

DOCUMENT RESUME

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[Federal Regulatory Policies]. PAD-78-68; B-163628. March 29, 1978. 5 pp. + appendix (43 pp.).

Report to Sen. Abraham Ribicoff, Chairman, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs; Sen. Charles H. Percy, Ranking Minority Member; by Elmer B. Staats, Comptroller General.

Contact: Program Analysis Div.

Organization Concerned: Food and Drug Administration; Department of Energy; Department of Transportation.

Congressional Relevance: Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs. Sen. Abraham Ribicoff; Sen. Charles H. Percy.

Authority: Federal Advisory Committee Act. Fair Labor Standards Act. Federal Metal and Nonmetallic Mine Safety Act. Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. Consumer Protection Act. Safe Drinking Water Act. Toxic Substance Control Act of 1976. Energy Conservation and Production Act. Employee Retirement Income Security Act. Government Corporation Control Act. Arms Control Act of 1961.

Several issues in the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee study on Federal regulation, "Regulatory Organization," were discussed, and listings of GAO work on Federal regulatory activities were provided. With reference to a recommendation in the Committee report that GAO should assist in interagency coordination, GAO's proper role would be to assist the Congress in reviewing problems of interagency coordination rather than to provide direct assistance. In relation to recommendations in the areas of food regulation, transportation policy and regulation, and energy policy and regulation, the following comments were offered: the recommendation that Federal food regulation should be assigned to a single agency has merit, but the proper organization to assume this responsibility could not be determined; legislation should be enacted to set a national transportation policy, and steps should be taken to improve the availability of budget information on the Federal Government's role in transportation; and responsibility for setting automobile fuel economy standards should be with the Department of Energy, and the Congress should consider creating a separate energy health and safety regulatory agency. Possible conflicts were noted between the Economic Regulatory Administration and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

(HTW)

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

Room 5013 - PAD  
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B-163628

MAR 29 1978

The Honorable Abraham Ribicoff  
Chairman  
Governmental Affairs Committee  
United States Senate

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to your request for comments on Volume V of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee Study on Federal Regulation, "Regulatory Organization." The report deals with the questions of independence of the regulatory agencies, problems of coordination, and the separation of promotional and regulatory functions. It also includes a discussion of organizational questions affecting agency performance in the regulation of banking, transportation, health and safety, food, antitrust and energy.

While we do not have comments on all the issues and recommendations in the report, we do have comments on those matters that relate directly to GAO or which have been the subject of previous GAO reports. Additionally, knowing of your interest in regulation, we have enclosed a list of recent GAO publications and current work in progress on regulations. This list updates for the period January 1, 1977, through December 31, 1977, the information reported in two earlier GAO publications that you have received: "Work Performed and Underway by GAO on Federal Regulatory Activities - January 1, 1973, through April 30, 1976" (CED-76-122, July 20, 1976), and "Government Regulatory Activity: Justifications, Processes, Impacts, and Alternatives" (PAD-77-34, June 3, 1977), Appendix II.

General recommendation C(2) deals most directly with GAO and recommends that our Program Analysis Division assist in resolving interagency conflicts and overlap, receive reports of failures of coordination, and maintain a file of interagency coordination agreements.

The GAO, as a part of the legislative branch of the government, generally furnishes advice and assistance to the Congress. An appropriate role, consistent with GAO's mandated responsibilities, would be to assist Congress in

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MAR 29 1978

The Honorable Charles H. Percy  
Ranking Minority Member  
Governmental Affairs Committee  
United States Senate

Dear Senator Percy:

This letter is in response to your request for comments on Volume V of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee Study on Federal Regulation, "Regulatory Organization." The report deals with the questions of independence of the regulatory agencies, problems of coordination, and the separation of promotional and regulatory functions. It also includes a discussion of organizational questions affecting agency performance in the regulation of banking, transportation, health and safety, food, antitrust and energy.

While we do not have comments on all the issues and recommendations in the report, we do have comments on those matters that relate directly to GAO or which have been the subject of previous GAO reports. Additionally, knowing of your interest in regulation, we have enclosed a list of recent GAO publications and current work in progress on regulations. This list updates for the period January 1, 1977, through December 31, 1977, the information reported in two earlier GAO publications that you have received: "Work Performed and Underway by GAO on Federal Regulatory Activities - January 1, 1973, through April 30, 1976" (CED-76-122, July 20, 1976), and "Government Regulatory Activity: Justifications, Processes, Impacts, and Alternatives" (PAD-77-34, June 3, 1977), Appendix II.

General recommendation C(2) deals most directly with GAO and recommends that our Program Analysis Division assist in resolving interagency conflicts and overlap, receive reports of failures of coordination, and maintain a file of interagency coordination agreements.

The GAO, as a part of the legislative branch of the government, generally furnishes advice and assistance to the Congress. An appropriate role, consistent with GAO's mandated responsibilities, would be to assist Congress in

reviewing the problems of interagency coordination rather than to provide direct assistance to executive branch or independent agencies. Also, when referring to GAO in legislation, it would be preferable not to refer to a particular division, since responsibility for reviewing Federal activities is carried out by all our divisions.

As the report recognizes in its recommendations for transportation, banking, and occupation and radiation safety, major coordination problems often require reorganization or other forms of legislative action. These recommendations point to the essential difficulty of using a congressional support agency to facilitate coordination. Interagency coordination is most likely to be achieved by the agencies themselves when there is little political conflict over which agency administers particular programs. In such situations, agencies should not need an external facilitator of agreements. In those situations which the agencies are not able to reach agreement by themselves, the conflicts are likely to involve ambiguous statutory responsibilities and conflicting claims by agency clientele groups. Policy issues of this sort should be resolved by Congress and the President.

As with other policy decisions, particularly involving oversight, GAO can be of assistance to Congress; for example, by analyzing the implications of various proposed interagency agreements or shifts of agency jurisdiction. GAO will also continue to call attention to areas where better coordination is needed. However, in those situations where agencies are unable or unwilling to take corrective action on their own, responsibility for resolving problems is properly with Congress and the President.

With regard to the specific recommendations in the report, GAO has previously issued reports relevant to recommendations in the areas of food regulation, transportation policy and regulation, and energy policy and regulation.

Food Regulation - The report recommends that responsibility for Federal food regulation should be assigned to a single agency. The food regulatory functions of the Department of Agriculture should be transferred to the Food and Drug Administration.

This recommendation may have considerable merit. Without extensive study, however, we cannot determine whether this responsibility should be given to the Food and Drug Administration or to some new independent Federal food

regulatory agency. GAO has studied certain inspection problems arising in the current organizational structure. Our report entitled, "A Better Way for the Department of Agriculture to Inspect Meat and Poultry Processing Plants," (CED-78-11, December 9, 1977), concludes that USDA's resources could be used more effectively if the frequency of inspection at meat and poultry processing plants was tailored to the inspection needs of individual plants. We have recommended that Congress authorize USDA to (1) make periodic unannounced inspections at meat and poultry processing plants, (2) require plants to develop and implement quality-control systems, and (3) impose strong penalties for plants failing to comply with inspection requirements. While implementation of these recommendations would move USDA's inspection of meat and poultry processing plants somewhat closer to the approach taken by FDA, a more intensive inspection than currently provided by FDA would still be required.

Transportation policy and regulation - Recommendation 2 states that Congress should enact a National Transportation Policy Act on the model of the National Environmental Policy Act, which would set national goals and priorities for transportation, and establish procedures for government-wide planning of Federal transportation programs and activities. Recommendation 4 states that Congress and the executive branch should institute a combined transportation budget account, to include all water, air, highway, rail and mass transit grants, programs and investments whether or not they are under the authority of the Department of Transportation.

These issues are discussed in a GAO staff paper entitled, "U.S. Transportation System--Federal Government's Role and Current Policy Issues" (RED-76-34, dated October 22, 1975). As we observed in our staff paper, it is possible to modernize and unify the various public laws which authorize Federal involvement in transportation and thus move toward a unified national transportation policy. Such legislation could take the form of a National Transportation Policy Act which would establish unified national goals for transportation and impact assessment procedures to identify counterproductive Federal transportation programs and activities. We also noted that improving the availability of budget information on the Federal Government's role in transportation could be of major value to the Congress in assessing priorities for Federal transportation programs. This might take the form of a unified transportation program budget schedule, submitted as part of the President's annual budget proposals, including estimates of the Federal expenditures for all transportation's related programs.

Energy Policy and Regulation - The report recommends that Congress should exercise vigorous oversight of the liaison arrangements established by the Department of Energy Act.

Among the arrangements specifically noted by the Committee is the liaison between the Departments of Energy and Transportation for fuel efficiency standards program. In our previous report, "Energy Policy Decisionmaking, Organization, and National Energy Goals," (EMD-77-31, March 24, 1977), done at the request of yourself and Senator Ribicoff, we recommend that responsibility for the setting of automobile fuel economy standards be lodged with the new Department of Energy. That recommendation was not adopted by Congress, but we still believe it to be pertinent.

A second recommendation of our Energy Policy report, which is also relevant to general problems of coordination, was that Congress should consider creating a separate energy health and safety regulatory agency combining all energy health and safety regulation, rather than continuing to spread these responsibilities among several departments and agencies. This consolidation was not enacted, but we still believe it to be preferable to the current separation of regulatory functions. In this regard, we plan to begin a study this spring aimed at developing an understanding of the full range of regulatory oversight of energy-related health and safety matters throughout the Government. Also, we have in progress a report on the safety of liquified energy gases which identifies jurisdictional problems and further points to the need for a consolidated agency.

Finally, with regard to issues of regulatory coordination, we have become aware of possible conflicts between the Economic Regulatory Administration and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission of the new Department. Already these agencies appear to conflict regarding national policy toward pricing of LNG imports.

We hope these comments will be useful as your committee proceeds with its work on regulatory reform, and we are always ready to be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED ELMER B. STAATS

Comptroller General  
of the United States

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Staats (OCC)  
Mr. Keller (OCG)  
Mr. Heller (OPP)  
Mr. Horan (OP)  
Mr. Dembling (OGC)  
Mr. Havens (PAD)  
Mr. Crowther (PAD)  
Mr. Myers (PAD)  
Mr. Dugan (PAD)  
Mr. Mendelowitz (PAD)  
Mr. Smith (PAD)

AIMendelowitz:alc 3/13/78

## APPENDIX I

WORK PERFORMED OR IN PROCESS BY GAO ON

FEDERAL REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

January 1, 1977 through December 31, 1977

This appendix updates the recent list of GAO Publications on Federal Regulatory Activities published in Work Performed and Underway by GAO on Federal Regulatory Activities January 1, 1973 through April 30, 1976 (CED-76-122, July 20, 1976), and in Appendix II of Government Regulatory Activity: Justifications, Processes, Impacts and Alternatives. (PAD-77-34, June 3, 1977).

The first set of entries refer to GAO reports concerning Federal regulatory activities that were issued between January 1, 1977 and December 31, 1977. The second set of entries, beginning on p.25, are assignments currently in process. The numbers following the work in process are GAO assignment numbers which are provided for your convenience so that we may more readily provide more information about these projects at your request.

The index beginning on the following page lists completed reports and work in process in the categories of broadcasting and communications, consumer protection, energy, environment, equal opportunity, financial institutions and markets, health and safety, international affairs and foreign trade, and transportation. Because many reports relate to more than one area, the index categories are not mutually exclusive.

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## REPORTS ISSUED ON FEDERAL REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

### 1. Highlights of a Study of Federal Supervision of State and National Banks (OCG-77-1A, January 31, 1977)

Federal bank examinations have emphasized analysis of a bank's condition at the time of examination. This has been reasonably effective in identifying problems but has not provided sufficient attention to basic management policies and controls by the banks themselves. Communication to the banks from the Federal supervisory agencies needs to be more effective by increasing their meetings with bank's boards of directors, recommending specific corrective actions, and improving examination reports.

The Comptroller of the Currency's revised examination procedures should result in earlier detection of situations which could lead to deterioration of banking operations. The three agencies jointly should review and evaluate this new examination approach.

Informal enforcement actions by the supervisory agencies were used most of the time to encourage banks to solve their problems; formal actions seldom were used. The Federal Reserve System's bank holding company surveillance did not discover problems in the holding companies before those problems had affected affiliated banks. More frequent in-depth, on-site inspections of holding companies would improve the detection of problems.

Current coordination of the activities of the supervisory agencies is primarily a forum of exchanging information about conflicting rules, regulations, or policies which might exist among them. The Congress should enact legislation to establish a mechanism for more effective coordination.

### 2. USDA - Financial Disclosure System for Department of Agriculture. (FPCD-77-17, January 31, 1977)

This department must maintain an effective financial disclosure system to protect its employees, itself, and the public, GAO concluded. The Department has not had:

- Adequate criteria to make sure that employees whose jobs affect agriculture are required to file financial disclosure statements.

(Incumbents of at least 99 positions had not been required to file statements although their duties indicated that they should.)

- Suitable procedures for collecting financial disclosure statements.
- Specific criteria for reviewing financial disclosure statements and clear interpretations of administrative or statutory prohibitions for use by employees and review officials.

Recent actions by the Department should improve its financial disclosure system and in this report GAO makes additional recommendations.

3. ERDA - An Improved Financial Disclosure System. (FPCD-77-14, January 26, 1977.)

Standards of ethical conduct for Government officials are prescribed by an Executive order. In line with this, the Energy Research and Development Administration established a financial disclosure system which is effective for resolving the problem of questionable financial interests held by employees.

4. FDA - The Food and Drug Administration's Financial Disclosure System for Special Government Employees: Progress and Problems. (FPCD-76-99, January 24, 1977.)

How do conflict-of-interest statutes for special Government employees apply to the Food and Drug Administration? Problems in answering this question have hindered the agency's development of policy to protect against special Government employee conflicts of interest. The agency thinks it has finally answered this question but it needs to develop its policy further and submit it to its parent--the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare--and the Civil Service Commission for approval. It also needs to develop supporting procedures.

5. EPA and DOT - Problems and Progress in Regulating Ocean Dumping of Sewage Sludge and Industrial Wastes. (CED-77-18, January 21, 1977.)

This report discusses the following:

- Some wastes containing harmful substances that exceeded safety levels were dumped in the ocean;
- The wastes were dumped too rapidly to be assimilated by the ocean;
- Surveillance by the Coast Guard has been minimal;
- Progress has been made by the Environmental Protection Agency to phase out dumpers of industrial wastes, but the dumping of municipal wastes is expected to increase;
- Some of the proposed alternatives may be more environmentally harmful, when viewed in terms of total environment, than dumping.

6. FPC - An Evaluation of the Federal Power Commission's Rulemaking on Utilities' Construction Work in Progress. (Released January 17, by the Chairman, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. EMD-77-7, December 2, 1976.)

GAO was asked to review a proposed Federal Power Commission rule to allow natural gas and electric utility companies to include construction work in progress in their bases for computing rates.

The rulemaking order does not appear to serve adequately either of the purposes the Commission originally envisioned. The immediate financial impact appears to be minimal, and little change will result in the utilities' allowances for funds used during construction accounts.

Of more importance, the rulemaking sets a precedent for the Commission to depart from its historic "used and useful" policy and provides an opening for utilities to submit future rate increase filings with cost of construction work in progress in the rate base.

7. TVA - Tennessee Valley Authority: Information on Certain Contracting and Personnel Management Activities. (Released January 25 by Representative John E. Moss. CED-77-4, December 29, 1976.)

Procurement practices were found to be consistent with the Authority's regulations. In fiscal year 1975 the Authority awarded contracts amounting to \$3.6 billion; 4 percent were awarded on a noncompetitive basis.

No conflicts of interest were noted in the financial disclosure statements that Authority employees filed. Situations which could create the appearance of a conflict to the general public were submitted to the Authority's General Manager who found nothing which could result in a conflict of interest.

8. DOT - Improving and Maintaining Federal Aid-Roads -- Department of Transportation Action Needed. (CED-77-31, February 3, 1977)

The backbone of the nation's highway transportation network - the Federal highway systems, representing an investment of about \$76 billion--is deteriorating. The States should be encouraged to use Federal highway funds on projects to maintain these systems.

Although responsible for making sure States properly maintain Federal highways, the Federal Highway Administration does not promote uniform procedures for field engineers to use when appraising State maintenance.

Two things are needed:

- Federally prescribed highway maintenance standards and guides for States;
- Criteria for Highway Administration engineers to use when inspecting the adequacy of that maintenance.

9. DOT - Speed Limit 55--Is It Achievable? (CED-77-27, February 14, 1977)

The national 55-mile-per-hour speed limit law was established to improve highway safety and fuel conservation. Average speeds have dropped about 5 miles an hour, but many drivers are still speeding.

Department of Transportation efforts to increase State enforcement of the speed limit are limited by:

- a reluctance to interfere with State responsibilities;
- lack of criteria to evaluate State efforts in reducing speeds;
- provisions of law that have generated State resentment and could be counterproductive, and;
- a lack of voluntary observance of the speed limit by many people.

10. CAB - Lower Airline Costs Per Passenger Are Possible in the United States and Could Result in Lower Fares. (CED-77-34, February 19, 1977)

Airlines in the United States regulated by the Civil Aeronautics Board could have operated at a lower total cost per passenger than they did from 1969 to 1974, and passenger fares could have been lower. Travelers could have saved over a billion dollars annually if these airlines had operated with characteristics of less regulated airlines.

Accordingly, GAO recommends that:

- The Civil Aeronautics Board work toward improving airline efficiency under existing legislation;
- The Congress provides the Civil Aeronautics Board legislative guidance defining current national objectives for air transportation and the extent that increased operation should be used to achieve those objectives.

11. Comments on the Study; "Consequences of Deregulation of the Scheduled Air Transportation Industry." (CED-77-38, February 25, 1977)

The Air Transport Association of America study concluded that if air transport within the United States were deregulated, air services available to the public could be markedly reduced.

GAO assessed the study's methods and assumptions and found that they were often faulty. It warns that conclusions drawn therefrom should not be relied on as an estimate of the consequences of a deregulated air transport industry. Other reviewers of the association's study had similar assessments.

Several agencies have reduced costs and increased productivity by having more printing done commercially and by consolidating inhouse printing plants. However, GAO found that some improvements were still needed and is recommending further action.

12. Action Needed to Make the Executive Branch Financial Disclosure System Effective. (FPCD-77-23, February 28, 1977)

During the past 2 years, GAO has reviewed many Federal agency disclosure systems and found deficiencies which lessened their effectiveness. This report discusses what can be done to improve the overall administration and enforcement of the executive branch system.

13. Analysis of Travel Activities of Certain Regulatory Agency Commissioners During 1971-1975. (Released February 1 by Senator Warren G. Magnuson. CED 76-155, October 6, 1976.)

In a review of travel practices and policies of regulatory agency commissioners, GAO found that they conformed generally to applicable laws and regulations. In some cases commissioners attended or spoke at functions where private organizations paid part or all of the travel costs. As a general rule, unless the regulatory agency has legislative authority to accept gifts, the acceptance by the commissioners of official travel expenses paid by these private organizations were improper augmentations to agencies' appropriations.

14. HEW - Children in Foster Care Institutions--Steps Government Can Take to Improve Their Care. (HRD-77-40, February 22, 1977)

State and local agencies responsible for the placing and care of foster children in child care institutions

- did not always provide required social services to the children and their families;
- sometime paid rates to institutions which were based on unallowable and/or unreasonable costs, and;
- did not make sure that physical conditions and services provided at the institutions were satisfactory.

Lack of specific Federal guidelines and criteria to which placing agencies can be held accountable primarily caused these problems.

The Congress should look at the expansion of federally funded foster care services under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program. This expansion may go beyond the scope of the program originally contemplated by the Congress.

15. Summary of GAO Reports Issued Since 1973 Pertaining to Farm Bill Legislation. (CED-77-39, March 3, 1977)

Since the Farm Bill was last renewed in 1973, GAO has issued over 50 reports pertaining to programs authorized by that legislation. These reports address such subjects as:

- Farm and commodity support issues;
  - export subsidies

- commodity shortages
- import restrictions
- commodity forecasting
- meat inspection
- pesticide control
- agricultural research

- Disaster assistance;
- Grain reserves;
- Food assistance (Public Law 480)
- Grain inspection;
- Rural development;
- Food Stamps.

This report briefly summarizes and updates these reports to assist the Congress in its current deliberations concerning renewal and possible modification of the Farm Bill.

16. Financial Disclosure Systems in Banking Regulatory Agencies. (FPLD-77-29, March 23, 1977)

Because of its supervisory involvement with the national banking industry, the Office of Comptroller of the Currency must make sure that the financial disclosure system for its employees effectively identifies and resolved potential conflict-of-interest situations.

This report highlights several problems with the financial disclosure system and discusses the agency's plans for improving it.

17. NRC - Reducing Nuclear Powerplant Leadtimes: Many Obstacles Remain. (EMD-77-15, March 2, 1977)

Utilities take 10 years to build nuclear power plants. A shorter leadtime would provide electric power to the nation sooner and would lower powerplant costs. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has had limited success to date in reducing nuclear powerplant leadtimes, and the prospects are not good for reducing leadtimes in the future--due to increasing State and local government requirements, evolving safety criteria, and other factors, many of which are not under the Commission's control.

18. EPA and DOT - Noise Pollution--Federal Program to Control It has Been Slow and Ineffective. (CED-77-42, March 7, 1977)

Although some gains have been made since passage of the first comprehensive legislation to control noise--The Noise Control Act of 1972--carrying out many of its provisions has been slow and sometimes ineffective.

The Congress should hold hearings on the effectiveness thus far of the

Federal program which was established to control and lessen air pollution. The two major agencies involved agree that hearings are appropriate and timely.

19. EPA - Suffolk County Sewer Project, Long Island, New York: Reasons for Cost Increases and Other Matters. (CED 77-44 or CED 77-45, March 22, 1977)

Total estimated costs to construct the project increased about \$1 billion between 1969 and 1976. Inflation, a longer than anticipated construction schedule, and higher interest rates caused the increase.

Although the selection of and fees paid to consulting engineers had been questioned, no violations of regulations in effect at the time were found. In March 1976 new regulations took effect, greatly changing the procurement of professional engineering services.

The county had performed some limited audits of project costs, but the Environmental Protection Agency inspected project construction for the first time in December 1975.

20. Department of Interior - Problems Affecting Usefulness of the National Water Assessment. (CED-77-50, March 23, 1977)

The law requires a periodic assessment of the Nation's water supplies and requirements. In developing the current assessment, with 1974 as the base year and projections to the year 2000, the Council, its Federal member agencies, and cooperating State and regional agencies have experienced problems which may adversely affect the reliability and usefulness of the assessment.

Steps should be taken to make the final document more responsive to the needs of the agencies. Before undertaking future assessments, the Council should reappraise the objectives of the project and the method of developing an adequate national water data base.

21. EPA - Pollution From Cars on the Road - Problems in Monitoring Emission Controls. (Released March 21 by the Chairman, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. CED-77 25, February 4, 1977.)

Under its inspection maintenance and in-use-compliance programs, the Environmental Protection Agency has made little progress in carrying out the provisions of the Clean Air Act relating to the control of emissions from automobiles on the road.

Seventeen States and the District of Columbia have included limited inspection maintenance programs in their air quality implementation plans. Widely differing court decisions questioning the Agency's authority to require States to establish inspection maintenance programs have prompted the Agency to appeal the issue to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In-use compliance programs enabled the Agency to identify 12 engine classes--about 3.7 million vehicles--which did not meet auto-exhaust emission

standards. These programs have not resulted in the recall of any vehicles for corrective action by the manufacturers because the Agency did not believe the test data developed was sufficient to legally support a recall.

22. USDA - The Summer Feeding Program--How to Feed the Children and Stop Program Abuses. (Released April 27 by the Chairman, House Committee on Education and Labor, CED-77-59, April 15, 1977)

Serious abuses--criminal as well as administrative--have occurred in the summer feeding program. Most have involved private non-profit organizations which comprised three-fourths of the program's sponsors. Public agency sponsors, such as schools and park departments, operated programs relatively free of abuses.

The Department of Agriculture revised the program's regulations to try to prevent abuses. GAO is recommending additional changes covering sponsor and site selection and termination, contracting procedures, State staffing and monitoring, sponsor recordkeeping, and advances of funds.

The Congress should authorize only schools and public agencies as sponsors, as well as legislative changes dealing with administrative funds for States and sponsors, definitions of eligible sponsors and children, the number of food services allowed each day, and program regulations.

23. USDA - New Approach Needed to Control Production of Major Crops if Surpluses Again Occur. (CED 77-57, April 25, 1977)

During the 1971-73 crop years, the Commodity Credit Corporation paid farmers \$7.6 billion not to farm cropland to prevent excessive supplies of wheat, feed grains, and cotton from accumulating.

\* This was only partly effective primarily because some cropland, which would not have been farmed anyway as a normal practice--summer fallow--was allowed by the Department of Agriculture to qualify for Federal payment.

Because stocks of major crops could again become excessive, the Secretary of Agriculture should develop a legislative and administrative proposal, considering the summer fallow practice, to control production of crops that may become plentiful.

24. The Role of the Postal Rate Commission Should be Clarified. (Released April 21 by the Chairman, Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government, Senate Committee on Appropriations. GGD-77-20, April 7, 1977)

The essential overall structure of the postal ratemaking process is sound and has been working. Nevertheless, a clearer definition by the Congress of the role of the Postal Rate Commission and refinements in the Postal Reorganization Act would improve the system of establishing postal rates.

25. Better Evaluations Needed to Weed Out Useless Federal Advisory Committees. (GGD-76-104, April 7, 1977)

An important purpose of the Federal Advisory Committee Act is to provide ways to control the number of such committees serving Federal departments and agencies so that only committees with well-defined necessary functions are authorized.

The Office of Management and Budget and the agencies have not acted effectively to carry out the law. Although many committees are being abolished, more can be.

The act directs the Office of Management and Budget to prepare guidelines and controls suitable for managing advisory committees. It directs that the committees be managed under uniform standards and procedures. But no uniform or consistent Government-wide standards exist because the Office of Management and Budget has not provided adequate guidance.

26. CSC - How the Fair Labor Standards Act Affects Federal Agencies and Employees. (FPCD 76-95, April 18, 1977)

Most Federal employees receive little or no increase in overtime pay because of Fair Labor Standards Act coverage. The principal beneficiaries are firefighters and some General Schedule employees in grades 9 through 14. The act has caused confusion and problems in Federal agencies because they must reconcile two conflicting statutes in determining overtime entitlement. GAO recommends that the Chairman, Civil Service Commission, resolve the issues raised in this report and develop an appropriate legislative proposal to eliminate these and other inconsistencies in premium pay legislation.

27. The Debate on the Structure of Federal Regulation of Banks. (OCG 77-2, April 14, 1977.)

This study was undertaken at the request of several congressional committees. GAO was asked to evaluate efforts of the three agencies to identify unsound conditions and violations of laws and regulations in banks and cause bank management to correct the situations. While GAO was not asked to determine whether the Federal bank regulatory agencies should be reorganized, GAO gained some perspective on the need to reform the present system. The report points to several areas where the three agencies should be working more closely together.

28. Travel in the Management and Operations of Federal Programs. (Released April 12 by the Chairman, House Committee on Government Operations. FPCD-77-11, March 17, 1977)

The Federal government spends about \$2 billion each year for travel in the management and operation of Federal programs. Executive managers have the primary responsibility for assuring the most effective use of their program budgets, including the nature and extent of travel they authorize.

The Office of Management and Budget and the General Services Administration should:

- revise their guidance to agencies to focus more specifically on the purpose of each trip;
- require agencies to revise their reporting systems and internal review and audit approaches to follow the new guidance, and
- assess results after implementing the revised guidelines and the reporting and review systems.

29. HEW - Fundamental Improvements Needed for Timely Promulgation of Health Program Regulations. (Released April 12 by the Chairman, Subcommittee on Health and Foreign Commerce. HRD-77-23, February 4, 1977.)

Some programs operate for years without required regulations. Although it cannot be precisely documented, tardiness in publishing regulations negatively affects programs administered by the Department. For example, the absence of regulations can prevent implementation of new provisions, thereby deferring anticipated benefits.

The Secretary announced a comprehensive body of new policies and procedures for issuing regulations July 25, 1976. These new policies and procedures will result in some improvement, but for timely publication of regulations, additional changes are needed.

30. NRC - Security at Nuclear Powerplants--At Best Inadequate. (EMD-77-32 April 7, 1977)

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is responsible for assuring that commercial nuclear powerplants have adequate security systems to protect against sabotage.

The Commission's failure to define the level of threat to protect against and to establish specific requirements have allowed inconsistencies in security systems from plant to plant. GAO and the Commission believe the resulting array of security systems is inadequate. Moreover, the guard forces at these powerplants were generally ineffective and inefficient.

The implementation of recently adopted security regulations should improve nuclear powerplant security.

31. FHA, DOT - The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Program: Not Yet Achieving What the Congress Wanted. (CED-77-62, May 16, 1977)

While highway safety has increased since 1966, the Federal motor carrier safety program has not been improved as much as the Congress wanted. Problems which raised congressional concern in 1966 still exist in 1977.

For example, 45,000 people died in traffic accidents in 1975. Trucks and buses were involved in about 20 percent of these deaths.

Over one-third of the 54,800 trucks and buses inspected by Federal

authorities during 1974 and 1975 were unsafe and taken off the road until repaired.

32. Changing Ownership of Mutual Savings and Loan Associations--An Evaluation  
(Released May 31 by the Chairman, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing  
and Urban Affairs. FOD-77-10, May 26, 1977)

GAO reviewed 8 of the 22 associations that have converted in the last 2 years from mutual to stock form of ownership to raise additional equity capital. GAO found that:

- The Board did not adequately monitor conversion activities;
- Board regulations conflict with conversion objectives regarding rights under subsequent stock issues, stock transfer agents, and acquisitions of newly converted associations.
- It was not possible to assess the accuracy and fairness of appraisal valuations.
- There are alternatives to the sale-of-stock method for raising additional equity capital.

The Congress should limit the number of conversions through September 30, 1979. The time extension is needed to determine whether conversions are desirable and can be achieved on an equitable basis.

33. HEW - Fundamental Improvements Needed for Timely Promulgation of Health Program Regulations. (HRD-77-58, May 5, 1977)

Some programs operate for years without required regulations. Delays in publication of regulations are primarily caused by weaknesses in the Department's policies and procedures for developing and processing proposed regulations.

The Secretary announced a comprehensive body of new policies and procedures for issuing regulations July 25, 1976. These new policies and procedures will result in some improvement but additional changes are needed for timely publication of regulations.

34. Department of Labor and HEW - Delays in Setting Workplace Standards for Cancer-Causing and other Dangerous Substances. (HRD-77-71, May 10, 1977)

Although workers are exposed to thousands of toxic substances, hundreds of which may cause cancer, the bleak occupational health conditions which the Congress sought to improve still exist and may be getting worse. Government efforts to develop standards under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 have produced standards for only 15 substances. The report discusses several problems and offers recommendations to help resolve them.

35. An Unclassified Digest of a Classified Report Entitled, "COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR FUEL FACILITIES NEED BETTER SECURITY." (EMD-77-40A, May 2, 1977)

Development and expanded use of nuclear energy in the United States has resulted in increasingly large amounts of highly dangerous "special nuclear material" being processed by the Government and private industry. The most dangerous of these materials are plutonium and highly enriched uranium.

This report deals with weaknesses in systems for keeping accurate records of nuclear material and physical security systems at commercial fuel fabrication and processing facilities. Unlike commercial nuclear power reactors which use low enriched uranium in the production of electricity, the fabrication and processing facilities employ large quantities of plutonium and highly enriched uranium, consequently these facilities are attractive targets.

Two Federal agencies are responsible for properly safeguarding nuclear materials:

- The Energy Research and Development Administration for nuclear materials held by its research and development facilities, and;
- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission for establishing and enforcing nuclear materials safeguard requirements at commercial facilities.

36. HUD - The Work Measurement System of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Has Potential But Needs Further Work to Increase Its Reliability. (Released June 20 by the Chairman, Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies, Senate Committee on Appropriations. F<sup>o</sup>CD-77-53, June 15, 1977)

The budget staffing requests of the Department of Housing and Urban Development should be based on techniques which are reliable and useful in the budget process. The concept of work measurement offers the potential to do this.

The Department has made progress in developing work measurement standards and some are more reliable and useful than others.

However, the standards should not yet be accepted at face value for estimating the personnel required to perform the work of the Department efficiently.

The Department should be encouraged to continue to develop its work measurement system and to increase the reliability of its work standards, where practical. First, however, the Department needs to improve its practices for developing standards.

37. Government Regulatory Activity: Justifications, Processes, Impacts, and Alternatives. (PAD-77-34, June 3, 1977)

This report reviews the debate over Federal regulatory agencies and develops a structure for reviewing regulatory problems. These include the:

- continued appropriateness of some regulatory objectives;
- alleged imposition of substantial economic costs on society;
- effect of regulation on the distribution of income;
- administrative structure of regulation, and;
- range of regulatory reform alternatives.

38. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's Financial Disclosure Regulations Should be Improved. (FPCD-77-49, June 1, 1977)

The close relationship between the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the banking industry requires the Corporation to have an effective financial disclosure system for its employees. The Corporation has established several systems to prevent and detect employee conflicts of interest.

What more should be done?

- These systems should be administered by one office;
- Additional Corporation employees should be required to file disclosure statements;
- Other actions should be taken to improve the system.

39. OMB - Centralized Directions Needed for Calibration Program. (LCD-77-426, June 13, 1977)

Each Federal organization having calibration requirements, including diverse suborganizations within the same agency, tends to devise its own methods for satisfying its calibration needs with little consideration of existing resources. As a result, the overall Federal calibration program, which would prove easy to standardize, is poorly coordinated and sometimes duplicates activities.

Centralized direction and coordination of calibration systems is desirable and can produce improved calibration support service at much less cost. Many existing resources can be drawn upon, such as the National Bureau of Standards, in deciding how more centralized direction and coordination can be best accomplished.

40. The Force of the Public Utility Holding Company Act Has Been Greatly Reduced by Changes in the Securities and Exchange Commission's Enforcement Policies. (FGMSD-77-35, June 20, 1977)

The Securities and Exchange Commission has exempted most utility holding companies from regulation. GAO estimates that there are slightly more than 100 utility holding company systems potentially subject to regulation. Of these, only 14 are now being regulated.

Many companies became exempt years ago, and the Commission has not considered whether continuation of the exemptions is detrimental to the interests of the public, investors, and consumers. While some companies no doubt should be exempt, many of them are comparable in size and function to those that are regulated. Also, many exempt companies are engaged in nonutility business ventures of the type the act was intended to prevent, such as farming, trucking, real estate, and data processing.

GAO believes that certain provisions of the act are durable standards worthy of enforcement so long as holding companies conduct gas or electric utility operations; however, because of changed conditions the continued application of other provisions of the act needs to be studied.

41. FDA and USDA - Federal Efforts to Protect Consumers from Polybrominated Biphenyl Contaminated Food Products. (Released June 27 by the Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation; Chairman, Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and Senator Donald W. Riegle, Jr.) HRD-77-96, June 8, 1977)

In 1973 an industrial chemical containing polybrominated biphenyls was mistaken for magnesium oxide, a feed supplement, and mixed with animal feed in Michigan. The report discussed what the Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration are doing to protect consumers from foods contaminated with polybrominated biphenyls.

42. Ground Water: An Overview. (CED-77-69, June 21, 1977)

The Nation's ground water should be managed and cared for like the precious commodity that it is--especially in arid States.

GAO is attempting to direct attention to ground water as an important natural resource, and it raises questions about ground water management, conservation, and use which warrant attention by the Congress and study by Federal and State agencies.

43. ICC - Energy Conservation Competes with Regulatory Objectives for Truckers. (CED-77-79, July 8, 1977)

Interstate Commerce Commission measures to reduce energy use by truckers could be expanded. Congressional guidance is needed as to the priority of energy conservation relative to the sometimes competing, traditional Commission regulatory objectives.

The Commission lacks information on the effects of its conservation measures and the potential for further energy-saving measures. Although the Commission has started to obtain some information, more is needed.

44. HEW - Food and Drug Administration's Program for Regulating Imported Products Needs Improving. (HRD-77-72, July 5, 1977)

Lack of information on products entering the United States limits the effectiveness of the Food and Drug Administration in regulating imported products before they are sold to the American public. Without such data the agency cannot

- determine if import surveillance is effective;
- assess the extent that imports may be violating laws or regulations; and
- assure that products are inspected periodically.

Given FDA's limited coverage of imported products at various U.S. ports of entry, additional surveillance measures are needed, particularly against those imported products which continually violate its regulations.

45. Department of Defense Air Pollution Control: Progress and Delays. (LCD-77-305, July 18, 1977)

Air pollution control standards were supposed to be met by the Department of Defense by July 1, 1976. The Department has made progress but about 20 percent of the major polluting installations were not complying with the standards in January 1977. Some may not comply for several more years.

GAO recommends steps to avoid delays in correcting violations. It also discloses the questionable status of jet engine test cells under existing clean air legislation, which the Congress should clarify.

46. Department of the Interior - After Years of Effort, Accident Rates Are Still Unacceptably High in Mines Covered by the Federal Metal and Non-metallic Mine Safety Act. (CED-77-103, July 26, 1977.)

Limited progress has been made in the safety record of mines other than coal mines since Federal enforcement was legislated in 1966. To be more effective, the Department of the Interior needs to make improvements in:

- Reporting and analysis of accidents, injuries, and occupational illnesses;
- Health and Safety standards and ways in which they are published and enforced;
- Education and training programs for the industry;
- Identification of research needs and transfer of results to mine operators;
- Special programs for high-injury mines.

The Congress can help by amending the Federal Metal and Nonmetallic Mine Safety Act authorizing the Department to require mine operators to assume

responsibility for correcting hazards.

47. Environmental Protection Issues Facing the Nation. (CED-77-82, July 8, 1977.)

The need to protect human health and the environment from pollution became clearly evident. The Federal Government has responded by enacting far-reaching legislation which could cost an estimated half a trillion dollars over the next few decades.

Questions have been raised on whether the environmental goals are too costly to achieve whether the right balance has been struck between environmental objectives and energy, economic, and social "goals."

As part of a continuing reassessment of critical national issues, and as an aid in focusing its own objectives, GAO has tried to identify the environmental program areas most in need of attention. This study describes and identifies the major environmental issues facing the Congress and the Nation.

48. Land Use Planning, Management, and Control Issues and Problems. (CED-77-101, July 28, 1977)

GAO finds it difficult to deny that U.S. traditional approaches to achieving progress and allocating resources have often resulted in widespread abuse and waste. Air, water, and noise pollution, massive urban sprawl, the loss of valuable wetlands and marshes, the destruction of town and cities built in floodplains, soil erosion caused by over-grazing and indiscriminate logging, unrestored strip mined areas, and the destruction of historic, cultural aesthetic, and recreational sites are current land use problems.

As part of GAO's continuing reassessment of areas of national concern and interest, and as an aid to focus its work efforts, it has attempted to identify problems and issues within the land use planning, management, and control area meriting attention. This study identifies and describes the problems and issues in the area and represents the perspectives GAO uses to organize its audit efforts.

49. Farmers Home Administration Use of Grant Fund For Water and Waste Disposal Systems. (CED-88-109, August 17, 1977.)

Why has the Farmers Home Administration not always provided the maximum funds allowed by law or its own regulation in making grants for water and waste disposal systems in rural areas? Of the 650 projects receiving grants in fiscal year 1976 (through June 30), 429 (66 percent) did not receive the highest possible amount.

The Agency said its basic goal is to reduce payments to a reasonable level for farmers, ranchers, rural residents, and other eligible rural users, and that this goal has been accomplished. It said it was not willing to adjust grant amounts on the projects already financed, because it would set a precedent difficult to change.

50. Financial Disclosure For High-Level Executive Officials: The Current System and the New Commitment. (FPCD-77-59, August 1, 1977.)

The new administration has made financial disclosure and ethics a high order of priority. Presidential top-level officials have made public their personal financial interests and committed themselves to a stricter code of ethics.

The Civil Service Commission's system of disclosing high-level officials financial interests has not been effective. Current legislation before the Congress would remedy many of the system's deficiencies. However, should the legislation not be enacted, the report recommends what the President and the Civil Service Commission can do to strengthen and improve the current system.

51. Proposals Regarding the Federal Reserve Boards Financial Disclosure System. (FPCD-77-46, August 12, 1977.)

Because of its direct involvement with the U.S. Economy and the banking industry, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System must be sure that its financial disclosure system identifies and resolves potential conflict-of-interest situations effectively. This report recommends the development of criteria and procedures to make that system as effective as possible.

52. Improvements Needed In Regulating Household Goods Carriers. (CED-77-104, August 1, 1977.)

To improve service to the household goods carrier and reduce the number of shipper complaints, the Interstate Commerce Commission has taken various actions.

These will help but further improvements should be made by:

- improving the usefulness, clarity, and value of Commission publications and the reports on carrier performance;
- improving further the compliance program, set up to see that regulations are effectively and fairly carried out; and
- developing compliance and performance standards.

53. CAB - Why the Federal Airline Subsidy Program Needs Revision. (CED-77-114, August 19, 1977.)

The Civil Aeronautics Board's subsidy program, which pays airlines about \$60 million annually to serve small communities, needs complete revision.

The Congress should authorize the Civil Aeronautics Board to alter the current airline subsidy program to provide necessary services to small communities at the least cost to the Federal Government.

54. ERDA - Nuclear Energy's Dilemma: Disposing of Hazardous Radio-Active Waste Safety. (EMD-77-41, September 9, 1977)

The unsolved problem of radioactive waste disposal threatens the future of nuclear power in the United States. Nuclear critics, the public, business leaders, and Government officials concur that a solution to the disposal problem is critical to the continued growth of nuclear energy.

The Energy Research and Development Administration has begun a program to demonstrate by the mid-1980's the feasibility and safety of placing radioactive wastes in deep geological formations.

GAO points out that not only has progress been negligible to date, but that future program goals are overly optimistic because the Energy Research and Development Administration faces many unsolved social, regulatory, and geological obstacles.

55. The Concorde--Results of A Supersonic Aircrafts Entry into the United States. (CED--77-131, September 15, 1977.)

The Concorde supersonic aircraft is noisier than any subsonic aircraft presently in commercial service. Current-production Concordes do not and cannot be modified to meet present noise standards for subsonic aircraft.

Permitting the Concorde's introduction into the United States is counter to the thrust of the national noise abatement effort.

Although this report deals only with the Concorde's noise aspects, decisions affecting this aircraft are considered to have important implications for the U.S. economy and international relations.

56. Department of Interior - Actions Needed to Improve the Safety of Coal Mine Waste Disposal Sites. (CED-77-82, September 21, 1977)

The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 gives the Department of the Interior the authority to inspect abandoned coal waste disposal sites periodically in connection with its reclamation responsibility under the act. Interior does not plan to conduct such periodic inspections because it does not believe it is authorized to do so.

If Interior does not conduct safety inspections of abandoned sites, the Congress should clarify Interior's legislative authority to direct Interior to make such inspections.

Interior should:

- interpret more broadly its responsibility for regulating abandoned coal waste disposal sites under the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969;
- take immediate steps to improve its inspection of coal waste disposal sites and enforcement of Federal regulations covering the sites;

- implement title IV of the 1977 Act in conjunction with the States to identify all hazardous abandoned sites in need of reclamation; and
- communicate effectively the results of its research on coal waste disposal.

57. DOT - Hindrances to Coordinating Transportation of People Participating in Federally Funded Grant Programs. (CED-77-119, October 17, 1977.)

GAO identified 114 Federal programs that provide financial assistance for the transportation of people. It did not identify any express statutory or regulatory restrictions that specifically prohibit coordination of transportation resources of these programs but did identify a number of hindrances to coordination.

The most significant hindrance appears to be confusion at all government levels about the extent of transportation coordination federally funded projects may engage in. The Congress should reduce this confusion by endorsing transportation coordination when feasible, providing there is appropriate cost-sharing and cost and service accountability.

58. FEA - Transportation Charges for Imported Crude Oil--An Assessment of Company Practices and Government Regulation. (EMD-76-105, October 27, 1977.)

Transportation is a significant element in the cost of imported crude oil, used to support price increases for regulated petroleum products. GAO reviewed tanker transportation charges and found that:

- The Federal Energy Administration's transportation regulations were inadequate in preventing companies receiving payments greater than their actual costs;
- Companies reported about \$26 million in transportation charges which GAO questioned or considered overcharges;
- The overall reliability of the Federal Energy Administration's transportation cost data is questionable due to inconsistencies and incompatibilities in reporting systems and inadequate audits.

59. ICC - Changes Needed In Procedures for Setting Freight Car Rental Rates (CED-77-138, November 11, 1977.)

In August 1977 the Interstate Commerce Commission revised its rules, regulations, and practices for setting the per-diem rental rate one railroad pays another for using its freight cars.

The Commission should go further by:

- Discontinuing the higher incentive-per-diem rates paid for plain boxcars.

-- Amending its regulations to allow incentive-per-diem funds currently being held to be spent for purposes that promote sound car-service practices, including the efficient use and distribution of cars.

60. FDA - Food Additive Acrylonitrile, Banned in Beverage Containers  
(HRD-78-9, November 2, 1977)

Acrylonitrile has been used for about 30 years to make various plastic food containers. Recent studies show that when used in beverage containers, this substance migrates to the package beverage, contaminating it.

Based on these studies and on the results of a public hearing concerning these issues on September 23, the Food and Drug Administration published a final order terminating all regulations that permit acrylonitrile in beverage containers.

61. Sharing Cardiac Catheterization Services: A Way to Improve Patient Care and Reduce Costs. (HRD-78-14, November 17, 1977.)

Cardiac catheterization is a process used to diagnose heart conditions. Many Federal cardiac catheterization laboratories are under used. If laboratories are shared, patient care could be improved and money saved.

The Departments of Defense and Health Education, and Welfare and the Veterans Administration need to jointly develop uniform guidelines for planning and using cardiac catheterization laboratories. Presently, there are opportunities to share in Washington, D.C.; Dayton, Ohio; Tucson, Arizona; and Augusta, Georgia.

The three agencies have started developing uniform Federal guidelines.

62. FBI - FBI Domestic Intelligence Operations: An Uncertain Future  
(GGD-78-10, November 9, 1977.)

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's domestic intelligence operations have changed significantly. The Justice Department and the FBI have made efforts to bring domestic intelligence under control by using guidelines delineating specific procedures and by exercising oversight and review. Accordingly, the scope of domestic intelligence operations has narrowed.

Due to many subjective judgments involved in intelligence work it is incumbent upon the Congress to clearly mandate what the objectives and scope of domestic intelligence activities should be and what controls should exist.

Such a mandate would go a long way toward giving the FBI's domestic intelligence operations a positive direction and control, and preventing a recurrence of past abuses.

63. Finding Out How Programs Are Working: Suggestion For Congressional Oversight. (PAD-78-3, November 22, 1977)

This report outlines a process for planning and carrying out congressional oversight of programs. This process could be used by congressional committees to keep track of programs as they are carried out or changed in response to legislation.

GAO's suggested process is designed to avoid pitfalls common in making program evaluations. If the Congress desires to enact sunset legislation, GAO believes this would be compatible with and a useful adjunct to such legislation.

64. Government Specifications For Commercial Products--Necessary or a Wasted Effort? (PSAD-77-171, November 3, 1977.)

The Government uses many specifications and standards to procure commercial products it uses. Several studies have raised questions about the usefulness of these standards, and improvements are being made.

GAO suggests the General Services Administration and the Department of Defense make further improvements in the management of Government specifications.

65. Improvements Needed in the Corps of Engineers' Regulatory Program For Protecting the Nation's Waters. (CED-78-17, December 23, 1977)

The Corps of Engineers has a broad mandate to protect and conserve the Nation's water by approving only those activities (i.e., dredging, filling, construction, etc.) that are in the public interest.

While some elements of local discretion are necessary in a program of this nature, inconsistencies and variances between the operations of the Corps' districts have been of such magnitude as to hamper the establishment of an effective nationwide program. The headquarters and districts will have management and evaluations difficulties until the Corps.

- defines the geographical boundaries of the program;
- provides for consistency by the districts in interpreting and applying regulations and guidelines;
- defines the methods to be used to achieve results expected from the program, and;
- provides for periodic program evaluation.

66. National Water Quality Goals Cannot Be Attained Without More Attention To Pollution From Diffused or "Nonpoint" Sources. (CED-78-6, December 20, 1977)

Water quality goals cannot be achieved in many rivers and lakes because of diffused, or "non-point," sources of water pollution. Controls are limited.

Agencies developing comprehensive control plans under grants from the Environmental Protection Agency lack sufficient resources to gather needed data. This is a result of past and current emphasis to controlling industrial and municipal "point" sources of water pollution.

67. Potential Effects of a National Mandatory Deposit in Beverage Containers. (PAD-78-19, December 7, 1977).

Refundable deposits on cans and bottles would change the national beverage system which now has about 25 percent deposit containers to 100-percent deposit containers.

This four-fold increase would reduce litter and solid waste. Other changes would depend on the extent to which refillable bottles replaced one-way bottles and cans.

Industry costs would include extra effort for handling and storing the four-fold increase in containers. Other costs, such as increased capital for filling lines and increased wages, would depend on the change to the relatively cheaper refillable bottles.

68. Rationale For Power Rates Charged by the Central Valley Project to Pacific Gas and Electric Company. (EMD-78-18, November 21, 1977).

The Central Valley Project, the large multiple purpose water resources development project in California, consists of 19 dams with related water conveyance systems, power generation and transmission facilities. This report discusses the rate determining process for power sales from the Project to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

69. USDA - A Better Way for the Department of Agriculture to Inspect Meat and Poultry Processing Plants. (CED-78-18, December 9, 1977)

Agriculture's services would be more efficient and effective if the frequency of inspections at meat and poultry processing plants was tailored to individual plants. Periodic unannounced inspections would allow Agriculture to inspect more plants or inspect more frequently those plants needing upgrading.

One requirement in any system of periodic unannounced inspections should be the in-plant quality control system. Effective quality-control systems help plant managements control operations better and provide increased assurance to consumers that they are receiving wholesome, unadulterated products properly branded.

The Congress should authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to (1) make periodic unannounced inspections of meat and poultry processing plants, (2) require meat and poultry processing plants to develop and implement quality-control systems, and (3) impose strong penalties for plants failing to comply with inspection requirements.

70. DOT - Effectiveness of Vehicle Safety Inspections Neither Proven or Unproven. (CED-78-18, December 20, 1977)

Would an annual safety inspection of all registered vehicles in the Nation reduce the number and severity of accidents caused by vehicle defects to such an extent that its cost and inconvenience is acceptable to vehicle owners? The Department of Transportation does not know, and needs to know to get States to comply with the Federal inspection standards.

A threat of sanctions proved ineffective in achieving States' compliance. The Congress should

- direct the Department to modify inspection standards to allow States flexibility in implementing programs suited to their highway safety needs and
- require the Department to undertake priority research into the effectiveness of periodic inspection requirements for detecting and correcting vehicle defects before they lead to accidents.

71. Highway Construction Zone Safety -- Not Yet Achieved. (CED-78-10, December 23, 1977)

The Highway Administration has expressed concern about construction zone safety for over 11 years, but this concern was not always reflected in the safety provisions made by State highway agencies. At all of the 25 construction sites GAO visited, unsafe conditions existed and designs for worksite safety varied widely from State to State and project to project.

Although the Highway Administration has taken some actions to improve driving environments, these actions do not fully address the problems. Accordingly, the Federal Highway Administration needs to develop additional program guidance, provide and promote more training and strengthen the inspection procedures of its field offices.

72. CPSC - The Consumer Product Safety Commission Needs to Issue Safety Standards Faster. (HRD-78-3, December 12, 1977)

The Consumer Product Safety Commission develops and issues safety standards to protect consumers from hazardous products. However, as of June 20, 1977, and since it began in May 1973, the Commission had issued only three safety standards under the Consumer Protection Act.

The Commission has not issued standards promptly, because of inadequate information about injuries from products, poor guidance to the Commission's staff and those who develop standards, and lack of a priority-setting mechanism.

73. Supervision of Banks by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Can Be More Efficient. (FOD-77-8, December 22, 1977)

The Corporation continues to be an effective bank supervisor but could be more efficient. GAO recommends that the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

- require periodic internal audits of its Division of Bank Supervision;
- develop more definitive criteria for classifying those banks in the various problem categories;
- require more complete documentation of the decisionmaking process for classifying banks, and;
- initiate discussion of some additional common problem areas with other supervisory agencies.

In GAO's opinion, the Corporation's financial statements present fairly its financial position and the results of its operation.

ASSIGNMENTS IN PROCESS ON FEDERAL REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

as of January 1, 1978

1. EPA - Review of LRA Stationary Source Enforcement Program (08702)

To determine the compliance status of stationary sources of air pollution so that new enforcement provisions of the 1977 Air Act Amendments can be directed towards those sources out of compliance.

2. EPA - Review of Hazardous Waste--A Menace to Health and The Environment (08763)

To evaluate EPA's regulatory program and hazardous waste guidelines and standards to determine whether adequate protection is given to the environment and public health.

3. EPA - Review of EPA Emission Testing and Mobile Source Enforcement Program (08773)

To evaluate the need for and effectiveness of the various auto emissions and mileage programs conducted by the various groups, and to eliminate duplicate procedures, tests, and programs that are being completed.

4. EPA - Review of EPA's Efforts to Protect the General Public and Environment From the Hazards of Microwave Radiation (087504)

To examine into EPA's microwave radiation activities and its efforts to coordinate with all the other responsible Federal agencies since the legislative regulatory, and oversight authority for radiation safety and health is diffused throughout the Federal Government.

5. EPA - Survey of EPA's Efforts to Enforce Industrial Water Pollutant Discharge Permits (087201)

To evaluate Federal and State efforts to insure compliance by industrial discharges with water pollution control laws, effluent limitations, and compliance schedules and the effectiveness of various enforcement tools.

6. EPA - Review of the Implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act (087206)

To examine reasons why States are not assuming primary enforcement responsibility for the Public Water System Supervision Program and if EPA can effectively carry out enforcement responsibilities in those States.

7. EPA - Review of Federal Programs to Regulate the Import and Export of Pesticides and Pesticide Residues on Imported Food (08700)

To determine what impact program deficiencies are having on the pesticide regulation programs of other nations and to identify foreign

sources of information which EPA and FDA might use to better monitor the import of pesticides and foods containing pesticide residues.

8. EPA - Review of the Status of Implementation of the Toxic Substance Control Act of 1976 (08708)

To determine deadlines EPA has missed, the effectiveness of EPA's organizational structure to implement the Act, and coordination with other agencies.

9. EPA - Survey of the Effect of Manpower Shortages on the Control of Toxic Substances (08715)

To determine whether enough trained professionals exist to properly implement toxic substances controls.

10. EPA - Food Transportation Regulations (09711)

Identify and analyze food transportation regulations primarily for use in future work.

11. OPSO - Review of the Effectiveness of OPSO's Pipeline Safety Program (34043)

One element of this assignment involves a review of the Federal pipeline safety regulations as to their comprehensiveness and effectiveness.

12. ICC - Survey to Identify Effects of ICC Regulation of Surface Transportation (34045)

Establish cost model for efficient operations, and compare with actual operation under ICC regulation.

13. CAB - Review of CAB's Handling of Enforcement Activities and Consumer Complaints (341007)

Intended to demonstrate that because of Federal regulations, where passengers are to be deprived of consumer purchases enjoyed by most consumers.

14. CAB - Survey of CAB's Regulation of Domestic Airline Fares (341008)

Design to develop a working knack of the board's complex mathematical models used in rate making.

15. CAB - Survey of CAB's Verification of Airline Financial and Operational Data (341009)

Will use the adequacy of CAB's external audits, and the accuracy of airline data reports.

16. FHWA - Survey of FHWA's Outdoor Advertising Program (34262)

This assignment identifies major programs and progress with the program.

-- This assignment explores changes needed to improve the program.

17. FRA - Survey of Rail-Highway Crossing Safety Program (34264)

This assignment discusses the type and level of safety at crossings. It also compares program benefits with other highway safety programs.

18. FRA - Review of Safety-Related Activities of Conrail's Commuter Operations (34352)

Review Conrail's compliance with FRA regulations, and FRA monitoring.

19. NHTSA and FRA - Review of Railroad Accident Investigations Conducted by National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Railroad Administration (34361)

Review to determine whether NTSB and FRA recommendations have been implemented.

20. ICC - Survey of Motor Carrier Regulation: A Changing Climate 1935 and Today (34734)

Traces the development of Federal intercity motor carrier regulation, that began in 1935, and discusses what has changed in the Nation and the motor carrier industry during the subsequent 43 year period. It will also discuss the issues which we believe need to be examined if the current motor carrier regulatory system is to be modified.

21. ICC - Survey of the Applicability of Motor Vehicle Safety Standards to Light Trucks (34737)

Some safety standards required for passenger cars do not apply to light trucks. We are looking at the justification for this situation.

22. ICC - Review of ICC's Control Over Entry of Truckers in Interstate Transportation (34738)

The Interstate Commerce Commission controls entry into the interstate trucking industry to assure adequate service to all shippers. We reviewed ICC's temporary authority process to determine whether its policies and procedures for granting or denying such authorities assure that shipper's needs for trucking service are met in an efficient, effective manner.

23. Survey of the National Driver Register (34739)

The National Driver Register is a central index of drivers whose licenses have been suspended or revoked and is used by State licensing authorities. We are evaluating how well the register identifies suspended or revoked drivers and what is accomplished by using the register's information.

24. NHTSA - Survey of Alcohol Countermeasures in Highway Safety (34740)

Alcohol is involved in an estimated 50% of highway fatalities. We are examining the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's progress and their problems in dealing with alcohol-related accidents.

25. ICC - Review of ICC Expansion of Non-Regulated Motor Carrier Commercial Zones (34741)

Commercial zones-area around cities which are exempt by law from Federal economic regulation were expanded by the ICC in April 1977. We are studying how this decision to relax Federal economic regulation will influence: (1) shippers' service and cost and (2) carriers' revenues and operations.

26. DOT - Review of Occupant Restraint Systems--Passive and Active Belt System (34742)

DOT issued its passive restraint mandate in June 1977. We are reviewing the data supporting this decision.

27. FAA - Survey of the Effects of Alcohol and Drugs on Flight Safety (341000)

The National Transportation Safety Board has listed alcoholic or drug impairment of pilot efficiency and judgement as a cause in 451 accidents during the 10 year period 1965 to 1974. We are reviewing the effects of alcohol and drugs on a pilot's performance by reviewing research performed by FAA, the military, and other organizations and determining if FAA's regulation on safe blood alcohol levels and acceptable drug usage is sufficiently stringent in light of recent research.

28. Review of Airport Problems, Plans, and Programs (341004)

To obtain information on the effectiveness of development activities and demonstration projects under the Act to determine their impact on the chronic problems facing airports such as airside capacity, air pollution, noise, and landside congestion. We will evaluate the efforts being made to develop a nationwide airport system plan as mandated by the Act.

29. FAA - Review of the Bases Supporting Conflicting FAA Views on Needed Changes in FAA Operations After Airline Regulatory Reform (341012)

The conflict revolves around memorandums prepared by subordinate FAA officials which indicate that under airline regulatory reform FAA may incur increased workloads in their safety inspection and certification programs. The FAA Administrator and his Associate Administrator testified that they do not share the same concern. We are looking into the basis behind these apparently conflicting views.

30. Review of Independent Regulatory Agencies Information Gathering Activities (00911)

Review is to identify procedures and practices of independent

regulatory agencies in gathering information and their effects to minimize the burden on the private sector.

31. NRC - Review of NRC's Procedures to Evaluate the Safe Design and Siting of Nuclear Powerplants (Req. of Senator Case, MC-76-234, MC-77-22 and Congressman Beville, MC-77-96) (30135)

Identify, evaluate and concisely report on the procedures followed by NRC when it considers applications for nuclear powerplant construction and operation.

32. NRC - Review of NRC's Inspection/Enforcement effort for Commercial Nuclear Powerplants Under Construction (Req. of Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, MC-76-271; Chairman, Subcommittee on Reports, Accounting & Management, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, MC-76-275; and Congressman T.A. Luken, MC-77-43) (30139)

Review the adequacy of NRC's quality assurance program for reactor components; determine its cost effectiveness; and compare it with other agencies' quality assurance programs.

33. NRC - Survey of NRC's program for reporting analyzing abnormal occurrences at Nuclear Powerplants (30140)

Determine if (1) licensees are reporting all known incidents to NRC, (2) the NRC review is adequate in identifying significant incidents, (3) corrective action is taken, and (4) NRC should be analyzing the event reports to determine future or generic problems.

34. NRC, DOE, and DOD - Survey of NRC's, DOE's and DOD's procedures for assuring the safe operation of research reactors (30141)

To determine if (1) NRC's licensing procedures assure public health & safety & minimal environmental degradation, (2) NRC's inspection program is adequate, (3) if security requirements meet NRC criteria, and (4) in NRC's procedures for the D&D of these facilities are adequate. For DOD & DOE facilities exempt from regulation, (1) what criteria have been established for their safe operation, (3) if inspections are carried out, (3) if security precautions are taken, and (4) what provisions for D&D have been made.

35. NRC - Survey of NRC's process for evaluating the safety and environmental impact of floating nuclear powerplants (30142)

To (1) describe the advantages and disadvantages of siting plants on land versus offshore; (2) identify and analyze causes for licensing delays; and (3) examine unique safety and environmental concerns of floating plants.

36. NRC - Survey to evaluate the effectiveness of NRC's program for enforcing regulatory requirements (30143)

The following questions will be addressed: (1) Are enforcement actions now available to NRC appropriate for the industry it regulates? (2) Is the

amount of fines levied adequate to encourage compliance? (3) How do NRC's enforcement actions compare with other Federal agencies? (4) How effective have enforcement actions been in encouraging subsequent licensee compliance? (5) What alternatives are available to NRC? (6) Does NRC consistently and uniformly apply criteria for enforcement actions?

37. NRC - Survey of NRC's Program to Develop and Implement its Regulatory Standards (30145)

To determine: (1) why standards are not developed in a timely fashion, (2) what impacts this has on industry, (3) how much effectiveness is lost due to industry's involvement in standards development, and (4) what measures are needed to improve the situation.

38. DOE - Survey of DOE's Uranium Enrichment Pricing Policy and Practices (30510)

To determine (1) whether DOE's uranium enrichment pricing policies are reasonable, or if changes are necessary and (2) whether the price being exported is lower than the price of imported fuel.

39. NRC, DOE, and DOD - Protecting and Controlling Highly Dangerous Nuclear Materials: A Comparison of NRC, DOE, and DOD Safeguards (30511)

To compare and contrast the organizational and procedural aspects of the DOD nuclear safeguards programs with those of the civilian sector of the country, mainly NRC and DOE.

40. Federal Policies and Programs to Assure the Safe and Secure Transportation of Radioactive Materials (30512)

To evaluate the effectiveness of Federal policies to assure that shipment of radioactive materials are safe and secure.

41. DOE - Survey of DOE's Crude Oil Entitlements Program (00316)

To examine the operation and effectiveness of the Entitlements Program and its relationship to the proposed crude oil equalization tax.

42. Survey of Federal Actions to Encourage Increased Domestic Crude Oil Production (00300)

Examine current Federal pricing incentives to encourage increased domestic crude oil production and the need for additional incentives and study the impact of various energy pricing options.

43. Survey of Effect of Tax Policies on Energy Supplies (00322)

To determine the effect of Federal, State, and local taxes on a variety of domestic energy supplies.

44. Analysis of the Prospects for and Implication of Electric Utility Rate Reform (00155)

This study will examine the potential for electric utility rate reform. Federal action to promote such rate reform will be a major focus of the study.

45. Review of Program Authorized by Title IV of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (P.L. 94-385) (00317)

Mandatory report to the Congress. First report to cover Fiscal Year 1977.

46. Review of Policies and Procedures for Administering Leasing of Energy Resources on Federal Lands and the Outer Continental Shelf (74642)

To evaluate Interior's program for leasing onshore oil and gas resources on Federal lands.

47. Assessment of Impact on Environmental Constraints on Electric Utilities Based on Proposed Increased Usage of Coal (30925)

To assess impact on electric utilities of using best available control technology (scrubbers) to preserve environmental quality.

48. Survey of the Possible Government Role in Enhancing Market Potentials for Recoverable Metals and Other Resources (00815)

Assess what steps Government needs to take to increase the amounts of materials being recycled or refused.

49. Survey of the Federal Coal Leasing Program (00864)

Survey will address the goals of Interior's coal leasing program; future energy needs spelled out in Carter's energy plan; environmental impact of Federal land leasing; coal leasing operations and diligent development of leases; and an exploratory drilling program. Survey to lead review which will better define Interior's coal leasing goals, reach conclusion and make policy recommendations as appropriate.

50. FEA - Survey of FEA's Development of Contingency Plans for Dealing with Energy Shortages (00312)

To obtain a working knowledge of the program and select specific segments for further review.

51. FEA - The Strategic Petroleum Reserve--How Much Oil Should be Stored?

Review FEA's justification of the target for reserve size in terms of (1) legislative mandate, (2) probability of supply disruption, (3) costs of disruption, and (4) cartel deterrence.

52. Liquefied Energy Gases Safety Study (MC-77-93) (00199)

(1) Assessment of the potential dangers associated with the transportation and storage of LNG, LPG, and naphtha, and (2) review the regulatory

and planning roles of Federal, State, and local governments to protect the general public.

53. Review of Advance Payment Program for Increasing Natural Gas Supplies  
(Request of Congressman Moss' Oversight Subcommittee)(30827)

Determine (1) cost and benefit of program to consumers, (2) propriety of expenditures under the program, and (3) accuracy of data reported to FTC on program results.

54. Survey of the Role of LNG Imports in Supplying U.S. Energy Needs  
(30828)

Examine need and feasibility of providing assistance to Congress on development and application of a national policy on LNG imports.

55. Review of Estimation and Development of Natural Gas Reserves  
(Request of 29 Congressmen) (30833)

Determine (1) need for and accuracy of reserves estimates, and (2) use of estimates to ensure diligent development and production from OCS.

56. Review of Emergency Natural Gas Purchases (30834)

Recommend changes in criteria for and use of emergency purchases provisions.

57. Review of Long-term Effectiveness of FPC's Natural Gas End-Use Curtailment Policy (30835)

- Recommend the need for long range policy for natural gas usage.

58. Review of Availability and Use of Alternate Fuels to Alleviate Natural Gas Shortages (30836)

Recommend that improvements be made in the management of alternate fuels used to alleviate natural gas shortages.

59. Review of Oil and Gas Pipelines System as it Affects Cost and Supply to New England States (30839)

To determine ownership and profitability of pipelines and effectiveness of State and Federal regulation.

60. Review of Energy Costs and Their Impact on Small Business Operations  
(Request of House Subcommittee on Minority Enterprise and General Oversight) (30926)

To determine extent (1) of Federal/State regulation of utilities' fuel purchases; (2) that rates favor large companies; and (3) utility rates force relocations.

61. Review of Procurement Policies of Electric Utilities

To determine the propriety of electric utilities procurement practices.

62. Chairman Moss asked GAO to give priority to reviewing Why Gas and Electric Rates are Rising So Drastically and Why FPC Allows It? (MC-76-207)

Provide Chairman any reports issued that deal with gas and electric rates.

63. Congressman Moffett Inquired as to GAO Experience in Area of Consumer Representation During Electric Rate Proceedings (MC-76-208)

Provide copies of any reports dealing with FPC rate-setting activities.

64. SEC - Survey of SEC's Regulation over Unregistered, Non-Exempt Securities (90800)

To determine and analyze what regulations apply to these securities. To be used also on basis of future audit work.

65. SEC - Survey to Plan GAO's Audit Approach (91003)

To develop audit plans for next three years in SEC.

66. SEC - Study of Effectiveness of Accounting and Reporting Roles Now Monitored Under Statutory Laws of SEC (90901)

To determine the effectiveness of SEC's monitoring responsibilities of its enabling legislation, whether the accounting and reporting regulations safeguard investors from misleading or fraudulent information and the extent to which SEC should rely on the accounting profession for accounting rules and practices.

67. SEC - Monitoring and Consulting with SEC with Respect to Accounting Practices to be Developed Under Section 503 of EPCA of 1975 (00200)

Identify the issues that must be addressed by SEC; ascertain the steps taken by SEC to address the issues; recommend that SEC make necessary changes in their approach; and inform Congress of GAO's observations and recommendations.

68. FDA-- Survey of Federal Regulation of Cosmetics (10859)

Determine effectiveness of FDA program to regulate cosmetic products.

69. FDA - Review of Federal Programs for Regulating Residues of Drugs, Pesticides, and Environmental Contaminants in raw meat (10870)

Develop data on agencies' efforts to identify and remove contaminated meat and poultry products resulting from use of animal drugs, pesticides, and environmental contaminants.

70. FDA and HEW - Review of Efforts to Reduce the Hazards of Microwave Radiation (10871)

Develop data on possible biological hazards posed to the public by microwave radiation. Emphasis will be on (1) HEW implementation of legislative requirements, (2) health hazards (3) basis of Federal Standards, (4) enforcement of standards, and (5) coordination between FDA and other Federal agencies.

71. FDA - Survey of Follow-up on Sanitary Conditions in Selected Food Industries (10872)

The initial GAO report we are concerned with: (1) conditions in the Food Manufacturing Industry (2) Shellfish (3) Food Salvage Industry (4) Restuarant.

72. FDA - Review of FDA's Regulation of Substances Added Directly to Food (10875)

Review of problems associated with the regulation of substances added to food which are related to deficiencies in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and to FDA's administrative program.

73. FDA - Review of the Food and Drug Administration's Drug Approval Process (10879)

Examination of FDA's approval process to determine (1) whether there are inordinate delays in approving drugs for marketing (2) where delays have resulted in a drug lag in therapeutically significant drugs, and (3) what improvements can be made.

74. FDA - Request for Information on the Food and Drug Administration's Establishment of Standards of Identity for Food Products (10880)

\* Developing information on FDA procedures for establishing or amending standards of identity for food products.

75. NCIR - Review of Fiscal Activities of the National Center for Toxicological Research (10877)

Investigation of NCIR's contracting procedures and expenditures of funds for administrative-type activities.

76. FTC - Survey of FTC's Use of Its Injunctive Authority (20303)

Evaluate FTC's used of injunctive authority to determine (1) how well FTC handled associated problems (2) relationship between FTC and courts concerning new authority (3) adequacy of FTC's criteria for using new power, and (4) degree to which criteria is followed.

77. FTC - Survey of FTC's Use of Consumer Redress Authority (20304)

Evaluate FTC's consumer redress activities to determine (1) how well FTC is dealing with associated problems (2) how well the Commission has decided and communicated policy guidance, and the availability of consumer redress through State and private class action mechanisms.

78. FTC - Survey of the FTC Resources Allocation System (20805)

Examination of FTC's goal setting, programming, budgeting, and case selecting systems to determine the efficiency of the agency's resource system

79. OSHA - Review of OSHA and State Enforcement of Worker Health Standards (20662)

Review of how effectively Federal and State agencies are enforcing occupational health standards in private industry.

80. OSHA - Review of OSHA and State Enforcement Efforts (20663)

An evaluation of the effectiveness of Federal and State agencies' workplace inspection program in identifying and correcting occupational hazards in the workplace.

81. OSHA - Review of OSHA and State Enforcement Efforts to Educate Workers About Occupational Health Hazards (20664)

Obtain information on the extent and effectiveness of Federal efforts to inform and educate workers about occupational health hazards in the workplace and what can be done to safeguard the workers health against such hazards.

82. OSHA - Review of Chemical Hazards in the Federal Workplace (20665)

Review of chemical hazards in the Federal workplace and how effective are the occupational health programs of selected Federal agencies to protect the workers against these hazards.

83. OSHA - Survey of Causes of Workplace Fatalities (02668)

Survey of procedures for reporting and investigating workplace fatalities to determine whether compliance with OSHA standards could have prevented some fatalities and to what extent OSHA standards are related to the condition(s) that can cause serious physical harm.

84. Review of State's On-Site Consultative Services Program (20669)

Review the effectiveness of Federal and State Agency Efforts to provide on-site consultations to help employers understand and comply with established occupational safety and health standards.

85. NIOSH - Review of NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation Program (20677)

Evaluate the program to determine why workers have not submitted more requests for evaluations of workplace hazards; how actively NIOSH promotes the program; why it takes so long to develop and issue evaluation reports; and how the evaluation results are used.

86. NIOSH - Survey of NIOSH's Field Studies Research Program (20678)

Survey to determine how effectively the program is being managed and whether the studies are justified. The survey should determine to what extent workers and employers are appraised of the study results and what other uses are made of the study results.

87. OE - Review of Accreditation in Post Secondary Education as Eligibility Criteria for Federal Education Assistance Programs (104036)

This review is concerned with Consumer abuses in post secondary educational institutions. The effort will briefly address the activities of the Trade Commission to reduce or abate such abuse and discuss Office of Education eligibility process and what assurances it provides the education consumer.

88. HEW - Follow-up Review of the Illinois Medicaid Program (106080)

This audit will review particular aspects of the Illinois Medicaid Task Force actions to determine provider fraud and abuse and will determine HEW Region and Illinois Department of Public Aid actions to carry out various recommendations for the improvement of Medicaid program.

89. HEW - Availability of Medical Services to Medicaid Recipients (106085)

Questions have arisen as to whether sufficient numbers of providers participate in the Medicaid program to enable recipients to readily obtain health services. Urban and rural areas will be studied to determine the availability of services and the extent of provider participation in the Medicaid program.

90. HEW - Survey of Ancillary Services Provided to Medicaid Nursing Homes Patients (106106)

The survey will attempt to develop information on problems with regard to cost, quantity, and/or quality of ancillary services provided to Medicaid patients in nursing homes. Under the Medicaid program, medical supplies and services such as prescriptions drugs, physical therapy, laboratory tests, physician visits, and dental services are billed to the States as ancillary services.

91. HEW - Review of Ohio Medicaid Program (106108)

The review will comprise a comprehensive study of most aspects of the program, including (1) eligibility determination; (2) benefit structure and related costs; (3) administrative coordination between State and county agencies; (4) claims payment, and recipient and provider relations/education systems and their interrelationships.

92. HEW - Review of State Procurement Practices (106119)

To identify State contracting methods for obtaining materials and supplies which may offer Medicaid program savings to the State and Federal Government.

93. HEW - Review of Use of Grant Funds by the Sacramento Foundation  
(106122)

The objectives of this review are to determine if (1) the "adverse selection" payments to the Foundation were illegal and if the Federal Government should recover these funds from California; and (2) the status of our previous recommendation to recoup any excessive funds paid to the Foundation.

94. HEW - Review of the Implementation of Medicaid Management Information Systems (106127)

This review will concentrate on the use by States of reports produced by State Medicaid Management Information Systems (MMIS) and HEW's controls over approval and monitoring of these MMIS systems.

95. HEW - Review of Medicaid Reimbursement of Chain-Operated Nursing Homes (106130)

The review will evaluate the costs of chain owned or operated nursing homes which are being reimbursed by the Medicaid program. The review will also evaluate HEW and State reimbursement policies and audit practices to determine the reasonableness and applicability of these costs.

96. Review of Washington State's Procurement of Services from Electronic Data Systems Federal Cooperation under MMIS (106140)

We will review the State's procurement of EDSFC services, focusing on the following concerns surrounding the contract award:

- \*-- adherence to applicable Federal competitive standards;
- if contractor was the lowest responsive bidder;
- if contractor assumes responsibility for all contractor requirements initially contained in RFP.

97. HEW - Survey of Internal Controls in Medicare, Medicaid, and CHAMPUS Claims Processing Systems to Prevent Fraud and Abuse by Processing Personnel (106142)

The purpose of this survey is to determine, for Medicare intermediaries, and carriers, Medicaid fiscal agents State agencies, and CHAMPUS fiscal agents, and internal controls presently in use to prevent fraud by claims processing personnel; the adequacy of these controls; and whether controls used by a particular processor could be beneficially applied to other processors.

98. HEW - Survey of Controls Over Issuance of Medicaid Cards in the District of Columbia (106135)

Survey of controls used by District of Columbia to prevent issuing Medicaid cards to ineligible.

99. HEW - Survey of Hospital Procurement Practices (106141)

The survey will determine whether economics can be achieved in purchasing standard items and services through improvements in hospital procurement practices.

100. HEW - Review of Medicare's Cost Reimbursement System for Home Health Care (106137)

The review will determine whether Medicare's cost reimbursement system is adequate to assure that payments to providers are proper and reasonable.

101. HEW - Evaluation of Medicare Coverage of Chiropractors' Services (105021)

Determine whether Medicare's administration of coverage for chiropractors' services has been effective and consistent in assuring that payment is reasonably determined and made only for necessary covered services.

102. HEW - Survey of the Provision of Dietetic Services in Medicaid Nursing Homes (106145)

The objectives of this survey are to (1) determine the extent to which HEW standards for dietic services are not being met and (2) ascertain the effect on patients of facilities failure to meet established standards. We will also look at the nature of expenditures by nursing homes for dietetic services to determine the reason for wide variances in expenditures.

103. Survey of the Cost Effectiveness of the Professional Standards Review Organization Program (102026)

To determine cost-effectiveness of PSRO program.

104. Survey of the Financial Management of the Professional Standards Review Organizations (106124)

To develop guidelines for a review of the financial management of PSRO's.

105. ERISA - Review of the Effect of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) on Small Businessmen (Request of 116 Congressmen) (20715)

Study to determine the effect of ERISA on the decision of small business men to terminate their defined benefit pension plans. Will also relate the specific provisions of the act to a limited number of on-going defined benefit pension plans sponsored by small businessmen.

106. ERISA - Review of the effects of ERISA on Pension Plans with Fewer than 100 Participants (20719)

Review of pension plans with fewer than 100 participants through use of a questionnaire and case studies. Purpose is to determine effects of ERISA (increases in costs and benefits) on plan sponsors to comply with ERISA.

107. Survey of the Effect of the Unfunded Liability of State and Local Pension Plans on Federal Grant Programs (20720)

Survey is to ascertain the potential Federal aid program liability for State and local pension plans, and the effect this liability could have on the accomplishment of Federal-aid program objectives.

108. Examination of Financial Statement of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) (20721)

This work is required by the Government Corporation Contract Act and will involve auditing PBGC's financial statements for the 37 month period from 9/2/74 through 9/30/77.

109. FTC and OE - Review of Accreditation in Post Secondary Education as Eligibility Criteria for Federal Education Assistance Programs (104036)

This review is concerned with consumer abuses in post secondary educational institutions. The effort will briefly address the activities of the Federal Trade Commission to reduce or abate such abuses and discuss Office of Education eligibility process and what assurances it provides the education consumer.

110. Review of Hospital Regulatory Activity and Data Reporting Requirement Impacting on Health Costs

Review will identify duplication in hospital regulatory activity and data reporting requirements imposed by Federal, State, and local authorities and voluntary requirements of private organizations. The objective will be to eliminate or consolidate duplicate and non-essential activities.

111. Review of Effectiveness of Criminal Violations Pertaining to Fringe Benefits and Other Activities of Labor Unions (Request of Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Senate Committee on Government Affairs) (20726)

Will include inquiries into the effectiveness of Labor's investigation of criminal violations pertaining to (1) labor organizations under the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 and (2) labor union pension and welfare benefit programs under ERISA.

112. ERISA - Survey of Efforts to Enforce the Provisions of ERISA (20727)

Survey is to ascertain the adequacy of current efforts to assure compliance with ERISA provisions and to identify areas most in need of further review.

113. ERISA - Review of PBGC's study of the Multiemployer Insurance Program Under ERISA (Request of Chairman, Private Pension Subcommittee, Senate Finance Committee) (20729)

Monitor and report observations on PBGC's mandated study of the financial condition of the multiemployer insurance program and options available for making the program viable.

114. Survey of the Fair Labor Standards Act (20138)

Survey to determine the effectiveness of Labor's enforcement of the act and if employers are complying with the child labor and other provisions of the act. The survey will also examine the impact of the 1974 amendments and their effect on the economy.

115. Review of Administration and Enforcement of the Davis-Bacon Act

Detailed review of the administration of the act, including the wage rate determinations by Labor, and the effectiveness of the enforcement activities of Labor and selected procuring Federal agencies.

116. Request to Review "Wage-Busting" Practices at Cape Canaveral (Request of Senate Subcommittee on Federal Spending Practices and Open Government) (20149)

Allegations have been made that wage busting--lowering of service employees' to win competitive service contracts--is still occurring at the Cape. Review will try to ascertain the effectiveness of special procurement procedures adopted by the Air Force and NASA to curtail the wage busting practice.

117. Survey to Identify and Analyze Federal Laws, Rules, Regulations, and Guidelines Dealing with Equal Opportunity and Non-discrimination in Federal agencies (20940)

The end product will be a staff study presenting a compilation of the laws, regulations, etc., and the agencies responsible for administration and/or enforcement.

118. Review to Identify Nationwide Problems Caused by Federal Agencies' Fragmented Programs for Equal Employment Opportunity Compliance. (20946)

GAO believes consolidation of the programs administered by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Department of Labor should minimize the problems and enhance the effectiveness of the Federal Government's efforts to achieve equal employment opportunity.

119. Survey of the Need for a Generally Accepted Methodology for Determining Equal Employment Opportunity Status (20949)

The purpose of this survey is to identify problems in the current system of the Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs uses for selecting contractors for review, and to assess the impact of the program.

120. Survey of School Desegregation (20948)

Gather background information on public school desegregation for use in developing an approach for further detailed work in the area. Survey includes a review of existing research studies and case law on this subject. (HEW, DOJ, USCCR)

121. Review of Discrimination in Providing Services Under Federal Financial Assistance Programs (20950)

Request of Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, House Committee on the Judiciary, that GAO obtain "reliable" information on the scope and effectiveness of enforcement activities under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Effort will also include a detailed review of Title VI enforcement activities under selected HEW health and social services programs. (Gov't wide)

122. Review of Federal Efforts to Improve EEO for Minorities in Skilled Craft Construction Trades (20952)

Determine the extent to which minorities are underrepresented in skilled craft construction trades, and to determine how effective the various cognizant Federal agencies have been in overcoming this problem. (EEOC, DOL, NLRB)

123. CPSC - Review of CPSC Defective Product Notification and Correction Program (10708)

Review of how CPSC implements the provision of the Consumer Product Safety Act that provides for the repair, recall, and repair of products that do not meet a safety standard or that contain a defect and could create a substantial product hazard.

124. CPSC - Survey of the Identification and Reduction of Hazards Associated with Flammable Products (10711)

Survey looking into the reasons that CPSC has taken a long time to issue safety standards for flammable products.

125. CPSC - Review of CPSC Actions to Ban and Recall Selected Hazardous Consumer Products (10712)

Congressional request for a review into why CPSC did not act faster to (1) recall defective smoke detectors and (2) ban certain products containing asbestos.

126. CPSC - Review of Consumer Product Safety Commissioners Official Travel and Attendance (10713)

Congressional request for a review of the travel and time the Commissioners are away from CPSC headquarters.

127. Evaluation of U.S. Participation In Multilateral Export Control Committee (COCOM) (48293)

This review attempts to identify and evaluate the procedures for controlling the export of technology. COCOM is an attempt to enlist our trading competitors and military allies in an export control program which does not selectively disadvantage U.S. exporters.

128. Review of U.S. Controls Over International Transfers of Fissionable Weapons-Grade Materials (46532)

The objectives of this review are: (1) to determine the volume of these exports, their destinations, and the reasons these materials are needed; (2) the impact of these exports on U.S. non-proliferation objectives; (3) the need for a well-defined policy on international transfers of these materials including adequate export controls.

129. Review of Export Control of U.S. Technology (48288)

This audit will test check the export licensing process with particular reference to those licenses which take more than 90 days to process.

130. U.S. Government Controls Over Commercial Munitions and Arms Sales to Foreign Countries (46536)

The primary objective of this effort is to review the processes by which the Office of Munitions Control of the State Department performs its mission and to measure the effectiveness of these processes.

131. Review of Government Assistance to U.S. International Airlines (48271)

One of the objectives of this review is to evaluate the overall Government role in international aviation as a regulator, negotiator, policymaker, and customer.

132. Identification of U.S. Programs Requiring Arms Control Impact Statements (46535)

The objective of this review is to examine section 36 of the Arms Control Act of 1961, as amended, which requires that Arms Control Impact Statements be prepared for: (1) any program of research, development, testing, engineering, construction, deployment, or modernization with respect to nuclear armaments, nuclear impacts of war, military facilities or military vehicles designed or intended primarily for the delivery of nuclear weapons; (2) any program of research, development, testing, engineering, construction, deployment, or modernization, implements of war, or military facilities, having - (A) an estimated total program in excess of \$250,000,000 or an estimate annual program cost of \$50,000,000.

133. Collection, Correlation, and Evaluation of Information and DATA Relative to Future Surveys and Review of Arms Control and Disarmament Matters (46526)

The purpose of this research is to accumulate, correlate, and evaluate information concerning arms control and disarmament matters with the objective of identifying areas for follow-up surveys and reviews.

134. FCC - Survey of FCC's Field Operations Bureau (06210)

The purpose of the survey is to obtain a working knowledge of FCC activities in regulation non-governmental communication services through its Field Operations Bureau. Because of FOB's role and importance in FCC, we want to examine its activities and determine how they complement FCC's regulatory mission and other FCC bureau operations. We will zero in on the "how of regulation" for FCC rules and regulations, especially those pertaining to inspections and investigations.

135. FCC - Survey of the Federal Communications Commission's Regulatory Policies for Common Carriers (06207)

The objective of this survey is to ascertain the adequacy of FCC's approach and policies in its regulation of common carriers, and to determine how growth, change, and competition in the industry have affected FCC's ability to meet its regulatory objectives.

136. FCC, OTB - Review of Interagency Coordination, Structure, and Policy Development for International Telecommunication Services (06214)

This study reviews the lack of coordination among Federal Communication Commission (FCC), the Office of Telecommunications Policy (OTP), the Office of Telecommunications, Department of Commerce (OT), and the Department of State in the development of plans and policies for international telecommunication services.

137. FCC - Regulatory Impact of FCC's Broadcasting Policies (06208)

This review will examine the regulatory policies that have evolved as a result of FCC's and the Court's interpretations of the Communications Act of 1934, and the impact of these policies on current industry practices. We will identify causes which have contributed to the ineffectiveness of the policies.