



UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

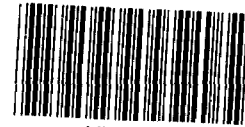
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PROGRAM ANALYSIS
DIVISION

B-197735

17 FEB 1983

The Honorable Jesse Helms
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
United States Senate



121276

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Subject: Program and Budget Information for the Committee's
Views and Estimates Report on the President's
Budget for Fiscal Year 1984 (GAO/PAD-83-39)

The enclosed material is forwarded for your information and use in preparation of your Committee's views and estimates report on the President's fiscal year 1984 budget proposals. The General Accounting Office has obtained this data from executive agencies and prepared it in this form as part of our responsibilities under 31 U.S.C. 1113. Specifically, the Comptroller General is required to establish and maintain a file of information to meet recurring needs of the Congress for fiscal, budget and program information. The data and information we are providing at this time include:

- A description of data and information maintained in GAO's Legislative, Authorization, Program and Budget Information System (appendix I).
- A listing of programs and authorization data for entities under your Committee's jurisdiction. This listing is useful for reviewing agency program structures (appendix II).
- A listing of programs requiring reauthorization in fiscal year 1983 or later (appendix III).
- A listing of budgetary data by agencies, bureaus, and accounts under your jurisdiction (appendix IV).

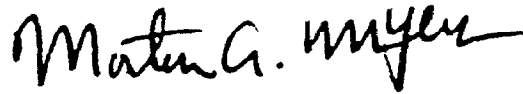
We will provide program level budgetary data as it becomes available. We are in the process of collecting this data from the various agencies and will provide it to your staff as soon as we complete our review and verification.

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We hope that the information we have provided will assist you in your analysis and reporting on the fiscal year 1984 budget.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Morton A. Myers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Morton" and last name "Myers" clearly distinguishable.

Morton A. Myers
Director

Enclosures - 4

cc: Mr. Bill Brooks

bc: Mr. Havens (OCG)
Mr. Myers (PAD)
Mr. Corazzini (PAD)
Mr. Hunter (PAD)
Mr. Jenney (PAD)
Ms. Dyess (PAD)
Ms. Condon (PAD)
Ms. Boals (PAD)
Ms. Ducusin-Hungerford (PAD)
Mr. Peach~(RCED)
Index and Files
File 972915

LEGISLATIVE, AUTHORIZATION, PROGRAM AND
BUDGET INFORMATION SYSTEM

The Comptroller General is required by law (31 U.S.C. 1113) to conduct a continuing program to identify congressional needs for fiscal, budget, and program information. The law also requires that the Comptroller General and the Director of the Congressional Budget Office individually or jointly establish and maintain a file in order to meet these congressional needs. GAO has created the Legislative, Authorization, Program and Budget Information System (LAPIS) which currently includes authorization and budget information on all Federal agency programs.

Our approach over the past year has been to build on previous years' efforts and improve the overall information development and report processing. GAO has reviewed and refined program structures for all Federal agencies; identified authorizing committee and appropriation subcommittee jurisdictions for programs; added new data elements to enhance program and oversight information reporting; verified authorization and budget data; and improved ADP capabilities for storing, maintaining, and providing access to the data.

The LAPIS inventory not only supports our assistance to congressional authorizing committees on their March 15 views and estimates reports, but it is also used for generating other lists and supporting analytical work in a variety of areas. In addressing other congressional information needs, we have provided report listings by funding expiration dates to support work on reauthorizations; listings of legislation by public law, title, and section to support legislative analysis; and listings of specific agency programs to support oversight and program evaluation.

The inventory currently contains information on over 6,000 Federal programs, activities and projects. The following data elements are available for each program, activity or project listed in LAPIS:

- Administering agency and bureau, or independent commission,
- Budget function and subfunction,
- Citation of the law that authorizes the program, including the public law name and the relevant title and section of the U.S.Code,
- Name of program, activity, or item,
- Type of record (program, administrative, financial, supplemental, rescission),

- Appropriation account number, fund code, and transmittal type,
- House and Senate authorizing committee jurisdiction,
- House and Senate authorizing subcommittee jurisdiction for selected committees,
- House/Senate appropriation subcommittee jurisdiction,
- Amounts authorized, if specified, and/or narrative description of funding provisions,
- Funding expiration dates for programs,
- Related budget authority, outlays, obligations, and offsetting collections for the past, current, and budget years,
- Senate/House program policy areas,
- Special program areas, e.g., for use in identifying special Government-wide programs such as:
 - disaster assistance programs,
 - entitlement programs, and
 - research and development programs,
- Program description and objective statements,
- Impacted target groups, and
- GAO issue area and lead division codes.

The maintenance of LAPIS is an on-going process. Continued revisions to the system are necessitated due to reprogrammings, new legislation, changes in committee jurisdiction, new budget function classifications, and various other factors. We are continuing to expand, update and refine the program inventory to ensure its effectiveness in meeting our legislative mandate.