

ine structure and also how structure is being used, because if the structure is sound but not well used then, of course, we do not want to change the structure, we want to get at the details.

On the other hand, if the structure is not sound, it is important that we review basic policy, such things, of course, as the impact or rather the relationship of the private sector with the governmental sector, as is illustrated in this bulletin A-76 as an indication. (See p. 35.)

But when you get into such things as whether offshore procurement where buy American should exist, it involves problems of balance of payments, cost to the Federal Government. Also involved here is the impact on the private economy itself, which is the basis of our financing any endeavor.

I want it clear that as I view our committee's work, it is to avail itself of the activities of the various legislative committees of the Congress, where they are concerned about the specifics that we are going on over here. We should avail ourselves of their work, and in no sense compete with them.

I know in many of these illustrations you have given us here, this material has been referred to or is being looked at by legislative committees of the Congress.

It would be helpful to me if you would go through your testimony and give to this committee a list of what committees are looking into this matter. If none are, this would be helpful for us to know.

In some instances, I think probably maybe more than one committee is looking into the same thing, and rightly so, because they are looking at it from different angles.

I daresay the Government Operations Committees of both the House and Senate tend to look over these generally. If you would care to respond to that I would appreciate it.

DISTRIBUTION OF GAO REPORTS

Mr. STAATS. I would like to respond in general terms.

First, our general practice is to try to be sure that any committee that, to the best of our knowledge, has any continuing interest or any special interest gets copies of all of our material. We go beyond that and make an effort to sit down with the staffs of those committees and brief them as to our findings and answer questions, and try to relate our reports more directly to that committee's interest.

Speaking personally, I feel that long-term effectiveness of the General Accounting Office can be increased still further as we can relate our work more closely to the work of the committees of Congress.

GAO RELATIONSHIP WITH SUBCOMMITTEE

Now, a second point I would like to make would be that in the area of construction and procurement which has been the concern of this committee particularly, which has been the burden of our statement here today, there is no place in the Congress today that has the same kind of interest and overview of this problem as has been demonstrated by this committee in the past. We are not just trying to pass out bouquets. We feel that this is an area which is terribly important. It is one-third of the total Federal budget, for one thing.