

Representative GRIFFITHS. Who was the contractor you are mentioning?

Mr. STAATS. I do not know. I do not believe it was mentioned in the report.

Mr. BAILEY. No.

Mr. STAATS. We have cited these as illustrations.

Representative GRIFFITHS. I don't think it is any problem to find out who the contractor was, if you know all those facts, so would you supply it? In how many instances on this was this a subsidiary and parent company, or some other such arrangement, or vice versa?

Mr. STAATS. We would have no difficulty, I think, in supplying that information. However, Mrs. Griffiths, in supplying the names of contractors, we do not like to do this without giving them an opportunity to comment on our findings.

Representative GRIFFITHS. You supply them. We will invite them all in to explain what they were doing.

Mr. STAATS. We do not think that it is in the interests of the Government or the interests of the Congress to present only one side of a question. Our position here with respect to the contractor is exactly the same as it is with respect to an agency of the Government.

If we are submitting a report on the OEO or any other Government agency, we supply the Congress with their rebuttal. Now, we are not infallible. Sometimes we make mistakes.

Representative GRIFFITHS. If they do not respond to your inquiry, then they are home free; is that right?

Mr. STAATS. If they do not respond to the inquiry, then we go ahead and submit the name anyway.

Representative GRIFFITHS. I see. How long are we going to have to wait?

Mr. STAATS. We give them the opportunity.

(Further information relating to the preceding discussion was subsequently received and appears below:)

COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D.C., January 18, 1968.

B-140389.

HON. WILLIAM PROXMIRE,
Chairman, Joint Economic Committee,
Congress of the United States.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: At the hearings held November 27, 1967, before your Subcommittee on Economy in Government, a question was raised as to the identity of the contractors included in our review of the practice of leasing land and buildings used almost exclusively in the performance of Government contracts.

We are presently receiving contractors' comments on our draft report which will be considered in the preparation of our report to the Congress. We plan to issue our report about the end of March at which time we expect to be in a position to furnish you with the contractors' names.

At the hearings we were also questioned as to whether there was any company or other type of affiliation between the lessors and the lessees. We are presently examining into this matter and expect to furnish you with any information we shall obtain at the same time.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ELMER B. STAATS,
Comptroller General of the United States.