



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

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B-221498.41

June 10, 1986

The Honorable Jack Brooks
Chairman, Committee on Government Operations
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to your letter of May 13, in which you request our comments on H.R. 4675. That bill would amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act (Public Law 99-177) by specifying that the term "account" includes any item for the pay of Senators or Representatives in, or Delegates or the Resident Commissioner to, the Congress. Such an amendment would ensure that congressional salaries are subject to reduction under the terms of the Act.

The drafters of Public Law 99-177 made case by case determinations as to which budgetary resources would be subject to, and those which would be exempt or protected from, reductions under the Act, based upon factors relating to policy and equity. Although we recognize that there may have been oversights in the process of making such determinations, it is our view that any decision by the Congress to change the applicability of the Act with respect to any specific account or funding source would constitute a policy determination best left to the judgment of that body.

We hope that the foregoing is of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Milton J. Jordan".

Acting Comptroller General
of the United States