

June 11, 1951

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June 13, 1951*

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 10253

PROVIDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE WORK OF
FEDERAL EXECUTIVE AGENCIES WITH RESPECT
TO STATISTICAL INFORMATION

By virtue of the authority vested in me by Section 103 of the Budget and Accounting Procedures Act of 1950 (31 U.S.C. 13b), and as President of the United States, and in order to carry out the purposes of said section, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. The Director of the Bureau of the Budget (hereinafter referred to as the Director) shall develop programs, and issue regulations and orders, for the improved gathering, compiling, analyzing, publishing, and disseminating of statistical information for any purpose by the various agencies in the executive branch of the Federal Government.

Section 2. In order to carry out the provisions of Section 1 of this order, the Director shall maintain a continuing study for the improvement of the statistical work of the agencies in the executive branch of the Federal Government with a view to obtaining the maximum benefit from the funds and facilities available for such work, giving due consideration to the constantly changing character of the various needs for statistical information both within and without the Government, and where the statistical work is primarily concerned with operating programs, giving due consideration to administrative needs, statutory requirements, and the needs involved in the development of administrative and legislative recommendations. The Director, either upon his own initiative or upon the request of any such agency, shall (a) provide for the interchange of information calculated to improve statistical work, (b) make appropriate arrangements for improving statistical work involving relationships between two or more agencies, and (c) assist the agencies, by other means, to improve their statistical work.

Section 3. The following shall be included among the objectives sought in carrying out the provisions of Section 1 hereof:

- (a) To achieve an adequate program of statistical work in the agencies of the executive branch, in relation to over-all needs for statistical information, including the filling of gaps and overcoming of weaknesses in presently available statistical information.
- (b) To achieve the most effective use of resources available for statistical work by the agencies, in relation to over-all needs.
- (c) To minimize the burden upon those furnishing statistical data needed by the various Federal agencies.
- (d) To improve the reliability and timeliness of statistical information.
- (e) To achieve maximum comparability among the several statistical series and studies.

(OVER)

(f) To improve the presentation of statistical information and of explanations regarding the sources and reliability of such information, and regarding the limitations on the uses that can appropriately be made of it.

Section 4. Regulations and orders issued pursuant to Section 1 hereof shall be signed by the Director. When so signed, such regulations and orders shall require no further approval and shall be adhered to by all agencies in the executive branch. Any such regulation or order may pertain to a single agency, a group of agencies, or all agencies in the executive branch.

Section 5. In the development of programs and the preparation of regulations and orders for issuance pursuant to Section 1 hereof, the Director shall consult Federal agencies whose activities will be substantially affected, and may consult non-Federal groups to the extent he finds it necessary to carry out the purposes of this order.

Section 6. The authority outlined in this order is in addition to and not in substitution for the existing authority of the Director, or of the Bureau of the Budget, with respect to statistical and reporting activities. To the extent, however, that this order conflicts with any previous Executive order affecting statistical or reporting activities, the provisions of this order shall control.

Section 7. Nothing in this Executive order shall be construed to apply to the obtaining or releasing of information by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Bureau of the Public Debt, the Bureau of Accounts, and the Division of Foreign Assets Control of the Treasury Department, or to the obtaining by any Federal bank supervisory agency of reports and information from banks as provided or authorized by law and in the proper performance of such agency's functions in its supervisory capacity.

HARRY S. TRUMAN

THE WHITE HOUSE,

June 11, 1951.

EXCERPTS FROM THE
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD--In the Appendix

October 10, 1950

Excerpt from "Legislative Record of the
Second Session, Eighty-first Congress"--

by Mr. Lucas.

p. A7552.

Budgeting and Accounting Procedures Act
of 1950

H. R. 9038: This act provides for modernizing budget and accounting procedures, to supplement the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921 advocated by the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government, under a joint and continuous program designed to bring about improvement of accounting and financial reporting in the Government by the Comptroller General, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of the Bureau of the Budget. (Public Law 784. Approved September 12, 1950.)

Excerpt from "Liv Record in the 81st Congress." --

by Mr. Tolverton.

September 23, 1950.

pp. A7312-A7313.

ment. Another measure of signal importance drafted by our committee is the Budget and Accounting Procedures Act of 1950. This is now on the books as Public Law 784. It is one of the most constructive laws which the Eighty-first Congress passed. Public Law 784 reorganizes the budgeting and bookkeeping of the Federal Government so that the budget, accounting, and auditing systems of our governmental departments are brought into line and up-to-date with modern, sound, commercial practices. I have long fought for and favored this accomplishment. I should like to emphasize, in passing, that this act repealed, in whole or in part, 106 provisions of existing law which were outmoded and obsolete. I think it fair to say it is a special tribute to the House Committee on Expenditures to record that competent nonpartisan observers of the current reorganization program—e. g., Dr. Robert L. Johnson, president of Temple University, and chairman of the Citizens' Committee for the Hoover Report—have stated that this is the best reorganization record of any Congress in history.

Excerpt from "Summary of Legislation
Enacted by 91st Congress." --

by Lr. Wherry.

September 23, 1950.

p. A7249.

**Budget and Accounting Procedures Act
of 1950**

(Public Law 784, Approved September 12,
1950)

Stemming from Hoover Commission recommendations seeking to modernize the Federal budgeting and accounting system, this measure provides the framework for bringing the budgeting, accounting, and auditing procedures up to date.

Excerpt from "Legislative Accomplishments
of the Congress From Jan. 3 to Sept. 22."--
by Mr. Lucas.

September 23, 1950.

p. A7242.

*Budgeting and Accounting Procedures Act
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Excerpt from report on "Record of the
Eighty-first Congress." --
by Mr. McCormack.

September 23, 1950

pg. 15903.

Obsolete Federal budgeting and accounting methods, some of them handovers from the days of Alexander Hamilton, were overhauled to conform with modern business practices. Under the Budgeting and Accounting Procedures Act a uniform system of Federal accounting was set up. This reform alone is estimated to save \$20,000,000 a year.

The modern, performance-type budget, adopted in this current fiscal year sets out clearly and graphically for the first time the amounts of appropriations and explains the purposes of each.

Excerpt from activities report of the
House Expenditures Committee.--
by Mr. Langer.

September 23, 1950

pg. 47151.

Another measure of signal importance drafted by our committee is the "Budget and Accounting Procedures Act of 1950." In my opinion this is the most constructive and remedial law which the Eighty-first Congress has had the opportunity to act upon. This is now known as Public Law 784.

Briefly, it may be stated that Public Law 784 reorganizes the budgeting and bookkeeping of the Federal Government. It will be recalled that 29 years ago the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921 went into effect. During the interim period many studies and surveys have been undertaken to bring this legislation up to date; more adaptable to modern day circumstances. The tremendous growth of our Government in the last 30 years dictated the necessity for improving and renovating budget and accounting methods. The Budget and Accounting Act of 1950 is aimed at providing the Government and the taxpayer with accurate and complete information as to revenues received and expenditures made by the Government in its operations. Public Law 784 carries out substantially all of the suggestions in these fields of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government. In this fashion, the budget, accounting, and auditing systems, procedures, and techniques will be brought into line with

sound commercial and governmental practices and resultant better control over all Federal funds.

Laudable teamwork by the General Accounting Office, Treasury Department, and the Bureau of the Budget furnished the basis for the studies which produced this epochal public law, so well received on all sides.

This Public Law 784 marks a new high in legislative and executive cooperation for a common goal. In addition to a modernized "performance budget" program, this act provides that the Comptroller General shall prescribe the principles, standards, and related requirements for accounting in the executive branch. The auditing of Federal Government financial transactions, will continue to be the responsibility of the Comptroller General of the United States as an agent of the Congress. It can be noted in passing, that this act repealed in whole or in part 106 provisions of existing law now obsolete or outmoded. On the agenda of the committee H. R. 5178 and H. R. 5623 dealt with similar and related subject matter.