

whatever version of the "Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1967" that may be enacted.

Title IX provides for the uniform acquisition of real property for Federal and federally assisted programs. Under section 902, applicable to Federal programs, and section 905, applicable to federally assisted programs, the acquisition of real property is to be made at not less than the fair value of such property as determined by the agency head, but there may be a question as to whether the provisions of section 901 offer sufficiently definite criteria for establishing the value of such property to be acquired. Section 903(c), applicable to Federal programs, provides certain criteria for establishing fair value for buildings, structures, and improvements. Section 905(b)(2), applicable to federally assisted programs, provides that decreases in value of the property attributable to the public improvements will be disregarded, but is silent with respect to disregarding increases in value of the property attributable to the public improvement.

Sincerely yours,

ELMER B. STAATS,
Comptroller General of the United States.

[Enclosure]

COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D.C., January 24, 1964.

Hon. EDMUND S. MUSKIE,

Chairman, Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations, Committee on Government Operations, U.S. Senate.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your letter of January 15, 1964, requesting detailed information on questions arising from conflicting testimony presented at your Subcommittee's hearings on Senate bill 2114. The conflicting testimony, presented by representatives of several executive departments, concerns the impact on the General Accounting Office of Senator Karl E. Mundt's proposed amendment to Senate bill 2114.

As stated by our Mr. Arthur Schoenhaut, in his testimony before the Subcommittee on January 14, 1964, except for certain time provisions for reporting, we do not view the proposed amendment as imposing any requirements on our Office in addition to those we believe now exist for reporting to the Congress on the results of our reviews of Government programs, including Federal grant-in-aid programs. Reviews of grant-in-aid programs by our Office are made pursuant to the Budget and Accounting Act, 1921 (31 U.S.C. 53), and the Accounting and Auditing Act of 1950 (31 U.S.C. 67). Under these statutes, we have been making reviews of grant-in-aid programs and have been reporting to the Congress and its committees on the results of these reviews, both as part of our regular audit work and pursuant to specific requests from congressional committees.

During his testimony, Mr. Schoenhaut invited the attention of the Subcommittee to a listing of 90 reports which have been made by this Office to the Congress over the last five years covering a wide variety of subjects concerning various grant-in-aid programs. In response to the question raised in your letter of January 15, 1964, as to the extent to which studies, reports, and recommendations of the General Accounting Office—under our existing authority—have gone beyond financial, administrative, and management matters and have suggested changes of a substantive or policy nature, we have compiled, and are enclosing herewith, a summary of selected significant findings and recommendations included in these 90 reports on grant-in-aid programs. These findings and recommendations deal with matters related to basic concepts of particular grant programs, which were called to the attention of the Congress and the Federal agencies involved for consideration as to whether these matters were consonant with the intended purpose and direction of the grant programs. We have reported findings and recommendations of a similar nature on many other Federal programs, but we have limited the enclosed compilation to those of particular interest to your Subcommittee—that is, those involving grant-in-aid programs.

Witnesses appearing before your Subcommittee on behalf of executive departments of the Government presented testimony relating to Senator Mundt's amendment which indicated, generally, that the amendment would require the Comptroller General to (1) depart significantly from his historical function and present responsibilities, (2) make continuing reviews of grant-in-aid programs, which are unnecessary (particularly with respect to the Federal-aid highway program), (3) evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency, and economical administra-