

B-111392-O.M., Oct. 17, 1952

GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON 25

OFFICE OF
COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

IN REPLY QUOTE INITIALS

AUG 14 1952

The General Counsel:

Your opinion relative to the effect of the limitation clause in the appropriation "Current Census Statistics", 1951, of the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, will be appreciated. The appropriation contained in Public Law 759, 81st Congress, Appropriation Act for 1951, reads as follows:

"For expenses necessary for collecting, compiling and publishing current census statistics provided for by law; enumerators at rates to be fixed without regard to the Classification Act; printing and binding; the cost of obtaining State, municipal and other records; preparation of monographs on census subjects and other work of specialized character by contract; and purchase, construction, repair, and rental of mechanical and electrical tabulating equipment and other labor-saving devices; \$6,000,000 of which \$100,000 shall be available exclusively for vessel shipping statistics."

The specific question raised is whether the limitation of \$100,000 constitutes the maximum amount authorized to have been expended for vessel shipping statistics.

Letter of the Comptroller General, B-102971 dated August 24, 1951, to the Attorney General, deals with a similar question.

E. T. NOLAN

Assistant Chief
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Chief, Accounting Systems Division

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Returned. The general rule that appropriation language such as that considered here constitutes a maximum amount to be available for the purpose specified to the exclusion of the more general purposes of the appropriation is not required to be applied where a different intent of the Congress is ascertainable. B-107126-O.M., February 25, 1952. The legislative history of the limitation here involved and other available background information lends ample support for the view that the figure of \$100,000 for vessel shipping statistics was intended

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to be the minimum amount available for that purpose. Accordingly, the general appropriation would be available to supplement the figure of \$100,000 for otherwise proper charges in connection with vessel shipping statistics.

Frank L. Yates
Acting Comptroller General
of the United States

Enclosures