



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

B-221498

February 7, 1986

The Honorable Leon Panetta
House of Representatives

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FOR 30 DAYS

Dear Mr. Panetta:

Thank you for your letter of December 17, 1985, co-signed by four other Members of Congress, regarding the exemption for the women, infants, and children program (account #12-3510-0-1-605) under section 255(h) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-177). Your letter notes that it was the intention of the Congress to include within the exemption both programs under that account listing in the Budget Appendix, i.e., the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children as well as the smaller Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

Both OMB and CBO, in their joint report of January 15, 1986, considered both programs within this account to be exempt from reduction, except for administrative expenses under section 256(b)(1) of the Act. As indicated by our own report of January 21, 1986, we agreed with this determination.

Thank you for providing us with your views on the matter.

Sincerely yours,

for Milton J. Fowler
Comptroller General
of the United States