United States General Accounting Office Washington, DC 20548

GAO

Office of General Counsel

In Reply Refer to: B-107871

March 3, 1981

William P. Shattuck, Esq. Counsel, Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations Committee on the Judiciary House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Shattuck:

In recent telephone discussions with members of our staff, you raised certain questions concerning proposed legislation to amend section 12 of the Contract Disputes Act of 1978. A bill had been introduced in the 56th Congress (H.R. 3909) but action could not be completed prior to adjournment. The bill has been reintroduced in the 97th Congress as H.R. 1371.

Since the termination of the Renegotiation Board in 1979, the Treasury Department has continued to set interest rates every six months and has published them in the Federal Register. Continuity has thus been maintained.

In its present form, H.R. 1371 retains the starting period specified in the original H.R. 3909 -- the period "beginning on July 1, 1979, and ending on December 31, 1979" (H.R. 1371, page 2, lines 1 and 2). This should be amended to read "beginning on January 1, 1981, and ending on June 30, 1981."

Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

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For Milton J. Geolar General Counsel

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