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

B-204274

AUG 25 1981

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The Honorable William D. Ford
Chairman, Committee on Post
Office and Civil Service
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Your letter of June 17, 1981, requested that we comment on H.R. 3852, 97th Congress, which your Committee is considering. The subject bill, if enacted, would abolish the Postal Rate Commission and transfer its functions to a panel of three administrative law judges established within the Postal Service.

Because our audit efforts at the Postal Rate Commission have been limited in scope, we are reluctant to offer our views on the controversial question of whether the Commission should be terminated. There are too many considerations that we are unable to address with firsthand knowledge. On the other hand, we know that one of the principal criticisms of the Commission has been the length of time it took to complete certain rate cases. In this connection, we recently completed a review of two Commission proceedings at the request of Senator Ted Stevens. Our report provides insight as to why these particular cases took as long as they did. Hopefully this will be of some use in considering the merits of H.R. 3852. The final report should be issued late this month and we will send you a copy at that time.

If the above arrangements are not satisfactory, please call Willis Elmore or Linda Harmon on 245-5397.

Sincerely yours,

MILTON J. SOCCAR

Acting Comptroller General
of the United States

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