



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

B-115369

JUN 5 1972

Dear Mr. Helstoski:

This is in reply to your letter of April 27, 1972, relating to the cost for Automatic Data Processing (ADP) activities in the Federal Government.

Enclosed is a report issued by the General Services Administration entitled, "Summary of ADP Activities" which contains the information you requested for Fiscal Year 1969, 1970, and estimated for 1971. Also, we were informed by a General Services Administration official that an updated report will be issued in a few weeks which will show actual costs for Fiscal Year 1970, 1971, and estimated for 1972. When the report is available, we will send you a copy.

While this document contains the best estimate of costs for computer work in the Federal Government, it is not accurate or complete. The summary excludes costs for:

- analog computers;
 - computers built to special Government design;
 - computers acquired by contractors and partially financed through Government contracts;
 - computers acquired by state, county and local governments, universities, and grantees, and wholly or partially financed by Government contracts and/or grants;
 - computers which are an integral part of a total facility or large complex which has the primary purpose of controlling, monitoring, analyzing, or measuring a process or other equipment; and
- computers installed in classified locations.

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was of poor quality.

Currently, the General Accounting Office is in the process of developing a report on the costs of all ADP equipment in the Federal Government for the Joint Economic Committee. When the report is available, we will send you a copy for your information and use.

In regard to your budget question, Federal budget documents usually do not show ADP activities as a separate line item. Since ADP activities are generally considered to be service-oriented--rather than as individual line items--the costs for ADP activities are usually distributed throughout the operating program categories. Even in instances when ADP costs appear as a separate line item, differences in accounting and budgetary structures and definitional variations as to what constitutes an ADP system, make it very difficult to compare these cost figures.

I trust that this material will assist you in your study. If you have any questions or need further information, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED) ELMER B. STAATS

Comptroller General
of the United States

Enclosure

The Honorable Henry Helstoski
House of Representatives