranteed housing. This equipment saves energy and can be cost-effective to the homeowner. VA accepted GAO's recommendation and issued a change to the "Energy Resources Conservation Loan Guarantee" circular implementing the recommendation. (EMD – 81 – 93, Sept. 16, 1981)

Thorough Benefit-Cost Analysis Required for Proposals To Expand Domestic Productive Capacity and Supply

In October 1981, GAO drafted a letter for the Ranking Minority Member, Senate Committee on Appropriations, raising serious concern over the viability and costs of using title III of the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended, to expand domestic mineral and material productive capacity and supply. In responding to the letter, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget stated that the administration does "not plan to make use of Title III authorities to subsidize domestic industry" and that "any budget initiative that proposes use of Title III authorities will receive our closest scrutiny."

As a result of the OMB Director's decision, three of the four title III proposals which had received tentative OMB approval were no longer actively considered for funding, and the fourth was delayed pending a thorough benefit-cost analysis. Eliminating the three proposals reduced the required borrowing authority from $1.92 billion to $615 million, or by $1.3 billion. This borrowing authority also represents the maximum expense to the Federal Government under the purchase commitments. Minimum Federal expenses are estimated to have been reduced by about $120.8 million. (EMD – 82 – 104, June 25, 1981)

Military Housing Allowances Have Been Revised To Be More Responsive to Individual Circumstances in the Overseas Environment

In March 1980, GAO reported to the Secretary of Defense that station housing allowances paid to military members overseas to reimburse them for excess housing costs were based on an expensive, time-consuming, and generally inaccurate reporting system.

GAO recommended an alternative method for determining and paying the housing allowances. Under this method, known as rent plus, members overseas would receive their actual excess monthly rent (up to a maximum) plus a fixed sum to cover utilities, maintenance, and moving expenses. The alternative method would also

- help avoid underpayment and overpayment;
- reduce the burden of completing questionnaires in the field and tabulating them by the Department of Defense, plus the preparation of hundreds of allowance tables; and
- provide for timely adjustments when the value of the dollar changes with respect to foreign currencies and when housing costs change.

The Department of Defense is implementing the rent-plus system to replace the station housing allowance system. (FPCD – 80 – 33, Mar. 3, 1982)

Office of Personnel Management Has Improved Its Services to Federal Retirees and Their Survivors

At the request of Senator John Warner and Congresswoman Spellman, Chair, House Subcommittee on Compensation and Employee Benefits, Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, GAO reviewed the Civil Service retirement claims process. In April 1980, average processing times for retirement and survivor claims exceeded 146 days, and the Civil Service had an inventory of over 94,000 unprocessed claims. These figures had nearly doubled from the preceding year and far exceeded OPM's 35-day performance standard for acceptable claims processing.

GAO identified a tracking process whereby fully documented claims (60 percent of the workload) were easily identified and could be quickly processed. OPM immediately adopted this process during GAO's review. GAO also recommended that OPM (1) develop a work force plan based on maintaining 35-day processing times; develop productivity measurements and use them to hold employees and managers accountable for their performance; and evaluate the timeliness, completeness, and accuracy of records submitted by employing agencies.

OPM agreed with and implemented the recommendations. As a result, OPM reduced the number of claims awaiting settlement to 27,000 by September 1981. Also, the processing times have decreased. Thus, Federal retirees and their survivors will receive retired pay much sooner. (FPCD – 81 – 40, July 20, 1981)

The Office of Special Counsel Has Established Better Procedures To Ensure Timely Processing of Whistleblower Allegations

The Office of the Special Counsel within the Merit Systems Protection Board was established to give Federal employees a safe channel for reporting Government illegalities, mismanagement, waste, abuse of authority, or danger to public health or safety. The Congress considered this reporting process, known as "whistleblowing," to be a major step toward a more effective civil service.

GAO found, however, that this reporting process could have been better managed. Serious start-up problems, delays in case processing, poor communication with whistleblowers, and inadequate followup of agencies' responses to complaints jeopardized the Special Counsel's relationship with whistleblowers.

We recommended that the Office of the Special Counsel (1) control its caseload by placing a high priority on improving its case tracking-monitoring system to ensure timely processing of whistleblower complaints, (2) improve communication with whistleblowers to assure that their allegations are clearly understood and that they are kept informed of the progress of their cases, (3) follow up on agency reports responding to whistleblower allegations and actively encourage complaints evaluations and comments on these reports, and (4) place greater emphasis on encouraging Federal employees to disclose wrongful activities by more clearly informing agencies and employees of its role in receiving whistleblower complaints.

The Special Counsel agreed with GAO's recommendation and took corrective action which should result in improving the Counsel's credibility as a safe channel for blowing the whistle on Government wrongdoing. (FPCD – 81 – 10, Dec. 30, 1980)

Strengthening HHS' Runaway and Homeless Youth Program

The National Runaway and Homeless Youth Program was designed to deal with the immediate needs of runaway or homeless youths and their families. In testimony before the House Subcommittee on Human Resources of the Education and Labor Committee, GAO presented generally favorable findings about the program in the areas of program participants, service offerings, center environment, and perceptions of participants, staff, and community service providers associated with the program. As a result of this testimony, the Congress significantly increased the appropriation for the program so that additional runaway and homeless youth centers could be funded. In addition, as a result of the observations GAO made, HHS has drafted changes in information required on the forms for new and continued funding. (Testimony, Director, IPE, May 5, 1982)

Procedures To Implement Development Assistance Projects Have Been Strengthened

In its report, GAO recommended that the Agency for International Development (AID) issue adequate guidance to its project officers responsible for monitoring development assistance project implementation to close a serious gap in AID operating procedures. AID agreed that it needed improved monitoring of projects and advised that a guidance document was issued for staff who monitor direct AID contracts and grants. In responding to the report, AID said it intended to prepare a companion handbook for project officers dealing with host-country contracts. This handbook was issued in July 1982 and will strengthen AID's capability to implement projects under host-country contracts which total over $1 billion a year. (ID – 80 – 33, July 15, 1980)

Improved Controls and Reporting Accuracy Over Air Force Industrial Funds

GAO's August 1981 report concluded that, over the past 10 years, the Air Force was routinely incurring obligations in its industrial fund in excess of available budgetary resources, resulting in numerous overobligations ranging up to $210 million. Further, the Air Force illegally adjusted upward amounts of reported industrial fund budgetary resources on its year-end certifications of fund balances. Because of these adjustments, the overobligations, which existed at year end for 4 of the 10 years, were not apparent on year-end certified reports.

In October 1981, a House and Senate conference committee, acting on GAO's report, directed the Air Force to stop awarding depot maintenance contracts in excess of its resources and to end the practices which violate the fund controls and limitations intended by the Congress. Discontinuing these practices will significantly improve administrative fund controls in industrial funds and will improve the accuracy of year-end financial reports from the Air Force. (AFMD – 81 – 53, Aug. 14, 1981)

Action Taken To Improve DOD's Major System Acquisition Process

In its report, "Effectiveness of U.S. Forces Can Be Increased Through Improved Weapon System Design," GAO discussed weaknesses in the Department of Defense's major system acquisition process. GAO pointed out that many of today's military systems cannot be adequately operated, maintained, or supported because Defense has not paid enough attention to logistic support, human factors, and quality assurance during the design phase of the acquisition process. Defense agreed that it needed to strengthen these activities. Subsequently, GAO has been informed that its report is now being used in educational and training courses offered by the Joint Logistic Command and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. (PSAD – 81 – 17, Jan. 29, 1981)

Appendixes

Number Of Audit Reports Issued During Fiscal Year 1982[1]

	Addressee				
	Congress[2]	Committee[3]	Member	Agency Officials[4]	TOTAL
Administration of Justice	4	7	4	5	20
Agriculture	1	2	6	10	18
Automatic Data Processing	4	12	2	6	24
Commerce and Housing Credit	2	6	6	6	20
Community and Regional Development	4	9	2	9	24
Congressional Information Services	1	0	0	2	3
Education, Training, Employment & Social Services	2	15	11	8	36
Energy	18	46	22	16	102
Financial Management & Information Systems	17	16	6	26	65
General Government	15	40	19	42	116
General Purpose Fiscal Assistance	2	1	0	4	7
General Science, Space & Technology	1	8	2	2	13
Health	5	14	13	20	52
Impoundment Control Act of 1974	25	1	0	0	26
Income Security	6	15	9	7	37
International Affairs	4	18	5	25	52
Multiple Functions	0	0	0	2	2
National Defense	15	60	32	85	192
Natural Resources & Environment	10	16	11	23	60
Non-Discrimination & Equal Opportunity	0	1	0	4	5
Procurement Other Than Defense	0	4	5	22	31
Transportation	3	12	7	10	32
Undistributed Offsetting Receipts	0	0	0	1	1
Veterans Benefits and Services	0	2	5	4	11
TOTAL	139	305	166	339	949

[1] *A detailed list of these reports is contained in Appendix 2. This listing excludes certain reports classified for national security reasons for which unclassified digests have not been prepared.*

[2] *Reports submitted to the Congress are addressed to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Copies are sent to the Director, Office of Management and Budget; the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations and Government Operations; the appropriate legislative committees in the Senate and the House; Members of the Congress from the districts in which the activities reported on are located; others in the Congress, as requested; the President of the United States, as appropriate; the agencies reported on; and others directly affected.*

[3] *Includes reports addressed to officers of the Congress.*

[4] *Comprises reports addressed to heads of departments or agencies, to other officials at department or agency headquarters, to department or agency officials at regional or other local offices, or to commanding officers at military installations.*

Catalog Of Audit Reports Issued During Fiscal Year 1982

Administration of Justice

Criminal Justice Assistance

Agency Officials

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Special Emphasis Program Has Not Realized Its Full Potential. Department of Justice. *GGD-82-42, 4-16-82*

Federal Correctional Activities

Committees

Federal Parole Practices: Better Management and Legislative Changes Are Needed. Department of Justice and Judicial Conference of the United States. *GGD-82-1, 7-16-82*

Agency Officials

Improved Prison Work Programs Will Benefit Correctional Institutions and Inmates. Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons; and Office of Management and Budget. *GGD-82-37, 6-29-82*

Community-Based Correctional Programs Could Be More Extensively Used Within the Federal Criminal Justice System. Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons. *GGD-82-69, 7-2-82*

Justice Needs To Address the Problem of Two Personnel Investigations. Office of Personnel Management. *GGD-82-56, 7-8-82*

The Bureau of Prisons Can Take Certain Actions To Make Sure Its Correctional Training Is Both Relevant and Cost Effective. Department of Justice. *GGD-82-75, 9-30-82*

Federal Law Enforcement Activities

Congress

Stronger Crackdown Needed on Clandestine Laboratories Manufacturing Dangerous Drugs. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration. *GGD-82-6, 11-6-81*

Enforcement of U.S. Import Admissibility Requirements: Better Management Could Save Work, Reduce Delays, and Improve Service and Importers' Compliance. Department of the Treasury, United States Customs Service; Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration; Departments of Agriculture and Transportation; and Environmental Protection Agency. *GGD-82-12, 1-25-82*

New U.S. Valuation System for Imported Products Is Better and Easier To Administer. Department of the Treasury, United States Customs Service. *GGD-82-80, 7-26-82*

Committees

One-Stop Inspection System Speeds the Entry of International Travelers. Department of Transportation; Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service; Department of the Treasury, United States Customs Service; and Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. (Request of Representative Sam M. Gibbons, Chairman, Trade Subcommittee, House Committee on Ways and Means) *GGD-82-62, 3-22-82*

FBI-DEA Task Forces: An Unsuccessful Attempt at Joint Operations. Department of Justice. (Request of Representative Glenn L. English, Chairman, Government Information and Individual Rights Subcommittee, House Committee on Government Operations) *GGD-82-50, 3-26-82*

Information on the Enforcement of Laws Regarding Employment of Aliens in Selected Countries. Departments of Justice and State. (Request of Senator Alan K. Simpson, Chairman, Immigration and Refugee Policy Subcommittee, Senate Committee on the Judiciary) *GGD-82-86, 8-31-82*

Problems and Options in Estimating the Size of the Illegal Alien Population. Department of Justice. (Request of Senator Alan K. Simpson, Chairman, Immigration and Refugee Policy Subcommittee, Senate Committee on the Judiciary) *IPE-82-9, 9-24-82*

Members Stronger Federal Effort Needed in Fight Against Organized Crime. Departments of Justice and the Treasury. (Request of Senator Max S. Baucus, Chairman, Limitations of Contracted and Delegated Authority Subcommittee, Senate Committee on the Judiciary) *GGD-82-2, 12-7-81*

U.S. Marshals' Dilemma: Serving Two Branches of Government. Department of Justice, United States Marshals Service; Administrative Office of the United States Courts; and Judicial Conference of the United States. (Request of Senator Max S. Baucus) *GGD-82-3, 4-19-82*

U.S. Marshals Can Serve Civil Process and Transport Prisoners More Efficiently. Department of Justice, United States Marshals Service; Administrative Office of the United States Courts; and Judicial Conference of the United States. (Request of Senator Max S. Baucus) *GGD-82-8, 4-22-82*

Federal Litigative and Judicial Activities

Congress Federal Court Reporting System: Outdated and Loosely Supervised. Administrative Office of the United States Courts and Judicial Conference of the United States. *GGD-82-11, 6-8-82*

Committees The Impact of Antitrust Enforcement on the Country's Minerals Posture. Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission. (Request of Representative James D. Santini, Chairman, Mines and Mining Subcommittee, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs) *EMD-82-11, 10-7-81*

Statistical Results of Bail Practices in Selected Federal Courts. Administrative Office of the United States Courts. *GGD-82-51, 2-23-82*

Members An Additional Federal Court Location in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania Is Not Needed. (Request of Representative Robert S. Walker) *GGD-82-30, 12-30-81*

Agriculture

Members High Food Prices in the Virgin Islands. Office of Personnel Management and Departments of Agriculture and Labor. (Request of Delegate Ron DeLugo) *CED-82-23, 12-16-81*

Reasons for High Food Prices in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Office of Personnel Management and Departments of Agriculture and Labor. (Request of Delegate Ron DeLugo) *CED-82-93, 5-28-82*

Agency Officials Assistance to Beginning Farmers. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. *CED, 5-14-82*

Agricultural Research and Services

Committees Progress Made in Federal Human Nutrition Research Planning and Coordination; Some Improvements Needed. Department of Agriculture; Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health; and Office of Science and Technology Policy. (Request of Representative George E. Brown, Jr.; and Science, Research and Technology Subcommittee, House Committee on Science and Technology) *CED-82-56, 5-21-82*

Members Better Ways To Provide for Use of Agricultural Information. Department of Agriculture. (Request of Senator Thad Cochran) *CED-82-46, 2-26-82*

Agency Officials Better Collection and Maintenance Procedures Needed To Help Protect Agriculture's Germplasm Resources. *CED-82-7, 12-4-81*

Agency Responsibilities To Keep Informed of Personnel Needs in the Food and Agricultural Sciences. Department of Agriculture. *CED-82-25, 12-28-81*

Informing the Public About Food--A Strategy Is Needed for Improving Communication. Federal Trade Commission and Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services. *CED-82-12, 1-8-82*

Comments on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 1981 Program Report and Environmental Impact Statement. *CED-82-41, 1-29-82*

•Food, Agriculture, and Nutrition Issues for Planning. Department of Agriculture. *CED-82-27, 2-4-82*

Agricultural Marketing Act Inspections Should Be Administered by Single USDA Agency. *CED-82-69, 5-21-82*

Farm Income Stabilization

Congress Congressional Decision Needed on Necessity of Federal Wool Program. Department of Agriculture. *CED-82-86, 8-2-82*

Committees Tobacco Program's Production Rights and Effects on Competition. Department of Agriculture, Commodity Credit Corporation. (Request of Senators Thomas F. Eagleton, Ranking Minority Member, Agriculture and Related Agencies Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Appropriations; and Mark O. Hatfield, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations) *CED-82-70, 4-23-82*

Members The Packers and Stockyards Administration's Regulatory Reform Activities. Department of Agriculture. (Request of Representative Wes W. Watkins) *CED-82-11, 11-16-81*

Information on Commodity Credit Corporation Loan Repayment Practices. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. (Request of Representative Robert N. Shamansky) *CED-82-106, 6-16-82*

Agency Officials Savings Are Possible Through Better Management of Government-Owned Dairy Products. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. *CED-82-79, 5-18-82*

Import-Export Issues

Agency Officials An Economic Analysis of the Pricing Efficiency and Market Organization of the U.S. Grain Export System. Commodity Futures Trading Commission and Departments of Agriculture and Commerce. *CED-82-61S, 6-15-82*

Market Structure and Pricing of U.S. Grain Export System. Commodity Futures Trading Commission and Departments of Agriculture and Commerce. *CED-82-61, 6-15-82*

Automatic Data Processing

Congress Federal Agencies Still Need To Develop Greater Computer Audit Capabilities. Office of Management and Budget; and Departments of Defense, Agriculture, and Health and Human Services. *AFMD-82-7, 10-16-81*

Problems Plague National Weather Service ADP System. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration. *CED-82-6, 11-18-81*

The Treasury Department and Its Bureaus Can Better Plan for and Control Computer Resources. *GGD-82-9, 2-22-82*

Improving COBOL Application Can Recover Significant Computer Resources. General Services Administration; and Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards. *AFMD-82-4, 4-1-82*

Committees

Misuse of SBA's 8(a) Program Increased Cost for Many ADP Equipment Acquisitions. Department of Defense, General Services Administration, and Office of Management and Budget. (Request of Representative Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations) *AFMD-82-9, 10-16-81*

Solving Social Security Computer Problems: Comprehensive Corrective Action Plan and Better Management Needed. Department of Health and Human Services. (Request of Representative Jack Brooks, Chairman, Legislation and National Security Subcommittee, House Committee on Government Operations) *HRD-82-19, 12-10-81*

Identifying Computer Data Bases To Aid Congressional Oversight on the Needs of Older Americans. Department of Health and Human Services. (Request of Senator John Heinz) *IPE-82-6, 4-19-82*

Examination of the Federal Aviation Administration's Plan for the National Airspace System--Interim Report. Department of Transportation. *AFMD-82-66, 4-20-82*

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Impact of Federal R&D Funding on Three Mile Island Cleanup Costs. Department of Energy. (Request of Representatives Manuel Lujan, Ranking Minority Member, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; and Morris K. Udall, Chairman, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs) *EMD-82-28, 1-15-82*

Analysis of Federal Energy Roles and Structure. Office of Management and Budget and Departments of Energy and the Interior. (Request of Senator Charles H. Percy, Nuclear Proliferation, Science, Planning and Federal Services Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs; and Representative Philip R. Sharp, Fossil and Synthetic Fuels Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) *EMD-82-21, 1-20-82*

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Update on the Impact of Federal R&D Funding on Three Mile Island Cleanup Costs. Department of Energy and General Public Utilities Corporation. (Request of Representatives Manuel Lujan, Ranking Minority Member, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; and Morris K. Udall, Chairman, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs) *EMD-82-68, 4-7-82*

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Information on Corps of Engineers Deauthorization Program for Water Projects. Departments of Defense, the Army, and the Interior. (Request of Representatives Barney Frank, Floyd J.

Fithian, Robert W. Edgar, Berkley W. Bedell, James H. Weaver, Ronald E. Paul, Buddy Roemer, and John F. Seiberling) *CED-82-55, 3-23-82*

Information on Federal Funding of Portions of the San Luis Unit of the California Central Valley Project. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. (Request of Representative George Miller) *CED-82-64, 4-13-82*

Water Diverted From Lake Tahoe Has Been Within Authorized Levels. Department of the Interior. (Request of Representative George Miller) *CED-82-85, 5-19-82*

Agency Officials

Water Issues Facing the Nation: An Overview. Departments of the Interior, the Army, and Agriculture. *CED-82-83, 5-6-82*

Improved Planning and Management of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project Is Needed. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers. *MASAD-82-35, 5-14-82*

•Procedures Needed To Ensure That Irrigation Operation and Maintenance Costs Are Recovered at a Jointly Managed Facility. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers; and Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. *CED-82-107, 7-1-82*

Improved Planning Needed by Corps of Engineers To Resolve Environmental, Technical and Financial Issues on the Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Project. Department of the Army. *MASAD-82-39, 8-17-82*

Water Sales Contracts From Missouri River Reservoirs Need To Require Reimbursement for Operation and Maintenance Expenses. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation; and Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers. *CED-82-123, 9-7-82*

Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity

Committees

The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs' Enforcement of Executive Order 11246 in Chicago. Department of Labor. (Request of Senator Orrin G. Hatch, Chairman, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources) *HRD-82-119, 9-17-82*

Agency Officials

The Administration of the Contract Compliance Program Has Shown Improvement. Department of Labor and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. *HRD-82-8, 10-9-81*

The Offices for Civil Rights in the Departments of Education and HHS Have Improved the Management of Their Civil Rights Enforcement Responsibilities. *HRD-82-21, 11-27-81*

Procurement - Other Than Defense

Committees

Less Sole-Source, More Competition Needed on Federal Civil Agencies' Contracting. Departments of Energy, the Interior, and Transportation; Veterans Administration; General Services Administration; Office of Management and Budget; and Office of Federal Procurement Policy. (Request of Representative Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations) *PLRD-82-40, 4-7-82*

Allegations That the Postal Service Is Entering Into Unfair Competition With Private Postage Stamp Vendors. United States Postal Service. (Request of Senator William V. Roth, Jr., Chairman, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs) *GGD-82-73, 5-3-82*

Better Information Management Could Alleviate Oversight Problems With the GSA Construction Program. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service. (Request of Repre-

sentative John G. Fary, Chairman, Public Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee, House Committee on Public Works and Transportation) *PLRD-82-87, 7-9-82*

Analysis of Internal Control Systems To Ensure the Accuracy, Completeness, and Timeliness of Federal Procurement Data. Department of Defense. (Request of Representative Geraldine A. Ferraro, Chairman, Human Resources Subcommittee, House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service) *PLRD-82-119, 9-23-82*

Members

GAO's Response to DOE's Comments on EMD-81-108, "Better Oversight Needed at DOE's Nuclear Facilities." Nuclear Regulatory Commission. (Request of Representative Patricia Schroeder) *EMD-82-36, 1-27-82*

EPA's Use of Management Support Services. (Request of Senator Max S. Baucus) *CED-82-36, 3-9-82*

Stamp Collecting Kits Bought by the U.S. Postal Service. (Request of Representative Bill Green) *GGD-82-45, 3-10-82*

Flaws in Contractor Support for the Department of Labor's Black Lung Program. (Request of Representative Paul Simon) *PLRD-82-43, 4-2-82*

Federal Government's Use of International Data Corporation's Subscription Services. Office of Management and Budget. (Request of Senator John G. Tower) *PLRD-82-118, 8-30-82*

Agency Officials

Status of the Center City Commuter Connection Project, Philadelphia, PA. Department of Transportation, Urban Mass Transportation Administration. *MASAD-82-1, 10-6-81*

The Postal Service Should Increase Competition and Reduce Costs When Buying Vehicle Batteries. *GGD-82-14, 11-6-81*

Major System Acquisition Management in the Department of Justice. *GGD-82-18, 12-29-81*

Use of Formal Advertising by Civilian Agencies. Department of the Interior. *FOD, 1-25-82*

Use of Contractor for Travel Services. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Services Administration. *PLRD-82-35, 1-25-82*

The Postal Service Will Reduce Body Armor Costs by Purchasing Competitively. *GGD-82-19, 1-27-82*

Major System Acquisition Management in the Department of the Treasury. *GGD-82-16, 1-29-82*

Evaluation of GSA Use of Life Cycle Costing in the Procurement of Building Materials. *PLRD-82-41, 2-17-82*

VA Needs To Improve Its Quality Assurance Program for Medical Supply and Equipment Items. *PLRD-82-44, 2-23-82*

GSA Nonstores Procurement Program Falls Far Short of Its Objectives. Agency for International Development; Department of Defense, Defense Logistics Agency; and Departments of State, the Army, and the Air Force. *PLRD-82-36, 2-24-82*

Duplicate Programs To Identify Minority Businesses. Office of Management and Budget. *PLRD-82-58, 3-23-82*

Excessive Specifications Are Limiting Competition for IRS Special Design Tax Return Folders. Department of the Treasury. *GGD-82-61, 3-24-82*

Procurement Costs of Ammunition Used for Practice and Training Can Be Reduced. Department of the Treasury. *GGD-82-39, 4-21-82*

Procurement Costs of Ammunition Used for Practice and Training Can Be Reduced. Department of Justice. *GGD-82-40, 4-21-82*

Further Improvements Needed in the Department of Energy for Estimating and Reporting Project Costs. *MASAD-82-37, 5-26-82*

GSA Needs To Improve the Management of Its New Item Introductory Schedule Program. *PLRD-82-82, 6-4-82*

Improvements in Small Purchasing Activities Can Save Money, Increase Competition, and Achieve Required Goals. Department of the Treasury, Office of Management and Budget, and Office of Federal Procurement Policy. *GGD-82-44, 6-8-82*

Potential Savings From Diverting Certain Mail From Air to Surface Transportation. United States Postal Service. *GGD-82-63, 6-18-82*

GSA Could Do More To Improve Energy Conservation in New Federal Buildings. *PLRD-82-90, 7-12-82*

Award and Administration of Contracts for Job Corps Centers. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. *PLRD-82-107, 8-10-82*

An Opportunity To Continue Increasing Competition and Saving Money on Large Postal Service Procurements. United States Postal Service. *GGD-82-67, 9-2-82*

Procurement Costs of Ammunition Used for Practice and Training Can Be Reduced. District of Columbia. *GGD-82-87, 9-16-82*

Transportation

Agency Officials

Transportation: Evolving Issues for Analysis. Departments of Transportation and Commerce, Civil Aeronautics Board, and Interstate Commerce Commission. *CED-82-15, 1-6-82*

Air Transportation

Congress

Fresh Look Is Needed at Proposed South Florida Jetport. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration. *CED-82-54, 6-15-82*

Runways at Small Airports Are Deteriorating Because of Deferred Maintenance. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration. *CED-82-104, 9-13-82*

Committees

The Department of the Interior's Office of Aircraft Services Should Not Be Abolished. (Request of Representative Morris K. Udall, Chairman, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs) *PLRD-82-5, 10-7-81*

The Changing Airline Industry: A Status Report Through 1981. Civil Aeronautics Board and Department of Transportation. (Request of Representatives Norman Y. Mineta, Chairman, Aviation Subcommittee, House Committee on Public Works and Transportation; and James J. Howard, Chairman, House Committee on Public Works and Transportation) *CED-82-94, 6-24-82*

Members

Impact on Federal Government if the Combined Continental Airlines and Texas International Airlines Fail To Meet Financial Obligations. Civil Aeronautics Board; Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration;and Department of the Treasury. (Request of Senator Mark O. Hatfield and Representative Les AuCoin) *CED-82-33, 2-3-82*

Assessment of the Federal Aviation Administration's Plan To Close Its Denver and Honolulu Regional Offices. Department of Transportation. (Request of Senator Gary W. Hart) *CED-82-45, 2-25-82*

The Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority's Compliance With the Noise Provision of Its Federal Grant. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration. (Request of Representatives Henry A. Waxman, Bobbi Fiedler, and Anthony C. Beilenson) *CED-82-49, 3-5-82*

Agency Officials

Need for Written Procedures to Guide FAA Staff in Preparing Certain Cost-Benefit Analyses. Department of Transportation. *CED, 3-5-82*

Alternatives to Current Management and Ownership of Washington National and Dulles International Airports. Office of Management and Budget; and Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration. *CED, 5-18-82*

Ground Transportation

Congress

Alaska Railroad: Federal Role Should End; Some Management Problems Remain. Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration. *CED-82-9, 2-25-82*

Committees

Producing More Fuel-Efficient Automobiles: A Costly Proposition. Departments of Transportation and Energy and Environmental Protection Agency. (Request of Representative John D. Dingell, Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) *CED-82-14, 1-19-82*

Economy, Efficiency, and Effectiveness of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. (Request of Representatives Ted S. Weiss, Government Activities and Transportation Subcommittee, House Committee on Government Operations; and John L. Burton, Chairman, Government Activities and Transportation Subcommittee, House Committee on Government Operations) *CED-82-47, 3-10-82*

Status of Special Efforts To Meet Transportation Needs of the Elderly and Handicapped. Department of Transportation. (Request of Senators Christopher J. Dodd, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; Donald W. Riegle, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; Paul S. Sarbanes, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; and Alan Cranston, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs) *CED-82-66, 4-15-82*

Better Administration of Capital Grants Could Reduce Unnecessary Expenditures on Mass Transit Projects. Department of Transportation, Urban Mass Transportation Administration. *CED-82-22, 4-20-82*

Changes in DOT's Grants to Public Transportation Projects in Nonurbanized Areas Would Be Beneficial. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. (Request of Senators Larry Pressler; Jennings Randolph, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; and Robert T. Stafford, Chairman, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works) *CED-82-24, 5-28-82*

Tri-State Regional Planning Commission's Approval of the Westway Highway Project in New York City. Department of Transportation. (Request of Representative John L. Burton, Chairman, Government Activities and Transportation Subcommittee, House Committee on Government Operations) *CED-82-80, 6-1-82*

Analysis of Amtrak's Acquisition of Office Copying Equipment. (Request of Senator Mark Andrews, Transportation and Related Agencies Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Appropriations) *CED-82-111, 7-12-82*

Members

Drayage Contract at GSA's Franconia, Virginia, Depot. (Request of Representative Stanford E. Parris) *PLRD-82-10, 10-28-81*

Effects of Regulatory Reform on Unemployment in the Trucking Industry. Interstate Commerce Commission. (Request of Senator Dennis DeConcini) *CED-82-90, 6-11-82*

Further Examination of the East Chicago, Indiana, Highway Ramp Collapse Could Help Prevent Similar Accidents. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration; Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards; and Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (Request of Representative Adam Benjamin, Jr.) *CED-82-120, 9-2-82*

Agency Officials

UMTA Needs To Ensure That Adequate Testing and Evaluation Is Done on Future Mass Transit Rail Vehicles. Department of Transportation. *MASAD-82-25, 3-22-82*

Small Car Safety: An Issue That Needs Further Evaluation. Department of Transportation. *CED-82-29, 4-26-82*

Highway Right-of-Way Program Administration by Wisconsin and Michigan and the Federal Highway Administration. Department of Transportation. *CED-82-110, 7-13-82*

Changes to the Motor Vehicle Recall Program Could Reduce Potential Safety Hazards. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. *CED-82-99, 8-24-82*

Other Transportation

Committees

The Federal Approach to Rail Safety Inspection and Enforcement: Time for Change. Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration. (Request of Representatives Robert T. Matsui; Dan R. Glickman; and James J. Florio, Chairman, Commerce, Transportation, and Tourism Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) *CED-82-51, 4-19-82*

Changes in Federal Maritime Regulation Can Increase Efficiency and Reduce Costs in the Ocean Liner Shipping Industry. Departments of Transportation and Justice and Federal Maritime Commission. (Request of House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries) *PAD-82-11, 7-2-82*

Agency Officials

Procurement of Support Services at the Transportation Systems Center. Department of Transportation. *CED, 11-23-81*

UMTA's Research and Development Program Should Pay Closer Attention to Transit Industry Needs. Department of Transportation. *CED-82-17, 1-20-82*

Strengthening Transportation Policy Development and Implementation. Department of Transportation. *CED-82-102, 9-9-82*

Water Transportation

Committees

Maritime Subsidy Requirements Hinder U.S.-Flag Operators' Competitive Position. Department of Transportation; and Department of Commerce, Maritime Administration. (Request of Representatives Paul N. McCloskey, Jr., Ranking Minority Member, Merchant Marine Subcommittee, House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; Mario Biaggi, Chairman, Merchant Marine Subcommittee, House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; M. Gene Snyder, Ranking Minority Member, House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; and Walter B. Jones, Chairman, House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries) *CED-82-2, 11-30-81*

Members

Effects of Cargo Preference Requirement for Dry Bulk Exports and Imports. Federal Maritime Commission and Departments of Commerce and Transportation. (Request of Representative Nick J. Rahall, II) *PAD-82-29, 5-7-82*

Undistributed Offsetting Receipts

Federal Surplus Property Disposition

Agency Officials

Alaska Regional Office Needs To Improve Personal Property Management. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. *CED, 8-26-82*

Veterans Benefits and Services

Members Proposed Move of the VA Florida Loan Guaranty Division From Jacksonville. (Request of Representative Charles E. Bennett) *HRD-82-85, 7-21-82*

Hospital and Medical Care for Veterans

Committees Providing Veterans With Service-Connected Dental Problems Higher Priority at VA Clinics Could Reduce Fee-Program Costs. Department of Defense. (Request of Senator Alan Cranston, Chairman, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs) *HRD-81-82S, 5-24-82*

Members Stronger VA and DOD Actions Needed To Recover Costs of Medical Services to Persons With Work-Related Injuries or Illnesses. (Request of Representative Vic Fazio) *HRD-82-49, 6-4-82*

Actions Needed To Insure That Female Veterans Have Equal Access to VA Benefits. (Request of Senator Daniel K. Inouye) *HRD-82-98, 9-24-82*

Agency Officials VA Should Consider Less Costly Alternatives Before Constructing New Nursing Homes. *HRD-82-114, 9-30-82*

Income Security for Veterans

Committees Legislation Needed To Prevent Loss of Millions From Mentally Incompetent Veterans' Estates. Veterans Administration. (Request of House Committee on Veterans' Affairs) *HRD-82-1, 2-10-82*

Members VA Forfeiture Decisions Highlight the Need To Strengthen the Procedural Protections Afforded Filipino Veterans Residing in the Philippines. (Request of Senator Alan Cranston, Chairman, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs) *HRD-82-46, 3-15-82*

VA Denver Regional Office Needs an Improved Claims Processing Monitoring System To Speed Up Service to Veterans. Veterans Administration and Federal Labor Relations Authority. (Request of Senator Gary W. Hart and Representative Patricia Schroeder) *HRD-82-45, 3-15-82*

Other Veterans Benefits and Services

Agency Officials VA Claims Processing Improvements Can Aid in Improving Productivity. *AFMD-82-86, 7-13-82*

VA Should Use Economic Order Quantity Principles in the Wholesale Supply System. *PLRD-82-108, 8-18-82*

Veterans Education, Training, and Rehabilitation

Agency Officials The Veterans Administration's Programs for On-the-Job Training and Apprenticeship. *HRD-82-111, 8-5-82*

Opportunities Exist To Achieve Greater Standardization of Aircraft and Helicopter Seats. Departments of Defense, the Navy, the Army, and the Air Force. *MASAD-82-22, 2-26-82*

Need To Examine ALR-74 Radar Warning Receiver Program Schedule. Departments of Defense and the Air Force. *MASAD-82-23, 3-10-82*

Reduced Performance and Increased Cost Warrant Reassessment of the Multiple Stores Ejector Rack. Departments of Defense, the Air Force, and the Navy. *MASAD-82-26, 3-26-82*

Air-Launched Cruise Missile: Logistics Planning Problems and Implications for Other Weapon Systems. Departments of Defense, the Navy, and the Air Force. *PLRD-82-68, 5-10-82*

Testing and Maintenance of Weapon Systems May Be Enhanced by the Design for Testability Concept. Departments of Defense, the Air Force, the Army, and the Navy. *MASAD-82-38, 8-6-82*

Progress of the Light Armored Vehicle Program Should Be Closely Monitored. Departments of Defense, the Army, and the Navy; and United States Marine Corps. *MASAD-82-41, 8-10-82*

Deficiencies Identified With an Urban Warfare Modeling Program at the TRADOC Systems Analysis Activity. Departments of Defense, the Army, the Air Force, and the Navy. *MASAD-82-46, 8-20-82*

Natural Resources and Environment

Agency Officials

Land Use Issues: A GAO Perspective. *CED-82-40, 2-25-82*

Conservation and Land Management

Committees

Reorganization of the Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior. (Request of Representative Morris K. Udall, Chairman, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs) *CED-82-32, 1-18-82*

Mineral Data in the Forest Service's Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) Is Misleading and Should Be Corrected. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service; and Department of the Interior. *EMD-82-29, 2-4-82*

Status of Federal Agencies' Implementation of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. Departments of the Interior and Agriculture. *CED-82-74, 4-19-82*

Potential Cost of Purchasing or Exchanging Phosphate Mining Lease Rights in Florida's Osceola National Forest. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service; and Department of the Interior. (Request of Senator Jesse A. Helms, Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry) *EMD-82-85, 5-24-82*

Members

Numerous Issues Involved in Large-Scale Disposals and Sales of Federal Real Property. General Services Administration; Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management; and Departments of Defense and Agriculture. (Request of Representative Kenneth Kramer) *CED-82-18, 12-11-81*

Proposed Relocation and Consolidation of the Soil Conservation Service at Fort Worth, Texas. Department of Agriculture. (Request of Representative Steny Hoyer) *CED-82-26, 12-17-81*

Proposed Consolidation of Smokejumper Bases in the Forest Service's Western Regions. Department of Agriculture. (Request of Senators Bob Packwood and Mark O. Hatfield) *CED-82-39, 2-9-82*

Weaknesses Found in Timber Sale Practices on the Plumas National Forest. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service; and Small Business Administration. (Request of Representatives Eugene A. Chappie; Paul N. McCloskey, Jr.; and A. Toby Moffett, Chairman, Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee, House Committee on Government Operations) *CED-82-88, 6-23-82*

Agency Officials

Further Efforts Needed To Ensure Best Use of Research Findings. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. *CED, 2-26-82*

Interior's Minerals Management Programs Need Consolidation To Improve Accountability and Control. *EMD-82-104, 7-27-82*

Problems and Progress During Current Forest Service Planning. Department of Agriculture. *EMD-82-99, 8-18-82*

Other Natural Resources

Congress

Impediments to U.S. Involvement in Deep Ocean Mining Can Be Overcome. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines; and Department of State. *EMD-82-31, 2-3-82*

Committees

The Federal Government Should Encourage Early Public, Regulatory, and Industry Cooperation in Siting Energy Facilities. Council on Environmental Quality; Departments of Energy and the Interior; and Environmental Protection Agency. (Request of Representative John D. Dingell, Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) *EMD-82-18, 11-13-81*

Status Report on Executive Branch Implementation of the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980. Office of Science and Technology Policy; Office of Policy Development; Executive Office of the President; and Departments of Defense, Commerce, and the Interior. (Request of Representative Don Fuqua, Chairman, House Committee on Science and Technology) *EMD-82-27, 11-18-81*

Streamlining and Ensuring Mineral Development Must Begin at Local Land Management Levels. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. (Request of Representative John D. Dingell, Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) *EMD-82-10, 12-4-81*

Mining on National Park Service Lands--What Is at Stake? Department of the Interior. (Request of Representative James D. Santini, Mines and Mining Subcommittee, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs) *EMD-81-119S, 12-14-81*

National Defense-Related Silver Needs Should Be Reevaluated and Alternative Disposal Methods Explored Federal Emergency Management Agency; Departments of Defense and the Interior; and General Services Administration. (Request of Senator James A. McClure, Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; and Representative Charles E. Bennett, Chairman, Seapower and Strategic and Critical Materials Subcommittee, House Committee on Armed Services) *EMD-82-24, 1-11-82*

Changing Ownership Within the U.S. Minerals Industry: Possible Causes and Steps Needed To Determine the Effects. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines; Federal Trade Commission; and Securities and Exchange Commission. (Request of Representative James D. Santini, Chairman, Mines and Mining Subcommittee, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs) *EMD-82-41, 4-26-82*

Agency Officials

Actions Needed To Promote a Stable Supply of Strategic and Critical Minerals and Materials. Executive Office of the President, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Departments of Defense and the Interior, and Federal Emergency Management Agency. *EMD-82-69, 6-3-82*

Interior Should Help States Assess Mineral Tax Programs. *EMD-82-48, 6-16-82*

Summary of Personnel Assigned To Congressional Committees Fiscal Year 1982

Committee	Length of Assignment From	To	Tentative release date	Salary[1]	Travel expenses[1]	Other expenses[2]	Total cost
Senate							
Finance Committee:							
Mihalski, Edmund (HRD)	05/18/81	05/14/82	—	$ 21,972	—	$ 1,868	$ 23,840
Stanco, William (HRD)	08/10/81	08/09/82	—	31,339	—	2,664	34,003
Governmental Affairs Committee:							
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations:							
Jones, Norman (HRD)	05/18/81	03/26/82		13,984	—	1,188	15,172
House							
Appropriations Committee:							
Surveys and Investigations Staff:							
Antonio, Robert (PLRD)	12/01/80	12/02/81	—	6,088	852	517	7,457
Astrow, Paul (FOD-WRO)	12/14/81	—	12/13/82	20,686	—	1,758	22,444
Bachman, Thomas (FOD-CIN)	05/15/81	02/19/82	—	14,479	3,671	1,231	19,381
Baldwin, John (PLRD)	11/30/81	—	11/29/82	30,964	2,716	2,632	36,312
Beard, James H. (FOD-CIN)	05/19/81	05/18/82	—	20,242	6,139	1,721	28,102
Behal, Richard D. (FOD-PHIL)	05/07/81	05/06/82	—	21,026	2,913	1,787	25,726
Block, Arlene J. (FOD-WRO)	11/12/80	11/13/81	—	2,719	37	231	2,987
Bollea, Paul (FOD-WRO)	11/17/80	11/13/81	—	3,687	—	313	4,000
Brouk, Arthur (FOD-KC)	07/07/81	04/16/82	—	16,792	2,058	1,427	20,277
Cekala, Sharon (FOD-WRO)	09/20/82	—	09/19/83	1,202	—	102	1,304
Chervenak, Richard (EMD)	12/08/80	12/02/81	—	9,058	90	770	9,918
Chervenak, Richard (EMD)	06/07/82	—	06/06/83	17,600	—	1,496	19,096
Ciambrano, Frank (FOD-PHIL)	11/16/81	—	11/15/82	26,196	4,221	2,227	32,644
Clark, Jeffrey (CEDD)	12/14/81	—	12/13/82	22,864	3,614	1,943	28,421
Collingsworth, Anthony (FOD-WRO)	09/20/82	—	09/18/83	1,076	—	91	1,167
Combs, David (HRD)	11/16/81	—	11/15/82	33,526	7,213	$ 2,850	$ 43,589
Cramsey, John (PLRD)	03/09/81	03/08/82	—	17,018	5,422	1,447	23,887
Denman, Julia (PLRD)	04/13/81	10/17/81	—	1,818	—	155	1,973
Dinsmore, Paul (PLRD)	09/28/81	09/27/82	—	44,446	8,858	3,778	57,082
Dorney, Thomas (PLRD)	11/30/81	—	11/29/82	40,494	238	3,442	44,174
Eads, Edwin (ID)	11/02/81	—	11/01/82	51,570	44	4,383	55,997
Eilerman, Robert (FOD-KC)	05/19/81	04/16/82	—	22,614	1,520	1,922	26,056
Eleamos, Anthony (FOD-LA)	05/19/81	04/02/82	—	24,830	3,377	2,111	30,318
Fenstermaker, Fred (MASAD)	12/14/81	—	12/13/82	27,906	4,706	2,372	34,984
Gillespie, Bascum (FOD-DET)	05/15/81	10/09/81	—	1,101	—	94	1,195
Glick, Jeffrey (FOD-WRO)	09/07/82	—	09/06/83	1,459	—	124	1,583
Goodin, Paul (MASAD)	11/17/80	01/15/82	—	6,028	401	512	6,941
Goodmiller, J. Kenzel (CEDD)	12/14/81	—	12/13/82	22,512	2,751	1,914	27,177
Grishkat, Paul (HRD)	11/30/81	—	11/29/82	31,781	13,390	2,701	47,872
Hite, Randolph (FOD-WRO)	08/16/82	—	08/15/83	3,780	377	321	4,478
Holton, Edward (FOD-WRO)	08/16/82	08/17/82	—	138	—	12	150
Huntington, A. H. (FPCD)	11/30/81	—	11/29/82	33,705	5,869	2,865	42,439

Committee	Length of Assignment From	To	Tentative release date	Salary[1]	Travel expenses[1]	Other expenses[2]	Total cost
Jahnigen, George (PLRD)	10/27/80	11/17/81	—	3,007	581	256	3,844
Kauffman, Dean S. (FOD-LA)	05/19/81	04/02/82	—	11,790	3,658	1,002	16,450
Keyko, Carole A. (FOD-WRO)	08/16/82	—	08/15/83	4,684	—	398	5,082
Kissel, Robert P. Jr. (FOD-CIN)	05/15/81	02/19/82	—	13,148	4,674	1,118	18,940
Larence, Eileen (FOD-WRO)	09/20/82	—	09/19/83	978	—	83	1,061
Leporati, Ronald D. (FOD-PHIL)	05/04/82	—	05/03/83	14,878	5,365	1,265	21,508
Leoporatti, Louis J. (MASAD)	05/10/82	—	05/09/83	22,000	2,301	1,870	26,171
Mason, Roy T. (EMD)	04/13/81	03/13/82	—	23,854	—	2,028	25,882
Messinger, Edward (AFMD)	10/27/80	10/14/81	—	1,927	—	164	2,091
Mohler, Richard (FOD-WRO)	08/23/82	—	08/22/83	4,870	7	414	5,291
Nobles, Rudy J. (FOD-DAL)	05/19/81	05/18/82	—	23,988	3,457	2,039	29,484
Outlaw, Noel T. (FOD-WRO)	08/16/82	—	08/15/83	4,540	10	386	4,936
Owczarzak, James (FOD-DET)	05/15/81	04/30/82	—	19,250	5,680	1,637	26,567
Peters, Shirley W. (FOD-DET)	05/19/81	05/18/82	—	20,105	3,133	1,709	24,947
Pollon, Hugh (PLRD)	10/27/80	10/26/81	—	1,735	—	147	1,882
Rhamy, David (OIR)	02/17/81	11/13/81	—	3,432	212	292	3,936
Rose, Jimmy R. (FOD-ATL)	05/19/81	05/18/82	—	25,412	6,630	2,160	34,202
Shelley, Judy (FOD-WRO)	09/20/82	—	09/19/83	1,076	—	91	1,167
Slaughter, Jerry (FOD-DAL)	05/10/82	—	05/09/83	12,056	4,460	1,025	17,541
Stupsker, Myron (FOD-DET)	10/26/81	04/30/82	—	18,090	4,683	1,538	24,311
Sullivan, Arthur (FOD-WRO)	12/15/80	12/14/81	—	6,836	660	581	8,077
Swain, John (PLRD)	05/04/81	05/03/82	—	16,034	2,605	1,363	20,002
Thompson, Kennard (GGD)	10/27/80	10/26/81	—	2,926	—	249	3,175
Tice, Robert J. (CEDD)	11/12/80	11/11/81	—	5,393	—	458	5,851
Westbrook, Vernon, Jr. (FOD-DAL)	05/24/82	—	05/23/83	13,213	3,754	1,123	18,090
Armed Services Committee:							
Arzadon, Henry (FOD-NOR)	11/09/81	11/20/81	—	1,159	43	99	1,301
Engle, Bruce (FOD-SF)	01/11/82	01/26/82	—	1,434	445	122	2,001
Fogle, Julian (FOD-SF)	01/11/82	01/26/82	—	1,757	433	149	2,339
Mellis, George (FOD-NOR)	11/09/81	11/20/81	—	937	44	80	1,061
Nobles, James C. (FOD-NOR)	10/05/81	05/21/82	—	26,294	8,638	2,235	37,167
Zampino, Samuel (FOD-PHIL)	10/05/82	04/06/82	—	26,062	8,245	2,215	36,522
Education and Labor Committee: Subcommittee on Labor Standards:							
Darby, Linda G. (FOD-LA)	10/19/81	—	10/18/82	29,418	2,845	2,501	34,764
Ragan, Pat (FOD-SF)	10/19/81	—	10/18/82	25,099	1,690	2,133	28,922
Yamada, Donald (FOD-SF)	09/09/82	—	08/08/83	5,216	—	443	5,659
Zika, George (FOD-SF)	10/19/81	—	10/18/82	37,918	2,661	3,223	43,802
Energy and Commerce Committee: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations:							
Henault, Michael (HRD)	07/05/82	—	07/04/83	6,345	—	540	6,885

Committee	Length of Assignment From	To	Tentative release date	Salary[1]	Travel expenses[1]	Other expenses[2]	Total cost
Government Operations Committee:							
Bagby, Linda (GGD)	11/16/81	—	11/15/82	25,703	—	2,185	27,888
Carter, Dave (HRD)	11/09/81	—	11/08/82	39,293	—	3,340	42,633
Kader, Ronald (EMD)	06/08/81	11/30/81	—	5,415	—	460	5,875
Subcommittee on Commerce, Consumer and Monetary Affairs:							
Scott, Dean (PAD)	10/01/81	09/30/82	—	42,391	—	3,603	45,994
Subcommittee on Legislation and National Security:							
Megyeri, Leslie L. (PLRD)	10/01/81	09/30/82	—	37,906	—	3,222	41,128
Oleyar, Ronald (AFMD)	04/27/81	10/17/81	—	1,990	—	169	2,159
Ulans, Gregory (AFMD)	02/04/82	06/28/82	—	13,782	—	1,171	14,953
Committee on House Administration:							
Subcommittee on Accounts:							
Wenstrup, John (OIR)	06/15/81	06/15/82	—	27,377	—	2,327	29,704
Interior and Insular Affairs Committee:							
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation:							
Andros, Robert (EMD)	05/31/81	07/30/82	—	38,627	—	3,283	41,910
Gilbert, Michael E. (CEDD)	04/05/82	06/07/82	—	4,173	—	355	4,528
Public Works and Transportation Committee:							
Hallberg, Eric (FOD-PHIL)	06/21/82	—	06/20/83	11,793	—	1,003	12,796
Skucas, Susan (FOD-PHIL)	06/21/82	—	06/20/83	6,932	—	590	7,522
Ways and Means Committee:							
Subcommittee on Oversight:							
Fowler, Henry (HRD)	07/19/82	—	07/18/83	6,843	—	582	7,425
Fraser, Leon (IPE)	03/02/81	02/01/82	—	10,183	—	866	11,049
Miller, Roland (HRD)	02/01/82	07/16/82	—	15,826	—	1,345	17,171
Simik, Frank (GGD)	08/31/81	08/30/82	—	20,837	—	1,771	22,608
Select Committee on Aging:							
Quattrociocchi, Benedetto (HRD)	09/01/81	02/12/82	—	16,012	—	1,361	17,373
Joint Committees							
Joint Committee on Printing:							
Lew, Helen (FOD-WRO)	09/13/82	09/17/82	—	689	—	59	748
McElwee, Colleen (AFMD)	09/13/82	09/17/82	—	453	—	39	492
Joint Committee on Taxation:							
Jacques, Joseph (AFMD)	06/30/82	—	06/29/83	9,230	—	785	10,015
Kahn, Barry (AFMD)	06/07/82	—	06/06/83	9,737	—	828	10,565
Leland, Kenneth (AFMD)	06/07/82	—	06/06/83	13,742	—	1,168	14,910
GRAND TOTAL				$1,436,150	$157,391	$122,077	$1,715,618

Total assigned during fiscal year 1982

Division/Office

Accounting and Financial Management	4
Community and Economic Development	2
Energy and Minerals	4
General Government	2
Human Resources	5
Internal Review	2
Institute for Program Evaluation	1
Mission Analysis and Systems Acquisition	1
Program Analysis	1
Procurement, Logistics and Readiness	8

Regional Office

Atlanta	1
Cincinnati	3
Dallas	1
Detroit	4
Kansas City	2
Los Angeles	2
Norfolk	3
Philadelphia	2
San Francisco	2
Washington	5
	55

On assignment as of September 30, 1982

Division/Office

Accounting and Financial Management	3
Community and Economic Development	2
Energy and Minerals	1
Federal Personnel and Compensation	1
General Government	1
Human Resources	5
International	1
Mission Analysis and Systems Acquisition	2
Procurement, Logistics and Readiness	2

Regional Office

Dallas	2
Los Angeles	1
Philadelphia	4
San Francisco	3
Washington	10
	38

[1]*For Senate staff assignments, this cost was/will be reimbursed by the committee or subcommittee concerned.*
[2]*These amounts, which are 8.5% of salary cost, include the Government's estimated share for personnel benefits payable to the Office of Personnel Management for (1) life insurance fund, (2) retirement fund, and (3) health benefits fund.*

Description of Major Organizational Units of GAO

The following identifies GAO's major units of organization together with a brief description of the major responsibilities and principal activities of each. The lines of authority can be found in the organization chart preceding Chapter 1.

Offices

Office of the Comptroller General

Four offices, each part of the Office of the Comptroller General, perform direct staff services for the Comptroller General of the United States. The Office of Congressional Relations coordinates GAO's activities with congressional committees and Members. The Civil Rights Office oversees GAO's efforts to carry out all of its activities in a nondiscriminatory manner. The Office of Internal Review audits and reviews GAO's own operations. And the Office of Public Information assists the public and the media with their queries on GAO's reports and activities.

Office of the General Counsel

The Office of the General Counsel assists the Comptroller General by performing legal work on matters coming before the General Accounting Office. This involves interpreting laws governing public expenditures or, for the Comptroller General, the preparation of final and binding decisions to Government officers who are accountable for the public funds they administer. The work also consists of reviewing for legal sufficiency the numerous Comptroller General reports informing the Congress of the construction which executive branch agencies currently are placing on congressional mandates and the extent to which these actions reflect congressional intent. In its bid protest work, the office resolves disputes between agencies and bidders for Government contracts, including grantee award actions. Committee chairmen and individual Members of Congress ask for and receive opinions on the legality of agency actions and on legislative options. Finally, the Office of the General Counsel is responsible for informing Congress of executive branch impoundments of available budget authority and for assuring compliance with the provisions of the Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

Policy and Program Planning

The Office of Policy and the Office of Program Planning report directly to the Assistant Comptroller General for Policy and Program Planning. They see that the audit work of GAO is planned, coordinated, and reported in a consistent and effective manner. These offices work with the audit divisions to implement GAO's policies and planning guidelines across divisional lines.

The Office of Foreign Visitor and International Audit Organization Liaison, which also reports to this Assistant Comptroller General, is responsible for administering GAO's international liaison activities.

Program Evaluation

The Assistant Comptroller General for Program Evaluation oversees the work of GAO's Program Analysis Division and the Institute for Program Evaluation. He assists the Comptroller General in a variety of other functions related to the quality of evaluation and analysis embodied in GAO's reports and other products.

General Services and Controller

General Services and Controller is responsible for such activities as publishing services, facilities management, procurement, library and information services, records management, safety and security, ADP administration, office automation, and the financial and budgetary management of GAO's functions.

Personnel

Personnel is responsible for planning, developing, and executing a responsive and progressive program for the acquisition, development, and management of the human resources needed to carry out the functions of GAO. Responsibilities of this office include recruiting, examining, and appointing; maintaining relationships with educational institutions and professional groups; providing necessary job classification and salary and wage administration services; maintaining liaison with appropriate Government and employee organizations; and determining the application of pertinent personnel laws, rules, and regulations. This office is also responsible for a variety of functions, including designing, implementing, and maintaining a comprehensive Upward Mobility Program; designing and processing personnel records and data; managing labor-management relations; and maintaining a comprehensive employee relations and benefits program.

Office of Organization and Human Development

The Office of Organization and Human Development provides a unified, cohesive approach to the development of human resource management programs. This office assists GAO management in more effectively carrying out their responsibilities in acquiring, assigning, developing, and using human resources by researching, developing, implementing, and evaluating programs, systems, and services.

In discharging its responsibilities, OOHD branches perform the following functions: training, management development and assistance, organizational analysis and planning, and counseling and career development.

Accounting and Financial Management Division

The Accounting and Financial Management Division is responsible for coordinating GAO's work in the issue areas of automatic data processing, internal auditing, accounting and financial reporting, and national productivity.

This division carries out its responsibilities by participating in the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program and its Government-wide responsibilities for automatic data processing, accounting systems, internal auditing and fraud prevention, productivity, and financial statement audits.

It provides GAO audit coverage at the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In addition, the division's Claims Group adjudicates claims by or against the United States and reviews, evaluates, and reports on the claim settlement and debt collection activities of Government agencies.

Community and Economic Development Division

The Community and Economic Development Division coordinates GAO's work in the areas of food, domestic housing and community development, environmental protection, land use planning, management and control, transportation systems and policies, and water and water-related programs.

In addition to its leadership responsibilities for these issue areas, this division provides GAO audit coverage at the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Interior (except energy and materials activities), and Transportation; the Army Corps of Engineers (civil functions); the Environmental Protection Agency; the Small Business Administration; the Interstate Commerce, Federal Maritime; and Federal Communications Commissions; the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak); the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; the U.S. Railway Association; the Civil Aeronautics Board; the Commodity Futures Trading Commission; the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and a variety of boards, commissions, and quasi-governmental entities.

Energy and Minerals Division

The Energy and Minerals Division serves as lead division within GAO for the issue areas of energy and minerals. The division provides GAO audit coverage for the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Tennessee Valley Authority, energy and minerals programs of the Department of the Interior, and energy and materials activities located in numerous other Federal entities.

Federal Personnel and Compensation Division

The Federal Personnel and Compensation Division is responsible for planning and coordinating GAO's work in the civilian personnel and military personnel issue areas. This division also provides GAO audit coverage for the Office of Personnel Management, the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Federal Labor Relations Authority, and the Selective Service System. The division examines Government-wide personnel and compensation activities relating to and affecting the Federal work force, including both civilian employees and military members.

Field Operations Division

The Field Operations Division, through its regional offices in 15 cities, both initiates and conducts audits throughout the continental United States, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands for GAO's divisions. Thus, this division plays a major role in most of GAO's work. About half of GAO's professional staff is assigned to its regional offices.

General Government Division

The General Government Division is responsible for coordinating GAO's work in the issue areas of intergovernmental policies and fiscal relations, law enforcement and crime prevention, tax administration, the information resources management activities of the Federal Government, and Federal oversight of financial institutions. GGD also has a General Management Studies group which is concerned with Government-wide management and organization issues.

This division provides GAO audit coverage for the Departments of Justice and Treasury, the District of Columbia Government, the United States Postal Service, the judicial branch of the Federal Government, and various other agencies and commissions.

Human Resources Division

The Human Resources Division coordinates GAO's work in the issue areas of consumer and worker protection, administration of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity programs, education, health, income security, and employment and training.

In addition to its leadership in these issue areas, this division provides GAO audit coverage for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education; the Community Services Administration; the Consumer Product Safety Commission; the Federal Trade Commission; the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation; the Legal Services Corporation; ACTION; the Railroad Retirement Board; the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; the Veterans Administration; all Federal health programs; and various small commissions and independent agencies.

Institute for Program Evaluation

The Institute for Program Evaluation is responsible for enhancing the growth of GAO's capabilities to perform program evaluation and to assist the Congress in making the most effective use of evaluative information. With this dual mandate, the Institute is engaged in a variety of evaluation activities: design and technical assistance to other GAO divisions in matters of evaluation, development of needed evaluation methodologies, conduct of evaluation assignments, and linkage of evaluation findings to the information needs of the Congress.

The Institute also assumes responsibilities under title VII of the Congressional Budget Act for working with the Congress on structuring evaluation efforts that inform new legislation, oversight hearings, and reauthorization of existing programs. Of special concern is the use of evaluation efforts to probe matters of program cost and managerial efficiency and effectiveness.

The Institute encourages and maintains contacts with evaluation professionals in other Federal agencies, universities, professional societies, and State and local governments, and fosters communication within the evaluation community.

International Division

The International Division serves as lead division for the international affairs issue area. It is responsible for reviewing Government international programs and policies, including those dealing with international security and international relations, development assistance programs, and international trade and investment.

This division provides GAO audit coverage for the Department of State, the Agency for International Development, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the U.S. Information Agency, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the International Trade Administration in the Department of Commerce, the International Trade Commission, the Panama Canal Commission, as well as the international activities of the Department of Defense and all other Federal entities. International Division personnel staff GAO's offices in Frankfurt, Germany; Panama City, Panama; and Honolulu, Hawaii.

Mission Analysis and Systems Acquisition Division

The Mission Analysis and Systems Acquisition Division is responsible for conducting GAO's work in the issue areas of mission analysis, systems development and acquisition, and communications, command, control, and intelligence.

This division ascertains that new Defense systems do, in fact, address deficiencies in perceived and postulated threats; examines the cost/schedule/performance effectiveness of such systems throughout the development and acquisition stages; and monitors the Government's communications, intelligence, and ADP work related to Defense tactical, nontactical, and data communications. Most of this division's work is concentrated in the Department of Defense, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the defense-related activities of the Department of Energy.

Procurement, Logistics and Readiness Division

The Procurement, Logistics and Readiness Division serves as the lead division in the areas of facilities and materiel management, procurement, and military preparedness.

Most of this division's work covers the Department of Defense. It also provides GAO audit coverage for portions of the General Services Administration, the Government Printing Office, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, and has Government-wide responsibility for activities related to logistics.

Program Analysis Division

The Program Analysis Division is responsible for GAO's work in the issue areas of program and budget information for congressional use, economic analysis of alternative program approaches, and science and technology.

This division maintains oversight responsibility for several agencies, including the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the National Science Foundation. It is GAO's focal point for work in the areas of economics and science and technology policy, and it coordinates GAO's activities with the Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Technology Assessment.

Legislation Enacted During Fiscal Year 1982 Relating to the Work of the General Accounting Office

Audits

Territorial Governments

Public Law 97-100, Dec. 23, 1981, 95 Stat. 1391, Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1982, contains a proviso for audit by GAO of all financial transactions of the territorial and local governments, including transactions of all agencies or instrumentalities established or used by such governments. The governments include the offices of Government Comptroller of the Virgin Islands, the Government Comptroller of Guam, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Government Comptroller of American Samoa.

The proviso states that the audit shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the Budget and Accounting Act, 1921, and the Accounting and Auditing Act of 1950. (95 Stat. 1402)

Appropriated Funds Expenditure Prerequisite or Exemption

Public Law 97-101, Dec. 23, 1981, 95 Stat. 1417, and Public Law 97-272, Sept. 30, 1982, 96 Stat. 1160, Department of Housing and Urban Development—Independent Agencies Appropriation Act, 1982, and 1983, respectively, both contain a general provision that no funds appropriated by the act may be expended unless such expenditure is subject to audit by GAO or is specifically exempt by law from such an audit. (95 Stat. 1436; 96 Stat. 1179)

Access to Records

Agriculture and Food Act of 1981

Public Law 97-98, Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1213, Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, contains two amendments to the Food Stamp Act of 1977 which ensure that GAO will have access for purposes of audit to information on applications submitted by retail and wholesale food concerns that desire to accept and redeem food stamp coupons, and to information regarding applicant and recipient households. (95 Stat. 1285 and 1286)

The law also provides GAO access to records for purposes of audit in connection with annual grants to local units of government through State soil conservation agencies. (95 Stat. 1335)

Export Control

Public Law 97-145, Dec. 29, 1981, 95 Stat. 1727, Export Administration Amendments of 1981, contains an amendment to section 12(c)(2) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 to state that nothing in this act shall be construed as authorizing the withholding of information from the Congress or from GAO. The amendment provides GAO access to information regarding the control of exports and prohibits its disclosure except to the Congress. (95 Stat. 1728)

Olympic Commemorative Coins

Public Law 97-220, July 22, 1982, 96 Stat. 222, the Olympic Commemorative Coin Act, provides for the minting of commemorative coins to support the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

The Comptroller General is provided access to records of the United States Olympic Committee and the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee relating to the expenditure of amounts paid under section 6 of the law which pertains to distribution of proceeds from the sale of coins. (96 Stat. 225)

Eliminating Waste, Fraud, Abuse, and Mismanagement

Public Law 97-86, Dec. 1, 1981, 95 Stat. 1099, Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1982, contains a requirement for two reports to the Congress by the Secretary of Defense recommending improvements in management efficiency and elimination of waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in the operations of the Department of Defense. The Secretary of Defense must set forth in these reports each recommendation by the Comptroller General on the subject. (95 Stat. 1132)

District of Columbia General Obligation Bonds and Notes

Public Law 97-105, Dec. 23, 1981, 95 Stat. 1493, to amend the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, contains a clarifying amendment to section 481 which pertains to the annual levy of a special tax incident to the issuance of general obligation bonds and requires an annual audit by the Comptroller General of amounts set aside and deposited in each debt service fund. (95 Stat. 1498)

Peace Corps

Public Law 97-113, Dec. 29, 1981, 95 Stat. 1519, the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1981, contains at title VI an amendment to the Peace Corps Act to make the Peace Corps an independent agency within the executive branch. All personnel, assets, liabilities, contracts, property, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds as are determined by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, after consultation with the Comptroller General of the United States, the Director of the Peace Corps, and the Director of the ACTION agency, to be employed, held, used, or assumed primarily in connection with any function relating to the Peace Corps before the date of the enactment of this act are transferred to the Peace Corps. (95 Stat. 1540)

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget is to submit to the Congress and the Comptroller General a report on the steps taken to implement title VI. The Comptroller General must then report to the Congress whether, in his judgment, determinations made by the Office of Management and Budget were equitable. (95 Stat. 1542)

Federal Courts Improvement Act of 1982

Public Law 97 – 164, Apr. 2, 1982, 96 Stat. 25, Federal Courts Improvement Act of 1982, establishes a United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and a United States Claims Court, among other things. The language of 28 U.S.C. 2510 is revised with respect to the Comptroller General's referral to the United States Claims Court for trial and adjudication of any claim or matter of which the Claims Court might take jurisdiction on the voluntary action of the claimant. (96 Stat. 43)

The law also amends 28 U.S.C. 2516(b), pertaining to interest on claims and judgments. Interest on judgments against the United States affirmed by the Supreme Court after review on petition of the United States shall be paid from the date of the filing of the transcript of the judgment in GAO to the date of the mandate of the affirmance, at a rate of interest equal to the coupon issue yield equivalent of the average accepted auction price for the last auction of 52-week Treasury bills settled immediately prior to the date of judgment. (96 Stat. 56)

Small Business Innovation Development

Public Law 97 – 219, July 22, 1982, 96 Stat. 217, the Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982, amends the Small Business Act to strengthen the role of the small, innovative firms in federally funded research and development, to use Federal research and development as a base for technological innovation to meet agency needs, and to contribute to the growth and strength of the Nation's economy.

Not more than 5 years after the enactment date, the Comptroller General is required to report to the Congress on the implementation of, and nature of research conducted under this act. (96 Stat. 221)

Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982

Public Law 97 – 248, Sept. 3, 1982, 96 Stat. 324, the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982, contains several references to the work of GAO.

The Comptroller General is to monitor and evaluate a study and report by the Secretary of Health and Human Services on whether the reimbursement method and benefit structure (including copayment) for hospice care under title XVIII of the Social Security Act are fair and equitable and promote the most efficient provision of hospice care. (96 Stat. 363)

Title V of the law, Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982, provides for airport development and airport planning by project grants. GAO is provided access to records of grant recipients for purposes of audit.

In cases where independent audits which may be required by the Secretary of Transportation are made, the grant recipients are to file a certified copy of the audit with the Comptroller General.

On or before April 15 of each year, the Comptroller General is to report to the Congress describing the results of each audit conducted or reviewed by GAO during the preceding fiscal year. (96 Stat. 693-694)

Title VI, Federal Supplemental Compensation Act of 1982, provides for payment to States having agreements for the payment of Federal supplemental compensation. The Secretary of the Treasury, prior to audit or settlement by GAO, is to make these payments to States in accordance with a certification by the Secretary of Labor. (96 Stat. 705)

The Internal Revenue Code is amended with respect to disclosure of returns and return information for use in certain audits by GAO. The authority is expanded to include any returns or return information obtained by a Federal agency for use in any agency program or activity. GAO is permitted access to returns and return information that have not been obtained by the agency in certain circumstances, provided that the agency is authorized to obtain the information for use in the program or activity that is the subject of the GAO audit. (96 Stat. 646-647)

Department of Defense Inspector General

Public Law 97 – 252, Sept. 8, 1982, 96 Stat. 718, Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1983, amends section 8 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 with respect to the Inspector General of the Department of Defense.

One of the delineated duties and responsibilities of Defense's Inspector General is to develop policy, evaluate program performance, and monitor actions taken by all components of the Department in response to contract audits, internal audits, internal review reports, and audits conducted by the Comptroller General of the United States. (96 Stat. 752)

Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act of 1982

Public Law 97 – 255, Sept. 8, 1982, 96 Stat. 814, the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982, amends the Accounting and Auditing Act of 1950 to require ongoing evaluations and reports on the adequacy of (1) systems of internal accounting and administrative control and (2) accounting systems in operation of each executive agency.

Internal accounting and administrative controls and accounting systems are to be established and implemented in accordance with standards prescribed by the Comptroller General.

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Comptroller General, is to establish guidelines by which executive agencies' internal accounting and administrative control systems can be evaluated. (96 Stat. 814, 815)

Title 31, United States Code, Money and Finance

Public Law 97 – 258, Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 877, has as its purpose to revise, codify, and enact without substantive change certain general and permanent laws related to money and finance as Title 31, United States Code, Money and Finance.

There are numerous references throughout the title to the functions and jurisdiction of GAO. In particular, Chapter 7 of Subtitle I (96 Stat. 886-907) is entitled General Accounting Office. It is divided into five subchapters, as follows:

Subchapter I—Definitions and General Organization
Subchapter II—General Duties and Powers
Subchapter III—Personnel
Subchapter IV—Personnel Appeals Board
Subchapter V—Annuities

Appropriations for the General Accounting Office

Public Law 97 – 51, Oct. 1, 1981, 95 Stat. 958, making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1982, provides funds for GAO in such amounts as may be necessary for continuing projects and activities under all the conditions and to the extent and in the manner provided in H.R. 4120, the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1982, as reported July 9, 1981. The provisions of H.R. 4120 are effective as if enacted into law and shall be treated as appropriating $229,300,000 for salaries and expenses for GAO. (95 Stat. 959, 961)

Public Law 97 – 257, Sept. 10, 1982, 96 Stat. 818, Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1982, provides GAO additional appropriations of $6,700,000 for fiscal year 1982 to cover increased pay costs authorized by or pursuant to law. (96 Stat. 859)

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