

ing with them on the audits in the GAO work that led to the development of the report. This takes a period of months, sometimes years. I serve on the Military Operations Subcommittee of the Government Operations Committee.

Mr. STAATS. Yes; I know.

Representative RUMSFELD. And I happen to disagree with the subcommittee report you referred to and issued dissenting views. I won't go back into that. But, the cold hard facts are, you have been dealing with these people daily to get the information you are commenting on. It certainly would not come as any great surprise or require any long period of months for them to be made aware that their name would be in the report. I am concerned, because I look at the GAO reports and they are sterile. They really don't deal with the problem.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Can you give us a notion of the timing, because as I understand it, and I understand your position very well, and there is a lot of logic to what you say, you feel that you would like to make these reports as promptly and freshly as you can to the Congress, when they are fresh and the information is appropriate and timely, so you can take timely action.

You say after the report has been made, even though you have been dealing with the contractors, after the report has been made, the contractors should have an opportunity to comment on it before their names are disclosed.

Now, what is a reasonable period of time for them to see the report, and I understand the timing on this, on the assumption, No. 1, which you would like to do, is to make the report to this committee and other committees as soon as it is fresh.

Then, No. 2, if the committee desires to know the names of the contractors, or if you desire to disclose their names, you give the contractors an opportunity to read the report, and I can see that might take a few days. I cannot understand why it would take a matter of months or longer.

Mr. STAATS. I don't think it is a matter of months, Mr. Chairman. I think in this case I would be greatly surprised if we would need more than 3 or 4 weeks, but I do think that it is impossible to release the list of contractors here without making it perfectly apparent who the contractors are and the cases which are——

Chairman PROXMIRE. In this case you gave as a draft of the report last May, is that right?

Mr. STAATS. That is right. We have had the report before the Defense Department——

Chairman PROXMIRE. Why hasn't this been cleared with the contractors?

Mr. STAATS. We hadn't really thought it was necessary to the point, because the objection of the report was to report on the Defense Department's administration of this area.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Who are you supposed to be representing, the taxpayers of the country or the contractors?

Mr. STAATS. We are, I hope, representing the taxpayers and the Congress of the United States.

Representative GRIFFITHS. So do I. I mean what is really wrong with knowing who these people are and what they are doing?