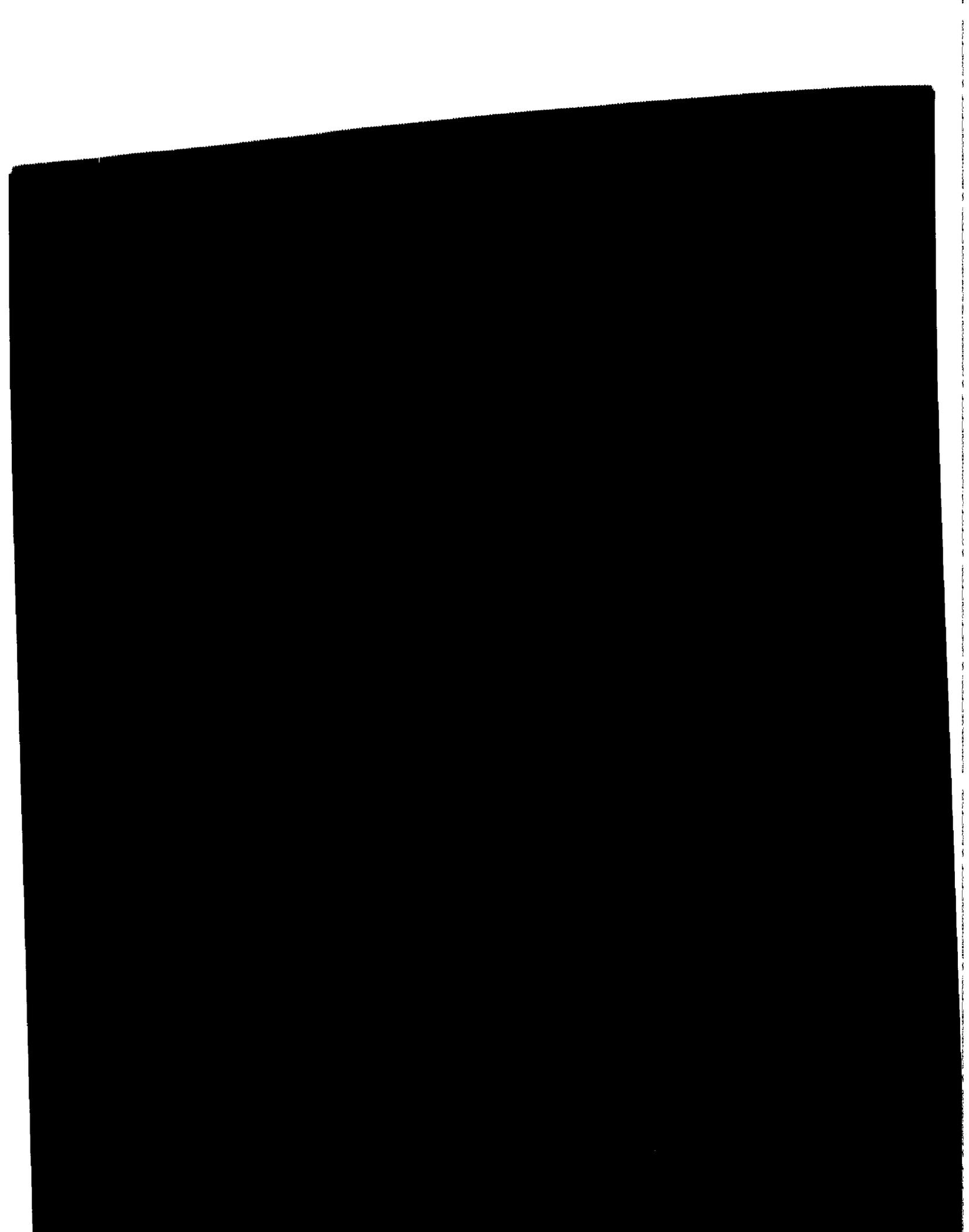


GAO

Annual Report
1985





*Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller
General of the United States*

Comptroller General of the
United States
Washington, D.C. 20548

January 29, 1986
B-119600

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

In accordance with section 312 (a)
of the Budget and Accounting
Act of 1921, I respectfully submit
the annual report of the activities
of the U.S. General Accounting
Office during the fiscal year
ended September 30, 1985.

Charles A. Bowsher

Charles A. Bowsher
Comptroller General of the
United States

Transmittal Letter to the House and Senate

Comptrollers General of the United States

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

Fred H. Brown
Apr. 11, 1939–June 19, 1940

Lindsey C. Warren
Nov. 1, 1940–Apr. 30, 1954

Joseph Campbell
Dec. 14, 1954–July 31, 1965

Elmer B. Staats
Mar. 4, 1966–Mar. 3, 1981

Charles A. Bowsher
Oct. 1, 1981–

Deputy Comptrollers General¹ of the United States

Lurtin R. Ginn
July 1, 1921–Nov. 11, 1930

Richard N. Elliott
Mar. 9, 1931–Apr. 30, 1943

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

Frank H. Weitzel
Oct. 12, 1953–Jan. 17, 1969

Robert F. Keller
Oct. 3, 1969–Feb. 29, 1980

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

¹Prior to enactment of Public Law 92-51
(approved July 9, 1974), this appointment
was entitled Assistant Comptroller
General.

U.S. General Accounting Office Annual Report 1985

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Chapter 1
Fiscal Year
1985 Highlights

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Fiscal Year 1985 Highlights

In GAO's continued efforts to serve Congress better, 1985 was a year of groundbreaking reviews and legal work, new reporting techniques, and self-evaluation projects. This fiscal year GAO also increased its emphasis on integrating computer technology into both audit and administrative operations.

Reporting firsts included overview reports, which synthesize several reports to provide an overall message tailored for congressional policymaking; GAO's first audit using direct access to records of a United Nations agency; and GAO's first inspector general quality assessment audit. GAO's reports also introduced innovations in evaluation methods. In the legal arena, GAO's authority to freeze protested procurement transactions survived a constitutional challenge from the Justice Department, and GAO's authority to stop payments to contractors and award legal costs and fees for bids under protest was upheld by a federal district court.

Seeking swifter and more efficient ways to report audit results to Congress, GAO introduced several new reporting vehicles in 1985 to accompany the traditional chapter and letter reports. These included video presentations, executive summaries, and briefing reports and fact sheets. GAO also approved a new format for reports to make them easier to read.

Looking inward for ways to improve service to Congress, GAO launched a comprehensive, long-term operations improvement program. The "How We Do Our Work" initiative will seek out opportunities to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness. This year individual operations improvement projects resulted in

- identification of ways to improve GAO's responsiveness to congressional requests and
- redefinition and clarification of audit and evaluation policy guidance and professional standards.

GAO bolstered this year's auditing and reporting work with computer equipment and training. GAO staff tested lapsed computers, developed criteria for selecting equipment, and attended the first annual technical assistance conference.

Results of GAO's Work

GAO's audit and evaluation work in fiscal year 1985 comprised a large portion of GAO's contribution to improving government operations. Also figuring prominently among its accomplish-

About GAO

GAO seeks to improve government operations by providing timely and reliable information and advice to the Congress, by determining the legality of public expenditures, and by providing guidance on financial management matters.

To carry out these functions, GAO operates a headquarters office and approximately 80 audit sites in the Washington, D.C., area. It also maintains 15 regional offices throughout the continental United States, an office in Honolulu, and foreign offices in Frankfurt and Panama City.

Diverse work takes GAO staff all over the world. In fiscal year 1985, assignments were performed in the United States, several U.S. territories and possessions, and 66 foreign countries. At any given time, GAO had more than 1,000 assignments underway.

ments were GAO's legal work, claims settlements, and international liaison activities.

Audit and Evaluation Accomplishments

Reports

GAO inaugurated new approaches this fiscal year in its audit and evaluation reports. Overview reports, the product of GAO's building-block approach to planning issue-area work (see p. 10), were issued as GAO's new vehicle for helping the nation's legislators shape and evaluate federal policy. GAO issued five of these in fiscal year 1985:

- "Cleaning Up Hazardous Waste: An Overview of Superfund Reauthorization Issues" (GAO/RCED-85-69)—provided GAO's views on the reauthorization of Superfund, including suggestions for changing the act's structure to provide for more consistent cleanup of the nation's hazardous waste sites.
- "Block Grants: Experiences to Date and Emerging Issues" (GAO/HRD-85-46)—addressed the crosscutting issues emerging from reports on nine block grants covering health and social services, education, community services and development, and energy assistance; the report summarized states' block grant experiences with fiscal, programmatic, and managerial issues and elaborated on implementation issues.
- "1983 Payment-In-Kind Program Overview: Its Design, Impact, and Cost" (GAO/RCED-85-89)—aimed at helping Congress in its deliberations on the 1985 farm bill; the report tied together the results of several GAO reports on farm issues and provided additional analysis on the 1983 Payment-In-Kind program.

■ "The Strategic Petroleum Reserve: An Overview of Its Development and Use in the Event of an Oil Supply Disruption" (GAO/RCED-85-134)—summarized 26 GAO reports on the Reserve's activities; in light of a proposed moratorium on Reserve development in the Energy Department's fiscal year 1986 budget, GAO analyzed alternative development strategies for the Reserve.

■ "Overview of the Dairy Surplus Issue—Policy Options for Congressional Consideration" (GAO/RCED-85-132)—addressed the problems posed by the nation's surplus of milk products that the government buys and stores as part of its dairy price-support program; GAO suggested nine policy options aimed at ensuring that the nation produces an adequate supply of milk, while making production and marketing operations efficient.

GAO made other reporting debuts in 1985. As a special case, GAO was authorized direct access to records to audit a United Nations organization ("Improvements Needed in UNESCO's Management, Personnel, Financial, and Budgeting Practices," GAO/NSIAD-85-32). The audit was done when the United States decided to withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization because the organization had become politicized and suffered management problems. GAO's first quality assessment review of an inspector general ("Compliance with Professional Standards by the Commerce Inspector General," GAO/AFMD-85-57) focused on whether audits were conducted in accordance with generally accepted government audit standards and whether investigations were conducted in accordance with standards being developed. Finally, GAO introduced new evaluation methods in four reports discussed on pages 5-6.

Financial and Other Benefits

In fiscal year 1985, GAO realized almost \$37 in savings and benefits to the taxpayer for every dollar it spent. With an operating budget of just under \$300 million (see p. 12), GAO audit and evaluation work resulted in quantifiable legislative and executive branch actions that led to about \$11 billion in either budgetary savings or costs the government will be able to avoid (see chapter three).

Among the most notable financial accomplishments that GAO identified this fiscal year:

■ Almost \$6 billion in gross revenue collection resulted from GAO testimony proposing additional IRS audit staff (see p. 53).

■ A \$1 billion cost to the taxpayers was avoided when the Defense Department cancelled the Sergeant York gun (also called the DIVAD gun) program, an action prompted partially by GAO concerns over poor test results (see p. 56).

■ An \$800 million cost was avoided when the Department of Energy cancelled a nuclear fuel enrichment facility after conducting detailed project analyses recommended by GAO.

■ Almost half a billion dollars was saved when Congress, acting on GAO recommendations, reduced Defense's fiscal year 1985 ammunition budget.

Much audit work resulting in more efficient government operations and improved government services is not readily measurable in dollars. For example, GAO's fiscal year 1985 legislative recommendations and related agency actions will result in reducing welfare overpayments caused by recipients' erroneous reporting of income and assets (see p. 55). Also this year, GAO recommended changes that resulted in legislation reducing export licen-

sing requirements for products not related to national security, thereby decreasing not only the government's licensing workload but also exporters' paperwork burden.

Sometimes GAO's work results in congressional and agency actions that not only improve government operations but also help the people who rely on or are affected by government programs. GAO's review of VA records, for example, resulted in restoring pension benefits to 127 beneficiaries whose benefits had been improperly terminated (see p. 59). In another instance, because the Food and Drug Administration revised its regulations, as GAO had recommended, to require mandatory reporting of death, injuries, or hazards caused by medical devices, lives will be saved and injuries will be avoided when medical device problems are acknowledged early.

Financial Management Initiatives

Legislation requires GAO to establish accounting principles, standards, and related requirements for federal executive agencies. In fiscal year 1985, GAO continued to guide federal agencies in establishing and maintaining internal controls, accounting systems, financial reports, and audit requirements, including the single audit concept that calls for streamlined audit requirements for federally financed state and local government programs.

GAO's most important effort this year was identifying and proposing a comprehensive approach to financial management improvements. A conceptual framework embodied in GAO's report, *Managing the Cost of Government: Building an Effective Financial Management Structure*, unifies diverse financial management processes

into a four-phase cycle. Organizing these processes into (1) planning and programming, (2) budgeting, (3) budget execution and accounting, and (4) audit/evaluation allows for relationships among various and complex systems to be drawn and exploited, resulting in an integrated flow of the systems' information.

This year GAO continued to promote the preparation of agency financial statements, as required in GAO's 1984 edition of *Accounting Principles and Standards for Federal Agencies*. Contributing to the concept of comprehensive financial reporting, agency financial statements provide a broader perspective on federal agencies' financial condition than is provided by the budget process alone. Sound financial systems are a by-product of this requirement; that is, to produce reliable, consistent, and relevant financial statements, financial systems must be in good order.

Other fiscal year 1985 financial management achievements include

- a final version of GAO's *Control and Risk Evaluation* manual for assessing the adequacy of a system's internal controls, compliance with the Comptroller General's accounting principles and standards, and adherence to other requirements and
- testimony and 23 reports on the status of executive agencies' internal controls and their implementation of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act. The act requires agencies to report annually to Congress and the President on the adequacy of their internal controls and accounting systems.

Financial management efforts begun in previous years and fur-

thered this fiscal year include

- audits of federal financial systems and statements and oversight of federal audit activities and interests;
- consultation with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, established in 1984 to promulgate financial reporting standards for state and local governments;
- involvement in the national and regional Intergovernmental Audit Forums, which facilitate information exchange and cooperation among federal, state, and local government auditors; and
- the Comptroller General's membership in the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program, whose members also include the Secretary of the Treasury and the Directors of the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Personnel Management.

Evaluation Methods

Under title VII of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, the Comptroller General is charged with developing and recommending methods for review and evaluation of government programs and activities. Mainly on the basis of work in GAO's Program Evaluation and Methodology Division, GAO develops new approaches and improves existing ones. During fiscal year 1985, GAO issued four reports that pioneered new evaluation methods.

GAO developed a new measure of quality that allowed analysts to determine if the best Marine Corps officers remain in the service beyond 20 years. GAO reported that, contrary to anecdotes that high-quality officers leave after 20 years, the Marines were successful in keeping good officers. ("High Quality Senior

Marine Corps Officers: How Many Stay Beyond 20 Years of Service?" GAO/PEMD-85-1.)

GAO also developed an innovative method for comparing the full costs and savings of various approaches to reducing the federal work force. Examining eight reductions in force, GAO found that six reductions were not cost effective compared to attrition. ("Reduction in Force Can Sometimes Be More Costly to Agencies than Attrition and Furlough," GAO/PEMD-85-6.)

In other work, GAO developed the issues that need to be addressed by the Department of Health and Human Services in evaluating the effect of Medicare's prospective payment system on post-hospital sub-acute care. ("Information Requirements for Evaluating the Impacts of Medicare Prospective Payment on Post-Hospital Long-Term Care Services: Preliminary Report," GAO/PEMD-85-8.)

GAO also developed a novel method for assessing production capability in the defense industrial base. The effort provided information often unavailable in

Audit and Evaluation Objectives

With the focus on accountability, GAO's audit and evaluation work entails

- evaluating the efficiency, economy, legality, and effectiveness with which federal agencies and those who receive federal funds fulfill their financial, management, and program responsibilities and
- providing the Congress and federal officials with objective information, conclusions, and recommendations to help them manage and make policy.

the past, particularly on production problems at the subcontractor level. ("Assessing Production Capabilities and Constraints in the Defense Industrial Base," GAO/PEMD-85-3.)

Legal Work

GAO legal work deals with the full range of government activities. During fiscal year 1985, GAO's Office of the General Counsel disposed of 5,139 separate legal matters. GAO renders legal decisions and advice to

- congressional committees, Members of Congress, the Attorney General, the Office of Management and Budget, and other federal officials;
- heads of federal agencies and disbursing and certifying officers on the legality or propriety of proposed expenditures of public funds;
- officers or employees with delegated authority to request relief on behalf of accountable and certifying officers;
- contracting and procurement officers and bidders, in connection with government contracts;
- debtors and creditors of the government who are dissatisfied with the handling of their affairs by other agencies; and
- GAO staff in its 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. While the decisions are binding on executive branch officials, private firms and individuals have further recourse to the courts in most instances. Table 1 summarizes legal matters resolved during the year.

Table 1

Legal Matters Resolved

Subject Area	Number
Procurement	3,349
Personnel	739
General Government Matters	558
Special Studies and Analyses	493
Total	5,139

Bid Protest Work

One of GAO's major responsibilities is implementing the Competition in Contracting Act of 1984. Through this law Congress increased the effectiveness of GAO's decisions by freezing most procurements that are under protest and allowing GAO to award legal costs and fees. GAO was able to process bid protests more rapidly after the act's passage. Whereas the process took an average of 70 days before the act, after the act this average was reduced to 24 days.

The strengthened bid protest system has been working well, but its constitutionality has been challenged. Speaking for the administration, the Justice Department contended that the act violates the constitutional separation-of-powers doctrine by providing that the Comptroller General perform executive functions. GAO and Congress opposed the Justice Department, and a federal district court upheld the Comptroller General's authority under the Competition in Contracting Act. Pending a decision by a federal court of appeals, the Justice Department has instructed federal agencies to comply with the act.

Legal Assistance to Congress

Frequently, committees and Members of Congress ask GAO

for formal and informal legal opinions, advice, and assistance. They also solicit GAO's views on contractual, fiscal, and administrative provisions of law; opinions on drafts of, or revisions to, legislation; and views on administrative regulations.

In fiscal year 1985, GAO provided 537 legal opinions and interpretations to the Congress, 110 of these to the Senate and 427 to the House. Table 2 shows which Senate and House committees received the opinions.

On the basis of its analyses of government programs and activities and its expertise in law and the federal legislative process, GAO gives congressional committees objective comments on proposed legislation. During fiscal year 1985, GAO provided comments on 21 bills.

Claims Settlement

GAO is authorized to settle claims, for and against the federal government, arising from disputes between federal agencies and private parties. The claims involve such issues as the government's debt collection efforts and federal employee entitlements. Cases that cannot be satisfactorily resolved at the agency level are appealed to GAO, whose Claims Group helps determine the outcome of these cases.

Prompted by new authorities conferred by the Debt Collection Act of 1982, the Claims Group has used increased automation and new collection techniques, such as mailgrams, to improve debt collection results. In fiscal year 1985, GAO collected over \$2.3 million (an increase of 26 percent over 1984) on debts that other federal agencies had been unable to collect. Collections on delinquent debts exceeded \$350,000, a figure twice what GAO

projected it would have collected without using the techniques authorized by the 1982 act. Some of the debts that are being repaid in response to the more sophisticated collection techniques are debts that GAO or other agencies had previously written off as uncollectable.

In certain cases where federal agencies overpay employees in pay or allowances, the employees can request that they not be required to pay the money back. Only GAO can authorize payment waivers exceeding \$500. In fiscal year 1985, GAO granted in full or part approximately 1,800 waivers of erroneous pay and allowances from 1,900 requests considered.

GAO is authorized to make payments of court judgments and settlements and certain administrative awards (for example, tort settlements in excess of \$2,500) from a special fund—the permanent indefinite judgment appropriation—to claimants whose awards cannot be paid from agency or other federal funds. In fiscal year 1985, GAO authorized over 12,000 payments totaling approximately \$340 million from this appropriation.

At year-end, GAO was settling 558 claims of government contractor violations of the Davis-Bacon Act totaling \$2.2 million and involving over 3,000 employees. The Claims Group also inventoried and secured the effects of 174 U.S. citizens who died abroad and was settling those estates in its role as conservator.

During the year, GAO responded to 231 of the 260 congressional inquiries it received about claims in process. By developing an automated congressional control and reporting system, GAO reduced the average time for responding to congressional

Table 2

Congressional Committees Receiving GAO Legal Opinions and Legislative Interpretations

Senate	
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	2
Appropriations	17
Armed Services	4
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	3
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	3
Energy and Natural Resources	7
Finance	4
Foreign Relations	1
Governmental Affairs	41
Judiciary	6
Labor and Human Resources	4
Rules and Administration	1
Veterans' Affairs	9
Aging (Special Committee)	5
Indian Affairs (Select Committee)	3
Senate Total	110
House of Representatives	
Agriculture	12
Appropriations	19
Armed Services	22
Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs	6
Budget	2
District of Columbia	2
Education and Labor	39
Energy and Commerce	58
Foreign Affairs	11
Government Operations	84
House Administration	3
Interior and Insular Affairs	20
Judiciary	55
Merchant Marine and Fisheries	7
Post Office and Civil Service	40
Public Works and Transportation	7
Science and Technology	7
Small Business	2
Veterans' Affairs	3
Ways and Means	17
Aging (Select Committee)	10
Narcotics Abuse and Control (Select Committee)	1
House Total	427
Grand Total	537

inquiries from nearly 200 days to about 110 days. The system produces a report that provides the status of these claims, accelerating GAO's response time.

This fiscal year, GAO was developing a comprehensive management information system to simplify and improve its claims operations. The system will provide message transmission, calendar, research, and composition assistance and cost analysis.

International Liaison Activities

GAO's efforts to enhance government operations extend beyond U.S. borders to audit offices of other nations. Through its Office of International Audit Organization Liaison, GAO provides training to audit office staff of other nations, briefings to international visitors, and coordination with international audit organizations.

In fiscal year 1985, GAO's Seventh International Auditor Fellowship Program trained senior staff from 13 countries' national audit offices in audit methodology. GAO also briefed more than 300 overseas visitors.

This year, through the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI), the Comptroller General and the Auditor General of Canada co-chaired a commission to establish an international training program for audit staff throughout the world. Under the premise that training is better provided regionally or locally but that resources can be better shared through a clearinghouse, Canada and the United States worked with the Agency for International Development and its counterparts in other nations, as well as international organizations, such as the World Bank, to fund the program. A decision on the pro-

gram's feasibility will be made at the 1986 triennial INTOSAI Congress.

At year-end, GAO and the Canadian Auditor General were nearing completion of a joint study of users' needs for federal government financial reports. The study is part of an effort to advise legislators and the executive branch on ways to improve financial reporting in the public sector.

Communicating GAO's Results

To communicate the results of its audit and evaluation work to the Congress, GAO issues reports, testifies before congressional committees, briefs congressional audiences, comments on bills, and offers legal opinions and interpretations (see table 3).

Emphasis on Assisting Congress

GAO's work is performed under (1) the authority provided in basic statutes, (2) specific statutes requiring special GAO work, and (3) congressional committee or Member request. Work in the last two categories accounted for about 57.2 percent of that done by GAO's audit and evaluation staff in fiscal year 1985.

GAO staff keep congressional committees abreast of GAO's work pertaining to issues relevant to each committee. GAO's Office of Congressional Relations also continuously coordinates GAO's work with committees and Members. In fiscal year 1985, congressional requests asking GAO to perform special assignments totaled 637 from committees and 378 from Members. Also by special request, 119 GAO staff worked with 26 committees and subcommittees. As required by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, details concerning these assignments are shown in appendix three.

GAO made significant progress during the year toward developing means of responding more effectively to congressional needs for timely and accessible information. Several new ways of communicating were introduced, and GAO approved new design standards for reports.

GAO revised its report digests into executive summaries designed to assist busy readers to get the report's message in four pages. Briefing reports and fact sheets were developed as a means of officially communicating information to congressional requestors faster than traditional reports. Finally, GAO produced two videotapes that were aired on the Congressional Broadcasting System during the period of congressional concern about reauthorizing Superfund and passing a new farm bill.

By the end of the year, GAO had approved new design standards for its communication products. The standards, which will be applied first to reports to the Congress and other recipients, will provide increased legibility and ease of reading.

Operational Changes

In its pursuit of improved work quality and responsiveness to congressional needs, GAO continued in fiscal year 1985 to assess its overall operations. The "How We Do Our Work" initiative was begun as a long-term, comprehensive examination of operating procedures. The initiative was designed to engage the creative energies of all staff in identifying opportunities to improve efficiency and effectiveness. It builds upon a series of recent years' actions, including reorganization, focusing energies on important national issues, and improving product quality to accomplish GAO's mission of serving Congress. (GAO's organization at the

Table 3

Communicating the Results of GAO's Work

Type of Product	Recipient	Number Issued
Reports	Congress	92
	Congressional Committees	269
	Members of Congress	97
	Agency Officials	128
Testimony	Congressional Committees	117
Legal Opinions and Legislative Interpretations	Senate Committees	110
	House Committees	427
Comments on Pending Legislation	Congressional Committees	21
Grand Total		1,261

end of the fiscal year is depicted by the chart on p. 14.) In analyzing its work procedures, GAO is taking a decentralized approach, with each unit identifying opportunities for improvement and making changes. The agency's initial emphasis is on improving responsiveness to Congress, product timeliness, and efficiency of report review while maintaining quality standards. Several Office-wide innovations will be tested in selected units, and successful projects will be replicated throughout GAO.

Evaluating GAO's Responsiveness to Congress

As part of GAO's efforts to be responsive to congressional needs, the Comptroller General established a group to evaluate GAO's responsiveness to Congress, its committees and Members, and to recommend ways to improve areas where problems were found.

In announcing changes to help GAO respond more promptly to congressional requests, the Comptroller General reiterated, "Responding to congressional requests is GAO's top priority." As a result of the examination, GAO

will experiment with confirmation letters to foster clearer understanding of assignment objectives, scope, reporting products, time frames, and any subsequent changes; work to ensure assignment of top-quality staff to congressional committees; develop more realistic time estimates for completing assignments; and communicate more often with congressional requestors. Additionally, use of briefing reports and fact sheets, two new GAO products, will help GAO meet the needs of Congress faster.

Testing Compliance With Policies

GAO's Post-Assignment Quality Review System was established in June 1983 to help promote adherence to GAO's auditing and reporting standards, policies, and procedures. Based on similar evaluative systems in the private sector, GAO's efforts concentrated first on compliance testing. In fiscal year 1985, the emphasis was on

- communicating results of the first cycle of compliance testing to staff;
- clarifying and changing, where necessary, policy guidance to

contribute to better understanding and compliance with professional standards; and

- developing an approach to be used in the 1986 evaluation cycle that will address both technical adequacy and compliance aspects of GAO's work.

Noting that compliance is not an end in itself, the Comptroller General said he viewed the evaluation system as promoting quality, thereby improving the effectiveness and credibility of the Office.

Promoting Computer Technology

A GAO committee to review software set the tone for computer testing and training activities this fiscal year. The committee reported that 32 percent of GAO evaluators' time is devoted to activities that could be assisted by microcomputers.

At no cost and under no obligation, GAO staff tested over 100 models of lapsize (5 to 20 lbs.) computers from 16 manufacturers for capability to meet evaluators' needs for word processing and data analysis. The tests resulted in developing criteria for hardware and software requirements and for weighing tradeoffs between the price and performance of the particular models that meet users' needs.

GAO staff attended the office's first annual Technical Assistance Conference. Technical experts inside and outside GAO presented case studies of ADP applications, statistical and quantitative methods for use in GAO work, and technical seminars. Software application training seminars occurred throughout the year (see p. 11).

Planning Audits and Evaluations

GAO's planning system aims at making GAO responsive to congressional requests and to legislation requiring audits and evaluations. GAO seeks ideas and suggestions from congressional sources in developing its plans.

The basic unit of GAO's planning system is the "issue area," or

broad subject that focuses related issues of major national and congressional concern. GAO's 36 issue areas and areas of interest comprise the framework within which audit and evaluation work is planned and performed to meet Congress' present and anticipated information needs.

Concise issue area plans provide for 2- to 4-year planning and ensure that individual assignments

focus on congressional needs. The plans are reviewed annually so they can be adapted to the changing national issues.

The Office of the Comptroller General reviews issue area and annual work plans and reviews each assignment before a decision is made to devote large amounts of resources over an extended time period. Table 4 shows for each issue area and

Table 4
Divisions, Issue Areas, and Areas of Interest

Lead Divisions ¹	Issue Areas ²	Areas of Interest ³
Program Divisions		
General Government Division	Financial Services and Markets Tax Policy and Administration Administration of Justice Federal Civilian Workforce Civil Procurement and Property Management	Privacy National Productivity
Human Resources Division	Income Security Health Care Financing Health Delivery and Quality of Care Employment and Education	Intergovernmental Relations
National Security and International Affairs Division	Air Force Army Navy Research, Development, Acquisition, and Procurement Logistics Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence Security and International Relations Manpower and Reserve Affairs Foreign Economic Assistance International Trade/Commerce Policy	
Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division	Energy Food/Agriculture Transportation Housing and Community Development Environment Natural Resources Management	Science and Technology Policy and Programs
Technical Divisions		
Accounting and Financial Management Division	Financial Management Standards and Initiatives Internal Control and Financial Management Systems Audits Agency and Corporation Financial Statement Audits Fraud Prevention and Audit Oversight	
Information Management and Technology Division	Information Management and Technology	
Program Evaluation and Methodology Division	Program Evaluation and Methodology	
Office-wide	Agency Management Reviews	

¹ Divisions that have primary responsibility for a given issue area or area of interest.
² Broad subject categories around which GAO plans assignments and allocates resources.
³ Subject categories to which limited resources are allocated.

area of interest the divisions having primary planning, auditing, coordinating, and review responsibilities.

Human Resource Management

GAO's staff are the fundamental resource for auditing and evaluating federal programs. As a result, recruiting, training, and developing and rewarding good performance are high priorities for GAO as it strives to meet the challenges of more sophisticated analyses.

During fiscal year 1985, GAO continued to build on the recruiting foundation established in the prior 2 years. From 3,226 applications for entry-level evaluator positions, GAO hired 145 people. At the end of the year, GAO had about 5,100 staff. Of these, 4,245 (82 percent) were evaluators, accountants, auditors, attorneys, or other professionals.

The profile of GAO's staff reflects the complex and varied nature of the Office's work. GAO employs professionals in fields such as economics, management, accounting, medicine, nuclear engineering, the environment, social sciences, information systems, and computer science. This rich mix of capabilities helps GAO respond effectively to congressional needs for information and analysis.

Recruiting in 1985 was aided by the new National Recruitment System, an automated information system that permits information sharing among all GAO offices and divisions engaged in recruiting. The system helps GAO compare candidate profiles with office needs by school and by region and provides for expanded cross-referral. The system permits careful evaluation of GAO's re-

cruiting success at various sites across the country.

GAO staff, from new recruits through executives, are eligible for extensive training that orients them to GAO and helps develop technical and managerial skills. Through the Career Management System, GAO provides curricula and courses for its diverse staff. In fiscal year 1985, GAO offered 141,000 hours of in-house training.

In fiscal year 1985, GAO emphasized its Executive Education Program, designed to train senior managers for the next decade's increasingly technological environment. The program began with a series of briefings, including "Microcomputer Applications for Senior Managers," "Overview of Economics for GAO Senior Managers," and "Methodology Selection: Job Design and Execution." Seminars planned for fiscal year 1986 and piloted in 1985 include "Applying Design and Evaluation Methods," "Strategies for Data Collection," and "Data Analysis Issues for Senior Managers."

GAO has been developing computer training courses to coincide with procurement of personal and lapsed computers. By the end of the fiscal year, GAO had almost met its goal of one personal computer for every three evaluators and auditors. These computers are to be used for tasks ranging from relatively simple spreadsheet applications to more complex data base management systems. The increased computer training included the practical application of GAO software packages, an introductory course for generalists, and systems courses for advanced users.

Profiles of other GAO training and development programs follow:

- **Executive Candidate Development:** this program prepares GS-15's for Senior Executive Service; from a pool of 35 candidates, 12 were selected for positions.
- **Upward Mobility:** this program trains individuals from a variety of backgrounds and educational levels to become GAO evaluators; among nine candidates, two completed the program and advanced to evaluator positions.
- **External training:** about 200 staff, GS-13 through Senior Executive Service, attended competitively-awarded training courses outside GAO.
- **Counseling and Career Development:** this unit offered 31 workshops attended by 489 staff.

In addition to recruiting and training its staff, GAO continued to work on ways to better reward exemplary work. The Personnel Systems Development Project, established in 1981 to develop components of GAO's new personnel system authorized by the GAO Personnel Act of 1980, concentrated on developing a pay-for-performance system. Proposals were presented to GAO staff in November 1984 and refined on the basis of staff feedback. The end of the fiscal year saw GAO present revised proposals for changing how it paid its employees.

Equal employment opportunity is a goal of GAO. In fiscal year 1985, minorities and women comprised 36.3 percent of the audit, accounting, evaluation, legal, and other professional staff, compared with 34.3 percent in 1984; minorities and women represented 47 percent of the total staff, as compared to 45 percent in 1984.

GAO settled two class discrimination cases brought by a number of black employees who served,

or had served, as evaluators. In one case, GAO accepted the findings of an EEOC hearing examiner that the promotion process used from October 1976 to June 1983 had resulted in discrimination against members of the class. GAO consolidated the two cases for settlement purposes, agreeing to pay class members \$3.5 million for all monetary claims arising out of these two cases and to promote a specified number of class members during 1985. The Comptroller General, informing all GAO employees of the settlement of the cases, said, "The settlement of these cases will allow us to focus our full attention on the future, rededicating ourselves to our work and to the important objective of achieving equal employment opportunity in all aspects of GAO's operations."

Finally, as one other means of emphasizing the importance of people and their development at GAO, the first GAO Human Resources Conference was held. Sponsored by the Office of Organization and Human Development, the conference brought together senior divisional and regional managers to discuss GAO-wide human resource issues. The conference is expected to be an annual event.

New Laws Affecting GAO's Operations

New legislation continues to add to or broaden GAO's responsibilities. Some of these laws direct the Comptroller General to audit specific programs while others call for promulgating standards and evaluating data systems.

The Single Audit Act of 1984 (P.L. 98-502, Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2327) provides for the establishment of uniform audit requirements for state and local governments receiving federal financial assistance. It also requires

Operating Expenses

The fiscal year 1985 appropriation for GAO was \$299.7 million. Total obligations for the period were \$299.7 million, with an unobligated balance of \$0.7 million returned to the U.S. Treasury. Personnel compensation and benefits comprised \$218 million, or 73 percent, of total expenditures. Travel and other expenses comprised 5 percent and 22 percent respectively.

During the year, GAO received approximately \$668,000 in reimbursements for services rendered to House and Senate committees, and other federal organizations, all of which was applied to GAO's appropriation. GAO deposited in the U.S. Treasury \$0.4 million in receipts for audit services and other miscellaneous services.

that the Comptroller General review provisions of bills and resolutions that require financial or financial and compliance audits. If the provisions are inconsistent with the Single Audit Act's requirements, the Comptroller General is to notify the committee that reported the bill or resolution and the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs or the House Committee on Government Operations (98 Stat. 2333-2334).

The Public Works Improvement Act of 1984 (P.L. 98-501, Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2320) and the Federal Capital Investment Program Information Act of 1984 require the President to submit, with the budget proposal, an analysis of each major public civilian or military capital investment program. After consultation with the Comptroller General and the Congressional Budget Office, the Office of Management and Budget is to issue criteria and guidelines for identifying public civil-

ian and military capital investments, and for distinguishing between major and nonmajor capital investment programs (98 Stat. 2326).

The Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1986 and 1987 (P.L. 99-93, Aug. 16, 1985, 99 Stat. 405), amends the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act to prohibit paying funds to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees unless the High Commissioner provides for annual program audits. The Comptroller General is to inspect each audit and submit a report to the Congress (99 Stat. 411).

In the area of crime control, Public Law 98-473 (Oct. 12, 1984, 98 Stat. 1837) set up an independent commission to establish sentencing policies and practices for the federal criminal justice system. The commission is to promulgate sentencing guidelines related to criminal cases. The guidelines, however, may not become effective until GAO has begun to study and compare them with the existing sentencing and parole release system. The law also requires that GAO audit all financial transactions of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Island and contains provisions granting GAO access to pertinent records for purposes of audit.

Several acts expanded the Comptroller General's access to records. Included in this category are the National Organ Transplant Act (P.L. 98-507, Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2339), which provides access to records of grant recipients; the Developmental Disabilities Act of 1984 (P.L. 98-527, Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2662), which provides access to records of recipients of assistance; and the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Commemorative Coin Act (P.L. 99-61, Jul. 9, 1985, 99 Stat. 113), which gives the

Comptroller General the right to examine records related to the foundation restoring the Statue of Liberty. Access to records is for purposes of audit.

After the close of the fiscal year, on December 12, 1985, the President signed into law the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, Public Law 99-177. The act mandates yearly reductions in the federal deficit to a level of zero in 1991 and establishes a mechanism to ensure that those reductions are achieved. GAO has a substantial role in the process.

The act provides for automatic reductions in a broad range of defense and non-defense programs in any year in which the estimated deficit exceeds the mandated deficit level for that year. Reductions are carried out by the President, who issues special or-

ders suspending automatic spending increases and sequestering new budget authority. The President's actions are triggered by a report from the Comptroller General. The Comptroller General's report is, in turn, based on a report issued jointly by the Directors of the Office of Management and Budget and the Congressional Budget Office.

The act requires GAO to issue its first report to Congress and to the President on January 20, 1986, covering fiscal year 1986. For each fiscal year thereafter, GAO's initial report under the act will be issued on August 25 prior to the commencement of the fiscal year.

Additional information on these acts and their effect on GAO, as well as similar information on other new legislation affecting GAO, is in appendix five.

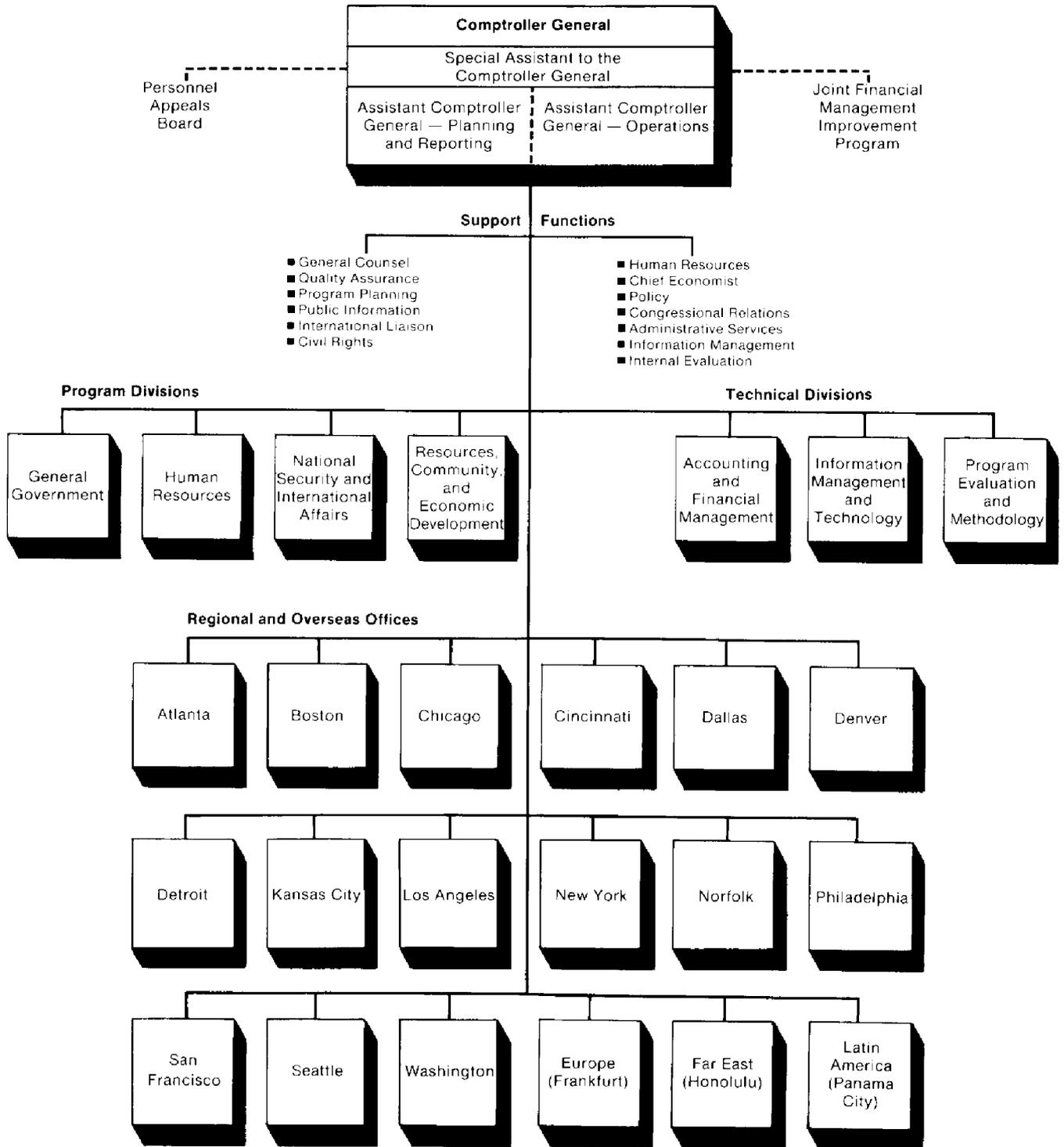
Participation on Boards and Councils

On occasion, the Comptroller General is appointed either by statutory or administrative action to serve on special boards, councils, or commissions. During fiscal year 1985, he served as Chairman of the Railroad Accounting Principles Board (Staggers Rail Act of 1980, P.L. 96-448; Legislative Branch Appropriations Act of 1985, P.L. 98-367).

Other bodies on which the Comptroller General served include

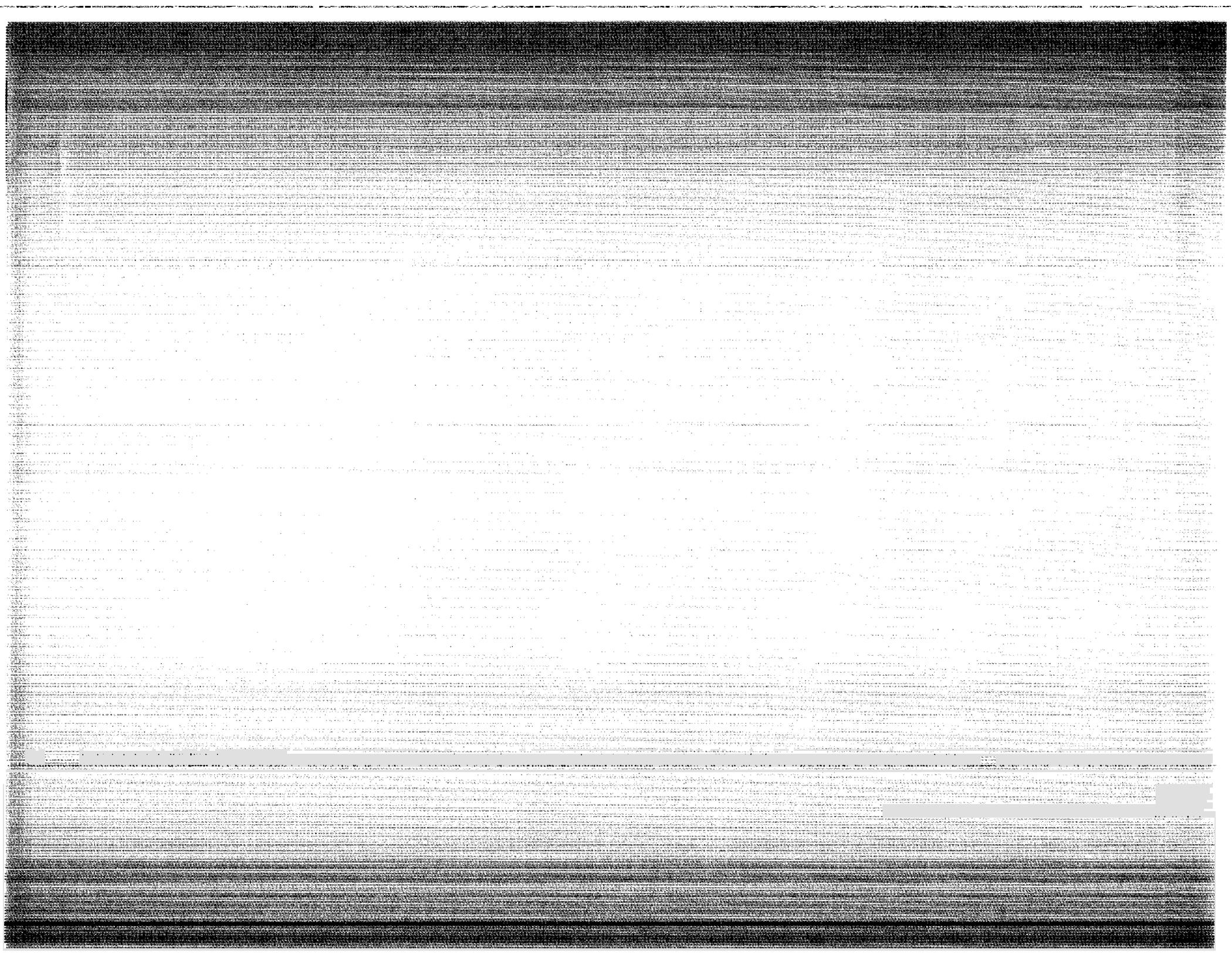
- the United States Railway Association Board (P.L. 97-35, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 674),
- the Advisory Council for the Office of Technology Assessment (P.L. 92-484, Dec. 13, 1972, 86 Stat. 800), and
- the President's Management Improvement Council (Executive Order 12157, Sept. 14, 1979).

Organization of the U.S. General Accounting Office



Charles A. Bowser
 Comptroller General of the United States
 September 30, 1985

Legislative Recommendations



Recommendations Acted On, Fiscal Year 1985

Agriculture

Federal Price Support for Honey Should Be Phased Out

The mandatory honey price-support program, in which only 1 percent of the nation's beekeepers participate, has become costly to the government—about \$164 million for the 1980–83 period. Since 1980 the government has acquired increasing quantities of honey as forfeiture of loan collateral because the support price has been greater than the world market price, and cheaper imported honey has been replacing domestic honey in the market.

GAO recommended that the Congress pass legislation to repeal the mandatory honey price-support program (7 U.S.C. 1446(b)) and that, if it did so, it consider directing the Secretary of Agriculture to use his existing discretionary authority under 7 U.S.C. 1447 to provide price support to honey producers and reduce this support incrementally over a period of time to ensure an orderly phaseout of the program and minimize the undue adverse impact on the beekeeping industry.

An amendment to repeal the program was offered on the House floor during debate on H.R. 2100 on October 3, 1985, but the amendment was ruled out of order. A similar amendment offered on the House floor on October 7, 1985, was rejected. (GAO/RCED–85–107, Aug. 19, 1985)

Automatic Data Processing

Improving the Management of Automating Trademark Operations

The Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations, asked GAO to conduct a review of

the automation of the trademark operations at the Department of Commerce's Patent and Trademark Office (PTO).

In April 1985, GAO reported on PTO's management problems in automating its trademark operations. GAO made agency recommendations to help ensure that automation goals are met and that appropriate procurement practices are used. GAO asked the Congress to consider withdrawing PTO's exchange agreement authority for acquiring automatic data processing resources if PTO did not take steps to implement GAO's recommendations in that area.

To address GAO's concerns, the House Committee on the Judiciary, through the Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties, and the Administration of Justice, agreed to two amendments to the PTO authorization bill for fiscal years 1986 through 1988: (1) PTO is precluded from expending fees obtained from users of the patent and trademark system to acquire any automatic data processing resources during fiscal years 1986, 1987, and 1988 and (2) the PTO Commissioner is precluded from using his exchange agreement authority for exchange of items or services relating to automatic data processing resources during fiscal years 1986, 1987, and 1988. The PTO authorization bill (H.R. 2434) was reported favorably by the Committee on May 15, 1985 (H.R. Rept. 99–104).

GAO testified on July 23, 1985, before the Subcommittee on Patents, Copyrights, and Trademarks, Senate Committee on the Judiciary, on PTO's efforts to automate its trademark operations. The PTO authorization bill (H.R. 2434) was pending before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary at the close of the fiscal year. (GAO/IMTEC–85–8, Apr. 9, 1985)

Consider Deferring Contract To Perform More Realistic Testing of FAA's Host Computer

The Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation, House Committee on Appropriations, asked GAO to review the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA's) \$725-million Host Computer Program. Host computers are intended to support the nation's air traffic control in the late 1980's and the 1990's.

In a June 1985 report, GAO reported that (1) vendor testing prior to acquisition of the Host computers did not adequately simulate present or future operational requirements and (2) documentation of test plans and results and technical oversight of performance testing were inadequate. GAO also questioned the accuracy and reliability of the computer model upon which FAA's projections of air traffic delays are based. If these projections are inaccurate, the FAA's contention regarding the urgency of the need for Host computers may not be supportable.

GAO recommended that the Secretary of Transportation consider the merits of deferring the production and vendor selection decisions for the Host computers and performing more realistic performance testing. GAO recommended that the Congress consider directing the Secretary to defer the contract award if the Secretary decides to proceed without realistic performance testing and without adequate explanation of the urgency of proceeding.

In a June 10, 1985, letter to the Secretary, the Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation, House Committee on Appropriations, endorsed GAO's recommendation that realistic performance

testing should be conducted. He requested that the issues raised be given a thorough and comprehensive review by the Secretary. Further, if the Secretary's decision is to proceed without the testing recommended by GAO, then the Secretary is expected to provide written assurances to the Chairman that the system to be selected will meet FAA's future operational needs and that there will be no additional costs, beyond those currently estimated, to provide a system that will perform as required. (GAO/IMTEC-85-10, June 6, 1985)

Energy

Ways to Collect Nuclear Waste Disposal Fees More Promptly

In a January 1985 report, GAO recommended that the Department of Energy (DOE) evaluate ways to more promptly collect nuclear waste disposal fees from all anticipated users of its disposal services. Based on its analysis of DOE's fee collection procedures and plans, GAO found the potential for accelerating the deposit of millions of dollars in such fees to the Nuclear Waste Fund, a special trust fund established in 1983 to finance DOE's efforts to dispose of highly radioactive materials from nuclear power plants and other sources.

In response to GAO's analysis of DOE's fee collection system, H.R. 2040, as introduced on April 15, 1985, contained a provision that would require DOE to (1) collect certain fees from nuclear utilities monthly, rather than quarterly, and (2) subject deferred payments of other fees to commercial, rather than Treasury, interest rates. The House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs subsequently deferred action on this provision. The Committee's report (H. Rept. 99-170, Part 1, June 12, 1985) stated that the

Committee was interested in obtaining further information before encouraging changes in DOE's fee collection system. (GAO/RCED-85-27, Jan. 10, 1985)

More Information Needed on the Waste Management Effects of Extending the Useful Life of Nuclear Fuel

In January 1984, GAO recommended that the Department of Energy (DOE) evaluate fully the waste management effects of extending the useful life of nuclear fuel. In its report on H.R. 2041, a bill authorizing appropriations to DOE for fiscal years 1986 and 1987, the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs recommended that \$3 million be spent in fiscal year 1986 on related federal research and development (H. Rept. 99-118, Part 1, May 15, 1985). The Committee made reference to GAO's recommendation and noted that it looked forward to receiving a thorough and accurate final evaluation of this issue by DOE. (GAO/RCED-84-111, Jan. 7, 1984)

General Government

Removing Unnecessary Reporting Requirements

GAO has responsibility under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to make recommendations to the Congress and its committees on agency reporting requirements. During GAO's periodic review it was found that certain requirements were duplicative or no longer needed for congressional oversight. On May 15, 1985, H.R. 2519 was introduced in the House and referred to the Committee on Government Operations. It incorporated GAO's recommendations to eliminate and/or modify GAO's reporting requirements under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendment of 1978, Civil Service Reform Act, Congressional Bud-

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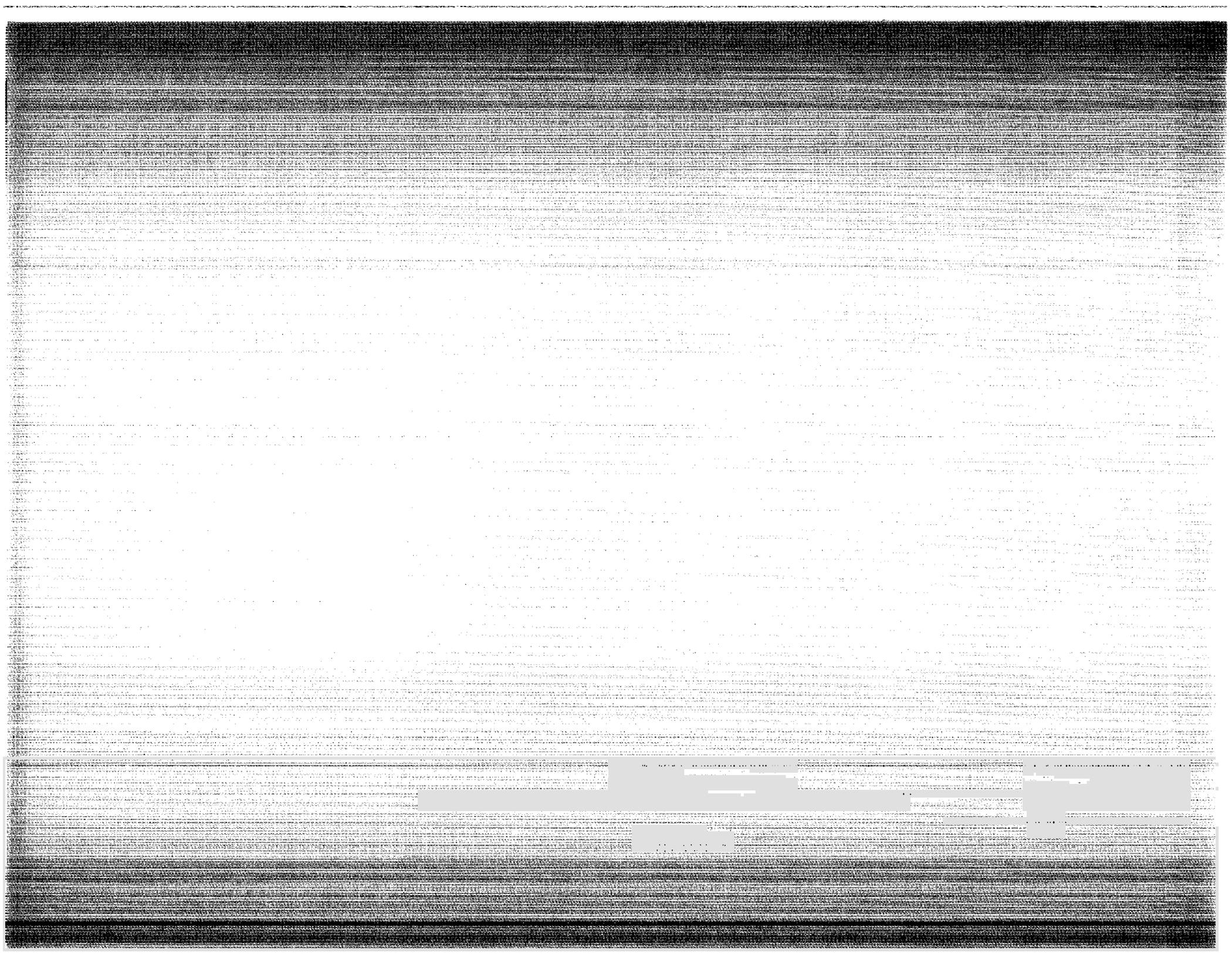
More Uniform Treatment Needed of Persons Displaced by Federal Programs

In March 1978, GAO reported that the federal government had not provided uniform treatment to people displaced from their homes and businesses by federal or federally assisted programs. The root cause of this situation was the Uniform Relocation Act, which did not provide sufficient coverage and benefits to protect all who suffered hardships when displaced. Also, as long as each federal agency had the authority to issue its own relocation regulations, inconsistencies and inequities could be expected to continue.

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

S. 531 passed the Senate and H.R. 5504 passed the House, but neither was enacted as of the end of the fiscal year. Both bills broadened and clarified the coverage of the act, provided additional benefits to displaced businesses and gave the President authority to designate one agency

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to coordinate the implementation of the act. (GGD-78-6, Mar. 8, 1978)

Improving the Targeting of General Revenue Sharing Funds to Units of Local Government

Over the past decade GAO has issued a series of reports on various aspects of the formula used to distribute general fiscal assistance to local governments nationwide. The reports contained several recommendations for changing various aspects of the formulas, such as the treatment of Indian tribes and the application of various constraints. H.R. 2978, the General Revenue Sharing Amendments of 1985, was introduced on July 11, 1985, and referred to the Committee on Government Operations. It contains provisions that implement most of GAO's past recommendations. No action had been taken on this bill by the close of the fiscal year. (GGD-82-46, Apr. 15, 1982; GGD-80-69, June 10, 1980; GGD-76-64, May 27, 1976; GGD-76-59, Apr. 22, 1976)

Improving the Effectiveness of the Administration of the Crude Oil Windfall Profit Tax

GAO recommended that the Congress expand IRS' authority to issue notices of additional tax due as a result of examination of oil properties. IRS presently is limited to issuing a single notice of tax due per taxpayer each year. Thus, significant revenue collection delays could be encountered when IRS seeks to consolidate examination results for producers' various properties.

GAO also pointed out a need to ensure that the same examination issues do not lead to duplicative court cases. Taxpayers should be able to appeal IRS examination

determinations. However, the Congress should establish a consolidated appeals process for issues that affect all producers in any given oil property in the same manner. This would help prevent the Tax Court's already heavy case backlog from further increasing.

On June 27, 1984, H.R. 5934, which incorporated GAO's two recommendations, was introduced in the House. No further action was taken during the year. On January 31, 1985, the bill was reintroduced as H.R. 898 and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means where action was pending at the end of the fiscal year. (*Congressional Record*, Jan. 31, 1985, and GAO/ GGD-84-15, June 18, 1984)

Health

Protecting Medicare and Medicaid Patients From Health Practitioners Who Lose Their Licenses

GAO found that Medicare and Medicaid patients were treated by health practitioners (doctors, dentists, podiatrists, etc.) who had lost their licenses in one state because they failed to meet minimum professional standards. They simply moved to another state where they held a license and continued to practice. The Department of Health and Human Services did not have authority to exclude practitioners who lose their licenses in one state from nationwide participation in the programs, and GAO believed it should be given this authority. GAO also identified three other gaps in the Department's exclusion authority. GAO recommended that the Department expand its planned legislative proposal on exclusion au-

thority to eliminate the four gaps GAO identified.

Bills were introduced in both houses of the Congress that would eliminate the gaps in exclusion authority GAO identified. GAO testified on such bills. On June 4, 1985, the House passed H.R. 1868, which incorporates GAO's recommendation (*Congressional Record*, June 4, 1985, p. H43729). The legislation was received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance, Subcommittee on Health, where GAO testified. No further action had been taken at year-end. (GAO/HRD-84-53, May 1, 1984; GAO testimony, Mar. 19, 1985, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, and House Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health; GAO testimony, July 12, 1985, Senate Finance Committee, Subcommittee on Health)

Improving the Distribution of Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health (ADAMH) Block Grant Funding

The ADAMH block grant represents the consolidation of 10 categorical programs. The authorizing legislation allocated funds to states in proportion to the state-by-state distribution of aid received under the categorical programs received in fiscal year 1981. GAO identified two reasons why this method of distribution could lead to increasingly inequitable ADAMH allotments. First, the 1981 distribution of federal aid did not correspond to the distribution of need; second, this method of distributing aid would not be responsive to changing demographic trends over time. GAO identified several options for improving the formula. One of the options identified was passed by the Congress in Public Law 98-509, October 19, 1984. (GAO/ GGD-84-88, June 21, 1984)

Income Security

Techniques for Collecting Overissued Food Stamp Benefits Should Be Improved

In fiscal year 1983—the most recent year for which data were available—states collected less than 2 cents of every overissued food stamp dollar. The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 provided states with financial incentives and improved methods to increase collections. However, trying to recover overissuances from those no longer participating in the Food Stamp Program is still a particularly difficult task. GAO recommended that the Congress require states to promptly take all necessary steps to recover overissuances from households no longer in the program.

S. 616, introduced in March 1985, would require states to take all steps necessary to recover overissued food stamp benefits. S. 616 and S. 835, introduced in April 1985 and referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, would also authorize states to intercept unemployment compensation benefits for this purpose. The provisions of S. 616 were incorporated in S. 1714, the farm bill passed by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and placed on the Senate calendar on September 30, 1985. Similar provisions were included in S. 1730, the proposed Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, reported by the Senate Committee on the Budget and placed on the Senate calendar September 30, 1985. S. 835 had not been acted on as of September 30, 1985. (GAO/RCED-85-109, Apr. 17, 1985; GAO/RCED-83-40, Feb. 4, 1983; GAO testimony, Apr. 17, 1985, and Apr. 20, 1983, House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing,

Consumer Relations, and Nutrition, and Apr. 25, 1984, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry)

Authority Needed to Recover Food Stamp Benefit Overissuances Caused by Agency Errors

The Congress recognized the need for more effective ways for states to collect on claims resulting from overissuances of food stamp benefits and, in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, required states to use recoupment; that is, to recover overissuances from current program participants by reducing their monthly benefits. However, this procedure was authorized only in the case of participant-caused overissuances; it may not be used to collect overissuances caused by the food stamp agency unless the participant agrees. GAO recommended that the Congress amend food stamp legislation to require states to recover overissuances by reducing monthly benefits of participating households regardless of the reason for the improper issuance. Such a change would make the Food Stamp Program's recoupment authority comparable to that of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program.

S. 616, introduced in March 1985 and subsequently incorporated in S. 1714, would require recoupment of overissuances regardless of the reason for the improper issuance. S. 1714, the farm bill passed by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and placed on the Senate calendar on September 30, 1985, would authorize the recoupment of overissuances caused by agency errors. A similar provision was included in S. 1730, the proposed Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, reported by the Senate Committee on the Budget and

placed on the Senate calendar on September 30, 1985. (GAO/RCED-85-109, Apr. 17, 1985; GAO/RCED-83-40, Feb. 4, 1983; GAO testimony, Apr. 17, 1985, and Apr. 20, 1983, House Committee on Agriculture, and Apr. 25, 1984, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry)

Incentives to States to Reduce Their Food Stamp Program Error Rates

Errors made in determining applicants' eligibility for food stamps and in calculating participant benefits cost the federal government about \$1 billion a year, according to the most recent data available. To reduce these losses, the Congress in 1980 established an error rate sanction system to hold states accountable for some part of incorrect benefit issuances. Acting on a GAO recommendation, the Congress in 1982 passed legislation to set more stringent error rate goals (tolerances) and reduce federal reimbursement of state administrative expenses in cases where state error rates exceed those goals. Although the 1982 legislation increased state liability for errors, the procedure used does not hold states accountable for the entire amount by which they exceed error rate goals. Also, the legislation did not consider the statistical reliability of the error rate estimates upon which sanctions are based.

Three Senate bills—S. 616, introduced in March 1985 and subsequently incorporated in S. 1714; S. 835, introduced in April 1985 and referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; and S. 1730—would make states liable for the entire amount by which they exceed error rate goals.

H.R. 2621, introduced in May 1985 and referred to the House

Committee on Agriculture, would require the Department of Agriculture to consider the statistical reliability of error rate estimates when assessing sanctions. S. 1714 and S. 1730 were placed on the Senate calendar on September 30, 1985. S. 835 and H.R. 2621 had not been acted on as of September 30, 1985. (GAO/RCED-85-109, Apr. 17, 1985; GAO/RCED-85-98, Apr. 12, 1985; GAO/RCED-84-155, Apr. 25, 1984; GAO testimony, Apr. 17, 1985, and Mar. 24, 1982, House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing, Consumer Relations, and Nutrition, and Mar. 29, 1982, and Apr. 25, 1984, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry)

Food Stamp Household Definition Should Be Streamlined

The Food Stamp Program has complex procedures for certifying households eligible for participation and determining benefit levels, and states attribute many of their eligibility and benefit errors to these complicated procedures. Regulations governing who is or is not a household member are detailed and complex and can lead to errors. Streamlining the definition of "household" for the Food Stamp Program would help eliminate program abuse, reduce administrative time and effort, and reduce benefit costs by combining previously separate households into fewer, but larger, households. For these reasons, GAO recommended that the Congress redefine a food stamp household so that all persons living together would be considered a single unit for program eligibility and benefit purposes.

S. 835, introduced in April 1985 and referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, would simplify the definition of a household for Food Stamp Program purposes.

S. 835 had not been acted on as of September 30, 1985. (GAO/RCED-85-109, Apr. 17, 1985; GAO/RCED-83-40, Feb. 4, 1983; GAO testimony, Apr. 17, 1985, Mar. 24, 1982, and Apr. 20, 1980, House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing, Consumer Relations, and Nutrition, and Mar. 29, 1982, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry)

Consider Allotting Food Stamp Benefits to Meet the Individual Needs of Participants

Food stamp benefits are based on the Department of Agriculture's annually adjusted cost of feeding a model four-person household as set out in the Thrifty Food Plan. This benefit level is intended to be sufficient for obtaining a low-cost, nutritionally adequate diet. However, this model household does not reflect the composition and nutritional needs of today's average participating household, and the federal government may be issuing more food stamp benefits than it would be if benefits were more nearly based on the actual age, sex, and size of participating households. GAO recommended that the Congress authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to implement individualized food stamp allotments nationwide, if demonstration projects show the feasibility of such allotments.

One provision of S. 616, introduced in March 1985 and referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, would have adjusted the Thrifty Food Plan to base allotments on the age, sex, and size of the average food stamp household. This provision was not included when S. 616 was incorporated in S. 1714, the farm bill passed by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry on September 30, 1985. (GAO/RCED-

85-109, Apr. 17, 1985; CED-78-113, June 13, 1978; GAO testimony, Apr. 17, 1985, and Mar. 19 and 30, 1981, House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing, Consumer Relations, and Nutrition, and Apr. 2, 1981, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry)

Consider Eliminating the Benefit Overlaps Among Food Stamp and Other Food Assistance Programs

Multiple participation is specifically sanctioned in the legislation authorizing most food assistance programs, and food stamp households frequently receive benefits from other federal food assistance programs that are not considered in determining eligibility for food stamps. For example, benefits received from programs providing free or reduced-price school lunches or breakfasts are not included in the income computation for determining food stamp eligibility. This has led to congressional concern about the effects of multiple participation in food assistance programs and whether the overlaps in coverage among these programs should be considered in food stamp eligibility and benefit-level determinations. GAO recommended that the Congress require the Secretary of Agriculture to determine the feasibility of considering benefits from other food assistance programs in determining food stamp eligibility and benefits and, if the study proves the proposal to be feasible, to eliminate duplicative food assistance benefits.

One provision of S. 616, introduced in March 1985 and referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, would have required Agriculture to count the value of benefits received from other food assistance programs as income when

determining eligibility and benefits for the Food Stamp Program. This provision was not included when S. 616 was incorporated in S. 1714, the farm bill passed by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry on September 30, 1985. (GAO/RCED-85-109, Apr. 17, 1985; CED-78-113, June 13, 1978; GAO testimony, Apr. 17, 1985, and Mar. 19 and 30, 1981, House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing, Consumer Relations, and Nutrition, and Apr. 2, 1981, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry)

International Affairs

State Inspector General Placed Under 1978 Inspector General Act

A GAO review of the State Department's Office of Inspector General (IG) disclosed several problems, including:

- The IG's office needs greater independence;
- Much of the IG's resources were spent performing routine inspections that should have been conducted by departmental management;
- State's management performed investigations of fraud, waste, and abuse that should have been conducted by the IG; and
- Generally accepted government auditing standards were not complied with and the quality of the IG's work had been adversely affected because IG audit teams were comprised primarily of Foreign Service officers who did not have adequate audit experience and training.

GAO believed that exceptions contained in the Foreign Service Act

of 1980, which authorized a statutory IG for the State Department, were inconsistent with the basic concept embodied in the Inspector General Act of 1978 and were major contributing factors to the problems GAO found. Accordingly, GAO recommended that the Congress repeal section 209 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 and place the State Department IG under the Inspector General Act of 1978. GAO's recommendation was adopted by the Congress in Section 150 of Public Law 99-93 (Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1986 and 1987) dated August 16, 1985. (GAO/AFMD-83-56, June 6, 1983)

Reducing Export Control Regulation

The Export Administration Act of 1979 authorizes the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with other departments and agencies, to control exports of certain commercial items for national security, foreign policy, and short-supply purposes. Commercial technologies and products considered militarily significant comprise the largest category of controlled exports.

In its 1982 report, GAO concluded that industry is required to obtain export licenses for many more products than is necessary to protect national security. GAO recommended changes in licensing regulations that could eliminate almost half the export license applications received each year without affecting national security. GAO also identified a means of further reducing licensing requirements to certain U.S. allies. Public Law 99-64, July 12, 1985, incorporated, in part, the changes recommended and eliminated certain licensing requirements to certain U.S. allies (see 99 Stat. 124). (GAO/ID-82-14, May 26, 1982)

U.S. Involvement in Coordinating International Policy

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has been used by the United States to coordinate international energy policy with other industrialized nations for more than a decade. Of particular importance are measures agreed to by the member nations to reduce oil demand, maintain and use emergency oil reserves, and share oil in an emergency.

Statutory provisions covering U.S. government and oil companies' participation in IEA were scheduled to expire on June 30, 1985. In its June 13, 1985, report on U.S. participation in IEA's emergency oil sharing system, GAO concluded that the Congress should extend these statutory provisions. Further, in this report and related discussions with congressional staff, GAO noted certain important disadvantages that might result should the U.S. government provide limited antitrust and breach-of-contract defenses to oil companies for what have been characterized as "type 1" transactions. These are generally normal commercial transactions made independently of IEA during an oil disruption; however, cases could arise where some type 1 transactions resulted from IEA requests to move oil from IEA countries with excess oil supply to IEA countries short on oil supply.

Based on GAO's work, in June 1985 an amendment to the reauthorizing legislation was proposed allowing the Congress to make antitrust and breach-of-contract defenses inapplicable to type 1 activities if a joint resolution of disapproval has been enacted into law during a 90-day period of continuous session following transmission to the Congress of a plan that included defenses for type 1 activities. On

July 2, 1985, Public Law 99-58, including the amendment, was enacted, extending the basic IEA authorities. (GAO/NSIAD-85-99, June 13, 1985)

Better Management Needed of Program for Initial Reception and Placement of Refugees

In April 1985, GAO proposed that the Department of State establish more specific standards and criteria for strengthening the Department's accounting, monitoring, and evaluation of the services that voluntary agencies in the United States provide, under cooperative agreements, to newly arrived refugees. The House Committee on the Judiciary in June 1985 passed the Refugee Assistance Extension Authorization Act of 1985 (H.R. 1452), which contains a precise list of criteria that the Department of State will refine and use in establishing the services the voluntary agencies are to perform and the reports they are to submit to the Department. The Senate Committee on the Judiciary prepared a companion bill (S. 1262). As of October 1985, the House bill had passed, but the Senate companion had not. (GAO Statement for the Record submitted to the House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and International Law, Apr. 17, 1985)

Improving the Oversight of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Broadcasts

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty have existed since the 1950's as private, government-financed radio services broadcasting to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, respectively. The radios operate under American management and the statutory oversight of the Board for International Broadcast-

ing. GAO reported in June 1985 that management's controls to prevent broadcast violations had been weakened and that the Board's independent oversight of radio programming had decreased. GAO also found that the Board's coordination with outside sources—particularly the State Department—had decreased. GAO made a number of recommendations to improve management controls, strengthen the oversight activities of the Board, and improve the coordination.

The Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1986 and 1987 (P.L. 99-93), addresses most of the recommendations GAO made. Specifically, the act provides for strengthening broadcast controls and post-broadcast analysis, improving oversight by the Board, reviewing program policy guidelines, avoiding Board involvement in the radios' daily operations, devoting the necessary resources and personnel to strengthen both the oversight and quality of broadcasts, and the presence of a State Department observer at the Board meetings. (GAO/NSIAD-85-93, June 24, 1985; GAO testimony, Mar. 30, 1985, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations)

Budgeting for Foreign Military Sales

The United States had shifted the foreign military sales financing program from an on-budget grant and low-interest direct loan program to an off-budget high-interest loan program. This shift was not entirely realistic because the total expenditures for foreign military assistance were not shown in the foreign aid budget, high interest rates were being charged to countries that could not afford them, and the reserve fund used to guarantee the loans was undercapitalized.

GAO recommended that the entire foreign military sales program be placed on budget, the financing programs be tailored to the ability of countries to repay these loans, and the funding levels of the reserve fund be commensurate with the size and nature of its contingent liability. A GAO report and testimony were used extensively in both House and Senate debates on this subject. The Continuing Appropriations Act, 1985 (P.L. 98-473), contained the restructuring changes GAO recommended. (GAO/D-83-5, Jan. 19, 1983)

Increased Foreign Military Sales Tuition Rates

At the request of the executive branch, the Congress eliminated the inclusion of direct costs in determining tuition rates for foreign military students being trained under the foreign military sales program. Since other programs are available to provide reduced training costs for poorer countries, this action resulted in virtually all of the savings going to affluent industrialized or oil-rich countries.

GAO recommended that the Congress price the training on a full-cost basis and provide guidelines for discount prices, if warranted, for political or national security reasons. Its report and followup letter to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs describing the circumstances and the estimated increased revenues were used extensively in congressional deliberations concerning this subject. Subsequently, the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-83) amended the Arms Export Control Act to price this training at full cost to the United States unless a country is receiving other discounted cost training. (GAO/NSIAD-84-61, Feb. 21, 1984)

Naval Ships Leased to Foreign Countries

The Department of Defense had been leasing U.S. naval ships to foreign countries without applying the requirements regarding leasing of defense articles under the Arms Export Control Act. The Department contended that the act did not apply to ship leases. These leases did not provide for adequate control over the leased property, proper lease charges, or oversight by appropriate congressional committees.

GAO recommended that legislation be enacted to require that ships be leased in accordance with the Arms Export Control Act. A GAO report was used in the foreign assistance deliberations, and the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-83) included the provision that such leases of ships be made only in accordance with the provisions of the Arms Export Control Act. (GAO/ID-83-6, Nov. 23, 1982)

Cash Flow Financing for Foreign Military Sales

Under a cash flow method of financing foreign military sales, as opposed to normal full funding, the United States has allowed certain foreign countries to order billions of dollars of military equipment beyond that authorized by the Congress. In doing so, a country sets aside only the amount of money it needs to meet the current fiscal year's cash requirements. This practice allows a recipient country to place more orders sooner to expedite delivery and minimize cost. However, it appears to commit the Congress to larger financing programs in future years, limiting, in GAO's view, the prerogatives of the Congress in authorizing the U.S. security assistance program.

GAO believed that the Congress should be fully informed about the implications of this practice and its costs and benefits to the United States. Accordingly, GAO recommended that the Congress enact legislation requiring the executive branch to provide advance notification for cash flow financing commitments. GAO's recommendation was discussed in congressional deliberations and included in subsequent draft legislation. It was then adopted in ensuing legislation, the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-83), with the proviso that reporting to the Congress be limited to those countries for which cash flow financing exceeds \$100 million in a fiscal year. (ID-82-15, Feb. 5, 1982)

Increased Number of U.S. Commissioners on Great Lakes Fishery Commission

In July 1985, GAO reported to the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries on the absenteeism of U.S. commissioners at Great Lakes Fishery Commission meetings and on the need for an alternate commissioner to serve when one of the commissioners is unable to attend.

On September 10, 1985, H.R. 3256 was introduced by the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries to amend the Great Lakes Fishery Act of 1956 to increase the U.S. membership on the commission, have the President appoint an alternate commissioner, and establish 6-year terms for nonfederal commissioners with reappointment for additional terms possible. As of October 1985, the bill was still being considered. (GAO/NSIAD-85-106, July 25, 1985)

Trade Offsets in Foreign Military Sales

In April 1984, we reported to the Subcommittee on Economic Stabilization, House Committee on Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs, that the Committee might want to consider the need for Congress to direct that the administration institute a policy to resist offsets (demands for trade) by foreign governments when foreign military sales credits or grants are involved in the sales. Exceptions to this rule might be made for foreign policy considerations. We also reported on the lack of a comprehensive national policy on the administration of offset that incorporates the reviews of the various affected U.S. government agencies and private industry.

As a result of our discussions with the House Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs Committee, our April 1984 report, and testimony by the involved government agencies, Congress enacted Public Law 98-265, which amended the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. App. 2091 et seq.) to require the administration to report annually on the impact of offsets on defense preparedness, industrial competitiveness, employment, and trade of the United States. (GAO/NSIAD-84-102, Apr. 13, 1984)

Sale of Ships to Foreign Countries

U.S. naval ships that are determined to be excess can be sold to foreign countries under provisions of the Arms Export Control Act. For the most part, ships have been sold at prices based on scrap value rather than the higher fair value. The U.S. Navy did not determine the condition of these ships at the time of sale, and many of the prices did not reflect conversion and overhaul

costs or the cost of spare parts and consumables left on board at the time of transfer.

GAO recommended that the prices of such ships be based on the higher of fair value or scrap value. In its report, GAO recognized that national security interests might justify selling a ship at a lower price but that this should be authorized by the appropriate congressional committees—not by the U.S. Navy. GAO's position was considered during congressional deliberations, and the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-83) amended the Arms Export Control Act to adopt GAO's position that the higher value, including conversion costs, be used. (GAO/NSIAD-84-7, Apr. 12, 1984)

National Defense

Reductions in DOD's Ammunition Procurement and Production Base Programs

The Chairmen, Subcommittees on Defense, House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, asked GAO to assist them by reviewing the military services' budgeted requests for ammunition and modernizing ammunition production facilities.

In October 1984, GAO suggested budget reductions on numerous lines on the basis of delivery schedule slippages, excess inventory, production efficiencies, and updated cost estimates. The reports of the House Committee on Appropriations (H. Rept. 98-1086, Sept. 26, 1984) and Senate Committee on Appropriations (S. Rept. 98-696, Sept. 26, 1984) cited GAO's work and made reductions on the basis of its work. The Committee of Conference of the House and Senate (H. Rept. 98-1159, Oct. 6, 1984) reduced

the services' budget requests by \$485.8 million. (GAO/NSIAD-85-12, Oct. 23, 1984)

Reduction in the Sergeant York Air Defense Gun Procurement Request

As a result of a briefing provided by GAO on May 11, 1984, to a member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, the Department of Defense 1985 Authorization Act (P.L. 98-525) included statutory language prohibiting the expenditure of funds to procure additional Sergeant York air defense (also known as DIVAD) guns until after test results were known. The provision required that before any additional funds are obligated for Sergeant York's production, the Secretary of Defense had to certify to the Congress that the test results justified continuing the program.

GAO had reviewed the program and found the Sergeant York was experiencing problems in tests with the performance of its radar, ability to discriminate between friendly and unfriendly aircraft, response time to acquire and engage targets, availability, and success in meeting reliability requirements. Partly as a result of GAO's work, the Committee reduced the Army's \$406.5 million request to \$150 million in fiscal year 1986 and required that the Army complete and report on testing before continuing procurement (S. Rept. 99-41, Apr. 29, 1985). The test results failed to show sufficient improvement in the system, and in August 1985, the Secretary of Defense terminated the program.

Elimination of Credits for Time Spent in the Delayed Entry Program

The delayed entry program allows individuals to enlist in the

armed services but to delay reporting for duty, up to 12 months, until appropriate jobs and training are available. Time spent in the program counts as longevity for determining base pay. GAO's analysis indicated that (1) no research exists that crediting longevity is a useful recruiting incentive, (2) most anecdotal evidence is that potential recruits are unaware of the longevity policy, (3) the pay credit is an inefficient economic incentive, and (4) the pay credit for those who entered in fiscal year 1984 will cost about \$41 million in fiscal year 1985. If there were no changes, pay for longevity credits earned in the delayed entry program could require about \$3.7 billion in appropriations over the next 20 years.

As a result of GAO's analysis, the Senate Committee on Armed Services introduced legislation as part of the Omnibus Defense Authorization Act of 1985. The legislation denied credit for time spent in a delayed entry program for the purpose of basic pay computation. The legislation (P.L. 98-525) was enacted on October 19, 1984. (GAO/NSIAD-84-145, Sept. 26, 1984)

Natural Resources and Environment

Water Research and Development

To improve water-related research and development efforts scattered among 28 federal organizations, GAO recommended that the Congress amend section 406 of the Water Research and Development Act of 1978 to establish a water resources research committee to coordinate water-related research. This committee should be composed of representatives from the major federal organizations involved in water

sources research and should report directly to the Office of Science and Technology Policy. GAO also recommended that the Congress amend section 406 to require the committee to coordinate research to

- establish priorities for water conservation and augmentation technologies based upon the results of overall comparative assessments of these technologies;
- provide leadership and guidance to other agencies in developing formal multiagency and single-agency plans for the technologies with specific objectives, milestones, technology transfer goals, and provisions for independent periodic evaluations;
- make recommendations annually to the Congress concerning the adequacy of the funding levels of water research, development, and technology transfer activities; and
- consider the data developed pursuant to section 103 of the act in coordinating research and establishing research priorities.

In June 1985 and September 1985 the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation and the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, respectively, passed H.R. 6 (Water Resources Omnibus Bill). House Report 99-251, Parts 1 and 4, dated August 1, 1985, and September 23, 1985, respectively, include a provision for a water resources policy board that, among other things, would coordinate water-related research. The Senate had not acted on this bill at the end of the fiscal year. (CED-81-87, June 5, 1981)

Offshore Oil and Gas

In October 1984, GAO issued its sixth annual report to the Congress evaluating the methodology the Secretary of the Interior used

in allowing offshore oil and gas wells to be suspended from production (shut-in) or to burn off (flare) natural gas. GAO noted that its last four reports questioned the usefulness of Interior's annual report on shut-in and flaring wells. In each of the reports, GAO recommended that the Congress repeal section 15(1)(D) of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, as amended, and sections 601(a) and (b) of the OCS Lands Act Amendments of 1978. These repeals would abolish the requirements that Interior annually report on such practices and that GAO annually evaluate the Secretary of the Interior's methodology. GAO continues to support this recommendation to release resources of both the Department of the Interior and GAO to serve higher priority needs.

On July 9, 1985, the Senate passed S. 1068, which, if enacted, would eliminate both Interior's and GAO's reporting requirements. The House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries has introduced a similar bill, H.R. 1983; however, no action had been taken at the end of the fiscal year. (GAO/RCED-85-10, Oct. 30, 1984)

Improvements in Acquisition of Geophysical Data

In November 1984, GAO reported that Interior was paying millions of dollars annually to acquire geophysical data from (1) companies whose business is collecting and selling data to oil companies and (2) oil companies, or groups of oil companies, which gather such data for their own use. GAO noted that the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978 provide that Interior pay these companies for certain costs when acquiring these data; however, GAO questioned whether Interior should pay for all these costs, since these companies

gather, process, and reproduce geophysical data for their own use or resale and do so independently of Interior's right to acquire the data.

Interior, as part of its fiscal year 1986 appropriations request, included language to amend the 1978 amendments to eliminate the requirement that Interior reimburse permittees for certain costs if the data are provided to Interior in the same form used by the company. According to Interior, this would save about \$4.8 million in fiscal year 1986 and would provide similar savings in future years. Interior's appropriation bill, containing this provision, was passed by the House Appropriations Committee on July 31, 1985. Senate action on the bill was pending at the end of the year. (GAO/RCED-85-9, Nov. 20, 1984)

Unneeded Outer Continental Shelf Production Rate-Setting Functions

In September 1982, GAO reported that certain offshore oil and gas production rates compiled by Interior were not useful or necessary. The Department of the Interior requires offshore lease operators to submit information regarding the rate at which oil and gas can be produced from the leases they operate to Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS). Data for three different production rates are currently being requested and compiled by MMS. GAO found that most of the data being submitted were of little value and that one of the rates being calculated was not needed. Accordingly, GAO recommended that the Congress repeal section 606 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978, which provides for the unneeded rate, to eliminate some of MMS' data gathering and reporting requirements. Although exact

figures are not available, there is a cost to both Interior and industry. GAO's contacts with seven of the many offshore oil and gas companies indicated costs of \$426,000 yearly.

On July 9, 1985, the Senate passed S. 1068, which, if enacted, would implement GAO's recommendation. The House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries introduced a similar bill, H.R. 1983; however, no final action had been taken at the end of the year. (GAO/EMD-82-97, Sept. 10, 1982)

Superfund Reauthorization Issues

GAO found from the information it developed that the Congress should consider the merits of changing the Superfund act's structure. The act could be structured more along the lines of previous environmental legislation, emphasizing permanent, long-term remedies and giving EPA responsibility for setting national cleanup standards for all hazardous waste sites. In addition, the states could be delegated some or all cleanup functions, with EPA retaining oversight responsibility.

S. 51 passed the Senate in September 1985. H.R. 2817 was reported out by the Committee on Energy and Commerce in August 1985. Both pieces of legislation includes provisions for cleanup standards of Superfund sites. Neither the Senate nor the House bill include provisions for delegating cleanup authority to the states. GAO testified on March 7 and March 26, 1985, on Superfund reauthorization issues. Although the House legislative committee reported out a bill, this bill had been referred as of year-end to other committees that have jurisdiction. (GAO/RCED-85-69, Mar. 29, 1985)

Superfund Removal Program

GAO's report, "Clearer EPA Superfund Program Policies Should Improve Cleanup Efforts," noted that one mechanism EPA uses to respond to the release or threatened release of hazardous substances into the environment is its Superfund removal program. Prior to a recent policy change, EPA limited removal actions to preventing or mitigating immediate and significant risk to humans or the environment so that an inordinate share of the Superfund budget would not be used on less significant sites. GAO found, however, that this policy inhibited EPA in the permanent, long-term cleanup of waste sites. It has resulted in the worst hazardous waste sites receiving only stopgap cleanups, leaving hazardous substances on the surface and requiring repeated stopgap actions at additional cost.

Although EPA has proposed policy changes that would allow more thorough surface cleanup at sites, GAO recommended additional action. It recommended that EPA include in its policy revision a requirement that removal actions eliminate surface hazardous substances to the extent possible to reduce recurring threats, avoid repeated actions, minimize Superfund expenditures, and contribute to the permanent remedy of hazardous waste sites. The Superfund reauthorization bill (H.R. 2817), which was reported out of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce in August 1985, stated that any removal action undertaken by EPA "shall contribute to the efficient performance of any long-term remedial action to the maximum extent practicable. . . ." (GAO/RCED-85-54, Feb. 6, 1985)

Hazardous Waste Facility Requirements

On September 21, 1983, GAO issued a report entitled "Interim

Report On Inspection, Enforcement, and Permitting Activities At Hazardous Waste Facilities." This report documented extensive noncompliance in the four states GAO visited with hazardous waste facility groundwater monitoring as well as facility closure/postclosure and financial responsibility requirements. These requirements are intended to protect public health and the environment from pollution caused by water migrating from the facility. As a result of a GAO report, an amendment to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) was introduced in the Congress requiring facility owners and/or operators to certify that they are in compliance with groundwater monitoring, facility closure/postclosure, financial responsibility requirements. Fraudulent certifications could result in criminal penalties. On November 8, 1984, the President signed into law RCRA amendments (P.L. 98-616) containing this certification requirement.

On June 22, 1984, GAO issued a second report entitled "Inspection, Enforcement, and Permitting Activities of New Jersey and Tennessee Hazardous Waste Facilities" which also indicated a high percentage of noncompliance with groundwater monitoring, facility closure/postclosure, and financial responsibility requirements.

In response to both of these reports, the Senate Committee on Appropriations proposed adding \$200,000 to the Environmental Protection Agency fiscal year 1985 budget to design a compliance, monitoring, and enforcement policy and schedule that will ensure 90-percent compliance with groundwater monitoring, closure/postclosure, and financial responsibility requirements within 4 years. This proposal was subsequently included in the

Agency's fiscal year 1985 appropriation act (P.L. 98-371). (GAO/RCED-83-241, Sept. 21, 1983, and GAO/RCED-84-7, June 22, 1984)

Assessment of New Chemical Regulation

To better enable the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to achieve the Toxic Substances Control Act's objectives regarding new chemicals, GAO recommended that the Congress authorize EPA to impose controls on new chemicals whose manufacture or use has changed since they received premanufacture review until sufficient data on the chemicals' effects are developed.

S. 3075, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act, was introduced on October 4, 1984, and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. This bill would improve EPA's ability to assure that such chemicals do not later lead to undetected harm by clarifying ambiguous terms, requiring followup notices in limited situations, and assuring that control requirements will follow a chemical down the marketing chain. No action was taken on the bill, but the Committee planned to reintroduce it in 1986. (GAO/RCED-84-84, June 15, 1984)

EPA Efforts to Identify and Control Harmful Chemicals in Use

GAO found that while the Toxic Substances Control Act requires an expedited regulatory review of existing chemicals that may present unreasonable risks, it does not contain provisions for expedited information gathering that may be necessary to perform the regulatory review and to complete it within the statutory timeframe. As a result, there may be enough information about a chemical to trigger the review process, but not enough information to make a regulatory decision that is required 180 days later.

To facilitate the Environmental Protection Agency's review of existing chemicals that may present unreasonable risk, GAO recommended that the Congress consider alternative actions to increase the number of chemicals considered for priority review.

S. 3075, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act, was introduced on October 4, 1984, and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. It would provide authority for expedited information gathering to support the chemical review

process. No action was taken on the bill, but the Committee planned to reintroduce it in 1986. (GAO/RCED-84-100, June 13, 1984)

Cleanup of Great Lakes

To reduce uncertainties regarding the source, extent, and effect of the various pollutants in the Great Lakes as well as other pertinent issues, GAO recommended that the Congress enact legislation that would establish a Great Lakes research office within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Several bills have been introduced by Members in both houses of Congress that incorporate GAO's recommendation. S. 1128 and H.R. 8 incorporate GAO's recommendation and have passed their respective houses, and were in conference at the close of the 1985 fiscal year. Because of the interest in this issue, two additional bills, S. 765 and H.R. 2088, incorporating GAO's recommendation, had been introduced and referred by the end of the fiscal year to the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs and the House Committees on Science and Technology and Merchant Marine and Fisheries, respectively. (GAO/RCED-82-63, May 21, 1982)

Open Recommendations Made in Fiscal Year 1985

Agriculture

The administration's 1986 budget proposes eliminating the Animal Welfare Program. If the Congress decides to continue funding the program, it should consider requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to recover more of the cost of the program from licensees, taking into account what the impact of any increases might be on them. Licensees paid about 3 percent of the funds appropriated for the program in fiscal year 1983. (GAO/RCED-85-8, May 16, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry;
Appropriations

House: Agriculture;
Appropriations

The Department of Agriculture's tobacco program will continue to operate at a loss to the government unless the method the Department's Commodity Credit Corporation uses for charging interest on tobacco price-support loans is changed. If the Congress wants to ensure that no costs to the taxpayer will result from the Corporation's interest computation practices for the tobacco program, the No Net Cost Tobacco Program Act of 1982 should be amended to require that the amount of payments on principal and interest that the tobacco producer associations pay the Corporation on tobacco price-support loans must equal the amount of payments on principal and interest that the Corporation pays the Treasury for borrowed funds. (GAO/RCED-85-30, Feb. 8, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

House: Agriculture

To help reduce the dairy surplus and government costs, the Congress in November 1983 authorized a temporary milk diversion program that was funded primarily from an assessment on milk producers' sales. The program expired in March 1985. If it reestablishes the Milk Diversion Program, the Congress should select a base period to avoid paying participants for marketing reductions made prior to the program's existence. (GAO/RCED-85-126, July 29, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

House: Agriculture

Because of the controversy surrounding the 1983 Payment-In-Kind (PIK) Program and its multi-billion-dollar cost, the Congress, in its deliberations on the 1985 farm bill or in legislative changes to future farm programs, may want to consider:

- The need for limits on the Secretary of Agriculture's authority to initiate programs like PIK. In this regard, the Congress may wish to require the Secretary to obtain legislative authorization before making fundamental changes in the Department of Agriculture's approach to farm programs as was done for the 1983 PIK Program.

- The advantages and disadvantages of having a payment limitation in years when acreage reduction programs are in effect in view of the fact that if a payment limitation remains in effect, larger farmers may be discouraged from participating in future farm programs. The impact of retaining a payment limitation is that future farm programs may not be able to control production on those farms making the largest contribution to production. As a result, the Department of Agriculture's

ability to control production to the extent needed to manage the nation's agricultural output could erode. On the other hand, keeping a limitation in effect precludes large payments to individual farmers and places an upper limit on farm program outlays to farmers. (GAO/RCED-85-89, Sept. 25, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

House: Agriculture

To avoid reverting to the parity formula required by the Agricultural Act of 1949, which would result in increasing the milk support price from \$11.60 to \$16.22 a hundredweight as of October 1, 1985, legislation will be needed to revise or replace the present dairy price-support program. In deliberating such legislation, the Congress may wish to consider establishing the support price on the basis of either

- a supply-demand adjuster, which would raise, lower, or maintain the support price, depending on the anticipated level of government purchases or

- a moving-average price, which would establish the support price based on a designated percentage of the average market price for milk over some preceding time period (for example, the preceding 3-year period). (GAO/RCED-85-132, Sept. 18, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

House: Agriculture

Automatic Data Processing

The General Services Administration (GSA) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) have

not provided agencies the funding support for unbudgeted purchase opportunities that the Congress envisioned when it passed Public Law 89-306 (the Brooks Act) and created the ADP Fund to finance unforeseen computer acquisition opportunities. OMB approved the use of up to \$12.0 million of the \$43.0 million ADP Fund for unbudgeted purchase opportunities in fiscal year 1983. GSA used none of the \$12 million for unbudgeted purchase opportunities, however, and denied three agency requests totaling more than \$5.1 million, because the fund was used to finance other ADP fund programs.

Although inaccuracies in agency inventory records prevented GAO from projecting the funding level needed for obligated equipment purchases, GAO believes the capital available in the fund is not sufficient. The magnitude of the funding needed is demonstrated by the Congress' provision of \$150 million for unbudgeted purchase opportunities for the Department of Defense, which accounts for 60 percent of leased equipment government-wide.

GAO recommends that the Congress, when considering future requests to increase the ADP Fund for opportunity buys, specify that the funds be used exclusively for taking advantage of cost-effective opportunities to buy equipment. (GAO/IMTEC-85-3, Mar. 31, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Appropriations;
Governmental Affairs

House: Appropriations;
Government Operations

Commerce and Housing Credit

To improve the regulatory, oversight, and evaluation functions relative to the Federal National

Mortgage Association (FNMA), the Congress should

- establish by legislation a permanent oversight function, within the Department of Housing and Urban Development or some other federal regulatory entity, that will monitor FNMA activities, evaluate how well it performs its public policy objectives, and periodically report to the Congress on these matters;

- clarify in legislation the regulatory role desired by the Congress, particularly regarding such aspects of FNMA's operations as its portfolio operations, which expose the federal government to financial risk; and

- provide GAO with both access to FNMA corporate records and authority to audit FNMA's financial records and evaluate its programs. (GAO/RCED-85-102, Apr. 15, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Banking, Housing, and
Urban Affairs

House: Banking, Finance and
Urban Affairs

Community and Regional Development

The National Housing Act of 1934 authorizes the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to use long-term, low-interest debentures instead of cash to pay mortgage insurance claims. HUD uses debentures to settle a substantial portion of its multifamily housing program claims. Debentures can be redeemed prior to their stated maturity at face value as payment of mortgage insurance premiums. GAO believes such redemptions undermine the intended purpose for using debentures and can lead to higher interest costs if Treasury borrowing is required. GAO recommends that the Congress change the legislation to

give HUD authority to either redeem debentures before maturity at less than face value or reject them as payment of mortgage insurance premiums. (GAO/RCED-85-38, Mar. 13, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Banking, Housing, and
Urban Affairs

House: Banking, Finance and
Urban Affairs

Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services

Because of continuing problems in making accurate Pell grant student aid awards and in measuring the causes and extent of these problems, the Congress may want to consider the rates of error to determine whether additional guidance to the Department of Education would be helpful and whether the evaluative information now available is sufficient for achieving accountability and accuracy in the program's administration. (GAO/PEMD-85-10, Sept. 27, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Appropriations; Labor
and Human Resources

House: Appropriations;
Education and Labor

No national data have been available for monitoring or evaluating the set-aside provision of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (P.L. 94-142). GAO recommended that the states be required to report, at a minimum, the proportion of their Public Law 94-142 grants that they retain each year, they use for administration, and they use for direct and support services. (GAO/PEMD-85-5, Jan. 2, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Labor and Human
Resources

House: Education and Labor

Energy

To continue the government's authority to compensate victims of a nuclear waste accident, the Congress should extend the Price-Anderson Act's liability and increase its compensation provisions for nuclear incidents involving high-level radioactive waste.

The Congress should also consider whether DOE's approach to siting the nation's first high-level nuclear waste disposal facility is appropriate or whether back-up sites for the facility need to be available. This could require DOE to adopt a different siting approach involving more time, money, and testing of potential back-up sites. (GAO/RCED-85-100, Sept. 30, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works

House: Energy and Commerce; Interior and Insular Affairs

The cognizant committees of the Congress should pursue with the Department of Energy, through hearings or in other ways that they may deem appropriate, several matters related to buyer participation in the sale of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR). Specifically, the following issues should be pursued:

- Restricting certain foreign purchases of SPR oil.
- Restricting the purchase of SPR oil by brokers and traders.
- Placing an upper limit on the amount of oil that a buyer can purchase at a given sale.
- Using a "two-pool" method of selling SPR oil to assist independent refiners. (GAO/RCED-85-80, June 5, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Energy and Natural Resources

House: Energy and Commerce

General Government

As part of general reform legislation in insurance taxation, the Congress may wish to consider

- amending the tax code to provide that, in calculating the loss reserve deduction for tax purposes, loss reserves are discounted;
- amending the tax code to provide that acquisition costs of the insurance policy be allocated over its life; and
- whether or not a special tax preference for mutual property/casualty insurance be retained in its present form. (GAO/GGD-85-10, Mar. 25, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Finance

House: Ways and Means

In considering future changes and adjustments to elements of the federal compensation program, Congress may wish to make such decisions from the perspective of their effect on overall compensation levels. If such an approach is deemed appropriate, a mechanism for periodically measuring and assessing benefits comparability will be necessary to complement the pay comparability process already required by law. (GAO/GGD-85-72, Sept. 4, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Governmental Affairs

House: Government Operations; Post Office and Civil Service

Health

Medicare pays substantially more to rent some durable medical equipment items than it would

pay to purchase them. Because of the potential savings involved, the Senate Committee on Finance should consider whether a legislative change is warranted that would limit rental allowances for high-cost items to a specific percentage in excess of the purchase price. Such a change would provide that Medicare rental payments for high-cost durable medical equipment may be made only where the supplier agrees to accept the Medicare allowances and related limitations. (GAO/HRD-85-35, July 30, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Finance

House: Energy and Commerce

Medicaid law provides that other insurance available to a Medicaid recipient be used before Medicaid pays claims. Moreover, it provides that no federal funds can be used to make payments when Medicaid is not treated as a secondary payer. A possible inequity occurs when Medicaid recipients are also covered under health plans sponsored by self-insuring employers. These plans are regulated under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) and are allowed to, and sometimes do, designate themselves as secondary payers to Medicaid.

While states administer Medicaid and regulate most private health insurance plans, they have no control over ERISA plans, which are federally regulated. To the extent that ERISA plans designate themselves as secondary payers to Medicaid, states may have to pay the medical costs of Medicaid recipients without the federal government sharing in such costs. The Congress should consider enacting one of two options to eliminate this possible inequity. (GAO/HRD-85-9, Nov. 30, 1984)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: Finance
House: Ways and Means

Income Security

Certain promised but unfunded employee pension benefits are guaranteed by the federal multiemployer pension plan insurance program. The Multiemployer Pension Plan Amendments Act of 1980 increased the funding requirements for financially distressed multiemployer plans because of concern that such plans could place large claims on the insurance program. Because the increased funding requirement may not be adequate to reduce the potential risk to the insurance program, the Congress should consider further changing the funding provisions to require distressed plans to pay the unfunded benefits of working participants over a 15- rather than 25-year period. (GAO/HRD-85-1, Feb. 27, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: Finance; Labor and Human Resources
House: Education and Labor; Ways and Means

The Multiemployer Pension Plan Amendments Act of 1980 (MPPAA) generally imposed liability on employers who completely or partially withdraw from a multiemployer plan for their share of the plan's unfunded benefits. A partial withdrawal occurs when there is a 70-percent decline in an employer's contributions to a plan over a 3-year period, except in the retail food industry, where plans have the option of adopting a 35-percent decline rule. In certain instances, liability can be imposed on employers withdrawing from fully funded plans.

To better protect the financial condition of multiemployer pension plans against declines in contributions by major employers, the Congress should consider amending MPPAA to allow all plans to adopt an option similar to the 35-percent partial withdrawal liability rule now available to retail food industry plans. Also, the Congress should consider amending MPPAA to remove the withdrawal liability imposed upon employers in fully funded plans because the application of withdrawal liability in such plans does not seem to have been contemplated under MPPAA. (GAO/HRD-85-16, Mar. 14, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: Finance; Labor and Human Resources
House: Education and Labor; Ways and Means

Congress should amend Title II of the Social Security Act to (1) require that beneficiaries who expect to earn more than the exempt amount submit an earnings estimate to the Social Security Administration (SSA), (2) provide authority for SSA to assess penalties in cases where beneficiaries do not make reports within the prescribed time or fail to furnish an earnings estimate, (3) require penalties to be collected from persons no longer receiving benefits, (4) make the penalty structure more equitable by relating it to the amount of the overpayment and, if feasible, the lateness of the report, and (5) provide authority for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to waive penalty charges. (GAO/HRD-85-12, Mar. 22, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: Finance
House: Ways and Means

International Affairs

The effectiveness of economic assistance in El Salvador and Honduras depends largely on fundamental economic reforms. There is a divergence of views within the U.S. government as to the priority of economic reforms. Also, congressional support for linking U.S. balance-of-payments assistance to economic reforms is, in the opinion of the Agency for International Development, not clear. GAO recognizes the sensitivity of U.S. objectives in Central America and understands that the United States has important objectives other than macroeconomic policy changes in El Salvador and Honduras.

In view of the uncertainties about the extent of congressional support for macroeconomic reform efforts (stemming in part from the legislation which prohibits restricting AID assistance solely as a result of the policies of multilateral institutions), GAO recommended that the Congress provide an explicit statement of the relative importance it attaches to improved economic policies in El Salvador and Honduras. (GAO/NSIAD-85-82, July 3, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:
Senate: Foreign Relations
House: Foreign Affairs

The Special Defense Acquisition Fund (SDAF) finances the acquisition of defense articles for sale to foreign borrowers. To improve the SDAF's ability to function effectively, GAO believes the Congress should consider (1) allowing 3-year obligation authority, rather than the current 1-year authority, for amounts made available to SDAF through appropriations acts, (2) allowing SDAF to

obligate the proceeds of a sale in the year in which the sale is made, stipulating the amount to be made available in an annual appropriations act, and (3) amending the Arms Export Control Act to allow the Defense Security Assistance Agency to purchase advanced systems not releasable to foreign countries. This would allow foreign needs to be met by withdrawing releasable equipment from military service stocks and replenishing these stocks with advanced non-releasable versions procured by SDAF. (GAO/NSIAD-85-18, Jan. 15, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Appropriations; Foreign Relations; Governmental Affairs

House: Appropriations; Government Operations

Natural Resources and Environment

Coal mine operators, as a group, benefit from oversight, research, and other activities in support of coal mine regulation that are performed by the Office of Surface Mining. If the Congress believes that these support costs should be recovered, it may wish to consider enacting a special tax on coal operators. The tax would be based on a formula calculated to recover the costs incurred by Interior in overseeing state programs, providing technical assistance, and performing its other support activities. (GAO/RCED-85-33, May 28, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Energy and Natural Resources; Finance

House: Interior and Insular Affairs; Ways and Means

Joint: Taxation

During GAO's assessment of Interior's area-wide approach to leasing offshore lands, GAO found that Interior has not provided the Congress or the public with annual reports assessing the cumulative effects of offshore leasing on the human, marine, and coastal environment, as required by the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. Interior officials question the need for the reports and view the reports as redundant and administratively burdensome to develop. Accordingly, GAO recommended that the Congress reconsider whether this legislative requirement is needed. (GAO/RCED-85-66, July 15, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Energy and Natural Resources

House: Interior and Insular Affairs

The Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (P.L. 94-265, Apr. 13, 1976), as amended, does not provide the Secretary of Commerce with the authority to impose penalties against foreign fishing vessels judged to be unsafe or unhealthy for the placement of a U.S. observer. When U.S. observers are not placed on foreign fishing vessels for such reasons, the foreign fishing vessels are permitted to fish in the U.S. fishery conservation zone unobserved and without restriction. As a result, U.S. observer program objectives to collect biological data on foreign catch and to oversee foreigners' compliance with U.S. fishery laws and regulations are thwarted.

GAO recommended that the Congress amend the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act to authorize sanctions

against inadequate foreign fishing vessels permitted to fish in the U.S. fishery conservation zone. (GAO/RCED-85-110, Aug. 12, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Commerce, Science, and Transportation

House: Merchant Marine and Fisheries

The Environmental Protection Agency decided to encourage but not require value engineering on lower cost wastewater treatment projects during design because of the existing \$10 million legislative threshold for requiring value engineering. In light of this decision, GAO recommends that the Congress revise the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to require value engineering review on designs of wastewater treatment projects costing more than \$1 million. (GAO/RCED-85-85, July 16, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Environment and Public Works

House: Public Works and Transportation

Transportation

GAO suggested that the Congress require that the interest collected on the U.S. investment in the Panama Canal be transferred from the Panama Canal Commission's Fund to the general fund of the U.S. Treasury for fiscal years 1980-1985 and annually each year thereafter until December 31, 1999. (GAO/AFMD-85-63, June 19, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Appropriations

House: Appropriations

Accomplishing the goal of the Highway Beautification Act of 1965—to control outdoor advertising along federally funded interstate and primary highways—will require either additional federal funding for compensating the owners of signs that are removed or a change in the act's compensation requirement. The Congress should reassess the outdoor advertising control program, weighing the program's goal and requirements against program costs. (GAO/RCED-85-34, Jan. 3, 1985)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Appropriations;
Environment and Public
Works

House: Appropriations; Public
Works and
Transportation

Open Recommendations From Prior Years

Administration of Justice

The Congress should amend 28 U.S.C. 1921 to give the Attorney General authority to periodically revise the fees that marshals charge for serving civil process for private litigants in federal court and require that the established fees provide full recovery of marshals' costs, exclusive of costs incurred serving process for indigents. (GGD-82-8, Apr. 22, 1982)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Judiciary

House: Judiciary

The Congress should amend the Probation Act (18 U.S.C. 3651) to specifically allow that reimbursements be made a condition of probation when the court has determined that the defendant has the ability to repay court-appointed counsel. This will eliminate the inconsistent interpretation regarding the legality of making reimbursements a condition of probation and enhance the collection of reimbursements from defendants. (GAO/GGD-83-18, Feb. 8, 1983)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Judiciary

House: Judiciary

Agriculture

The Congress should consider whether federal financial assistance should (1) continue to be provided to encourage wool production and/or (2) be provided to generally assist the sheep industry. If the federal wool program is retained, the Congress should eliminate payments to noncommercial producers and payments for unshorn lambs because these payments are not accomplishing their intended objectives. (GAO/RCED-82-86, Aug. 2, 1982)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry;
Appropriations; Budget

House: Agriculture;
Appropriations; Budget

Commerce and Housing Credit

If the Congress determines that competition in telecommunications markets has developed to the extent that market forces eliminate the need for regulatory intervention, the Congress should repeal the provisions of section 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 that require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to distribute licenses among states and communities so as to provide a fair, efficient, and equitable distribution of radio service but that may no longer be necessary in a competitive market and amend section 309(d) of the Communications Act of 1934 as it pertains to applications for new station licenses to require that FCC not accept petitions to deny based on allegations of economic injury to existing licensees or other allegations unrelated to technical interference issues.

Congress, to overcome the delay caused by mutually exclusive applications, may want to consider authorizing the Federal Communications Commission to use a licensing procedure in which a license would be granted to the first qualified applicant who applied. (GAO/RCED-83-90, Apr. 26, 1983)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Commerce, Science, and Transportation

House: Energy and Commerce

Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services

The Congress should consider repealing the Service Contract Act of 1965 and amending section 6(e) of the Fair Labor Standards Act to ensure continued federal minimum wage coverage for all employees of employers providing contract services to the United States or the District of Columbia. (GAO/HRD-83-4, Jan. 31, 1983)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Labor and Human Resources

House: Education and Labor

The Congress should consider amending black lung legislation to eliminate the use of affidavits to establish death or disability from pneumoconiosis, require that medical evidence be the basis for establishing the presence of pneumoconiosis and disability due to black lung, and redefine black lung as coal workers' pneumoconiosis, a chronic dust disease that arises from coal mine employment and permanently damages the lungs. (HRD-82-26, Jan. 19, 1982)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Labor and Human Resources

House: Education and Labor

The Congress should reassess whether the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs needs to administer all of the Department of Health and Human Services' family planning programs that provide for or authorize grants or contracts. (HRD-81-68, June 19, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Labor and Human Resources

House: Energy and Commerce

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 the 77 related statutes that involve federally assisted construction projects and require that wages paid to contractor employees not be less than those determined by the Secretary of Labor to be prevailing in the locality in accordance with or pursuant to the Davis-Bacon Act. (HRD-79-18, Apr. 27, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Labor and Human Resources

House: Education and Labor

Energy

The Congress should designate the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) as the lead federal agency for developing and monitoring the implementation of a national policy for decommissioning of nuclear facilities and sites. The Congress should also ensure that the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense provide assistance and input to NRC in developing this policy. Pending such a designation by the Congress, GAO believes that each federal agency responsible for handling or licensing radioactive materials and facilities should act to strengthen its decommissioning program. (GAO/EMD-82-40, May 25, 1982)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works

House: Interior and Insular Affairs; Science and Technology

The Congress may wish to amend the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 to enhance congressional and public awareness of the Nuclear Regulatory Com-

mission's (NRC's) progress on nuclear power plant generic issues by expanding current reporting requirements to include all safety-related generic issues assigned a high-priority ranking and requiring summary information in NRC's annual report on the total number of generic issues identified, resolved, implemented, and completed at all affected plants. (GAO/RCED-84-149, Sept. 19, 1984)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Environment and Public Works

House: Energy and Commerce; Interior and Insular Affairs

The Congress may wish to consider whether legislation is needed to provide for stronger central control of the federal response to a nuclear power plant emergency. If such central control is to be established, any proposed legislation would need to designate a federal agency to exercise the control. The proposed legislation should also provide the controlling agency the authority to require periodic exercises of the federal response plan in each region in conjunction with state and local exercises. (GAO/RCED-84-43, Aug. 1, 1984)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Environment and Public Works

House: Energy and Commerce; Interior and Insular Affairs

The Congress should consider legislation requiring the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to review and evaluate various Department of Energy nuclear facilities and processes, including plant operations, the contractor's safety analysis methodology and reports, and actions taken to mitigate hazards. These evaluations should also examine the adequacy of Energy's safety analysis

document review. NRC should be required to report the results of its review and evaluation to the Congress within 1 year. (EMD-81-108, Aug. 4, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Energy and Natural Resources

House: Science and Technology

The Congress should consider establishing a statutory office of Inspector General at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Such an office could help ensure that the Congress and the Commissioners receive objective information on problems within NRC and might enhance public trust in the regulation of commercial nuclear power. (EMD-81-72, July 9, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Governmental Affairs

House: Government Operations

General Government

The Congress should consider implementing one of the following three options to get the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to effectively carry out its Paperwork Reduction Act responsibilities: (1) require OMB to specifically identify the resources needed to fully implement the act and to report annually on the resources expended for that purpose, (2) provide separate funding for implementing the act, or (3) provide a separate appropriation for implementing the act and amend it to prohibit the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs from performing any duties other than those required by the act.

The first option could be required either in connection with the next OMB budget request or as part of the next OMB annual report under

the Paperwork Reduction Act. The second option would allow the Congress to decide the level of resources it wishes to apply toward the act's objectives and would provide reasonable assurance that the funds appropriated were actually applied.

Further, the Congress and the appropriate congressional committees should explore with the OMB Director whether OMB's progress to date in implementing the Paperwork Reduction Act meets congressional expectations and whether additional staffing should be approved to speed progress in implementing the act. (GAO/GGD-83-35, Apr. 20, 1983, and GAO/IMTEC-84-24, Sept. 7, 1984)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Appropriations;
Governmental Affairs

House: Appropriations;
Government Operations

Offices of Inspector General have been established as independent audit and investigative organizations in most federal departments and major agencies. Various provisions of the legislation are designed to protect the independent status of the Inspectors General in planning, conducting, and reporting on government fraud, waste, and abuse. However, audits and investigations are subject to agency controls through the budget process when the Office of Inspector General is funded as part of an overall agency management account rather than as a separate appropriation account. To preclude agency management from reprogramming funds out of the Inspector General budget during the fiscal year, the Congress should specify a funding floor for Office of Inspector General activities when those funds are commingled with funds for other

management activities. (GAO/AFMD-84-78, Sept. 26, 1984)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Appropriations

House: Appropriations

IRS cannot now provide the Congress with data that will reasonably ensure that the potential adverse effects of taxpayer assistance program cutbacks will not exceed the cost reductions to be achieved. Therefore, given the potential risks associated with further program cutbacks—especially a possible decline in voluntary compliance levels—the Congress should continue to provide IRS with funds to operate telephone, walk-in, and correspondence assistance programs. In deciding on the level of funding for future appropriations, the Congress should consider the information presented in our report on (1) the accuracy, availability, and timeliness of service being provided at current funding levels and (2) the kinds of assistance needed as identified by users of IRS' various programs. (GAO/CGD-84-13, Apr. 5, 1984)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Appropriations

House: Appropriations

The Congress should consider alternatives to the present tax treatment of electric cooperatives and adopt a treatment that would better recognize the changes in their operations and the present-day environment in which they operate. Alternative tax treatments include (1) modifying electric cooperatives nonmember income allowance, (2) eliminating that allowance, and (3) applying tax rules applicable to other cooperative businesses. (GAO/GGD-83-7, Jan. 5, 1983)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Finance

House: Ways and Means

Joint: Taxation

Using the statutory language proposed by the Department of the Treasury as a guide, the Congress should amend the Bankruptcy Code to allow the IRS to assess but not collect the taxes reported by bankrupt taxpayers on their returns so that bankrupt taxpayers can be protected at less cost than is presently being incurred. (GAO/GGD-83-47, June 20, 1983)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Finance

House: Ways and Means

Joint: Taxation

Because enforcing the tax laws involves both the Treasury and Justice Departments and their separate budgets, the Congress should ensure that these Departments develop a streamlined legal review process for criminal tax cases. The revised system should ensure that taxpayers' legal rights continue to be safeguarded. (GGD-81-25, Apr. 29, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Finance

House: Ways and Means

Joint: Taxation

Several proposals are being considered to reorganize the federal structure for regulating financial institutions. In making its judgments on these proposals, the Congress should consider that a coordinating mechanism, such as the Federal Financial Institutions Examinations Council, has not been effective in dealing with major policy differences in the examination process. (GAO/GGD-84-4, Feb. 3, 1984)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

House: Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs

The Edge Act enables commercial banks to engage in international

banking and financial operations. Edge Act corporations are required by law to be examined annually. Federally licensed branches and agencies of foreign banks are subject to a similar requirement.

These requirements were established by the Congress when U.S. banks had little experience with international financial activities. Since then, banks have gained considerable experience, and most Edge Act corporations and federally licensed branches and agencies of foreign banks are in good condition.

Because of the rising number of poorly rated domestic commercial banks, it is increasingly important to direct relatively scarce bank examination resources to those financial institutions in poor condition. Accordingly, GAO recommended that the requirements for annual examinations of Edge Act corporations and federally licensed branches and agencies be removed. (GAO/GGD-84-39, July 11, 1984)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

House: Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs

The Congress could safely reduce the number of federal reviews of intrastate branching applications by amending the Federal Reserve Act and the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to replace the broad review requirement. Reviews of intrastate branches should be on an exception basis. The Congress should also differentiate between staffed branches and automated remote service facilities by amending the McFadden Act and another section of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act. These two types of facilities have significantly different effects on bank-

ing services and competition. (GGD-82-31, Feb. 24, 1982)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

House: Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs

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

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

House: Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs

The Congress should enact legislation, if the Secretary of Commerce decides to purchase address information for the 1990 census from the Postal Service, that: (1) specifically authorizes the Postal Service to provide address information to the Census Bureau; and (2) protects the confidentiality of address information provided to the Census Bureau by the Postal Service. (GGD-82-13, Feb. 22, 1982)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Governmental Affairs

House: Post Office and Civil Service

The Congress should enact legislation requiring federal agencies to fully disclose when consulting service contractors assist in preparing congressionally mandated reports. The Congress should also legislate a national policy regarding the extent to which the federal government relies on the private sector for

goods and services. (FPCD-81-43, June 19, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Governmental Affairs

House: Government Operations; Post Office and Civil Service

The Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 protects most government employees from specified prohibited personnel practices, such as discrimination, political coercion, and reprisals. This protection does not apply to employees in government corporations and certain other federal agencies. We could find no justification for excluding certain government corporations from the law.

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

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Governmental Affairs

House: Post Office and Civil Service

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

- amend the ethics law definition of a candidate to conform with that of the Federal Election Campaign Act,
- determine whether the law should be amended to impose a

civil penalty to discourage late filing, and

■ consider legislation to delete the requirement that Member and candidate disclosure reports be forwarded to the appropriate states. (FPCD-81-20, Mar. 4, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Select Committee on Ethics

House: Standards of Official Conduct

The Congress should enact into permanent law the restrictions on indirect or "grass roots" lobbying with appropriated funds that are now included annually in appropriations bills. Permanent legislation would encourage agencies to issue interpretive guidance to their employees and ensure that the restrictions remain in effect even when parts of the government are operating under a continuing resolution. (GAO/GGD-84-46, Mar. 20, 1984)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Appropriations; Governmental Affairs

House: Appropriations; Government Operations

General Science, Space, and Technology

The Congress should consider establishing some mechanism to identify and rank emerging issues in science and technology. Perhaps alternative mechanisms could help the Congress critically examine the Office of Science and Technology Policy's (OSTP's) selection of items for its agenda and its analysis of issues in its Five-Year Outlook.

The Congress should consider (1) how it and the OSTP Director can best identify and resolve concerns about the Director's choice of operating style, (2) whether the OSTP legislative mandate is too comprehensive, and (3) what other means might fulfill congress-

sional needs for information and analysis not provided by OSTP. (PAD-80-79, Sept. 3, 1980)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Governmental Affairs

House: Science and Technology

Health

The Congress should consider amending the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic (FD&C) Act to provide the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authority to (1) detain food products suspected of being adulterated while the agency processes seizure requests internally and through the Department of Justice and (2) review manufacturers' production and shipping records after FDA has found that a firm is producing adulterated food products. Also, the Congress should consider amending the FD&C Act to increase the amount of the fine authorized for criminal prosecutions for persons or firms violating the act. (GAO/HRD-84-61, Sept. 26, 1984)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Labor and Human Resources

House: Energy and Commerce

The Congress should enact legislation disallowing the Railroad Retirement Board from selecting a nationwide carrier to process Part B Medicare claims applicable to Railroad Retirement Board beneficiaries and should transfer responsibility for claims processing and payment to the area carriers handling those claims for other Medicare beneficiaries. (GAO/HRD-84-54, Sept. 26, 1984)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Finance

House: Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

The cost sharing formula used under the Medicaid program to

reimburse states for the cost of providing health care to eligible recipients contributes to the wide disparities in benefits provided by states and provides greater tax relief to some states than others. The Congress should consider formula changes that would (1) aim at equalizing states' tax burdens in financing Medicaid and (2) increase financial incentives that would contribute to a reduction in the wide disparities in program benefits. (GAO/GGD-83-27, Mar. 9, 1983)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Finance

House: Energy and Commerce

So that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) can keep a larger number of violative drug products out of the marketplace, the Congress should amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act by adding "products" to the language that gives FDA the same authority to administratively detain medical devices. (B-164031(2), Sept. 14, 1972, and GAO/HRD-83-24, Apr. 5, 1983)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Labor and Human Resources

House: Energy and Commerce

To provide the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with the flexibility to develop standards for class II medical devices on a case-by-case basis, the Congress should amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic (FD&C) Act to grant the agency discretionary authority to determine which class II medical devices require mandatory performance standards.

If the Congress decides that a review of all class III preenactment devices is not feasible or necessary, it should amend the FD&C

Act to provide FDA the flexibility to decide which ones need to be reviewed.

If the Congress believes that all new class III devices should be examined for safety and effectiveness before they are allowed on the market, it could eliminate the provision of the act that permits FDA to approve new class III devices on the basis of substantial equivalence to already marketed devices and require instead that all new class III devices be subject to a premarket approval review. (GAO/HRD-83-53, Sept. 30, 1983)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Labor and Human Resources

House: Energy and Commerce

The Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS') interpretation of section 1008 allows Title X family planning grant recipients to use non-Title X program funds to carry out abortion-related activities that would not be allowed as part of the Title X program, so long as the abortion activities are organizationally separated from the Title X family planning services.

The Congress should consider providing guidance to HHS to clarify the intent of section 1008 if it does not want Title X funds to go to organizations providing abortions. (GAO/HRD-82-106, Sept. 24, 1982)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Labor and Human Resources

House: Energy and Commerce

The Congress should consider whether the present food safety policy for cancer-causing food additives—the Delaney Clause—is still appropriate due to (1) the advances in the ability of analytical

detection methods to identify substances at very low levels, (2) the uncertainties about the risk to humans of low levels of carcinogens, and (3) the inflexibility that exists under the Food and Drug Administration's present regulatory policy. (HRD-82-3, Dec. 11, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Labor and Human Resources

House: Energy and Commerce

The Congress should amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic (FD&C) Act to eliminate exemptions currently allowed for food additives generally recognized as safe (GRAS) and prior-sanction substances. Changes to the law should provide for sufficient flexibility to encourage the use of information already available and to recognize that different types of scientific evidence may be appropriate to support the safety of food additives. The amendment should also provide a date on which the safety of all GRAS and prior-sanction substances directly added to food must be subject to federal review and approval. (HRD-80-90, Aug. 14, 1980)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Labor and Human Resources

House: Energy and Commerce

Many states have difficulty complying with the federal law for claiming federal Medicaid sharing for the costs incurred in serving persons eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare. As a result, the states have improperly claimed such federal sharing. The Congress should change the law to simplify program administration. The Congress should con-

sider the options presented in our report when amending the law. (HRD-80-96, Oct. 2, 1979)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Finance

House: Energy and Commerce

Income Security

To reduce the deficit of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act's single-employer private pension plan insurance program, the Congress should amend the act to (1) require sponsors that remain in business to assume full liability for their terminated plan's unfunded benefits and (2) provide program authority to recover unfunded benefits from other employers that sponsored a plan within a reasonable time before its termination. (GAO/HRD-84-5, Nov. 14, 1983)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Finance; Labor and Human Resources

House: Education and Labor; Ways and Means

Joint: Taxation

One of Social Security's benefit eligibility insurance provisions, enacted in 1939 and known as the currently insured provision, no longer has relevance because most jobs are now covered by Social Security and most workers are fully insured. Under the currently insured provision, a worker needs only 6 quarters of coverage regardless of age, during the last 13 quarters of a worker's life, to attain eligibility for death and survivors' benefits. Discontinuance of the provision would save Social Security's trust funds about \$180 million through 1995. It would also end some inequities to survivors of fully insured workers and to some survivors of workers who do not qualify for benefits. (HRD-82-51, Apr. 23, 1982)

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

The Congress should amend the Federal Employees Compensation Act to

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

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

The Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) and Internal Revenue Code policies protect the rights of pension plan participants to promised benefits. In support of these, the Congress should enact legislation requiring plan sponsors to request the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to determine whether terminating pension plans conform with ERISA and IRS requirements before such plans are dissolved. (HRD-81-117, Sept. 30, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:**Senate:** Finance; Labor and Human Resources**House:** Education and Labor; Ways and Means

The Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) requires private employee benefit plans to provide plan participants, beneficiaries, and the Department of Labor with summaries of plan

descriptions and plan amendments. Filing the plan summaries with Labor is costly and not needed. The Congress should amend ERISA to (1) eliminate the requirement that plans file summaries with Labor and (2) require Labor to obtain summaries from the plans only when plan participants and others request them. (HRD-82-12, Oct. 19, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:**Senate:** Finance; Labor and Human Resources**House:** Education and Labor; Ways and Means

To eliminate the principal benefit gaps and duplications in federal food assistance programs and to improve their overall coordination, the Congress should adopt a uniform definition of the term "needy" and establish consistent criteria and procedures for determining who is eligible for federal food assistance, approve an explicit national policy on how much food assistance should be provided to needy Americans by the federal government, consolidate federal food programs, and require a single state or local agency to be responsible for certain administrative aspects of designated federal food programs to help ensure more efficient delivery of food assistance to needy Americans.

Legislative revisions in the 1981 and 1982 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Acts (P. L. 97-35 and P. L. 97-253) allowed states to reduce duplicate benefits by counting food stamp benefits as income for the Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) Program. In addition, resource limitation tests for food stamp benefits were brought closer in line with AFDC eligibility. However, further changes are needed to fully address our recommendations. (GAO/RCED-85-109, Apr. 17, 1985; CED-78-113, June 13, 1978;

GAO testimony, Apr. 17, 1985, and Mar. 19 and 30, 1981, House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing, Consumer Relations, and Nutrition, and Apr. 2, 1981, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry)

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

International Affairs

The Congress should amend the Trade Act of 1974 to require those seeking relief from foreign trade imports to submit specific adjustment strategies in the form of operating, investment, and financial plans laying out how they propose to return to competitiveness. In addition, the Congress should prohibit labor or management from individually submitting a petition unless it is evident that the petitioner is the only one from which specific adjustment commitments will be sought. (ID-81-42, Aug. 5, 1981)

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

Because of likely increases in U.S. stationing costs in Europe, the Congress may want to consider the need for more detailed information from the Department of Defense concerning (1) the costs of stationing U.S. forces in Europe and maintaining reinforcements in the United States, as well as alternative strategies for meeting the U.S. commitment to NATO, and (2) direct and indirect contributions by other NATO allies that would reduce U.S. stationing costs or the need for deploying U.S. forces in Europe. (GAO/NSIAD-84-130, July 31, 1984)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Appropriations; Armed Services

House: Appropriations; Armed Services

National Defense

In order to ensure that the Congress knows the full cost of weapons systems it considers, the Congress should require that the Department of Defense (DOD) certify that the cost estimates it reports represent the total cost for the weapons systems programs. Programs in danger of breaching these estimates should undergo a rigorous evaluation by DOD and the Congress. (GAO/NSIAD-84-70, May 27, 1984)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Governmental Affairs

House: Government Operations

For proposed new joint acquisitions, GAO recommended that specific criteria be developed by the Department of Defense (DOD) for use in identifying joint programs. GAO also recommended that the Congress be assured that the selection criteria have been applied and that, for the many joint programs underway, the Congress require DOD to explain its plans to cope with the acquisition problems discussed in the report. (GAO/NSIAD-84-22, Dec. 23, 1983)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Governmental Affairs

House: Government Operations

Natural Resources and Environment

The Congress should amend section 6(1) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, 16 U.S.C. 1604(1), to require the Secretary of Agriculture to revise the annual reporting to the Con-

gress on Forest Service activities to include an estimate of the number and volume of timber sales sold below cost, the amount lost on these sales, and the justification on a summary basis for making such sales. (GAO/RCED-84-96, June 28, 1984)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

House: Agriculture

The Congress should extend the mandate to experiment with alternative bidding systems in leasing offshore lands. The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendment of 1978 required the Department of the Interior to experiment with alternatives to the traditional bidding system in leasing offshore lands for oil and gas development. This experiment, extending over a 5-year period, ended in September 1983.

The alternative systems are designed to reduce the amount of up-front money required by companies to obtain an offshore lease in return for a greater share of the revenues from any follow-on production. GAO found that the initial effects of the alternative systems on company participation and competition have generally paralleled or bettered the results of the traditional system, although up-front money required to obtain leases may not always be reduced. Accordingly, the Congress should amend the legislation to require the use of the alternative systems for an additional 5 years so that more information will be available to judge the overall merits. (GAO/RCED-83-139, May 27, 1983)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Energy and Natural Resources

House: Interior and Insular Affairs; Merchant Marine and Fisheries

The Congress should amend the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, to (1) authorize the Department of the Interior to negotiate captive or maintenance-type coal leases and (2) require Interior to publish for public comment information derived at sequential phases in the lease negotiation process. To ensure public and industry awareness of the lease negotiation process and provide ample opportunity for affected parties to influence the process, Interior should be required to publish its (1) intent to negotiate a proposed maintenance lease, (2) decision to negotiate the lease as proposed and its evaluation of public comments, (3) intent to sell the lease and the proposed sale terms, and (4) decision to sell the lease as proposed, or under modified terms, and (5) its evaluation of public comments.

To facilitate future evaluations of the negotiation process, we recommend that the Congress amend the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920 to require that detailed records be kept of leasing negotiations, including evidence presented by government and industry representatives, and of the disposition of the negotiations. (GAO/RCED-83-119, May 11, 1983)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Energy and Natural Resources

House: Interior and Insular Affairs

In view of the need for emergency leasing, GAO recommends that the Congress amend the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920 to authorize emergency federal coal leasing and to allow Interior to use negotiated, rather than competitive, lease sale procedures to carry it out. Such

legislative changes would recognize the unique objectives of emergency leasing and allow Interior to administer it in a more pragmatic manner. (GAO/RCED-84-17, Aug. 2, 1984)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Energy and Natural Resources

House: Interior and Insular Affairs

The Congress should determine whether it wishes to be excluded from reviewing decisions to close lands to mineral leasing. If not, the Congress should (1) amend section 202(e) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) to provide that management decisions closing lands to mineral leasing affecting smaller tracts be reported to the Congress and (2) amend section 3 of the Engle Act so that the withdrawal information for military applications conforms with FLPMA section 204(c)(2). (EMD-81-40, Feb. 12, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Energy and Natural Resources; Governmental Affairs

House: Government Operations; Public Works and Transportation

Because of its concern for careful budget management of program funds, GAO recommended that, when the Congress appropriates additional funding for the completion of the withdrawal review program mandated by section 204(l) of Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), it

- amend section 204(l) (3) of FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1214), deleting the words "\$10 million" and substituting a revised appropriation ceiling, based on refined Interior budget estimates, and
- enact a line-item Interior appropriation for withdrawal re-

view activities for the use of all federal agencies participating in the withdrawal review program. (GAO/RCED-83-26, Oct. 7, 1982)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Appropriations; Energy and Natural Resources

House: Appropriations; Interior and Insular Affairs

The Congress should repeal section 402 of Public Law 96-87, which froze all National Park Service entrance fees at their January 1, 1979, level and prohibited collecting entrance fees at additional units.

The Congress also should amend section 4 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended, to remove the \$10 limit on the price of a Golden Eagle Passport. (GAO/CED-82-84, Aug. 4, 1982)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Energy and Natural Resources

House: Interior and Insular Affairs

The Congress should revise the 1872 Mining Law to authorize the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to permit or prevent development of mineral deposits on public lands. (CED-80-82, July 16, 1980)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Energy and Natural Resources

House: Interior and Insular Affairs

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

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Energy and Natural Resources

House: Interior and Insular Affairs

The Congress should not increase the statutory land acquisition appropriation ceiling for the North Cascades National Park and the Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area above the \$4.5 million already approved until the National Park Service has defined compatible and incompatible development, prepared a land acquisition plan justifying the need to acquire land from private owners, and spent the funds obtained from selling all compatible land back to private individuals.

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

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Appropriations; Energy and Natural Resources

House: Appropriations; Interior and Insular Affairs

To reduce potential problems from large possessory interests allowed to concessioners who manage facilities in national parks, the Congress should finance construction of needed facilities to accommodate park visitors whenever possible. However, because the Congress may not always be able to provide the needed funds to lessen the effect that possessory interests can have on National Park Service management, the Congress should amend the Concessions Policy Act of 1965 to allow possessory interests only in those

instances where no other alternative is available.

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

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Appropriations; Energy and Natural Resources

House: Appropriations; Interior and Insular Affairs

The Congress should assess funding alternatives, such as amending the Public Rangelands Improvement Act to provide an interim increase in grazing fees, provided the funds are used to make range improvements where they are collected.

The Congress should also assess alternative funding sources such as (1) appropriating the special funds already authorized by section 5 of the Public Rangelands Improvement Act for range improvements and (2) amending the Federal Land Policy and Management Act to allow the Bureau of Land Management to use a higher percentage or amount of grazing fees for making improvements. (GAO/RCED-83-23, Oct. 14, 1982)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Appropriations; Energy and Natural Resources

House: Appropriations; Interior and Insular Affairs

Experience has shown that protecting wilderness areas from private mineral development can be difficult and expensive. Therefore, GAO recommended that, before the Congress enacts legislation to create additional eastern wilderness areas, it (1) consider the extent and development potential of private mineral rights in these areas and (2) specify whether the Forest Service

should acquire the mineral rights or allow mining in the wilderness area. (GAO/RCED-84-101, July 26, 1984)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Energy and Natural Resources

House: Interior and Insular Affairs

Some laws, such as the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, prohibit or limit cost-benefit analysis results from being used in environmental rulemaking. The Congress may wish to examine the need for such restrictions in light of the improvements in the level of environmental protection that have occurred since these laws were enacted and consider easing or eliminating such restrictions on a case-by-case basis. (GAO/RCED-84-62, Apr. 6, 1984)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Environment and Public Works

House: Energy and Commerce; Public Works and Transportation

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

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Environment and Public Works

House: Public Works and Transportation

The Congress should require the Environmental Protection Agency to report annually on (1) how many wastewater treatment plants constructed with federal funds are experiencing serious operations problems, (2) what is

being done to repair these facilities, and (3) whether the government or the private sector will pay for the repairs. (CED-81-9, Nov. 14, 1980)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Environment and Public Works

House: Public Works and Transportation

The Congress should review the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS') progress concerning Superfund health-related activities and determine whether changes are needed in how these activities are funded and staffed. Further, Congress should consider whether HHS' interpretation of legislative expectations regarding (1) registries of information on persons with particular exposure to toxic substances and persons with diseases or other adverse health outcomes associated with environmental conditions and (2) medical care should be clarified. (GAO/HRD-84-62, Sept. 28, 1984)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Labor and Human Resources

House: Energy and Commerce

Veterans' Benefits and Services

The Congress should amend 38 U.S.C. 3202 to prevent relatives other than spouses, children, and dependent parents from inheriting estates of mentally incompetent veterans. (HRD-82-1, Feb. 10, 1982)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Veterans' Affairs

House: Veterans' Affairs

The Congress should not approve any funding requests for new or replacement surgical

suites in Veterans Administration medical centers based solely on room-to-bed ratios, unless the planning is so far along that adjusting the planned surgical suite would not be economically feasible. (HRD-81-54, Mar. 3, 1981)

Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Appropriations; Veterans' Affairs

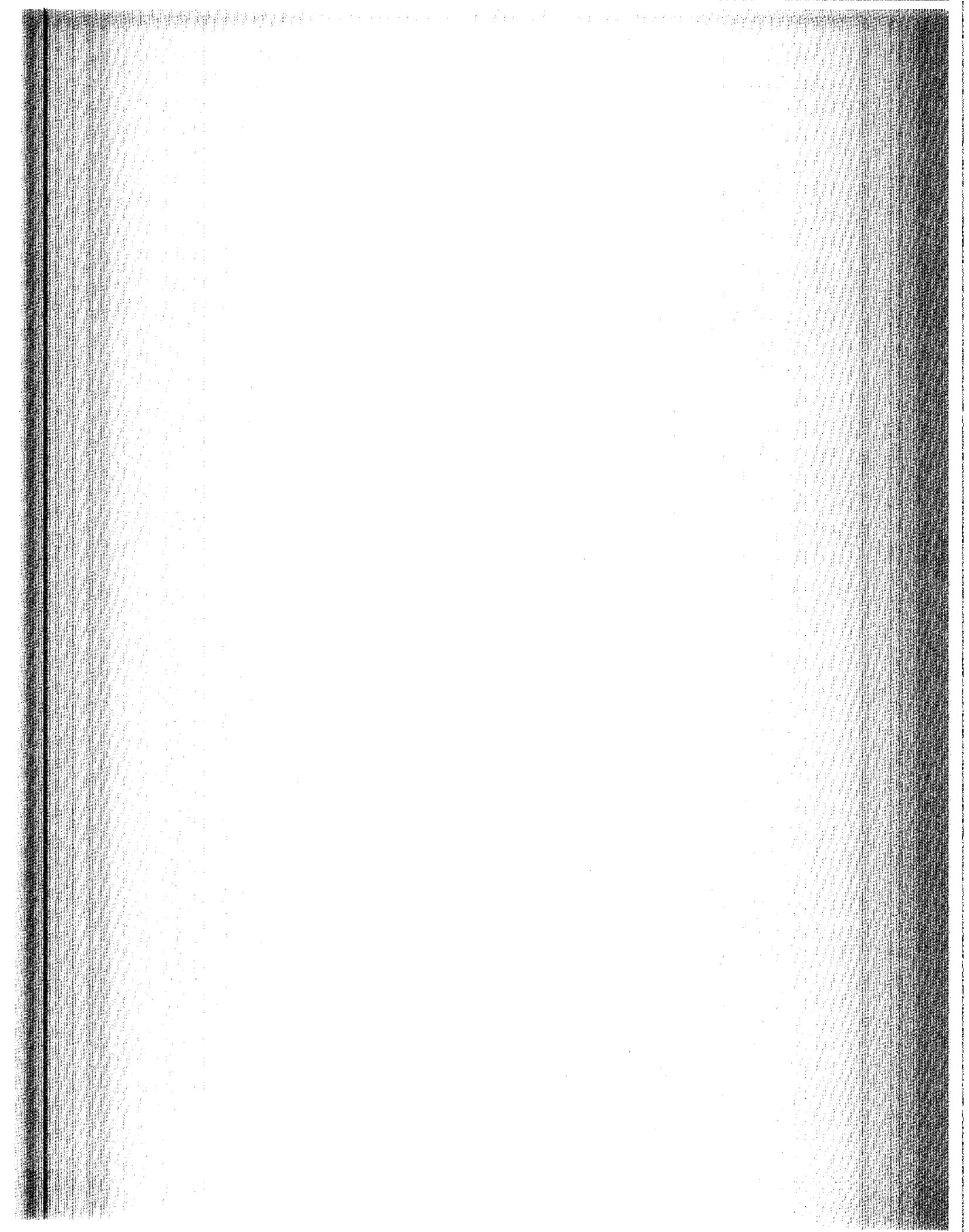
House: Appropriations; Veterans' Affairs

The Congress should consider amending 38 U.S.C. 3203 to extend the pension reduction criteria to cover care being furnished in state homes and to authorize the Veterans Administration to transfer the money withheld to the state to help pay for veterans' care. (HRD-82-7, Oct. 22, 1981)

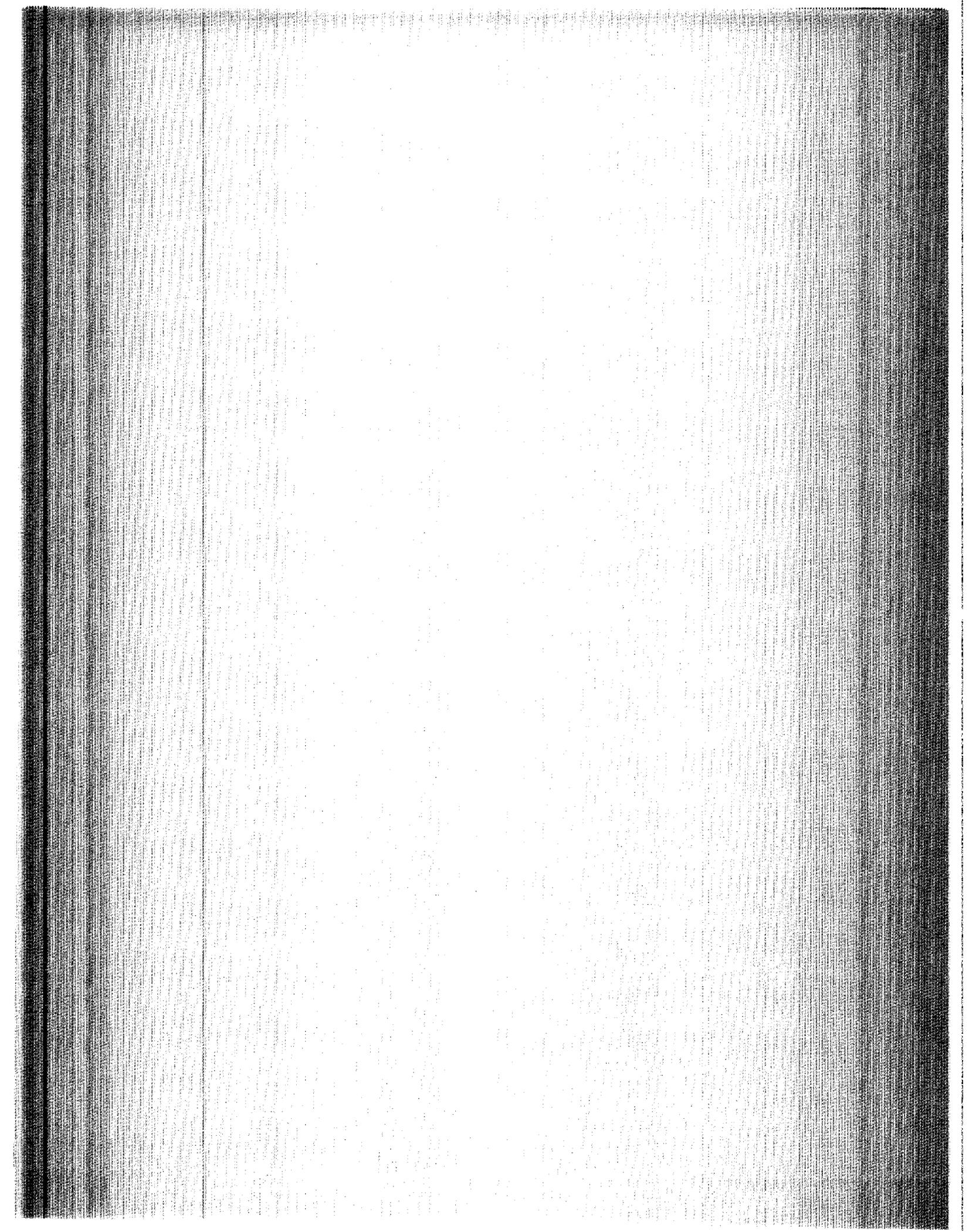
Committee jurisdiction:

Senate: Veterans' Affairs

House: Veterans' Affairs



**Financial Accomplishments
and Other Benefits**



Financial Accomplishments and Other Benefits

This chapter describes many of the specific measurable financial benefits, nonmeasurable financial achievements, and nonfinancial benefits identified by GAO during fiscal year 1985 as a result its work. GAO was often not alone in advocating the particular actions taken by the Congress, executive branch agencies, or both that resulted in the accomplishments discussed in this chapter. Many of these accomplishments involved work performed at the request of committees and Members of the Congress.

Although GAO's work often influences the Congress and federal agencies to take actions that permit the government to function more effectively, efficiently, and economically, GAO cannot compel the Congress or agencies to act on the information, conclusions, and recommendations it develops. Whether or not action is taken on GAO's work depends on the persuasiveness of its reports, testimony, and briefings. Accordingly, agency management and the Congress must be convinced that the analyses behind GAO's work are sound and that taking action is in the best interest of the government.

Many, but not all, of the benefits reported in this chapter are benefits based on work performed by GAO during fiscal year 1985. Some are based on reports, testimony, and briefings from prior years because previously available information was insufficient either to confirm that benefits had actually resulted or to reasonably calculate the effects. On the other hand, many of GAO's fiscal year 1985 reports have not yet been acted on by the Congress or federal agencies. When they are, additional benefits will be realized. At the end of fiscal year 1985, GAO was aware that several important issues it had

raised were being actively considered by the Congress. Favorable action on these issues will probably result in billions of dollars in additional benefits to the federal government.

For example, in evaluating Medicare's prospective payment system for hospitals—which relies on fixed payment rates for specific types of diagnoses—GAO found that the payment rates were based on unaudited hospital cost reports and that some of the costs used to establish the rates were to be paid to hospitals separately and, therefore, should have been excluded from the rate determinations. If uncorrected, these errors would result in excessive Medicare payments of about \$940 million in 1986 and over \$8 billion during fiscal years 1986 through 1990. GAO recommended that the data base used to compute the rates be corrected and, at the end of fiscal year 1985, the Congress was actively considering adjustments to the payment rates.

Summary

In fiscal year 1985, GAO identified about \$11 billion in measurable financial benefits attributable to its work. The table on page 50 summarizes these accomplishments.

Some of these accomplishments resulted in discrete one-time financial benefits, while others resulted in both first-year benefits and continued benefits in later years. For those accomplishments that generate benefits over a period of years, GAO's measurable benefits calculations include the first-year benefits and only the average annual benefits anticipated in up to three subsequent years. Thus, the benefits from those accomplishments with recurring financial benefits are conservatively reported. For example, acting on a GAO recom-

mendation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency revised its method for mapping flood-prone communities, estimating that this action would reduce its costs by \$195 million between fiscal years 1985 and 1990. However, for purposes of reporting the benefits attributable to its work, GAO added the measurable first-year benefit (\$28.1 million in fiscal year 1985) to the anticipated average annual benefits in the future (\$33.4 million per year) to reach a total of \$61.5 million attributable to this accomplishment.

Of the total \$11 billion in measurable accomplishments, \$6.27 billion represents first-year benefits and \$4.73 billion represents the average annual future benefits of those accomplishments with recurring effects.

Most of GAO's measurable financial accomplishments fall into two categories: budgetary savings and better use of funds. Budgetary savings are produced when actions taken in response to GAO's work result in decreases in federal spending or increases in federal revenue for a particular budget function and appropriation or receipt account. In fiscal year 1985, GAO identified about \$8.21 billion in budgetary savings resulting from its work.

Many of GAO's measurable financial accomplishments fall into the second category—better use of funds. These accomplishments are usually estimates of costs that will be avoided because the Congress or agencies implemented changes identified during GAO's audit activities. However, better fund use does not necessarily reduce budgetary outlays or represent budgetary savings, since the dollar amounts of the accomplishments may be made

available for other, more effective and efficient uses.

In addition to the benefits that can be measured in dollars, GAO's work often results in financial benefits that cannot be fully or readily measured and in benefits that cannot be measured in financial terms. For example, GAO's work often leads to improving program operations, eliminating duplicate efforts, increasing cooperation among government entities, and improving government services to program beneficiaries and citizens in general. Some, but not all, of GAO's accomplishments in this category are highlighted in this chapter.

Description of Accomplishments by Budget Function

Administration of Justice

Federal Prison Industries (FPI) is a wholly owned government corporation that employs federal prisoners in producing goods and services that are sold to other federal agencies. GAO recommended that FPI improve its marketing operations to increase sales and inmate employment. Acting on this recommendation, FPI identified additional federal markets and significantly increased sales, profits, and inmate employment.

Estimated financial benefits \$36.2 million

GAO identified opportunities for the Immigration and Naturalization Service to increase reimbursements from airlines for (1) inspection overtime at certain airports and (2) inspection services provided outside the country. Responding to the GAO findings, the Service reduced its inspection overtime budget and estimated that foreign inspection service revenues would increase.

Estimated financial benefits \$12.9 million

In response to a GAO questionnaire on the domestic marijuana problem, state law enforcement agencies reported that one of their greatest needs was helicopter logistical support for transporting of law enforcement personnel and marijuana that had been seized. GAO found that, although the needed helicopter support could be provided as part of the National Guard's training exercises, such support was not being given. After GAO brought this matter to the attention of the National Guard Bureau, the Bureau amended its guidelines to provide such support, and National Guard units provided the needed logistical support during the 1984 marijuana eradication program.

Nonfinancial benefits

In a series of reports, GAO recommended several changes to strengthen laws in the drug enforcement area. The Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 made several of the changes GAO had been advocating, including (1) making penalties for non-narcotic drug violations comparable to penalties for narcotic drug violations, (2) clarifying the kinds of property subject to forfeiture by criminals, (3) increasing the authority of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Attorney General to better control

Table 5

Measurable Dollar Accomplishments Attributable to the Work of GAO Fiscal Year 1985 (in millions)

Primary Budget Function	Based on Action by		Total
	Congress	Agencies	
Administration of Justice	\$	\$ 49.100	\$ 49.100
Agriculture		36.000	36.000
Automatic Data Processing	56.183	84.047	140.230
Commerce and Housing Credit		5.040	5.040
Community and Regional Development		61.456	61.456
Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services		241.979	241.979
Energy		827.300	827.300
Financial Management and Information Systems		15.928	15.928
General Government	5,967.000	224.338	6,191.338
Health		77.924	77.924
Income Security		43.000	43.000
International Affairs	87.000	2.700	89.700
National Defense	1,762.100	1,442.797	3,204.897
Transportation		6.439	6.439
Veterans' Benefits and Services		9.600	9.600
Total	\$7,872.283	\$3,127.648	\$10,999.931

the diversion of legal drugs for purposes of abuse, and (4) establishing a primary advisor to the President on drug enforcement and interdiction efforts.

Nonfinancial benefits

Agriculture

Federal food buying agencies generally require that their food purchases undergo special examinations, called certification, to ensure that the food conforms to contract specifications. GAO found that certification procedures were duplicating existing federal food safety inspections and did not adequately recognize the suppliers' quality control programs. Acting on this information, the Department of Agriculture reduced certification requirements by placing greater reliance on Food Safety and Inspection Service inspections, resulting in lower prices for meat that the government purchases.

Estimated financial benefits \$36.0 million

GAO reported that little had been done to plan, set priorities for, and coordinate public-sector activities for agricultural economics research and analysis. Acting on GAO's recommendation, the Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service established a new office to provide leadership in planning and coordinating agriculture research and outlined the agency's future plans.

Nonfinancial benefits

Automatic Data Processing (ADP)

GAO found that the military services were developing and acquiring computers that were unique to each service, without adequately considering the use of standard commercial computers. GAO reported that this approach

could (1) hinder the Department of Defense's (DOD's) ability to use advances in technology, (2) discourage beneficial competition within the computer industry, and (3) duplicate, at government expense, the commercial investment in computer technology advances. Acting on this information, the Congress withheld funding for the Army's Military Computer Family Program; after reevaluating the program, the Army terminated it.

Estimated financial benefits \$59.4 million

GAO reported that both the Army and the Navy were experiencing cost overruns for contracted teleprocessing services supporting their recruitment programs. GAO recommended that the Army and the Navy recompute the contracts to reduce their costs. Both of the services subsequently did so, resulting in substantial cost reductions.

Estimated financial benefits \$44.0 million

In an analysis of the Department of Justice's fiscal year 1985 budget for ADP and telecommunications activities, GAO questioned whether Justice's ADP activities had been coordinated and were duplicative. Acting on Justice's reply to the questions raised by GAO, the Congress reduced Justice's budget for ADP items in fiscal year 1985.

Estimated financial benefits \$18.7 million

GAO found that the Bureau of Indian Affairs had ADP equipment that was not being used. Acting on this information, the Congress deleted funds the Bureau had requested for ADP modernization and instructed the Bureau to make alternative use of other ADP funds and cancel leases on unused equipment.

Estimated financial benefits \$14.5 million

GAO identified several problems in a Forest Service ADP project, including (1) insufficient overall program direction, (2) incomplete cost-benefit analyses, (3) lack of control over software acquisition and development, and (4) the absence of a comprehensive planning and evaluation process. Acting on this information, the Congress reduced the Forest Service's appropriation request for the project and directed the Forest Service to withhold orders for acquisition of additional computer hardware until it had corrected the identified problems.

Estimated financial benefits \$2.5 million

GAO found that the temperature and humidity levels at an Army data processing center exceeded recommended levels, a situation that could have resulted in reducing the efficiency of the computer disk drives. Army officials decided to purchase disk drives with greater temperature and humidity tolerances at a cost of about \$1 million. As an alternative, GAO suggested that the duct work in the cooling system be modified to overcome the problem. The Army implemented the GAO alternative solution at a cost of only about \$1,000.

Estimated financial benefits \$999 thousand

Commerce and Housing Credit

As a result of GAO's suggestions and congressional hearings, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) measured taxpayer compliance with income tax provisions related to insured multifamily housing projects. IRS identified additional unpaid tax liability arising from taxpayer failure to properly report income tax

adjustments resulting from foreclosure or early disposition of these properties. IRS has taken action to collect the unpaid taxes that were identified.

Estimated financial benefits \$4.8 million

GAO reported that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) had not performed an adequate cost and price analysis before awarding a loan-servicing contract. GAO recommended that the contract be reevaluated. Acting on this recommendation, HUD modified the contract by reducing the contractor's fee.

Estimated financial benefits \$240 thousand

GAO found that HUD did not have a clear policy on whether to retain the rights to property tax adjustments when it sells property it owns or assign such rights to the purchasers. In at least one case, this had led to the assignment of HUD's rights to the purchaser even though this potential tax refund was not recognized in the sales advertisement and bidding process. After GAO brought this matter to HUD's attention, the Department revised its policies and procedures to help ensure that, in the future, it is compensated for the value of pending tax appeals on multifamily projects it sells.

Financial benefits not readily measurable

GAO found that the Department of Commerce was requiring industry to obtain export licenses for many more products than was necessary to protect national security. GAO recommended changes in licensing regulations that could eliminate almost half the export license applications received each year without affect-

ing national security. Acting on this information, the Congress enacted legislation to reduce the licensing requirements. As a result, the federal government will be required to review fewer export license applications, and the paperwork burden on exporters will be reduced.

Financial benefits not readily measurable

Community and Regional Development

GAO reported that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was using time-consuming and expensive methods to map the flood plain areas of communities as a condition of their participation in the regular phase of the National Flood Insurance Program. GAO recommended that FEMA systematically assess communities that still needed to be mapped to determine the type of mapping that should be performed. FEMA implemented the GAO recommendation and has substantially cut its costs by reducing the extent of flood plain mapping for communities with low development potential.

Estimated financial benefits \$61.5 million

Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services

GAO reported on problems and inaccuracies in the way the Department of Labor determined the wages that should be paid on federal construction projects to comply with the Davis-Bacon Act. Acting on GAO's report and internal assessments, the Department proposed changes in the regulations covering the wage determination process. After overcoming challenges in court, the Department issued regulations changing several of the factors used in determining wage rates on federally supported construc-

tion projects. The Department has estimated that these lower wage rates will reduce the federal government's construction contract costs.

Estimated financial benefits \$240.0 million

During a review of the Department of Education's Guaranteed Student Loan Program, GAO found that Pennsylvania was continuing to hold federal funding advances it no longer needed. After GAO discussed this matter with state officials, the state returned the unneeded advances to the Department of Education.

Estimated financial benefits \$1.8 million

GAO found that the Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation had not remitted its proper share of collections on defaulted student loans to the Department of Education and had billed the Department and received reimbursements twice for four defaulted student loans. After GAO brought these errors to the attention of corporation officials, they remitted the appropriate amounts to the Department.

Estimated financial benefits \$202 thousand

Energy

The Department of Energy (DOE) enriches uranium for use as fuel in nuclear power reactors. Since 1980, GAO has questioned the justification for building a new multibillion-dollar enrichment facility known as the gas centrifuge enrichment project. GAO found that the demand for the Department's enrichment services had decreased dramatically since the project was authorized and recommended that the Department demonstrate that the centrifuge project was needed and more

economical than other technologies. After the Department completed the analysis GAO had recommended, the Secretary of Energy decided to cancel the project because the analysis did not support continuing construction.

Estimated financial benefits \$822.0 million

GAO reported that DOE was funding several general activities, such as research and international projects, with funds that had been appropriated for other specific programs. GAO recommended that DOE more accurately record its obligations and costs in its accounting system. DOE reevaluated its need for several of the general activities it had been funding and subsequently reduced its expenditures for these activities in fiscal year 1985.

Estimated financial benefits \$5.3 million

The Pacific Northwest and California are joined by three high-voltage electrical transmission lines (intertie) that permit the exchange of electricity between the two regions. The regions benefit from the exchange of power because of the difference in the costs of generating electricity—the Northwest uses relatively low-cost hydropower, while California relies on more expensive oil- and gas-fired generation. GAO recommended that the electric intertie between the regions be expanded, and the Congress subsequently approved such an expansion. The intertie expansion will result in reduced oil and gas consumption and increased federal revenues from the sale of electric power.

Financial benefits not readily measurable

GAO reported that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) was taking longer than

necessary to process applications by electric, natural gas, and oil pipeline companies for such things as rate increases, hydroelectric dam licenses, and construction or expansion of natural gas pipelines. Acting on GAO's recommendations, FERC took several steps to improve the efficiency of its case processing activities, resulting in reduced administrative, legal, and construction costs for the energy industry.

Financial benefits not readily measurable

GAO found that, because of incomplete or inadequate work and inadequate final inspections, the energy efficiency of many homes served by DOE's low-income weatherization program had not been substantially improved. GAO recommended that adequate inspections of weatherized units be made before the units are reported as complete. The Department subsequently revised these regulations to require final inspections. As a result, the quality and energy efficiency of weatherized homes are likely to improve.

Nonfinancial benefits

Financial Management and Information Systems

GAO found that the disbursing and collection practices for some Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) loans were inefficient, resulting in unnecessary interest costs to both the government and rural borrowers. In response to GAO's recommendations, FmHA has taken several actions to improve its cash management practices, and government interest costs have been reduced.

Estimated financial benefits \$15.8 million

GAO recommended that the Railroad Retirement Board improve

its procedures for detecting persons receiving unemployment or sickness benefits while working by initiating more systematic, computerized wage checks for nonrail employment and regularly notifying rail employers of employees who have applied for unemployment benefits. In response, the Board took action to recover benefit overpayments on a number of cases.

Estimated financial benefits \$128 thousand

GAO reported that the authorizing legislation for the Department of State's inspector general's office affected the independence and effectiveness of the office. Acting on GAO's report, the Congress amended the applicable legislation, thereby improving the independence and effectiveness of the Department's inspector general's office.

Nonfinancial benefits

General Government

On a number of occasions, GAO informed the Congress that voluntary compliance with the nation's income tax system was decreasing and that additional staff at IRS would result in a large and immediate flow of tax revenues. GAO stated that additional resources for IRS were justified not only by the potential revenue gains but also by the need to cope with the general problem of decreasing compliance with federal income tax laws. GAO's work contributed to the action subsequently taken by the Congress to provide IRS with over 5,000 additional staff. IRS estimates that this initiative has resulted in a net increase in income tax collections of about \$2.9 billion in the first year and an average annual increase of slightly more than \$3 billion in subsequent years.

Estimated financial benefits \$5.96 billion

GAO reviewed the Tax Court's operations and found that many of the Court's scheduled trial days were not used. Based on a GAO recommendation to increase the number of scheduled cases, the Tax Court scheduled over 5,000 additional cases in 1984, resulting in the addition of about \$100 million more in taxes and penalties. Furthermore, since the Court will continue to schedule at this rate, similar amounts should be collected in future years.

Estimated financial benefits \$200.0 million

In congressional testimony, GAO pointed out that a proposed bill to help finance the 1984 Olympic Games would commit the federal government to \$360 million in indirect financing. As an alternative, GAO suggested that the Treasury Department market Olympic commemorative coins directly. The Congress incorporated GAO's suggestion in the Olympic Commemorative Coin Act. The program not only produced over \$70 million for the Olympics and U.S. amateur athletics, it also resulted in a surplus of about \$10 million for the U.S. Treasury.

Estimated financial benefits \$10.0 million

Under the federal tax deposit system, taxpayers are required to deposit certain taxes—such as income taxes withheld from employee wages—directly into U.S. Treasury tax and loan accounts at authorized commercial banks and Federal Reserve Banks. GAO found that some taxpayers were sending tax deposits to IRS rather than to the authorized tax depositories, resulting in interest losses to the federal government. Based on GAO's recommendations, IRS sent warning letters to taxpayers who submitted large deposits to IRS offices and advised taxpayers

that they could be subject to penalties. While these actions should help correct the problem, it is too soon to quantify the extent of the benefits.

Financial benefits not readily measurable

GAO reported that changes were needed in the Uniform Relocation Act because the federal government had not provided uniform treatment to people displaced from their homes and businesses by federal or federally assisted programs. Specifically, GAO found an inconsistent, inequitable, and confusing array of differing formats, terminologies, and guidelines in 13 federal agencies' regulations resulting in inconsistent treatment of people displaced by these agencies. GAO recommended that one set of government-wide regulations be issued to replace the multiple sets issued by the various federal agencies. In response, the President directed that all affected federal agencies issue common regulations and made the Department of Transportation (DOT) responsible for coordinating federal implementation of the Uniform Relocation Act.

Nonfinancial benefits

GAO found that agencies reorganized under the Reorganization Act of 1977 experienced substantial start-up problems, including delays in obtaining key agency officials, inadequate staffing, insufficient funding, inadequate office space, and difficulties establishing administrative support functions such as payroll and accounting systems. Solving these startup problems distracted agency officials from concentrating on their new missions during the critical first year of operation. GAO recommended that legislation be enacted to require that the President submit information concerning reorganization imple-

mentation to the Congress at the same time that the reorganization plan is submitted to the Congress. Based on this recommendation, the Congress amended the bill to extend the Reorganization Act's authority to require such plans.

Nonfinancial benefits

General Science, Space, and Technology

GAO reported that there was unclear direction in the civilian space program and that problems could result from the growing integration of the space shuttle activities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Department of Defense. GAO pointed out the need for an organization to achieve balanced agency interaction in space activities. Acting on this information, the Congress passed legislation establishing a National Space Commission to study existing and proposed space activities and identify long-range goals, opportunities, and policy options for U.S. civilian space activities over the next 20 years.

Nonfinancial benefits

Health

GAO recommended that the Social Security Administration (SSA) provide states with insurance information it had on Medicaid/Supplemental Security Insurance applicants so that the states could identify medical claims that private insurers should properly pay. Acting on GAO's recommendations, SSA and the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) conducted a successful pilot project and subsequently provided states with information on Medicaid/Supplemental Security Insurance applicants. HCFA estimated that, by using this information, participating states are increasing the amount of

health care costs paid by private insurers and reducing both federal and state Medicaid costs.

Estimated financial benefits \$45.7 million

GAO found that Medicaid was allowing high payments to physicians for hospital visits to patients who were undergoing kidney dialysis. These payments were much higher than those allowed for visits when the patient was not undergoing dialysis, even though the physician services during the visits were usually the same. GAO recommended that physicians be paid based on the services provided during a hospital visit rather than on whether the patient was undergoing dialysis at the time of the physician's visit. The Department of Health and Human Services subsequently revised its instructions on Medicaid payments to physicians for visits to dialysis patients to eliminate inappropriate charges.

Estimated financial benefits \$32.0 million

In a report on the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), GAO recommended several changes to improve the reliability of beneficiary information being accumulated by DEERS. During the second half of 1984, DEERS began confirming the eligibility of those who are seeking military benefits. A DEERS official estimated that, because of this eligibility determination, fiscal intermediaries will deny about \$50 million in medical claims for fiscal year 1985 to ineligible persons seeking benefits.

Financial benefits not readily measurable

GAO identified three medical practitioners (two doctors and a pharmacist) who, despite being convicted of defrauding Medi-

caid, had not been excluded from participation in Medicare and Medicaid as required by the Social Security Act. After GAO brought this matter to the attention of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department excluded the three practitioners from Medicare and Medicaid participation for periods of 2, 3, and 20 years, respectively.

Nonfinancial benefits

GAO reported that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was depending largely on manufacturers of medical devices to voluntarily report on death, injuries, or hazards caused by medical devices and recommended that FDA make such reporting mandatory. Subsequently, FDA revised its regulations to require mandatory reporting, resulting in added data that will likely save lives and prevent injuries through early identification of major medical device problems.

Nonfinancial benefits

Income Security

GAO found that most overpayments to retired and disabled social security beneficiaries and their dependents or survivors result from beneficiaries underestimating earnings or failing to provide an estimate, since earnings above specified limits result in reductions in benefits. Acting on this information and its own desire to seek ways to reduce overpayments, SSA obtained more accurate and timely earnings estimates from beneficiaries. This enabled SSA to reduce overpayments, saving interest and administrative costs.

Estimated financial benefits \$43.0 million

Based on GAO recommendations, several provisions related to welfare program income verification were added to the Deficit Reduc-

tion Act of 1984. These provisions included (1) permitting disclosure of wage, selfemployment, and retirement income by SSA to federal, state, and local agencies administering welfare programs; (2) permitting disclosure of IRS unearned income to those agencies administering needs-based programs; and (3) requiring that social security numbers be obtained for applicants and recipients of federally funded needs-based programs where not already required. As a result of this legislation and related agencies' actions, a substantial part of the overpayments caused by incorrectly reporting income and assets by welfare recipients (estimated at \$1.1 billion in fiscal year 1982) should be reduced.

Financial benefits not readily measurable

GAO found that several major weaknesses existed in the way SSA was adjudicating cases to determine disability for the mentally impaired and that severely mentally impaired persons were being inappropriately terminated from the disability rolls. In response, the Congress mandated that SSA revise its criteria to more realistically and appropriately evaluate disability for the mentally impaired. SSA issued new regulations in August 1985.

Nonfinancial benefits

International Affairs

GAO pointed out that, because of revisions in the foreign military tuition rates enacted in 1984 at the request of the administration, indirect costs associated with training foreign military personnel were no longer being recovered. Acting on this information, the Congress amended the Arms Export Control Act to increase the tuition rates charged.

Estimated financial benefits \$87.0 million

GAO found that the military services had undercharged foreign customers for overhaul and repair work on military equipment. In response, DOD has strengthened its pricing and billing systems, recouped over \$2 million in past undercharges, and identified additional undercharges that will be recovered.

Estimated financial benefits \$2.7 million

GAO found that the Agency for International Development (AID) was unable to account for the arrival, distribution, and utilization of commodities under the Commodity Import Program. AID could not ensure that commodities arrived in the proper condition and quantities being financed or that they were being properly distributed and used as intended. In response to GAO recommendations on these issues, AID established more comprehensive guidance and monitoring requirements to strengthen accountability for the arrival and disposition of commodities.

Nonfinancial benefits

National Defense

In a series of reports, congressional briefings, and testimony on the Army's plan to procure the Sergeant York gun (also known as the DIVAD gun), GAO expressed its concern that the Army would procure a weapon that had not proven itself in testing. The Secretary of Defense ordered additional testing before committing the government to further procurement of the Sergeant York gun. When the weapon did not perform well in the tests, the Secretary cancelled the program.

Estimated financial benefits \$1.02 billion

GAO recommended reducing DOD's budget request for certain

ammunition items and related projects because (1) additional procurement would raise inventory levels above requirements; (2) planned procurements or facilities were premature due to technical production and performance problems; and (3) cost estimates were overstated. Acting on these recommendations, the Congress reduced DOD's fiscal year 1985 budget for conventional ammunition and production facilities.

Estimated financial benefits \$487.4 million

GAO reported that the Navy had prior year shipbuilding and conversion funds that were no longer needed and could be used for other purposes. Acting on this information, the Congress made these funds available to cover Navy personnel and operation and maintenance expenses in fiscal year 1985. This action precluded the need to provide new appropriations to cover these other expenses.

Estimated financial benefits \$323.0 million

During several reviews of various naval aircraft procurement programs, GAO found that the funding levels requested for several of the programs could be reduced and reported this information to the Congress. Acting on this information, the Congress appropriated fewer funds for these aircraft programs than the Navy had requested.

Estimated financial benefits \$248.5 million

The Delayed Enlistment Program allowed individuals to enlist in the military services but to delay reporting for duty for up to 12 months. Time spent in the program but not in the services had counted toward longevity for determining base pay, resulting in

higher pay levels over the military careers of program enlistees. GAO found that no research showed that crediting longevity was a useful recruiting incentive. On the contrary, most of the evidence showed that potential recruits were unaware of the pay credit and that it was an inefficient economic incentive. Based on this information, the Congress enacted legislation eliminating the longevity pay credit portion of the Delayed Enlistment Program, resulting in reduced military compensation payments.

Estimated financial benefits \$153.0 million

GAO reported that the Air Force could avoid substantial costs by buying spare parts concurrently with production components for the B-1B aircraft. In response to congressional urging based on GAO's work, the Air Force implemented a program to combine the procurement of spare parts for the B-1B aircraft with the purchase of production components for fiscal year 1984 and beyond, resulting in a substantial cost reduction.

GAO further reported that the Air Force could also reduce costs for B-1B spare parts by buying them directly from the manufacturers rather than through the prime contractors. Acting on this information and reports by DOD auditors, the Congress reduced the Air Force fiscal year 1985 budget for B-1B spare parts in recognition of the savings that could be achieved by purchasing the spares directly from manufacturers.

Estimated financial benefits \$131.5 million

GAO reviewed Navy ship programs involving auxiliary ocean surveillance ships, auxiliary crane ships, aviation logistics support ships, ocean survey ships, and torpedo weapons retrievers. GAO provided the relevant

congressional committees with several briefings, fact sheets, and information papers that questioned the amounts budgeted for these programs. The committees used the data GAO provided to reduce Defense appropriations for these programs.

Estimated financial benefits \$113.8 million

GAO found that several DOD systems being bought under the multiyear procurement process did not meet all the criteria specified for multiyear procurements. Acting on this information, the Congress denied multiyear procurement funding for three programs and rescinded the multiyear procurement authority for another, resulting in reduced fiscal year 1985 appropriations.

Estimated financial benefits \$107.7 million

GAO reported that, by making more efficient use of pilot training simulators, the Navy could reduce its planned procurements of the devices. The Navy initially disagreed with GAO's analysis but subsequently took the actions GAO had recommended, resulting in reduced need for pilot training simulators.

Estimated financial benefits \$92.7 million

In briefings provided to a congressional committee, GAO reported that the Army's fiscal year 1985 budget for the Force Modernization Program could be reduced because some new weapons systems had not been put into operation as soon as had been anticipated. Consequently, the Army did not require the level of operation and maintenance funding it had requested. Acting on this information, the Congress reduced the Army's fis-

cal year 1985 budget for the program.

Estimated financial benefits \$87.0 million

GAO questioned the Army's acquisition approach for the Short Range Air Defense Command and Control Program, including its plan to begin production before completion of testing. GAO also questioned the appropriateness of field demonstration plans and the completeness of cost estimates. The Army restructured the program and the Congress reduced the program's fiscal year 1985 appropriation.

Estimated financial benefits \$78.6 million

GAO reported that the Air Force could save millions of dollars in annual procurement costs by improving its policies and procedures for identifying and cancelling excess orders for spare parts and consumables. The Air Force revised its procedures, substantially increasing the cancellation rates at the two air logistics centers GAO reviewed. Since the action was also taken at three other centers, additional unmeasured benefits will also be realized.

Estimated financial benefits \$55.0 million

GAO reported that it had several concerns about the Army's planned purchase of a tactical communications system. Specifically, GAO questioned the adequacy of tests and evaluations, the compatibility of the planned system with other communications systems, and the validity of the Army's savings estimates that were used to justify the system. Based on these and other concerns, the Congress appropriated substantially less funds for the system in fiscal year 1985 than had been requested.

Estimated financial benefits \$53.1 million

GAO found that the Air Force was not actively pursuing the sale of its obsolete spare parts to foreign countries that could still use them. GAO recommended that the Air Force develop a program to regularly market its obsolete items. The Air Force initiated such a program, resulting in substantial sales of obsolete parts.

Estimated financial benefits \$39.5 million

GAO reported that, in budgeting for spare parts needed on surface ships, the Navy had not considered parts already on board the ships. The Navy agreed with GAO's recommendation that existing parts on board ships be taken into account in determining revised stock requirements and subsequently reduced its budget for shipboard spare parts.

Estimated financial benefits \$38.8 million

GAO found that sufficient launchers for the Army's TOW Missile System would be available from existing stocks and equipment returns. Acting on information provided by GAO, the Army reassessed its needs and cancelled the procurement of TOW missile launchers planned for fiscal years 1984 and 1985.

Estimated financial benefits \$31.6 million

GAO reported that improper use of the Defense Industrial Fund, a working capital fund, had extended the life of appropriations that otherwise would have expired. Consequently, the Congress reduced the fiscal year 1985 Navy Operation and Maintenance appropriation.

Estimated financial benefits \$30.0 million

GAO found that the Navy's fiscal year 1985 budget request for torpedoes contained funds in excess of the amount required. GAO briefed the appropriate congressional committee on the excess funding, and the Congress subsequently reduced the appropriation for the torpedo program.

Estimated financial benefits \$26.3 million

The Navy uses a complex computerized model to determine the number of people needed to operate each of its ships. GAO identified inaccuracies in the way calculations were performed to arrive at ship manpower requirements. The Navy agreed with GAO's analysis and modified its procedure for calculating manpower needs on its ships.

Estimated financial benefits \$22.6 million

GAO's analysis of the Army's Stinger friend-or-foe identification system raised questions about its technical deficiencies and operational limitations. The Army subsequently cancelled planned procurements of the system for the reasons identified by GAO.

Estimated financial benefits \$20.8 million

GAO recommended that the Army develop accurate workload data to validate calibration equipment requirements. In response, the Army evaluated its calibration program requirements and reduced its projected equipment and personnel needs for the program.

Estimated financial benefits \$16.9 million

GAO found that the Army, in planning dining facilities at installations in West Germany, neither considered excess capacity available in existing facilities nor

used proper planning factors in computing requirements. As a result of GAO's recommendations, the Army cancelled, rescope, or deferred construction of 18 facilities.

Estimated financial benefits \$14.6 million

GAO found that the Army was not doing enough to find uses for its excess materials. By furnishing these excess items to contractors producing end items for the government, contract costs can be reduced. In response to GAO's report, DOD reduced the Army's stock fund obligation authority by \$52 million over 2 fiscal years to encourage the Army to better identify excess items and provide them to contractors.

Financial benefits not readily measurable

GAO reported that the DOD Value Engineering Program for defense contractors could achieve much greater savings through management action in several areas. Acting on GAO's report and recommendations, DOD increased its management support and visibility for the program, improved contractor awareness, and established a comprehensive action plan for the Navy. These actions have resulted in an increased level of value engineering proposals, but it is too early to quantify the benefits to the federal government.

Financial benefits not readily measurable

Natural Resources and Environment

GAO found that the Department of the Interior did not have a clear policy on royalty rate reductions applicable to coal leases on federal lands. Acting on GAO's recommendation, the Department

revised its policies to delineate responsibilities and procedures for royalty rate reductions. This action will improve the performance of the royalty rate reduction program and safeguard against potential revenue losses.

Financial benefits not readily measurable

GAO reported serious private sector noncompliance with regulations applicable to hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities. To better protect the public and the environment, the Congress, acting on GAO's report, passed legislation requiring facility owners and operators to certify that they are in compliance with such regulations. The legislation provides for criminal penalties for those who make false certifications.

Nonfinancial benefits

Based on GAO's reports, which documented serious noncompliance with groundwater monitoring and other regulations applicable to hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities, the Congress added funds to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) fiscal year 1985 appropriation to develop a groundwater compliance and enforcement strategy.

Nonfinancial benefits

GAO reported that municipal wastewater treatment plants were not raising sufficient funds from their user charges to cover operation and maintenance expenses. GAO recommended that guidance be provided to municipalities to maintain their plants' financial integrity. EPA issued a user-charge manual that adopted, in part, GAO's recommendation. This manual should help municipalities better finance the operations and maintenance of their plants.

Nonfinancial benefits

Transportation

GAO reported that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) could save money if it replaced some of its older tube-type instrument landing systems with newer solid-state ones that are less costly to operate. Acting on the GAO recommendation, FAA has decided to replace the older systems with the newer, more cost-effective systems.

Estimated financial benefits \$5.7 million

GAO questioned the Panama Canal Commission's funding of a fishing boat for recreational purposes. The Commission subsequently retired the boat, thus saving the annual cost of operating and maintaining the vessel.

Estimated financial benefits \$500 thousand

Based on GAO's recommendations, the Department of Transportation (DOT) closed the Coast Guard Air Station at National Airport, reassigned the aircraft

and personnel, and issued a departmental aircraft policy. As a result, the Coast Guard's fiscal year 1985 budget was reduced by four personnel positions and \$125,000, a rental cost of \$42,000 was avoided, and \$72,000 in unnecessary costs will be avoided in each succeeding year. A nonmeasurable benefit was realized in transferring one aircraft to a location where it was needed to support mission requirements. In addition, the Coast Guard will benefit from better management of its administrative aircraft.

Estimated financial benefits \$239 thousand

Veterans' Benefits and Services

GAO found that the Veterans Administration (VA) did not charge enough to recover the full costs of reimbursable medical care provided in certain circumstances. Acting on GAO recommendations, VA revised its method of computing billing rates, which resulted in increased cost recoveries.

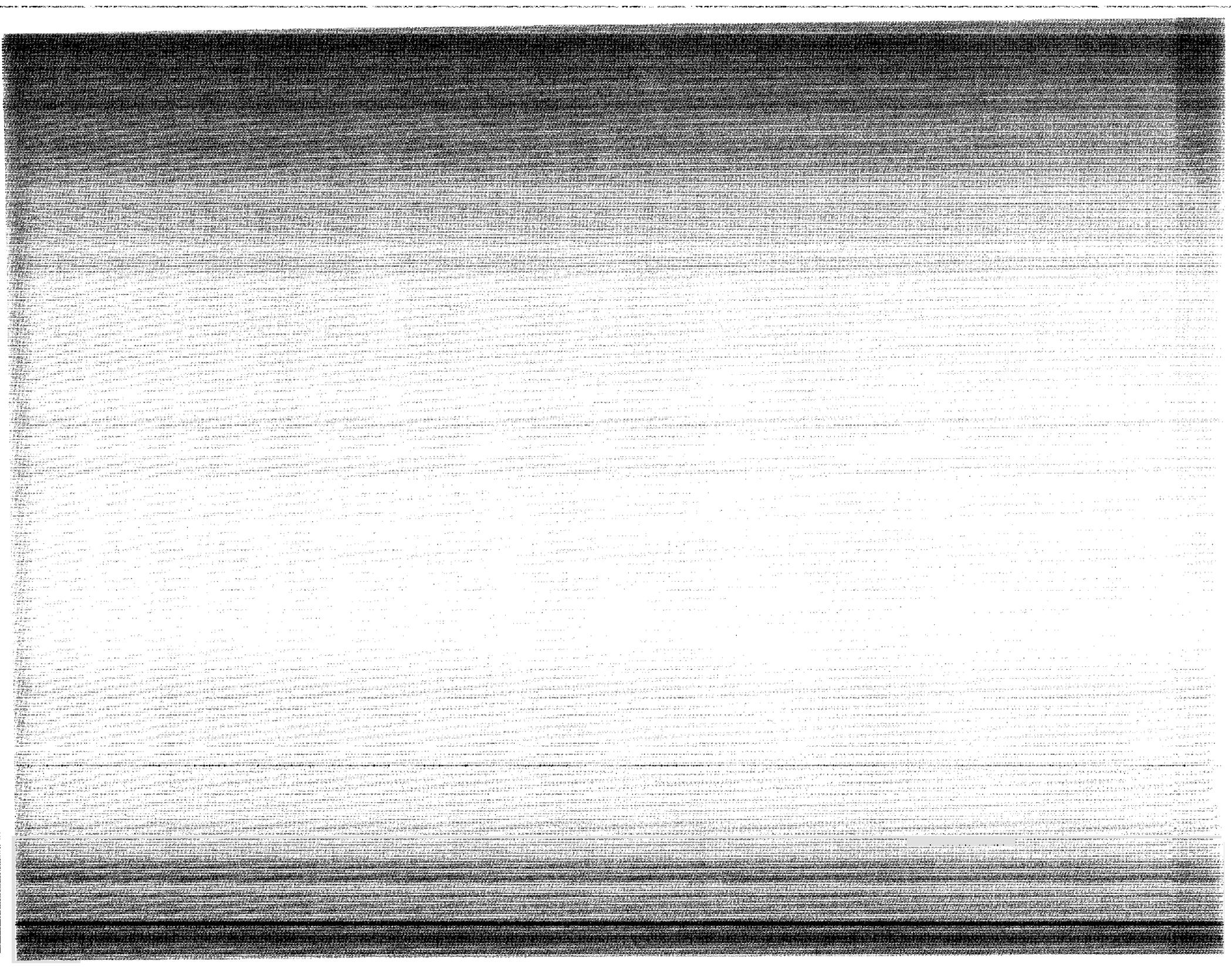
Estimated financial benefits \$5.6 million

GAO recommended that VA take several actions to improve its management of veterans' educational programs. In response, VA has reduced duplicate visits to schools, improved its control over the use of unauthorized forms, and implemented consistent records retention guidelines. These actions will not only reduce costs but should also result in improved service to educational institutions and veterans.

Estimated financial benefits \$4.0 million

While reviewing VA pension programs, GAO found that benefit terminations appeared to have been erroneous or questionable in several cases. GAO referred these cases to VA and requested that they be reviewed to determine if benefits had been properly terminated. Based on its review, VA restored benefits to 127 beneficiaries whose benefits had been improperly terminated.

Nonfinancial benefits





Appendix One

**Summary Table of
Reports¹ Issued,
Fiscal Year 1985**

Budget Function	Addressee				Total
	Congress²	Committee³	Member⁴	Agency Official	
Administration of Justice	0	15	2	2	19
Agriculture	6	8	6	5	25
Automatic Data Processing	1	5	0	0	6
Commerce and Housing Credit	5	5	2	0	12
Community and Regional Development	0	1	1	0	2
Congressional Information Services	0	1	0	0	1
Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services	6	15	6	1	28
Energy	8	37	3	1	49
Financial Management and Information Systems	16	5	1	7	29
General Government	10	48	15	12	85
General Purpose Fiscal Assistance	0	0	1	0	1
General Science, Space, and Technology	0	3	1	0	4
Health	3	10	3	9	25
Impoundment Control Act of 1974	16	0	0	0	16
Income Security	6	16	10	4	36
International Affairs	3	14	13	13	43
Multiple Functions	0	1	1	1	3
National Defense	3	35	23	62	123
Natural Resources and Environment	4	31	4	2	41
Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity Programs	0	1	0	0	1
Transportation	3	13	3	5	24
Veterans' Benefits	2	5	2	4	13
Total	92	269	97	128	586

¹The numbers shown in appendix one include all reports issued in fiscal year 1985. A detailed list of these reports is contained in appendix two, which excludes both certain reports classified for national security reasons for which unclassified digests have not been prepared, as well as certain other sensitive reports.

²Reports 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, Governmental Affairs, and Government Operations; the appropriate legislative committees in the Senate and the House; Members of 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.

³Includes reports addressed to officers of the Congress.

⁴Comprises 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, and to commanding officers at military installations.

Appendix Two

Catalogue of Reports Issued During Fiscal Year 1985

Administration of Justice

Reports to Committees:

Nazis and Axis Collaborators Were Used To Further U.S. Anti-Communist Objectives in Europe—Some Immigrated to the United States. Departments of Defense and State; Department of Justice: Immigration and Naturalization Service; and Central Intelligence Agency. (Requested by Representative Peter W. Rodino, Jr., Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary) GGD-85-66, 6-28-85

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Regional Information Sharing Systems. Department of Justice. (Requested by Senator Paul Laxalt, Chairman, Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Appropriations) GGD-85-17, 11-5-84

Information on the National School Safety Center. Department of Justice: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. (Requested by Senator Arlen Specter, Chairman, Juvenile Justice Subcommittee, Senate Committee on the Judiciary) GGD-85-74, 7-29-85

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Competitive and Noncompetitive Grant Awards Made by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Department of Justice. (Requested by Senator Max S. Baucus) GGD-85-6, 10-26-84

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Information on Aliens Admitted Into the United States as Nonimmigrant Workers. Department of Justice: Immigration and Naturalization Service. (Requested by Representative Peter W. Rodino, Jr., Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary) GGD-85-27, 12-26-84

Statistics on SEC's Enforcement Program. (Requested by Representative John D. Dingell, Chairman, Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) GGD-85-28, 3-25-85

U.S. Customs Service: Import Specialists' Duties and Review of Entry Documentation. GGD-85-45, 3-29-85

Compensation and Staffing Levels of FAA Police Force at Washington National and Washington

Dulles International Airports.

Department of Transportation and Office of Personnel Management. (Requested by Representatives Norman Y. Mineta, Chairman, Aviation Subcommittee, House Committee on Public Works and Transportation; Mary Rose Oakar, Chairwoman, Compensation and Employee Benefits Subcommittee, House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service; Gary L. Ackerman, Chairman, Human Resources Subcommittee, House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service; and William D. Ford, Chairman, House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service) GGD-85-24, 5-17-85

Reported Federal Drug Abuse Expenditures—Fiscal Years 1981 to 1985.

Drug Abuse Policy Office. (Requested by Representatives Benjamin A. Gilman, Ranking Minority Member, House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control, and Charles B. Rangel, Chairman, House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control) GGD-85-61, 6-3-85

Coordination of Federal Drug Interdiction Efforts.

Department of Justice: Drug Enforcement Agency; Department of Transportation: U.S. Coast Guard; Department of the Treasury: U.S. Customs Service; National Narcotics Border Interdiction System; and National Drug Enforcement Policy Board. (Requested by Representative Glenn L. English, Chairman, Government Information, Justice, and Agriculture Subcommittee, House Committee on Government Operations) GGD-85-67, 7-15-85

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Sentences and Fines for Organized Crime Figures and Major Drug Traffickers. Department of Justice: U.S. Parole Commission; and Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. (Requested by Senator Paul Laxalt, Chairman, Criminal Law Subcommittee, Senate Committee on the Judiciary, and Representative William J. Hughes, Chairman, Crime Subcommittee, House Committee on the Judiciary) GGD-85-19, 4-4-85

Statistics on Sentences and Parole for Federal Offenders Who Commit Crimes Involving Firearms. Department of Justice. (Requested by Senator Paul Laxalt, Chairman, Criminal Law Subcommittee, Senate Committee on the Judiciary, and Representative William J. Hughes, Chairman, Crime Subcommittee, House Committee on the Judiciary) GGD-85-58, 7-19-85

Information on Three Investigations by the Department of Justice Into Navy Shipbuilding Claims. (Requested by Senator William Proxmire, Vice Chairman, Economics, Resources, Competitiveness, and Security Economics Subcommittee, Joint Economic Committee) GGD-85-70, 8-1-85

The Federal Government's Cost of Asbestos Litigation. Department of Justice and Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

(Requested by Senator Daniel K. Inouye and Representative Austin J. Murphy, Chairman, Labor Standards Subcommittee, House Committee on Education and Labor) GGD-85-80, 9-19-85

Federal District Courts' Implementation of the 1982 Pretrial Services Act. Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. (Requested by Representative William J. Hughes, Chairman, Crime Subcommittee, House Committee on the Judiciary) GGD-85-84, 9-26-85

Reports to Members:

Organized Crime Figures and Major Drug Traffickers: Parole Decisions and Sentences Served. Department of Justice: U.S. Parole Commission. (Requested by Senator Sam Nunn, Ranking Minority Member, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs) GGD-85-29, 4-4-85

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The Role of Marketing Orders in Establishing and Maintaining Orderly Marketing Conditions. Department of Agriculture: Agricultural Marketing Service. RCED-85-57, 7-31-85

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Information on Delinquent Borrowers in Farmers Home Administration Major Farmer Loan Programs. Department of Agriculture. (Requested by Senator Edward Zorinsky, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry) RCED-85-71, 2-6-85

Processing Time for Farmers Home Administration's Operating Loans in Minnesota During Fiscal Year 1984. Department of Agriculture. (Requested by Representative Douglas K. Bereuter) RCED-85-142, 8-26-85

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U.S. Sweetener/Sugar Issues and Concerns. Department of Agriculture. RCED-85-19, 11-15-84

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The Department of Agriculture's Animal Welfare Program.

(Requested by Senator Thad Cochran, Chairman, Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Appropriations) RCED-85-8, 5-16-85

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Effects and Administration of the 1984 Milk Diversion Program. Department of Agriculture. RCED-85-126, 7-29-85

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Overview of the Dairy Surplus Issue—Policy Options for Congressional Consideration. Department of Agriculture. RCED-85-132, 9-18-85

1983 Payment-In-Kind Program Overview: Its Design, Impact, and Cost. Department of Agriculture: Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. RCED-85-89, 9-25-85

Reports to Committees:

Information on Indemnity Payments in USDA's Avian Influenza Eradication Program. (Requested by Representatives James R. Olin; Thomas R. Harkin, Chairman, Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Subcommittee, House Committee on Agriculture; and George E. Brown, Jr., Chairman, Department Operations, Research, and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee, House Committee on Agriculture) RCED-85-36, 10-11-84

Department of Agriculture and Producer Costs To Operate the Tobacco Program. (Requested by Senators Thomas F. Eagleton, Chairman, Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Appropriations, and Mark O. Hatfield, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations) RCED-85-30, 2-8-85

Federal Insurance Program for Grain Warehouse Depositors—Issues and Information. Department of Agriculture and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. (Requested by Representative E. (Kika) de la Garza, Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture) RCED-85-39, 3-1-85

Information on the Department of Agriculture's Commodity Exchange Contracts for the 1983 Payment-In-Kind Program. (Requested by Representative Glenn L. English, Chairman, Government Information, Justice, and Agriculture Subcommittee, House Committee on Government Operations) RCED-85-62, 3-11-85

Information on the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation's 1986 Standard Reinsurance Agreement. Department of Agriculture. (Requested by Representative Ed Jones, Chairman, Conservation, Credit, and Rural Development Subcommittee, House Committee on Agriculture) RCED-85-155, 7-26-85

Reports to Members:

Government-Owned Surplus Dairy Products Held in Inventory. Department of Agriculture. (Requested by Representative Mary Rose Oaker) RCED-85-43, 1-7-85

Analysis of Certain Aspects of the Proposed Agricultural Effi-

ciency and Equity Act of 1985. Department of Agriculture. (Requested by Representatives Charles W. Stenholm, Pat Roberts, Ronald C. Marlenee, and Berkley W. Bedell) RCED-85-118, 4-24-85

The Department of Agriculture's 1983 Payment-In-Kind Program—A Review of Its Costs, Benefits, and Key Program Provisions. (Requested by Representatives Pat Roberts and George E. Brown, Jr.) RCED-85-60, 8-29-85

Losses in the Department of Agriculture's Tobacco Program. (Requested by Senator Howard M. Metzbaum) RCED-85-167, 9-18-85

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Decisionmaking Process for Farm Program Policies Needs To Be Improved. Department of Agriculture: Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. RCED-85-81, 6-4-85

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To Eliminate Unnecessary Costs. Department of Agriculture and Department of Transportation: Maritime Administration. NSIAD-85-74, 6-18-85

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Patent and Trademark Office Needs To Better Manage Automation of Its Trademark Operations. Department of Commerce. (Requested by Representative Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations) IMTEC-85-8, 4-19-85

GAO's Assessment of Affidavits Concerning HHS' Proposed Debarment of the Paradyne Corporation. (Requested by Representative Jack Brooks, Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations) IMTEC-85-12, 6-17-85

Social Security Administration's Progress in Modernizing Its Computer Operations. Department of Health and Human Ser-

vices. (Requested by Senators Lawton Chiles; William Proxmire, Ranking Minority Member, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Appropriations; and Lowell P. Weicker, Chairman, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Appropriations) IMTEC-85-15, 8-30-85

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Net Worth Certificate Assistance Programs: Their Design, Major Differences, and Early Implementation. Federal Home Loan

Bank Board and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. GGD-85-8, 11-5-84

Debentures Not Serving Purposes HUD Intended—Legislative Changes Could Help Increase Effectiveness and Minimize Interest Costs. RCED-85-38, 3-13-85

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The Federal National Mortgage Association in a Changing Economic Environment. Departments of Housing and Urban Development and the Treasury. (Requested by Senators Donald W. Riegle; William Proxmire, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; and Edwin (Jake) Garn, Chairman, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; and Representatives Stewart B. McKinney and Henry B. Gonzalez) RCED-85-102, 4-15-85

The Federal National Mortgage Association in a Changing Economic Environment. Departments of Housing and Urban Development and the Treasury. (Requested by Senators Donald W. Riegle; William Proxmire, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; and Edwin (Jake) Garn, Chairman, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; and Representatives Stewart B. McKinney and Henry B. Gonzalez) RCED-85-102A, 7-17-85

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Opportunities and Constraints for Expanding Use of Research Facilities at the National Bureau of Standards. Department of Commerce. (Requested by Representatives Doug Walgren, Chairman, Science, Research, and Technology Subcommittee, House Committee on Science and Technology, and Don Fuqua, Chairman, House Committee on Science and Technology) RCED-85-55, 3-1-85

Reports to Members:

Farmers Home Administration County Supervisors' and Farmers' Views on the New Coordinated Financial Statements. Department of Agriculture. (Requested by Senator Thomas F. Eagleton, former Ranking Minority Member, Agriculture and Related Agencies Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Appropriations) RCED-85-84, 7-29-85

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Mail Delivery Procedures in White Plains, New York. U.S. Postal Service. (Requested by Representative William D. Ford, Chairman, House Committee on

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Subsidized Postage. U.S. Postal Service. (Requested by Representatives Tom Corcoran and William E. Dannemeyer) GGD-85-42, 5-22-85

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Reports to Committees:

The Urban Development Action Grant Application Selection System: Basis, Criticisms, and Alternatives. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (Requested by Representative Henry B. Gonzalez, Chairman, Housing and Community Development Subcommittee, House Committee on Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs) RCED-85-77, 3-11-85

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Stronger Internal Controls Over HUD Single-Family Mortgage Insurance Programs Would Discourage Fraud. Veterans Administration. (Requested by Senators Donald W. Riegle, Max S. Baucus, Frank R. Lautenberg, and Bill Bradley) RCED-85-4, 5-13-85

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Use of the Public Law 94-142 Set-Aside Shows Both the Flexibility Intended by the Law and the Need for Improved Reporting. Department of Education. (Requested by Senator Lowell P. Weicker, Chairman, Handicapped Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources) PEMD-85-5, 1-2-85

Judicial Cases Reviewed for Awards of Damages, Attorneys' Fees, and Nonmonetary Remedies in Special Education Lawsuits Brought Under Public Law 94-142. Departments of Education and Justice. (Requested by Senator Lowell P. Weicker, Chairman, Handicapped Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources) HRD-85-44, 3-12-85

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Pell Grant Validation Imposes Some Costs and Does Not Greatly Reduce Award Errors: New Strategies Are Needed. Department of Education and Office of Management and Budget. (Requested by Postsecondary Education Subcommittee, House Committee on Education and Labor) PEMD-85-10, 9-27-85

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Assessment of How the Department of Labor's Solicitor's Office Handles Pension and Welfare Benefit Cases. Department of Justice. (Requested by Senator Orrin G. Hatch, Chairman, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources) HRD-85-6, 11-6-84

Interim Report on the Department of Labor's Management of the ERISA Enforcement Program. (Requested by Oversight of Government Management Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs) HRD-85-82, 6-24-85

The Department of Labor's Oversight of the Management of the Teamsters' Central States Pension and Health and Welfare Funds. (Requested by Senators

William V. Roth, Jr., Chairman, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, and Sam Nunn, Ranking Minority Member, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs) HRD-85-73, 7-18-85

The Department of Labor's Enforcement of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Department of Justice. (Requested by Labor Standards Subcommittee, House Committee on Education and Labor) HRD-85-77, 9-30-85

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Public Involvement in Block Grant Decisions: Multiple Opportunities Provided but Interest Groups Have Mixed Reactions to States' Efforts. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services. (Requested by Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs) HRD-85-20, 12-28-84

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Review of Certain Aspects of Group Home Care for Children in California. Department of Health and Human Services. (Requested by Representative George Miller) HRD-85-62, 7-19-85

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Projects Funded in the Montgomery, Alabama, Metropolitan Area by the Emergency Jobs Appropriations Act of 1983. Departments of Education and Labor. (Requested by Senator Dan Quayle, Chairman, Employment and Productivity Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources) HRD-85-59, 5-7-85

Department of Labor's Activities Regarding the Phase-Out of the Job Corps Program and the Use of Fiscal Year 1984 Supplemental Funds. (Requested by Representative Barney Frank, Chairman, Employment and Housing Subcommittee, House Committee on Government Operations) HRD-85-67, 5-17-85

Department of Labor's Activities Regarding the Phase-Out of the

Job Corps Program and the Use of Fiscal Year 1984 Supplemental Funds. (Requested by Representatives Matthew G. Martinez, Chairman, Employment Opportunities Subcommittee, House Committee on Education and Labor; Augustus F. Hawkins, Chairman, House Committee on Education and Labor; William H. Gray III, Chairman, House Committee on the Budget; and Pat Williams, Chairman, Human Resources Task Force, House Committee on the Budget) HRD-85-68, 5-17-85

Projects Funded in Fresno County, California, by the Emergency Jobs Appropriations Act of 1983. Departments of Education and Labor. (Requested by Senator Dan Quayle, Chairman, Employment and Productivity Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources) HRD-85-90, 8-27-85

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Concerns Over Labor's Ability To Implement the Job Training Partnership Act. (Requested by Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources) HRD-85-61, 4-22-85

Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Projections: Detailed Analysis of Selected Occupations and Industries. Department of Labor. (Requested by Representative Berkley W. Bedell, Chairman, General Oversight and the

Economy Subcommittee, House Committee on Small Business) OCE-85-1, 4-25-85

Specific Technological Assumptions Affecting the Bureau of Labor Statistics' 1995 Employment Projections. Department of Labor. (Requested by Representative Berkley W. Bedell, Chairman, General Oversight and the Economy Subcommittee, House Committee on Small Business) OCE-85-2, 5-20-85

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The Strategic Petroleum Reserve: An Overview of Its Development and Use in the Event of an Oil Supply Disruption. Department of Energy. RCED-85-134, 9-30-85

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Status of Strategic Petroleum Reserve Activities as of September 30, 1984. Department of Energy. (Requested by Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources) RCED-85-40, 10-15-84

Status of Strategic Petroleum Reserve Activities as of December 31, 1984. Department of Energy. (Requested by Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources) RCED-85-58, 1-22-85

Survey of Oil Company Views on Fair Sharing in an International Oil Supply Disruption. Departments of Energy and State. (Requested by Representative Michael L. Synar, Chairman, Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Subcommittee,

House Committee on Government Operations) NSIAD-85-45, 2-5-85

Status of Strategic Petroleum Reserve Activities as of March 31, 1985. Department of Energy. (Requested by Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources) RCED-85-111, 4-15-85

Analysis of Oil Withdrawal and Distribution Tests for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Department of Energy. (Requested by Representative Michael L. Synar, Chairman, Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Subcommittee, House Committee on Government Operations) RCED-85-115, 5-8-85

Evaluation of the Department of Energy's Plan To Sell Oil From the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. (Requested by Representative Philip R. Sharp, Chairman, Fossil and Synthetic Fuels Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) RCED-85-80, 6-5-85

Status of U.S. Participation in the International Energy Agency's Emergency Sharing System. Department of Energy. (Requested by Senator Howard M. Metzenbaum and Representative Michael L. Synar, Chairman, Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Subcommittee, House Committee on Government Operations) NSIAD-85-99, 6-13-85

Status of Strategic Petroleum Reserve Activities as of June 30, 1985. Department of Energy. (Requested by Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources) RCED-85-149, 7-15-85

More Assurance Is Needed That Strategic Petroleum Reserve Oil Can Be Withdrawn as Designed.

Department of Energy. (Requested by Senators J. Bennett Johnston, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and James A. McClure, Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources) RCED-85-104, 9-27-85

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Benefits and Limitations of Economic Policy Responses to an Oil Supply Disruption. Department of Energy. (Requested by Senator Bill Bradley) RCED-85-151, 8-8-85

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Overview of the Department of Defense's Progress in Achieving Energy Conservation. Departments of the Army, Air Force, and Navy. (Requested by Energy Conservation and Power Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) RCED-85-122, 6-6-85

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Department of Energy's Initial Efforts To Implement the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. RCED-85-27, 1-10-85

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act: 1984 Implementation Status, Progress, and Problems. Department of Energy: Office of Civilian Ra-

dioactive Waste Management. RCED-85-100, 9-30-85

Reports to Committees:

Status of DOE Implementation of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 as of September 30, 1984. (Requested by Senators James A. McClure, Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and J. Bennett Johnston, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources) RCED-85-42, 10-19-84

Information on Data Problems Identified by the Department of Energy With Its Final Entitlements Lists. (Requested by Representative John D. Dingell, Chairman, Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) RCED-85-45, 11-29-84

Information on the Energy Information Administration's Financial Reporting System. Department of Energy. (Requested by Representative Philip R. Sharp, Chairman, Fossil and Synthetic Fuels Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) RCED-85-51, 1-30-85

Status of the Department of Energy's Implementation of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 as of December 31, 1984. (Requested by Senators J. Bennett Johnston, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and James A. McClure, Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources) RCED-85-65, 1-31-85

The Department of Energy Should Improve Its Management of Oil Overcharge Funds. (Requested by Representative

John D. Dingell, Chairman, Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) RCED-85-46, 2-14-85

Concerns Regarding NRC's Implementation of the Freedom of Information Act. (Requested by Representative Glenn L. English, Chairman, Government Information, Justice, and Agriculture Subcommittee, House Committee on Government Operations) RCED-85-101, 4-24-85

Status of the Department of Energy's Implementation of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 as of March 31, 1985. (Requested by Senators J. Bennett Johnston, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and James A. McClure, Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources) RCED-85-116, 4-30-85

Update on Nine Hydropower Relicensing Cases at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Department of Energy. (Requested by Representative Edward J. Markey, Chairman, Energy Conservation and Power Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) RCED-85-131, 5-28-85

Problems Identified in FERC's Incentive Pricing Program for Natural Gas From Tight Formations. Department of Energy. (Requested by Senators Howard M. Metzenbaum and Max S. Baucus and Representative Philip R. Sharp, Chairman, Fossil and Synthetic Fuels Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) RCED-85-49, 6-13-85

Status of the Department of Energy's Implementation of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 as of June 30, 1985. (Requested by Senators J. Bennett Johnston, Ranking Minority Member, Sen-

ate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and James A. McClure, Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources) RCED-85-156, 7-31-85

Department of Energy Needs To Develop Better Guidance for Settling Oil Overcharge Cases With Long-Term Payment Provisions. (Requested by Representative John D. Dingell, Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) RCED-85-120, 8-13-85

Assessment of Factors Affecting the Availability of U.S. Oil Supplies From the Caribbean. Departments of Defense, Energy, and State. NSIAD-85-127, 9-13-85

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Natural Gas Price Increases in Detroit. Department of Energy. (Requested by Senator Carl M. Levin and Representative John Conyers, Jr.) RCED-85-48, 1-11-85

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Better Inspection Management Would Improve Oversight of Operating Nuclear Plants. Nu-

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Status of the Great Plains Coal Gasification Project—December 31, 1984. Department of Energy and U.S. Synthetic Fuels Corporation. RCED-85-92, 5-28-85

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission Should Report on Progress in Implementing Lessons Learned From the Three Mile Island Accident. RCED-85-72, 7-19-85

Our Seventh Annual Review of Interior's Methodology for Allowing OCS Wells To Be Shut In or To Flare Natural Gas. RCED-85-161, 9-30-85

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Adequacy of Geologic Data for Proposed Coal Lease Tracts in Central Utah and Western Colorado. Department of the Interior. (Requested by Representative James H. Weaver, Chairman, Mining, Forest Management, and Bonneville Power Administration Subcommittee, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs) RCED-85-35, 11-5-84

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Interior Has Taken Steps To Improve the Adequacy of Data Used for Making Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Decisions.

(Requested by Representative John D. Dingell, Chairman, Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) RCED-85-68, 3-26-85

Analysis of Interior's Administration of the Duck Nest Creek Coal Lease Exchange. (Requested by Mining, Forest Management, and Bonneville Power Administration Subcommittee, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs) RCED-85-103, 4-4-85

Selected Management Activities at the Naval Petroleum Reserve, California. Department of Energy. (Requested by Representative Michael L. Synar, Chairman, Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Subcommittee, House Committee on Government Operations) RCED-85-7, 4-12-85

Optional Development Strategies for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Department of Energy. (Requested by Senator James A. McClure, Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources) RCED-85-113, 4-22-85

Optional Development Strategies for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Department of Energy. (Requested by Representative Michael L. Synar, Chairman, Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Subcommittee, House Committee on Government Operations) RCED-85-117, 4-22-85

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tee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) RCED-85-97, 5-3-85

The Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Should More Fully Recover or Eliminate Its Costs of Regulating Coal Mining. RCED-85-33, 5-28-85

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Synthetic Fuels Corporation's Profit-Sharing Provisions With Six Proposed Projects. (Requested by Representative Michael L. Synar, Chairman, Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Subcommittee, House Committee on Government Operations) RCED-85-140, 7-10-85

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Options for Conducting a Pay Equity Study of Federal Pay and Classification Systems. Office of Personnel Management.

(Requested by Senators Thomas F. Eagleton, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs; Jeff Bingaman, Ranking Minority Member, Civil Service, Post Office, and General Services Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs; Ted Stevens, Chairman, Civil Service, Post Office, and General Services Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs; Daniel J. Evans; David Durenberger; and Alan Cranston and Representative William D. Ford, Chairman, House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service) GGD-85-37, 3-1-85

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Comments on Report on Comparable Worth by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. (Requested by Senator Daniel J. Evans and Representative William D. Ford, Chairman, House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service) GGD-85-59, 6-14-85

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Information on the President's Commission on Executive Exchange and the Congressional Assistant Program. (Requested by Senators Charles McC. Mathias, Civil Service and General Services Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs; Albert Gore, Jr., Ranking Minority Member, Civil Service and General Services Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs; Ted Stevens, Chairman, Civil Service and General Services Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs; and Thomas F. Eagleton, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs) GGD-85-60, 6-18-85

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Description of Selected Nonfederal Job Evaluation Systems. (Requested by Representatives Gary L. Ackerman, Chairman, Human

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Changes in Rent Burdens and Housing Conditions of Lower Income Households. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (Requested by Senator Donald W. Riegle, Ranking Minority Member, Housing and Urban Affairs Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs) RCED-85-108, 4-23-85

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Costs of Alternative Munitions Lift Trailers for Strategic Bombers. Departments of Defense and the Air Force. (Requested by Representative Melvin Price, Chairman, Research and Development Subcommittee, House Committee on Armed Services) NSIAD-85-142, 8-28-85

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What Is the Extent of Foreign Participation in Mineral Leases and Mining Claims on Federal Land? GAO Analyzes Three States. Department of the Interior. (Requested by Representative Morris K. Udall, Chairman, House Committee on Interior and

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Potential Impacts of Tighter Forest Service Log Export Restrictions. Department of Agriculture. (Requested by Senators James A. McClure, Chairman, Interior Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Appropriations, and Mark O. Hatfield, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations) RCED-85-17, 1-28-85

The Corps of Engineers Should Revise Its Policy for Identifying Unneeded Land. Department of the Army. (Requested by Senators Malcolm Wallop, Chairman, Public Lands and Reserved Water Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and James A. McClure, Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources) RCED-85-41, 3-22-85

Issues Surrounding Continuation of the Noncompetitive Oil and Gas Lottery System. Department of the Interior: Bureau of Land Management. (Requested by Representative Morris K. Udall, Chairman, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs) RCED-85-88, 4-4-85

The Bureau of Reclamation Could Identify More Unneeded Land. Department of the Interior. (Requested by Senators Malcolm Wallop, Chairman, Public Lands and Reserved Water Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and James A. McClure, Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources) RCED-85-25, 4-12-85

The Bureau of Land Management's Efforts To Identify Land for Disposal. Department of the Interior. (Requested by Senators Malcolm Wallop, Chairman, Public Lands and Reserved Water

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Selectively Reducing Offshore Royalty Rates in the Gulf of Mexico Could Increase Oil Production and Federal Government Revenue. Department of Energy and Department of the Interior: Minerals Management Service. (Requested by Senator Lowell P. Weicker, Former Chairman, Energy Conservation and Supply Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources) RCED-85-6, 5-10-85

Surface Coal Mining Operations in Two Oklahoma Counties Raise Questions About Prime Farmland Reclamation and Bond Adequacy. Department of the Interior: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. (Requested by Representative Michael L. Synar, Chairman, Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Subcommittee, House Committee on Government Operations) RCED-85-147, 8-8-85

Reasons and Current Outlook for the Sale of Federal Royalty Oil to Small and Independent Refiners. Department of the Interior. (Requested by Representative John D. Dingell, Chairman, Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) RCED-85-139, 8-26-85

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The A-76 Study at the NOAA National Climatic Data Center Could Have Been Compromised by the Disclosure of Certain Information. Department of Commerce and Office of Management and Budget. (Requested by Human Resources Subcommittee, House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service) RCED-85-53, 2-1-85

Implementation Status of OMB Circular A-76 Program at National Park Service and Bureau of Reclamation. Department of the Interior. (Requested by Representative Michael L. Synar, Chairman, Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Subcommittee, House Committee on Government Operations) RCED-85-56, 3-15-85

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The Foreign Fishing Observer Program: Management Improvements Needed. Department of Commerce: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. (Requested by Representatives Don Young, Ranking Minority Member, Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation, and the Environment Subcommittee, House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, and John B. Breaux, Chairman, Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation, and the Environment Subcommittee, House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries) RCED-85-110, 8-12-85

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An Analysis of Issues Concerning Acid Rain. Departments of Energy and State, Environmental Protection Agency, and Council on Environmental Quality. RCED-85-13, 12-11-84

Cleaning Up Hazardous Wastes: An Overview of Superfund Reauthorization Issues. Environmental Protection Agency. RCED-85-69, 3-29-85

Greater Use of Value Engineering Has the Potential To Save Millions on Wastewater Treatment Projects. Environmental Protection Agency. RCED-85-85, 7-16-85

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EPA Could Benefit From Comprehensive Management Information on Superfund Enforcement Actions. (Requested by Representative Elliott H. Levitas, Chairman, Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee, House Committee on Public Works and Transportation) RCED-85-3, 12-28-84

The Environmental Protection Agency Should Better Manage Its Use of Contractors. (Re-

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Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance Program Is Behind Schedule. Environmental Protection Agency. (Requested by Representative John D. Dingell, Chairman, Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) RCED-85-22, 1-16-85

Clearer EPA Superfund Program Policies Should Improve Cleanup Efforts. (Requested by Representative James J. Florio, Chairman, Commerce, Transportation, and Tourism Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) RCED-85-54, 2-6-85

Illegal Disposal of Hazardous Waste: Difficult To Detect or Deter. Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration. (Requested by Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee, House Committee on Public Works and Transportation) RCED-85-2, 2-22-85

School District Officials Face Problems in Dealing With Asbestos in Their Schools. Environmental Protection Agency. (Requested by Representative Edward P. Boland, Chairman, HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee, House Committee on Appropriations) RCED-85-91, 3-19-85

Status of EPA's Remedial Cleanup Efforts. (Requested by Representative James J. Florio, Chairman, Commerce, Transportation, and Tourism Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) RCED-85-86, 3-20-85

EPA's Inventory of Potential Hazardous Waste Sites Is Incomplete. (Requested by Representative James J. Florio, Chairman, Commerce, Transportation, and Tourism Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) RCED-85-75, 3-26-85

EPA's Delegation of Responsibilities To Prevent Significant Deterioration of Air Quality: How Is It Working? (Requested by Representative John D. Dingell, Chairman, Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) RCED-85-73, 4-4-85

Efforts To Clean Up DOD-Owned Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites. Departments of the Air Force, Navy, and Army and Environmental Protection Agency. (Requested by Representatives Vic Fazio, Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee, House Committee on Appropriations, and James J. Florio, Chairman, Commerce, Transportation, and Tourism Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) NSIAD-85-41, 4-12-85

Hazardous Waste Management at Tinker Air Force Base—Problems Noted, Improvements Needed. Department of Defense: Defense Logistics Agency. (Requested by Representative Michael L. Synar, Chairman, Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee, House Committee on Government Operations) NSIAD-85-91, 7-19-85

EPA-Approved Revisions to State Implementation Plans Allowing Increased Sulfur Dioxide Emissions Were Legal. (Requested by Representative John D. Dingell, Chairman, Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) RCED-85-129, 8-16-85

Assessment of EPA's Hazardous Waste Enforcement Strategy. (Requested by Senators Patrick Leahy, Ranking Minority Member, HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Appropriations, and Edwin (Jake) Garn, Chairman, HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Appropriations) RCED-85-166, 9-5-85

EPA's Sanctions Policy Is Not Consistent With the Clean Air Act. (Requested by Representative John D. Dingell, Chairman, Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) RCED-85-121, 9-30-85

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Installation of Automated Weather Observing Systems by FAA at Commercial Airports Is Not Justified. Department of Transportation and Department of Commerce: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. (Requested by Representative William Lehman, Chairman, Transportation Subcommittee, House Committee on Appropriations) RCED-85-78, 7-29-85

Compilation and Analysis of the Federal Aviation Administration's Inspection of a Sample of Commercial Air Carriers. Department of Transportation. (Requested by Representatives William Lehman, Chairman, Transportation Subcommittee, House Committee on Appropriations, and Norman Y. Mineta, Chairman, Aviation Subcommittee, House Committee on Public Works and Transportation) RCED-85-157, 8-2-85

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Department of Transportation's Motor Vehicle Defect-Testing Procedures Were Reasonable—Public Announcements of Potential Safety Defects Could Be Improved. (Requested by Representative John D. Dingell, Chairman, Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce) RCED-85-28, 11-9-84

New York City Transit Authority's Withdrawal of Its Grumman Flexible Buses. Department of Transportation. (Requested by Representatives Guy V. Molinari, Ranking Minority Member, Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee, House Committee on Public Works and Transportation, and Elliott H. Levitas, Chairman, Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee, House Committee on Public Works and Transportation) RCED-85-50, 11-19-84

The Outdoor Advertising Control Program Needs To Be Re-assessed. Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration. (Requested by Senator Robert T. Stafford, Chairman, Senate Committee on

Environment and Public Works) RCED-85-34, 1-3-85

Information on the Federal Highway Administration's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program. Department of Transportation. (Requested by Senators Lloyd Bentsen, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; Steven D. Symms, Chairman, Transportation Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; and Robert T. Stafford, Chairman, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works) RCED-85-31, 3-15-85

AMTRAK's Northeast Corridor Trains Operate With a One-Person Locomotive Crew. (Requested by Representatives James J. Florio, Chairman, Commerce, Transportation, and Tourism Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Bruce A. Morrison) RCED-85-1, 4-18-85

Proposed AMTRAK Rail Service Between Philadelphia and Atlantic City. Department of Transportation: Federal Railroad Administration. (Requested by Representatives James J. Florio, Chairman, Commerce, Transportation, and Tourism Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Lawrence Coughlin, Ranking Minority Member, Transportation Subcommittee, House Committee on Appropriations) RCED-85-90, 8-13-85

Use of Government Motor Vehicles for the Transportation of Government Officials and the Relatives of Government Officials. General Services Administration. (Requested by Representative Jack Brooks, Chairman, Legislation and National Security Subcommittee, House Committee on Government Operations) GGD-85-76, 9-16-85

Reports to Members:

Florida's Sunshine Skyway Bridge—Design and Construction Concerns. Department of Transportation. (Requested by Representatives Sam M. Gibbons, Andy Ireland, and C.W. Bill Young) RCED-85-32, 12-14-84

State Income Taxation of Non-resident Railroad Employees. Department of Justice. (Requested by Senators Slade Gorton and Daniel J. Evans) GGD-85-46, 4-11-85

Reports to Agency Officials:

UMTA Needs Better Assurance That Grantees Comply With Selected Federal Requirements. Department of Transportation. RCED-85-26, 2-19-85

Stronger Enforcement Would Help Improve Motor Carrier Safety. Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration. RCED-85-64, 9-5-85

Other Transportation

Reports to Agency Officials:

Greater Use of Value Engineering Has the Potential To Save the Department of Transportation Millions in Construction Costs. RCED-85-14, 11-2-84

Water Transportation

Reports to the Congress:

Examination of the Panama Canal Commission's Financial Statements for Fiscal Years Ended September 30, 1983 and 1982. NSIAD-85-26, 4-17-85

Reports to Committees:

The Status of a Gas Generator Engine for the Coast Guard Cutter Boutwell. Department of Transportation. (Requested by Senator William V. Roth, Jr., Chairman, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs) RCED-85-125, 6-25-85

GAO's Analysis of Audit and Investigative Reports Concerning U.S. Coast Guard Procurement. Department of Transportation: Office of Inspector General. (Requested by Senator William V. Roth, Jr., Chairman, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs) RCED-85-144, 7-16-85

Reports to Agency Officials:

Management Improvement Could Enhance Enforcement of Coast Guard Marine Safety Programs. Department of Transportation. RCED-85-59, 8-15-85

Veterans' Benefits and Services

*Hospital and Medical Care for Veterans**Reports to the Congress:*

Legislation To Authorize VA Recoveries From Private Health Insurance Would Result in Substantial Savings. HRD-85-24, 2-26-85

Better Patient Management Practices Could Reduce Length of Stay in VA Hospitals. HRD-85-52, 8-8-85

Reports to Committees:

VA's Justification for the Number of Beds Planned for the Philadelphia Hospital and Nursing Home. (Requested by Senator Edwin (Jake) Garn, Chairman, HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Appropriations) HRD-85-69, 6-13-85

VA Has Not Fully Implemented Its Health Care Quality Assurance Systems. (Requested by Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs and Senator Alan Cranston, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs) HRD-85-57, 6-27-85

Reports to Members:

Analysis of Issues Concerning the Planned Modernization or Relocation of the Allen Park, Michigan, VA Medical Center. (Requested by Representative John D. Dingell) HRD-85-64, 6-7-85

Impact of Offsetting Earnings From VA's Work Therapy Programs From Veterans' Pensions. (Requested by Senator Alan Cranston, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs) HRD-85-97, 8-27-85

Reports to Agency Officials:

VA Needs a Systematic Approach To Assess the Management of Its Outpatient Clinics. HRD-85-15, 12-7-84

Information on Veterans' Ability To Defray the Cost of Their Inpatient Care. Veterans Administration. HRD-85-63, 5-3-85

VA Needs Better Control Over Its Payments to Private Health Care Providers. HRD-85-49, 8-28-85

*Income Security for Veterans**Reports to Agency Officials:*

VA Can Reduce Excess Disability Payments by Improving Pay Data Exchange With the Military Services. Department of Defense: Defense Logistics Agency. HRD-85-38, 5-29-85

*Other Veterans' Benefits and Services**Reports to Committees:*

Administration of and Veterans' Participation in the VA Beneficiary Travel Program. (Requested by Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs) HRD-85-28, 2-7-85

VA's Methodology for Setting Priorities for Nursing Home Care Construction Projects for Fiscal Year 1986. (Requested by Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs) HRD-85-70, 5-17-85

VA Justification for Construction of Nursing Home Care Units at Amarillo, Texas, and Tucson, Arizona. (Requested by Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs) HRD-85-80, 8-12-85

Appendix Three

Summary Tables of Personnel
Assigned to Congressional
Committees, Fiscal Year 1985

GAO Staff Assigned to Congressional Committees as of September 30, 1985

House of Representatives Committees	Length of Assignment		Approx. Release Date	Salary	Travel Costs	Other ¹ Costs	Total ² Costs
	From	To					
Committee on Appropriations							
Subcommittee on Defense							
Richard E. Efford	Feb. 03, 1985		Jan. 03, 1986	\$17,224	\$15	\$1,955	\$19,194
William H. Greyard	Feb. 17, 1985	Aug. 30, 1985		25,435	•	2,887	28,322
Surveys and Investigations Staff							
Felix E. Asby	Oct. 01, 1984	Sep. 13, 1985		64,484	6,462	7,319	78,265
Glen Baughman	Sep. 09, 1985		Sep. 09, 1986	2,364	1,291	268	3,923
Edward Cole	Nov. 26, 1984	May 03, 1985		15,796	199	1,392	17,387
David Combs	Jan. 14, 1985		Jan. 13, 1986	31,734	6,626	3,602	41,962
Almida Cullen	Dec. 17, 1984	Sep. 16, 1985		14,346	•	1,628	15,974
Glen Furbish	Oct. 15, 1984		Oct. 15, 1985	30,545	6,490	3,467	40,502
Richard Gorman	Jan. 03, 1984	Nov. 23, 1984		7,898	896	•	8,800
Dade Grimes	Oct. 01, 1984	Sep. 30, 1985		49,731	8,443	5,644	63,818
Raymond Hautala	Sep. 16, 1985		Sep. 16, 1986	2,404	•	273	2,677
Roy T. Mason	Jan. 02, 1985		Jan. 01, 1986	39,626	10,462	4,498	54,586
Richard Mohler	Oct. 01, 1984	Sep. 30, 1985		48,271	12,454	5,479	66,204
Ona M. Noble	Jan. 09, 1984	Oct. 02, 1984		605	•	69	674
Douglas D. Nosik	Oct. 09, 1984	May 31, 1985		28,630	4,940	3,250	36,820
Thomas O'Connor	Sep. 15, 1985		Sep. 15, 1986	2,270	330	258	2,858
Enrique Olivares	Aug. 06, 1984	Aug. 05, 1985		32,418	12,519	3,679	48,616
Donald E. Pless	Sep. 16, 1985		Sep. 16, 1986	1,442	26	164	1,632
John Redell	Nov. 26, 1984		Nov. 25, 1985	55,570	4,133	6,307	66,010
Paul Rolfe	Oct. 01, 1984	Sep. 30, 1985		39,614	5,499	4,496	49,609
Ed Siemering	Nov. 26, 1984		Nov. 25, 1985	33,399	3,667	3,791	40,857
Jerald N. Slaughter	Jul. 09, 1984	Jul. 08, 1985		28,386	12,711	3,221	44,318
Clarence O. Smith	Nov. 26, 1984	Feb. 03, 1985		12,102	1,433	1,374	14,909
John P. Swain	Sep. 09, 1985		Sep. 09, 1986	2,000	581	227	2,808
Bradley Vass	Oct. 01, 1984	Sep. 30, 1985	Mar. 28, 1986	51,367	5,588	5,830	62,785
Don J. Ward	Sep. 16, 1985		Sep. 16, 1986	1,586	•	180	1,766
Vernon Westbrook	Jul. 23, 1984	Jul. 23, 1985		36,875	13,326	4,185	54,386
Jon Wooditch	Nov. 19, 1984		Nov. 18, 1985	34,414	3,078	3,906	41,398
Committee on Armed Services							
Aletha Brown	Jan. 28, 1985	May 03, 1985		10,091	•	1,145	11,236
Subcommittee on Seapower and Strategic and Critical Materials							
Shahied Dawan	Apr. 01, 1985	May 22, 1985		3,539	2,715	402	6,656
Don Day	Mar. 19, 1985	May 31, 1985		14,634	2,325	1,661	18,620
Mike Duffy	Mar. 27, 1985	May 22, 1985		9,652	1,215	1,096	11,963
Margaret Gaddy	Mar. 27, 1985	May 22, 1985		3,416	821	388	4,625
Lindsay Harwood	Mar. 27, 1985	May 22, 1985		10,220	2,684	1,160	14,064
Robert Lane	Mar. 19, 1985	May 31, 1985		12,122	2,667	1,376	16,165
Warren Nagel	Mar. 27, 1985	May 22, 1985		8,176	1,092	928	10,196
Denise Wempe	Apr. 01, 1985	May 22, 1985		4,242	5,075	481	9,798
Dave Wise	Mar. 27, 1985	May 22, 1985		5,638	1,573	640	7,851

Staff (continued)

House of Representatives Committees	Length of Assignment		Approx. Release Date	Salary	Travel Costs	Other ¹ Costs	Total ² Costs
	From	To					
Subcommittee on Investigations							
Roger A. Carroll	Apr. 27, 1985	May 17, 1985		2,666	-	303	2,969
Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs							
Gary W. Bowser	Aug. 06, 1984	Dec. 31, 1984		10,747	-	1,222	11,969
James V. Deveney	Aug. 06, 1984	Dec. 31, 1984		9,192	-	1,043	10,235
Benny H. McKee	Aug. 06, 1984	Dec. 31, 1984		11,030	-	1,252	12,282
Subcommittee on Financial Institutions, Supervision, Regulations and Insurance							
Peter J. Berry	Feb. 19, 1985	Aug. 30, 1985		13,448	227	1,526	15,201
Kathleen Turner	Aug. 19, 1985		Jan. 19, 1986	2,424	-	275	2,699
Committee on Energy and Commerce							
Art Brouk	Aug. 01, 1985		Feb. 01, 1986	5,494	-	624	6,118
Gregory J. Mounts	Jun. 18, 1984	Nov. 17, 1984		3,220	-	365	3,585
Kurt Schildknecht	Aug. 01, 1985		Feb. 01, 1986	6,788	525	770	8,083
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations							
Coy E. Belew	Feb. 11, 1985	May 02, 1985		10,665	-	1,211	11,876
Art Brouk	Jul. 31, 1984	Jul. 30, 1985		29,208	-	3,315	32,523
Alson Castonguay	Sep. 04, 1984	Mar. 01, 1985		16,637	2,504	1,888	21,029
Bruce Chafin	May 20, 1985		Oct. 31, 1985	13,695	5,443	1,554	20,692
Roger Hamilton	Jul. 31, 1984	Mar. 01, 1985		14,785	3,313	1,678	19,776
John Nelson	Apr. 10, 1985		Apr. 09, 1986	20,488	3,210	2,325	26,023
Kurt Schildknecht	Jul. 31, 1984	Jul. 30, 1985		27,020	547	3,067	30,634
John Ziombra	Aug. 20, 1984	Jan. 18, 1985		16,975	-	1,927	18,902
Committee on Government Operations							
Richard Chervenak	Jun. 25, 1984	Jan. 19, 1985		18,661	2,827	2,118	23,606
Raymond Cohen	Jan. 14, 1985		Jan. 13, 1986	38,212	264	4,337	42,813
Pasquale Esposito	May 02, 1984	May 01, 1985		29,879	560	3,391	33,830
Raymond Ridgeway	Sep. 11, 1984	Sep. 10, 1985		41,642	7,436	4,726	53,804
Dean Scott	Sep. 19, 1983	Oct. 18, 1984		2,743	-	311	3,054
Subcommittee on Commerce, Consumer and Monetary Affairs							
Harold B. Lippman	Jul. 08, 1985		Jul. 07, 1986	8,486	47	963	9,496
Dean Scott	Feb. 08, 1985	May 31, 1985		14,478	1,498	1,643	17,619

Staff (continued)

House of Representatives Committees	Length of Assignment		Approx. Release Date	Salary	Travel Costs	Other ¹ Costs	Total ² Costs
	From	To					
Subcommittee on Government Information, Justice and Agriculture							
Harvey Gold	Apr. 15, 1985	Jun. 21, 1985		7,448	198	845	8,491
Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations and Human Resources							
Robert T. Kissel	Jun. 25, 1984	Jan. 04, 1985		10,724	1,200	1,217	13,141
Subcommittee on Legislation and National Security							
Allan J. Hovey	Jan. 09, 1985	Jul. 09, 1985		28,787	*	3,267	32,054
Robert Leshinski	Jun. 03, 1985	Jul. 31, 1985		17,276	757	1,961	19,994
Raymond Poskaitis	Jun. 10, 1985		Oct. 10, 1985	20,832	52	2,364	23,248
Bill Sanchez	Jun. 03, 1985	Jul. 31, 1985		7,949	777	902	9,628
Committee on House Administration							
Owen Barhart	Mar. 15, 1985	Apr. 25, 1985		4,728	1,352	537	6,617
Terrell L. Bishop	Mar. 31, 1985	Apr. 25, 1985		3,070	*	348	3,418
Roger Corrado	Mar. 15, 1985	Apr. 25, 1985		4,121	694	468	5,283
Donna G. Dennis	Apr. 02, 1985	Apr. 25, 1985		919	1,011	104	2,034
Tom Haas	Mar. 15, 1985	Apr. 25, 1985		4,121	1,459	468	6,048
Bill Harnden	Mar. 15, 1985	Apr. 25, 1985		4,001	765	454	5,220
Wenona Johnson	Mar. 15, 1985	Apr. 25, 1985		3,758	1,262	427	5,447
Robert T. Kissel	Mar. 15, 1985	Apr. 25, 1985		4,757	1,964	540	7,261
Robert M. Lowe	Jul. 01, 1985		Nov. 01, 1985	16,926	*	1,921	18,847
Dan Meadows	Mar. 15, 1985	Apr. 25, 1985		4,001	1,486	545	6,032
Jim Meissner	Mar. 15, 1985	Apr. 25, 1985		6,410	2,524	728	9,662
Vern Nieporte	Mar. 15, 1985	Apr. 25, 1985		4,121	1,496	468	6,085
Bob Preston	Mar. 15, 1985	Apr. 25, 1985		4,243	1,458	482	6,183
Bob Repasky	Mar. 15, 1985	Apr. 25, 1985		3,758	1,611	427	5,796
Sanford F. Reigle	Mar. 25, 1985	Apr. 25, 1985		3,724	1,559	423	5,706
John Riche	Mar. 15, 1985	Apr. 25, 1985		4,486	550	509	5,545
Deborah Smith	Mar. 15, 1985	Apr. 25, 1985		4,121	1,439	468	6,028
Dinda Standau	Mar. 15, 1985	Apr. 25, 1985		4,001	1,483	454	5,938
Neil Wickliffe	Mar. 15, 1985	Apr. 25, 1985		4,162	1,693	472	6,327
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs							
John D. Haynes	Mar. 27, 1985		Mar. 26, 1986	16,953	11,995	1,924	30,872
Ronald S. Kader	Mar. 01, 1985		Feb. 28, 1986	23,784	1,831	2,699	28,314
John S. Reifsnyder	Mar. 01, 1985		Feb. 28, 1986	25,944	*	2,945	28,889
William H. Roach Jr.	Mar. 01, 1985		Feb. 28, 1986	25,224	*	2,863	28,087
Paul E. Roberts	Mar. 01, 1985		Feb. 28, 1986	30,660	10,582	3,480	44,722
Hector Rojas	Mar. 01, 1985		Feb. 28, 1986	29,070	2,441	3,300	34,811

Staff (continued)

House of Representatives Committees	Length of Assignment		Approx. Release Date	Salary	Travel Costs	Other ¹ Costs	Total ² Costs
	From	To					
Committee on the Judiciary							
Subcommittee on Crime							
Austin Dayton	Jul. 22, 1985		Jul. 22, 1986	5,621	•	638	6,259
Nancy Helmer	Aug. 01, 1985		Aug. 01, 1986	6,918	•	785	7,703
Colleen McElwee	Jul. 23, 1985		Jul. 22, 1986	7,448	•	845	8,293
Molly Sohr	Jun. 10, 1985	Jul. 12, 1985		2,090	•	237	2,327
Fred Stuckwisch	Jun. 10, 1985		Dec. 31, 1985	4,568	•	518	5,086
John David Zylks	Aug. 01, 1985		Aug. 01, 1986	9,082	•	1,031	10,113
Committee on Post Office and Civil Service							
Pasquale Esposito	Jul. 22, 1985		Jan. 22, 1986	9,936	65	1,128	11,129
Committee on Public Works and Transportation							
Subcommittee on Investigation and Oversight							
James Hedrick	Jun. 01, 1984	May 31, 1985		26,522	•	3,010	29,532
Committee on Science and Technology							
Janice Rothlauf	Sep. 04, 1984	Dec. 14, 1984		9,447	•	1,072	10,519
Robert Wiodarek	Jul. 16, 1984	Jul. 15, 1985		36,994	2,570	4,199	43,763
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct							
Ralph L. Lotkin	Dec. 05, 1984		Apr. 13, 1985	22,009	•	2,498	24,507
Select Committee on Aging							
William DeSarno	Oct. 06, 1983	Oct. 05, 1984		818	•	93	911
Subcommittee on Health and Long-Term Care							
Hal Wallach	May 27, 1985		May 26, 1986	21,636	•	2,456	24,092
Joint Committee on Taxation							
Greg Dybalski	Jun. 03, 1985		Dec. 03, 1985	16,408	•	1,862	18,270
Helen Fauntleroy	Jun. 03, 1985		Dec. 03, 1985	13,886	•	1,576	15,462
John Nash	Jun. 03, 1985		Dec. 03, 1985	6,774	•	769	7,543

Staff (continued)

U.S. Senate Committees	Length of Assignment From To	Approx. Release Date	Salary	Travel Costs	Other Costs	Total ² Costs
Committee on Governmental Affairs						
Raimondo Occhipinti	Apr. 29, 1985	May 31, 1985	5,382	.	611	5,993
Raymond J. Poskaitis	Jan. 14, 1985	Mar. 18, 1985	11,718	23	1,330	13,071
Robert A. Robinson	Jun. 10, 1985	Dec. 10, 1985	14,534	.	1,650	16,184
Ken Rupar	Apr. 29, 1985	May 31, 1985	2,090	.	237	2,327
Edward Scott	Sep. 11, 1984	Mar. 29, 1985	22,689	11,043	2,575	36,307
Rolan L. Shater	Jun. 10, 1985	Dec. 10, 1985	16,806	.	1,908	18,714
Roger L. Sperry	Jun. 10, 1985	Dec. 10, 1985	27,174	.	3,084	30,258
Lawrence Sullivan	Mar. 25, 1985	Jul. 25, 1985	21,636	1,090	2,456	25,182
Committee on Rules and Administration						
John P. Brennan	Nov. 19, 1984	Jan. 07, 1985	7,405	362	840	8,607

Grand Total \$1,827,863 \$238,427 \$206,154 \$2,272,444

¹Other expenses, which are 1.35% of salary cost, include the government's estimated share for personnel benefits for (1) life insurance, (2) retirement, (3) health benefits, (4) Medicare, and (5) FICA.

²All cost figures have been rounded and represent costs for fiscal year 1985 only.

Number of Assignments to Congressional Committees by Division/Office in Fiscal Year 1985

Division/Office	Assignments begun in FY 1985	Assignments during FY 1985*	Assignments as of 09/30/85
Accounting and Financial Management	10	12	7
General Counsel	1	1	0
General Government	6	7	5
Human Resources	1	2	1
Information Management and Technology	2	2	
Information Resources Management	1	1	1
National Security and International Affairs	20	22	9
Program Evaluation and Methodology		1	
Resources, Community, and Economic Development	7	11	5
Regional Offices			
Atlanta	2	1	1
Boston		2	
Chicago		1	
Cincinnati	18	19	
Dallas	2	5	
Denver	2	2	2
Kansas City	2	4	1
Los Angeles	3	3	
Norfolk	1	2	
Philadelphia	1	1	
Washington	15	20	8
Total	94	119	40

*These figures include staff whose assignments were in progress in fiscal year 1985 but whose assignments may have begun in fiscal year 1984 and may have ended before Sept. 30, 1985.

GAO Divisions and Offices

GAO is composed of divisions, field offices, and staff offices. The divisions and field offices are responsible for planning and performing GAO's work, while the staff offices provide guidance and oversight of GAO's activities. The lines of authority can be found in the organization chart in chapter one.

Office of the Comptroller General

The Office of the Comptroller General consists of the Comptroller General, the Special Assistant to the Comptroller General, an Assistant Comptroller General who handles special assignments, and Assistant Comptrollers General for Planning and Reporting and for Operations. The Assistant Comptroller General for Planning and Reporting determines the overall direction of GAO's work and the quality of GAO's products. The Assistant Comptroller General for Operations oversees GAO's technical and administrative activities. Combined, the work of these officials provides a single focus for coordinating and directing the entire organization.

Assistant Comptroller General for Human Resources

The Assistant Comptroller General for Human Resources develops personnel policies and processes for GAO staff recruitment, selection, training, appraisals, promotions, and awards. This office oversees the activities of the Office of Organization and Human Development, Personnel, and the Personnel Systems Development Project.

Office of the General Counsel

The Office of the General Counsel provides legal services to the Comptroller General and GAO's staff. One of its principal respon-

sibilities is to prepare Comptroller General decisions and opinions. Some decisions and opinions advise congressional committees and Members on the legality of federal agency activities or the legal implications of legislative proposals before Congress. Others resolve protests from bidders for government contracts alleging that a contract has been or is about to be improperly awarded to another bidder; GAO's expertise in this area is widely recognized by government agencies, contractors, and the federal courts. Still other decisions and opinions interpret the laws governing public expenditures as guidance for government agencies. The office also provides advice on legal issues that arise during GAO's audits and evaluations; helps prepare Comptroller General reports, congressional testimony, and other materials for congressional legislative and oversight activities; and oversees representation of the Comptroller General when GAO is involved in litigation.

Accounting and Financial Management Division

The Accounting and Financial Management Division promotes federal financial management improvements. The division also reviews issues involving accounting systems, agency financial statement audits, internal auditing, accounting and audit policy, budget, and integrated budget and accounting. The Accounting and Financial Management Division is GAO's focus for overall government issues and policies related to the Financial Integrity Act; fraud, waste, and abuse allegations (it operates the Fraud Hotline); and integration of budget and accounting systems. In addition, the division participates in the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program and the National Intergovernmental Audit Forums.

General Government Division

The General Government Division coordinates GAO's work in the areas of civilian personnel matters, administration of justice, tax policy and administration, federal oversight of financial institutions, the civil aspects of procurement and property management, national productivity, and privacy.

The division's audit coverage includes the Departments of Justice and the Treasury; the Office of Personnel Management; the General Services Administration; federal banking regulatory agencies, including the Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission; the District of Columbia government; the Bureau of the Census; and the U.S. Postal Service.

The division's Claims Group adjudicates claims by or against the United States and reviews, evaluates, and reports on the claim settlement and debt collection activities of federal agencies.

Human Resources Division

The Human Resources Division serves as the lead division for GAO's work in the areas of education and employment; health care delivery, quality, and financing; and income security. The division provides audit coverage for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education; the Consumer Product Safety 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.

Information Management and Technology Division

The Information Management and Technology Division serves as the lead division for GAO's work relating to agencies' management of information resources, including data processing, communications, and major information systems. The division is responsible for the information resources management portion of GAO's general management studies. The division also reviews the automated activities required by the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act and has the leadership role in providing automated data processing and related training at GAO.

National Security and International Affairs Division

The National Security and International Affairs Division's work covers U.S. national and international programs concerned with protecting the nation and advancing the international political, economic, and military interests of the United States. This work includes reviewing activities that foster U.S. national security, such as maintaining armed forces and civilian support activities; developing and utilizing defense weapons systems, including nuclear warheads; and conducting defense research. The division audits Department of Energy programs devoted to such national defense interests as naval ship reactors, selective service expenses, defense stockpiles outside the Departments of Defense and Energy, and international security assistance programs involving the transfer of defense articles and services to foreign governments.

The division audits foreign affairs activities, including development

assistance programs and diplomatic operations of the Department of State and related agencies, such as the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, the United States Information Agency, and the Agency for International Development. The division also audits federal programs affecting U.S. international commercial interests, such as export and import controls and trade agreements.

Program Evaluation and Methodology Division

The Program Evaluation and Methodology Division promotes program evaluation objectives within GAO and throughout the federal government. The division conducts complex and innovative program evaluations that contribute to congressional and national debate on major issues and that complement the planned work of other GAO divisions, maintains for other GAO divisions and regional offices a pool of technical and methodological experts to assist with program evaluation-related matters, and provides the focus for GAO's methodological responsibilities under Title VII of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974. The division also conducts joint projects with other GAO units dealing with such matters as developing program evaluation standards and designing GAO-wide methodological training programs, develops and transfers evaluation methods that advance the frontiers of program evaluation within and outside GAO, and assists in developing questionnaires and other measurement instruments used in GAO evaluations.

Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division

The Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division

serves as the lead division for GAO's work in the areas of food and agriculture, domestic housing and community development, energy, environmental protection, natural resources management, and transportation systems and policies. The division also reviews science and technology policies and research.

The division provides audit coverage for the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, the Interior, and Transportation; the Army Corps of Engineers (civil functions); the Environmental Protection and Federal Emergency Management Agencies; the Small Business Administration; the Interstate Commerce, Federal Maritime, Federal Communications, and Nuclear Regulatory Commissions; the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK); the National Science Foundation; and a variety of boards, commissions, and quasi-governmental entities, such as the U.S. Synthetic Fuels Corporation.

Office of the Chief Economist

The Chief Economist advises the Comptroller General on economic matters; helps resolve economic issues that arise in planning, implementing, and reporting GAO's assignments; and undertakes selected independent assignments. The office has a leadership role in providing economics training in GAO.

Civil Rights Office

The Civil Rights Office oversees GAO's efforts to carry out its activities in a nondiscriminatory manner. Its major functions are processing discrimination complaints, planning affirmative action, and managing special emphasis programs.

Office of Congressional Relations

The Office of Congressional Relations coordinates GAO's activities with congressional committees and Members. These activities include developing testimony, reports, legal opinions, and bill comments and assigning GAO staff to committees. The office assists, advises, and acts as a liaison for the Comptroller General and GAO's offices and divisions in furnishing the Congress with timely and useful assistance.

General Services and Controller

General Services and Controller is responsible for publishing services, facilities, procurement, library and information services, safety and security, records management, and the financial and budgetary functions of GAO.

Office of Information Resources Management

The Office of Information Resources Management handles GAO's information resources: it acquires, manages, and uses office automation resources within GAO; acquires, processes, stores, researches, retrieves, and disseminates information; develops internal systems; tests and evaluates new systems and technologies for their applicability to GAO; and develops short- and long-range information systems plans and information resource management policies for GAO.

Office of Internal Evaluation

The Office of Internal Evaluation assists the Comptroller General by providing independent evaluations of the organizational, administrative, personnel, and assignment management activities of GAO's divisions and offices.

The office evaluates the efficiency and effectiveness of GAO's policies and procedures and identifies corrective actions aimed at helping management fulfill its responsibilities. The office also examines GAO's accounts, financial transactions, and financial and other management reports to monitor their reliability and usefulness.

Office of International Audit Organization Liaison

The Office of International Audit Organization Liaison directs the International Auditor Fellowship Program, coordinates visits of officials from other countries, acts as liaison with other national government audit organizations, handles the staff work related to the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, publishes the *International Journal of Government Auditing*, and coordinates requests for GAO to provide training assistance to other countries. The office also coordinates publication of *The GAO Review*.

Office of Organization and Human Development

The Office of Organization and Human Development provides a unified, cohesive approach to the development of human resource management programs. Office branches perform the following functions: training, management development and assistance, organizational analysis and planning, and counseling and career development.

Personnel

The responsibilities of the personnel office include developing and applying job-related qualification and selection criteria; recruiting, examining, and appointing employees; maintaining relationships with schools and

professional groups; providing necessary job classification, salary, and wage administration services; maintaining liaison with government and employee organizations; and determining the application to GAO of pertinent personnel laws, rules, and regulations. Personnel also designs and processes records and compiles data, manages labor-management relations, and maintains a comprehensive employee relations and benefits program.

Personnel Systems Development Project

The Personnel Systems Development Project is responsible for determining and defining a personnel management system for meeting GAO's present and future needs; designing a master plan to develop these systems; planning, directing, and integrating development of these systems; testing the systems; and implementing the systems.

Office of Policy

The Office of Policy is the focal point for developing, promulgating, and interpreting GAO's auditing and reporting policies. The office provides advice and assistance to the Comptroller General, management, and staff in applying GAO's audit and evaluation policies.

Office of Program Planning

The Office of Program Planning assists the Office of the Comptroller General in planning and coordinating GAO's audit work and directing staff resources to best meet GAO-wide objectives. Office representatives work with the divisions to implement planning guidelines consistently throughout GAO. The office also helps GAO coordinate with the other legislative support agencies to avoid unnecessary duplication or overlap.

Office of Public Information

The Office of Public Information coordinates GAO's communications with the Congress, the media, and the public. It is the main point of contact between GAO and reporters. In addition, the office prepares the Comptroller General's *Monthly List of GAO Reports* and the semiannual *Publications List*; prepares the *GAO Management News*, a weekly newsletter for GAO employees; and specifies media distribution of all GAO reports.

Office of Quality Assurance

The Office of Quality Assurance provides advice and guidance to the Office of the Comptroller General to ensure that GAO's

work and reporting are of high quality, conform to established policies and procedures, and are relevant and useful. The office also makes recommendations for improving product quality and processing procedures and initiates new ways to communicate the results of GAO's work. Responsibility for much of the office's report review function has been assumed by GAO divisions, and OQA continues to play a standard-setting, oversight, and training role.

Field Offices

About 1,900 of GAO's professional staff are assigned to field offices throughout the United States and

overseas. The primary mission of GAO's field office staff is to support GAO's mission by leading and assisting with audit assignments and by participating in planning GAO's work.

The 15 regional offices are located in major cities throughout the United States and provide coverage to the 48 contiguous states, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Overseas offices are located in Frankfurt, West Germany, covering Europe, Africa, and the Near and Middle East; Honolulu, Hawaii, covering East, South, and Southeast Asia and the Pacific Ocean areas; and Panama City, Panama, covering South and Central America and the Caribbean Sea areas.

Laws Enacted in Fiscal Year 1985 Relating to GAO's Work

Continuing Appropriations/ Crime Control

Public Law 98-473, October 12, 1984, 98 Stat. 1837, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 1985 and serving other purposes, requires GAO to audit all financial transactions of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, including the financial transactions of all agencies or instrumentalities established or utilized by the Trust Territory. GAO shall make the audit in accordance with the provisions of the Budget and Accounting Act, 1921, and the Accounting and Auditing Act of 1950. (98 Stat. 1851)

Public Law 98-473 also establishes the U.S. Sentencing Commission, an independent commission in the judicial branch of the U.S. government whose purpose is to establish sentencing policies and practices for the federal criminal justice system. The Commission shall promulgate guidelines for use by sentencing courts in determining sentences to be imposed in criminal cases. The sentencing guidelines, however, may not go into effect until the day after GAO has undertaken a study of the guidelines and their potential impact in comparison with the operation of the existing sentencing and parole release system. Within 150 days of submission of the Commission's guidelines to the Congress, GAO shall report to the Congress the results of its study. (98 Stat. 2032)

Four years after the sentencing guidelines go into effect, GAO shall undertake a second study of the guidelines' impact and compare the new system with the previous sentencing and parole release system. Within 6 months of undertaking this study, GAO shall report its results to the Congress. (98 Stat. 2033)

This law also provides that a state may apply for federal law

enforcement assistance in the case of a law enforcement emergency and gives GAO access to records of recipients of assistance for purposes of audit. (98 Stat. 2106)

Further, the law provides for federal challenge grants to encourage states to establish and maintain trust funds or other funding mechanisms, including appropriations to support activities to prevent child abuse and child neglect. GAO has access for purposes of audit to records of any applicant and any other entity receiving assistance pertinent to these grants under sections 402 and 409. (98 Stat. 2199)

Federal Capital Investment Program Information Act of 1984

Public Law 98-501, October 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2320, the Public Works Improvement Act of 1984 and the Federal Capital Investment Program Information Act of 1984, requires the President to submit, with his budget proposal for the ensuing fiscal year, an analysis for each major public civilian or military capital investment program.

The Office of Management and Budget, after consultation with the Comptroller General and the Congressional Budget Office, shall issue criteria and guidelines for identifying public civilian and military capital investments; distinguishing between public civilian and military capital investments; and distinguishing between major and nonmajor capital investment programs. (98 Stat. 2326)

Single Audit Act of 1984

Public Law 98-502, October 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2327, the Single Audit Act of 1984, establishes uniform audit requirements for state and local governments re-

ceiving federal financial assistance.

Under section 2 of this act, the Comptroller General must review provisions contained in bills and resolutions reported by the committees of the Senate and House of Representatives requiring either financial or financial and compliance audits of recipients of federal assistance. If the Comptroller General determines that a bill or resolution contains provisions that are inconsistent with the requirements of the law, he shall notify the committee that reported the bill or resolution and the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs or the House Committee on Government Operations. (98 Stat. 2333-2334)

This law also provides that, if an audit conducted by a state or local government with respect to federal financial assistance programs finds noncompliance with applicable laws and regulations or weakness in internal controls, the state or local government shall submit a plan for corrective action. The plan shall be consistent with the audit resolution standard promulgated by the Comptroller General (as part of the standards for internal controls in the federal government) pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(b). (98 Stat. 2332)

The law further provides that the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, after consultation with the Comptroller General and others, must prescribe policies, procedures, and guidelines to implement this act. (98 Stat. 2333)

Access to Records

Organ Transplant Grants

Public Law 98-507, October 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2339, the National

Organ Transplant Act, establishes the Task Force on Organ Transplantation and the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network to authorize financial assistance for organ procurement organizations. The act also provides GAO audit access to pertinent records of grant recipients. (98 Stat. 2346)

Development Disabilities

Public Law 98-527, October 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2662, the Developmental Disabilities Act of 1984, amends title I of the Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act of 1963 to revise and extend programs for persons with developmental disabilities. The Comptroller General is provided access to pertinent records of recipients of assistance under the title for audit purposes. (98 Stat. 2667)

Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.

Public Law 99-61, July 9, 1985, 99 Stat. 113, contains as title I the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Commemorative Coin Act. Surcharges from the sale of the coins are to be used by the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc., to restore the Statue of Liberty and the facilities used for immigration at Ellis Island and to establish an endowment sufficient to ensure the continued upkeep and maintenance of these monuments. The Comptroller General is given the right to examine the records of the foundation concerning these functions. (99 Stat. 115)

Audit Standards

Public Law 98-509, October 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2353, the Alcohol Abuse, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Amendments of 1984, amends the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend authori-

ties of that act to assist alcohol and drug abuse and mental health services. Certain financial and compliance audits in connection with funds provided pursuant to this act shall be conducted in accordance with standards established by the Comptroller General for auditing governmental organizations, programs, activities, and functions. (98 Stat. 2357-2358)

Public Law 98-524, October 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2435, the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act, assists states to expand, improve, and update high-quality programs of vocational-technical education. This law requires the states to obtain financial and compliance audits of any funds received under the act. The audits are to be conducted in accordance with the Comptroller General's *Standards for Audit of Governmental Organizations, Programs, Activities, and Functions*. (98 Stat. 2482)

Technical Data Management

Public Law 98-525, October 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2492, the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1985, requires the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan for an improved system to manage technical data relating to any major system of the Department of Defense. Not later than 18 months after enactment of the law, the Comptroller General shall evaluate the Secretary's plan and report to the Congress. (98 Stat. 2610)

Veterans' Health Care

Public Law 98-528, October 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2686, the Veterans' Health Care Act of 1984, revises and improves VA's administration of health care and requires the Comptroller General to report to the Congress his opinion as to whether the Director, Office of Management and Budget, has

provided VA the medical personnel ceiling and the funds necessary to achieve this ceiling as required by law. This report is due 15 days after the Director has certified that he has provided such ceiling. (98 Stat. 2688)

Administrative Settlement of Claims Against the United States

Public Law 98-564, October 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2918, increases the maximum amount of a claim against the United States that may be paid administratively under the provisions of 10 U.S.C. 2733, 2734, and 2736 and 32 U.S.C. 715. With the exception of 10 U.S.C. 2736, these amendments provide that meritorious amounts in excess of \$100,000 may be reported to the Comptroller General for payment under 31 U.S.C. 1304. (98 Stat. 2918, 2919)

Industrial Targeting

Public Law 98-573, October 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2948, the Trade and Tariff Act of 1984, requires the Comptroller General to report to the Congress not later than June 1, 1985, the results of a comprehensive study of foreign industrial targeting whereby foreign governments adopt schemes to benefit specific industries. The study shall address the need to amend U.S. trade laws to protect domestic industry against the adverse effects of such targeting. (98 Stat. 3042)

Small Business and Federal Procurement Competition Enhancement Act of 1984

Public Law 98-577, October 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 3066, the Small Business and Federal Procurement Competition Enhancement Act of 1984, amends the Small Business Act to enhance competition in government procurements. Among other things, it requires the Administrator of the

Small Business Administration to assign to each major procurement center a breakout procurement center representative. The role of the representative is to foster full and open competition, rather than sole-source procurement, by identifying items that are available from various vendors and, at the same time, maintaining the integrity of the system in which such items are used.

The Administrator of the Small Business Administration and the Comptroller General shall establish standards for measuring (1) cost savings achieved through the efforts of the breakout procurement center representatives and (2) the extent to which competition has been increased as a result of such efforts.

The Administrator shall report annually to the Congress. Following submission of the second annual report, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Congress an evaluation of both the Administrator's adherence to the jointly established standards and the accuracy of the information submitted to the Congress. (98 Stat. 3082)

Audits—State Justice Institute

Public Law 98-620, November 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3335, contains as title II the State Justice Institute Act of 1984, which establishes a private, nonprofit corporation to be known as the State Justice Institute. The financial transactions of the Institute for any fiscal year during which federal funds are available to finance any portion of its operations may be audited by GAO in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed by the Comptroller General. GAO is provided access to pertinent records in connection with the audit, and its report is to be made to the Congress and the Attorney General. (98 Stat. 3345-3346)

Export Administration

Public Law 99-64, July 12, 1985, 99 Stat. 120, the Export Administration Amendments Act of 1985, reauthorizes the Export Administration Act of 1979. This act stipulates, among other things, that the President may not impose, expand, or extend export controls under section 6(f) of the Export Administration Act until he has submitted a report to the Congress specifying certain delineated information. GAO shall assess the report's full compliance with the intent of the subsection. (99 Stat. 133)

Legal Services Clinic

Public Law 99-88, August 15, 1985, 99 Stat. 293, the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1985, makes supplemental appropriations for the year ending September 30, 1985. It provides grants to fund two university centers that will provide legal clinics to supplement the civil legal services of Legal Services Corporation. The clinics will be located at the Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans and the Drake University School of Law in Des Moines. The endowments are to be held in a trust that dedicates the income exclusively to fulfilling the purposes stated and is subject to audit by GAO for the sole purpose of determining that all funds have been accounted for or used for such purposes. (99 Stat. 305)

UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Public Law 99-93, August 16, 1985, 99 Stat. 405, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1986 and 1987, amends the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act to prohibit payment of funds to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees unless the High Commissioner provides for annual program audits. The

Comptroller General is to inspect each audit and submit a report to the Congress. (99 Stat. 411)

Appropriations for the General Accounting Office

Public Law 99-88, August 15, 1985, 99 Stat. 293, the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1985, provides GAO an additional \$5 million for salaries and expenses. (99 Stat. 351)

Public Law 99-103, September 30, 1985, 99 Stat. 471, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 1986, provides funds for GAO in such amounts as may be necessary for projects and activities for which appropriations, funds, or other authority would be available in the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1986. The appropriations or funds shall be available from October 1, 1985, until enactment into law of the applicable appropriation or November 14, 1985, whichever occurs first. (99 Stat. 471-473)

Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985

After the close of the fiscal year, on December 12, 1985, the President signed into law the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, Public Law 99-177. The act mandates yearly reductions in the federal deficit to a level of zero in 1991 and establishes a mechanism to ensure that those reductions are achieved. GAO has a substantial role in the process.

The act provides for automatic reductions in a broad range of defense and non-defense programs in any year in which the estimated deficit exceeds the mandated deficit level for that year. Reductions are carried out by the President, who issues special orders suspending automatic

spending increases and sequestering new budget authority. The President's actions are triggered by a report from the Comptroller General. The Comptroller General's report is, in turn, based on a report issued jointly by the Directors of the Office of Management and Budget and the Congressional Budget Office.

The act requires GAO to issue its first report to Congress and to the President on January 20, 1986, covering fiscal year 1986. For each fiscal year thereafter, GAO's initial report under the act will be issued on August 25 prior to the commencement of the fiscal year.

