



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

DO NOT MAKE AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC READING
FOR 30 DAYS

B-221498.34

May 5, 1986

The Honorable William V. Roth, Jr.
Chairman, Committee on Governmental Affairs
United States Senate

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to your April 1, 1986, request for comments on S. 2210, which would amend section 256(g) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-177) to provide that an order making reductions under the Act may not reduce rates of pay of Federal blue-collar employees.

Public Law 99-177 currently includes a number of exemptions, exceptions, limitations, and special rules to protect a number of specified programs, in whole or in part, from the automatic reduction process. The drafters of the statute made case by case determinations as to which programs should be included among the list of those exempted or protected, based upon factors relating to policy and equity. The need to amend that list, in our view, is a policy determination best left to the judgment of the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Milton J. Jordan".

Comptroller General
of the United States