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STATEMENT OF  
ROBERT F. KELLER  
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES  
BEFORE THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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H-2501

ON  
H.R. 1244, A BILL TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES AND  
REGULATIONS FOR CERTAIN PROTECTIVE SERVICES  
PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

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Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, we are glad to appear at your request to give you our views on H.R. 1244, a bill which if enacted would be cited as the Presidential Protection Assistance Act of 1975.

As you know, we appeared before this Subcommittee on August 21, 1974, to testify on H.R. 11499, a bill similar to the one under consideration. Our testimony was based primarily on a review we had made of the expenditures for protective purposes at Key Biscayne and San Clemente-- which resulted in a report to the Congress dated December 18, 1973,

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entitled "Protection of the President at Key Biscayne and San Clemente (With Information on Protection of Past Presidents)".

The principal recommendations in our report were:

- Appropriations for expenses at private residences for Presidential protection should be made to the Secret Service and no other funds should be available for that purpose.
- The accounting system of the Secret Service should require that expenses at private residences for protective purposes be authorized by the Director or Deputy Director of the Service.
- The Secret Service should make an annual public report to the Congress showing in as much detail as security will allow expenditures made on private premises.
- The report made by the Secret Service should be subject to audit by GAO and GAO should be given complete access to all records, files, and documents supporting expenditures made by the Service.

In addition we suggested that Congress might wish to consider limiting the number of private residences at which permanent protective facilities will be provided for a President.

These recommendations were consistent with the changes in law proposed in H.R. 11499, except for the GAO audit provision, which was later included.

Turning now to the bill under consideration, H.R. 1244 is consistent with all the principal recommendations made by GAO in its report. There are only two relatively minor comments which we wish to offer:

1. We suggested in prior testimony that the language of Section 2 should perhaps be modified with respect to reimbursement of certain costs where military equipment and men are used. Protection of a President may, for example, involve the use of Coast Guard vessels.

We don't know the reason why the suggestion was not adopted, but we will point out again that there may be difficulties in costing the services on a satisfactory basis as well as a necessity for some substantial increases in Secret Service appropriations.

2. The question was raised with us earlier as to what would be a reasonable amount to allow for facilities, equipment, and services to be provided the Secret Service in securing any property under Section 2(3). House bill 11499 provided that such expenditures could not cumulatively exceed \$5,000. We stated that if past assistance provided by GSA to the Secret Service at other than a principal residence is taken as a measure of what is required, the \$5,000 limitation was too low. The examples cited were Grand Cay in the Bahamas (visited by President Nixon) and Haywood Ranch in Texas (owned by President Johnson). On that basis we believe that \$10,000 as provided in H.R. 1244 is preferable to \$5,000.

In any event, H.R. 1244 introduces a measure of flexibility ~~not~~ found in the earlier bills by providing that additional amounts may be expended if approved by resolutions of the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate, respectively.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my prepared statement.