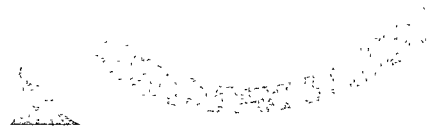
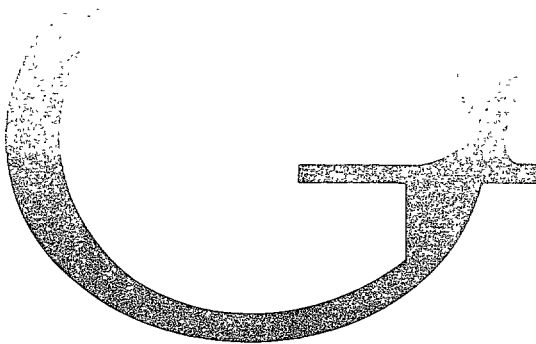




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009225

United States General Accounting Office



Elmer B. Staats
Comptroller General of the United States



Robert F. Keller
Deputy
Comptroller General of the United States





B-119600

January 25, 1980

President of the Senate
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Dear Sirs:

In accordance with section 312(a) of the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921, I respectfully submit the annual report on the activities of the United States General Accounting Office during the fiscal year ended September 30, 1979.

The activities of our Office are highlighted in Chapter One of this report. You will note that 1979 was a noteworthy year for the General Accounting Office—a year marked by added responsibilities and by continued intensive efforts to improve the quality of our services to the Congress.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas B. Stenta". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "S".

Comptroller General
of the United States

The General Accounting Office is under the control and direction of the Comptroller General of the United States. There is also a Deputy Comptroller General of the United States¹ who performs such duties as may be assigned to him by the Comptroller General and who acts as Comptroller General during the absence or incapacity of the Comptroller General or during a vacancy in that office. The Comptroller General and the Deputy Comptroller General are appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate for terms of 15 years.

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 8, 1966—

Assistant 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

Deputy Comptrollers General of the United States

Robert F. Keller
October 3, 1969—

¹Public Law 92-51 (approved July 9, 1971) changed the title Assistant Comptroller General to Deputy Comptroller General.

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Graphic Designer:
William Michael Spears



Mr. Staats and members of several GAO divisions are shown testifying on aspects of regulatory reform. (Photo courtesy of Creative Photographic Communications.)

The fiscal year ending September 30, 1979, was the 58th year of operation of the General Accounting Office. Headed by the Comptroller General of the United States, GAO was created by the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921, making it "independent of the executive departments," to strengthen congressional control over the public purse.

The legislative history of the 1921 act consistently stressed that the Comptroller General should exercise objective and independent judgment, unfettered by political influence from congressional and executive branch sources. This remains as important today as it was in 1921—perhaps even more so, in view of increasing concerns voiced in the Congress and elsewhere at apparent decreased public confidence in Government. Only by scrupulous adherence to this nonpartisan objectivity have the past and present Comptrollers General been able to inspire confidence in their actions, thereby serving the Congress and the public effectively.

Our 58th year has seen many changes in this country, not the least of which is the phenomenon popularly known as the

"Taxpayer Revolt"—taxpayers alarmed or angry with what they perceive to be wasteful uses of their tax dollars. Eliminating such waste or inefficiency in the Federal Government has been the primary mission of GAO from its beginning.

Although GAO's responsibilities have been defined more specifically and expanded greatly over the years, its major functions still are to:

- Assist the Congress in its legislative and oversight responsibilities.
- Audit and evaluate programs, activities, and financial operations of Federal departments and agencies.
- Carry out financial control and related functions with respect to most Federal Government programs and operations including legal services, accounting, and claims settlement work.

This year, as in past years, GAO's workload continues to grow. With increasing frequency, legislation and other congressional actions contain *specific* requirements for GAO audit and evaluation work. Also, laws establishing new programs or

expanded governmental authority generate increased pressures on GAO's mandate to assist the Congress by examining essentially all activities of the Federal Government in Washington, D.C., in the United States and around the world. That is why GAO maintains—in addition to its headquarters office and over 80 audit sites in the Washington, D.C., area—15 regional offices, and a branch office (Honolulu) in the United States and foreign branch offices in Bangkok, Frankfurt, and Panama City.

GAO's primary management objective has been to perform all of its functions effectively, economically, and promptly. To this end, GAO took a number of actions during the year in response to recommendations made by the House Select Committee on Congressional Operations, based on its assessment of GAO services to the Congress and recommendations made by the Comptroller General's Task Force on Improving GAO's Effectiveness. Most of these actions were directed toward improvements in responsiveness, timeliness, and quality of GAO services to the Congress, resulting in significant progress in these areas during fiscal year 1979.

Assistance to the Congress

Because all of GAO's responsibilities flow from its enabling legislation and subsequent laws passed by the Congress, all of its work is, in effect, directed toward assisting the Congress. In developing work programs for our self-initiated work (as contrasted to work directed by a congressional request or mandated by specific statute), we attempt to ascertain congressional needs so that we can produce timely information useful to the Congress and thus contribute to better Government. As a result, we often receive requests from committees or Members to perform work already started or even completed.

For internal planning purposes, we established a program category structure to describe the general nature and character of our audits and evaluations undertaken to fulfill the various tasks mandated by the Congress. These include direct assistance to the Congress, economy and efficiency work, evaluations of results of ongoing programs, special studies, and legal services and decisions. The category titled *direct* assistance to the Congress is used merely to determine the level of effort expended in response to a specific written request or requirement, for example:

- Doing specific one-time studies directed by law.
- Answering committee and Member requests for audits or special studies.
- Testifying at congressional hearings.
- Assigning staff to congressional committees.
- Providing legal opinions and comments on proposed legislation.

About 36 percent of the total effort of our professional staff was directed toward providing such direct assistance during fiscal year 1979. Ten years ago, such assistance represented less than 10 percent of our work.

During fiscal year 1979, we issued 983 reports on audits or special studies. About 70 percent of these were submitted to the Congress or to its committees and Members. In addition, copies of many of the 299 reports addressed to Federal agency officials were also provided to interested committees and Members.

Statistics on the number of reports completed do not begin to tell the full story of GAO operations but they do provide some indication of work done. Reports completed in fiscal year 1979 are as follows.

	<i>Fiscal year ended Sept 30, 1979</i>
Congressional reports:	
To the Congress.....	285
To congressional committees	298
To Members of Congress	101
	684
Reports to Federal agency officials	299
Total	983

A summary of these reports by subject and addressee is included in appendix 1. A detailed listing is included in appendix 2.

Many of these reports recommend congressional or agency actions necessary to correct problems or improve Federal programs and activities. Chapter 2 presents legislative recommendations the Congress acted on this year and those on which final action has not been taken.

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

It should be noted that GAO does not have authority to direct agencies to accept our recommendations. The extent to which we are successful in bringing about improvements depends basically on the

- adequacy of our factual analysis,
- persuasiveness of our findings and recommendations, and
- support our reports receive from the Congress.

We have no doubt that the agencies' awareness of the Congress' attention to our reports stimulates their interest in and attention to our recommendations.

Along these lines, the Comptroller General's testimony to the House Budget Committee Task Force on Legislative Savings in July 1979 offered the Congress 15 specific recommendations for potential savings. These were selected as the most significant unenacted legislative recommendations of those contained in our fiscal year 1978 annual report and in reports issued since October 1, 1978. The Comptroller General's purpose was to encourage action on recommendations which GAO continues to support.

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 them. This list is also published monthly in the *Congressional Record*.

Staff from GAO divisions communicate to congressional committees information that is relevant, timely, and useful. Our Office of Congressional Relations is the coordination point for GAO's assistance to the Congress. Under the supervision of the Deputy Comptroller General, this office maintains close continuous contact with congressional committees and Members.

During the year, a pamphlet entitled *GAO Responsibilities and Services to Congress* was issued to all committees and Members. This was done in response to the House Select Committee on Congressional Operations' recommendation that we provide the Congress with specific information explaining GAO, its services, and how best to obtain these services.

Our professional staff at the Capitol audits House and Senate financial operations and private organizations doing business on the Capitol grounds. The staff advises committees, officers, and Members of Congress as needs arise.

Committee and Member Requests

The 1921 act requires that we 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.

Nearly every congressional committee and subcommittee has requested us to furnish information and assistance. To the extent practicable, we comply with the requests of all committees, subcommittees, and individual Members of Congress on a priority basis. In fiscal year 1979, GAO operating divisions received 785 requests from committees and 723 requests from Members for specific work. Some are answered readily; others require substantial work. In addition to the formal written reports issued to committees and Members, we satisfied many requests through briefings, correspondence not classified as reports, or by furnishing informally information which met their needs.

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 much wider audience, we usually arrange with the requester to issue the report to the Congress as a whole.

Table 1 lists the committees for which written reports were completed; some reports were addressed to more than one committee.

Table 1

	<i>Number of Reports</i>
Senate Committees	
Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry	4
Appropriations	30
Armed Services	3
Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs	2
Budget	9
Commerce, Science and Transportation	5
Energy and Natural Resources	5
Environment and Public Works	9
Finance	6
Foreign Relations	2
Governmental Affairs	17
Judiciary	4

Labor and Human Resources	4
Veterans' Affairs	4
Special Aging	1

Select Small Business	2
Total	107

House Committees

Agriculture	2
Appropriations	23
Armed Services	9
Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs	4
Budget	1
Education and Labor	2
Foreign Affairs	6
Government Operations	33
House Administration	3
Interior and Insular Affairs	3
Interstate and Foreign Commerce	23
Judiciary	5
Merchant Marine and Fisheries	14
Post Office and Civil Service	2
Public Works and Transportation	11
Science and Technology	6
Small Business	6
Ways and Means	12
Select Congressional Operations	2
Select Outer Continental Shelf	1
Select Population	1
Total	169

Officers of the Congress	7
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Joint Committees

Economic	10
Taxation	7
Total	17

Congressional Steel Caucus	1
Total Committees and Officers	318

We also responded to 834 Member requests concerning claims by and against the U.S. Government involving Government contracts, employee pay and allowances, or travel and transportation.

Testimony, Briefings, and Conferences

The Comptroller General and his principal assistants testified before congressional committees on 188 occasions during fiscal year 1979. This compares to 164 in fiscal year 1978 and only 24 in fiscal year 1969. Such an increase recognizes our growing ability and capacity to serve the Congress on critical issues, investigations, or pending legislation.

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

Staff Assignments to Committees

On request, 85 GAO staff members were assigned this year to staffs of 19 committees and subcommittees. Details concerning these assignments (required by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970) 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; for its views on contractual, fiscal, and administrative provisions of law; drafts of or revisions to legislation; and its views on administrative regulations.

GAO's continuing review of Government programs and activities, together with its expertise in law and the Federal legislative process, enable us to give congressional committees objective comments on proposed legislation. During the fiscal year, GAO provided 97 reports on pending bills—40 to the Senate, 51 to the House, 4 to Joint Committees, and 2 to miscellaneous units. Table 2 shows a profile of this work.

Highlights of Activities

GAO must often adjust its workload to respond to current issues. Shown here is the Three Mile Island nuclear facility, which was the subject of GAO reports and congressional testimony.



Table 2

Senate Committees

Armed Services	1
Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs	2
Commerce, Science and Transportation	7
Energy and Natural Resources	2
Finance	1
Governmental Affairs	12
Labor and Human Resources	1
Judiciary	13
Select Intelligence	1
	<u>40</u>

House Committees

Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs	2
District of Columbia	1
Government Operations	19

Interstate and Foreign Commerce	5
Judiciary	7
Merchant Marine and Fisheries	7
Post Office and Civil Service	9
Ways and Means	1
	<u>51</u>

Joint Committees

.....	4
	<u>4</u>

Miscellaneous Units

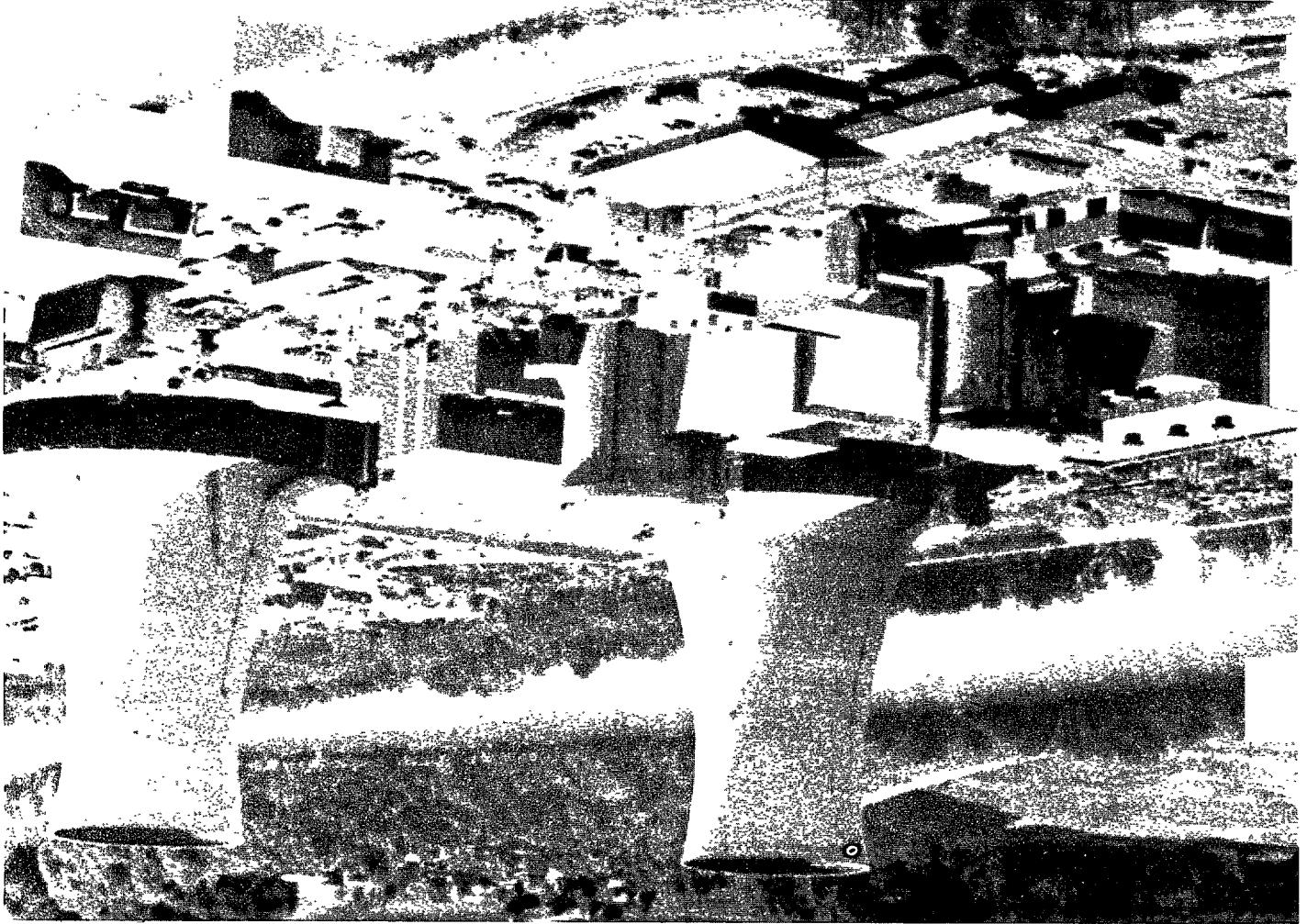
.....	2
	<u>2</u>

Total	<u>97</u>
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Auditing/Evaluation

Our examinations of ongoing Federal programs, activities, and financial operations are a primary responsibility designed to help the Congress and agency officials improve Government programs. We examine 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



(Photo courtesy of Nuclear Regulatory Commission.)

- provide the Congress and Federal agency officials with significant and objective information, conclusions, and recommendations that will aid them in carrying out their responsibilities.
- We seek answers to questions such as:

- Are there ways of accomplishing the objectives of these programs at a lower cost?
- Are funds being spent legally and is the accounting for them adequate?

the Trust Territory of the Pacific, and 71 countries. At any given time, GAO had about 1,300 assignments underway. Table 3 shows the broad functional categories of assignments being performed at the close of the fiscal year.

- Where are the opportunities to eliminate waste and the inefficient use of public money?
 - Are Federal programs achieving their objectives?
- Our audits and evaluations involved over half of our professional staff working in almost every Federal agency. During fiscal year 1979, we performed assignments in the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Panama Canal Zone,

Table 3

	<i>Assignments</i>
Domestic programs:	
Energy and minerals	113
Community and economic development ..	172
Human resources	214
General government	128
General management:	
Procurement and systems acquisition	122
Logistics and communications	119
Federal personnel and compensation	70
Financial and general management	210
International programs	70
Program analysis	74
Miscellaneous	16
Total	<u>1,308</u>

Federal agency programs and operations are so large that GAO cannot possibly audit everything—it has neither sufficient staff nor funds. We must, therefore, be selective in determining which Federal programs and activities to review. Primarily, we consider those programs, activities, or operations known to be, or likely to be, of direct interest to the Congress, or of such

importance that they should be audited by GAO as an independent audit and evaluation agency in the legislative branch. Our policy, except as otherwise required by law or congressional request, is to use our staff where we believe their work will do most to promote improvements in Government operations and to keep the Congress informed about such operations. As previously said, we are continuously in contact with congressional committees to remain abreast of their interests and activities. We also share information with the Congressional Budget Office, the Congressional Research Service, and the Office of Technology Assessment to enhance our products and avoid duplication of effort.

Over the past several years, GAO improved its organization and planning to consider more effectively national issues and key management problems. GAO reorganized in 1972 in a move toward greater program and functional specialization. Since then, it has refined its organization but still assigns Government-wide responsibility for particular programs and functions to individual operating divisions

while retaining responsibility for specific agencies within these same divisions. Appendix 4 describes each of GAO's organizational units.

This approach has proven useful in selecting interagency and Government-wide issues for audit. It enables us to identify duplication of effort among agencies, inadequate coordination arrangements, conflicting approaches to similar goals, inadequately defined objectives, or obsolete programs. It has helped also to develop program and functional expertise among GAO staff members.

To focus our expertise on important national issues, a Program Planning Committee chaired by the Comptroller General has specified 36 issue areas for priority attention. Each is assigned to one of GAO's operating divisions. (See table 4.) That division then takes the lead in identifying specific matters to be examined, developing plans, and formulating approaches, whether or not it has direct audit responsibility for all of the agencies involved in the area.



Staff of the Congressional Budget Office, Congressional Research Service, and Office of Technology Assessment join GAO staff in discussing health issues at a meeting of the Interagency Coordinating Group. (Photo taken by Richard Rockburn.)

Table 4

GAO Issue Areas and Responsible Lead Divisions

Food Domestic Housing and Community Development Environmental Protection Programs Land Use Planning, Management, and Control Transportation Systems and Policies Water and Water Related Programs	Community and Economic Development Division
Consumer and Worker Protection Administration of Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity Programs Federally Sponsored or Assisted Education Programs Federally Sponsored or Assisted Health Programs Federally Sponsored or Assisted Income Security Programs Federally Sponsored or Assisted Employment and Training Programs	Human Resources Division
Automatic Data Processing Internal Auditing Systems for Federal and Federally Assisted Programs Accounting and Financial Reporting National Productivity	Financial and General Management and Studies Division
Facilities Acquisition and Management Logistics Management Military Readiness, Mobilization Planning and Civil Preparedness Federal Information—Creation, Protection, Access, Disclosure, and Management Communications	Logistics and Communications Division
Intergovernmental Policies and Fiscal Relations Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention Tax Administration Data Collected from Non-Federal Sources—Statistical and Paperwork Implications Federal Oversight of Financial Institutions	General Government Division
General Procurement Procurement of Major Systems	Procurement and Systems Acquisition Division
Evaluation Guidelines and Methodology Program and Budget Information for Congressional Use Economic Analysis of Alternative Program Approaches Science Policy	Program Analysis Division
Federal Personnel Management and Compensation	Federal Personnel and Compensation Division
International Affairs	International Division
Energy Materials	Energy and Minerals Division

This year we made a fundamental change from the hierarchical approach to the project team approach as the best way to perform our auditing/evaluation work. We believe this change, while difficult to make, was critical for our Office to be more productive within its limited staff and to be more timely in responding to Congress' needs.

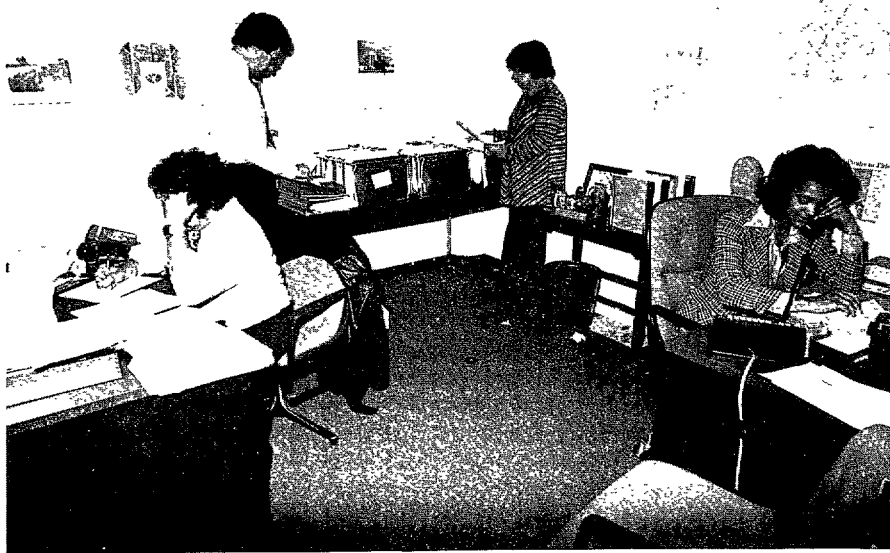
Audits Related to Fraud and Abuse

Watching for instances of fraud and observing areas where there seems to be fraud potential in Government programs is part of GAO's normal audit work. However, because of the rising interest being shown by Congress, GAO created a special full-time group in January 1979, to carry out an indepth analysis of this problem. The group is known as the Special Task Force for the Prevention of Fraud and Abuse.

The Task Force operates a nationwide hotline (800-424-5454), enabling anyone in the continental United States to call GAO

Highlights of Activities

Members of GAO's Special Task Force for the Prevention of Fraud talk to callers who are using the toll-free nationwide hotline (800-424-5454) to provide information concerning fraud, abuse, or waste in any Federal department or agency. (Photo taken by Richard Rockburn.)



auditors directly with information concerning misuse of Federal funds. The Task Force will also:

- Determine the vulnerability of Federal programs to fraud and abuse and report to Congress.
- Inform agencies and the Congress of weaknesses in internal controls or programs and follow-up actions on fraud allegations.
- Suggest ways to improve the training received by auditors and investigators so that they may better detect and prevent fraud.

Impact of New Legislation on GAO Operations

New legislation continued to assign added responsibilities to GAO. As a result, GAO was constantly faced with the need to adjust work programs or increase capabilities to accommodate the increased workload. Appendix 5 shows legislation enacted in fiscal year 1979 directly related to our work. Some laws direct the Comptroller General to audit specific programs or activities. For example:

- *Public Law 95-507 (October 24, 1978)* requires GAO to evaluate the implemen-

tation of certain provisions of the Small Business Act regarding procurement contracts and performance bonds and to submit a report to the Congress by June 30, 1980. GAO is also required to evaluate certain activities of the Small Business Administration and report its findings and recommendations to the Congress by January 1, 1981.

- *The Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (October 26, 1978)* requires the Comptroller General to conduct a study by November 30, 1980, and regularly thereafter, to determine whether Title I—Legislative Personnel Financial Disclosure Requirements—is being carried out effectively and whether timely and accurate reports are being filed by individuals subject to this title. Within 30 days after completion of the study, the Comptroller General is to transmit a report to the Congress containing a detailed statement of his findings, conclusions, and recommendations.
- *Health Services and Centers Amendments of 1978 (November 10, 1978)* requires the Comptroller General to evaluate the operation of hospital-affiliated primary care centers, including,

with their voluntary participation, those centers not assisted under the law. The Comptroller General is to report to the Congress on this evaluation by March 1, 1981.

- *Public Law 95-485 (October 20, 1978)* includes a provision that funds authorized to provide relief to contractors in connection with the procurement of landing helicopter assault vessels (LHA), DD-963 vessels, and SSN 688 nuclear attack submarines, be subject to audit and review by the Comptroller General. The Comptroller General is to keep the appropriate committees of the Congress currently informed regarding the expenditure of funds and submit to the Congress annually, until completion of the contracts, a written report on the results of the audits and reviews conducted.

Examples of other important legislation affecting our work follow:

- *The Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (October 13, 1978)* provides for GAO audits and reviews of compliance with the laws, rules, and regulations governing employment in the executive branch, in the competitive service, and the effectiveness and soundness of Federal personnel management. GAO is required to submit an annual report to the President and the Congress on the activities of the Merit Systems Protection Board and the Office of Personnel Management. (The Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs has also asked GAO to report on the Federal Labor Relations Authority.) GAO is also required periodically to review agency performance appraisal systems and Senior Executive Service performance appraisal systems to determine the extent to which they meet the requirements of the law. Findings are to be reported to the Office of Personnel Management and to the Congress.
- *The Panama Canal Act of 1979 (September 27, 1979)* establishes the Panama Canal Commission to be responsible for the maintenance and

operation of the Panama Canal, facilities, and appurtenances. The Comptroller General is required to audit the financial transactions of the Commission. The first audit is to be conducted with respect to the fiscal year in which the law becomes effective, and the Comptroller General is to submit a report to the Congress not later than 6 months after the end of each fiscal year.

- *The Amtrak Reorganization Act of 1979 (September 29, 1979)* provides for a study by the Comptroller General of the free or reduced-rate transportation provided to railroad employees by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation under section 405(f) of the Rail Passenger Service Act. Within 180 days after the effective date of the law, the Comptroller General is to submit a report to the Congress and to the Interstate Commerce Commission setting forth recommendations regarding the appropriate means for reimbursing the Corporation for the cost of providing such transportation services, taking into account the value of the services being provided.

Legal Services and Decisions

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

- Congressional committees, Members of Congress, the Attorney General, and the Office of Management and Budget.
- 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.
- GAO auditors 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 1979, GAO's Office of the General Counsel disposed of 5,261 separate legal matters.

Table 5

Procurement Law	1,898
Personnel Law	1,268
Transportation Law	328
General Government Matters	1,014
Special Studies and Analysis	753
Total matters disposed of	<u>5,261</u>

Financial Management Improvement

In the Budget and Accounting Procedures Act of 1950, the Congress declared as its policy that the accounting of the Government provide full disclosure of the results of financial operations, adequate financial information to manage operations and formulate and execute the budget, and effective control over income, expenditures, funds, property, and other assets. The act charges GAO with

- prescribing principles and standards to guide executive agencies in accounting,
- cooperating with agencies in improving their accounting and financial management systems, and
- approving agencies' principles and standards and accounting system designs.

During the fiscal year, we reviewed portions or certain aspects of the operations of 58 accounting systems. We approved 5 statements of accounting principles and standards, one of which was a reapproval. We also approved the designs of 10 accounting systems, 8 of which were in the Department of Defense, as well as the fund control aspects of 6 other Defense accounting systems. At year end, principles and standards for 292 of the 302 systems sub-

ject to approval had been approved, and 180 of the 302 designs have been approved.

We continued work in cooperation with the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of the Treasury, and the Office of Personnel Management in the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program. This program came into existence in 1948 and was recognized in statute by the Budget and Accounting Procedures Act of 1950 as a means of improving financial management practices throughout the Federal Government. Specific accomplishments are included in the program's annual report which is issued separately for the information of the Congress, all Federal agencies, and the public.

Settlement of Claims

Claims against the United States are referred to us for settlement because of statutory requirements or because they involve questions of law or fact. In fiscal year 1979, we settled 7,543 claims for \$251.6 million.

During the same period we

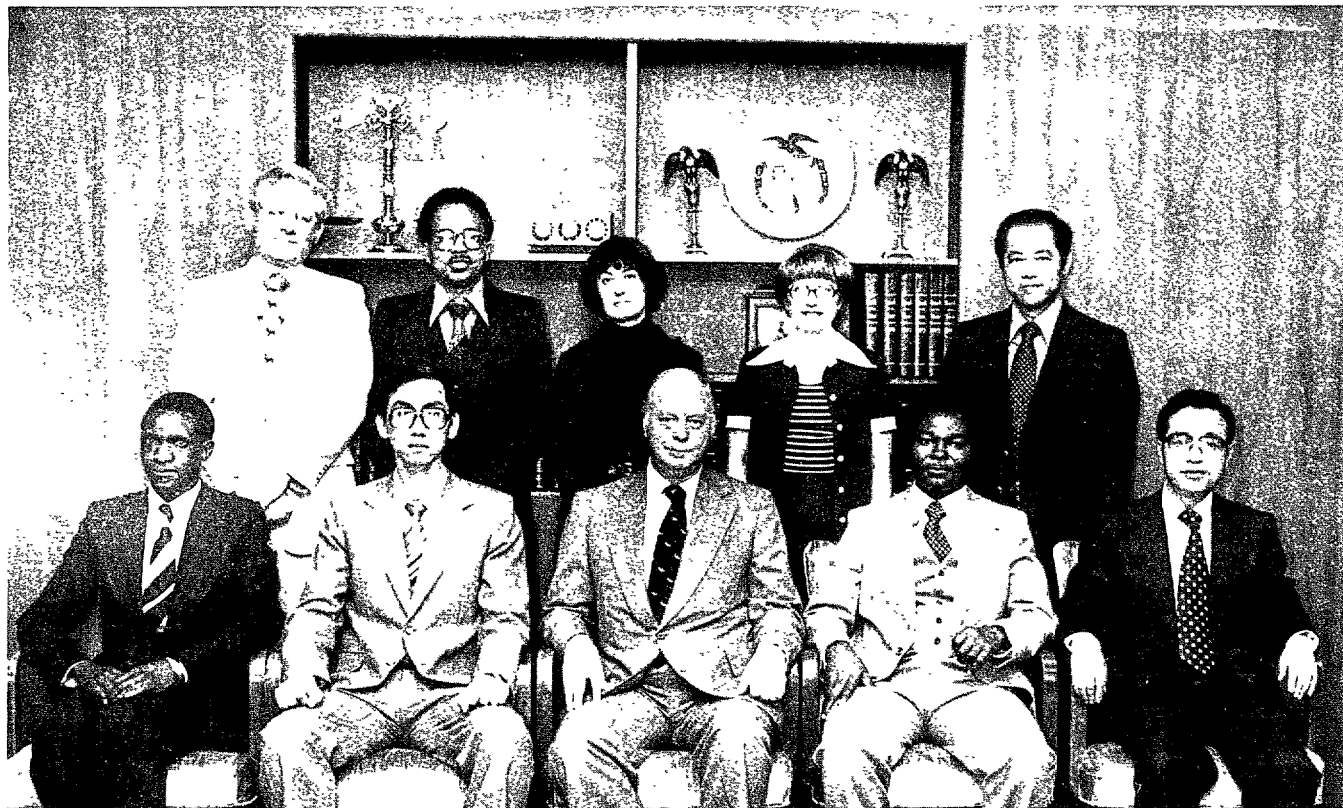
- disposed of 22,281 debt claims and collected over \$10.5 million and
- granted 1,578 full or partial waivers of repayment of erroneous pay and allowances, out of 2,838 requests—a total of \$3.1 million out of \$5.5 million.

Savings and Accomplishments

It is not possible to determine the full effect of GAO activities in terms of improvement in operations and effectiveness of Government programs and activities. We carry out a great deal of work with the objective of improving Government programs and activities without regard to the dollar savings which result from our work. In some cases it is difficult to measure our impact because agencies may make changes based not only on our recommendations, but because of recommendations from other sources—committees of Congress, outside organizations, and others. Some changes take place many months after our reports are issued.

Highlights of Activities

Mr. Staats is pictured with participants in GAO's first International Auditor Fellowship Program and some GAO staff who worked on the program. (Photo courtesy of Creative Photographic Communications.)



Nevertheless, we record actions directly attributable to our work which result in dollar savings or other benefits to the Federal Government, contractors, grantees, and the general public. These actions may be taken directly by us, as in the case of claims collections. Usually, however, they are taken by the Congress, Federal agencies, and others, in response to our suggestions and recommendations.

For fiscal year 1979, GAO identified an estimated savings of \$2.6 billion attributable to our work. It should be noted, however, these dollar accomplishments, while impressive, are not the total—or even the most important—of GAO's accomplishments. Many savings resulting from management improvements frequently cannot

be measured accurately, nor can improvements which make programs work better, but not cheaper. Such improvements are often more important than actual financial savings. Also, the very presence of an oversight agency like GAO—one that can ferret out problems and make them visible to the Congress and to the public—is a vital asset in any governmental setting.

Examples of savings and other benefits of GAO work are in Chapter 3.

Other Events Worth Noting

Due to the foresight of the Congress in giving GAO broad auditing and evaluation responsibilities, 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 these countries which continue to receive substantial financial assistance from us. Several times a month a member of another country's audit office will visit GAO to learn how GAO functions or to study a particular aspect of GAO's work, such as computer auditing. To help meet some of these needs in a collective fashion, the Comptroller General sponsored the first International Auditor Fellowship Program. Seven auditors from less developed countries (Botswana, Brunei, Ghana, Korea, Singapore, Yugoslavia and Zambia) arrived in July 1979 to begin a 6-month Fellowship at GAO.

Table 6

Analysis of Staff Changes

	<i>Professional</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>
Employees on rolls at Oct. 1, 1978 ¹	4,166	1,064	5,230
Appointments	133	211	344
Transfers between categories	32	-32	0
Total	<u>4,331</u>	<u>1,243</u>	<u>5,574</u>
Separations:			
Retirements	32	33	65
Transfers to other agencies	125	88	213
Other separations	107	115	222
Total separations	<u>264</u>	<u>236</u>	<u>500</u>
Employees on rolls at Sept. 30, 1979 ²	<u>4,067</u>	<u>1,007</u>	<u>5,074</u>

In addition, in February 1979, the Comptroller General sponsored an international symposium on "The Need To Improve Public Administration and Financial Management Capabilities in Developing Countries Through Training and Other Efforts." Panelists and observers represented numerous organizations including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund Institute, the Interamerican Development Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the United Nations.

Conscious of the fact that there is no textbook or comprehensive statement of the development and functions of the GAO for college or professional use, GAO provided financial assistance to Dr. Frederick Mosher, who wrote (and privately published) *The GAO: The Quest for Accountability in American Government*. The project was sponsored by and carried out under the auspices of the National Academy of Public Administration to ensure the objectivity of the author's effort.

To further capture its historical perspective, GAO also consolidated many items

into a formal GAO History Collection. The Collection features a replica of a 1921 office and serves to highlight the many presentations GAO gives to visitors and new staff. The Collection can be viewed by the public.

Operating Expenses

The fiscal year 1979 appropriation for GAO was \$185.9 million, of which \$2.0 million was not available for obligation by provision of Public Law 95-391. Total operating expenses for the period were \$181 million with an unobligated balance of \$4.9 million lapsing back to Treasury. Personnel compensation and benefits comprised \$145 million or 80 percent of total expenditures, while travel and other objects comprised 6 percent and 14 percent respectively.

During the year we received approximately \$796,000 in reimbursements for services rendered to House and Senate committees, private organizations, etc., which was applied to our appropriation. We deposited \$7 million in receipts for audit

services and other miscellaneous services in the U.S. Treasury.

Staffing

Our greatest asset is the competence, dedication, and enthusiasm of our staff. As of September 30, 1979, GAO had 5,074 employees, a slight decrease from last year. Of these, 4,067, or 80 percent, were members of its professional staff.

Over the past several years, we have expanded GAO's expertise to evaluate increasingly complex Government programs. We are employing and developing individuals with varied backgrounds and levels of expertise. A high priority is placed on efforts to maintain high professional standards.

Not too many years ago, relatively few professional staff members had backgrounds other than accounting, auditing, and law. Employees from other disciplines now make up about 50 percent of our staff. Table 7 summarizes the technical backgrounds of our staff.

Table 7

**Composition of Staff
(at Sept. 30, 1979)**

	<i>Total</i>
Professional:	
Accountants and auditors	1,874
Management auditors/analysts	1,466
Business administration/management	42
Attorneys	135
Actuaries and other mathematical scientists ..	78
Claims adjudicators/examiners	54
Engineers	22
Computer and information specialists	60
Economists and other social scientists	100
Personnel management specialists	58
Other	178
Total professional staff	<u>4,067</u>
Other:	
Administrative and clerical	952
Wage board	55
Total other staff	<u>1,007</u>
Total	<u>5,074</u>

¹ Does not include 368 students and other temporary employees as shown in the fiscal year 1978 annual report.

² Includes:

Permanent full-time employees	4,059	977	5,036
Permanent part-time employees	8	30	38

Our diverse and complex responsibilities require staff members having functional expertise, supervisory capability, and versatility. Professional staff members can get wide experience and broaden their own perspectives of Government operations by auditing varied Federal programs, or they may remain in a functional area to expand their expertise. We consider individual as well as Office needs in making staff assignments.

Our equal opportunity employment profile continued to improve as we hired, trained, and promoted minorities and women, who now comprise 40 percent of our total work force. As further evidence of our priority attention in this area, minorities and women now comprise 24 percent of our professional staff as compared to 14 percent in 1975.

Participation on Boards, Councils and Commissions

From time to time, statutes establishing special commissions or councils have named the Comptroller General as a member. Currently he is serving as

- a member of the Advisory Council for the Office of Technology Assessment (Public Law 92-484, December 13, 1972, 86 Stat. 800) and
- chairman of the Cost Accounting Standards Board (Public Law 91-378, August 15, 1970, 84 Stat. 796).

On September 14, 1979, the President, by Executive Order No. 12157, established the President's Management Improvement Council to advise on major management problems and issues which affect executive branch agencies. He named the Comptroller General a member of this council.

Proposed Legislation Affecting GAO

At the close of the fiscal year, two legislative proposals of special interest to GAO were awaiting action by the 96th Congress. The first, the General Accounting Office Act of 1979, was passed by the House of Representatives on October 29, 1979. If passed by the Senate, this bill will:

- Provide GAO with authority to audit most unvouchered expenditures.
- Strengthen existing authority to enforce our statutory right to access to records of Federal agencies, Government contractors and grantees.
- Provide a procedure for nominations by Congress in the appointment of the Comptroller General and the Deputy Comptroller General.
- Extend GAO's authority to establish auditing standards of the Inspectors General at the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Department of Energy to conform to that set forth in the Inspectors General Act of 1978.

The second bill, H.R. 5176 (96th Congress) or the General Accounting Office Personnel Act of 1979, would establish a separate and independent personnel system for employees of GAO. Currently, executive branch agencies issue regulations to which GAO is subject, and adjudicate disputes involving GAO employees. At the same time, GAO is mandated by the Civil Service Reform Act to oversee and audit these same agencies. This bill would eliminate a possible conflict of interest in these matters. The bill was passed by the House of Representatives on October 15, 1979.

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 acted on by the Congress during the fiscal year ended September 30, 1979, and lists all open legislative recommendations, made during this period and in prior years, which we still recommend to the attention of the Congress.

Legislative Recommendations Acted On by the Congress During Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1979

Agriculture and Rural Development

Conservation Funds Not To Be Used for Production-Oriented or Low-Benefit Practices—We reported that Federal financial assistance under the Agricultural Conservation Program was not being effectively directed toward critically needed soil conservation practices having the best payoff for reducing erosion.

We recommended that, if the Congress wanted to stop the shift away from needed soil conservation practices and prevent the widespread cost sharing of practices that are oriented more toward stimulating agricultural production and financially benefiting farmers, it should place more emphasis on the funding of critically needed enduring conservation practices by limiting or prohibiting Federal spending for other kinds of practices authorized by law.

In line with our recommendation, the 1979 Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, Public Law 95-448, provided that Federal assistance under the Agricultural Conservation Program was not to be used for carrying out

measures and practices that are primarily production-oriented or that have little or no conservation or pollution abatement benefits. (CED-77-30, February 14, 1977)

The National School Lunch Program-Is It Working?—We recommended that the Congress specify the goals of the national school lunch program, assign them priorities, and direct the Department of Agriculture to evaluate the program's impact. Further, Congress should direct the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to assist in that evaluation, and should require the submission of a report of findings and recommendations at the end of the evaluation.

We also testified before the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Senate Committee on Agriculture, on February 27, 1979, on proposed budget cuts in the child nutrition programs for fiscal year 1980. We concluded the Department of Agriculture had very little basis for estimating the nutritional impact of the proposed budget cuts and that the Department had only a very limited knowledge as to how the child nutrition programs affected the nutritional status of children in general.

The Senate passed Senate Resolution 90, on June 20, 1979, which requests the Secretary of Agriculture to evaluate the impact of the school nutrition programs administered under the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966. The resolution specifies 11 items to be included in the evaluation, using language similar to that of the report. The Secretary is requested to submit a final report to Congress by March 31, 1981. (PAD-77-6, July 26, 1977)

Community Development and Housing

Condominium Homeownership Opportunities Could Be Increased—In March 1978, we reported to the Congress that Federal laws provided that the Department of Housing and Urban Development can only insure mortgages on individual condominium units if the Department insured the mortgage on the entire project and that the Veterans Administra-

tion could not guarantee condominium mortgages if the unit was not originally built and sold as a condominium. We suggested certain legislative changes that would remove these limitations.

The Housing and Community Development Amendments of 1978, Public Law 95-557, and the Veterans' Housing Benefits Act of 1978, Public Law 95-476, contain language removing the limitations. (CED-78-71, March 21, 1978)

Energy

Cleaning Up Radioactive Wastes at Inactive Uranium Mills—Since the 1940's, 39 privately owned mills have produced and sold uranium to the U.S. Government. Twenty-two of these mills have since closed down, leaving about 25 million tons of radioactive sand-like waste—commonly called mill tailings—in unattended piles and ponds. Until recently these tailings were believed to be of such low radiation that they were not considered to be harmful to the public. However, recent concern about the possible adverse effects of low-level radiation over long periods of time has served as an impetus for various organizations to seek ways to prevent the tailings from causing any harm to the public.

We recommended to Congress that the Federal Government should take the lead in cleaning up the uranium mill tailings at the 22 inactive mill sites. The Uranium Mill Tailings Control Act of 1978, Public Law 95-604, authorized the Department of Energy to be the lead agency to conduct a comprehensive program to clean up radioactive wastes at inactive uranium mills. This should help prevent the radioactive wastes from causing harm to the public. (EMD-78-90, June 20, 1978)

General Government

Handicapped Federal Job Applicants Now Enjoy the Same Rights As Other Minorities in Challenging Discrimination—For many years, the Federal Government has taken the position that it is not only a desirable social objective but also good business to employ handicapped persons. A Government-wide survey dis-

closed that in 1977, 140,808 handicapped persons were employed by the Government.

In July 1977, the Chairman, House Committee on Science and Technology, concerned over the apparent unresponsiveness of Federal departments to the national policy of recruiting and employing qualified handicapped individuals, requested that GAO look into the reasons for the lack of progress. The Chairman also asked us to identify any research which might help to more effectively recruit, employ, and promote handicapped individuals and to determine whether positive changes had taken place since our 1974 review.

We recommended that Congress amend civil rights legislation to give the handicapped Federal job applicant the same rights as other minorities in challenging discrimination. The Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services and Developmental Disabilities Amendments of 1978, Public Law 95-602, gives handicapped individuals who have been discriminated against, the same rights, procedures, and remedies as are contained in the Civil Rights Act of 1974. (FPCD-78-40, July 6, 1978)

Laws Relating to Distilled Spirits Excise Taxes Modernized—In the 1860's, excise taxes on distilled spirits were an important revenue source for the Government and by 1875 accounted for about half of all Federal revenues. Given the importance of these taxes and problems in collecting them, legislation was enacted strictly controlling distillers' operations, going so far as to require the year-round presence of Federal agents on their premises. Since this legislation was enacted, distillery operations have been substantially changed allowing for more modern and effective methods of assessing and collecting related taxes.

We recommended repeal of laws requiring a closed distillation system and on-premise inspectors at distilleries for the purpose of ensuring proper payment of excise taxes. In addition, we recommended instituting an all-in-bond method of determining the tax on distilled spirits.

The Trade Agreements Act of 1979, Public Law 96-39, removes requirements for a closed distillation system and on-site inspectors. The law also institutes the all-in-bond method of determining taxes on distilled spirits. (GGD-76-91, April 8, 1977)

Changes in U.S. Valuation System for Imported Merchandise—We reported to the Congress that the U.S. valuation standards are confusing to importers and expensive for the Customs Service to administer. Changes in the U.S. standards would result in operational savings of about \$1.8 million for Customs without decreasing dutiable values or reducing protection to domestic industries, except for a small number of products. Changes simplifying the U.S. valuation system were considered in the multilateral trade negotiations and were part of the trade agreements proposed to the Congress.

We recommended that if the trade agreements did not simplify the valuation procedures or if the agreements were not enacted, the Congress should simplify the U.S. valuation system. The trade agreements which will substantially resolve U.S. valuation problems were included in the Trade Agreements Act of 1979, Public Law 96-39. (GGD-79-29, March 23, 1979)

Productivity Improvement Through Fast Payback Capital Investments—Productivity improvement in the private sector is highly dependent on investments in new and more efficient capital equipment. Public sector applicability of this concept was recognized by the Department of Defense, which instituted a program for funding capital equipment which would pay for itself in 2 years. The program was established with guidelines which enabled managers to quickly obtain funds without going through the budget process. Although the Congress made \$19.3 million available for the program in fiscal year 1977, funding was not extended in fiscal year 1978 for a variety of reasons, including concern by the House Appropriations Committee that the procedure circumvented the executive and congressional budget justification process.

We concluded that the basic concept of the program is sound and should be supported. However, we identified a number of

management problems that weakened the program. We recommended that the Congress continue the program and that the Secretary of Defense take several actions to strengthen and emphasize the program. The Congress did include \$13.5 million in the 1979 Defense Appropriations, Public Law 95-457, to fund fast payback investments. (FGMSD-78-44, July 25, 1978)

Tax Liabilities of High-Income Individuals Discharged Through Bankruptcy—Taxpayers with high income had avoided paying taxes by taking advantage of the Bankruptcy Act (11 U.S.C. 1). The Bankruptcy Act, as amended in 1966, gave certain preferences to the Federal, State, and local Government not given other creditors by providing that taxes must be "due and owing" more than 3 years before they are eligible for discharge through bankruptcy. However, the determinations by the Internal Revenue Service and the courts that the

3-year period started on the due date for filing a return rather than from the date of assessment substantially reduced the time that IRS had to collect taxes. Further, because of delays inherent in auditing returns, in assessing deficiencies, and in going through legal processes, IRS was not always permitted sufficient time to collect the taxes before they were discharged through bankruptcy.

We recommended that the Congress amend the Bankruptcy Act to exclude, from discharge through bankruptcy, taxes assessed within 3 years before a bankruptcy petition is filed. We proposed legislative language to implement the recommendation in a March 1, 1978, letter to appropriate Committees.

Public Law 95-598 completely revised the Bankruptcy Act. Section 507(a)(6) provides, in part, that taxes assessed within 240 days before a bankruptcy petition is filed are excluded from discharge through bankruptcy. This implements the thrust of our recommendation. (B-137762, August 9, 1973)

Impact on Trade of Changes in Taxation of U.S. Citizens Employed Overseas—In 1976, the Congress substantially reduced a long-standing tax incentive for citizens employed abroad. At that time

there was a high degree of uncertainty as to what the loss of this incentive would mean to individuals, firms, and the U.S. economy. In 1977, the Congress postponed the effective date of the tax incentive reductions until the 1977 tax year.

We recommended that consideration be given to continuing some type of incentive, at least until more effective policy instruments for promoting exports and commercial competitiveness abroad are identified and implemented. We also identified for congressional consideration related options together with the advantages and disadvantages of each.

The Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1977, Public Law 95-615, deals with the tax treatment of income earned abroad by U.S. citizens and residents. Our report was used during the related congressional deliberations. (ID-78-13, February 21, 1978)

Strengthening Grantee Agencies' Resolution of Audit Findings—Federal agencies are not acting effectively or promptly in resolving audit findings identified by their auditors. This is costing the Government hundreds of millions annually by allowing grantees and contractors to retain or misuse funds to which they are not entitled.

We recommended that actions be taken to:

- Identify and keep control over all audit findings until they were resolved.
- Review audit resolutions to control disposition and collections.
- Set up specific timetables for audit resolution and reporting.

The House Subcommittee on Legislation and National Security, Committee on Government Operations report (H.R. 96-279, dated June 18, 1979) recommended that the Office of Management and Budget review and approve the audit resolution procedures of the Federal agencies, require periodic reports on resolved and unresolved audit findings, and include audit resolution timeliness and adequacy in the Senior Executive Service performance criteria. (FGMSD-79-3, October 25, 1978)

Health

Indirect Cost Payments to Minority Biomedical Support Grantees—Institutions awarded grants under the National Institutes of Health's Minority Biomedical Support Program were not paid for indirect costs related to grant activities because of a restriction in appropriation legislation. As a result, we concluded that the institutions involved in this program had been denied a total of \$1.4 to \$4.3 million. We developed several alternatives, both legislative and administrative, that could be used to rectify this situation.

Public Law 95-480 removed the restriction on the payment of indirect costs to Minority Biomedical Support Program grantees. (HRD-77-55, March 9, 1977)

Income Security

Veterans' Administration Benefits Programs in the Philippines Need Reassessment—Filipino veterans, primarily of World War II, are entitled by law to pensions, educational benefits, and other compensation as American veterans. However, they receive relatively higher benefits than U.S. veterans because the level of income in the Philippines is lower than in the United States. This situation leads to many abuses of the programs in the Philippines including fraudulent claims by widows to obtain benefits, prolonging illness to extend benefits, attending school for income, and adopting or siring illegitimate children to increase benefits.

We recommended that the Congress (1) reassess the VA benefits programs and study alternatives to curtail program abuses to better equate benefit payments with the prevailing income level in the Philippines and (2) consider closing the VA Manila office and moving its functions to the United States.

The Veterans' Health Care Amendments of 1979, Public Law 96-22, (1) directed the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to carry out a comprehensive study of benefits payable through VA to persons residing outside the United States giving consideration to the matters outlined above and to report

the results of the study to the Congress by February 1980 and (2) specified when a person residing outside the United States would be considered a legally adopted child of a veteran. This legislation affects all territories, possessions, and foreign countries where a substantial number of veterans and/or dependents reside who receive VA benefits. (HRD-78-26, January 18, 1978)

Recovering Food Stamp Overissuances and Punishing Recipient Fraud—In July 1977 we reported to the Congress that the States would more effectively recover overissuances and punish fraud if they were permitted to retain a portion of the funds they recover. State and local food stamp offices had not aggressively pursued overissuance recovery or recipient fraud punishment because of a lack of financial incentive to do so.

Along the lines we recommended, the Food Stamp Act Amendments of 1979, Public Law 96-58, permits States to retain 50 percent of the funds they recover or collect from persons who have committed food stamp fraud. (CED-77-112, July 18, 1977)

Difficulties in Implementing Home Weatherization Programs—We reported to the Congress that there were a number of complications experienced in implementing the Community Services Administration's and Department of Energy's home weatherization programs. These complications were (1) an inability to secure reliable labor resources, (2) no specific direction and guidance for weatherizing rental dwellings, and (3) problems with administering local program efforts.

We recommended that Congress consider placing responsibility for low-income home weatherization in the Department of Energy by amending the Community Services Act of 1974 and the Energy Conservation and Production Act of 1976. The responsibilities of the Community Services Administration and Department of Energy were clarified and resulted in the weatherization program being totally funded in the Department of Energy, Public Law 95-465. (HRD-78-149, August 2, 1978)

Law Enforcement and Justice

Speedy Trial Act—Its Impact on the Judicial System Still Unknown—The Speedy Trial Act required that as of July 1, 1979, those defendants who were not processed within a 100-day arrest-to-indictment time frame would be dismissed from certain Federal criminal cases. However, the Judicial Conference, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and the Department of Justice had determined there was a need to increase the time frame from 100 to 180 days so that a large number of criminal cases would not be dismissed. Because detailed data to support increasing the time frame was unavailable, we suggested that a viable alternative would be to modify the act to require the courts to use the permanent 100-day time frame and postpone implementing the dismissal sanction for 18 to 24 months.

The Speedy Trial Act Amendments of 1979, Public Law 96-43, includes postponing the dismissal sanction for 12 months—until July 1, 1980. In addition, the amendments require that the Department of Justice submit a report to Congress concerning the impacts of implementing the Speedy Trial Act. Each U.S. district court is required to submit a plan regarding disposition of cases within its jurisdiction during the 6- and subsequent 12-calendar month periods after enactment of this act. (GGD-79-55, May 2, 1979)

Natural Resources and Environment

Improved Effectiveness of Joint Federal/State and Local Efforts To Reduce Noise Pollution—We reported that the Congress should amend the penalty provisions of the Noise Control Act to allow for civil as well as criminal penalties. The act should also be amended to require the Federal Aviation Administration to publish a notice in the *Federal Register*, within a specified time, as to whether the noise abatement proposals submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency will be accepted, modified, or rejected. If the proposals are to be modified or rejected, the reasons for such actions should also be stated.

The Quiet Communities Act of 1978, Public Law 95-609, contains provisions in line with our recommendations. (CED-77-42, March 7, 1977)

Open Legislative Recommendations Made During the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1979

Agriculture and Rural Development

The Congress should enact comprehensive legislation setting forth a national sweetener policy that provides necessary assistance for an efficient domestic sugar industry, recognizes the effect of sugar legislation on the increasingly important high fructose corn syrup industry, and considers the economic effect on U.S. foreign trading partners.

To determine a reasonable price level at which to support the domestic industry, the Congress should also (1) instruct the Secretary of Agriculture to obtain representative production cost data for all sweetener industry elements, (2) require that all persons in the sweetener industry provide the Secretary of Agriculture with information he deems necessary, and (3) require that any data collected be made available in a way that does not publicly reveal information provided by any one person.

In view of the growth of corn sweeteners, principally high fructose corn syrup, its price advantage relative to sugar, corresponding shifts in market shares between sugar and high fructose corn syrup, and the wide variations in estimated production costs, legislation should direct the Secretary of Agriculture to identify those sugar industry segments most likely to be adversely affected by such shifts, assess the alternatives available to assist these segments, and report to results to the Congress 1 year from the date the legislation's enactment. (CED-79-21, February 26, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Finance**

House: **Agriculture
Ways and Means**

Present law provides little guidance as to how the sugar payment program is to be implemented. In the event the Secretary of Agriculture operates a payment program as part of overall sugar policy in the future, the Congress should consider providing more specific guidance on program implementation. In particular, the Congress should consider whether payments to any processor should be limited such that the sum of the Government payment and the selling price received by any processor in any payment period does not exceed the support level.

Also, to assure more equitable treatment of sugar agricultural workers in any future sugar payment program, the Congress should specify that future sugar payment programs contain minimum wage provisions for agricultural workers to allow them to share in program benefits. (CED-79-24, March 16, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Finance**

Labor and Human Resources

House: **Agriculture**

Ways and Means

Education and Labor

To provide an equitable basis for determining the national average price received by rice farmers for use in computing Federal deficiency payments to them, the Congress should amend the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, to provide that

- the quantities and amounts of Department of Agriculture uses in computing the average price of rice be compiled on a common basis;
- the Secretary of Agriculture invite comments from and consult with industry, farmers, and other appropriate sources to establish the specific method for computing the price; and
- the national average price be established on a 12-month marketing year basis. (CED-79-85, June 25, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Agriculture, Nutrition and
Forestry
Appropriations**

House: **Agriculture
Appropriations**

The Congress should consider changes in forest legislation based on the Secretary of Agriculture's reporting on unresolved issues such as the amount of increased forest cultivation and the volume of timber to be cut. This could alleviate or avert a projected decline in the Pacific Northwest timber supply. This would require increased Federal expenditures and, it appears, changes to the National Forest Management Act of 1976—both matters for the Congress to decide. (EMD-79-5, December 12, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Agriculture**
House: **Agriculture**

Area and Regional Development

To establish more current and appropriate criteria governing Appalachian State maintenance of effort requirements, the Congress should amend section 221 of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, as amended, as follows:

- Delete the existing requirement for Appalachian States to maintain their current expenditures at the average aggregate 1963-64 levels.
- Require instead that each Appalachian State maintain proportionate expenditure levels between the Appalachian and non-Appalachian portion of each State, using such recent base period as the Congress deems appropriate.
- Require the Appalachian Regional Commission to monitor and report annually to the Congress on Appalachian State expenditures in both the Appalachian and non-Appalachian portion of each State. (CED-79-50, April 27, 1979) The Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1979, S. 914, passed the Senate August 1, 1979, and contains our recommendations.

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Environment and
Public Works**

House: **Public Works and
Transportation**

Commerce and Transportation

The Congress should amend the Fly America Act to provide greater flexibility in its application to flights between points outside the United States. Such an amendment should reserve to the American-flag carriers the lucrative long-distance travel so that the collateral costs of complying with the act would be reasonable in proportion to the financial benefit to those carriers. The amendment should also reduce the traveler's burden and risk of scheduling travel to a more reasonable proportion. (LCD-78-235, October 31, 1978) The International Air Transportation Competition Act of 1979, S. 1300, which passed the Senate September 29, 1979, contains our recommendations.

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Commerce, Science and
Transportation**

House: **Public Works and
Transportation**

The Congress should enact legislation authorizing the Secretary of Transportation to issue mandatory regulations which will provide for uniform security measures in transporting arms, ammunition, and explosives. These sensitive items continue to be sought by terrorist, dissident, and criminal groups. They receive varying levels of security while being transported. In contrast to shipments for the Department of Defense, shipments to non-Defense customers often are made without security measures. (LCD-78-237, December 21, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Commerce, Science and
Transportation
Armed Services**

House: **Public Works and
Transportation
Armed Services**

The Congress should amend section 207 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 to authorize and 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 are used to divert general aviation from major airports, the development and continued operation of privately owned relievers will be even more necessary. Congress should also 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. (CED-79-102, September 4, 1979) S. 1648, which authorizes funds through fiscal year 1985 for airport development aid programs under the Airport Airway Act, was favorably reported by the Senate Committee on October 25, 1979.

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Commerce, Science and
Transportation**

House: **Public Works and
Transportation**

To protect the Federal-aid highway system from continued deterioration caused by excessive truck weights, the Congress should amend 23 U.S.C. 127 to (1) make Federal weight restrictions applicable to all Federal-aid highways, including the noninterstate system; (2) establish a termination date for the applicability of current grandfather clause provisions, so that current Federal limits would apply to all Federal-aid highways; and (3) include a provision that specifically prohibits (a) overweight exemptions necessary for single trips of cargoes that cannot be reduced to meet weight limits or be shipped by other transportations modes and (b) exemptions necessary for certain specialized hauling vehicles. (CED-79-94, July 16, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Environment and Public Works**

House: **Public Works and
Transportation**

The Northeast Corridor Improvement Project is over budget and behind schedule, and its scope has been reduced which will lead to increased future maintenance costs, less passenger comfort, less on-time reliability, and reduced safety. Congress should enact legislation specifying what improvements it believes are desirable and what level of additional funding, if any,

should be provided. Congress' alternatives range from terminating the project to providing over \$5 billion to make capital improvements to achieve original objectives. (CED-79-38, March 29, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Commerce, Science and Transportation**

House: **Interstate and**

Foreign Commerce

To improve management at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Communications Act of 1934 should be amended to:

- Make the Chairman, FCC, the administrative head of the agency.
- Provide for the position of Managing Director of FCC and empower the Chairman, as chief administrative officer, to delegate to the Managing Director responsibility for the agency's day-to-day management.
- Reduce the number of FCC Commissioners from seven to five.
- Provide for Senate confirmation of the designation by the President of one Commissioner as Chairman.
- Lengthen the term of FCC Commissioners and restrict the type of employment and activities in which Commissioners may engage after completing their service.
- Provide for a periodic rather than a permanent budget authorization for FCC. The process of periodic reauthorization should involve a thorough "sunset" review of FCC and should be performed every 10 years.
- Increase the number of professional assistants available to each Commissioner from two to four and the number of secretarial assistants from one to two.
- Increase the opportunities for effective representation of the public interest in FCC proceedings by providing for an Office of Public Counsel or for direct public funding for public groups to participate in specified categories of FCC proceedings, particularly rulemaking and tariff-making proceedings. (CED-79-107, July 30, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Commerce, Science and Transportation**

House: **Interstate and Foreign Commerce**

To improve the broadcast licensing process the Communications Act of 1934 should be amended to:

- Authorize the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to grant broadcast licenses for an indefinite period providing that, if the public interest requires, a licensee can, at any time, be placed on probation for a fixed period as determined by FCC.
- Direct FCC to implement a system of random selection and field-based review of broadcast stations to ensure compliance with the act and FCC rules and regulations on a continuing basis.
- Authorize any party in interest to file with FCC at any time a petition for revocation of a broadcast license.
- Place the burdens of evidence and proof on the licensee in a revocation proceeding unless FCC assigns those burdens to another party in interest.
- Eliminate the requirement for FCC to provide competing license applicants with an opportunity for a full comparative hearing.
- Authorize the implementation of a lottery or auction system for granting new broadcast licenses and licenses which have been revoked.

In the area of regulating program service, to ensure that an FCC experiment on programing deregulation will be meaningful, Congress should provide FCC with legislative authorization to suspend its programing rules and to insulate exempt stations from public challenges to their program service during the period of the experiment if FCC determines such special authorization is needed.

Regarding the diversity of broadcast station ownership, the Congress should decide the relative importance FCC should place on ownership diversity and industry stability in formulating rules for ownership of broadcast stations. Congress should also decide the circumstances under which

divestiture by established broadcast licensees would be appropriate for fostering competition in broadcasting and promoting diversity of programing sources and viewpoints.

Because of the controversy over FCC's role in assuring equal employment opportunity in broadcasting, the Congress should define FCC's EEO responsibilities. If it decides that a special affirmative action rule for the broadcast industry should continue, the Congress should define the scope of FCC's authority to implement and enforce an affirmative action policy. If it decides that a special rule should not continue, the Congress should expressly prohibit FCC from implementing and enforcing an affirmative action policy and limit its EEO responsibility to ensuring that station licensees found to have violated laws prohibiting discrimination are evaluated for their character qualifications to hold a broadcast license.

Recognizing that controversy also exists regarding whether the equal opportunities requirements for political candidates contained in Section 315 of the Communications 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 opportunities for political candidates and determine the proper mode for achieving this balance and
- amend the Communications Act to provide FCC legislative authority to consider and test alternative methods to determine whether market forces are adequate to ensure full and fair broadcast coverage of controversial issues.

Further, the Congress should decide whether the broadcast licensee should pay a charge to the Government for using the broadcast spectrum. If it decides that a charge should be assessed, the Congress should

- specify the regulatory objectives to be served by the charges and the use to be made from the revenue.

- either specify criteria or methods for calculating spectrum user fees or require FCC to experiment with valuation techniques and devise its own fee schedules, and
- provide FCC with sufficient flexibility to adjust fee schedules as regulatory conditions change. (CED-79-62, June 4, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Commerce, Science and Transportation**

House: **Interstate and Foreign Commerce**

The Congress should (1) raise statutory fees charged by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to bring them more in line with current operating costs and (2) authorize the Secretary of Commerce to periodically adjust the fees to maintain whatever cost recovery level the Congress determines appropriate. The Congress may also wish to consider lower fees for independent inventors and small business concerns to encourage the innovations of those with limited resources. (CED-78-163, November 14, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Judiciary**

House: **Judiciary**

To better control travel tour industry abuses and end the current disjointed Federal regulatory structure responsible for controlling abuses, Congress should make the Federal Trade Commission the focal point for enforcing consumer protection in the tour industry. Also, Congress should direct the Federal Trade Commission to gradually place more reliance on self-regulation in the tour industry. (CED-79-108, July 23, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Commerce, Science and Transportation**

House: **Public Works and Transportation Interstate and Foreign Commerce**

The Congress should give the Federal Trade Commission stronger and clearer authority to obtain redress for economically

injured consumers and to prevent businesses from dissipating their assets to avoid redressing consumers. (HRD-78-140, October 17, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Commerce, Science and Transportation**

House: **Interstate and Foreign Commerce**

Community Development and Housing

In view of the Department of Commerce's reluctance to give special attention to communities injured by imports, the Congress needs to reaffirm its position that communities injured by imports are to receive special attention and specify whether Commerce should take the actions recommended by GAO to identify and assist them.

Also, to provide more effective assistance to communities whose economies have been adversely affected by imports, the Congress should amend the certification and benefit delivery provisions of title II, chapter 4, of the Trade Act of 1974 by specifying that adjustment assistance be provided through provisions of title IX of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965. In place of the certification criteria stated in section 271(c) of title II, the Congress should specify that adjustment assistance be provided to communities based on a systematic assessment of their relative needs and their ability to adjust to their individual dislocation problems. (CED-79-42, May 15, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Environment and Public Works**

House: **Public Works and Transportation**

The National Park Service uses contingency reserves obtained for emergency purposes and unforeseen events to pay for a variety of routine projects not specifically considered by the Congress. Of the \$10 million in contingency reserves used during fiscal year 1977, \$7 million were for projects that could have been reasonably

included in the normal budget review process. To further prevent such events, the Congress should eliminate the Service's operating contingency reserves and provide funds for estimated emergencies and unforeseeable events on the basis of a separate line-item in the budget. (FGMSD-79-18, March 1, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Appropriations**

House: **Appropriations**

The Public Works Employment Act of 1977 contains a provision that at least 10 percent of the funds authorized for the program be spent with minority firms. Directing Federal agencies to require that minority firms share in Federal procurements is commendable. However, in designing future legislative minority provisions the Congress should:

- Impose a penalty, such as debarment from participating on future federally funded projects, on contractors that establish ineligible minority firms to circumvent the intent of the minority requirement.
- Use a flexible percentage for applying the minority requirement based on the availability of minority firms and/or percentage of minority population in certain areas measured against an overall goal.

Also, the Congress should consider whether a countercyclical program, such as the Local Public Works Program with its tight deadlines, represents a suitable mechanism for implementing a minority provision. (CED-79-9, January 16, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Environment and Public Works**

House: **Public Works and Transportation**

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 be not lower than those determined by the Secretary of Labor to prevail in the locality, in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act. (HRD-79-18, April 27, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Labor and Human Resources**

House: **Education and Labor**

Even though the title III program (authorized by the Higher Education Act of 1965) has operated for 12 years and has spent \$700 million, it is beset with problems, and its impact on moving schools toward the mainstream of American higher education is not known.

The operating problems and the more basic problem of adequately defining a "developing institution" are so fundamental and pervasive that we believe the program as presently structured is largely unworkable. The Congress needs to clarify the program's intent to show which institutions should be served and the goals these institutions should achieve. (HRD-78-170, February 13, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Labor and Human Resources**

House: **Education and Labor**

The Congress should, on the basis of the executive branch's proposals regarding program consolidation, amend employment and training legislation to reduce the number of separate programs. In amending employment and training legislation, Congress should ensure that appropriate organizational arrangements are mandated to improve coordination and integration of federally assisted employment and training programs. The potential for more efficient services to the economically disadvantaged through coordinated efforts is obvious. (HRD-79-11, May 8, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Labor and Human Resources**

House: **Education and Labor**

The Congress, before considering any expansion of the Summer Youth Employment program, should assure itself that the Department of Labor has taken effective corrective actions to improve its quality. The program is authorized by the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973 (CETA), as amended (29 U.S.C. 801). Congress should not appropriate funds for this program above the fiscal year 1978 funding levels until Labor (1) provides specific guidance to sponsors on how to assess the quality of worksite experience, (2) establishes an effective means of determining whether sponsors are providing meaningful work to enrollees and meeting other program requirements, and (3) develops and proposes to the Congress funding procedures that more adequately consider the needs of the eligible youths and allocate funds to sponsors based on demonstrated success in providing meaningful work. In the interim, the Congress should consider amending the CETA provision for allocating summer youth funds (29 U.S.C. 944) to provide funding procedures similar to those in the act for comprehensive employment and training services programs (29 U.S.C. 842). The latter funding procedures provide for gradually adjusting annual allocations to bring them closer to formula amounts. (HRD-79-45, February 20, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Appropriations**

Labor and Human Resources

House: **Appropriations**

Education and Labor

The Congress should amend Public Law 92-603 to establish, as a primary goal of the Supplemental Security Income-Vocational Rehabilitation program, savings in benefit payments in excess of the Federal funds spent. After sufficient data has been developed to reliably measure the program's effectiveness and should the savings attributed to the program not meet or exceed the Federal costs, the Congress should consider the following options regarding future program direction.

- Eliminate the program and, instead, earmark funds under the basic rehabilita-

tion program to serve the target population.

- Continue the program with the funding levels for the States based on the demonstrated effectiveness of each State's program as measured by the extent that reductions in benefit payments exceed Federal funds spent. (HRD-79-5, June 6, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Finance**

House: **Ways and Means**

The Congress should consider the following as possible solutions to the inequities and disincentives in the unemployment compensation program:

- Include unemployment compensation in taxable income.
- Reduce unemployment compensation by retirement income.
- Establish a uniform method to determine compensation. (HRD-79-79, August 28, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Finance**

House: **Ways and Means**

Energy

The Congress should revise the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) charter to better reflect current national energy priorities. TVA should be charged with (1) leading the development of electricity management plans and programs, (2) encouraging energy conservation and most efficient production and use of energy, (3) encouraging the use of renewable resources, and (4) assuring adequate public involvement in energy planning and policy making. (EMD-78-91, November 29, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Energy and Natural Resources**

House: **Interior and Insular Affairs**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission uses civil penalties to enforce its regulations governing the construction and operation of commercial nuclear facilities and the possession, use, and disposal of nuclear materials. The maximum penalty which it can assess is too low to be an effective enforcement tool.

The Congress should increase the civil penalty amount the Commission can impose for nuclear violations from \$5,000 to \$100,000 for a single violation and eliminate the limitation on the amount that can be imposed for all violations in a period of 30 consecutive days. (EMD-79-9, February 16, 1979) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission authorization for fiscal year 1980, S. 562, passed the Senate July 17, 1979. The House bill, H.R. 2608, was reported by Interior and Insular Affairs on May 15, 1979 and by Interstate and Foreign Commerce on June 29, 1979. Both Senate and House measures contain our recommendations.

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Environment and Public Works**

House: **Interior and Insular Affairs
Interstate and Foreign
Commerce**

Uranium mills produce sand-like radioactive wastes called tailings as a result of processing raw uranium for eventual use in nuclear weapons or nuclear powerplants. The Federal Government and the mill owners only recently found that these tailings are a potential health hazard and should be controlled.

The Congress should provide assistance to active uranium mill owners to share in the cost of cleaning up that portion of the tailings which were produced under Federal weapons contract. Further, the Congress should consider having the Federal Government assist those mills which acted in good faith in meeting all legal requirements pertaining to controlling the uranium mill tailings that were generated for commercial purposes and for which the Federal Government is now requiring retroactive remedial action. At the same time, the Congress should see that this action establishes no precedent for the Federal Government assuming the financial responsibility of cleaning up other non-Federal nuclear facilities and wastes, including those mill tailings generated after the date when the Federal Government notified industry that the tailings should be controlled. (EMD-79-29, February 5, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Energy and Natural Resources**

House: **Interstate and Foreign
Commerce**

The Federal Government's nuclear weapons program already has generated a vast amount of nuclear waste, and spent fuel from commercial reactors is accumulating at an increasing rate. These wastes have long, toxic lives and must be disposed of carefully. Past efforts failed because the Federal Government has not developed a publicly acceptable disposal program.

The Congress should enact legislation which will create a Federal and State committee and place responsibility for developing a national waste management plan in that committee. Any such legislation should recognize that if this concept does not lead to the selection of waste repository sites within an established time, the Federal Government would exercise its right to mandate selection. (EMD-79-77, June 21, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Governmental Affairs**

House: **Government Operations**

The Congress should eliminate the provision of the Federal Nonnuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5901, et seq.), which was added by section 207(b) of the Department of Energy Act of 1978—Civilian Applications, that requires the Comptroller General to audit recipients of loan guarantees for alternative fuel demonstration facilities every 6 months. Less frequent audits would provide an adequate basis for reporting on the program to the Congress without diverting extensive staff resources from other areas of congressional interest. (EMD-79-35, April 3, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Energy and Natural Resources**

House: **Science and Technology**

The Congress should enact legislation giving the Department of Energy the necessary authority to minimize pipeline disruptions. This authority can come in the form of:

- Making on-site visits to pipeline facilities to identify and analyze critical pipelines.
- Conducting periodic inspections to determine compliance and to reassess physical security. (EMD-79-63, August 27, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Energy and Natural Resources**

House: **Interior and Insular Affairs**

The U.S. Geological Survey has begun a permanent program to study the possibilities for increasing natural gas production from offshore leases which are already developed and producing. This expensive program is premature because no policy criteria or regulations are available for judging whether the fields are adequately developed. In addition, the National Academy of Sciences has advised the Secretary of the Interior against such a study. Other problems exist in offshore production because the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978 introduced the Maximum Attainable Rate (MAR) of production which may be produced under actual operating conditions without loss of ultimate recovery of natural gas. This approach is as deficient as previous programs because the MAR is set after the lessees have determined the production levels and have installed facilities to produce such levels; yet many important decisions are made during development which may limit the MAR. The Congress should:

- Not appropriate funds for the U.S. Geological Survey Outer Continental Shelf Reservoir Shut-In/Diligence Program until the policy and regulations have been issued and the program rejustified.
- Repeal those portions of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978 [section 606 (d) (1) (A), (B)] which require the Government to establish, enforce, and report on production rates on Federal lands. (EMD-78-86, June 15, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Energy and Natural Resources**

House: **Interior and Insular Affairs
Interstate and Foreign
Commerce**

The Department of Energy is developing a national program to collect estimates of natural gas reserves to meet various Government information needs. We believe this approach is appropriate because estimates collected from operators will be verified by Federal personnel through annual audits of the reports received.

The U.S. Geological Survey, however, has a program which collects oil and gas reserves information only on leases on the Outer Continental Shelf. The initial inventory, to be completed in fiscal year 1979, will cost over \$9 million and will be updated each year at an annual cost of about \$1.5 million. Because the Department of Energy program should provide the needed reserves data from the Outer Continental Shelf on a more current basis and at a lower cost, the Congress should not appropriate additional funds for the U.S. Geological Survey's Reserves Inventory Program. (EMD-78-68, June 15, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Energy and Natural Resources**

House: **Interior and Insular Affairs
Interstate and Foreign
Commerce**

The Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 1976 was created to foster the commercialization of these vehicles and mandated a demonstration schedule requiring a certain number of vehicles to be purchased each year for both private and public sector demonstrations. However, because of the high cost of electric vehicles and their current performance limitations, the emphasis on private sector demonstrations is premature. The Congress should amend the Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 1976 to remove the mandatory requirement to demonstrate a specified number of vehicles. This would provide the Department of Energy more flexibility in both the timing of vehicle purchases and the number of vehicles to be demonstrated. (EMD-79-6, April 6, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

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

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

General Government

The Congress should establish an overall Federal retirement policy and a mechanism for coordinating the management of Federal retirement systems. It can do this, in part, by:

- Establishing 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.
- Adopting 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, December 29, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Governmental Affairs**

**Armed Services
Foreign Relations
Judiciary**

House: **Post Office and Civil Service**

**Armed Services
Foreign Affairs
Judiciary**

Salary increases for Federal executives have been limited or denied despite statutes which allow for annual and quadrennial adjustments. This has made it difficult for Federal agencies to recruit and retain executives.

About 12,400 top managers are also being denied annual comparability adjustments because their salaries are limited by executive salaries.

Without annual pay adjustments for executives, many of these problems will continue.

Congress can 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. (FPCD-79-31, May 17, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Governmental Affairs**

House: **Post Office and Civil Service**

The Congress should establish a more consistent and equitable fringe benefit policy for less than full-time employees. The legislative proposals should (1) provide prorated fringe benefits to less than full-time Federal employees where administratively feasible and (2) charge each Federal agency the full costs of its employees' health insurance, life insurance, and civil service retirement benefits, less employee contributions (FPCD-78-19, June 5, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Governmental Affairs**

House: **Post Office and Civil
Service**

The Federal Government's severance pay programs need to be reformed. Legislation is needed to:

- Revise the uniformed services severance pay programs so that the various separation pays will be calculated by the same formula and applied uniformly to all services.
- Provide a severance pay program for enlisted personnel.
- Base the military severance pay formula on the average regular military compensation of the grade of the separated member and bring uniformed services eligibility criteria in line with the Federal civilian severance pay program.
- Eliminate the uniformed services' practice of providing severance pay to members separated for unsatisfactory performance.
- Provide uniform severance pay limitations for all Federal personnel reemployed by the Government. (FPCD-78-68, December 7, 1978)

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

The Congress should require the Director, Office of Personnel Management, to either (1) ensure the granting of quality step increases in accordance with the Federal Personnel Manual and demonstrate this has been accomplished or (2) if unable to so demonstrate, terminate quality step increases and merge the funds previously available for this purpose with funds for the incentive awards program for those not covered by the Senior Executive Service and Merit Pay provisions of the Civil Service Reform Act.

The Congress should also allow agencies to retain a portion of all productivity gains to be used for increasing incentive awards program funding. (FGMSD-79-9, March 15, 1979)

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

The Congress should establish control over the Economic Development Administration's loan guarantee program by setting a permanent ceiling on the total amount of loans and by limiting financial assistance to an individual borrower. Without such controls, the Congress may have to provide additional funding to fulfill the Government's loan guarantee commitments. For example, the Economic Development Administration guaranteed four loans totaling \$75 million for one company which was experiencing financial difficulties, and the Administration does not have sufficient reserves in the event of a default. (FGMSD-78-62, January 5, 1979) The Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1979, S. 914, which passed the Senate August 1, 1979, contains our recommendations.

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

In deciding on any proposed legislation granting the Department of Agriculture additional leasing authority, the Congress should review the actions taken or proposed by the Secretary of Agriculture to (1) delineate rural areas that need development, (2) ensure that field offices will be located in delineated areas to achieve rural development objectives and program missions, and (3) give first consideration to using federally controlled space that is available and suitable. (CED-79-74, April 25, 1979)

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

The Congress should enact legislation which would:

- Put the General Services Administration under a mandatory time frame for accomplishing management improvements.
- Strengthen the posture of the General Services Administration as a primary supplier of products to Federal agencies.

The General Services Administration agrees that legislation is needed to strengthen its posture as a primary supplier of products to the agencies. We are working with the General Services Administration on drafting such legislation. (PSAD-79-71, May 2, 1979)

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

To provide the control intended over repairs and alterations of Government-owned buildings, the Congress should:

- Amend the Public Buildings Act of 1959 to define the term "project."
- Amend the Public Buildings Act of 1959 or require the General Services Administration to revise its procedures to have prospectuses submitted on reimburse-

ble work projects that include general building improvements estimated to cost over \$500,000.

- Provide funds for each prospectus project over \$500,000 on a line-item basis together with the authority to transfer funds to other projects provided the Appropriations Committees are notified in advance of any transfer.
- Provide funds for projects under \$500,000 on a lump sum basis. (LCD-78-335, March 21, 1979)

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

The Congress should amend Public Law 95-507 to exempt successful bidders on individual procurements for commercial items from submitting subcontracting information on individual contracts. Several normal suppliers are either withdrawing or intending to withdraw from competing because of stated impracticalities in furnishing such information, and the Government is being deprived of quality products at competitive prices. (PSAD-79-66, May 11, 1979)

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

The Congress should amend section 242 of title II of the National Housing Act to eliminate the mortgage insurance premium on portions of loans also guaranteed by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare under title VI of the Public Health Service Act and to preclude such practices on loans guaranteed and made under title XVI of the Public Health Service Act. (HRD-79-64, June 27, 1979)

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

To facilitate State and local government productivity improvements, the Congress should remove negative barriers in the grants system which retard productivity and should incorporate positive incentives to reward improved productivity in existing and future grant programs where appropriate.

The Congress should also amend the Intergovernmental Personnel Act to authorize funding for general management improvement projects for State and local governments and to provide funding to the Bureau of Labor Statistics needed to measure State and local government productivity trends. (GGD-78-104, December 6, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Governmental Affairs**

House: **Government Operations**

The Congress should amend the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968 to prescribe standard audit requirements applicable to all Federal grants. The amendment should rescind existing laws for regularly scheduled audits of individual grants by particular organizations and allow Federal agencies flexibility in judging audit needs. The amendment should designate a reasonable time interval within which grant recipients must be audited. (FGMSD-79-37, June 15, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Governmental Affairs**

House: **Government Operations**

The Congress should enact legislation proposed by the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, Department of Commerce, to amend section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, and title 13 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**

Governmental Affairs

House: **Post Office and
Civil Service**

Ways and Means

The Congress should request the Internal Revenue Service to develop and provide to the appropriate congressional committees information on the amount of additional funds needed to improve the effectiveness of the Service's nonfiler efforts. This information should include cost estimates for (1) estimating and analyzing the nonfiler population, (2) developing a better nonfiler case selection method, (3) investigating thoroughly all nonfilers selected. The Congress can then decide whether additional funds are needed. (GGD-79-69, July 11, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Finance**

House: **Ways and Means**

Joint: **Taxation**

The Congress should authorize and require the Internal Revenue Service to test a system to match refunds with delinquent debts so that the debtor's refund would be retained to cover the debt (FGMSD-79-19, March 9, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Appropriations**

Finance

House: **Appropriations**

Ways and Means

The Congress should amend section 117 of the Internal Revenue Code and add a new educational expense deduction section because the existing one is difficult to understand and is sometimes confusing. (GGD-78-72, October 31, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Finance**

House: **Ways and Means**

Joint: **Taxation**

A variety of land payment programs have evolved over the years to compensate States and counties for tax exemptions on Federal land within their jurisdiction.

Congress should change the land payment laws so that implementation of the laws is on a tax equivalency basis. If Congress does not choose to change the basic laws, then certain administrative weaknesses in Public Law 94-565 (Payments in Lieu of Taxes) should be revised so that

- payments under the law are disassociated from receipt-sharing payments, or
- deductions for receipt-sharing payments are allocated to counties where receipts were earned, or
- deductions for receipt-sharing payments are allocated to counties based on population or some other allocation method. (PAD-79-64, September 25, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Energy and Natural
Resources**

House: **Interior and Insular
Affairs**

The Corps of Engineers used at least \$76.7 million specifically appropriated for water resources projects to supplement its centralized function funded by the general expense appropriation. The way this was done prevented disclosure and reduced congressional control over all of the Corps' civil appropriations. The Congress should require the Corps to fund its centralized functions, whenever possible, through the general expense appropriation which is justified for that purpose. (FGMSD-79-12, January 31, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Appropriations**

House: **Appropriations**

As Federal procurement expanded (now over \$100 billion annually) and individual problems multiplied, a patchwork of laws, directives, and regulations were installed to cope with the problems.

The Congress, after exhaustive hearings in the late 1960's, created the Commission on Governmental Procurement to devise fundamental improvements. The Commission developed 149 integrated recommendations that required congressional and executive branch action.

The Congress should resolve

- open legislative recommendations of the

Procurement Commission and

- legislative matters relating to architect-engineering services, Federal assistance, and patent policy. (PSAD-79-80, May 31, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Governmental Affairs**

House: **Government Operations**

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has not implemented various controls and other measures that the Local Development Company Program needs to function properly. In future oversight hearings on the section 502 Local Development Company Program, the legislative committees should review SBA's March 1977 policy change which eliminated the requirement that owners of small businesses who have sufficient personal resources fund at least part of the loan. With this change, SBA is not a lender of last resort, as is the case in other SBA loan programs. (CED-79-103, August 21, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Select Committee on Small Business**

House: **Small Business**

The Congress needs to enact a uniform, Government-wide patent policy that will provide the Federal agencies with a clear legislative statement of the policy supported by the Congress. This will ensure that discoveries from Government-funded research and development are quickly commercialized. (Testimony of the Comptroller General on S.414, The University and Small Business Patent Procedures Act, May 16, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Judiciary**

**Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Governmental Affairs**

House: **Judiciary**

**Science and Technology
Government Operations**

When Federal executive agencies administratively choose a seed money approach for implementing programs, the Congress should, as part of its normal oversight processes, see that the approach is appro-

riate. When the seed money approach is used in new programs, the Congress should clearly express Federal funding intentions and emphasize the need for cost assumption planning so that the prospects for continuing worthwhile projects would be enhanced. (GGD-78-78, June 22, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Governmental Affairs**

House: **Government Operations**

Health

Because more widespread adoption of fluoridation could reduce the incidence of tooth decay in the population and achieve considerable savings in treatment costs, the Congress should consider establishing a program to provide financial assistance for communities that wish to fluoridate their water supplies. (HRD-79-3, April 13, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Labor and Human Resources**

House: **Interstate and Foreign Commerce**

Water fluoridation is a proven tooth decay prevention technique and is being promoted by the Public Health Service. The Safe Drinking Water Act includes specific language designed to make it clear that local communities are neither required to nor prohibited from, adding substances to drinking water for preventive health purposes. The language, however, can be interpreted as a Federal prohibition against fluoridation, has been used to delay community proposals to fluoridate, and has been used as model language for State legislation. To bring the language of the Safe Drinking Water Act into closer conformance with the stated congressional intent and to minimize misinterpretation, section 1412b(6) should be amended to read: *No national primary drinking water regulation may require or prohibit the addition of any substance for preventive health purposes unrelated to contamination of drinking water.* (Bold type designates new language.)

(HRD-79-3, April 13, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Environment and Public Works**

House: **Interstate and Foreign Commerce**

Congress should amend the Community Mental Health Centers Act to:

- Allow the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to waive the requirement for any of the 12 mandated services which a center can demonstrate (1) is not needed, (2) is adequately provided by another organization within the catchment area, or (3) is conveniently accessible outside the catchment area.
- Eliminate the conversion and financial distress grants provisions. If the Congress believes such support is needed, it should explore other methods of providing continuing Federal support.
- Restrict consultation and education grants to organizations not receiving staffing or initial operations grants.
- Allow HEW to award grants for other than a 1-year period.

Congress should also explore the development of a funding mechanism that would allow communities, unable for various reasons to develop "full service" Community Mental Health Centers, to provide fewer than the 12 required services. (HRD-79-38, May 2, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Labor and Human Resources**

House: **Interstate and Foreign Commerce**

The Congress needs to reevaluate the role and structure of the military medical care system and direct the Department of Defense to improve its ability to serve its beneficiaries in peacetime. To do this, the Congress should clarify and adopt clear policies regarding two basic questions:

- Whom will the military's direct medical care system serve in peacetime?
- How and to what extent would those beneficiaries who are unable to obtain care in the direct care system—as a result of the policy adopted relative to the above question—receive the assistance needed to obtain medical care from other sources? (HRD-79-107, August 16, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Armed Services**

House: **Armed Services**

To enable the responsible agencies to more effectively prevent the marketing of raw meat and poultry containing illegal residues, the Congress should amend the

- Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to authorize the U.S. Department of Agriculture to (1) quarantine animals from a violative grower of food-producing animals and (2) require growers to place an identification on animals before they are marketed;
- Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to make misuse of an animal drug a violation of the act and to authorize civil penalties for violating the act's provisions;
- Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to give the Environmental Protection Agency authority to inspect a grower's premises to identify the possible misuse of pesticides which could result in pesticide residues in food. (HRD-79-10, April 17, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Labor and Human Resources**

House: **Interstate and Foreign Commerce**

The Congress should expand the provisions of section 1536 of the National Health Planning and Resources Development Act of 1974 to allow more States to have only a State health planning and development agency and require that all other States have a minimum of two health systems agencies.

If the Congress chooses not to amend the act as suggested above, the Congress should amend it to clarify the responsibilities of health systems agencies and State health planning and development agencies in those States which have only one health systems agency. (HRD-77-157, November 2, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Labor and Human Resources**

House: **Interstate and Foreign Commerce**

The Congress should amend the National Health Planning and Resources Development Act of 1974 to provide for local and State health planning agencies review of proposed projects involving Federal health facilities. The act should require that their recommendations regarding the appropriateness of the projects be sent to the cognizant Federal agencies. Federal agencies should be required to provide these recommendations along with their written responses to congressional committees before any decisions are made to fund a project. (HRD-77-157, November 2, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Labor and Human Resources**

House: **Interstate and Foreign 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 Subcommittee on Health, House Committee on Ways and Means, should consider either (1) deleting the comparability language in the law or (2) defining comparability so that it applies to all private health insurance plans which reimburse on a current reasonable charge basis. (HRD-79-111, September 6, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Finance**

House: **Ways and Means
Interstate and Foreign
Commerce**

There are 46 carriers and 77 intermediaries now administering Medicare. Past studies have shown that significant savings would result from merging their workloads and redistributing them among fewer contractors, which would also provide an opportunity to terminate the less efficient among them.

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.

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, Education, and Welfare with evidence that another system is equally efficient and effective. (HRD-79-76, June 29, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Finance**

House: **Interstate and Foreign Commerce**

The Congress should revitalize the Medicare certification system for hospitals by requiring the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to

- contract with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals to conduct all certification surveys,
- use Federal surveyors to survey unaccredited hospitals and validate accredited hospitals, or
- significantly improve the existing process. (HRD-79-37, May 14, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Finance**

House: **Interstate and Foreign Commerce**

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 should be amended to permit the Department of Labor to resolve employee complaints about potential hazards that do not threaten serious physical harm without making inspections of workplaces. (HRD-79-48, April 9, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Labor and Human Resources**

House: **Education and Labor**

Income Security

To reduce the number of minor and frivolous claims under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act which divert the Department of Labor's efforts from more serious claims, to reduce the cost to taxpayers, and to give Federal employees an incentive to return to work, the Congress should require that the 3-day waiting period for traumatic injuries be applied before

continuation of pay, rather than 45 days later.

To make the free-choice-of-physician provision more effective and to help employees return to full or light duty at the earliest possible time, the Congress should provide employing agencies with the authority—if there is a question about the initial diagnosis of an employee's injury or the length of disability resulting from that injury—to require the employee to undergo a second medical examination by a Federal medical officer or a physician designated by the Secretary of Labor. (HRD-79-80, June 11, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Labor and Human Resources**

House: **Education and Labor**

The Congress should review the Department of Labor's determinations of what constitutes a compensable injury and provide any needed guidance on the Government's liability under the Federal Employee's Compensation Act. The Congress should consider whether (1) actual administrative practices conform to current legislative intent, (2) the Government's program is meeting its stated objectives, and (3) the circumstances that existed at the beginning of the century are relevant and appropriate today as guides for administering the act.

The Congress should also review Labor's guidelines for causal relation—in particular for disease. To better understand the guidelines' meaning and effect, the Congress should enact legislation directing the Secretary of Labor to report the results of the guidelines' application and to document the report by specific references to cases. (HRD-79-78, August 22, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Labor and Human Resources**

House: **Education and Labor**

To strengthen the health care aspects of the special supplemental food program for women, infants, and children (WIC) and operate it specifically and effectively as an adjunct to good health care for women, infants, and children of low-income families considered to be at nutritional risk, the

Congress should revise WIC's authorizing legislation 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, February 27, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry**

House: **Education and Labor**

International Affairs

The Congress should consider establishing a mechanism to facilitate the sharing of international investment data under appropriate safeguards with the executive branch. If such an accommodation is not possible, the Congress should remove any doubt that statutes such as the International Survey Act and the Bretton Woods Agreement Act do not limit congressional access to confidential data. (EMD-79-45, June 11, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Governmental Affairs
Judiciary**

House: **Government Operations**

National Defense

To help ensure the greatest possible degree of independence, efficiency, and uniformity in the administration of the military justice system, Congress should:

- Revise the Uniform Code of Military Justice to remove any possibility that convening authorities will have power to (1) detail the military judge, defense and trial counsel, and jurors; (2) act as the rating or reviewing official on the efficiency ratings of any person detailed to participate in a court-martial convened by him; or (3) control funds for witnesses required to attend the trial. However, convening authorities should retain responsibility for referring cases to trial and exercising clemency power.
- In future defense appropriation acts, provide separately for the operation of the military justice system by earmarking specific amounts to be used for con-

struction; furnishing and maintaining courtrooms, law offices, law libraries, and rehabilitation facilities; and official travel, incident to judicial proceedings. (FPCD-78-16, October 31, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Armed Services**

Appropriations

House: **Armed Services**

Appropriations

Congress should enact legislation to extend criminal jurisdiction over U.S. citizen civilian personnel and dependents accompanying the Armed Forces overseas. Extra territorial jurisdiction should cover petty and less serious offenses as well as serious offenses. (FPCD-79-45, September 11, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Armed Services**

Judiciary

House: **Armed Services**

Judiciary

Congress should revise article 56 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice to authorize the President to provide guidance for determining disposition levels and punishments for AWOL offenses. (FPCD-78-52, March 30, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Armed Services**

House: **Armed Services**

Because of the potential for substantial savings, Congress should modify the laws applicable to veterans' benefits to require members to serve the full term of their initial enlistments to qualify. Exceptions should be made for individuals discharged because of a service-connected disability. (FPCD-79-28, February 16, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Armed Services**

Veterans' Affairs

House: **Armed Services**

Veterans' Affairs

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**

Military service is covered under the social security system. Both military members and the Department of Defense, as their employer, pay social security taxes on military basic pay. However, members whose basic pay is less than the social security taxable earnings ceiling are credited with additional covered earnings of up to \$1,200 a year in excess of basic pay. Neither the member nor the Department of Defense pays taxes on these credits. The Congress should terminate noncontributory security wage credits for future military service. (FPCD-79-57, August 8, 1979)

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

DOD should promptly submit to the Congress legislation placing Army and Air Force Reserve dual-status technicians under the excepted service, giving careful consideration to the concerns expressed by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

OPM opposed the proposals because of unresolved questions concerning

- the status of civilian technicians presently on the rolls (i.e., whether they remain in the competitive service or at some point become excepted) and
- status quo technicians already on the rolls who either never had or who lose the

required membership in the military Reserve unit through no fault of their own.

OPM's position emphasized that these are presently civilian, competitive service jobs, and the Government has made a commitment to the incumbents which should not be abridged. (FPCD-79-18, February 26, 1979)

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

The Congress has two recurring concerns about its foreign military sales oversight responsibilities:

- It becomes involved in the decisionmaking process too late to meaningfully affect the outcome.
- The ad hoc, piecemeal nature of congressional review does not permit full consideration (country-by-country and region-by-region) of the total needs and extent of U.S. involvement.

To overcome these concerns, an annual country-by-country plan detailing and justifying U.S. Government military sales for the coming year can be prepared. This plan is necessary for effective congressional oversight.

The Congress should require the President to submit, prior to the start of each fiscal year, a detailed plan for each nonempty country purchasing significant quantities of military equipment from the U.S. Government.

Significant changes to the plan during the year should also be submitted to the Congress. Because of the sensitivity of such information, it should be transmitted with an appropriate security classification. (ID-79-26, May 21, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Foreign Relations**
House: **Foreign Affairs**

Over the years, we have issued numerous reports on the Department of Defense's continued failure to operate the foreign military sales program at no loss to the Government, as intended by law. The Con-

gress should require the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan for overcoming the foreign military sales pricing problems discussed in our reports. The plan should specify any organizational changes that will be made. It should also state how many additional personnel will be assigned to these activities and describe their duties. (FGMSD-79-16, March 22, 1979)

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

To protect the financial interests of the United States, in the event foreign governments cancel and/or reduce undelivered foreign military sales orders, the Congress should amend the Arms Export Control Act to require purchasers to deposit, in advance, enough funds to cover potential costs of a terminated contract. (FGMSD-79-47, July 25, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Foreign Relations**
House: **Foreign Affairs**

Natural Resources and Environment

A Bureau of Indian Affairs Reorganization Task Force concluded in March 1978 that a general management crisis pervades the Bureau. The Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs called attention to the numerous reports, studies, and investigations by GAO, the American Indian Policy Review Commission, congressional committees, and others that have pointed out symptoms of near collapse of management throughout the Bureau.

Because this situation and similar management weaknesses in other Federal agencies providing assistance to Indians (Departments of Commerce; Health, Education, and Welfare; and Housing and Urban Development) have persisted for years, the Congress should take action to improve delivery of programs and services to Indians. Unless alternatives are tried, mismanagement of programs and services will continue and improvements in the quality of life of Indians will still be impeded.

The Congress should consider the following four alternatives for delivering programs and services to Indians:

- Consolidate all federally administered Indian programs and services into a single agency such as the Bureau or an independent agency.
- Consolidate Indian programs and services into the Federal agency primarily responsible for overall Federal program areas, such as education, health, housing, economic development, etc.
- Have all Federal agencies funnel their Indian program funds through one agency such as the Bureau, rather than directly to Indian tribes.
- Assist tribes in developing the capability to manage all Federal programs and services and provide direct funding through block grants. (CED-78-166, October 31, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

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

Before the Corps' non-Federal dam inspection program ends in 1981, the Congress should direct the Chief, Corps of Engineers, to propose legislation defining an appropriate continuing Federal role in non-Federal dam safety. (CED-79-30, March 8, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: ***Environment and Public Works***

House: ***Public Works and Transportation***

Congress should enact new legislation redefining the Nation's helium conservation program to meet all national requirements, conserving helium in present non-depleting resources, encouraging conservation from existing private facilities, and allowing the recovery of helium-rich gasfields. (EMD-78-98, March 7, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: ***Commerce***

House: ***Interstate and Foreign Commerce***

The Congress should amend the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 to allow the Department of the Interior to lease lands as a whole which contain mineral deposits of more than one leasable mineral and

amend the General Mining Law to allow concurrent development on lands containing locatable and leasable minerals which would not otherwise be developed separately. (EMD-79-65, September 5, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

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

The Congress should enact mining legislation consistent with the multiple-use philosophy embodied in the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act as well as Forest Service land management statutes. The legislation should embody a review of all existing land classifications (withdrawals) in concert with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. (EMD-78-93, February 27, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

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

By 1980, an estimated 56 million metric tons of hazardous waste will be generated annually requiring environmentally safe disposal. The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency should propose legislation to create a self-sustaining national trust fund which would be supported by fees assessed on the disposal of hazardous wastes. The fund could cover liability and the costs for dumpsite owners authorized under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 to take remedial action to prevent continued environmental contamination. (CED-79-13, December 19, 1978; CED-79-14, January 23, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: ***Environment and Public Works***

House: ***Public Works and Transportation***

The Congress should (1) enact legislation requiring future snow removal reimbursements to be in the form of loans rather than grants, (2) give the Director, Federal Disaster Assistance Administration (now part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency), the authority to forgive emergency snow removal loans if a State cannot otherwise afford the cost of snow

removal, and (3) require the Federal Emergency Management Agency to reimburse jurisdictions in Presidentially declared disaster areas for snow removal expenses from the time a snowstorm begins. (CED-79-97, August 2, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: ***Environment and Public Works***

House: ***Public Works and Transportation***

The Congress should temporarily defer Federal construction funding for

- the upstream salinity control projects in the Colorado River Basin until the Bureau of Reclamation develops an alternative plan which compares the costs and benefits of the many alternatives, addresses the salinity problems in a comprehensive manner, and results in an effective and efficient basinwide program and
- the Yuma Desalting Complex until the Bureau has reevaluated its feasibility and considered other viable and/or less costly alternatives.

In addition, Congress should establish a task force made up of the principal State and Federal executive agencies in the Colorado River Basin and water user representatives to determine the appropriate management and decisionmaking structure for the basin and the rules and regulations under which it will operate. (CED-79-11, May 4, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

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

House: ***Appropriations***
Interior and Insular Affairs
Public Works and Transportation

To cope more effectively with future droughts, the Congress should direct the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and Interior and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to assess the

problems encountered in providing emergency relief during the 1976-77 drought. Based on this assessment a national plan should be developed for providing future assistance in a more timely, consistent, and equitable manner. (CED-79-26, January 31, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
Commerce, Science and Transportation
Energy and Natural Resources
Small Business**

House: **Agriculture
Interior and Insular Affairs
Interstate and Foreign
Commerce
Small Business**

The Department of Agriculture's Water Bank Program can be made more effective by changing the Water Bank Act to increase the Secretary of Agriculture's flexibility in administering the program. This should help preserve some wetlands and enhance their value. The Congress should change the Water Bank Act to

- permit the Secretary of Agriculture greater discretion in assessing the suitability of preserving particular wetlands,
- permit the Secretary of Agriculture to adjust payment rates (within available appropriations) during the course of a 10-year agreement to counter the high rate of terminations that seems to be caused by inflationary pressures,
- reflect the impending change in the Department of Interior's wetland classification system. (PAD-79-10, February 8, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
Energy and Natural Resources**
House: **Merchant Marine and Fisheries
Agriculture
Interior and Insular Affairs**

Veterans

Employment survey reports submitted to the Veterans' Administration (VA) by vocational/technical schools indicated that

over 50 percent of flight and correspondence course graduates have found training-related employment. However, these reports provided no assurance that most veterans obtained full-time employment in training-related occupations. Our findings support proposed legislation submitted by VA to terminate GI bill benefits for flight and correspondence training.

The Congress should either adopt VA's legislative proposal to terminate GI bill benefits for flight and correspondence training or otherwise modify and clarify the 50-percent job placement rule to (1) specify a minimum acceptable completion rate for vocational objective courses, (2) require that 50 percent of the veterans and other eligible persons who complete vocational objective courses obtain employment in the occupational category for which training was received, and (3) require that such employment constitute the veteran's primary vocational pursuit and major source of occupational income. (HRD-79-115, August 24, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Veterans' Affairs**
House: **Veterans' Affairs**

Open Legislative Recommendations From Prior Years

Energy

The Congress should enact legislation to adopt fair value pricing of Federal uranium enrichment services. The pricing of Federal uranium enrichment services is presently established to recover only the cost of these services. The Department of Energy has sought to change the basis for charging its customers for 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. By adopting this method, known as fair value pricing, uranium enrichment revenues through 1983 would increase by about \$1.5 billion, includ-

ing the recovery of nearly \$700 million in foreign revenues. (RED-76-30, September 22, 1975; EMD-77-73, September 27, 1977; EMD-78-66, April 19, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Energy and Natural Resources
Environment and Public
Works**
House: **Interior and Insular Affairs
Interstate and Foreign
Commerce**

The Congress should relieve the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) of its charter responsibility for encouraging the widest possible use of electricity and instead charge the agency with region-wide responsibility for (1) leading the development of electricity management plans and programs, (2) encouraging conservation and the most efficient use of energy, and (3) assuring adequate public involvement in energy planning and policymaking.

The Congress should also amend the Federal Columbia River Transmission System Act to permit BPA to use its bond authority to obtain money which will be initially needed in the loan and grant fund. (EMD-78-76, August 10, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Energy and Natural Resources**
House: **Interstate and Foreign
Commerce
Interior and Insular Affairs**

Because of the time and money already lost, the Congress should designate one lead Federal agency to approve and monitor an overall decommissioning strategy for nuclear facilities. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is uniquely suited for this role because of its charter to independently regulate commercial nuclear activities to assure public health and safety. (EMD-77-46, June 16, 1977)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Energy and Natural Resources
Environment and Public
Works**
House: **Interior and Insular Affairs
Science and Technology**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's authority to regulate waste management is

incomplete and deficient in that it does not have authority to regulate several classes of wastes the Department of Energy (DOE) controls. To better ensure public health and safety, Congress should correct the deficiency by amending the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 to provide for independent assessments of DOE's facilities—including research and development facilities—intended for (1) the temporary storage and/or long term storage or disposal of commercial and DOE-produced transuranic contaminated waste, (2) the temporary storage of DOE high level waste, and (3) the temporary storage and/or long term storage or disposal of commercial spent fuel. (EMD-77-41, September 9, 1977)

Committee jurisdiction:

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

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

The Department of Energy regulates its own nuclear facilities while the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulates commercial nuclear facilities. To minimize the risk to the public of the Department subordinating regulatory to promotional functions, to maximize objectivity and impartiality, and to increase public confidence in the safe operations of nuclear facilities Congress should amend the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 to provide independent assessments of all Department of Energy nuclear facilities. Such assessments should cover both the adequacy of safeguarding nuclear material and assuring the health and safety of the public from nuclear operations (EMD-77-40a, May 2, 1977)

Committee jurisdiction:

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

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

In its consideration of the Administration's legislative proposal to streamline the nuclear powerplant licensing process, the Congress should require that:

- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), as part of its early powerplant site review process, develop a method to update and certify the continued acceptability of the proposed powerplant site.

- The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards be required to review all powerplant licensing applications which do not include plant designs approved under a formal NRC standardization program.
- Adequate public hearings be held by the States and NRC if they make environmental-related decisions. The public should continue to have access to all pertinent licensing documents and be able to participate in public hearings by subpoenaing and cross-examining witnesses.
- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, before transferring National Environmental Policy Act requirements to the States, ensure that the States' environmental programs are adequate and will not unduly delay licensing decisions. (EMD-78-29, April 27, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Environment and Public Works**

House: **Interstate and Foreign Commerce**

General Government

Although the Freedom of Information Act does not specifically establish an oversight agency, the Department of Justice has been functioning in this capacity. To strengthen Justice's ability to perform as an oversight agency, the Congress should amend the Freedom of Information Act to clearly give the oversight role to the Department of Justice and delineate the responsibilities of the Department in this role. (LCD-78-120, July 25, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Governmental Affairs Judiciary**

House: **Government Operations Judiciary**

So credit assistance through the Federal Financing Bank will be better reflected in the budget, the Congress should require that:

- 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.
- Certificates of beneficial ownership be treated as agency obligations and therefore as borrowing in the budget. (PAD-77-70, August 3, 1977)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Finance**

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

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 5-step system for each nonsupervisory grade with the average local prevailing rate equated to the second wage step even though 80 percent of Federal blue-collar employees are above this wage level,
- 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)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Governmental Affairs**

House: **Post Office and Civil Service**

The Congress should reevaluate the need for special retirement benefits to Federal law enforcement and firefighter personnel. If the special retirement policy is continued, however, the Congress should (1) amend the law to require additional retirement contributions by employing agencies and (2) reevaluate the eligibility criteria, the mandatory retirement provision, and the benefit structure. (FPCD-78-48, July 10, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Governmental Affairs**

House: **Post Office and Civil Service**

The Government only charges financial institutions and insurance companies for processing payroll allotments of civilian

employees working in the United States. The Government does not charge the same or similar organizations to handle military allotments or allotments of civilians working overseas. The Congress should explore the following options in deciding what, if any, changes should be made:

- Drop the existing charges for civilian allotments.
- Charge financial institutions for the current costs of all allotments.
- Distribute the current costs for all allotments between the financial institutions and insurance companies. (FGMSD-78-52, September 29, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

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

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

Legislation should be enacted to establish objectives, standards, criteria, and processes for achieving total compensation comparability between Federal and private sector employees, including both pay and benefits. (FPCD-78-60, July 21, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Governmental Affairs**

House: **Post Office and Civil Service**

To help ensure the quality of the Department of Labor's determination of causal relations, the Congress should amend the Federal Employees' Compensation Act to place in the employing agencies the authority to appeal to the Employees' Compensation Appeals Board any

- finding of causal relation by Labor, or
- Labor decision continuing compensation benefits which, in the employing agency's opinion, is inconsistent with or not supported by the available evidence. (HRD-78-119, September 28, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Labor and Human Resources**

House: **Education and Labor**

The Administrative Procedure Act should be amended to assign specific responsibility for periodic evaluation of the performance of Administrative Law Judges, establish an initial probationary period after their appointment, and clarify the role of the Office of Personnel Management in performing its normal personnel management functions regarding them. (FPCD-78-25, May 15, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Judiciary
Governmental Affairs**

House: **Judiciary
Post Office and Civil Service**

Most District of Columbia employees participate in Federal civil service pay and fringe benefit systems which are designed for Federal employees and administered outside the District's control. With the passage of the Home Rule Act, GAO believes all District of Columbia employees should be covered by District compensation systems that are tailored to local government and employee needs and financial resources.

The Congress should enact legislation which would provide for separate pay and benefit systems for Federal and District of Columbia employees. (FPCD-77-71, January 12, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Governmental Affairs**

House: **Post Office and Civil Service
District of Columbia**

The civil service disability retirement provisions of title 5, section 83 of the U.S. Code should be amended to encourage retention of potentially productive disabled employees by requiring Federal agencies to reassign employees to other jobs they would be able to do. Also, the definition of economic recovery from disability should be revised to preclude annuitants earning more than their former Government pay and still retaining their annuities. In addition, the Congress should legislatively resolve whether Federal income tax returns should be used to independently verify reported income of disability retirees. (FPCD-78-48, July 10, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Governmental Affairs**

House: **Post Office and Civil Service**

The Congress should amend section 7 of the Public Buildings Act of 1959 (40 U.S.C. 606) to require that Congress authorize alterations to leased space which cost more than \$500,000. This change will make the law consistent with the approval process required for alterations in Government-owned buildings. (LCD-78-338, September 14, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Environment and Public
Works**

House: **Public Works and
Transportation**

The Congress should amend the Economy Act of 1932 (40 U.S.C. 278a) to eliminate the provisions relating to the limitation for alterations, improvements, and repairs to rented buildings to not more than 25 percent of the first year's rent. (LCD-78-338, September 14, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Governmental Affairs
Environment and Public
Works**

House: **Government Operations
Public Works and
Transportation**

The Congress should consolidate into one law the authority to investigate and judge the suitability and loyalty of Federal employees. (FPCD-77-64, December 16, 1977)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Governmental Affairs**

House: **Post Office and Civil Service**

The Congress should include Tennessee Valley Authority employees in the coverage under labor-management relations legislation of either (1) those statutes applicable to the private sector or (2) those applying to other Federal employees. (FPCD-78-12, March 15, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Labor and Human Resources
Governmental Affairs**

House: **Education and Labor
Post Office and Civil Service**

Through legislation or otherwise, the Congress should:

- Endorse a national policy of relying on private enterprise for the Government's needed goods and services to the maximum extent feasible, insofar as doing so is consistent with the national interest, within the framework of procurement at reasonable prices.
- Require executive agencies to report on their progress in supporting that national policy.
- Direct reviews of existing legislation relative to the Government make-or-buy decision to identify and eliminate potential sources of conflicts and inequities. (PSAD-78-118, September 25, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Governmental Affairs**

House: **Government Operations**

The law (5 U.S.C. 5728(a)) providing for Government-paid round trip travel for Federal employees and their families from non-foreign duty posts outside the continental United States to their place of residence at the time of appointment should be amended to (1) authorize Federal administrators to offer the travel benefits only when deemed necessary to retain qualified personnel and (2) limit the number of years that employees can receive the benefits. (FPCD-76-65, March 2, 1977)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Governmental Affairs**

House: **Post Office and Civil Service**

The law (Public Law 89-205), which permits Federal retirees to benefit from cost-of-living increases which occurred while they were still employed, should be amended to provide that adjustments to the annuities of new retirees be prorated to include only those increases that occurred after their retirement. (FPCD-78-2, November 17, 1977)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Governmental Affairs**

House: **Post Office and Civil Service**

Title 5, section 5991(a)(1) of the U.S. Code should be repealed because the non-taxable cost-of-living allowance the law

authorizes for Federal employees in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands is no longer an appropriate means of compensation in nonforeign areas. (FPCD-75-161, February 12, 1976)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Governmental Affairs**

House: **Post Office and Civil Service**

Health

To encourage better use of Federal medical resources and remove obstacles to interagency sharing, the Congress should enact legislation to:

- Establish a Federal policy that directs interagency sharing when appropriate.
- Authorize the establishment of a method of reimbursement under which the providing Federal hospital would receive revenues to offset any expenses incurred.
- Assign to the Office of Management and Budget the responsibility to (1) coordinate the implementation of an effective interagency Federal medical resources sharing program and (2) report annually to the Congress concerning the progress being made toward increased sharing of these resources. (HRD-78-54, June 14, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Armed Services**

Labor and Human Resources

Veterans' Affairs

House: **Armed Services**

Interstate and Foreign

Commerce

Veterans' Affairs

The Congress should enact legislation amending the Medicaid law which would (1) authorize competitive procurement of laboratory services on an experimental basis and (2) limit Medicaid payments to a laboratory to the lowest charge to other purchasers for comparable services. In addition, to facilitate the competitive procurement of Medicaid supplies by eliminating any possibility of questions being raised under the freedom-of-choice provision of title XIX of the Social Security Act, the Congress should amend section 1902(a)(23)

of the act to specifically exclude eyeglasses, hearing aids, oxygen, and such common items of durable medical equipment as the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare may prescribe. (HRD-78-60, July 6, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Finance**

House: **Interstate and Foreign
Commerce**

To enable the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to better manage and control Medicaid management information systems, the Congress should amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require HEW to establish systems performance standards and to require that HEW periodically reevaluate approved systems to determine if they continue to meet Federal requirements. (HRD-78-151, September 26, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Finance**

House: **Interstate and Foreign
Commerce**

Income Security

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;
- require a single State/local agency to be responsible for certain administrative aspects of designated Federal food programs to help assure a more efficient delivery of food assistance to needy Americans. (CED-78-113, June 13, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: **Agriculture, Nutrition
and Forestry
Finance
Labor and Human Resources**
House: **Agriculture
Education and Labor
Ways and Means**

Present legislation requires the Social Security Administration to determine the eligibility for Supplemental Security Income and benefit payments on a prospective quarterly basis. This requirement has resulted in substantial overpayments to Supplemental Security Income recipients.

Congress should amend the Social Security Act to change the basis for determining eligibility for Supplemental Security Income eligibility and benefit payment amounts from a quarterly accounting period to a retrospective monthly accounting period. (HRD-78-114, May 26, 1978)

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

Congress should amend section 215(g) of the Social Security Act to require calculation of Social Security Retirement and Survivors Insurance benefits to the nearest penny to realize potential savings of \$386 million to the Social Security Retirement and Survivors Insurance program for the period 1980 through 1986. (HRD-78-160, September 8, 1978)

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

The Supplemental Security Income program authorized in the Social Security Act does not have a residence requirement for aliens.

The Congress should enact legislation to:

- Establish a residence requirement to prevent assistance payments to newly arrived aliens, if the condition upon which eligibility is established existed before entry.
- Make the affidavit of support legally binding on the sponsor.
- Make aliens subject to deportation if they receive Federal, State, or local public assistance because of conditions existing before entry by defining public charge to include receiving any public assistance, regardless of whether repayment is required. (HRD-78-50, February 22, 1978)

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

National Defense

Legislation should be enacted requiring that the Treasury be the depository for military nonappropriated funds and that such funds be invested in Treasury securities. The legislation should specify the interest policy pertaining to such investments. (FPCD-78-15, January 19, 1978)

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

The Congress should amend the Arms Export Control Act to require that the Department of Defense (1) inform the Congress of the values and explanations of foreign military sales costs waived (i.e., not charged to the purchasing country) by Defense and (2) charge royalty fees on foreign military sales, except under certain circumstances as determined by the Congress. (FGMSD-78-48A, September 26, 1978)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: **Foreign Relations**
House: **Foreign Affairs**

Public Law 92-392 established wage areas for nonappropriated fund activities pay surveys. The Congress should delete from the law the "immediate locality" provision so that wage data collected will be more representative of the area's prevailing market rate. The requirement that full-scale wage surveys be conducted every 2 years should also be modified to permit less frequent surveys with interim adjustments based on valid statistical indicators. (FPCD-77-51, December 14, 1977)

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

The Congress should enact legislation permitting the military services to allow Reserve Officer Training Corps dropouts to reimburse the Government for education and training costs incurred as an alternative to active duty. (FPCD-77-15, March 15, 1977)

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

The Congress should legislate specific guidelines on the amount of appropriated fund support which may be given to military installation facilities established to sell personal goods and services or offer recreation and entertainment to military personnel, their dependents, and guests. (FPCD-77-58, August 31, 1977)

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

The Congress should require the executive branch to submit legislative proposals to convert the military base pay and allowances system to a salary system. (FPCD-77-20, August 1, 1977)

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

The Congress should revise the military retirement system to base the length-of-service criterion on the type of duty performed and to provide vesting rights for those persons not completing full careers. (FPCD-77-81, March 13, 1978)

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

Natural Resources and Environment

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 enact legislation that would designate the Smithsonian Science Information Exchange as the official data center for all materials-related research and development. Also, if the Congress finds that the Office of Management and Budget fails to implement mandatory reporting procedures, it should enact legislation requiring all agencies to report materials research and development projects to the Smithsonian Science Information Exchange in a thorough and timely manner. (EMD-78-41, July 14, 1978)

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

GAO cannot compel the agencies or the Congress to accept recommendations. Action on our recommendations rests on the persuasiveness of our arguments. Agency management and the Congress must be convinced that our analyses are sound and that it is in their interest to take the actions we recommend. Agencies' awareness of the Congress' attention to our reports no doubt stimulates interest in and attention to recommendations aimed at them.

The full effect of GAO's activities on financial savings and improvements in the operations and effectiveness of Government programs and activities cannot be measured. The increase in governmental effectiveness from actions taken on some of our recommendations simply cannot be stated in dollars and cents.

When actions taken by the Congress or

an agency lead to measurable savings, we record them. The following table summarizes the \$2.6 billion in collections and other measurable savings attributable to our work which we identified during the year. Of the \$2.6 billion listed, about \$1.9 billion represent one-time savings, while the benefits of the other \$700 million will extend into future years as well. These amounts were \$2.5 billion, \$1.7 billion, and \$800 million respectively for the prior year.

Table 8
**Collections and Other Measurable Savings
 Attributable to the Work of the
 General Accounting Office
 Fiscal Year 1979**
 (000 omitted)

	Other measurable savings			Total
	Collections	Congressional action involved	Agency action involved	
DEPARTMENTS				
Agriculture	—	\$35,000	\$11,000	\$46,000
Air Force	\$24	32,000	95,884	127,908
Army	135	21,400	14,005	35,540
Commerce	—	6,800	11,000	17,800
Defense	8,570	693,500	190,242	892,312
District of Columbia Government	—	—	36	36
Energy	—	—	100,000	100,000
Environmental Protection Agency	—	300,000	—	300,000
Federal Judicial Center	—	510	—	510
General Services Administration	444	—	1,358	1,802
Health, Education, and Welfare	18,513	22,500	140,634	181,647
Housing and Urban Development	—	3,000	1,032	4,032
Interior	2,884	—	20,563	23,447
Justice	—	2,847	4,618	7,465
Labor	—	—	16	16
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	62	—	—	62
Navy	5,265	29,000	707,445	741,710
Postal Service	—	—	96	96
State	—	—	143	143
Transportation	17	30,000	—	30,017
Treasury	—	—	152	152
Veterans Administration	349	49,300	409	50,058
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority	1,075	—	—	1,075
Government-wide	—	3,000	—	3,000
	37,338	1,228,857	1,298,633	2,564,828
General Claims Work	10,585	—	—	10,585
Total	\$47,923	\$1,228,857	\$1,298,633	\$2,575,413

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

Collections

Collections attributable to our activities totaled \$47.9 million. Of this, \$10.6 million represented our recovery of debts that Government agencies had been unable to collect.

Following our recommendations, HEW recovered \$17.8 million in Medicaid and Federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children overpayments. Other major collections included recoveries by Defense for undercharging for a foreign military sale, Interior for additional oil and gas revenues due the Government, Army for commissary inventory losses, Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority for contract warranty costs, and Navy for an excessive contract price.

Other Measurable Financial Savings

Other measurable savings consist largely of actual or potential savings from actions taken or planned by the Congress and Federal agencies. In most instances, the potential benefits are estimated, and for some items the eventual amounts have yet to be determined.

<i>Action taken or planned</i>	<i>Estimated savings</i>	<i>Action taken or planned</i>	<i>Estimated savings</i>
Automatic Data Processing:			
Change in development, procurement, and operation of the Navy Advanced Information System—Navy (nonrecurring)	\$36,200,000	network—Immigration and Naturalization Service (nonrecurring)	3,818,000
Adoption of an input/output interface standard for Government-wide use—Commerce (estimated annual savings)	11,000,000	Increased use of FTS by military installations—Defense (estimated annual savings)	120,000
Cancellation of contract for unneeded mass storage system—Social Security Administration (nonrecurring)	10,900,000	Rerouting and eliminating of telecommunications services—Defense Commercial Communications Office, GSA (estimated annual savings)	32,000
Reduction in appropriation request for developing ADP standards—Commerce (nonrecurring)	6,800,000	Community Development and Housing:	
Reduction in appropriation request for developing criminal case flow segment for COURTRAN II system—Judicial Branch (nonrecurring)	510,000	Reduction of appropriations for financing of the Section 8 Existing Housing Program—HUD (nonrecurring)	3,000,000
Communications:		Action taken to collect delinquent public facility loans—HUD (\$518,000 estimated annual savings; \$514,000 nonrecurring)	1,032,000
Adoption of world-wide nontactical secure voice communications system for Federal use in lieu of separate systems for civil and military users—Defense (nonrecurring)	355,500,000	Construction:	
Elimination of approximately 1,500 dedicated communication circuits—Defense (estimated annual savings)	5,500,000	Reduction in programmed construction and changes in methods of operations for fleet oilers and ocean tugs—Navy (\$14,700,000 estimated annual savings; \$53,000,000 nonrecurring)	67,700,000
Reduction in the number of terminals and supporting equipment in a nationwide computer and communication		Cancellation of an approved military construction project—Air Force (nonrecurring)	470,000
		Reduction in appropriation request for facility construction at Trident base—Navy (nonrecurring)	385,000

Financial Savings and Other Benefits

Action taken or planned *Estimated savings*

Contracting, Policies, and Procedures:

Reduction of appropriations for funding advanced waste treatment projects—Environmental Protection Agency (nonrecurring)	300,000,000
Reduction in contract cost for claims processing under CHAMPUS by awarding fixed-priced contracts—Defense (estimated annual savings)	7,600,000
Increased competition for elevator maintenance and cleaning service contracts—GSA (nonrecurring)	1,286,000
Contracting out of medical and surgical services at St. Elizabeths Hospital—HEW (estimated annual savings)	944,000
Exercising option in existing contract rather than awarding new contract—Army (nonrecurring)	834,000
Increased competition for elevator maintenance contracts—VA (nonrecurring)	409,000
Avoidance of the need to perform and resolve additional defective pricing reviews—Navy (nonrecurring)	160,000
Reclassification of annuity costs claimed for reimbursement under a contract to "nonreimbursable" — Air Force (\$14,000 estimated annual savings; \$23,000 nonrecurring)	37,000

Education:

Detection of student beneficiaries receiving excess benefits—HEW (estimated annual savings)	5,800,000
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Employment and Training:

Prevention of the use of CETA funds for unauthorized activity—Labor (nonrecurring)	16,000
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Action taken or planned *Estimated savings*

Financial Management:

Increased use of account audits and reconciliations and collection letters to identify and collect royalties due Geological Survey—Interior (\$11,400,000 estimated annual savings; \$1,663,000 nonrecurring)	13,063,000
Reduction in funding of conservation operations for one half of average carry over of unobligated balance—Agriculture (nonrecurring)	3,000,000
Change in accounting procedures to provide that the Army Stock Fund be reimbursed for inventory losses from unidentifiable causes—Defense (estimated annual savings)	2,700,000
Installation of controls to reduce overtime use at St. Elizabeths Hospital—HEW (estimated annual savings)	983,000
Recapture of excess earnings from a commercial bank on five bank accounts—Postal Service (nonrecurring)	31,000

Foreign Military Sales:

Deposit of proceeds from certain Foreign Military Sales in the Miscellaneous Receipts account of the U.S. Treasury—Defense (estimated annual savings)	188,000,000
Recovery of costs through improved pricing method—Defense (estimated annual savings)	150,000,000

Health Facilities:

Closure of underused hospital—Navy (estimated annual savings)	2,918,000
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Law Enforcement:

Reduction in bank robbery investigative program—Federal Bureau of Investigation (estimated annual savings)	2,847,000
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<i>Action taken or planned</i>	<i>Estimated savings</i>	<i>Action taken or planned</i>	<i>Estimated savings</i>
Discontinuance of policy providing Federal inmates with free mail service on unrestricted basis—Bureau of Prisons (estimated annual savings)	800,000	Cost reduction through consolidation and semi-automation of Message Refile Centers—Defense (estimated annual savings)	1,250,000
Loans, Contributions, and Grants:		Reduction of contractual services which exceeded demonstrated needs and normal commercial practice—Air Force (estimated annual savings)	800,000
Improved administration of education loans resulting in reduction of default rate and restricting loans to bona fide education-related financial need—VA (nonrecurring)	49,300,000	Reclassification of parts from unsuitable-for-use to serviceable at the San Antonio Air Logistics Center—Air Force (nonrecurring)	77,000
Decreases in funding for certain school districts—HEW (nonrecurring)	22,500,000	Medicare:	
Management:		Elimination of excessive reimbursement for home health care services—HEW (estimated annual savings)	20,000,000
Improved guidelines for implementing area mail processing plans—Postal Service (estimated annual savings)	65,000	Reduction in reimbursements for prescription drugs by basing reimbursements on lower unit cost package sizes—HEW (estimated annual savings)	750,000
Material Management:		Military Readiness:	
Reduction of war reserve requirements for C-5 aircraft spares and repair parts—Air Force (nonrecurring)	45,800,000	Reduction in C-141 flying hours by the Military Airlift Command—Defense (estimated annual savings)	20,000,000
Reduction in procurement and strengthening procedures for stock levels—Air Force (nonrecurring)	28,700,000	Payments to Government Employees and Other Individuals:	
Improved parts reclamation programs at the Military Airlift Storage and Distribution Center—Navy (nonrecurring)	13,600,000	Elimination of enlistment bonus payments which were not required to attract skilled personnel—Army	4,400,000
Cancellation of a planned purchase of M2, 50 caliber machine guns and use of excess guns from other services—Army (nonrecurring)	9,333,000	Elimination of duplicate compensation for meals of foreign nationals employed by a U.S. Embassy—State Department (estimated annual savings)	123,000
Elimination of duplicate items listed under more than one national stock number in the Federal catalog—Defense (estimated annual savings)	3,500,000	Reduction in a foreign post per diem rate which had been raised on the basis of erroneous data—State Department (nonrecurring)	20,000
Reduction of supply management and storage costs by purchasing readily available low-cost, low-use items from commercial sources—Defense (nonrecurring)	2,054,000		

Financial Savings and Other Benefits

<i>Action taken or planned</i>	<i>Estimated savings</i>	<i>Action taken or planned</i>	<i>Estimated savings</i>
Procurement:		Social Security:	
Change in strategy for procuring satellites for Defense Satellite Communications System—Defense (nonrecurring)	150,000,000	Withdrawal of proposed regulations which were contrary to provisions of the Social Security Act and which would make it easier for undocumented aliens to receive benefits—HEW (estimated annual savings)	57,000,000
Recovery of costs of utilities furnished to non-Government tenants in Government leased building—GSA (estimated annual savings) . . .	40,000	Reduction in overpayments of benefits for students of retired, disabled, and deceased workers through verification of school attendance—HEW (estimated annual savings)	36,000,000
Real Property Maintenance:		Reduction in duplicate payments made to student beneficiaries—HEW (estimated annual savings)	
Reclamation from public agencies of surplus real property which was not being used for the purposes for which it was conveyed—HEW (nonrecurring)	254,000	Improvement in the system for monitoring the continued medical eligibility of disabled persons receiving benefits—HEW (estimated annual savings)	3,000,000
Research:		Correction of data to compute black lung benefit payments—HEW (estimated annual savings)	
Savings resulting from reduction in spending on food irradiation research—Army (estimated annual savings)	1,138,000		803,000
Revenues:		Tax Administration:	
Increase in price of Federal uranium enrichment services to include interest cost of the investment in uranium feed material—Department of Energy (estimated annual savings)	100,000,000	Instructions issued to retain tax payments made on small amounts of unreported income and to pursue collection of amounts due from taxpayers who agreed to income underreporting—Internal Revenue Service (estimated annual savings)	152,000
Imposition of excise tax on fuel used by commercial vessels plying the inland and intercoastal waterways—Department of Transportation (estimated annual savings)	30,000,000	Transportation:	
Increased reimbursement rate to fully recover cost of care provided civilian patients in DOD hospitals—Defense (estimated annual savings)	2,200,000	Reduction of appropriation request for the transportation of ammunition—Defense (nonrecurring)	17,000,000
Imposition of fees for clinical services at neighborhood centers—District of Columbia Government (estimated annual savings)	36,000	Reduction in the number of motor vehicles used by the U.S. Forces in Korea to support administrative operations—Defense (nonrecurring)	1,500,000

<i>Action taken or planned</i>	<i>Estimated savings</i>	<i>Action taken or planned</i>	<i>Estimated savings</i>
Weapons System:		Summer Feeding Program—Agriculture (estimated annual savings)	32,000,000
Termination of the major caliber lightweight gun program—Navy (nonrecurring)	603,000,000	Reduction of Federal rice deficiency payments for 1978 crop—Agriculture (nonrecurring) . . .	11,000,000
Reduction in appropriation and deletion of procurement funding for the GBU-15 Program—Air Force (nonrecurring)	32,000,000	Nonacquisition of endangered Hawaiian waterbird habitat—agreement reached on continued State protection—Interior (nonrecurring)	7,500,000
Reduction in appropriation for the surveillance towed array sensor system—Navy (nonrecurring)	29,000,000	Reduction in Treasury borrowing costs by changing legislation to require disbursement of appropriated funds on quarterly basis—Corporation for Public Broadcasting (estimated annual savings)	3,000,000
Other Items:			
General strengthening of the New York			

Additional Financial Savings Not Fully or Readily Measurable

Many important one-time or recurring financial savings result from our work, but the resultant savings cannot be fully or readily measured.

Action Taken To Help Improve Financial Controls Over Wastewater Treatment Projects

In our report (CED-78-24, April 3, 1978) to the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), we pointed out that many grantees were not maintaining required accounting records and, as a result, were requesting and obtaining improper reimbursements from EPA. In many cases, grantees did not properly maintain required accounting records and, therefore, strongly relied on their consulting engineers for financial accountability. In addition, grantees were not effectively reviewing consulting engineer and construction contractor billings and, thus, did not play a significant role in assuring that expenditures under the program were proper.

To correct the situation, EPA distributed to its regional offices and grantees more

than 10,000 copies of an "Accounting Guide for Construction Grants." The guide describes management techniques and accounting procedures that can be applied to construction grants projects. According to an Agency official, the document was published because of GAO's involvement in the area. The Agency believes the accounting guide will help to maintain fiscal integrity in its construction grants program and make sure that the estimated \$170 billion still to be spent will be obligated wisely and prudently.

Improvements in Cost and Schedule Estimating and Demand Forecasting

In our report (PSAD-79-49, March 22, 1979) to the Chairman, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), we reported that current cost estimates for three powerplants were understated by several hundred million dollars each. As a result of this report, the Chairman of the Board of Directors advised the Chairmen, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs and the House Committee on Government Operations, that TVA agreed with our report and initiated the following actions in line with our specific recommendations.

- TVA is currently reevaluating the cost estimates for all of the nuclear plants under construction to assure that they reflect the best estimate of what the actual costs will be. Moreover, TVA recently adjusted its construction schedules for the three plants studied by GAO to better fit the completion of new generating units with the most recent estimates of the need for additional power.
- TVA is planning to build units at Hartsville, Phipps Bend, and Yellow Creek in sequence rather than all at once. Meanwhile, TVA will continue to work toward completing its next three nuclear plants—Sequoyah, Watts Bar, and Bellefonte—as promptly as possible. The sequence approach will help combat inflation and improve control of construction delays and cost overruns through more efficient use of labor and more stable construction employment over a longer period.
- Construction schedules will be planned with enough flexibility so they can be adjusted in the future to match faster or slower growth rates that are in forecasts of regional power needs.

Advanced Wastewater Treatment Projects To Be Determined Before Funding Is Approved

In our report to the Congress (CED-77-12, December 21, 1976), we pointed out that the costs for advanced waste treatment (AWT) were higher than costs for secondary treatment and that, in some instances, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was financing AWT facilities without sufficient water quality data and planning. While our review only covered five States, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce informed the Subcommittee on Water Resources, House Public Works Committee, that the general practice in other States was also to require AWT without adequate planning data.

As a result of our report and follow-up discussions with staff of the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on HUD and Independent Agencies, the House reduced EPA's \$4.5 billion request to \$4.2 billion, citing concerns over the cost-effectiveness of AWT. On September 30, 1978, Public Law 95-392 was passed and provided \$4.2 billion for EPA's construction grants program. The Appropriations Conference Committee stipulated that construction grants funds may be used for treatment greater than secondary only if the incremental cost of the advanced treatment would be \$1 million or less, or if the Administrator personally determined that AWT was required and would definitely result in significant water quality and public health improvements. Substantial unmeasurable savings should result in the future as States and EPA continue to revise inappropriate water quality standards.

Improved Procedures for the General Services Administration's Management of Item Specifications and Standards

On November 3, 1977, we issued a report to the Congress (PSAD-77-171) on the need to improve the General Services Administration's (GSA) management of specification and standardization requirements for the items it purchases. We

recommended that GSA develop a system whereby costs would be fully considered before developing or revising specifications and standards. Also, we recommended that specifications which are not used in a 5-year period be eliminated from the system.

Our recommendations were adopted by the agency.

Mail-order Catalogs No Longer Shipped by Air at Government Expense

Title 39 U.S.C. 3401(b)(1)(B) authorizes the air shipment of parcels to and from U.S. servicemen serving overseas on a space-available basis. The law does not define the term "parcel" other than to give allowable weights and measurements, and the U.S. Postal Service has allowed mail order companies to include catalogs in this service. The Department of Defense (DOD), which pays for the airlift, had tried unsuccessfully to persuade the Postal Service to exclude catalogs from space available mail.

Although DOD postal officials were unable to give us the total tonnage of catalogs shipped overseas, the volume shipped by 4 large mail-order houses during fiscal year 1975 amounted to 1.7 million pounds. If these catalogs had been shipped by air it would have cost DOD \$435,000 more than normal surface transportation. DOD postal officials said this represented just the "tip of the iceberg" if all mail-order houses were permitted to use air service.

In our report (LCD-76-231, July 2, 1976), we cited cases where catalogs were, in fact, shipped by air. We expressed doubt that the legislation was to benefit private firms and recommended that the Postal Service amend its regulations to exclude mail-order catalogs from application of the law regarding air shipment of parcels. After much additional discussion between postal officials and the GAO Office of General Counsel, U.S. Postal Service regulations were amended, effective May 19, 1979, to exclude shipments of mail-order catalogs by air.

Improved Procedures To Determine Lowest Bidder

We reviewed the procedures followed for soliciting bids for each labor category involved in awards of contracts with expenditures of millions of dollars for technical services and noncomputer software products by the U.S. Army Communications and Electronics Materiel Readiness Command. We found that prospective contractors were permitted to bid in such a general manner as to leave considerable doubt that awards resulted in the lowest price.

In our report (PSAD-77-64, February 16, 1977), we recommended a new procedure whereby the Command could furnish specific bidding guidelines to prospective contractors. The Command adopted our recommendation.

Actions Taken To Increase Use of Pre-admission Screening for Elective Surgery

On April 4, 1978, we issued a letter report (HRD-78-85) on our review of the outpatient surgery and pre-admission testing programs in the Veterans' Administration (VA) hospital system. We advised VA that increased use of these programs would eliminate the need to hospitalize some veterans and reduce the length of hospitalization for others. Accordingly, we recommended that a systemwide policy for outpatient surgery and pre-admission testing be developed by VA and implemented in all general medical and surgical hospitals in the VA system.

A June 7, 1979, circular issued by VA's Department of Medicine and Surgery contained guidelines for pre-admission screening of patients who are candidates for elective surgery. The guidelines specifically suggested that:

- Diagnostic workups including consultations, laboratory studies, electrocardiograms, minor endoscopies, and X-ray studies be completed before hospital admission.
- Patients scheduled for minor surgery under local anesthesia not be admitted as inpatients except under unusual circumstances.

Improvements Made in the State of Oregon's Procurement System

On January 10, 1977, we issued a report (PSAD-77-15) on the cooperative GAO-Oregon Division of Audits review of the State of Oregon's procurement system to give the Congress and other interested parties an example of the potential benefits of performance auditing at State and local levels. The report recommended several improvements in three main functional areas of procurement: requirements determination and planning, contracting and contract administration, and delegation of procurement authority.

The Oregon Department of General Services has made some significant changes in those three procurement areas.

Modifications of General Services Administration Construction Contract Provisions

In our report (LCD-77-304, November 23, 1979), we recommended that the General Services Administration (GSA) amend construction contract provisions (known as general conditions) to provide that allowances for overhead, profit, and commission be applied on all change orders that add or delete work. We estimated that the overall cost of the Government on 5 contracts would have been reduced by \$140,000 if GSA had obtained such allowances on 76 credit change orders. This recommendation was included in follow-up letters to GSA dated June 12, 1978, and January 18, 1979.

By letters dated April 25, 1979, the Acting Administrator of GSA informed GAO and the congressional committees that GSA is implementing our recommendation by modifying the general conditions in the construction contracts. Regional Administrators were notified by the Acting Commissioner of the Public Building Service on April 16, 1979.

Improved Procedures for Negotiating Contract Prices

In our report to the Secretary of Defense (PSAD-78-127, July 20, 1978), we recom-

mended that Department of Defense (DOD) obtain from contractors certain data which would allow DOD to fairly negotiate the share of contractors' indirect expenses to be paid for by DOD.

DOD took appropriate action on our recommendation, including a requirement that the contractor certify the data.

Improved Congressional Mailing Practices and Franked Mail Billing Procedures

The congressional franking privilege is intended to facilitate the informing function of Members of Congress. The Congress was billed approximately \$50 million for franked mail service in fiscal year 1978. Because of concern over rising postage costs, the Senate Committee on Appropriations asked that we review the mailing practices of the Congress and the Postal Service's method of determining the cost for franked mail service.

We suggested ways for both the House and the Senate to improve mailing practices and save on franked mail costs. Acting on information we provided, the House has met with the Postal Service and is making changes in its mail preparation procedures to take advantage of reduced postal rates. Likewise, the Senate has adopted our suggestion that it use different mailing procedures to substantially save postage costs. In addition to saving postage costs, these changes should improve the mail service for the House and the Senate.

In an April 26, 1979, report to the Postmaster General (GGD-79-50), we noted that numerous billing errors occurred in the Service's system for determining franked mail cost because of poor implementation and inadequate monitoring of the system. The Postal Service initiated steps to improve the training of employees involved in the billing process and strengthen monitoring procedures. It will also issue clarifying instructions if necessary. Revised billings will be issued to the Congress.

Action To Recover Unspent Federal Funds

On October 7, 1975, we reported that the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration had a large backlog of expired contracts and grants which had not been closed out. In a September 21, 1978, follow-up report to the Secretary of Labor (HRD-78-142), we pointed out that little improvement had been made. As of March 31, 1978, advances outstanding (payments to contractors and grantees in excess of reported costs) were \$206.3 million for about 3,600 unclosed contracts and grants.

As a result of our draft report and indications that other agencies might be allowing contractors and grantees to hold unspent Federal funds, the Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), issued a memorandum to the heads of 16 Federal agencies. The Director requested agency heads to review closeout practices and procedures to determine whether they are consistent with OMB Circulars No. A-102 and A-110. These circulars require immediate recovery of unspent funds from grantees and contractors. He ordered that procedures inconsistent with the circulars promptly be made consistent and that immediate steps be taken to recover excess funds where closeouts were not current.

Taxpayers Will Find It Easier To Prepare Tax Returns More Accurately And in Less Time

In our report to the Joint Committee on Taxation (GGD-78-74, July 5, 1978), we recommended that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) extensively revise the tax forms and instructions to make it easier for taxpayers to file their own returns. Because of the importance of the simplification effort and the need for the Congress to support it by providing funds to implement the improvements, we also recommended that the Congress hold hearings to review with IRS its plans for improving the forms and instructions and the progress being made.

Legislation which was enacted requires and provides resources for agency action to implement our recommendations. The Revenue Act of 1978 requires the Department of the Treasury to report to Congress by 1981 on steps which can be taken to simplify the tax forms and instructions as well as the tax laws. The act also authorizes hiring up to 10 additional staff to do the study.

Simpler tax materials will benefit both taxpayers and the Government. Taxpayers will be able to do their own returns more accurately, in less time, and with less professional assistance. And, the Government will find it easier to administer the tax laws.

Better Program Management Through Eliminating Exchange Rate Gains and Losses from the Department of Defense Budget Process

In 1973 the major industrial countries changed from fixed to floating currency exchange rates. The floating rates have made it difficult for the Department of Defense (DOD) to manage programs financed with foreign currencies. During the long leadtime between budget preparation and execution, foreign currencies are spent at different exchange rates than those budgeted.

If expenditures are made at less favorable rates than those budgeted, DOD must provide for such shortfall through supplemental appropriations and reprogramming authority or absorb the increased costs. This causes delay and uncertainty in carrying out programs. If not enough funds are obtained this way, funds for approved programs must be reduced. Gains attained from favorable exchange rate fluctuations enable Defense to either offset unbudgeted costs or to finance unfunded programs.

Our report (ID-78-33, April 17, 1978), concluded it would be desirable to provide for an alternative funding method to eliminate, from the budgetary process, exchange rate losses that are not predictable and that have adversely affected DOD programs. This would also help ensure that DOD does not supplement its appropriations through gains derived from favorable

currency exchange rate fluctuations.

We recommended that authorizing legislation be sought to achieve these purposes. The Department of Defense Appropriations Act for the fiscal year 1979, Public Law 95-457, provides for a similar approach.

Actions Taken To Improve Planning for Pandemic Influenza

In our report to the Congress on the swine flu program (HRD-77-115, June 27, 1977), we stated that the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) never formally reevaluated the decision to continue the program despite the delays and problems which hampered it and the decreasing chances of a pandemic as time passed. The swine flu did not occur as predicted, and claims and suits against the Government for adverse reactions from swine flu immunization total over \$3 billion. Our report pointed out the need to establish key points in the formal program reevaluation process.

In December 1977, HEW convened an interagency work group to develop a flu pandemic contingency plan. The plan developed includes a time-phased approach to preparing for pandemic influenza. Key decision points are also included in HEW's program plan for its newly established annual flu immunization program. Proper implementation of these plans could save many needless immunizations and subsequent adverse reactions and the costs associated with each to the Government.

Improved Guidance, Accountability, and Reporting Requirements in Management of Facsimile Equipment

In our report (LCD-76-116, October 22, 1976), we stated that an estimated 8,000 facsimile machines were in use throughout the Government. Most machines were not being shared. We recommended that the Administrator of the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Secretary of the Department of Defense (DOD) (1) determine facsimile machine usage and

use such information to evaluate the need for existing equipment and requests for additional equipment and (2) establish a uniform procedure for making lease-versus-purchase determinations for facsimile equipment. Further, our report recommended that DOD reevaluate the policy contained in existing instructions which required the use of automatic disconnect devices with facsimile machines.

GSA has revised its directives in accordance with our recommendations to (1) provide uniform guidance to users on lease-versus-purchase decisions for facsimile equipment, (2) require specific GSA approval for procurement of exclusive-use facsimile equipment rather than shared-use or common-use equipment, and (3) require users to supply information on use and cost of facsimile equipment. DOD has revised its instructions to allow an exception for using automatic disconnect devices with manually operated communications equipment.

Reliable costs for facsimile equipment and related communications were not available in GSA and DOD for inclusion in our report. Thus, we cannot determine the amount of savings resulting from the actions taken. However, the actions taken should bring about substantial savings.

Strengthened Procedures To Recover Costs for Federal Employees' Injuries Caused by Third Parties

If a third party is responsible for a Federal employee's injury and thus liable for paying damages, the Federal Employees' Compensation Act provides that the Department of Labor (DOL) may require the injured employee to assign to the United States any right to enforce the liability or any right to share in assets to satisfy the liability to prosecute the action in the employee's name. This provision is to keep taxpayers from bearing the compensation costs when a third party is liable.

On May 9, 1979, we reported to the Congress (HRD-79-36) that DOL had not been effectively identifying and recovering these costs and that such recoveries could have helped to offset escalating compensation costs.

We reviewed 1,002 randomly selected claims at three district offices. Our review showed that claims with recovery potential from third parties were not being effectively identified and recovery of costs was not being adequately pursued. Through more aggressive action, DOL might have recovered an additional \$4.7 million from third parties for the 3-year period in the 3 district offices covered by our review. Potential monies from recoveries nationwide could amount to much more.

DOL has taken actions to make its program more effective and efficient. It stated these actions will meet the objectives of and conform to our recommendations. DOL later informed us that preliminary reports indicate that substantial recovery activity has been undertaken.

We believe that, if properly implemented, DOL's actions should resolve the problems disclosed in our report and result in the recovery of substantial additional costs.

Revised Architect-Engineer Deficiency Procedures

On July 14, 1977, we reported (LCD-76-333) that the Department of Defense (DOD) and the General Services Administration (GSA) were not adequately documenting causes for errors and omissions in plans and specifications prepared by Architect-Engineers (A-Es). Because of this inadequate documentation, the Government cannot establish responsibility for resultant contract change orders and recover costs from A-Es in cases involving negligence. As a result, millions of dollars are paid by the Government without determining responsibility.

We recommended that the agencies document design deficiencies, establish responsibility for resultant change orders, and recover costs stemming from apparent A-E negligence.

On March 13, 1978, the Armed Services Procurement Regulation (ASPR) Committee issued Defense Procurement Circular No. 76-14. The circular clarified and expanded ASPR guidance pertaining to A-E responsibility for construction contract change orders due to design errors or deficiencies. The contracting officer must

determine the A-E's reasonable liability for the error or deficiency, and state why he decided to assess or not to assess an A-E for additional change order costs. This determination will be placed in the contract file.

As a result of our review and report, GSA revised its A-E Deficiency Procedures to provide guidelines for identifying the causes of change orders, determining and documenting liability for design deficiencies, recovering costs attributable to A-E negligence, and using A-E performance evaluations in subsequent selections. The finalized A-E Deficiency Procedures were issued to Public Buildings Service Regional Administrators on February 5, 1979.

Corps of Engineers Studies Unnecessary Corps Maintenance

In a January 17, 1978, letter of inquiry to the Director of Civil Works, Corps of Engineers, we pointed out the need to reduce dredging of little-used harbors. We also presented a case study of three harbors which we believed had been dredged to excess depths because the district apparently relied on historical rather than current harbor usage to plan its dredging activities. Attached was a listing of 152 projects which we would consider reviewing if a detailed audit were undertaken. We asked (1) what changes, if any, the Corps planned for reducing dredging requirements for these harbors, (2) what other dredging operations could be reduced, and (3) if Corps findings confirmed our limited analysis, what actions would be taken to carry out dredging activities at levels more consistent with current traffic operations.

On May 11, 1978, the Deputy Director of Civil Works instructed the district engineers to carefully review the commercial statistics and other trend indicators available and evaluate this data with respect to total operation and maintenance requirements.

On August 3, 1978, the Corps issued a circular which provided guidance and established review criteria to determine which projects are no longer justified for continued maintenance because of changed physical, economic, or other conditions. The circular provided screening criteria for

all completed projects which Corps headquarters had identified. Subsequently, 114 projects failed the initial screening process. Corps' officials plan to prepare reconnaissance reports (a more indepth review costing about \$20,000 per project) on each of these projects. If the projects seem questionable, they will be considered for a complete economic evaluation. This could result in project deauthorization and a halt to all Federal maintenance of the applicable project.

Project maintenance is periodic; the cycles range from annual to 50-year intervals. Recent 3-year average annual operation and maintenance costs for the 114 identified projects were over \$21.5 million.

Legislation Requires Department of Defense To Charge Foreign Governments for Normal Inventory Losses

Since at least 1969, the Department of Defense (DOD) has required that inventory losses be assessed on all foreign military sales not covered by supply support arrangements. We found that the military departments were assessing inventory losses on stock fund sales but were not charging for inventory losses on nonstock fund sales even when such sales were covered by supply support arrangements. On September 8, 1977 (FGMSD-77-43), and August 25, 1978 (FGMSD-78-51), we reported that DOD was losing millions of dollars on sales to foreign governments because normal inventory losses were not being recovered.

As a direct result of our September 8, 1977 report, the Congress enacted legislation amending the Arms Export Control Act. The amendment expressly required that normal inventory losses be charged foreign governments on all sales from inventories of DOD articles being stored at the expense of the purchaser (supply support arrangements). We anticipate millions of dollars of additional recoveries once DOD implements existing legislation.

Revisions of the Endangered Species Act

The 95th Congress enacted legislation to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Included in the 1978 amendments are legislative changes based on five GAO congressional briefings. These changes should reduce the impact endangered/threatened species will have on Federal projects and programs and save the Federal Government money. The existing legislation includes:

- A time limit for Federal agencies to identify endangered and threatened species likely to be affected by their projects and programs.
- Permanent exemptions from the act's protective provisions for Federal projects and programs which have been reviewed, avoiding later project delays and corresponding increased costs.
- A requirement that the Department of the Interior review all species listed as endangered and threatened at least once every 5 years to determine whether any should be delisted or reclassified, eliminating the costs related to unnecessary consultations and legal conflicts.
- A requirement that Interior publish a final regulation or a notice of withdrawal within 2 years of a proposed rulemaking, eliminating the costs to other Federal agencies of conserving and conducting reviews of species withdrawn from consideration.

Although annual savings cannot be measured, the legislative changes should (1) reduce the number of staff and financial resources required to identify and resolve conflicts between endangered/threatened species and Federal projects and programs, (2) eliminate the expense of conservation efforts and reviews on species which are not endangered or threatened, and (3) preclude project delays and corresponding increased costs.

Standardized Hearing Conservation Program Established by the Department of Defense

The Department of Defense (DOD) has

paid out millions of dollars for employees' job-related hearing losses (2,500 Navy hearing loss claims paid in 1975 cost about \$17 million). On September 15, 1977, we reported (LCD-77-208) on DOD's need for a complete and well-defined hearing conservation policy. We recommended that the Secretary of DOD (1) establish an 85 decibel, 8-hour maximum exposure level for unprotected workers; (2) improve work area surveys; and (3) DOD components monitor required hearing tests, adopt uniform criteria for deciding when engineering controls should be used, and stress safety rules and instructions.

In November 1977, DOD responded that it realized the lack of a standard DOD hearing conservation policy resulted in diverse programs among its components. To correct the problem, DOD issued an instruction in June 1978 which established a standardized hearing conservation program.

Food Stamp Program Eligibility Requirements Standardized

In a report to the Congress (RED-75-342, February 28, 1975), we recommended that the Department of Agriculture revise the food stamp program regulations to eliminate automatic eligibility for public assistance recipients and apply standardized income and other eligibility criteria equally to all applicants for program benefits. The Department said the law would have to be changed and it proposed such a change in October 1975.

In the Food Stamp Act of 1977, the Congress provided for the application of the same asset and income eligibility criteria for all people wishing to participate in the program. The Department issued regulations for implementing these criteria in October 1978.

Savings are expected because some households not meeting the asset and income criteria will be eliminated from the program. Also, standardizing program eligibility requirements should result in more equitable treatment of all persons wishing to participate.

Other Benefits

Some actions taken in response to our

recommendations result in benefits other than financial savings. 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 may improve. Sometimes the actions directly enhance the well-being of individual citizens.

Condominium Homeownership Opportunities Increased

Federal laws provided that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) could insure mortgages on individual condominium units only if HUD insured mortgages on the entire project. This requirement eliminated 97 percent of existing condominiums—about 1.25 million units—from the Department's mortgage insurance program. Department officials and condominium developers believed that the requirement had unnecessarily discouraged many individuals from purchasing condominiums as a home. In our report (CED-78-71, March 21, 1978), we recommended that the Congress authorize HUD to insure mortgages on individual condominium homes without requiring that the project be built under a HUD mortgage insurance program.

The essence of our recommendation was included in Public Law 95-557, approved October 31, 1978. HUD is changing its regulations to authorize insuring offices to insure one-family condominium units in non-FHA insured multifamily projects containing 12 or more units if construction of the project was completed more than a year prior to the application for mortgage insurance.

Savings Bonds Are Returned to Their Owners

In August 1973, the Department of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Banks had about 709,000 savings bonds which they were keeping for about 188,000 individuals. These bonds were held in "safe-keeping accounts," with many of them belonging to World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans. At the time of our review, Treasury had not attempted to

return the bonds to the owners because they believed that it would be too difficult for them to locate the individuals. Many of these bonds had been with Treasury for over 30 years.

In our report to the Congress (B-179225, August 10, 1973), we recommended that Treasury use address files in other Government agencies to locate bond owners. As a result of our recommendation, Treasury had returned about 417,000 (nearly 60 percent) of the 709,000 bonds in safekeeping to bond owners through fiscal year 1979. The value of these returned bonds is approximately \$33 million.

Limits Placed on Public Service Employment Program Participation

In our report to the Congress (HRD-77-53, April 7, 1977), we recommended that the Secretary of Labor provide more benefits to unemployed persons eligible to participate in public service employment (PSE) programs authorized by the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). We reported that many PSE participants had remained in these temporary programs for a long time, and these programs often were not serving those most in need. Some participants were secondary wage earners coming from households with substantial incomes.

Amendments added to CETA in 1976 gave preferential help in obtaining a PSE job to unemployed, needy individuals for only a portion of the authorized PSE jobs. We recommended that the Congress amend CETA to (1) limit the time an enrollee can remain in the programs and (2) extend the preferential treatment to unemployed persons (who are not members of families with substantial incomes) for placement in all available public service jobs to serve those most in need.

In October 1978, CETA was reauthorized and amended. The 1978 amendments included an 18-month limitation on participation in all PSE programs and limited participation to "economically disadvantaged" persons. These amendments will enable more persons to be served by the programs and will help assure that the programs serve those persons most in need.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Role in Selecting Nuclear Fission Technologies for Development

In April 1977 the President decided to defer indefinitely the development of advanced nuclear fission technologies which use plutonium. This decision was made to help reduce the risk of nuclear weapons proliferation.

As a result of the President's decision, the executive branch is conducting a major assessment program to select nuclear fission technologies for future development. We found that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)—the independent regulatory agency which ensures the public's safety from nuclear accidents and diversions of nuclear materials—did not have a major role in the selection process. We made recommendations to correct this deficiency.

As we recommended (EMD-78-44, March 7, 1978), NRC agreed to identify and report to the President and the Congress known or suspected licensing issues and problems associated with advanced nuclear fission technologies under serious consideration by the executive branch. This will be done before any are scheduled to be selected for future development. The report will identify the relative safety, safeguards, and environmental advantages and disadvantages of each technology.

NRC's report should help strengthen Federal efforts to select the most acceptable advanced nuclear fission technologies for the next generation of nuclear power in the United States.

Improved Procedures for Enforcing Federal Communications Commission Regulations

Growth and change have occurred in telecommunications in recent years. New services have been developed. The number of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) licensees has dramatically increased. And a greater public use and awareness of radio communication has occurred. This has placed demands on FCC to develop effective means for enforcing its regula-

tions and responding to public inquiries.

Our August 18, 1978 report to the Chairman of the FCC (CED-78-151) included several recommendations relating to FCC's Field Operations Bureau. The Bureau is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Communications Act of 1934 and the Commission's rules and regulations and serves as a liaison between FCC and the public.

On October 19, 1978, FCC adopted the basic recommendations contained in our report and established a committee of Field Operations Liaison Officers to help fully integrate field operations into the regulatory structure.

FCC has also funded a study to measure how effectively its field enforcement activities achieve regulatory objectives, and analyze the Field Operations Bureau's information gathering function. The study will also propose an improved structure for the Bureau so that it can measure the effectiveness of field enforcement activities and assist management in determining where and to what extent field enforcement resources should be expended.

Strengthening Securities and Exchange Commission Oversight of the Over-the-Counter Market

In our report (FGMSD-78-65, October 5, 1978), we stated that the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) oversight of the National Association of Securities Dealers' (NASD) self-regulation of the over-the-counter securities market needed improvement in several areas. The SEC responded to our recommendations by informing Congress that it would act to strengthen its inspection and oversight of over-the-counter securities transactions. The SEC stated that its oversight staff was being increased, its inspection function for review of NASD operations was being reorganized, and greater efforts were being made to complete planned inspections. Other corrective actions were reportedly underway.

Unsafe Conditions at the Philadelphia Naval Regional Medical Center Are Being Corrected

On February 17, 1978, we reported (LCD-78-301) that the Philadelphia Naval Regional Medical Center had badly deteriorated and was unsafe for its intended use. We noted (1) violations of the National Fire Protection Association's fire safety code; (2) lack of emergency power and lighting in the medical, surgical, and recovery wards; (3) leaking roofs and deficiencies in wiring systems; (4) improper ventilation and fire deterrent systems; and (5) general obsolescence and deterioration of the buildings. At that time the Navy estimated \$14 million was necessary to correct major deterioration and safety problems and an additional \$3 million to remedy fire and other safety deficiencies. GAO recommended, among other items, that the Navy budget, as early as possible, the funds necessary to correct these problems.

On July 6, 1979, the Navy reported to GAO that it had funded fire safety code corrections, emergency power improvements, and elevator repairs for a total of \$375,000. Funding for fiscal year 1979 and early fiscal year 1980 projects totals another \$1,289,000 and includes repairs to the electrical system, food service refrigeration units, building exterior, other elevators and various miscellaneous items. Programming for additional repairs is also planned but is contingent upon additional funding.

Navy projects underway or programmed are a significant step in improving the unsafe conditions at the Center. This is necessary until the construction of a planned replacement hospital in the mid-1980's.

Actions Taken To Improve the Farmers Home Administration's Business and Industrial Loan Program

In a September 30, 1977, report to the Congress (CED-77-126), we recommended several ways the Farmers Home

Administration (FmHA) could improve its Business and Industrial Loan Program to (1) more accurately measure and report program accomplishments, (2) better assess proposed loans, (3) provide better loan servicing and management assistance to borrowers, and (4) attain enough qualified staff.

In line with our recommendations, the FmHA

- issued instructions setting forth the procedures for obtaining and reporting more accurate program accomplishments as they relate to actual jobs saved and/or created;
- reorganized its headquarters staff to better assess proposed loans and to provide better loan servicing and management assistance to borrowers;
- hired consultants to service problem loans;
- held a seminar relating to appraisal methods and techniques used in appraising loans;
- hired a consulting firm to train its employees on how to analyze loan applications from businesses associated with specific industries such as the textile, health care, services, and lodging industries.

Actions Taken by the Office of Education To Improve Its Administration of Institutional Grants for International Education

In our report to the Congress (ID-78-46, September 13, 1978), we recommended the adoption of four procedures to improve the management of institutional grants for international education made by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's Office of Education.

With respect to the recurring annual funding for 80 centers to promote and increase the study of needed modern foreign languages, we recommended Office of Education officials (1) visit each center every 2 years, (2) prepare and distribute to center officials every 2 years a report containing helpful lessons learned, and (3) prepare written feedback reports at least

yearly on the required reports centers submit to the Office.

With respect to a starter-grant program begun in 1972 to help institutions initiate programs in international studies, we recommended the Office of Education develop a system to determine if programs continue after Federal grants are stopped and reasons for success or failure. Such information is essential for evaluating the starter-grant program and proposed new projects.

In April 1979, the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare informed us that the Office of Education (1) has developed plans to ensure that each of the 80 centers will be visited at least once every 2 years, (2) will distribute its first lessons-learned report to all 80 centers in December 1981, (3) will provide feedback reports to each center beginning with the next program cycle starting in the fall of 1979, and (4) is now developing a system to evaluate the effectiveness of starter-grants for international studies which will be used in the next program cycle.

Improved Effectiveness of the Federal Aviation Administration's Enforcement of Commercial Aircraft Safety Standards

In a report to the Secretary of Transportation (CED-79-10, November 21, 1978), we pointed out that certain large aircraft operators may be avoiding commercial aircraft safety regulations by leasing aircraft to foreign air carriers on paper and then continuing to operate them in the United States. Prior to our report, neither the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) nor the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) required foreign air carriers to comply with commercial safety regulations while operating in this country.

We recommended that FAA and CAB require that all foreign air carriers flying in the United States meet at least the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) commercial safety standards. FAA and

CAB have reached an agreement that compliance with ICAO commercial standards will be a condition of all future operating permits issued by the CAB to foreign air carriers.

This requirement will close a loophole which may have been used by some operators to avoid commercial safety regulations. It will also improve the effectiveness of FAA's enforcement of commercial safety standards.

Action To Strengthen and Improve the Federal Automatic Data Processing Standards Program

In our April 19, 1978, report to Congress (FGMSD-78-23), we noted that the Federal Government is not fully realizing the potential savings available through the competitive procurement of Automatic Data Processing (ADP) resources, primarily because of a weak Federal ADP Standards program. Federal agencies have become locked into suppliers of computers and related services either because certain essential standards have not been developed or agencies are not complying with existing standards.

This has been caused in part by the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) failure to provide all agencies with policy guidance that

- cites the importance of standards in addressing Federal programs;
- specifies and ensures an active role by Federal agencies in Federal and voluntary commercial standards setting;
- ensures that Federal agencies fully coordinate with the Department of Commerce when participating in commercial standards development;
- requires agencies to establish policies and procedures for implementing standards, including the use of internal audit to examine for compliance; and
- requires agencies to report annually on the degree of noncompliance with existing standards and agency plans for converting to standards.

On January 8, 1979, OMB issued a memorandum to the heads of executive

departments and agencies citing the importance of the standards program and OMB's intent to revitalize the standards program. OMB directed the head of each department and agency to appoint a senior management official who will be responsible for developing agency policies and procedures and overseeing their implementation. This official is required to assist the Secretary of Commerce in

- identifying high priority standards requirements,
- assuring the development of effective standards,
- evaluating the effectiveness of existing standards, and
- measuring the degree of agency compliance with Federal standards.

New Regulations To Ease Entry into Regulated Trucking and Stimulate Competition

The Interstate Commerce Commission's (ICC) process for granting temporary operating authority often had resulted in inadequate service to shippers and had overly protected regulated truckers from competition. In a February 24, 1978, report to the Congress (CED-78-32), we pointed out that regulated truckers often opposed operating authority applications even when they did not desire or have the ability to perform the "new" service. To help ease entry into the regulated trucking industry and to promote competition, we recommended that the ICC, in the future, require protesting truckers to demonstrate specifically how they are meeting or could meet the needs of the shippers.

On October 27, 1978, ICC adopted new rules which will substantially reduce the number of truckers who oppose operating authority applications. In the past, ICC had permitted any interested individual to protest an application for operating authority and thereby become a party to the proceedings. Effective January 1, 1979, ICC began permitting regulated truckers to oppose operating authority applications only if they (1) hold operating authority that conflicts with that desired by the "new" trucker, (2) are able to provide the service, and (3) have

in fact performed the desired service. ICC will permit others to oppose operating authority applications only if they can show that they have a sufficient interest in the outcome of the case or can make a meaningful contribution to the ultimate decision. Such truckers will be permitted to oppose operating authority applications only if they can show that they have directly and repeatedly solicited the shipper's traffic.

The new rules apply to permanent operating authorities, and we believe they will ultimately make it easier for truckers to obtain ICC's approval for interstate operating authority and will, therefore, in line with our recommendation, help stimulate competition in the trucking industry.

Radioactive Wastes at Inactive Uranium Mills To Be Cleaned Up

Since the 1940's, 39 privately owned mills have produced and sold uranium to the U.S. Government. Twenty-two of these mills have closed down, leaving about 25 million tons of radioactive sand-like waste—commonly called mill tailings—in unattended piles and ponds. Until recently, these tailings were believed to be of such low radiation they were not considered to be harmful to the public. However, recent concern about the possible adverse effects of long term low-level radiation has served as an impetus for various organizations to seek ways to prevent the tailings from harming the public.

We recommended to Congress on June 20, 1978 (EMD-78-90), that the Federal Government should take the lead in cleaning up the uranium mill tailings at the 22 inactive mill sites. On October 14, 1978, the Congress passed the Uranium Mill Tailings Control Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-604). This act, which incorporated several other recommendations we made to ensure the program would be conducted effectively and efficiently, authorized the Department of Energy as the lead agency to conduct a comprehensive program to clean up radioactive wastes.

Improvements in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Procedures for Acquiring Outside Goods and Services

More than half of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) annual budget (\$288 million for fiscal year 1979) is spent for acquiring outside goods and services. The vast majority of these expenditures—86 percent—is for research and technical assistance acquired from the Department of Energy's (DOE) various laboratories. Regarding these expenditures, our March 7, 1979, report (EMD-79-37) to the Senate Subcommittee on Nuclear Regulation, Committee on Environment and Public Works, made several recommendations to ensure better compliance with requirements of applicable acquisition laws and regulations. We recommended that NRC justify its work placement with DOE laboratories instead of private contractors; seek greater competition in contract awards; ensure timely implementation of proposed procedures regarding contractor cost vouchers approval and alleviation of the contract closeout backlog; ensure better consultant appointment justifications; and tighten payment controls for consultants' services.

In response to our recommendations, NRC has instituted procedures to ensure the proper contracting source—private or government—has been identified and the choice properly justified and documented; implemented a program which allows for earlier development of contract requirements and expanded its Bidder's Mailing List system in attempts to obtain more contract competition; and has instituted improved procedures for obtaining and paying consultants.

Improved Congressional Budgetary Control Over Department of Agriculture Appropriation Accounts

At the request of the Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies, we determined the advisability of retaining no year funding for accounts in

the 1979 Department of Agriculture Appropriations Bill. In our May 19, 1978, testimony before the Subcommittee and in our report (PAD-78-74, September 19, 1978), we stated our general position that appropriations for regular operations of a department—other than long-term contracts—should be funded on a fixed-year basis. The 1979 Appropriation Act (Public Law 95-448, October 11, 1978) improved congressional budgetary control over seven Department of Agriculture appropriation accounts by changing them from no year to fixed year.

Improved Effectiveness and Administration of the Anti-dumping Act of 1921

Legislation enacted on July 26, 1979, amended the Anti-dumping Act of 1921 in several areas where we recommended change (ID-79-15, March 15, 1979). These include:

- Providing for simultaneous filing of anti-dumping petitions with the Department of the Treasury and the United States International Trade Commission (ITC). This will allow the ITC to proceed with its comprehensive investigation of injury without waiting some 7 to 10 months to begin an investigation while Treasury concludes its determination of whether imports had been sold at less than fair value.
- Collecting estimated dumping duties after a final affirmative finding of dumping has been made, with appropriate provisions of refunds and collection of over- and underpayments upon determination of final dumping duties.
- Using the best information available to determine dumping duties when delays are encountered because respondents and importers are slow in providing the data needed for duty determinations.
- Establishing time limitations for collecting final dumping duties.

In addition, Treasury has reported (1) trying to obtain a monitoring system that will track imports for which anti-dumping proceedings have been initiated and (2) work-

ing to improve joint participation between Washington case handlers and Customs Service agents abroad in developing and verifying the data Treasury needs to meet its responsibilities under the act.

Improving Management of Equipment Warranties

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority is building and operating the METRO rapid rail system. We reviewed the management of equipment warranties to determine if the Authority was obtaining full value and found that warranty management was a low priority area and, as a result, the Authority was spending its own funds to make warranted repairs.

In our report (PSAD-79-41, February 27, 1979), we made a number of specific recommendations which the Authority's General Manager adopted. As a result of our report, in addition to actual collections of over \$1 million, the Authority realized other benefits by (1) making major modifications to the warranty and reliability requirements for the next railcar procurement, (2) establishing clear lines of authority for enforcing warranty requirements, and (3) giving priority to the establishment of a computerized maintenance data system to track reliability and performance of equipment.

Increased Effectiveness in Acquiring Nuclear Weapons

Improved management interface between the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Department of Energy (DOE) should lead to increased effectiveness in acquiring nuclear weapons as a result of recommendations contained in our report (PSAD-79-4, November 7, 1978). The report identified the need for (1) DOD to provide more definitive requirements when requesting DOE to initiate engineering development for nuclear weapons (warheads, bombs, etc.), and (2) DOE to participate in the Defense System Acquisition Review Council (DSARC) process when a nuclear weapon is involved. In response, DOD advised us that procedures had been implemented to better define nuclear wea-

pon requirements and to provide for DOE participation in DSARC. DOE indicated that direct involvement in the DSARC will provide an appropriate, timely information exchange at crucial DOD program milestone decision points, which will be mutually beneficial to the nuclear weapon development process.

Strengthening the Effectiveness of the Department of Energy's Nuclear Safeguards Program

The development and expanded use of nuclear energy in the United States has resulted in increasingly larger amounts of highly dangerous special nuclear material being processed by the Government and private industry. Two Federal agencies are responsible for properly safeguarding civilian nuclear activities in this country—the Department of Energy for nuclear materials held by its research and development facilities and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for commercial nuclear facilities.

In our July 23, 1976 report (EMD-76-3), we found problems with the systems used to account for and protect special nuclear materials at Federal facilities. The problems resulted primarily because the agency responsible for developing and operating the facilities was also responsible for safeguarding its own programs without independent oversight.

In a more recent report (EMD-77-40, May 2, 1977), we also found weaknesses in the nuclear material accountability and physical security systems at commercial facilities and compared NRC's programs to those of DOE. In this later report we pointed out, among other things, the need to (1) minimize the risk to the public of subordinating regulatory to promotional functions, (2) maximize objectivity and impartiality, and (3) increase public confidence in the safe operation of all nuclear facilities. It was therefore necessary to assure that an independent determination be made that Federal and commercial nuclear facilities are being operated in the best interests of the security, health, and safety of the Nation. Accordingly, we recommended that inde-

pendent assessments be made regarding the adequacy of DOE safeguard programs.

DOE agreed with the thrust of the recommendation and initiated studies to determine the best way for implementing it. As a result of DOE's follow-on studies, top agency management issued a directive on September 13, 1977, which gave DOE's Office of the Inspector General full responsibility for nuclear materials safeguards oversight for all Federal nuclear facilities. The Office of Inspector General has no direct program responsibilities and reports directly to program directors and the Deputy Secretary of DOE. As such, a separation is made between those responsible for safeguarding nuclear facilities and those responsible for ensuring its effectiveness.

As a result of DOE's action on our recommendation, we believe the public interests are better served by achieving a higher, more objective level of assurance that special nuclear material at the Nation's Federal nuclear installations is properly protected from theft, diversion, sabotage or other violent acts.

A New System of Tax Incentives For Americans Working Abroad To Improve U.S. Competitiveness

Legislation enacted November 8, 1978, (Public Law 95-615), established a new system of tax deductions as an incentive for U.S. citizens to work overseas. This reversed an October 1976 legislative decision to reduce substantially a longstanding tax incentive for citizens employed abroad. We reported (ID-78-13, February 21, 1978) on the adverse impact of the reduced tax incentive on employees, companies, and the U.S. economy. In the report we observed that, to remain competitive in overseas markets, it is essential to maintain a large force of U.S. citizens abroad to promote and service U.S. products and operations. We urged that a substantial tax incentive be continued to encourage overseas employment. In the congressional deliberations leading to the new legislation, there was frequent reference to our views. The report and related testimony contributed significantly to the development of the legislation.

Improvements in Timeliness and Accuracy of Operational Test Information Reported to the Congress

In our report to the Congress (PSAD-79-46, March 9, 1979), we demonstrated that the results of tests and evaluations of several Navy and Air Force major weapons systems were incorrectly reported to the Congress in Congressional Data Sheets. In fact, many of the Data Sheets reviewed by us contained clearly misleading information. To improve the quality and timeliness of operational test results reported in the Data Sheets, we recommended that the Secretary of Defense require (1) more thorough review of Congressional Data Sheets by the Office of the Director of Test and Evaluation before submission to Congress, (2) more definitive guidelines concerning the kind of test information that is required in Congressional Data Sheets, and (3) continued evaluation and identification of new test results that become available after initial Congressional Data Sheets submissions to determine if updated information should be reported to the Congress.

On May 14, 1979, DOD stated that our report was very useful in highlighting some of the problems involved in communicating to the Congress—accurately and concisely—the voluminous and often complex results derived from operational testing of weapons systems. DOD agreed there is a need to improve the communication process and initiated corrective action in line with our recommendations.

Coordinating State and Local Government Productivity Improvement Efforts

We recommended in our report (GGD-78-104, December 6, 1978) that the Federal Government establish a strong focal point for State and local government productivity improvement efforts. The Federal Government has an interest in these improvements because the national economy is strengthened, and the costs of Federal programs carried out by State and local governments are affected by the efficiencies of those governments.

In January 1979, the Office of Management and Budget acted on our recommendation and designated the Office of Personnel Management as the Federal Government's focal point for support of State and local government productivity improvements.

Improved Procedures for Notifying Payees and Delivering Checks of Claimants Under the Micronesian War Claims Program

During our review of the Micronesian War Claims program, we found that approximately 34,000 U.S. Department of the Treasury checks for a total of \$24.5 million had been issued to Micronesians, without sufficient controls to assure who had received and cashed them. The Micronesians we interviewed often did not have a clear idea what was due them and, in some cases, could not recollect receiving certain checks reported as issued to them. We examined copies of canceled checks and found that some had questionable endorsements. This information was turned over to the Department of Justice.

Considering these circumstances and that many millions of dollars in claims were still unpaid at the time of our review, our report (ID-77-62, March 7, 1978) recommended that the Secretary of the Interior, through the Trust Territory Director of Finance, (1) strengthen procedures for notification and delivery of checks, (2) distribute detailed information about the checks to district offices, and publicize the information so that claimants would know which payments they should have received, and (3) verify, on a selective basis, that the recipients received their payments.

The Director, Office of Territorial Affairs, Department of the Interior, notified us by letter dated September 26, 1978, that the recommended procedures were adopted in July 1978.

Workplace Hazard Inspection Program

On April 9, 1979, we reported to the Congress (HRD-79-48) that virtually every complaint received by the Department of

Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the States which alleged workplace hazards resulted in a workplace inspection. Many of the complaints were frivolous. Most of the alleged hazards did not violate safety and health standards and involved low-risk industries.

The agency accepted our recommendations and established a program to professionally evaluate and screen all complaints to determine the nature and severity of the hazard; the number of employees potentially exposed; and any injuries, illnesses or symptoms attributable to the hazard. The new program should allow for quicker resolution of complaints and should focus agency resources on more effective and expeditious investigations of complaints in areas of high risk.

Improved Accounting and Financial Reporting

Accurate accounting is necessary to control Government assets and to present fairly the financial position of the Government. In the past, the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) materially misstated accounts receivable, precluding a fair presentation of these agencies' financial position.

In separate reports to these agencies, we recommended specific improvements. Both agencies implemented our recommendations.

Our report (FGMSD-77-32, September 6, 1977) stated that in 1976, the SSA did not include the accounts receivable resulting from overpayments under the various benefit programs in reporting its financial position to the Department of the Treasury. Its reported accounts receivable from the public was \$83 million. As of September 30, 1978, overpayments to retirees and other recipients were included and reported as accounts receivable. The reported accounts receivable amount was \$1.5 billion with an allowance for uncollectible accounts of \$478 million.

NASA took action to process billings through the accounting system to reflect properly the monies already collected and placed in a deposit fund account. At March

31, 1979, the billed accounts receivable amount was \$227 million. The billings processed for collection in April were for \$175 million. As a result of these billings in line with our report's recommendation (FGMSD-77-89, October 21, 1977), the accounts receivable balance and the deposit fund balance were reduced by \$175 million.

Action Taken by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration To Protect the Location of Its Undercover Fencing Operations

In preparing for a survey of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration's (LEAA) antifencing program, we found that six active projects were listed in LEAA's computerized information system. The projects were operating with funds provided to States under LEAA's block grant program.

Since the information in LEAA's computer system is available to the public, the location of the projects could have been inadvertently disclosed, thereby placing the lives of participating law enforcement officers in danger. We brought this matter to the immediate attention of LEAA officials.

We were subsequently advised that LEAA's procedures for entering information into its computerized system did not take into consideration the possibility that States would report information that was supposed to have been kept confidential. On May 16, 1979, LEAA informed us that the input requirements for its computerized information system were being modified and that the changes would keep the location of its active antifencing projects from being disclosed.

Improved Controls Over the Health, Education, and Welfare Payroll System

Since it started operation, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's (HEW) centralized payroll system had been beset with control problems. As a result, employees were frequently over- or underpaid.

We issued a series of reports to the Secretary of HEW between October 1976 and September 1977 containing over 55 specific recommendations to improve this system. The Department took action to improve internal control procedures, assuring that prompt and accurate payments are made to civilian employees. For example, specific actions were taken to improve time and attendance reporting, authorize supplemental payments, regulate experts' and consultants' pay, monitor pay adjustments, control temporary pay records, and improve the quality of microfilm records.

Actions Taken To Improve Quality Control Procedures in the National Cancer Institute's Chemical Testing Program

The National Cancer Institute's (NCI) tests of chemicals for cancer are done mainly by subcontractor laboratories under a prime contract. Our report (HRD-79-51, March 30, 1979), prepared at the request of Congressman Henry A. Waxman, showed that NCI was neither requiring nor receiving complete reports of the prime contractor's inspection of subcontractor laboratories. As a result, laboratory deficiencies were being withheld from NCI and the prime contractor had failed to take corrective actions on deficiencies found. We suggested that NCI require the prime contractor to submit complete reports of its laboratory inspections and to set up a system to track deficiencies and ensure their correction. We also suggested that the prime contractor inform its subcontractor laboratories in writing of deficiencies found. NCI made changes in its prime contract to implement our suggestions.

Legislation Enacted Requiring That Treasury Pay Salaries for International Operations from Appropriations Instead of the Exchange Stabilization Fund

On October 7, 1977, the Comptroller General testified before the Senate Subcommittee on International Finance, Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs in support of Senate Bill 2093 to discontinue use of the Exchange Stabilization Fund to pay administrative expenses. The Comptroller General commented as follows:

We concur with Treasury's decision to seek legislation to pay salaries and administrative expenses from appropriations instead of from Fund resources since all administrative expenses of the Treasury Department will be handled in a consistent manner. In this way the Congress will be better able to evaluate competing budgetary programs and to establish overall priorities for allocating resources.

These efforts by us contributed to passage of S. 2093 (Public Law 95-612, November 8, 1978) which states that, in line with our position, the Exchange Stabilization Fund shall not be available for payment of administrative expenses.

Actions Taken To Improve Job Training Programs

In a report to the Congress (HRD-78-96, July 7, 1978), we recommended that the Secretary of the Department of Labor (DOL) should take actions to improve the management of multibillion dollar job training programs authorized by the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). We reported that some classroom and on-the-job training program participants were successful in obtaining and retaining employment, but many were not. The cost to place participants in subsidized jobs varied significantly. We recommended that DOL take a stronger and more active Federal oversight role of the job training programs to ensure, among other things, that participants' employment needs and capabilities are more accurately identified.

We also recommended that DOL develop more specific and appropriate performance standards for each training activity, and revise the federally required reports to provide adequate information to evaluate training activities.

At the time this report was issued, CETA did not give DOL express authority to take certain actions relating to our recommendations. The amendments added to CETA by Congress in 1978 gave DOL the clear authority to do so.

Regarding our recommendation that DOL develop performance standards with which to evaluate these programs, DOL had been reluctant to develop performance standards because of the still evolving and unsettled nature of Federal versus local government roles in the management of CETA's decentralized programs. However, a provision was added in CETA's 1978 amendments which gives DOL the authority to develop performance standards. DOL is presently in the process of developing these standards.

Our report also recommended that DOL redesign the management information system used by the program operators to provide adequate information to evaluate training activities. The 1978 amendments added a provision requiring DOL to report the types of participant outcomes experienced after they leave training. DOL had redesigned its Federal reports to obtain information which should enable the Department to better evaluate these programs.

In addition, concerning our recommendation that participants' training needs and capabilities be more accurately assessed,

the Congress added a provision to CETA in the 1978 amendments which requires program operators to develop a personalized employability plan for each participant. Our report noted that participants were not usually assessed properly when they enrolled in these training programs. This new requirement should result in program operators properly assessing each participant before it is decided which training programs the participant should enter.

Achieving Foreign Aid Objectives Through an Alternative Form of Assistance

The United States provided balance of payments support to Israel from 1972 to 1978 through a \$2 billion Commodity Import Program (CIP), under which the Agency for International Development (AID) reimbursed Israel for nonmilitary imports from the United States.

Our review disclosed that program objectives were not being met due to cumbersome procedural and paperwork requirements for documentation of each of the thousands of commercial transactions eligible for reimbursement. The need for the documentation was questionable because the United States and Israeli Government statistics showed that Israel's nonmilitary purchases in the United States exceeded the CIP aid levels.

We suggested to the House Committee on International Relations several alternatives to the CIP, and the Committee staff subsequently asked AID to examine these alternatives. In our report to AID (ID-78-31, August 18, 1978), we also suggested that AID examine various alternatives which would better achieve program objectives.

As a result of our review and congressional and agency interest, a revised Fiscal Year 1979 Congressional Presentation was submitted by AID, which proposed that the CIP be replaced with a simplified cash transfer program. The International Security Assistance Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-384, September 26, 1978) authorized a cash transfer program, and AID implemented this program in December 1978.

NUMBER OF AUDIT REPORTS ISSUED DURING FISCAL YEAR 1979¹

	Addressee				TOTAL
	Congress ²	Committee ³	Member	Agency Officials ⁴	
Administration of Justice	6	13	5	7	31
Agriculture	8	5	-	2	15
Automatic Data Processing	1	4	-	8	13
Commerce and Housing Credit	7	9	6	9	31
Community and Regional Development	3	5	1	11	20
Congressional Information Services	-	3	-	1	4
Education, Training, Employment & Social Services	12	2	6	5	25
Energy	26	29	10	27	92
Financial Management & Information Systems	16	11	1	14	42
General Government	31	60	7	30	128
General Purpose Fiscal Assistance	-	2	2	5	9
General Science, Space & Technology	2	5	-	3	10
Health	18	24	9	20	71
Impoundment Control Act of 1974	15	1	-	-	16
Income Security	12	15	6	14	47
International Affairs	21	10	4	11	46
National Defense	61	55	21	93	230
Natural Resources & Environment	23	24	8	12	67
Non-Discrimination & Equal Opportunity	3	-	-	2	5
Procurement Other Than Defense	4	3	5	8	20
Transportation	15	12	7	11	45
Veterans Benefits and Services	1	6	3	6	16
TOTAL	285	298	101	299	983

¹ Except for reports classified for national security reasons, a detailed list of these reports is contained in Appendix 2. Substantially identical reports have been counted as one report.

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.

Audit Reports Issued During Fiscal Year 1979

Administration of Justice

- Committees** Management Improvements in the Administrative Law Process: Much Remains To Be Done. Office of Personnel Management. *FPCD-79-44, 5-23-79*
- Members** Activities of Special Police and Guard Forces in the District of Columbia Can Be Improved. Library of Congress, Supreme Court of the United States, Government Printing Office, Smithsonian Institution, General Services Administration, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President (Request of Senator Lawton M. Chiles, Chairman, Subcommittee on District of Columbia, Senate Committee on Appropriations). *GGD-78-16, 10-4-78*
- Police Forces in the District of Columbia Can Improve Operations and Save Money. National Park Service, United States Park Police; General Services Administration; Library of Congress; Supreme Court of the United States (Request of Senator Lawton M. Chiles, Chairman, Subcommittee on District of Columbia, Senate Committee on Appropriations). *GGD-79-16, 7-12-79*
- Agency Officials** Survey of LEAA's Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime Program. Department of Justice; Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; National Institutes of Health; Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration *GGD, 1-30-79*

Criminal Justice Activities

- Congress** Federal Juvenile Delinquency-Related Activities: Coordination and Information Dissemination Are Lacking. Office of Management and Budget; Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration; National Advisory Committee for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency. *GGD-79-63, 8-3-79*
- Committees** Need To Better Administer the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act's Maintenance-of-Effort Requirement. Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (Request of Chairman, Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency, Senate Committee on the Judiciary). *GGD-78-85, 10-3-78*
- The Interstate Organized Crime Index. Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, Office of the Attorney General (Request of Chairmen, Subcommittee on Crime, House Committee on the Judiciary and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce). *GGD-79-37, 5-25-79*
- Agency Officials** Financial Management of LEAA-Funded Projects. Department of the Treasury. *GGD, 12-22-78*
- Department of Justice Should Explore the Feasibility of a Uniform Identification System for Marking Personal Property. *GGD-79-54, 4-25-79*

Federal Correctional Activities

- Congress** Correctional Institutions Can Do More To Improve the Employability of Offenders. Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons; Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; Department of Labor. *GGD-79-13, 2-6-79*
- Members** Alleged Management Irregularities at the Ashland Federal Correctional Institution. Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons. *GGD-79-14, 11-8-78*

- Agency Officials** Female Offenders: Who Are They and What Are the Problems Confronting Them? Department of Justice. *GGD-79-73, 8-23-79*
- Inadequate Management of Procurement Activities at Five Federal Prisons. Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons. *GGD-79-93, 8-24-79*

Federal Law Enforcement Activities

- Congress** Victims of Unfair Business Practices Get Limited Help from the Federal Trade Commission. *HRD-78-140, 10-17-78*
- Committees** Impact of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts on Law Enforcement Agencies. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration; United States Civil Service Commission; Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (Request of Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary). *GGD-78-108, 11-15-78*
- Information on Immigration in 17 Countries. Department of Justice (Request of Chairman, House Select Committee on Population). *GGD-79-15, 1-12-79*
- FBI Can Improve Its Management Control Over Operations by Providing Effective Internal Audit. Department of Justice (Request of Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, House Committee on Government Operations). *GGD-78-93, 1-17-79*
- The Coast Guard's Role in Drug Interception--How Much Is Enough? Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration; Department of the Treasury, United States Customs Service; Department of Transportation (Request of Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Navigation, House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries). *CED-79-40, 2-12-79*
- Resources Devoted by the Department of Justice To Combat White-Collar Crime and Public Corruption. (Request of Representative John Conyers, Jr., Chairman, Subcommittee on Crime, House Committee on the Judiciary). *GGD-79-35, 3-19-79*
- Changes Needed in U.S. Valuation System for Imported Merchandise. Department of the Treasury, United States Customs Service. *GGD-79-29, 3-23-79*
- Customs' Office of Investigations Needs To Concentrate Its Resources on Quality Cases. Department of the Treasury, United States Customs Service (Request of Representative Al Ullman, Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means). *GGD-79-33, 4-20-79*
- New Alien Identification System--Little Help in Stopping Illegal Aliens. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service (Request of Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship and International Law, House Committee on the Judiciary). *GGD-79-44, 5-30-79*
- The FBI Operates Two Computerized Criminal History Information Systems. Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; National Crime Information Center. (Request of Representative Richardson Preyer, Chairman, Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, House Committee on Government Operations). *GGD-79-81, 9-7-79*
- Members** Impact of the Exclusionary Rule on Federal Criminal Prosecutions. Department of Justice (Request of Senator Edward M. Kennedy). *GGD-79-45, 4-19-79*
- Antitrust Division's Handling of a Complaint Alleging Antitrust and Decree Violations in the Motion Picture Industry. Department of Justice (Request of Representative David W. Evans). *GGD-79-76, 6-14-79*
- Agency Officials** Observations on Customs' Automated Merchandise Processing System. Department of the Treasury. *GGD-79-8, 10-24-78*

Federal Litigative and Judicial Activities

- Congress** The Federal Bail Process Fosters Inequities. Administrative Office of the United States Courts, Federal Judicial Center. *GGD-78-105, 10-17-78*
Reducing Federal Judicial Sentencing and Prosecuting Disparities: A Systemwide Approach Needed. Administrative Office of the United States Courts; Federal Judicial Center; Department of Justice, Parole Commission. *GGD-78-112, 3-19-79*
Speedy Trial Act--Its Impact on the Judicial System Still Unknown. Department of Justice, Federal Judicial Center, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, Judicial Conference of the United States. *GGD-79-55, 5-2-79*
- Committees** Department of Justice Making Efforts to Improve Litigative Management Systems. Department of Justice (Request of Representative Richardson Preyer, Chairman, Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, House Committee on Government Operations). *GGD-79-80, 9-4-79*
- Agency Officials** Statistical Results of the Bail Process in Eight Federal District Courts. Administrative Conference of the United States, Federal Judicial Center. *GGD-78-106, 11-1-78*

Agriculture

- Congress** Sugar and Other Sweeteners: An Industry Assessment. Department of State, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs; Department of Agriculture. *CED-79-21, 2-26-79*

Agricultural Research and Services

- Congress** Family Farmers Need Cooperatives--But Some Issues Need To Be Resolved. Department of Agriculture, Federal Trade Commission, Department of Justice. *CED-79-106, 7-26-79*
Preserving America's Farmland--A Goal the Federal Government Should Support. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service and Farmers Home Administration; Council on Environmental Quality; Environmental Protection Agency; Departments of Housing and Urban Development and Transportation; Army Corps of Engineers. *CED-79-109, 9-20-79*
- Committees** Future of the National Nutrition Intelligence System. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; Department of Agriculture (Request of Subcommittee on Domestic and International Scientific Planning, Analysis, and Cooperation, House Committee on Science and Technology). *CED-79-5, 11-7-78*
Proposed Changes in Meat and Poultry Net Weight Labeling Regulations Based on Insufficient Data. Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards; Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Quality Service (Request of Representative W. R. Poage, Chairman, Subcommittee on Livestock and Grains, House Committee on Agriculture). *CED-79-28, 12-20-78*
Long-Term Cost Implications of Farmers Home Administration Subsidized and Guaranteed Loan Program. Departments of Agriculture and Housing and Urban Development; Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce; Small Business Administration; Farm Credit Administration; Federal Home Loan Bank Board (Request of Senator Thomas F. Eagleton, Chairman, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies, Senate Committee on Appropriations). *PAD-79-15, 4-24-79*

- Colocating Agriculture Field Offices--More Can Be Done. Department of Agriculture, General Services Administration (Request of Senator Henry L. Bellmon). *CED-79-74, 4-25-79*
- Export Reporting for Agricultural Products. Department of Agriculture (Request of Representative Neal Smith, Chairman, House Committee on Small Business). *ID-79-38, 6-5-79*
- Agency Officials** Compliance with Limitations on Payments to Farmers. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. *CED-79-31, 1-4-79*

Farm Income Stabilization

- Congress** Commodity Credit Corporation's (CCC) Commodity Loan and Grain Reserve Programs. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. *CED, 1-29-79*
- Questionable Payments and Loan Defaults in Sugar Programs. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. *CED-79-24, 3-16-79*
- Audit of the Financial Statements of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Fiscal Year 1978. Department of Agriculture. *CED-79-72, 5-31-79*
- ASCS Needs To Insure That County Offices Follow Prescribed Sampling Procedures in Selecting Farms for Spot Checking Acreage Certifications. *CED, 6-4-79*
- Agriculture's Statistics Agency: --Computation of Average Market Price of Rice Questioned--Independent Evaluation and Unimpeded GAO Access to Records Needed. Department of Agriculture, Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service. *CED-79-85, 6-25-79*
- Agency Officials** Regarding Problems in Computing Deficiency Payments to Farmers. Department of Agriculture, Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service. *CED, 12-15-78*

Automatic Data Processing

- Congress** Data Base Management Systems--Without Careful Planning There Can Be Problems. General Services Administration; Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards. *FGMSD-79-35, 6-29-79*
- Committees** National Bureau of Standards Needs Better Management of Its Computer Resources To Improve Program Effectiveness. (Request of Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation). *CED-79-39, 4-17-79*
- Veterans Administration's Plans To Noncompetitively Upgrade Its Austin, Texas, Data Processing Center. (Request of Representative Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations). *FGMSD-79-27, 5-23-79*
- Problems Associated With Developing Large, Complex Data Processing Systems. Office of Management and Budget, Department of Commerce, General Services Administration, Departments of Energy and Army, Veterans Administration (Request of Representative Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations). *FGMSD-79-49, 8-16-79*
- Review of the House of Representative Electronic Voting System. (Request of Representative Frank Thompson, Jr., Chairman, House Committee on House Administration). *FGMSD-79-60, 8-31-79*
- Agency Officials** Additional Large-Scale Computer System Not Needed by the Bureau of the Census. *FGMSD-79-5, 12-13-78*
- Review of the Department of State's Computer Operations. *ID, 2-27-79*

GSA's Administration of the Automatic Data Processing Equipment (ADPE) Interim Upgrade Acquisition Policy. *FGMSD-79-10, 12-28-78*

Review of the National Recipient System. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Social Security Administration. *HRD-79-88, 5-29-79*

Acquisition of ADP Resources by the Federal Judicial Center and by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. *FGMSD-79-30, 6-21-79*

Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing. *PAD-79-70A, 9-79*

Improvements Needed in the Tennessee Valley Authority's Management and Use of Its Automatic Data Processing Resources. *EMD-79-102, 9-6-79*

Social Security Administration Needs To Continue Comprehensive Long-Range Planning. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. *HRD-79-118, 9-20-79*

Commerce and Housing Credit

Committees Securities and Exchange Commission Should Strengthen Its Inspection Oversight of the National Association of Securities Dealers. *FGMSD-78-65, 10-5-78*

Mortgage Credit and Thrift Insurance

Congress What Was the Effect of the Emergency Housing Program on Single-Family Housing Construction? Department of Housing and Urban Development. *CED-78-155, 11-21-78*

Committees Early Sales of Section 8 Housing. Department of Agriculture, Farmers Home Administration; Department of Housing and Urban Development. *PAD-79-43, 1-16-79*

Agency Officials Examination of Financial Statements of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board and Related Agencies for the Years Ended December 31, 1978 and 1977. Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corp. *GGD-79-72, 6-2-79*

Evaluation of Shortcomings in the Public Housing Security Demonstration Program (Philadelphia). Department of Housing and Urban Development. *CED, 8-3-79*

Other Advancement and Regulation of Commerce

Congress Patent and Trademark Fees Need to Be Raised. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office. *CED-78-163, 11-14-78*

Developing a Domestic Common Carrier Telecommunications Policy: What Are the Issues? Federal Communications Commission. *CED-79-18, 1-24-79*

After Six Years, Legal Obstacles Continue To Restrict Government Use of the Standard Statistical Establishment List. Departments of the Treasury, Commerce, and Agriculture. *GGD-79-17, 5-25-79*

Selected FCC Regulatory Policies: Their Purpose and Consequences for Commercial Radio and TV. *CED-79-62, 6-4-79*

Improvements Needed in the Securities and Exchange Commission's Efforts To Establish a National Securities Market. *FGMSD-79-59, 9-19-79*

- Committees** Bureau of the Census' Procedures for the 1980 Decennial Census. *GGD-78-163, 11-14-78*
- Considerations for Adjustment Assistance Under the 1974 Trade Act: A Summary of Techniques Used in Other Countries: Volume I. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations; Departments of Labor and State. *ID-78-43, 1-18-79*
- Considerations for Adjustment Assistance Under the 1974 Trade Act: A Summary of Techniques Used in Other Countries: Volume II. Departments of Commerce, Labor, and State. *ID-78-43, 1-18-79*
- The Maritime Administration and the National Maritime Council--Was their Relationship Appropriate? (Request of Representative Benjamin S. Rosenthal, Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Consumer and Monetary Affairs, House Committee on Government Operations). *CED-79-91, 5-18-79*
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- Audit of the United States Capitol Historical Society for the Year Ended January 31, 1978. *GGD-79-2, 12-5-78*
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Congress Observations on Office of Management and Budget Circular A-109--Major System Acquisitions by the Department of Defense. Departments of the Army, the Air Force, and the Navy; Office of Management and Budget. *PSAD-79-9*, 2-20-79

Ineffective Management of GSA's Multiple Award Schedule Program--A Costly, Serious, and Longstanding Problem. (Request of Representative John L. Burton, Chairman, Subcommittee on Government Activities and Transportation, House Committee on Government Operations). *PSAD-79-71*, 5-2-79

Implementation of Major System Acquisition Process--A-109--Is Inconsistent Among Civil Agencies. Office of Management and Budget; Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, United States Coast Guard, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; Department of Energy; National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Office of Federal Procurement Policy; General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service; Commission on Government Procurement. *PSAD-79-89*, 8-14-79

Civil Agencies Can Do a Better Job of Negotiating Noncompetitive Contracts Priced Over \$100,000. Office of Management and Budget; Departments of Agriculture, Energy, Transportation, and the Interior; Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; Veterans Administration; General Services Administration; Small Business Administration. *PSAD-79-93*, 8-21-79

- Committees** NRC's Use of Consultants, Contractors, and the National Laboratories. Department of Energy (Request of Senators Gary W. Hart, Chairman, and Alan K. Simpson, Ranking Minority Member, Subcommittee on Nuclear Regulation, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works). *EMD-79-37, 3-7-79*
- Ineffective Management of GSA's Multiple Award Schedule Program--A Costly, Serious, and Longstanding Problem. (Request of Representative John L. Burton, Chairman, Subcommittee on Government Activities and Transportation, House Committee on Government Operations). *PSAD-79-71, 5-2-79*
- Unnecessary Procurement of an Aviation Weather and Notice to Airmen System by the FAA. (Request of Representative John L. Burton, Chairman, Subcommittee on Government Activities and Transportation, House Committee on Government Operations). *PSAD-79-94, 8-8-79*
- Members** Allegations of Contractor Malperformance and Improper Contracting Out of Work by General Services Administration Employees in the Baltimore, Maryland Area. Office of Management and Budget (Request of Senators Charles McC. Mathias, Jr. and Paul S. Sarbanes, Representatives Clarence D. Long, Barbara A. Mikulski, and Parren J. Mitchell). *PSAD-79-30, 2-14-79*
- Review of Allegations of Unfair Treatment of New Breed Moving Corporation. General Services Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, Interstate Commerce Commission (Request of Representative Thomas J. Downey). *CED-79-48, 2-21-79*
- Audit of the Virgin Islands Procurement of Desalination Plants. Virgin Islands; Department of the Interior (Request of Senators Jacob K. Javits, and Daniel P. Moynihan). *CED-79-96, 5-30-79*
- DOE's Conflict of Interest Contracting Provisions. Department of Energy (Request of Senator John A. Durkin). *EMD-79-85, 7-2-79*
- GAO Studies of Yearend Spending. Environmental Protection Agency; Departments of Defense, Transportation, and the Army; General Services Administration; Department of Commerce, Maritime Administration; Community Services Administration (Request of Representative Ike Skelton). *PAD-79-75, 7-19-79*
- Agency Officials** Need for More Detailed Cost and Income Reporting for GSA's Public Buildings Operations. *LCD-78-342, 11-20-78*
- Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service's Procurement of Calculators. Department of Agriculture. *FPCD 1-24-79*
- Tennessee Valley Authority Can Improve Estimates and Should Reassess Reserve Requirements for Nuclear Power Plants. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. *PSAD-79-49, 3-22-79*
- Opportunities for Improving Hospital Purchasing, Inventory Management and Supply Distribution, Part 1. *PSAD-79-58A, 4-79*
- Opportunities for Improving Hospital Purchasing, Inventory Management and Supply Distribution, Part 2. *PSAD-79-58B, 4-79*
- Survey of the Bonneville Power Administration's Procurement Process. Bonneville Power Administration. *FOD, 7-19-79*
- Review of Selected Contracts Awarded by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. *PSAD-79-103, 9-12-79*
- GSA Needs To Strengthen Its Inspection and Testing To Make Sure the Government Gets the Quality It Pays For. *PSAD-79-102, 9-21-79*

Transportation

- Congress** Evaluation of Programs in the Department of Transportation--An Assessment. Federal Aviation Administration, Urban Mass Transportation Administration, Federal Highway Administra-

tion, Federal Railroad Administration, United States Coast Guard, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. *PAD-79-13, 4-3-79*

Agency Officials Transportation Issues. Department of Transportation, Federal Maritime Commission, Interstate Commerce Commission, Civil Aeronautics Board. *CED-78-159, 10-10-78*

Air Transportation

Congress Status of the Federal Aviation Administration's Microwave Landing System. Departments of Defense and Transportation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration. *PSAD-78-149, 10-19-78*

The Fly America Act Should Allow More Agency Discretion in Authorizing Use of Foreign-Flag Air Carriers To Conduct Business Overseas. Departments of State and Defense, ACTION, General Services Administration. *LCD-78-235, 10-31-78*

Developing a National Airport System: Additional Congressional Guidance Needed. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration. *CED-79-17, 4-17-79*

Aircraft Delays at Major U.S. Airports Can Be Reduced. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration; Civil Aeronautics Board. *CED-79-102, 9-4-79*

Committees Commercial Safety Regulations Are Avoided by Some Large Aircraft Operators. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration (Request of Representative John J. McFall, Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation, House Committee on Appropriations) *CED-79-10, 11-21-78*

Selected Budget Issues in the Federal Aviation Administration. Department of Transportation (Request of Representative John J. McFall, Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation, House Committee on Appropriations). *CED-79-61, 3-15-79*

Members Questions Relating to the Development of the Microwave Landing System. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Request by Representative Tom Harkin). *PSAD-79-3, 10-27-78*

Use of Commercial Air Carriers To Distribute Military Supplies. Departments of Defense and the Navy, Civil Aeronautics Board (Request of Representative G. William Whitehurst). *LCD-78-243, 3-2-79*

Concern Over Social Security Administration Not Taking Advantage of Discount Air Fares. General Services Administration (Request of Senator Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.). *LCD-79-228, 8-29-79*

Agency Officials Planned Modernization of Equipment by the Federal Aviation Administration Needs Reevaluation. (Request of Subcommittee on Transportation, House Committee on Appropriations, and Subcommittee on Transportation, Aviation and Weather, House Committee on Science and Technology). *LCD-78-127, 10-23-78*

Ground Transportation

Congress AMTRAK'S Economic Impact on the Intercity Bus Industry. Department of Transportation, Interstate Commerce Commission. *PAD-79-32, 1-12-79*

Solving Corrosion Problems of Bridge Surfaces Could Save Billions. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. *PSAD-79-10, 1-19-79*

The Drinking-Driver Problem--What Can Be Done About It? Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. *CED-79-33, 2-21-79*

Excessive Truck Weight: An Expensive Burden We Can No Longer Support. Office of Management and Budget; Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. *CED-79-94, CED-79-94A, 7-16-79*

Protecting Consumer Rights in the Tour Industry: Who Is Responsible? Federal Trade Commission, Civil Aeronautics Board, Federal Maritime Commission, Interstate Commerce Commission *CED-79-108, 7-23-79*

Passive Restraints for Automobile Occupants--A Closer Look. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration; Environmental Protection Agency. *CED-79-93, 7-27-79*

Committees Conrail Faces Continuing Problems. Department of Transportation (Request of Representative John L. Burton, Chairman, Subcommittee on Government Activities and Transportation, House Committee on Government Operations). *CED-78-174, 10-6-78*

Should AMTRAK's Highly Unprofitable Routes Be Discontinued? Department of Transportation, National Railroad Passenger Corporation. *CED-79-3, 11-27-78*

Information on Alleged Conrail Mismanagement of Contracting and Track Rehabilitation in Its Toledo and Ft. Wayne Divisions. (Request of Representative Richard Bolling, Chairman, Joint Economic Committee and Senator George McGovern). *CED-79-41, 2-23-79*

Conrail's Track Abandonment Program. Interstate Commerce Commission, Department of Transportation (Request of Representative John L. Burton, Chairman, Subcommittee on Government Activities and Transportation, House Committee on Government Operations). *CED-79-45, 4-2-79*

Issues Being Faced by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Department of Transportation (Request of Representative Robert B. Duncan, Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation, House Committee on Appropriations). *CED-79-52, 4-10-79*

Information on U.S. Railway Association Contracts With Law Firms. Department of Transportation (Request of Representative James J. Florio, Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation and Commerce, House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce). *CED-79-78, 4-19-79*

"Weight Bumping"--Falsifying Household Moving Weights to Increase Charges--What ICC Needs To Do. Department of Defense (Request of Senator Birch Bayh, Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation and Related Agencies, Senate Committee on Appropriations). *CED-79-75, 5-1-79*

ICC Cannot Allow Independent Truckers To Lease to Private Carriers Without a Change in Legislation. (Request of Representative Martin A. Russo, Chairman, Subcommittee on Special Small Business Problems, House Committee on Small Business). *CED-79-99, 6-15-79*

Problems Confronting U.S. Urban Railcar Manufacturers in the International Market. Department of Transportation, Urban Mass Transportation Administration; Department of Commerce (Request of Senator Birch Bayh, Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation and Related Agencies, Senate Committee on Appropriations). *CED-79-66, 7-9-79*

Members Need for Improved Action on Railroad Safety Recommendations. Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration; National Transportation Safety Board (Request of Representative Ralph H. Metcalfe). *CED-78-171, 12-29-78*

Problems in the Northeast Corridor Railway Improvement Project. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Railroad Administration (Request of Senators Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. and Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.). *CED-79-38, 3-29-79*

Communication and Management Problems Hinder the Planning Process for Major Mass Transit Projects. Department of Transportation, Urban Mass Transportation Administration (Request of Senator Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.). *CED-79-82, 6-5-79*

- Assistance in Ascertaining Compliance With Law and Facts Concerning Construction of Bridge With Foreign Steel. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (Request of Representative Adam Benjamin, Jr.). *CED-79-118, 8-3-79*
- Agency Officials** WMATA Process for Developing the Estimated Cost of METRO Can Be Improved. Department of Transportation. *PSAD-78-141, 12-8-78*
- State Department Can Improve Traffic Management Practices. General Services Administration. *LCD-78-248, 1-12-79*
- Suggestions for Improving WMATA's Internal Audit Activities. *CED, 1-16-79*
- Better Management of Metro Subway Equipment Warranties Needed. *PSAD-79-41, 2-27-79*
- Operation of Interagency Motor Pools by GSA. *LCD-78-246, 3-23-79*
- Concerns With NHTSA's Data Collection Systems--NASS and FARS. *CED, 4-17-79*
- Replacing Government Sedans Yearly Would Result in Fuel and Cost Savings. General Services Administration, Office of Management and Budget. *LCD-78-245, 5-8-79*
- Procurement of Nonessential or Duplicative Equipment for the Advanced Design Bus. Department of Transportation, Urban Mass Transportation Administration. *PSAD-79-87, 6-7-79*
- Issues Concerning Section 403 Highway Safety Administration Expenses. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. *CED, 9-20-79*

Water Transportation

- Congress** 140-Foot Harbor Tugboat: Does the Coast Guard Need It on the East Coast? *PSAD-79-17, 1-15-79*
- Coast Guard Action Needed To Promote Safer Marine Transportation. Department of Transportation. *CED-79-37, 5-21-79*
- How Effective Is the Coast Guard in Carrying Out Its Commercial Vessel Safety Responsibilities? Department of Transportation; Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Public Health Service. *CED-79-54, 5-25-79*
- Agency Officials** Analysis of Future Coast Guard's Resource Needs for Responding to Oil Spills. (Request of Senator Birch Bayh, Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation and Related Agencies, Senate Committee on Appropriations). *CED-79-32, 1-12-79*

Veterans Benefits and Services

Hospital and Medical Care for Veterans

- Committees** Assessment of Information Needs for Veterans Administration, Department of Medicine and Surgery. *PAD-79-8, 2-27-79*
- The VA Health Manpower Assistance Program: Goals, Progress, and Shortcomings. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (Request of Senators Alan D. Cranston, Chairman, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and William Proxmire, Chairman, Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies, Senate Committee on Appropriations). *HRD-79-8, 3-16-79*
- Improvements Needed in the VA Medical Residency Training Program. (Request of Senator William Proxmire, Chairman, Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies, Senate Committee on Appropriations). *HRD-79-86, 6-22-79*

- Members** Veterans Administration's Outpatient Pharmacy Program at Selected Medical Centers. (Request of Senator Jesse Helms). *HRD-79-29, 12-21-78*
VA's Pharmacy Services to Nonhospitalized Veterans. (Request of Senator J. Bennett Johnston). *HRD-79-109, 8-9-79*

Agency Officials Survey of the Veterans Administration's Radiology Program. *HRD, 7-25-79*

Income Security for Veterans

- Members** Veterans Administration Can Reduce the Time Required to Process Veterans' and Survivors' Initial Claims for Benefits. (Request of Senator Jacob K. Javits, and Representative John E. Moss). *HRD-79-25, 12-27-78*

Agency Officials Review of the Administration of Programs That Are Interrelated Between Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration. *FPCD-78-75, 12-27-78*
Veterans Administration Insurance Programs. Department of Defense. *PAD-79-3, 1-12-79*
VA Programs Funded by the Compensation and Pensions Appropriation Account. *PAD-79-4, 1-12-79*

Other Veterans Benefits and Services

- Congress** Examination of Financial Statements of the Veterans Canteen Service for Fiscal Year 1978. Veterans Administration. *HRD-79-70, 4-25-79*

Agency Officials Audit of San Francisco Field Office's Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 1978. Veterans Administration. *FOD, 2-27-79*
Improvements in Veterans Canteen Services Operations. Veterans Administration. *HRD, 3-15-79*

Veterans Education, Training, and Rehabilitation

- Committees** Improvements Needed in Implementation of the Veterans' Educational Assistance Program. Department of Defense, Veterans Administration, United States Coast Guard (Request of Senator Alan Cranston, Chairman, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs). *HRD-78-148, 11-30-78*
Review of the Veterans Administration's Services to Incarcerated Veterans. (Request of Senator Alan D. Cranston, Chairman, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs). *HRD-79-97, 6-29-79*
GI Bill Benefits for Flight and Correspondence Training Should Be Discontinued. Veterans Administration (Request of Senator Alan D. Cranston, Chairman, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs). *HRD-79-115, 8-24-79*

Summary of Personnel Assigned to Congressional Committees Fiscal Year 1979

Appendix 3

Committee	Length of assignments		Tentative release date	Salary	Travel expenses ¹	Other expenses ²	Total Cost
	From	To					
Senate							
Appropriations Committee:							
Investigative Staff:							
Anklewich, Thomas (CED)	10-30-78	10-30-79	—	¹ \$27,614	\$602	\$2,347	\$30,563
Chasnov, Frederick (FOD-WRO)	04-09-79	06-20-79	—	¹ 4,863	—	413	5,276
Chervenak, Richard (EMD)	10-16-78	10-16-79	—	¹ 40,360	—	3,431	43,791
Epps, William, Jr. (GGD)	10-23-78	10-23-79	—	¹ 23,932	599	2,034	26,565
Hightower, William (HRD)	10-02-78	10-02-79	—	¹ 35,657	—	3,031	38,688
James, Brenda (HRD)	12-27-78	—	12-27-79	¹ 18,100	—	1,539	19,639
Metz, Thomas C. (ID)	03-26-79	—	03-26-80	¹ 18,533	1,103	1,575	21,211
Vogel, Joan K. (HRD)	10-16-78	10-16-79	—	¹ 19,771	—	1,681	21,452
Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee:							
D'Amico, Nicholas (CED)	06-18-79	08-10-79	—	¹ 4,787	—	407	5,194
Governmental Affairs Committee:							
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations:							
Mayo, William F. (FOD-ATL)	08-28-78	10-02-78	—	¹ 93	—	8	101
Rhodes, Paul W. (FOD-ATL)	08-28-78	10-02-78	—	¹ 60	—	5	65
Taylor, Robert C. (GGD)	08-28-78	10-03-78	—	¹ 220	—	19	239
Subcommittee on Energy, Nuclear Proliferation and Federal Services:							
Lavigne, Donna (EMD)	10-10-77	10-21-78	—	¹ 598	—	51	649
Subcommittee on Federal Spending Practices and Open Government:							
Bollinger, Michael (FOD-WRO)	01-15-79	12-03-79	—	¹ 13,606	—	1,157	14,763
Doyal, Francis M. (FOD-DAL)	10-19-78	07-31-79	—	¹ 29,702	—	2,525	32,227
Granetto, Paul (PSAD)	12-29-78	12-03-79	—	¹ 22,764	—	1,935	24,699
Oressie, Nancy E. (FOD-WRO)	01-15-79	02-10-79	—	¹ 1,002	—	85	1,087
Subcommittee on Civil Service and General Services:							
Stapleton, Alan M. (PSAD)	08-27-79	—	11-18-79	¹ 2,728	—	232	2,960

¹ This cost was/will be reimbursed by the Committee or Subcommittee concerned.

² These amounts which are 8.5% of the salary costs, 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.

Appendix 3

Committee	Length of assignments		Tentative release date	Salary	Travel expenses ¹	Other expenses ²	Total Cost
	From	To					
Senate—Continued							
Judiciary Committee:							
Subcommittee on Limitations of Contracted & Delegated Authority:							
Harris, Christopher (OGC)	03-20-79	09-14-79	—	¹ 12,343	—	1,049	13,392
Select Committee on Ethics:							
George, Kenneth J. (FGMSD)	08-07-78	02-28-79	—	¹ 13,894	—	1,181	15,075
Hofman, Norman (HRD)	05-07-79	06-22-79	—	¹ 1,753	—	149	1,902
Rodriguez, Jose Luis (FOD-WRO)	04-27-79	06-22-79	—	¹ 3,762	—	320	4,082
Sullivan, Lawrence R. (PAD)	04-02-79	07-23-79	—	¹ 12,108	—	1,029	13,137
Sullivan, Lawrence R. (PAD)	07-03-78	02-28-79	—	¹ 17,071	—	1,451	18,522
Willis, Joann (FGMSD)	05-07-79	07-13-79	—	¹ 3,060	—	260	3,320
* House							
Appropriations Committee:							
Surveys & Investigations Staff:							
Anderson, John L. (PSAD)	11-07-77	11-06-78	—	3,413	394	290	4,097
Antelman, Victor (FOD-PHIL)	02-21-78	02-02-79	—	14,179	2,048	1,205	17,432
Asby, Felix E. (PSAD)	09-04-79	—	09-04-80	3,440	—	292	3,732
Ballinger, Jerry L. (FPCD)	09-11-78	06-15-79	—	26,129	735	2,221	29,085
Bigden, Frederick A., Jr. (FOD-WRO)	09-11-78	06-15-79	—	21,935	2,716	1,864	26,515
Boechler, Christina M. (PSAD)	09-18-79	10-03-79	—	1,014	—	86	1,100
Booth, Gregory G. (FOD-CIN)	09-12-79	—	09-12-80	1,465	772	125	2,362
Bushman, Barbara (FOD-WRO)	09-24-79	—	09-23-80	1,465	—	125	1,590
Carpenter, Robert G. (LCD)	08-28-78	08-27-79	—	27,267	479	2,318	30,064
Castro, Sabastino (ID)	01-03-78	12-29-78	—	10,272	1,583	135	11,990
Chervenak, Richard (EMD)	10-11-77	10-06-78	—	765	—	65	830
Combs, David F. (FPCD)	07-31-78	07-30-79	—	24,470	2,582	2,080	29,132
Cramsey, John J. (LCD)	09-04-79	—	09-04-80	1,676	—	142	1,818
Davis, Robert A. (PSAD)	09-18-78	09-18-79	—	40,822	—	3,470	44,292
Dinsmore, Paul F. (LCD)	09-11-78	09-11-79	—	33,437	3,866	2,842	40,145
Dorney, Thomas M. (PSAD)	09-05-78	04-20-79	—	21,074	1,410	1,791	24,275
Eads, Edwin C. (ID)	04-03-78	03-30-79	—	22,855	—	1,943	24,798
Goodin, Paul R. (PSAD)	08-14-78	06-15-79	—	26,898	2,464	2,286	31,648
Graham, William C. (FPCD)	09-04-79	—	09-04-80	2,608	—	222	2,830
Hachten, Steven (ID)	08-08-79	—	08-08-80	4,101	—	349	4,450
Harbold, David H. (PSAD)	08-28-78	03-08-79	—	13,328	2,371	1,133	16,832
Hauser, Daniel J. (FOD-CIN)	09-10-79	—	09-10-80	1,510	1,076	128	2,714
Keppler, William E. (ID)	09-10-79	—	09-10-80	1,584	—	135	1,719
Magliocchetti, Paul (OMPS)	10-02-78	09-28-79	—	34,515	2,096	2,934	39,545
Mason, Roy T. (EMD)	09-10-79	—	09-10-80	2,059	—	175	2,234
Megyeri, Leslie L. (PSAD)	09-04-79	—	09-04-80	2,790	—	237	3,027
Metz, Thomas C. (ID)	03-25-78	03-23-79	—	17,124	964	1,456	19,544
North, Billie (HRD)	11-07-77	11-06-78	—	3,413	—	290	3,703

Committee	Length of assignments		Tentative release date	Salary	Travel expenses ¹	Other expenses ²	Total Cost
	From	To					
House—Continued							
Nosick, Douglas D. (HRD)	08-13-79	—	08-13-80	4,066	—	346	4,412
Padgett, Harold D. (PSAD)	08-14-78	04-20-79	—	21,074	774	1,791	23,639
Rhodes, James (EMD)	07-17-78	07-13-79	—	29,810	2,014	2,534	34,358
Rinker, Lewis D. (PSAD)	06-05-78	06-05-79	—	34,572	2,473	2,939	39,984
Salesses, Gerald P. (PAD)	11-21-77	11-20-78	—	4,786	—	407	5,193
Stephenson, John B. (FOD-CIN)	09-12-79	—	09-12-80	1,690	1,704	144	3,538
Touey, William (FOD-PHIL)	09-04-79	—	09-04-80	2,408	885	205	3,498
Watkins, Joseph J. (EMD)	09-18-78	06-15-79	—	13,686	1,332	1,163	16,181
Zadjura, Edward M. (HRD)	05-23-78	04-20-79	—	13,716	2,593	1,166	17,475
Zeunges, Theodore (HRD)	09-17-79	—	09-17-80	1,232	—	105	1,337
Armed Services Committee:							
Subcommittee on Investigations:							
Barnes, Cheryl (FPCD)	08-02-79	—	11-30-79	4,879	—	415	5,294
Bosher, William (FPCD)	01-01-79	01-17-79	—	1,839	2,939	156	4,934
Bosher, William (FPCD)	01-24-79	01-25-79	—	141	—	12	153
Government Operations Committee:							
Matlock, Kurt (LCD)	02-06-78	10-20-78	—	1,092	—	93	1,185
Subcommittee on Government Activities & Transportation:							
Both, Ernest W. (LCD)	07-03-78	07-02-79	—	23,290	—	1,980	25,270
Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights:							
Hillman, Rick (FOD-WRO)	05-23-79	07-27-79	—	3,556	—	302	3,858
Jasper, Geri (FOD-WRO)	02-26-79	12-31-79	—	11,606	—	987	12,593
Manganiello, Frank (FOD-WRO)	03-05-79	12-15-79	—	7,800	—	663	8,463
Watson, Ann Cynthia (FOD-WRO)	05-21-79	09-21-79	—	4,846	—	412	5,258
Subcommittee on Legislation and National Security:							
Oleyar, Ronald C. (FGMSD)	07-02-79	09-21-79	—	8,382	—	712	9,094
Subcommittee on Commerce, Consumer, and Monetary Affairs:							
Andros, Robert (HRD)	05-07-79	—	05-07-80	14,851	—	1,262	16,113
Brant, Kirby (EMD)	06-11-79	—	06-11-80	11,315	—	962	12,277
Gilbert, Michael (GGD)	05-07-79	—	05-07-80	7,964	—	677	8,641
Hernandez, Albert D. (ID)	07-02-79	—	11-02-79	6,162	—	524	6,686
Interstate & Foreign Commerce Committee:							
Zipp, Alan S. (EMD)	06-25-79	—	06-25-80	7,638	—	649	8,287

Appendix 3

Committee	Length of assignments		Tentative release date	Salary	Travel expenses ¹	Other expenses ²	Total Cost
	From	To					
House—Continued							
Ways and Means Committee:							
Subcommittee on Oversight:							
Demidovich, Michael A. (FOD-CIN)	05-15-78	12-15-78	—	6,306	—	536	6,842
Deramo, Samuel, J. (HRD)	08-14-78	08-11-79	—	22,644	—	1,925	24,569
Galloway, Byron (HRD)	08-13-79	—	08-13-80	4,066	547	346	4,959
Heintz, Steve (EMD)	10-31-77	11-01-78	—	1,685	—	143	1,828
Imbrogno, Frank (HRD)	04-24-78	04-24-79	—	11,238	—	955	12,193
Kamesky, John (PAD)	08-27-79	—	08-27-80	1,852	—	157	2,009
Miller, Neil (HRD)	07-24-78	07-24-79	—	22,303	—	1,896	24,199
Webb, Deborah L. (EMD)	06-26-78	06-26-79	—	17,999	—	1,530	19,529
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct:							
Chlan, Francis (FGMSD)	03-12-79	—	Indefinite	2,396	—	204	2,600
Porter, Ernest R. (FGMSD)	08-30-78	11-03-78	—	3,705	—	315	4,020
Judiciary Committee:							
Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and International Law:							
Black, James R. (GGD)	08-14-78	01-12-79	—	8,418	—	716	9,134
Grand Total				\$1,039,002	\$43,121	\$87,582	\$1,169,705

Total assigned during fiscal year 1979

Division:	
Community and Economic Development	2
Energy and Minerals	9
Federal Personnel and Compensation	5
Financial and General Management Studies	5
General Government	4
Human Resources	13
International	6
Logistics and Communications	5
Procurement and Systems Acquisition	12
Program Analysis	3
Office:	
Comptroller General	1
Organization and Management Planning	1
Regional Office:	
Atlanta	2
Cincinnati	4

Philadelphia	2
Washington	10
Dallas	1
	<u>85</u>

On assignment as of September 30, 1979

Division:	
Community and Economic Development	1
Energy and Minerals	5
Federal Personnel and Compensation	2
Financial and General Management Studies	1
General Government	2
Human Resources	7
International	4
Logistics and Communications	1
Procurement and Systems Acquisition	4
Program Analysis	1
Regional Office:	
Cincinnati	3
Philadelphia	1
Washington	2
	<u>34</u>

Descriptions 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 and the name of the director for each unit can be found in the organization chart preceding Chapter One.

Audit Divisions

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 arrangement 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; 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 of materials.

This 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 Interior, and energy and materials activities located in numerous other Federal entities.

Federal Personnel and Compensation Division

The Federal Personnel and Compensation Division is the lead division for GAO work in the issue area of Federal personnel management and compensation.

This division provides GAO audit coverage for the Office of Personnel Management, Merit Systems Protection Board, Federal Labor Relations Authority, and Selective Service System. The division also examines Government-wide personnel activities relating to and affecting the Federal work force.

Field Operations Division

The Field Operations Division, through its regional offices in 15 cities, provides direct audit support throughout the continental United States, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands for GAO's other operating divisions. Thus, this division plays a major role in most of the audits and work of GAO. About half of GAO's professional staff is assigned to its regional offices.

Financial and General Management Studies Division

The Financial and General Management Studies Division is responsible for coordinating GAO's work in the issue areas of automatic data processing, internal auditing systems for Federal and federally assisted programs, accounting and financial reporting, and national productivity.

This division carries out its responsibilities through participation in the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program, assistance to other GAO divisions in technical and advisory services, and its Government-wide responsibilities for automatic data processing, accounting systems, internal auditing, productivity, and regulatory accounting and reporting. It provides GAO audit coverage at the Securities and Exchange Commission. It also is responsible for the operation of the Fraud Task Force.

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, data collected from non-Federal sources (statistical and paperwork implications), and Federal oversight of financial institutions.

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 and legislative branches 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 for these issue areas, this division provides GAO audit coverage for the Department of Labor; the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; 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.

International Division

The International Division serves as lead division for the international affairs issue area.

This division provides GAO audit coverage for the Department of State, the Agency for International Development, the International Development Cooperation Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency,

the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the International Communication Agency, the Panama Canal Commission, as well as international activities of numerous other Federal entities. International Division personnel staff GAO's overseas offices.

Logistics and Communications Division

The Logistics and Communications Division serves as the lead division within GAO for work in the areas of facilities and material management, military preparedness, Federal information (creation, protection, access, disclosure, and management), and communications.

Most of this division's work covers the Department of Defense. It also provides GAO audit coverage for portions of the General Services Administration and the Government Printing Office, in addition to its Government-wide responsibilities relating to logistics, information, and communication.

Procurement and Systems Acquisition Division

The Procurement and Systems Acquisition Division is responsible for coordinating GAO's work in the issue areas of general procurement and the procurement of major systems.

This division monitors the Government's entire procurement function and its research and development policies and programs. Most of this division's work is concentrated in the Department of Defense, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the defense-related activities of the Department of Energy, and the Federal Supply Service of the General Services Administration.

Program Analysis Division

The Program Analysis Division serves as the lead division within GAO for work in the issue areas of evaluation guidelines and methodology, program and budget information for congressional use, economic

analysis of alternative program approaches, and science policy.

This division maintains audit responsibility for several agencies, including the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the National Science Foundation, and the Bureau of Public Debt. It is GAO's focal point for work in the areas of economics and program evaluation techniques, and coordinates GAO activities with the Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Technology Assessment.

Other Offices and Divisions

Office of the Comptroller General

There are four offices which operate in the immediate office of the Comptroller General, performing direct staff services for him. These are the Office of Congressional Relations, which coordinates GAO's activities with congressional committees and Members; the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, which oversees GAO's efforts to carry out all of its activities in a nondiscriminatory manner; the Office of Internal Review, which audits and reviews GAO's own operations; and the Office of Information, which assists the public and the media with their queries on GAO reports and activities.

Office of the General Counsel

The Office of the General Counsel assists the Comptroller General by performing legal work presented by matters coming before the General Accounting Office. This may involve the interpretation of laws governing public expenditures or the preparation for the Comptroller General of final and binding decisions to Government officers who are accountable for the public funds which they administer. It may consist of reviews for legal sufficiency of the numerous reports of the Comptroller General which inform 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 dis-

putes between agencies and bidders for Government contracts, including grantee award actions. Committee chairman 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 assuring compliance with the provisions of the Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

Claims Division

The Claims Division settles and adjudicates claims and demands by or against the United States. It reviews, evaluates, and reports on the claim settlement and debt collection activities of Government agencies.

Administration

GAO's own internal management and administration is supervised by the Assistant to the Comptroller General for Administration. He provides direction over the activities of the Personnel and General Services and Controller organizations. Through the latter organization, activities such as publishing services, library, and information and financial management are carried out.

Policy and Program Planning

The Office of Policy and the Office of Program Planning report directly to the Assistant to the 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.

Legislation Enacted During Fiscal Year 1979 Relating to the Work of the General Accounting Office

Appendix 5

Audits

Territorial Governments

Public Law 95-465, October 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1279, Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 1979, contains a proviso for audit by the General Accounting Office of all financial transactions of the Territorial and local governments provided for (offices of the Government Comptroller for 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) including transactions of all agencies or instrumentalities established or used by such governments.

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.

Vessel Procurement Contractor Relief

Public Law 95-485, October 20, 1978, 92 Stat. 1611, Department of Defense Appropriation Authorization Act, 1979, includes a provision that funds authorized by the act to provide relief to contractors in connection with certain contracts for the procurement for the United States of landing helicopter assault vessels (LHA), DD-963 vessels, and SSN688 nuclear attack submarines, and paid by the United States to such contractors, be subject to audit and review by the Comptroller General as he determines necessary to ensure that such funds are used only in connection with the contracts and to ensure that the prime contractors concerned do not realize any total combined profit on the contracts.

There is a prohibition against providing relief to these contractors to the extent that a total combined profit on the contract would result, as determined by the Comptroller General.

The Comptroller General is to keep the appropriate committees of the Congress currently informed regarding the expenditure of funds and submit to the Congress annually, until the completion of the contracts, a written report on the status of the

contracts, on the expenditure of the funds, and on the results of the audits and reviews conducted. (92 Stat. 1628)

National Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation

Public Law 95-557, October 31, 1978, 92 Stat. 2080, Housing and Community Development Amendments of 1978, contains at Title VI the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation Act.

This title establishes a National Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation to continue the work of the Urban Reinvestment Task Force.

Section 607 provides for audit by the GAO, at least once every 3 years, of the financial transactions of the Corporation in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed by the Comptroller General.

For any fiscal year during which Federal funds are available to finance any portion of the Corporation's grants or contracts, the General Accounting Office, in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed by the Comptroller General, may audit the grantees or contractors of the Corporation. (93 Stat. 2118)

Federal Government Pension Plans

Public Law 95-595, November 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 2541, requires that the Comptroller General provide for financial audits with respect to pension plans for Federal officers and employees.

The law amends the Budget and Accounting Procedures Act of 1950 to provide for the audit and require that an annual report, including a financial statement and an actuarial statement, be furnished to the Congress and the Comptroller General with respect to the plans. (92 Stat. 2541, 2542)

Access to Records

State and Community Programs on Aging Grants

Public Law 95-478, October 18, 1978, 92 Stat. 1513, Comprehensive Older Americans Act Amendments of 1978, contains an amendment to title III of the Older Amer-

icans Act of 1965 respecting grants for State and Community Programs on Aging. Section 313 provides the Comptroller General access to records of recipients of grants and contracts under the title. (92 Stat. 1535)

Elementary and Secondary Education Programs

Public Law 95-561, November 1, 1978, 92 Stat. 2143, Education Amendments of 1978, to extend and amend expiring elementary and secondary education programs, adds a new subpart 4 to Part C—Federal, State and Local Responsibilities, of the General Education Provisions Act.

Each recipient of Federal funds under any applicable program through any grant, subgrant, contract, subcontract, loan, or other arrangement is required to keep records which fully disclose the amount and disposition by the recipients of the funds, the total cost of the activity for which the funds are used, the share of that cost provided from other sources, and such other records which will allow an effective audit.

The Comptroller General is provided access to any pertinent records for the purposes of audit examination. (92 Stat. 2346)

Powerplant Air Pollution Control Equipment Loan Recipients

Public Law 95-620, November 9, 1978, 92 Stat. 3289, Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978, authorizes the Secretary of Energy to make a loan to any person who owns or operates any existing electric powerplant converting to coal or other alternate fuels as its primary energy source. The loans would be used to finance the purchase and installation of one or more certified air pollution control devices for the electric powerplant.

The Secretary and the Comptroller General shall, until the later of (a) the expiration of 3 years after completion of the project, or (b) full repayment of interest and principal on a loan occurs, have access for the purpose of audit, evaluation or examination to records of recipients which, in the opinion of the Secretary or the Comptroller General,

may be related or pertinent to the loan. (92 Stat. 3328)

American Institute in Taiwan

Public Law 96-8, April 10, 1979, 93 Stat. 14, Taiwan Relations Act, was passed to help maintain peace, security, and stability in the Western Pacific and to promote the foreign policy of the United States by authorizing the continuation of commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and Taiwan.

The legislation provides that programs, transactions, and other relations conducted or carried out by the President or any agency of the U.S. Government with respect to Taiwan shall, in the manner and to the extent directed by the President, be conducted and carried out by or through the American Institute in Taiwan, a non-profit corporation formed under the laws of the District of Columbia.

Any agency of the Government is authorized to sell, loan, or lease property to and perform administrative and technical support functions and services for the Institute upon such terms and conditions as the President may direct.

Agencies providing funds to the Institute shall make arrangements for the Comptroller General to have access to the books and records of the Institute for the purposes of audit. (93 Stat. 18)

Trade Standards Grants or Contracts

Public Law 96-39, July 26, 1979, 93 Stat. 144, Trade Agreements Act of 1979, approves and implements the trade agreements negotiated under the Trade Act of 1974.

Title IV—Technical Barriers to Trade (Standards) authorizes the Secretary of Commerce and the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations to make grants to, or enter into contracts with, any other Federal agency, any State agency, or any private person. These grants or contracts would assist such agency or person to implement appropriate programs and activities, including, but not limited to, programs and activities (1) to increase awareness of proposed and adopted standards-

related activities; (2) to facilitate international trade through the appropriate international and domestic standards-related activities; (3) to provide, if appropriate, and pursuant to section 413, (Representation of United States Interests Before International Standards Organizations) adequate U.S. representation in international standards-related activities; and (4) to encourage U.S. exports through increased awareness of foreign standards-related activities that may affect U.S. exports.

The Comptroller General is provided access to records of grants or contract recipients that are pertinent to the funds received under the grant or contract. (93 Stat. 246)

Customs Clearance Procedures

Public Law 95-410, October 3, 1978, 92 Stat. 888, Customs Procedural Reform and Simplification Act of 1978, includes a requirement that the Comptroller General, in cooperation with the Customs Service of the Department of the Treasury and the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Department of Justice, is to study clearance procedures for individuals entering or reentering the United States.

The study shall include an analysis and comparison of the clearance procedures employed by other countries for individuals entering or reentering that country. The study also will analyze the usefulness of preentry forms completed by travelers when entering or reentering the United States.

The results of the Comptroller General's study, together with recommendations for expediting the clearance process including recommendations for legislation, were to be reported to the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees not later than September 1, 1979. (92 Stat. 904-905)

Amtrak Improvement Act of 1978

Public Law 95-421, October 5, 1978, 92 Stat. 923, the Amtrak Improvement Act of 1978, requires the Comptroller General to study the economic relationship between the National Railroad Passenger Corpora-

tion fare structure and the intercity bus industry.

The Comptroller General was to conduct the study in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation and the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Not later than December 31, 1978, the Comptroller General was to report to the Congress the results of the study. (92 Stat. 927)

Inspector General Act of 1978

Public Law 95-452, October 12, 1978, 92 Stat. 1101, the Inspector General Act of 1978, reorganizes the executive branch of the Government and increases its economy and efficiency by establishing Offices of Inspector General within the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Labor, and Transportation, the Community Services Administration, Environmental Protection Administration, General Services Administration, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Small Business Administration, and Veterans' Administration.

In carrying out the duties and responsibilities delineated by the law, each Inspector General is required to comply with standards established by the Comptroller General for audits of Federal establishments, organizations, programs, activities, and functions. They must also take appropriate steps to assure that any work performed by non-Federal auditors complies with the standards established by the Comptroller General. (92 Stat. 1109)

The Inspectors General are required to give particular regard to the activities of the Comptroller General with a view toward avoiding duplication and ensuring effective coordination and cooperation. (92 Stat. 1103)

Civil Service Reform Act of 1978

Public Law 95-454, October 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1111, Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, is divided into nine titles: Title I—Merit System Principles; Title II—Civil Service Functions; Performance Appraisal;

Title III—Staffing; Title IV—Senior Executive Service; Title V—Merit Pay; Title VI—Research, Demonstration, and Other Programs; Title VII—Federal Service Labor-Management Relations; Title VIII—Grade and Pay Retention; and Title IX—Miscellaneous.

The responsibilities of the GAO with respect to merit system principles are stated in a new section 2304 of title 5, United States Code:

- (a) If requested by either House of the Congress (or any committee thereof), or if considered necessary by the Comptroller General, the General Accounting Office shall conduct audits and reviews to assure compliance with the laws, rules, and regulations governing employment in the executive branch and competitive service, and to assess the effectiveness and soundness of Federal personnel management.
- (b) The General Accounting Office shall prepare and submit an annual report to the President and the Congress on the activities of the Merit Systems Protection Board and the Office of Personnel Management. The report shall include a description of (1) significant actions taken by the Board to carry out its functions under this title and (2) significant actions of the Office of Personnel Management, including an analysis of whether or not the actions of the Office are in accord with merit system principles and free from prohibited personnel practices. (92 Stat. 1118) (The Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs has also asked that GAO report on the Federal Labor Relations Authority.)

The provisions of 5 U.S.C. 1205(d)(2) require the Merit Systems Protection Board to certify to the Comptroller General that a compliance order has been issued and no payment should be made out of the Treasury of the United States for any service specified in the order. (92 Stat. 1123)

The Comptroller General is required to review periodically, on a selected basis, agency performance appraisal systems and performance appraisal systems in the Senior Executive Service to determine the

extent to which the systems meet the requirements of the law.

Findings are to be reported to the Office of Personnel Management and to the Congress. (92 Stat. 1134, 1168)

The General Accounting Office is specifically exempt from the definition of "agency" with respect to several sections of the law. (92 Stat. 1115, 1132, 1155, 1185, and 1193)

Small Business Programs

Public Law 95-507, October 24, 1978, 92 Stat. 1757, to amend the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, requires the GAO to submit to Congress not later than June 30, 1980, a report which, with respect to provisions of paragraphs (1)(B) and (2) of section 8(a) of the Small Business Act regarding procurement contracts and performance bonds, shall evaluate the implementation of the provisions. (92 Stat. 1763)

The General Accounting Office is to evaluate actions taken by the Small Business Administration with respect to the award of subcontracts to small business concerns located in areas of economic depression, with small businesses owned by low-income individuals, and with small businesses eligible to receive contracts under section 8(a) of the act.

GAO is to report to the Congress by January 1, 1981, and at any time thereafter at the discretion of the Comptroller General, on the findings of this evaluation, together with recommendations to improve the Administration's performance.

Also, GAO is to provide for an independent and continuing evaluation of the programs under sections 7(i), 7(j), and 8(a) of the Small Business Act, including full information on, and analysis of, the type and effect of managerial assistance provided, the location, income characteristics, and extent to which private resources and skills have been involved on these programs. The evaluation, together with any recommendations from the Comptroller General, are to be reported to the Congress by January 1, 1981, and at any time thereafter at the discretion of the Comptroller General. (92 Stat. 1765)

Comptroller General Annuity Adjustment Act of 1978

Public Law 95-512, October 25, 1978, 92 Stat. 1799, Comptroller General Annuity Adjustment Act of 1978, amends the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921 to provide for cost-of-living adjustments in the annuity of a retired Comptroller General, and to conform the Comptroller General's annuity benefits with those provided Federal judges. (92 Stat. 1799)

Ethics in Government Act of 1978

Public Law 95-521, October 26, 1978, 92 Stat. 1824, Ethics in Government Act of 1978, is divided into seven titles, as follows: Title I—Legislative Personnel Financial Disclosure Requirements; Title II—Executive Personnel Financial Disclosure Requirements; Title III—Judicial Personnel Financial Disclosure Requirements; Title IV—Office of Government Ethics; Title V—Post Employment Conflict of Interest; Title VI—Amendments to Title 28, United States Code; and Title VII—Senate Legal Counsel.

Before November 30, 1980, and regularly thereafter, the Comptroller General is to conduct a study to determine whether Title I—Legislative Personnel Financial Disclosure Requirements—is being carried out effectively, and whether timely and accurate reports are being filed by individuals subject to this title.

Within 30 days after completion of the study, the Comptroller General is to report to each House of Congress a statement of his findings and conclusions, together with his recommendations for legislative and administrative actions. The first study is to include the Comptroller General's findings and recommendations on the feasibility and potential need for systematic random audits of financial disclosure reports filed under the title, including a thorough discussion of the type and nature of audits that might be conducted; the personnel and other costs of audits; the value of an audit to Members, the appropriate House and Senate committees, and the public; and, if conducted, whether a governmental or nongovernmental unit should perform the audits, and under whose supervision. (92 Stat. 1836)

Title II, with respect to executive personnel financial disclosure, gives the Comptroller General access to financial disclosure reports filed under the title for the purposes of carrying out his statutory responsibilities. (92 Stat. 1849)

The law establishes an Office of Senate Legal Counsel. The Senate Legal Counsel is required to advise, consult, and cooperate with, among others, the Comptroller General and the General Accounting Office. None of the responsibilities and authority assigned to the Counsel are to be construed to affect or infringe upon any functions, powers, or duties of the Comptroller General. (92 Stat. 1881)

The General Accounting Office is considered in the legislative branch for financial disclosure purposes. (92 Stat. 1824)

Health Maintenance Organizations

Public Law 95-559, November 1, 1978, 92 Stat. 2131, Health Maintenance Organizations Amendments of 1978, amends the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the program of assistance for health maintenance organizations.

A new subsection (d) is added to section 1314 of the Public Health Service Act. This subsection requires the Comptroller General to evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of the policies and procedures of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare for the management of Health Maintenance Organization grant and loan programs and the adequacy of the amounts of assistance available under the programs.

The results of the evaluation were to be reported to Congress not later than May 1, 1979. (92 Stat. 2140)

Contract Disputes Act of 1978

Public Law 95-563, November 1, 1978, 92 Stat. 2383, Contract Disputes Act of 1978, provides for the resolution of claims and disputes relating to Government contracts awarded by executive agencies and exempts the General Accounting Office from the definition of executive agency for the purposes of the act.

Public Telecommunications Financing Act of 1978

Public Law 95-567, November 2, 1978, 92 Stat. 2405, the Public Telecommunications Financing Act of 1978, relating to long-term financing for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, amends the Communications Act of 1934 to require that 1 year after the effective date, the Corporation, in consultation with the Comptroller General, will develop accounting principles which shall be used uniformly by all public telecommunications entities receiving funds, taking into account organizational differences among various categories of entities.

Each public communications entity receiving funds will be audited annually by independent certified or licensed public accountants using the auditing standards developed by the Corporation in consultation with the Comptroller General. (92 Stat. 2419)

Also, the Public Broadcasting Corporation is to study the manner in which personal services of volunteers should be included in determining the level of non-Federal financial support. The study is to include proposed valuation standards.

Upon completion, the study and the proposed valuation standards are to be submitted to the Comptroller General for approval. (92 Stat. 2414, 2423)

Section 396(i) of the Communications Act of 1934, which is amended, pertains to the Public Broadcasting Corporation report to Congress. The section provides that officers and directors of the Corporation are to be available to testify before appropriate committees of the Congress with respect to the report, the report of any audit made by the Comptroller General, or any other matter which the committees may determine. (92 Stat. 2415)

GAO is given access to records of recipients of grants for construction and planning of public telecommunications facilities pursuant to section 392(i) of the Communications Act of 1934.

A new subpart B is added to Part IV of title III of the Communications Act of 1934 which provides for grants and contracts for

carrying out telecommunications demonstrations. GAO is given access to grant recipient records. (92 Stat. 2410)

Appropriations Available on Certificate

Public Law 95-570, November 2, 1978, 92 Stat. 2445, clarifies the authority for employment of personnel in the White House Office, the Executive Residence at the White House, and the employment of personnel by the President to meet unanticipated needs.

With respect to assistance and services for the President and the Vice President, the sums appropriated are to be accounted for solely on the certificate of the President and Vice President, except that the Comptroller General may inspect necessary records relating to these expenditures solely for the purpose of verifying that all payments relate to stated expenses. The Comptroller General is to certify to the Congress the fact of the verification. (92 Stat. 2446, 2447)

Health Services and Centers Amendments of 1978

Public Law 95-626, November 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3551, Health Services and Centers Amendments of 1978, contains as part B of title I the Primary Health Care Act of 1978.

This part contains a requirement that not later than March 1, 1981, the Comptroller General is to report to Congress evaluating the operation of hospital-affiliated primary care centers, including, with their voluntary participation, those centers not assisted under the law. With respect to such centers the Comptroller General is to

- (1) assess the costs of such centers and their methods of allocating costs between the centers and their affiliated hospitals,
- (2) assess the methods of reimbursement used (particularly under titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act) for services provided by such centers,
- (3) compare the costs and effectiveness of providing primary health services

through such centers with the cost and effectiveness of providing the services through community health centers and other entities, and

- (4) assess the degree to which the assisted hospitals are complying with the requirements for approval of applications for grants re primary care centers. (92 Stat. 3566)

Title II—Health Services Extension Act of 1978—amends section 317 of the Public Health Service Act pertaining to project grants for preventive health services. Section 317(f)(2) gives GAO access to records of grant recipients. (92 Stat. 3576)

The General Accounting Office is provided access to records of grant recipients with respect to two new programs of formula grants to States for preventive health services and grants for lead-based paint poisoning prevention programs. (92 Stat. 3581, 3586)

Child Nutrition Programs

Public Law 95-627, November 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3603, Child Nutrition Amendments of 1978, extends and amends the special supplemental food program and the child care food program.

Section 17 of the National School Lunch Act pertaining to the child care food program is amended. Section 17(q) requires that States and institutions participating in the program keep records to determine whether there has been compliance with the requirements of the section. The Comptroller General is given access to these records for such time period, not in excess of 5 years, as the Secretary of Agriculture determines necessary. (92 Stat. 3611)

With respect to the school breakfast program, the Secretary of Agriculture is to consult experts in child nutrition, industry representatives, school food service personnel and school administrators with respect to the continued use of formulated grain-fruit products in the school breakfast program and is to take into account the findings and recommendations in the report on this study of the General Accounting Office. (92 Stat. 3621)

Financial Institutions Regulatory and Interest Rate Control Act of 1978

Public Law 95-630, November 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3641, the Financial Institutions Regulatory and Interest Rate Control Act of 1978, extends the authority for the flexible regulation of interest rates on deposits and accounts in depository institutions.

The Federal Credit Union Act is amended to subject the financial transactions of the National Credit Union Administration to audit on a calendar year basis by the General Accounting Office. (92 Stat. 3681)

Section 117 of the Accounting and Auditing Act of 1950, as amended by the Federal Banking Agency Audit Act (Public Law 95-320), is further amended to provide that the Comptroller General shall make, under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe, audits of the Financial Institutions Examination Council. (92 Stat. 3696)

The Federal Deposit Insurance Act is amended by the addition of a new section 26 with respect to conversion of mutual savings banks, which requires that the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation agree what is to be treated as "losses incurred by it which arise out of losses incurred by the converting bank prior to conversion," and failing agreement, the GAO is to prescribe the meaning to those terms. (92 Stat. 3712)

Title XVIII—National Credit Union Central Liquidity Facility, amends the Federal Credit Union Act to establish the Facility and subject it to audit by the Comptroller General under rules and regulations he may prescribe. (92 Stat. 3723)

Panama Canal Act of 1979

Public Law 96-70, September 27, 1979, 93 Stat. 452, provides for the operation and maintenance of the Panama Canal under the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977 and establishes, in the executive branch of the Government, an agency known as the Panama Canal Commission. The Commission will be responsible for the maintenance and operation of the Panama Canal,

facilities, and appurtenances.

The financial transactions of the Commission are to be audited by the Comptroller General pursuant to the Accounting and Auditing Act of 1950. The Comptroller General is given access to records necessary to perform the audit. The first audit is to be conducted with respect to the fiscal year in which this law becomes effective.

Not later than 6 months after the end of each fiscal year, the Comptroller General is to submit to Congress a report of the audit conducted on the fiscal year. The report will show the scope of the audit and include

- (1) a statement of assets and liabilities, capital, and surplus or deficit, based on the accounts of the Commission established pursuant to this chapter;
- (2) a statement of income and expenses;
- (3) a statement of sources and application of funds;
- (4) a statement listing all direct and indirect costs incurred by the United States in implementing the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977, including the cost of property transferred to the Republic of Panama during each fiscal year; and
- (5) comments and information which the Comptroller General considers necessary to keep the Congress informed of the operations and financial transactions of the Commission, together with recommendations the Comptroller General considers advisable.

The report is to identify specifically any program, expenditure, or other financial transaction or undertaking observed in the course of the audit which, in the opinion of the Comptroller General, has been made without authorization by law. The Comptroller General is to submit a copy of each report to the President, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Commission.

In conducting the audits and preparing the reports provided for in this section, and in carrying out his other responsibilities pursuant to law, the Comptroller General shall, with respect to fiscal year 1980, consider the inherent problems in converting the existing requirements established in section 1311 (accounting policies) of this act. Accordingly, the Comptroller General

is to take no adverse action with respect to the Commission, nor shall any violation of section 3679 of the Revised Statutes (31 U.S.C. 665) be considered to have taken place, so long as the Commission is in substantial compliance with the requirements of this act.

The Comptroller General is to make recommendations to the Commission and to the Congress as he may consider appropriate to ensure that full compliance with the financial controls provided for in the Accounting and Auditing Act of 1950 (31 U.S.C. 655 et seq.) is achieved promptly. (93 Stat. 479-480)

No funds may be appropriated to or for the use of the Commission for any fiscal year in excess of (a) the amount of revenues deposited in the Panama Canal Commission Fund during such fiscal year,

as estimated by the Secretary of Defense and certified by the Comptroller General at the time the fiscal year budget request for the Commission is submitted to the Congress, plus (b) the amount of revenues deposited in such Fund prior to the fiscal year and not spent at the beginning of such fiscal year.

Not later than 30 days after the end of such fiscal year, the Secretary of the Treasury is to report to the Congress the actual amount of revenues deposited in the Panama Canal Commission Fund during such fiscal year. (93 Stat. 478)

The Commission is to make payments to the Republic of Panama required under paragraph 5 of Article III and paragraph 4 of Article XIII of the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977. Payments made under paragraph 5 of Article III of the treaty are to be audited annually by the Comptroller General and any overpayments, as determined in accordance with the Understanding (1) incorporated in the Resolution of Ratification of the Panama Canal Treaty (adopted by the United States Senate on April 18, 1978), for the services described in that paragraph which are provided, shall be refunded by the Republic of Panama or set off against amounts payable by the United States to the Republic of Panama under paragraph 5 of Article III of the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977. (93 Stat. 482)

Amtrak Reorganization Act of 1979

Public Law 96-73, September 29, 1979, Amtrak Reorganization Act of 1979, 93

Stat. 537, provides for a study by the Comptroller General of the free or reduced-rate transportation provided to railroad employees by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation under section 405(f) of the Rail Passenger Service Act.

Within 180 days after the effective date of the law, the Comptroller General is to submit a report to the Congress and to the Interstate Commerce Commission recommending appropriate means for reimbursing the Corporation for the cost of providing such transportation services, taking into account the value of the services being provided. (93 Stat. 548)

Casa Pacifica Renovation Cost Reimbursement

Public Law 96-74, September 29, 1979, 93 Stat. 559, Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1980, provides that it is the sense of the Congress that, upon the sale of the estate known as Casa Pacifica located in San Clemente, California, former President Richard M. Nixon should reimburse the United States for the original cost of any construction, renovation, improvements, equipment, or articles paid for by the Federal Government of the United States, or for the amount by which they have increased the fair market value of the property, as determined by the Comptroller General, as of the date of sale, whichever is less. (93 Stat. 577)

Appropriations for the General Accounting Office

Public Law 96-38, July 25, 1979, Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1979, gives the General Accounting Office additional appropriations of \$150,000 for salaries and expenses for fiscal year 1979. (93 Stat. 114)

The amount of \$7,281,000 is included to cover increased pay costs authorized by or pursuant to law for the fiscal year 1979, to be derived by release of that amount withheld from obligation by the Comptroller General pursuant to section 311 of Public Law 95-391, Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1979. (93 Stat. 128)

