

GAO

History Program

April 1988

# Chet Holifield





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**PREFACE**

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The General Accounting Office (GAO) was established by the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921. Since then, new legislation and modified policies have been adopted that enable GAO to meet the needs of the Congress as it comes to grips with increasingly complex governmental programs and activities.

GAO has initiated a History Program within its Office of Policy to ensure that the basis for policy decisions and other important events are systematically recorded for posterity. The program should benefit the Congress, future Comptrollers General, other present and future GAO officials, GAO's in-house training efforts, and scholars of public administration.

The primary source of historical data is the written record in official government files. A vital supplement contributing to a better understanding of past actions is the oral history component of the program. Key governmental officials who were in a position to make decisions and redirect GAO's efforts are being interviewed to record their observations and impressions. Modern techniques make it possible to record their statements on videotapes or audiotapes supplemented by written transcripts.

Congressman Chet Holifield served in the United States Congress for 32 years, distinguishing himself in many significant ways. He had a particularly important impact on the operations of the United States General Accounting Office in his capacity as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and in his leadership role

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Preface

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in the House Government Operations Committee where he chaired subcommittees and eventually became Chairman of the full Committee.

A present and former GAO official (see p. vii) interviewed Mr. Holifield on September 9, 1987, in Balboa, California, to supplement the historical record of several significant events influencing GAO's audit activities. Among these were the so-called "Holifield Hearings" in 1965 on Defense Contract Audits, establishment of the Holifield-sponsored Commission on Government Procurement, and the development of nuclear energy.



Werner Grosshans  
Director, Office of Policy



Congressman Chet Holifield

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**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

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CONGRESSMAN CHET  
HOLIFIELD

Mr. Holifield, Democrat of Montebello, served as a member of the House of Representatives in the 19th District of California from January 1943 through December 1974. He was born in Mayfield, Kentucky, on December 3, 1903, and after a career in manufacturing and selling of men's apparel, was elected to the 78th Congress. He was reelected to 15 succeeding terms.

Mr. Holifield was Chairman of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy in 1961-1962, 1965-1966, and 1969-1970 and its Vice Chairman in 1963-1964 and 1967-1968. From 1971 until his retirement, he served as Chairman of the Committee on Government Operations, continuing a long career on this Committee during which he was also Chairman of various Subcommittees.

Mr. Holifield served on the Second Hoover Commission and was instrumental in establishing the General Services Administration, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He was the author of legislation in 1969 creating the Commission on Government Procurement and served as its Vice Chairman. Responding to the Commission's report, he initiated legislation to implement several of its key recommendations.

The academic world has honored Mr. Holifield by awarding him honorary degrees--Whittier College, doctor of laws; East Los Angeles College, associate of arts; and Lynchburg College, doctor of laws.



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**INTERVIEWERS**

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HENRY ESCHWEGE

Henry Eschwege retired in March 1986 after almost 30 years of service in GAO under three Comptrollers General. He held increasing responsibilities in the former Civil Division and became the Director of GAO's Resources and Economic Development Division upon its creation in 1972. He remained the Director after the Division was renamed the Community and Economic Development Division. In 1982, he was appointed Assistant Comptroller General for Planning and Reporting.

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WERNER GROSSHANS

Werner Grosshans became Director of the Office of Policy in December 1986. He began his diversified career as a government auditor in 1958 in the San Francisco Regional Office and held positions of increased responsibility; he was appointed Assistant Regional Manager in 1967. In July 1970, he transferred to the U.S. Postal Service as Assistant Regional Chief Inspector for Audits. In this position, he was responsible for the audits in the 13 western states. In October 1972, he returned to GAO to the Logistics and Communications Division. In 1980, he was appointed Deputy Director of the Procurement, Logistics, and Readiness Division, and in 1983, he was appointed Director of Planning in the newly created National Security and International Affairs Division. In 1985, he became Director of the Office of Program Planning where he remained until going to the Office of Policy.

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**ABBREVIATIONS**

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|------|--|
| AEC  | Atomic Energy Commission                       |
| CPA  | certified public accountant                    |
| DCAA | Defense Contract Audit Agency                  |
| GAO  | General Accounting Office                      |
| HUD  | Department of Housing and Urban<br>Development |
| TVA  | Tennessee Valley Authority                     |



INTERVIEW WITH CHET HOLIFIELD

SEPTEMBER 9, 1987

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Holifield                   At the outset, I want to give you these documents. They came out in 1969, 1972, and 1974 and represent an account of my career. I just happened to see them in my papers the other day. You may find something in there of interest. (See apps. I, II, and III.)

Mr. Eschwege                   I talked to Frank Gannon, and I understand the name of the book he is writing about you is entitled "Congress Confronts the Atom."

Mr. Holifield                   No, not that I know of.

Mr. Eschwege                   Oh, that is what he was telling me the other day.

Mr. Holifield                   Well, maybe he has a new idea that he has not passed on to me for my scrutiny. I do not know just what it will be. Up to this date, it is Chet Holifield; I will have to go get the thing...

Mr. Eschwege                   Well, I am sure he is still working on it.

Mr. Holifield                   ..."America's Atomic Age," something like that. That was the tentative title the last time I talked to him.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Mr. Eschwege                   Just briefly, I would like to obtain from you some biographical information, Mr. Holifield; you are originally from Kentucky?

Mr. Holifield                   Yes, that is right. I was born in Kentucky. My folks moved to Arkansas when I was 1 year old. I lived in Arkansas until I was 15-1/2, and then I came out to California. I never did go back; I liked it out here.

Mr. Eschwege Not even to visit Mayfield, Kentucky?

Mr. Holifield Well, I have been back a few times to visit a first cousin. He lives in Mayfield, and I was back there to see him about 2 or 3 years ago.

Mr. Eschwege And you came to the Congress in November 1942?

Mr. Holifield Yes, I was sworn in in January 1943.

Mr. Eschwege That is right. In November 1942, you were elected.

Mr. Holifield I left the Congress in 1974, when I was 71 years old; I voluntarily retired.

COMMITTEE WORK

Mr. Eschwege Well, you certainly had a very interesting and important career. That is really what we want to talk to you about. We want to go a bit by bit, chronologically. Therefore, the first thing that comes to mind is the fact that you served on the Second Hoover Commission between 1953 and 1955.

Mr. Holifield Yes--I also created the Procurement Commission--that was one of the commissions that I helped create in the House Committee on Government Operations. Also, I have a letter from John McCormick, former Speaker of the House, that will be in my book saying he had asked his staff to do some research and that I was the only Congressman that ever created, legislatively speaking, two Cabinet-level departments--the Department of Transportation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD]. HUD was created to provide cities direct access to the federal government.

I stayed on the House Government Operations Committee for 32 years because it had the inherent power of subpoena over persons, books, and records. I think only three other congressional committees have this

power--the Ways and Means [Tax] Committee, the Military Affairs Committee, and the Naval Affairs Committee. These also had inherent rights of subpoena. Any other committee that wanted to use a federal subpoena had to bring a resolution to the floor and get it passed and authorized by the Congress. The limitations were set forth in the resolution as to what their purpose was and what they could do.

Of course, we also had the power of subpoena in the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. I served on two committees, and both had the inherent right of subpoena. I handled that very carefully. When I was elected Chairman of the Government Operations Committee, I studied this authority carefully. By the way, this was previously called the Committee on Executive Expenditures and then changed later to the House Committee on Government Operations. I kept that power of subpoena. Now, if I am a little disjointed in my thoughts, you will have to bear with me. My memory is not as good as it used to be either; that comes along with 84 years.

Mr. Eschwege

Well, the Hoover Commission was active back in 1953 to 1955. There you were involved also in some accounting matters that were of particular interest to us. In fact, you had recommended that controllers be set up in all of the major agencies, similar to what they have in the military departments. You wanted these positions in civilian agencies as well. That was pushed then and it is still talked about, but it has not been implemented to date.

Mr. Holifield

It was very hard to get that done. Getting back to my service on the committees, there was a certain amount of jealousy in the Congress between committees, you know. None of the committees had the inherent right of subpoena except the ones I named. They had to go to the Congress and get

permission to make a specific investigation for a specific purpose. They did not have a roving authority. You see, the Committee on Government Operations had the power to investigate the government in regard to its efficiency and cost of operation. Well, that about covered everything. So, it was pretty wide, and I never had any trouble at all. I wanted to say this while I had it on my mind.

Before I was Chairman, William Dawson was the Chairman. He was a very fine person individually, but he had never been a very active member of the Committee. He had done most of his work on the District of Columbia Committee. He was a very fine man, a gentleman all the way, but he never attended the Government Operations Committee meetings until he became Chairman--and he apologized to me at the time--because he knew that a group of the members of the Committee, mostly the Southerners, had rebelled against Dawson. I suspect it was mostly because he was black; yet he had seniority. Porter Hardy and a group of the Southerners' senior Democrats wanted me to contest his elevation to the chairmanship on the grounds that he had not attended meetings of the Committee, which he had not.

This happened right after the war. I acknowledged the fact that he had not really been an active member of the Committee. I said, however, that it would be a great mistake to turn down a black man to be Chairman of a committee when he was actually entitled to be Chairman under the rules of the House; the seniority system had a great deal of strength, you know. I said he was entitled to the position. I said I would be no party to contesting his elevation to the chairmanship, and I said, "I appreciate the honor in your thinking of making me Chairman." I knew damn well what it was; it was not to have a black as Chairman.



I am from the south, and I knew what that was. I lived in a town where they had a sign that said "Nigger, do not let the sun go down on you in Springdale, Arkansas." That was where I lived in my boyhood days, so that was the general feeling then, you know. A lot of the towns did not allow "Negroes," of course; in towns where there were a lot of "Negroes," they could not help it; they had to have them. A lot of the towns that did not have them kept them out just by that kind of an attitude. I did not agree with it. But, anyway, I will quit talking about these things-- unless you want me to talk about them-- so that you can get to the things that you are interested in and I will do my best to answer them.

REASONS FOR HEARINGS ON  
GAO AUDITS OF CONTRACTS

Mr. Eschwege

Well, that is okay; we will help you. We have done some research on your career, and we just want to bring certain events and issues to your attention to see if you agree or disagree. What we are particularly interested in are the hearings you had in 1965 on defense contract audits. I notice you have transcripts on them there in front of you.

You asked GAO to come up to your Subcommittee on Military Operations and discuss the way GAO was going about auditing defense contractors and a few AEC [Atomic Energy Commission] contractors as well. There were a lot of concerns raised about the way we were handling the audits. Now, this was during the tenure of Comptroller General Joseph Campbell. He came up and testified. There were all kinds of allegations by contractors. You had the contractors up to testify. Then you had witnesses from the Bureau of the Budget; Elmer Staats was still in Bureau of the Budget. He came up to testify also. We are trying to have you recollect some

details about these hearings and tell us a little bit about what prompted the hearings and from where the concerns and complaints were coming.

Mr. Holifield

Well, there were many, many complaints. The bulk of the complaints, I think, came from contractors that failed to get any consideration. The Defense Department, of course, had its favorite contractors. It also had to deal with powerful committee chairmen like the old fox from Georgia, the very influential Congressman from Georgia, Carl Vinson. The "Georgia fox" was a very able man, a very powerful man. He was not exactly a crusader against the defense contractors as much as he--as well as other members--should have been, in my opinion.

I served on the Military Affairs Committee for several years. Committee members were mostly wined and dined and traveled and so forth while serving on the Armed Services, the Naval Affairs, and the Military Affairs Committees, to the point where they were handicapped in their attitude. I never became their prisoner because I did not allow any favors that were not necessary for the purposes of carrying out my official duties. To this day, the members of the Military Affairs Committee travel all over the world all the time. Now there is some justification for that because there are many things that the Congressmen accomplish. Let me give you some examples.

NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS DISCLOSED  
IN VISITS TO MILITARY BASES

I remember going to England, where we had a big base about 60 or 70 miles north of London. I went up to this base with my Subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Operations. We were looking at Army bases as to their efficiency of operation and so forth. As we came in, I noticed a white ring all around this Army base. A question

that immediately came to my mind was why an Army base should have a white ring around it. When I got off at the base, the Army personnel took us on the roads around the base.

One of the first questions I asked them was, "As I came in, I noticed you had a white ring all around the military base here." They had planes and everything else there, and I said, "What was the white ring for?" They explained to me that they did not have parmigranite and they had to use ground-up oyster shells. I said, "Well, have you ever thought about this being a circular target outlined in the moonlight?" Against a night foray, all an enemy would have to do is drop bombs inside the ring and they would get the airplanes, the airfield, and all the rest of the military facilities that they had there. They said, "Well, we did not have parmigranite, and we had to use something; so we used oyster shells." I said, "You do have sprinkle wagons that you use to sprinkle the lawns around the officers' quarters particularly?" "Oh, yes," they said. I said, "Well, have you ever thought of putting green dye in one of those wagons and dyeing all these white shells green?" No, they had not thought about that, you see.

I flew on down to a missile base in France and they had missiles there. As we came in, I saw the smoke coming out from a forest all around it. So, one of the first questions I asked was, "Coming in here, I saw smoke coming up all around from the forest. What is that?" They said that it was from the chimneys of the woodcutters' cabins. I said, "Well, that gives a pretty good beacon in the daytime when all those smoke stacks outline your base."

Then they had one of the first missiles painted red, white, and blue, sticking up in the air at its full height at the base, right off the runway. I said, "What would keep any of the Communists"

--at that time, about half of the deputies in the French Parliament were Communists--"from perforating the shell of this missile from anywhere in that wooded area?" I also noticed this one line of telephone wire. I asked, "Where is that leading to?" They said, "We are in constant communication with our defense headquarters in Paris." I said, "Well, if a Communist with a two-bit pair of pliers wanted to climb one of those poles and snip that line, there would go your communications."

As a result of that, when we came back, we suggested in our report that every base we had in the world be equipped with radio transmission facilities if it was of any importance at all. That was done later when I went to President Kennedy with that. They were given very strong radio transmission facilities so that they would no longer be dependent upon a one-wire line coming in from the headquarters in Paris.

It was things like that that we could do and frequently did. Some Committee members were better at it than others in doing it. Some did not do it; they wanted to see the country, you know, and see the latest shows on the Champs Elysees and have their fun. But, we made it our business to inquire how the camps were run and how secure their transmission facilities were and all that sort of thing. And thanks to that one suggestion of mine to President Kennedy, who, when I came back, just shook his head and said, "We will have that fixed."

Mr. Eschwege

Well, you know GAO is also in the business of trying to improve these activities.

Mr. Holifield

Well, GAO knew all that I was doing. In fact, I frequently went to have a talk with Elmer Staats before I made an overseas trip to find out if there was anything that he knew of--any tips he could give me.

1965 HEARINGS

Mr. Eschwege

Now these hearings that took place back in 1965 were kind of critical of GAO of that era. It was felt that the contractors were being treated rather severely in the reports that GAO was issuing. The report titles were considered somewhat inflammatory, and there was criticism of the fact that we actually named some of the people who were at fault, both those in the government and in the contractors' firms. As a result of these hearings, your Committee came out with a report that discussed all these different concerns. Of course, the contractors agreed with that.

Mr. Holifield

I think a man by the name of Campbell, President Eisenhower's man, in my opinion, had some shortcomings. I think that Elmer Staats was very competent--he had a young man, I cannot think of the name of his predecessor...

Mr. Eschwege

Frank Weitzel?

Mr. Holifield

Yes, I felt Frank Weitzel was good, and, of course, I thought Elmer Staats was head-and-shoulders above anyone in GAO I ever knew while I was in the Congress.

Mr. Eschwege

Had you come across Mr. Campbell while he was at AEC?

Mr. Holifield

Oh, yes.

Mr. Eschwege

He had been a member of the Commission...

Mr. Holifield

I was on the original joint committee.

Mr. Eschwege

Right. So, you knew him even before he became Comptroller General?

Mr. Holifield

Oh, yes. Now, I would like to comment on one thing about our criticism of GAO. If there ever was a friend of GAO, I was. In the first few years when I was

on my Committee--that must have been when this Eisenhower appointee, Campbell, was there--I had quite a bit of contact with him. My criticism of the reports as I remember came when I was learning the business too at that time; that was in 1965. I came in 1943. My criticism of Campbell's work on Defense contracts and of GAO's work was that they put out a half-a-dozen reports on one investigation and all of them were titled. I thought that in many instances, those reports could have been combined and condensed into one report, and that is what Staats did. He put out fewer headlines and more complete stories, and it seemed to me that that was a more efficient way to do it. The way Campbell did it, some of the headlines were made to catch the attention of the press, so that they could twist them anyway they wanted to.

I had a talk with Elmer, and he agreed with me that GAO should take more care in putting out the reports and in having them complete and carefully headed, so that they did not lend themselves to so much propaganda. I think that Elmer himself will tell you that he had my full support of GAO--he agreed with me on that. I had a whole bunch of reports that I told him about. This was not to protect the contractors either. This was my attempt to make the reports very solid. If GAO caught them stealing, I did not mind them saying so. I never tried to protect the military--I will put it that way. I never tried to protect them from the standpoint of me being a tool of the military, and I do not think my record in handling the military was ever one of cover-up or leniency. I think I called the shots the way we saw them; there was not a better staff man in the Congress than Herb Roback.

Herbert Roback

Mr. Eschwege

Yes, he helped you on this very much.

Mr. Holifield

Oh, absolutely. I will tell you how much he helped me, just to give you a little story. When I first got to this Subcommittee on Military Operations, I asked one member of my staff of ladies (Ms. Morrison was my top secretary) for experts. I think they were from GAO, and they worked for me. When I had the first military investigation--I cannot remember what it was--I asked for these men.

One was kind of a little, short fellow, and the other was a tall fellow who smoked a pipe. I cannot think of their names. Anyway, I had some kind of an investigation coming up, and I told them that I needed some material on it. So they retired to their little cubbyhole that they had down in the basement. About 3 weeks later, they brought up a stack of volumes of different kinds of binders with leaf markers all through the documents. I looked at what they had done, and I went in and said to my woman office manager, "Something must be wrong with me, I have not got anything here that I can use. What I wanted was an analysis that was cogent and to the point and so forth and they have given me a month's reading here to do. I do not have time to do that, I have to answer roll calls and run other Committee work."

Miss Sally Thompson said, "Mr. Holifield, what you need is an interpreter; you need someone to do that reading for you and give you an analysis of it." You see, I was just 2 or 3 years there at that time when this thing started. I said, "Well, you do not happen to know someone who you think would be good," and she said, yes, she did, a gentleman by the name of Herb Roback, who was helping Senator Hugh Mitchell from Washington State. He had been helping him and a Congressman in the House from California do some work. She said he was a very brilliant young man and knew the government as well as anybody. She said, "I think he would be

the type of man you need," and I said, "Well, send him in."

Well, she made an appointment and Herb came in. She told me that because the gentleman from Washington was through with him, Herb was looking for work. She sent Herb in; he had one eye that looked at you, and the other eye focused on the corner of the ceiling, which was a weakness and which he later had fixed at my suggestion. So, he came in and I interviewed him. I was impressed with him. I asked him how he would handle the analysis, and he told me he would handle it just like he did for Senator So and So and Congressman So and So on the other committees he worked on. I said, "Well, that appeals to me."

So he became my alter ego, you might say, and I did not consider him as an employee and me as an employer. I got to consider him as being a very wise, intelligent specialist in the field of what I needed, which was quick summaries. He was not a lawyer himself, but I have seen him put lawyers before our Committee to flight by his astute questioning. He was my mentor, he gave me just what I wanted, and it did not take him a week to do it either or 3 weeks or 4 weeks. Whatever the problem was, he could bring me two or three pages of questions with all the backup material that I would need just like that--overnight. I could take them home with me, and I could read them at night. Maybe it would take me 2 or 3 hours to go through what he gave me, but it was usable, it was prepared quickly, and it was to the point. So he became a very wise and astute counselor to me, which I needed very badly.

Mr. Eschwege

And he was very involved in these hearings that you had with GAO?

Mr. Holifield

Oh, yes. He was involved in all hearings because he set them up.



Mr. Eschwege                   And he brought the different witnesses together for you and probably had a hand in writing the report?

Mr. Holifield                   Oh, he wrote the best reports on the Hill. Practically every staff worker who was in a position of authority had a standing order for each one of his reports, so they could study it as to its arrangement and all that sort of thing.

Mr. Eschwege                   I think he dealt a lot with Frank Weitzel whom you mentioned earlier?

Mr. Holifield                   Yes, he did. And he dealt with Staats later.

Mr. Eschwege                   Between the time that you had the hearings and the time the report came out, Mr. Campbell resigned because of ill health and Elmer Staats was nominated. He became Comptroller General, I believe, 2 days after you came out with your report in 1966. In the meantime, Frank was acting as Comptroller General from about July 1965 to March 1966, when there was no Comptroller General because Mr. Campbell had resigned and Mr. Staats had not taken over yet. So Weitzel sent you a letter, which you put into the report, in which he responded to every one of the concerns that the Committee had.

Mr. Holifield                   And which, undoubtedly, Herb Roback prepared.

Mr. Eschwege                   One of the big concerns were our recommendations for obtaining voluntary refunds from contractors. You were also concerned because we sent our reports to the Department of Justice to see if they could collect this money. You questioned the need for doing this because in the meantime a new piece of legislation had been passed, the Truth in Negotiations Act.

Mr. Holifield                   Yes, I remember that.

Mr. Eschwege                   And you felt this new act was supposed to take care of avoiding undue profits being made by contractors. Also, the Defense Contract Audit Agency [DCAA] had been established, and you felt that it should also be auditing the contractors. You were concerned that GAO might be duplicating the DCAA work and vice versa.

Mr. Holifield                   I vaguely remember that also.

Mr. Eschwege                   Now, as for Mr. Campbell's retirement, do you feel that that was in any way related to the hearings that you had, in that there was concern on his part about the way the Committee hearings were going?

Mr. Holifield                   Well, there certainly should have been concern on his part. I was always impressed with Frank Weitzel, but based on my earlier experience with Campbell on AEC, I had some misgivings.

#### Dixon-Yates and Related Issues

Mr. Eschwege                   Was that during the Dixon-Yates controversy, perhaps?

Mr. Holifield                   Yes, during those days.

Mr. Eschwege                   That was quite a controversial issue, wasn't it?

Mr. Holifield                   Yes, it certainly was and should have been. It was an attempt to really cripple the Tennessee Valley Authority [TVA] and intrude into its area of power. The government was going to build the powerplant in Memphis, a private powerplant.

Mr. Eschwege                   I think the government was going to guarantee construction of the plant and then turn it over.

Mr. Holifield                   Yes. The fight was by the private power interests against TVA, which was the traditional fight, as you know, against TVA's very existence. Private power interests wanted to intrude into

TVA's area and to do so, not in a private enterprise way of furnishing their own bonds, but with a guarantee from the government that their bonds would be as good as the government bonds.

I was not about to see private power interests getting a government guarantee of their contracts. If they wanted to build themselves a private powerplant, let them get bonds without the government's guarantee. Such a guarantee meant lower interest rates and more plants. If they once got that thing established as an ordinary way of doing business, why they would build plants all over the United States financed by government bonds at interest rates that would be lower. So the fight against that particular plant was really the fight against government guarantees of private industry funds for private plants generally. I told them, "When you build this plant for the Arkansas Light and Power and their cohorts--a combine of utilities was to build it--you actually build it for the prostitutes and gamblers in Memphis with a federal guaranty on the bonds." I hit them pretty hard on that, I think. I stopped it anyway.

Mr. Eschwege

Yes, and I think this issue came up later again in other forms.

Mr. Holifield

Oh, yes, the fight was perpetual. Out here in California, I always supported the Hoover Dam. Of course, there were the power outfits like Edison Company and others that were strong enough to get pieces of that power at reduced rates for their areas. There was nothing I could do about some of the things they did. I was not liked very much by the private utilities because I supported all of the government funding for all of the dams, like Hoover Dam and other dams like the ones up in Oregon, the Bonneville Dams, etc. I got through a bill in the Congress to get Bonneville Power down to Los Angeles.

I was not in a war to kill the private investors. It was a war to give the people, as far as I was concerned, the right to have cheap power available from the Bonneville and TVA dams because the government had built them. We had the right to get as much of that excess power as we could at a low price for the people in southern California. The Bonneville line, the longest power line in the world, had to be built not only for private use. We had to make some concessions to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

Mr. Eschwege                    Getting back to those 1965 hearings, did you feel that, as a result of those hearings, GAO was a different kind of organization than it was before?

Mr. Holifield                    Oh, Elmer Staats had a lot to do with this. He never had any real trouble with me. I mean, I do not think he would ever say he had.

Mr. Eschwege                    No, he never said that.

Mr. Holifield                    No, because I thought I honored him as one of the most responsible and valuable federal employees that we had in the nation. I could not have supported anybody anymore than I did him. There were things, of course, that he was not responsible for that were done before he came to GAO. I made a number of suggestions; I cannot remember many of them. He and I would sit down and talk it over, and I would make some suggestions. I did not try to interfere with him and his function at all. I tried to cooperate with him, and I think I did mostly. I think he would tell you that he had my support. There was some criticism, but it was made to help him; it was not of him personally, but of some things that had been done earlier in GAO.

Mr. Eschwege                    Well, the hearings were held in the summer of 1965. The report, as I mentioned earlier, did not come out

until March of 1966, but apparently there were some earlier drafts of that report--we do not have them. The story that was told to me is that you went through a number of drafts until you finally got to the final report. There was considerable agreement by that time on the language of that report...

Mr. Holifield                   Between Staats?

Mr. Eschwege                   Between Weitzel and you, maybe; I do not know if Staats was involved.

Mr. Holifield                   Oh, yes.

Disagreement With  
Hearings and Report

Mr. Eschwege                   I guess some of the concern that was raised by some people that testified was that it could take away from the effectiveness of GAO if these kinds of hearings were viewed as playing into the hands of those that were being audited. There were also some newspaper articles by Drew Pearson and a few who were concerned that there be no damage done to what they called the "Watchdog of the Congress," and, I guess, you heard some of those, too.

Mr. Holifield                   Oh, yes, I heard criticisms. At that time, Drew Pearson was an enemy of mine--I am trying to relate this as best as I can. He became an enemy of mine because he came to me, and as he did to all the new members of Congress, he made it known that he would give us some favorable publicity anytime we had anything we could give him that was newsworthy. He came to me and wanted some classified material involving some kind of an expose he was making. I cannot remember the details of it to save my life. I said, "I cannot give you that information; that is classified, Drew." Finally, I threw him out of my office. He said, "Well, if you cannot cooperate with me, I won't cooperate with you." I said, "Well, you do your damndest, but don't you ever

darken my door again," and he never did. And from that time on, particularly at election time, he always had a bad article about me.

Mr. Eschwege

Oh, really.

Mr. Holifield

Oh, yes. He wanted me to break my oath of office, in effect, and give him some classified information. I cannot remember now just what it was on; it had to do with the military, and he wanted a nice, juicy story that I had access to.

Well, I had no respect for him, and I did not mind telling him. He would always have some dirty articles at every campaign, but they did not do any good.

Mr. Grosshans

Could I ask you just a little more about the report itself? Jim Lanigan was the Committee Counsel working for the full Committee and its Chairman, William L. Dawson. Apparently, he looked at some of those earlier drafts, and he tried to rewrite some of those. Do you recall any of that at all?

Mr. Holifield

No, I do not recall that. But, I know he would not have had any chance over Herb Roback. Herb could have rewritten them.

Mr. Grosshans

Also, in the final report that was issued, there were a number of minority views expressed by Congressmen Robert Dole, Donald Rumsfeld, John W. Wydler, Clarence J. Brown, and Jack Brooks, for example. They all objected to the report, feeling that the Committee might weaken GAO's effectiveness by publicly criticizing it. Also, Porter Hardy--you mentioned his name earlier--wrote you a personal letter urging you not to release that report.

Mr. Holifield

Yes. Aside from that, I had trouble with some of my Committee members. One trouble I had with them arose when they wanted me to be Chairman to keep Dawson from being Chairman. As you know, he was a black. I went right to the

Speaker and told him about it, and he said "Chet, you did the right thing; don't you worry."

- Mr. Eschwege                   Congressman Brooks took over from you as Chairman of the full Committee, didn't he?
- Mr. Holifield                   Brooks took over, and he is still Chairman.
- Mr. Eschwege                   He had somewhat different views.
- Mr. Holifield                   Oh, yes. He and I did not agree with each other. His way of operation was not my way of operation; nevertheless, I gave him fair treatment as Chairman of one of the subcommittees and approved the people he wanted to work for him on his staff. There was no bitterness. We did not see things alike on some things, and on a lot of things, we did see alike. He never caused me too much trouble.
- Mr. Eschwege                   Yes.
- Mr. Holifield                   I left him alone, pretty well, with running his own committees.
- Mr. Eschwege                   Since you left, he has from time to time been concerned that maybe GAO ought to go and do a little more on these contractor audits than it had been doing. GAO is now doing quite a bit of work in the Defense Department and doing more work on contracts. You know, they are getting more complicated all the time.
- Mr. Grosshans                   On the hearings themselves, you had quite a few members attend the hearings, like Congressmen Horton, Halloway, Randall, and Moorehead. Some of these members that I mentioned, like Congressman Frank Horton, William Moorehead, William Randall, and so on, I think they were very active in the hearings and had a lot of questions. Some of them also asked, when they came into the hearings a little late, about the purpose for the hearings. Do you

recall specifically the reasons you started the hearings? In other words, was it primarily the concern that you had with the number of reports, as you mentioned earlier? Were there pressures from the contractors?

Mr. Holifield

No pressures from any contractor. There may have been some attempts, but I never had any contractor pressure. I cut that off right at the pockets, you know. No, that was not any concern of mine.

Mr. Grosshans

The hearings record itself, which we reread, indicates that when the question was raised, your answer was that you just wanted to find out a little more as to how GAO does contract audits.

Mr. Holifield

Who said this?

Mr. Grosshans

I think you said it in response to Congressmen Moorehead and Randall. They raised the question, "Why are we having these hearings?" I think you indicated at the time that the purpose of the hearings was primarily just to learn a little more about how GAO does these contract audits. Was that your recollection?

Mr. Holifield

Yes. You see, I was not a college graduate; I did not even graduate from high school. I never failed to ask questions. I never felt that I was degrading myself in doing that. I wanted the information, and I did not give a damn what it was. I always tried to ask them not in a "district attorney" way. I tried to be courteous to every witness, and I never knowingly humiliated a witness in my life. That was not my style. I asked questions continuously, and I knew my own congressional members on the Committee were hesitant to ask questions because they might be displaying their ignorance. Well, I did not mind asking questions because I wanted the answer to be on the record. To the best of my



knowledge, I never did browbeat witnesses and embarrass them. I treated them with respect, and I frequently came to the rescue of some of the witnesses when a colleague became too abrasive toward them.

Mr. Grosshans

Could I follow up on that because in reading the record, it was quite clear, just like you indicated, that the questions were not very pointed--I mean there were some good questions raised. On the other hand, Herb Roback asked a lot of very pointed questions. One might even say he was leading some of the witnesses in trying to...

Mr. Holifield

Well, he was a pretty good interrogator, you know. He was more penetrating, I guess, than I was, and he studied the problems more than I did because I did not have time to study them.

Mr. Grosshans

Did that bother you at all?

Mr. Holifield

Not at all. I do not remember him ever browbeating witnesses, but I know he developed penetrating questions, all right. I never looked upon Herb as a persecutor of witnesses. Maybe some of you fellows did; maybe it was a little more touchy for you. I know this much: Every staff on Capitol Hill had a standing request for every one of his reports. That included practically every staff director in the House and some in the Senate. They got his reports because they were fine reports, good reports, strong reports, and I never had any criticism of unfairness of his reports.

Mr. Grosshans

Do you recall that before the report was issued, like Henry mentioned, there was quite a delay between the closing of the hearings in August of 1965 and the March 23, 1966, report? Do you recall at all if there were any negotiations going on between Herb or yourself and Frank Weitzel to try to reach some

accommodation on some of the issues raised during the hearings?

Mr. Holifield                   Undoubtedly, there were conversations, but I will be honest with you. I cannot remember.

Mr. Grosshans                   Mr. Weitzel, when he was Acting Comptroller General before Mr. Staats was appointed, sent a letter to you in response to the hearings and basically pointed out a number of things that GAO would do differently. That apparently seemed to satisfy some of the concerns that were voiced during those hearings. Do you recall that memorandum?

Mr. Holifield                   No, I do not recall that.

Mr. Eschwege                   Well, there is just one more thing before we leave that particular topic. We talked a lot about Mr. Campbell and Mr. Staats after him. You actually came into the Congress in 1943 when there was another Comptroller General, Lindsay Warren. Do you remember him at all?

Mr. Holifield                   Yes, I remember him.

Mr. Eschwege                   He was from North Carolina.

Mr. Holifield                   Yes, he was there for many, many years. Yes, I met him, but I have no remembrance of him ever being before our Committee. At the time, I was down on the list of the Committee probably [junior member].

Mr. Eschwege                   Anything else on the hearings before we go on?

Mr. Grosshans                   Anything else you want to say or that you remember about Frank Weitzel's involvement? According to the record, Mr. Campbell, the Comptroller General, testified when you started the hearings, and he was on for 2 days. And then you had a number of witnesses from the Department of Defense and a number of witnesses from industry, like Lockheed and so on, that voiced their concerns. Following the resignation of Mr.

Campbell in July of 1965, Frank Weitzel testified as a final witness at the hearings in August of 1965. Do you recall that at all, the final session?

Mr. Holifield

No.

Mr. Grosshans

Apparently, the change in GAO's leadership had a lot to do with the way the report finally came out; is that a fair representation? Apparently, from what you indicated, Mr. Weitzel and Mr. Staats were much more agreeable to making certain changes there.

Mr. Holifield

Oh, there was no doubt about their competence.

Mr. Eschwege

I put down a couple of other names for you, one was Bob Keller, do you remember him?

Mr. Holifield

Yes.

Mr. Eschwege

He was the General Counsel and later on became Deputy Comptroller.

Mr. Holifield

He was a very competent person. I do not remember having any trouble with him or Staats. We may have had differences of opinion on certain things, but I respected Elmer Staats because of his long service and my long association with him on so many things. He had my confidence. I never knowingly was unfair to him or Weitzel either.

Mr. Eschwege

There were some other GAO people--I do not know if you remember William Newman; he was head of our Defense Division.

Mr. Holifield

That name is familiar; I cannot visualize him right now.

Mr. Eschwege

Charlie Bailey was the Deputy Director of the Defense Division.

Mr. Grosshans

I know he testified before you, also, right?

Mr. Holifield

Of course, I had many witnesses.

Mr. Eschwege Yes, I understand.

Mr. Holifield I wish Herb Roback was alive; I have wished that ever since he died. He had a much better brain than I had from the standpoint of detail and knowledge. I would have liked to have him write a book about me because he knew me so well.

Mr. Eschwege He died suddenly, didn't he?

Mr. Holifield Well, he had a heart problem right along, and he also had a stomach problem right along. He was captured by the Germans and starved. All through one winter, he practically starved to death. He had to go out and dig frozen turnips in the fields to get something to eat, and it finally caused his death. What finally killed him was his stomach, and he had cancer of the colon.

ROLE ON JOINT COMMITTEE  
ON ATOMIC ENERGY

Mr. Eschwege I see--the other role that you had, also a very important role, was Chairman or at times Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy?

Mr. Holifield That is right. That became my main interest, I would call it. I was on the Military Affairs Committee of the House. Andrew May of Kentucky was the Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee at that time. He was a fellow Kentuckian, but, of course, my folks moved away from Kentucky when I was a year old. The only question I ever heard him ask on the May-Johnson bill was, "What is this going to do to my coal fields in Kentucky?" That was his concept of it; he held 1 day's hearing and then was going to conclude on the May-Johnson bill, which was the Atomic Energy bill. I wrote the dissenting report on it. Do you have a copy of that?

Mr. Eschwege I am sure the Office has a copy; I have not seen it.

Mr. Holifield

If not, I can get you a copy; I have some upstairs. I wrote the dissenting report on the May-Johnson bill, and that report was largely responsible, I think, for the kind of treatment the bill got in the Senate, where they had about 300 or 400 witnesses. In the House, we only had a few witnesses, after which he was going to report the bill out. I said, "You have not had any witnesses against it; the bill is a terrible bill. I will go on the floor and denounce your handling of this bill as an incompetent way of handling it and as being insufficient, considering the importance of it. We are dealing with the most important subject that has hit this century, namely, the discovery of atomic energy and its conversion of the atom to unparalleled military weapons and peacetime uses."

I said I would make a personal attack on him on the floor and document it by showing the incompetent way with which it was handled at the hearings. I said, "You have not had people testifying at your hearings that are against the bill." All over the country, there was an outcry against the May-Johnson bill from practically all the scientists and engineers because of the summary hearings and inadequacies at this hearing. I will give you a copy of that hearing before you leave because I want you to see how important it is since I wrote it and Congressman Mel Price signed it also.

As a result of that and the speeches I made on the floor on Atomic Energy-- before the McMahon bill (Senate version of the bill) was passed--my minority report went over to members of the Senate. I knew Senator McMahon, of course; he was the Chairman of the Joint Committee when it was first set up. The McMahon bill took into consideration all the points that I made against the May-Johnson bill. They did a workman-like job in a period of about 7 months and had about 300 witnesses both for and

against it, which I could not get Andrew May to have. I finally got part of a second day's hearing in the House, and I got Jerry Voorhis and a scientist or two as witnesses. I cannot think of their names off-hand, but the record will show it.

Do you remember a man by the name of James Newman, an author of mathematical books and a scientist? Well, he was a friend of mine, and he authored books on mathematics that thick [pointing]. He was a liberal, a Democratic supporter of Roosevelt, and therefore a friend of mine because I was the same. James Newman was advising me because I had respect for his scientific knowledge. He was one of my close friends in a group of Roosevelt supporters in the House, and he became a staff director for McMahon. During all the 6 or 7 months of the Senate hearings, he was really the brain behind them and the McMahon report.

Mr. Eschwege

Getting into this area, you know, GAO did quite a bit of work on AEC and some of it at your request. We got into such things as we talked about earlier, for example, the question of whether to privatize the plants, the pricing of uranium enrichment, and the disposal of high-level waste. Do you recall some of the GAO staff providing assistance to you in this area?

Mr. Holifield

Yes, I do. I came to Elmer Staats a number of times. It was very common for me to have meetings with Elmer. A lot of times these did not result necessarily in hearings but in getting information on things that I wanted to know, and I think that he would verify that we had a very fine relationship. He worked with me and not against me, as some of the other men had.

Mr. Eschwege

Among the important projects that I know you were very much concerned about were the Liquid Metal Fast Breeder

Reactor and the Fast Flux test facilities. Do you remember these?

Mr. Holifield

I lost a lot of sleep over the Breeder Reactor because it was dangerous. Yet, I knew that it was the answer to our energy problems. It will be utilized in most places of the world where there is a shortage of energy, such as in Japan and France. They are now going ahead on all of the work that we did here. We did the foundation work, and they are going ahead now because of their shortage of natural fossil fuels. There will be thousands of nuclear plants long after the coal is gone. We will have coal for a long time, but we have got the contamination of coal. Then we are up against problems like we are currently having in the Persian Gulf on the delivery of oil, not only to us, but to Japan and other free nations.

Mr. Eschwege

After you left the Congress, you know, they did stop working on that Breeder Reactor.

Mr. Holifield

Oh, yes. The Senate killed it. Worst thing that ever happened was that. Now the foreign countries are going ahead with it.

Mr. Eschwege

France, in particular.

Mr. Holifield

Yes, France, in particular. Well, Japan is going ahead with it too. The Japanese are building their technology on our early technology. I am not saying they have not improved on it; they have. One of the great disappointments of my whole career is that we did not get that breeder through. They got to the boys in the Senate and got them to kill it after the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy was killed. It was killed mostly because of the jealousy of Dick Bolling from Missouri, one of the leaders in the House. He eventually killed the Joint Committee. He got himself appointed as Chairman of the small Committee on Committees to reorganize the Congress,

which previously was handled by Wilbur Mills. I had previously killed his reorganization bill of the Congress. He had earned the enmity of House members by trying to be the godson of Speaker Rayburn. He tried earlier to kill the Joint Committee, and I beat him. I took his bill, the Bolling bill, away from him. Julia Hanson of Washington put in a substitute bill, which I helped to draw up, along with friends of mine; Herb was one of them.

I had told Dick Bolling in advance when I got a copy of his bill. I said, "I am going to have to fight this on the floor, Dick." He was a personal friend of mine, but I did not always approve of things he did. Anyway, when he realized that he was not going to kill the Joint Committee after we put through the substitute Hanson bill, he said "Chet"-- he knew I was going to retire--"when you and Congressman Hosmer are gone, I will complete killing the Joint Committee." I said, "I know you will; well, that will be your privilege because I won't be here to fight you, but if I were here to fight you, I would do what I did before. I would take your bill away from you." I might have or might not have done that, but I told him that anyway. I would have tried. He was a very smart Congressman, and he got this Committee set up to destroy the Joint Committee.

GAO SUBPOENA POWER

Mr. Eschwege

I just want to ask you, since you were also Chairman of the House Government Operations Committee, about a couple of things that you were concerned about. GAO wanted subpoena power; do you remember that? GAO wanted this power to get access to records that it needed to do audit work. I get the feeling that the Committee or you were not particularly anxious to give it.

Mr. Holifield

I do not remember anything like that.



Mr. Eschwege                    They eventually did get authority to go into court to gain access.

Mr. Holifield                   Well, they should have had it. Was I against it at that time?

Mr. Eschwege                   I got that feeling, yes.

Mr. Holifield                   Well, I may have been.

Mr. Eschwege                   That may have been in earlier years.

Mr. Holifield                   I honestly do not remember it. I do not know why I would have been against him.

Mr. Eschwege                   Well, I think that maybe, and I am guessing...

Mr. Holifield                   Have you checked that with Elmer?

Mr. Eschwege                   Yes. I think maybe you would have preferred to have us work through the Committee to get access. That may be understandable, you know, that the Committee would come to our assistance as long as you and Elmer worked together so well. It would not probably have made any difference, but you never knew if the same type of relationship would continue as others would assume these positions.

Mr. Holifield                   No, well, that is true. Do you know the year that was done?

Mr. Eschwege                   Well, I think it must have been during the couple of years that you were Chairman. Let's see, you were Chairman from about 1971 to 1974.

Mr. Holifield                   I left in 1974.

Mr. Eschwege                   I do not think it is a major issue anymore because it was resolved.

Mr. Holifield                   Yes, I find it difficult justifying in my mind why I would have been against Staats' having the subpoena power.

AUDIT OF POLITICAL  
CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr. Eschwege                    There was one other issue on which I am not sure at all we disagreed with you. You were concerned that GAO should not get involved into checking on political contributions because that would get us involved with members of the Congress who were really the people that we had to work with and under whose jurisdiction we operated. I think GAO, too, didn't want to get involved. This was not a controversy; it was just an expression of your views.

Mr. Holifield                    Well, it still seems to me it was a wise expression.

Mr. Eschwege                    Yes, right. In other words, if we were working for committees and at the request of committees, we should not be involved in checking on the political contributions that were made to any committee member's campaign; that should be left to someone else.

Mr. Holifield                    I think I probably took this position because I thought it would embroil GAO in the political elections of congressmen. Certainly, I wanted to ensure that they were getting their campaign funds in a legal manner. As a matter of fact, I never had any substantial funds; the most expensive election campaign I ever had was \$14,000, and that was when Truman ran. Most of the time it was \$5,000 or \$6,000. When we had cross-filing provisions, I got both the Republican and Democratic nominations in my district because the people were satisfied with what I was doing in the Congress.

PROCUREMENT COMMISSION

Mr. Eschwege                    That is great; we talked briefly about this earlier. You also sponsored the Commission on Government Procurement. Elmer Staats was a statutory member of the Commission.

Mr. Holifield                    So was I.

Mr. Eschwege                    You worked very closely with Elmer on this.

Mr. Holifield                    Yes, but I was also a member of the Commission. I provided in the bill that we have one House Democrat and one Republican on the Commission, and the same was done in the Senate. I think making us a part of that Commission secured the acceptance of its report which made many suggestions for improvement. I think that because congressional members were part of it, we were able to get the report approved.

Mr. Eschwege                    GAO provided a lot of staff to that. We did do some followup work, maybe even after you left. And, of course, there is still need for improvement in that area, but you did feel that there was great value in having that kind of a Commission?

Mr. Holifield                    I sure did.

REFLECTIONS ON GAO

Mr. Eschwege                    Well, we are getting down toward the end of our discussion. Do you still have an opportunity to keep in touch with what GAO is doing these days?

Mr. Holifield                    Not as much, probably, as I should.

Mr. Eschwege                    Maybe occasionally on the news or in the newspaper?

Mr. Holifield                    Oh, yes. I get reports of different kinds. I still get reports, but I am winding down because in May I had these two heart attacks.

Mr. Eschwege                    We did change over the years as you know. When you came to the Congress, we were strictly doing voucher auditing, and then we got into looking at some of the efficiency of government operations. Then we began evaluating the programs

and activities. Did you feel that was a good way to expand our activities?

Mr. Holifield

I sure did. I might just interpose here--I wonder if the present Chairman of the Government Operations Committee is as good a friend of GAO as I was.

Mr. Eschwege

Well, there are some concerns here and there on his part about the way we operate, but we tend to get along fairly well with him.

Mr. Holifield

You get along all right? That is good; I am glad to hear that.

Mr. Eschwege

He is a very upfront kind of guy, as you know, and speaks his mind.

Mr. Holifield

Yes.

Mr. Eschwege

He has his own strong views.

Mr. Holifield

I never had any trouble with Frank Horton, either. Horton and I worked well together.

Mr. Eschwege

He is still there.

Mr. Holifield

A fine man, I think. One of my best friends.

COST ACCOUNTING  
STANDARDS BOARD

Mr. Eschwege

One other thing I just wanted to discuss briefly. You recall there was also established the Cost Accounting Standards Board? The Board was to prescribe cost accounting principles and standards for government contractors. Admiral Rickover and Senator Proxmire were very much instrumental in establishing the Board. It ran for about 10 years.

Mr. Holifield

It did not get renewed?

Mr. Eschwege

No. The Cost Accounting Standards Board prescribed certain ways for contractors to keep their books so that

the government would be billed properly under the contracts.

Mr. Holifield                   Somebody was not watching, I guess, when they took that power away from you?

Mr. Eschwege                   Well, Elmer Staats was Chairman, and there were other members. It was kind of independent of GAO, but because Elmer headed it too, there was obviously a tie-in. The power was taken away; it was never meant to be permanent. The Board was supposed to establish principles and standards.

Mr. Holifield                   And then recommend them.

Mr. Eschwege                   Yes, and the standards had the force of law unless the Congress objected to them. They are still in effect, but the Board did not get quite done with them. Some standards might require modification in the future. There has been talk every now and then about reestablishing this function in some form. I guess you were not too involved in that one.

Mr. Holifield                   I do not remember being involved at all.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mr. Eschwege                   Finally, do you have any suggestions for how GAO can be more effective than it is today?

Mr. Holifield                   No, being away from the scene and not knowing the things that have happened since I left, I do not feel that I have the capability of really making recommendations that should be considered. As best as I recall it, I had great respect for GAO and for Elmer Staats, in particular.

Mr. Eschwege                   We all did.

Mr. Holifield                   I think he is one of the best government servants that I have ever known.

Mr. Eschwege                   The new man that is in there now, Charles A. Bowsher, has also gained a very fine reputation up on the Hill.

Mr. Holifield                   I am very glad to hear that.

Mr. Eschwege                   He is carrying on a lot of the good work in which Elmer Staats was involved, and they are good friends.

Mr. Holifield                   Well, I am glad to hear that too. But then if I were him and trying to run it, I would avail myself of Elmer's basic knowledge of the function to the most that he would let me do it.

Mr. Eschwege                   I think I can safely say, they see eye to eye on most things.

Mr. Holifield                   Who was Charles Bowsher appointed by first?

Mr. Eschwege                   Charles Bowsher was appointed by President Reagan as Comptroller General, but he has been in government before. He was an Assistant Secretary of the Navy back in 1967. He came in under President Johnson, but he was liked enough to be kept over by the Nixon administration for another 2 years. Then he went back to his firm; he is a CPA [certified public accountant], and he was with Arthur Andersen, a big firm. He did a lot of its government work, so that when he came to GAO in 1981 to be the new Comptroller General, he did not start from scratch. He knew quite a bit about government, including the Defense Department, and he has been in office now 6 years and doing very well. He is well-liked.

Mr. Holifield                   I do not remember him very well.

Mr. Eschwege                   Yes, well maybe there will be a chance for you to meet him. Do you ever come back east anymore?

Mr. Holifield                   Yes, I still have a daughter who lives out in Potomac, and we come back at least once a year.

Mr. Eschwege                    Well, maybe there will be an opportunity for you to come to GAO or we could meet you somewhere and introduce you or reintroduce you to Chuck Bowsher and to Elmer Staats, who speaks very highly of you.

Mr. Holifield                    Well, I would like that.

Mr. Eschwege                    Well, we want to thank you. We enjoyed it.

Mr. Holifield                    I appreciate your interest, and the only thing I regret is that you did not come to me about 4 years ago. My memory was much better then.

Mr. Eschwege                    Well, we did a lot of research on other things that you have done; so we have a lot to go on.

# Chet Holifield Is Rated As State's Most Influential Congressman

By Leo Rennert

McClatchy Newspapers staff writer

WASHINGTON — Who is the most powerful Californian in Congress? Is it Republican George Murphy, the state's senior senator since the departure of veteran Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel?

Or Democrat Alan Cranston, who is off to a fast start as a member of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's team of progressive insurgents?

The answer is neither. What about Sacramento's John E. Moss, a 16-year veteran who has held the No. 4 House Democratic leadership post of deputy whip for the last seven years? Or Fresno's B. F. Sisk, who serves on the powerful House Rules Committee? Wrong again.

## Has Longevity

By far the most influential Californian on Capitol Hill is a 65-year-old Los Angeles County congressman little known in Northern California, who first entered the House in 1943 — Chet Holifield.

By dint of more than a quarter of a century of seniority and close behind-the-scenes working relationships with key congressional leaders, Holifield readily qualifies as one of the towering figures of the new Congress.

His principal bastions of legislative and political power include:

—Chairmanship of the Joint House-Senate Atomic Energy Committee, which has jurisdiction over all programs dealing with military and peaceful uses of the atom.

—Second in command of the House Government Operations Committee behind aging Chairman William L. Dawson of Illinois. Because of Dawson's comparative lack of interest, Holifield is widely considered de facto head of this powerful panel, which has authority to investigate the operations of every executive agency.

—Chairmanship of the committee's military operations subcommittee, which keeps close tabs on the Pentagon's multibillion dollar procurement activities.

—Chairmanship of the entire 40-member California congressional delegation. Holifield rose to this position after last year's retirement of Los Angeles County Democrat Cecil King, who had a seniority edge of a few months.

—Chairmanship of the state's 21-member Democratic delegation in the House.

A freshman might be awed by such concentration of power in a single legislator. But as an old hand, Holifield takes it all in stride.

"If you keep breathing long



Chet Holifield

enough under this system," he says, "you get there eventually."

Yet, visible rank fails to tell the entire story. In an institution where unseen power often is decisive, Holifield packs perhaps a bigger wallop in the shadows than in the open.

A close confidant of Speaker John W. McCormack and of his predecessor, the late Sam Rayburn, Holifield increasingly has become the mediator between the old establishment and the younger forces bent on reform.

In this year's speakership fight, he sided with McCormack. But he also helped persuade the speaker to go along with some procedural changes — particularly regular monthly caucuses of all House Democrats.

To Holifield, this represents a vital opportunity to steer the Democratic party in the House in a more progressive direction.

Because of the seniority system, conservative Southerners control many of the committees and the fate of important legislation, but Northerners are in the majority in the caucus, and Holifield believes this is the place where liberals gradually can assert their authority over party decisions and legislative objectives.

While most members arrived in Washington on Jan. 1 or 2 for pre-session caucuses he breezed in a few days early to join in largely unnoticed leadership huddles which preceded these meetings.

It is at such times that Holifield — once considered a far-out liberal but now a holder of impeccable Establishment

credentials — practices the gentle art of trying to bridge the political generation gap.

He proved indispensable to McCormack by making the speaker aware of the widespread dissatisfaction with the status quo. He also convinced a few younger colleagues that changes in party machinery could be just as effective in the long run as a leadership purge.

Whether President-elect Richard M. Nixon finds him as gently cooperative remains to be seen.

Holifield has hewed a steady liberal course in more than a quarter of a century of service in the House of Representatives.

## Social Benefits

He was a strong supporter of civil rights, medicare, aid to education, the War on Poverty and other social improvement measures.

His vote always was cast in favor of western reclamation projects and he gained a reputation as a good friend of public power.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson named him special mediator to resolve regional and public-vs.-private-power conflicts which held up final approval of the \$700 million West Coast electric Interite. Holifield worked out a compromise subsequently approved by Congress.

In international affairs, he has supported the United Nations, foreign aid and a strong stance by the United States against Nazi and Communist aggression. His wholehearted support of Johnson's Vietnam

policies lost him many liberal friends.

He was an early supporter of Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey in last year's presidential contest.

As a veteran of the "give-away" battles during the Eisenhower administration, Holifield has a natural suspicion attempts again may be made to turn over to private enterprise atomic energy resources developed at great public cost.

He already has served notice that the Atomic Energy Commission will reject any proposal to abandon public ownership of three nuclear fuel processing plants, which represent a public investment of \$2.5 billion.

The new administration also may tangle with him as acting chairman of the Government Operations Committee, which has a habit of sticking its nose into embarrassing situations in executive departments.

While he can be partisan when the need arises, Holifield also has developed a knack of cultivating Republican support on issues transcending party lines — particularly matters of interest to California.

"I'm sure Republicans and Democrats on our delegation will have no difficulty working together on those matters of broad interest to the state," he declared.

As chairman of the state's Democratic delegation, he plans to continue the practice of weekly breakfast meetings — but with a new emphasis.

## Patronage

When Democrats controlled the White House, these sessions usually were dominated by patronage discussions: Who would the delegation back for a U.S. attorney vacancy in California? Or a federal judgeship? Or any number of positions to reward the party faithful.

Now that this burden has been transferred to the Republican delegation, Holifield believes California Democrats "will have plenty of time" to concentrate on legislative objectives at their weekly get-togethers.

Prime topics of discussion, he predicted, will include greater emphasis on urban programs, including mass transit for California's metropolitan areas, smog, overburdened airports, discriminatory freight rates imposed on western states, maintenance of California's defense and space industries, and the outlook for continuation of the 10 per cent income tax surcharge.





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## House of Representatives

### HON. CHET HOLIFIELD'S DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE RECORD

#### HON. CARL ALBERT

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 1972

Mr. ALBERT. Mr. Speaker, for more than 24 years I have had the pleasure to serve in the House with the gentleman from California (Mr. HOLIFIELD). During those years I have at all times found him to be fair in his dealings with his colleagues, forceful and well-prepared in debate and diligent in meeting his committee responsibilities. It is apparent as well that his efforts have been approved by the people of his 19th Congressional District in California.

Because of his moderate but progressive approach to issues, Congressman HOLIFIELD holds the respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. He is a man of principle and commitment, and his commitments are as good as his word. He has also refused to "soapbox" issues of fleeting but popular appeal, preferring to work in areas of less glamor but much greater importance to the Nation. His contribution in the field of nuclear energy will come to be recognized, in my opinion, as "statesmanlike" in the classic sense of the word.

Congressman HOLIFIELD is the dean of the California congressional delegation, which will be the largest State delegation in Congress in 1973—45 members. This prestigious position has been held by only a handful of men over the years. It is a tribute to a man who has worked hard and long for California and the Nation. These few men like the gentleman from California (Mr. HOLIFIELD) who have made the House the great institution that it is, have made singular contributions to the Nation through their tenure and committee positions. I think it would be fitting at this point in the RECORD to insert a summary of Congressman HOLIFIELD'S distinguished public record:

#### Biography of Congressman Chet Holifield of California

Congressman Chet Holifield, who represents the 19th Congressional District of California, resides in Montebello, California. He was born in Kentucky, educated in the public

schools of Arkansas, and has lived in Montebello, California since 1920. He has been engaged in the retailing of men's clothing for over 40 years. He is a member of the Christian Church and various Fraternal and civic organizations. Chet Holifield, and his popular and attractive wife, Cam, have four daughters and 15 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

#### Congressional Service and Committee Assignments

He was elected to the 78th Congress in 1942 to represent the newly formed 19th Congressional District and has served his constituency continuously since then. He has been re-elected by overwhelming majorities of votes in each of his 15 elections. Because of his 15 terms in Congress, he is in the eighth seniority group in rank. Congressman Holifield's work for his constituents and state has won approval and commendations from substantial organizations such as the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, city councils, the Metropolitan Water District, and his efforts have been endorsed by countless scientific and civic groups, labor unions, veterans groups, government employees associations, consumer groups and business organizations. His record on behalf of civil liberties for all citizens regardless of race, color, national origin, or creed is unsurpassed.

Congressman Holifield is now serving as Chairman of the important House Committee on Government Operations, and as Chairman of that Committee's subcommittee on Legislation and Military Operations. He served for ten years as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, and now serves as the ranking House of Representatives Member on that Committee.

An indication of the respect for his integrity and judgment that his colleagues in Congress have for Congressman Holifield was his appointment by the Speaker of the House to serve on the committee on Congressional ethics, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Congressman Holifield's Committee on Government Operations has for years investigated waste and inefficiency in the Federal Government. As a result of those investigations, Congressman Holifield introduced a bill to establish a blue-ribbon commission of 12 members to make a study of all Federal procurement practices and procedures in order to eliminate waste of the taxpayers' money. That bill became law and Mr. Holifield now serves as Vice-Chairman of the Commission on Government Procurement.

As a member of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, since its beginning in 1946, Congressman Holifield has been outstandingly active in the field of atomic energy

legislation. Hearings that he has held as a member of this committee have developed the most far-reaching information on the effects of radiation on man, the environmental effects of producing electrical power, and the problems of civil defense in case of an atomic war.

Congressman Holifield always has insisted on civilian rather than military control of the atom. He is a constant and vigorous proponent of a strong program of research to develop the peaceful uses of atomic energy including its use as a clean, cheap, non-polluting source of electrical energy. The Congressman has always insisted that the benefits of atomic research and development be safeguarded for the benefit of the private citizens of the United States whose taxes have been invested so heavily in this huge enterprise.

As the Chairman of the House Committee on Government Operations he has been responsible for some of the most important developments in good government over the past century. He authored the legislation which established the General Services Administration, that body which does most of the purchasing for civil departments of Government. The G.S.A. also has custody over all Federal buildings and the disposal of Federal properties.

He served on the Hoover Commission which recommended 45 Presidential reorganization plans, and he helped in the passage of 39 of these plans into law. During the 89th Congress, Congressman Holifield held hearings and managed a bill which created the Department of Housing and Urban Development. In the 89th Congress he also authored a bill which created the Department of Transportation, another Cabinet-level department. Thus, he became the only Representative in our history to manage legislation creating two Cabinet-level departments in a single Congress. These departments have allowed the Government to modernize itself and keep up with our rapidly changing times.

In 1967 Mr. Holifield managed the President's Reorganization Plan for the District of Columbia, creating a mayor-council form of government, the first major reform of the National Capital's governmental machinery in over 90 years. He has personally handled more than 45 reorganization plans of the Federal Government, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Consumer Protection Agency.

Congressman Holifield also authored and obtained passage of a bill which established the Cabinet Committee on Opportunities for the Spanish Speaking People within the Office of the President. The purpose of this Committee is to assure that citizens of Spanish speaking origin have access to, and fully

## APPENDIX II

share in Federal educational, health and job opportunities programs. The first two directors of the Committee were residents of Los Angeles County.

### PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The California Congressional Recognition Plan, a privately endowed, nonprofit educational organization, has cited Congressman Holifield eleven times as an outstanding Congressman.

The academic world has honored Congressman Holifield three times by awarding him honorary degrees: Whittier College, doctor of laws; East Los Angeles College, associate of arts; Lynchburg College, doctor of laws. In 1967 he received the coveted Congressional Distinguished Service Award of the American Political Science Association. This honor is given only every other year to two Congressmen, one from each party, for exceptional and outstanding public service.

Chairman Holifield is known as "a Congressman who does his homework," and because of his hard work, attention to detail, and expert knowledge, he has been signally honored. He has been appointed to numerous National Commissions and Advisory Committees by five Presidents, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon. He has served as Congressional Advisor to the U.S. Delegation at the international conferences on the peaceful uses of atomic energy in Geneva, Switzerland. He also has been chosen to represent the United States at several of the General Conferences of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria, and Tokyo, Japan. He has served as Advisor to the U.S. Delegation, First International Symposium on Water Desalination, and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, Switzerland, five times, most recently in 1971. He was also a delegate to the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) in 1971 in Helsinki, Finland.

In 1965, President Johnson requested Mr. Holifield to chair an ad hoc committee of Western Senators and Representatives to develop an agreement between privately and publicly owned utilities to use, in California and Arizona, the excess electrical power from the Bonneville Dam in Washington State. Because of this work, for which he was commended by the President, California and Arizona now receive about 3 million kilowatts of cheap, smog-free, electricity from Bonneville Dam through Pacific Intertie.

### Congressional Seniority

Congressman Holifield is Dean of the Cali-

fornia Delegation and because of his leadership ability he has been in an excellent position to guide legislation of importance to California and to the Nation through difficult debates on the Floor of the House of Representatives. During the 90th and 81st Congresses, he was instrumental in winning a major victory in the battle against air pollution. Aided by his skillful leadership, the Congress voted to permit California to set air pollution standards which are stricter than those imposed by the Federal government. Mr. Holifield mapped the strategy for the Floor fight on the California amendment, and with the help of his California Colleagues, secured passage of the legislation.

### Service to Constituents

The 19th Congressional District, which he is privileged to represent, has always been Mr. Holifield's foremost concern. As a result of his efforts, the district has benefited in many ways. He was able to obtain over a million dollars for flood control in the district, he has helped all of the school districts obtain Federal funds for bilingual educational programs and other special projects. He helped obtain funds from the Office of Economic Opportunity for the Rio Hondo Community Action Council. He has obtained funds for the Rio Hondo College Police Training Facility, the Flood Ranch renewal project in Santa Fe Springs, the Montebello Transit System, Montebello and Cerritos public libraries, Whittier College science buildings, and many other worthy district projects. Through his help, Norwalk has acquired park land and Pico Rivera, a municipal golf course. Mr. Holifield was credited by the former Secretary of Transportation as being largely responsible for obtaining 90 percent of the funds for the new Century Freeway.

In addition to obtaining Federal funds for Post Offices, hospitals, libraries, community facilities and his work to obtain a clean environment, Congressman Holifield has assisted many thousands of people in his district in the problems that they have had with the various branches of the Federal government. His competent full-time local staff in Pico Rivera, consisting of Bill O'Donnell and Florence Odemar, have provided assistance to people who had problems with the Veterans' Administration, Social Security, the Armed Forces, Internal Revenue, Immigration Services, and almost all branches of the Government. He has also provided assistance to many individuals and businessmen who were contracting with the Federal

government. Numerous letters of appreciation from grateful residents indicate the importance and effectiveness of this kind of Congressional work.

Mr. Holifield has been a staunch advocate of Federal grants to the schools of his district and has secured many thousands of dollars in administrative educational facility grants and student loans under Federal guarantees.

### Work for Consumers

Mr. Holifield has had a continuing concern for the American consumer. In 1943, he was fighting for grade labeling of food. Since that time, he has voted and worked for more than 90 consumer protection laws dealing with product safety, truth in packaging, truth in lending, low interest rates, housing and many more items used by consumers. He has never voted against a consumer protection law.

### Work for Clean Environment

Lately, many public officials have discovered pollution of the air and water and have publicly stated their concern. Mr. Holifield has been speaking out on the problems of pollution for many years. His voting record shows that he has supported more than 20 environmental and conservation laws during his Congressional service.

His positive leadership has resulted in projects to bring excess water from Northern California to the water short areas of the South, the release of beach lands from military control, and the establishment of hundreds of parks and recreation areas. In November of 1965, Congressman Holifield spoke before the American Association for Contamination Control on the dangers and hazards of contamination of man's environment. For years he has been urging the pollution-free production of electrical energy by means of atomic generators. His work on the 1967 Air Quality Act has been noted. These are just a few indications of his foresight and concern for the public welfare.

Congressman Holifield's Congressional career has been characterized as one of hard work, integrity and leadership. A National figure recently said of him, "He knows what his goals are at all times, and he has the ability, the experience, the determination, the strength of character combined with high resolve and patriotism, to perform his duties in the best interest, as he honestly conceives it, of this nation."



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19th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA



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## House of Representatives

### UPDATING HON. CHET HOLIFIELD'S PUBLIC SERVICE RECORD

#### HON. JOHN J. MCFALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Tuesday, November 26, 1974

Mr. MCFALL. Mr. Speaker, in the House of Representatives, on March 7, 1972, you spoke some eloquent words in tribute to Congressman CHET HOLIFIELD of California for his enduring legislative achievements. You observed that he is regarded with great respect and affection in the House for his hard work, his consideration of others, and the open and honest way in which he conducts himself in presiding at committee meetings.

You also entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of that day some biographical data highlighting Congressman HOLIFIELD's legislative career.

At the end of this Congress, Mr. HOLIFIELD will retire after 32 years of continuous service in the U.S. House of Representatives. He never lost an election and certainly that is a tribute in itself. That length of service, I may note, never has been exceeded by any representative from the State of California since it was admitted to the Union in 1850.

In view of CHET HOLIFIELD's retirement, which we all greatly regret, but which we recognize is well earned, it is fitting to bring up to date the record of his legislative achievements, since March 7, 1972.

In many ways, the 93d Congress has been for CHET HOLIFIELD and for this Nation, a most productive one. He serves as chairman of the great Committee on Government Operations. As you know, Mr. Speaker, this committee has jurisdiction over Government reorganization, including the establishment of new Government agencies.

#### NEW ENERGY AGENCIES

Under Chairman HOLIFIELD's masterful direction, legislation was developed and enacted into law creating several new Federal energy organizations. Public Law 93-275 created the Federal Energy Administration. Public Law 93-439 created an Energy Research and De-

velopment Administration, a Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and an Energy Resources Council. These agencies are or will be working to solve America's short- and long-range energy problems—tasks that are vital to our country's present and future welfare. The Nation is indebted to Chairman HOLIFIELD for his initiative, dedication, and creative approach to energy legislation.

#### IMPROVING GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

CHET HOLIFIELD, as a successful businessman in his own right, long has been interested in the business of Government. Back in 1949, he authored the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act, which created the General Services Administration, to give central direction to Government procurement and property management.

Twenty years later, as Government expenditures multiplied, Mr. HOLIFIELD developed legislation for a comprehensive and systematic review of Government procurement practices. In 1969, Public Law 91-129 created a blue ribbon study group, the Commission on Government Procurement. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of his authorship of the legislation and his expertise in Government procurement matters, you appointed CHET HOLIFIELD as a member of the Commission, which tendered its four-volume report to the Congress in December 1972. This report contained 149 recommendations for legislative and administrative action to improve the Government's procurement procedures and practices.

Two important pieces of legislation responding to the Commission's recommendations recently have been enacted at Mr. HOLIFIELD's initiative. One is Public Law 93-356, the purpose of which is to simplify procedures in small purchases—under \$10,000—by the Federal Government. This simplification will save mountains of paperwork and reduce administrative burdens, with estimated savings of \$100 million each year.

The other piece of legislation is Public Law 93-400, establishing the Office of Federal Procurement Policy. This carries out a key recommendation of the Commission on Government Procurement.

The new agency will work continuously at improving the Federal procurement process, with potential savings to the taxpayers of billions of dollars. Remember that expenditures for Federal procurement of goods and services now approximate \$55 billion for a single year. The savings potential is obvious.

#### CUTTING DOWN ON PAPERWORK

The Committee on Government Operations, which Mr. HOLIFIELD chairs in the House of Representatives, has two watchwords: economy and efficiency. Having in mind the constructive experience of the Commission on Government Procurement, Mr. HOLIFIELD also decided that it would be helpful to the taxpayers, and to American business, particularly small business, if ways and means could be found to reduce the burden of Government paperwork—the numerous forms and reports that Government agencies require of business establishments and others. This massive paperwork reflects, of course, the complex society in which we live, and the numerous regulations which are imposed for one purpose or another.

Recently, the House passed H.R. 16424, reported by the Committee on Government Operations under Chairman HOLIFIELD's direction, to establish a temporary Commission on Federal Paperwork. Its purpose is to determine if the Government can do with less paperwork. The Senate is expected to act on this bill shortly.

A related measure passed by the House and awaiting Senate action is a bill, H.R. 14718, to eliminate reports, now required from Federal agencies by law, which are no longer necessary or useful. Chairman HOLIFIELD requested the Comptroller General to study existing reporting requirements and to identify those reports which could be eliminated without loss of needed information and with resultant savings.

After the Comptroller General submitted his report, Mr. HOLIFIELD introduced the necessary repeal legislation. Although this is a modest step in reducing paperwork, it is a recurring activity of

## APPENDIX III

the Committee on Government Operations, which indicates that the committee explores every possible avenue of achieving economy and efficiency in the Federal Government.

### CONSUMER PROTECTION

In one important legislative area, Mr. Speaker, I regret to say that the Senate is not likely to act this year. I refer to H.R. 13163, a bill to establish a Consumer Protection Agency. On two separate occasions, a Consumer Protection Agency bill, painstakingly developed under Mr. HOLIFIELD's direction and reported from the Committee on Government Operations, was passed overwhelmingly by the House of Representatives. Both times the bill failed in the Senate because of a filibuster. If the Senate were able to vote on the bill, as the House did, it would be the law today.

CHET HOLIFIELD has established himself as a leader in consumer legislation. His efforts will not be wasted. I am confident, Mr. Speaker, that in the next Congress, the Consumer Protection Agency legislation will prevail, building on the constructive legislative base that CHET HOLIFIELD has prepared.

### AN INFORMED CITIZENRY

I should mention several other important items of legislation reported from the Committee on Government Operations under Chairman HOLIFIELD's direction. One is Public Law 93-502, amending the Freedom of Information Act. This law is designed to make Government information more accessible to the citizenry. It insures, under proper safeguards, that the American people will be able to get the information they need and want about the workings of their Government.

President Ford was ill-advised to veto this legislation. That veto was overridden by overwhelming votes in both the House and Senate, and the law is now on the statute books.

### IMPROVING THE ADVISORY PROCESS

A related item of legislation, Public Law 92-463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, was developed earlier under Mr. HOLIFIELD's chairmanship in the Committee on Government Operations. The Federal Government utilizes hundreds of advisory committees for many different purposes. The legislation was designed to introduce some regularity and order into the advisory process, so that advisory committees could be publicly identified and minutes of their proceedings made available to the public.

The public is entitled to know who advises the Government and how this advice is given. The overriding purpose is to insure that the advice is impartial and objective, not self-seeking and directed toward private gain.

### RIGHT OF PRIVACY

The Federal Government not only has a responsibility to enable the citizenry to be informed about its operations; it must also protect individual rights of privacy in matters of personal information which get into Government records. In this computer age, when scores of agencies maintain records on individuals, and information can be retrieved and distributed with lightning speed, we have to be mindful of the harm to individuals when information gets into the wrong hands.

H.R. 16373, reported by Chairman HOLIFIELD's committee, recently passed the House. Similar legislation passed the Senate. When the differences are recon-

ciled, we will have legislation to insure protection of individuals' rights of privacy in the handling of Government records.

### ATOMIC ENERGY ACTIVITIES

Although chairing the Committee on Government Operations for a full-time job, Mr. HOLIFIELD manages to find time for his other important committee assignments. He is a very active member of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, having served on that committee since its inception in 1946.

In 1972, he served as chairman of the Subcommittee on Agreements for Cooperation between the United States and other countries in nuclear developments and was a member, additionally, of the following subcommittees: Legislation; Military Applications; Raw Materials; and Research, Development, and Radiation. In 1973-74, he was chairman of the Subcommittee on Licensing and Regulation and a member of the Subcommittee on Energy.

For the past 3 years, CHET HOLIFIELD has been appointed a congressional adviser to the official U.S. Delegation to the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. In 1974, he received the Henry DeWolf Smyth nuclear statesman award from the Atomic Industrial Forum.

### A JOB WELL DONE

Mr. Speaker, when CHET HOLIFIELD retires, he will be sorely missed in the Congress of the United States. We will miss his wise counsel, his unflagging energy, his dedication to the highest and best purposes of Government. But we wish him well and, I sincerely believe, we can all say in full agreement: "CHET, that was a job well done."

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