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Accounting and Auditing Act of 1973

The Comptroller General submitted to the Congress a measure to strengthen the role of GAO. The proposed legislation was introduced by Senator Sam Ervin for himself and Senators Ribicoff and Metcalf on June 21, 1973, and subsequently several companion bills were introduced in the House of Representatives.

On two occasions the Comptroller General appeared before congressional committees to discuss the Accounting and Auditing Act of 1973. On June 21 he appeared before the House Select Committee on Committees to outline his views on the need for additional audit authority and on August 11 before the Senate Subcommittee on Budgeting, Management and Expenditures of the Government Operations Committee to discuss title IV of the bill which concerns access to records. (Other participants: Messrs. *Dembling, Hunter, Morse, Moore, Sperry, Griffith, and Fitzgerald*)

During the months of May through August, representatives of GAO were frequently asked to testify before

congressional committees and there follows a brief resumé of these appearances.

Government Procurement Commission Recommendations

Richard W. Gutmann, director, Procurement and Systems Acquisition Division, testified on May 17 before the Subcommittee on Government Procurement of the Senate Select Committee on Small Business on the implications for the small business community of certain recommendations of the Commission on Government Procurement.

It was suggested that the Office of Federal Procurement Policy proposed to be established could serve as a conduit for communication between the Small Business Administration, the Committee, and the procuring agencies regarding small business contracting trends and required new initiatives. (Other participants: Messrs. *Hall, Desmond, and Fitzgerald*)

The Comptroller General, who was a statutory member of the Government Procurement Commission, subse-

quently testified on July 30 before the House Government Operations Subcommittee on Legislation and Military Operations on the salient features of H.R. 9059, to establish an Office of Federal Procurement Policy. (Other participants: Messrs. *Dembling*, *Morris*, *Gutmann*, and *Griffith*)

Russian Wheat Sales

On July 23 *Joseph R. Ferri*, assistant director, International Division, appeared before the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Senate Government Operations Committee to discuss the GAO report on the examination into the Russian wheat sales and weaknesses in Agriculture's management of the wheat export subsidy program which had previously been discussed by the Comptroller General before the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee. (Other participants: Messrs. *Milgate*, *McArter*, and *Griffith*)

Budgetary Information for the Congress

Kenneth W. Hunter, assistant director, Financial and General Management Studies Division, appeared before the House Select Committee on Committees on June 28 to discuss the congressional needs for Federal fiscal, budgetary, and program information as GAO has defined them; the major existing reporting to the Congress; and suggestions regarding policies and actions the Congress and GAO can take to meet these needs. (Other participant: Mr. *Sperry*)

Space Shuttle

Twice representatives appeared before congressional committees to discuss the GAO report to the Congress on analysis of the cost estimates for the space shuttle and two alternative programs. On June 12 *Thomas D. Morris*, Assistant Comptroller General, appeared before the Subcommittee on Housing and Urban Development, Space, Science, and Veterans of the Senate Appropriations Committee; and on June 26 *Donald L. Scanlebury*, director, Financial and General Management Studies Division, appeared before the Subcommittee on Manned Space Flight of the House Science and Astronautics Committee. (Other participants: Messrs. *Marvin*, *Sperry*, and *Blair*)

Overseas Private Investment Corporation

Charles D. Hylander, deputy director, International Division, summarized the highlights of the GAO report concerning the management of investment insurance, loan guarantees, and claim payments by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for the Subcommittee on Multinational Corporations of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on July 20. (Other participants: Messrs. *Zappacosta*, *Berngartt*, and *Fitzgerald*)

Criminal Justice Act Applicability to the District of Columbia

Milton J. Socolar, deputy general counsel, appeared before the House

District of Columbia Committee on June 28 to discuss a Comptroller General decision whether funds appropriated to the Federal Judiciary for the implementation of the Criminal Justice Act are available to cover cases in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and whether the Judicial Conference of the United States and the Administrative Office of the United States Courts have responsibility for administration of, and budgeting for, Criminal Justice Act expenditures by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and the District Court of Appeals. (Other participant: Mr. *Levy*)

Postal Operations

On July 26 the Comptroller General discussed for the Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee the operations and activities of the Postal Service, particularly the quality of mail service. (Other participants: Messrs. *Newwirth*, *Jones*, *Colan*, *Chervenak*, *Blair*, and *Ols*)

Federal Election Campaign Act of 1973

On June 7 *Phillip S. Hughes*, director, Office of Federal Elections, testified before the Rules and Administration Committee of the Senate on campaign finance legislation, particularly S. 372, the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1973. (Other participants: Messrs. *Thompson*, *Higgins*, and *Fitzgerald*)

Light Aircraft Safety

In connection with consideration of the Federal Aviation Administration's regulation of the manufacturers of light aircraft, *Henry Eschwege*, director, Resources and Economic Development Division, appeared on June 13 before the Subcommittee on Government Activities of the House Government Operations Committee to discuss the results of a GAO review to determine whether FAA was giving sufficient emphasis to programs for insuring the design safety of such aircraft. (Other participants: Messrs. *Kelley*, *Kegel*, *Gaffney*, *Levy*, and *Sperry*)

Health Services and Mental Health Administration

On June 27 *John D. Heller*, associate director, Manpower and Welfare Division, appeared before the Subcommittee on Health of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee to discuss the implementation of a new funding policy for health services delivery projects supported with funds administered by the Health Services and Mental Health Administration of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. (Other participants: Messrs. *Elmore*, *Fenstermaker*, *Garbark*, and *Sperry*)

Value Engineering in Federal Construction

On June 18 *Robert G. Rothwell*, deputy director, Logistics and Communications Division, testified before the

Subcommittee on Buildings and Grounds of the Senate Public Works Committee on the use of value engineering by Federal agencies engaged in facility acquisition. (Other participants: Messrs. *Hill, Cohen, and Griffith*)

National Subsidized Housing Loan Fund

At hearings July 20 before the Subcommittee on Housing and Urban Affairs of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, *Henry Eschwege*, director, Resources and Economic Development Division, discussed the provisions of S. 2169 to establish a National Subsidized Housing Loan Fund to provide for the direct financing of low- and moderate-income housing programs under sections 235 and 236 of the National Housing Act. This direct financing concept was suggested by GAO in two separate reports to the Congress as a means of realizing substantial savings. (Other participants: Messrs. *Squellati, Roher, and Blair*)

Rural Business Loan Programs

On July 19 *Henry Eschwege*, director, Resources and Economic Development Division, appeared before the Subcommittee on Rural Development of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry to discuss the GAO report on ways to improve the effectiveness of the rural business loan programs administered by the Farmers Home Administration. (Other participants: Messrs. *Hirschhorn, Woods, Storm, and Sperry*)

Navy Homeporting in Greece

Fred J. Shafer, director, Logistics and Communications Division, on July 16 discussed for the Subcommittee on Europe of the House Foreign Affairs Committee the results of a review of the Navy's project to homeport part of the 6th Fleet in Greece. The major conclusion reached was that planning for the project was inadequate. (Other participants: Messrs. *Grosshans, Tucker, and Fitzgerald*)

Federal Housing Administration Insurance Funds

On July 10 *Baltas E. Birkle*, associate director, Resources and Economic Development Division, presented statistics on the insurance operations of the Federal Housing Administration to the Legal and Monetary Affairs Subcommittee of the House Government Operations Committee. Using charts and tabulations, Mr. Birkle discussed insurance fund activities since 1968. (Other participants: Messrs. *Sherman and Sperry*)

Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves

J. Kenneth Fasick, director, Logistics and Communications Division, on May 30 appeared before the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee at hearings on S. 1586, Petroleum Reserves and Import Policy Act of 1973, to discuss the capability of the Naval petroleum and oil shale reserves to meet emergency oil needs. (Other participants: Messrs. *Oberson, Schulz, and Griffith*)

Drinking Water Safety

At May 31 hearings before the Subcommittee on Environment of the Senate Commerce Committee on S. 433, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1973, and other related bills, *Henry Eschwege*, director, Resources and Economic Development Division, discussed the results of the GAO review of Federal and State programs for assuring the purity and safety of drinking water. (Other participants: Messrs. *Charam*, *Densmore*, and *Griffith*)

Narcotic Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Programs

On May 23 *Dean Crowther*, deputy director, Manpower and Welfare Division, appeared before Subcommittee No. 4 of the House Judiciary Committee to discuss use by the criminal justice system, particularly in New York, of narcotic addiction treatment programs as an alternative to imprisonment for arrested addicts. (Other participants: Messrs. *Elmore*, *Grimaudo*, *Fenstermaker*, *Griffith*, and Ms. *Harmon*)

How Times Have Changed

In the Reorganization Act of 1945 it [the Congress] has asserted that the General Accounting Office and the Comptroller General are parts of the legislative branch of government (a most astounding proposition!) * * *.

William Anderson

"The National Government
of the United States," 1946