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A REPORT ON THE AMOUNT AND FREQUENCY OF RESCISSIONS PROPOSED AND ENACTED

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL, THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

TRANSMITTING

AN UPDATED REPORT ON THE PREVIOUS COMPILATION OF HISTORICAL INFORMATION AND STATISTICS REGARDING RESCISSIONS PROPOSED BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND RESCISSIONS ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS THROUGH OCTOBER 1, 1998

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Comptroller General
of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20548

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November 17, 1998

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In order to keep the Congress apprised of the amount and frequency of rescissions proposed and enacted we have updated our previous compilation of historical information and statistics regarding rescissions proposed by the executive branch and rescissions enacted by the Congress through October 1, 1998. These statistics were prepared in accordance with the same scope and methodology used in compiling our previous tables.

I trust you will find this information useful.

Sincerely yours,

Comptroller General
of the United States

Enclosures - 2

ENCLOSURE I

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AND ENACTED RESCISSIONS
FISCAL YEARS 1974 – 1998

(All legislative action through October 1, 1998)

Fiscal year	Rescissions proposed by president	Dollar amount proposed by president for rescission	Proposals accepted by Congress	Dollar amount of proposals enacted by Congress	Rescissions initiated by Congress	Dollar amount of rescissions initiated by Congress	Total rescissions enacted	Total dollar amount of budget authority rescinded
1998	25	$25,280,000	21	$17,276,000	43	$4,180,814,234	64	$4,198,090,234
1997	10	407,111,000	6	285,111,000	96	7,381,253,000	102	7,666,364,000
1996	24	1,425,900,000	8	963,400,000	104	4,974,852,131	112	5,938,252,131
1995	29	1,199,824,000	25	845,388,805	248	18,868,380,121	273	19,713,768,926
1994	65	3,172,180,000	45	1,293,478,546	81	2,374,416,284	126	3,667,894,830
1993	7	356,000,000	4	206,250,000	74	2,205,336,643	78	2,411,586,643
1992	128	7,879,473,890	26	2,067,546,000	131	22,526,953,054	157	24,594,499,054
1991	30	4,859,251,000	8	286,419,000	26	1,420,467,000	34[1]	1,706,886,000
1990	11	554,258,000	0	0	71	2,304,986,000	71	2,304,986,000
1989	6	143,100,000	1	2,053,000	11	325,913,000	12	327,966,000
1988	0	0	0	0	61	3,888,663,000	61	3,888,663,000
1987	73	5,835,800,000	2	36,000,000	52	12,359,390,675	54	12,395,390,675
1986	83	10,126,900,000	4	143,210,000	7	5,409,410,000	11	5,552,620,000
1985	245	1,856,087,000	98	173,699,000	12	5,458,621,000	110	5,632,320,000
Subtotal: 1985- 1998	**736**	**$37,941,144,690**	**248**	**$6,319,831,351**	**1,017**	**$93,679,456,142**	**1,265**	**$99,999,287,493**
Subtotal: 1974- 1984	**436**	**$38,018,165,000**	**211**	**$18,670,073,366**	**111**	**$11,215,221,347**	**322**	**$29,885,294,713**
Grand Total: 1974- 1998	**1,172**	**$75,959,309,690**	**459**	**$24,989,904,717**	**1,128**	**$104,894,677,489**	**1,587**	**$129,884,582,206**[2]

[1] The Military Construction Appropriations Act of 1991 approved certain rescissions approved by the President in 1990 41 days after the funds were released for obligation under the Impoundment Control Act. Presidential rescission proposals R90-4, R90-5, and R90-10 totalling about $41 million were not approved.

[2] The total estimate of budget authority rescinded is understated. This table does not include rescissions which eliminate an indefinite amount of budget authority.

ENCLOSURE I

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AND ENACTED RESCISSIONS
FISCAL YEARS 1974 – 1998
(continued)
(All legislative action through October 1, 1998)

Fiscal year	Rescissions proposed by president	Dollar amount proposed by president for rescission	Proposals accepted by Congress	Dollar amount of proposals enacted by Congress	Rescissions initiated by Congress	Dollar amount of rescissions initiated by Congress	Total rescissions enacted	Total dollar amount of budget authority rescinded
1984	9	$636,400,000	3	$55,375,000	7	$2,188,689,000	10	$2,244,064,000
1983	21	1,569,000,000	0	0	11	310,805,000	11	310,805,000
1982	32	7,907,400,000	5	4,365,486,000	5	48,432,000	10	4,413,918,000
1981	133	15,361,900,000	101[3]	10,880,935,550	43	3,736,490,600	144	14,617,426,150
1980	59	1,818,100,000	34	777,696,446	33	3,238,206,100	67	4,015,902,546
1979	11	908,700,000	9	723,609,000	1	47,500,000	10	771,109,000
1978	12	1,290,100,000	5	518,655,000	4	67,164,000	9	585,819,000
1977	20	1,926,930,000	9	813,690,000	3	172,722,943	12	986,412,943
1976	50	3,582,000,000	7	148,331,000	0	0	7	148,331,000
1975	87	2,722,000,000	38	386,295,370	1	4,999,704	39	391,295,074
1974	2	495,635,000	0	0	3	1,400,412,000	3	1,400,412,000
Subtotal: 1974- 1984	436	$38,018,165,000	211	$18,670,073,366	111	$11,215,221,347	322	$29,885,294,713[4]

[3] Thirty-three rescissions proposed by President Carter and totalling over $1.1 billion are not included in this table. These rescission proposals were converted to deferrals by President Reagan in his Fifth Special Message for Fiscal Year 1981 dated February 13, 1981.

[4] The total estimate of budget authority is understated. This table does not include rescissions which eliminate an indefinite amount of budget authority.

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ENCLOSURE II

RESCISSIONS BY PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE IMPOUNDMENT CONTROL ACT

Fiscal Year	Rescissions proposed by President Clinton		Presidential proposals accepted by Congress			Rescissions Initiated by Congress During Clinton Administration	
	Number	Dollar Amount	Number Accepted	Dollar Amount	Percent Accepted	Number	Dollar Amount
1998	25	$25,260,000	21	$17,276,000	84	43	$4,180,814,234
1997	10	407,111,000	6	285,111,000	60	96	7,381,253,000
1996	24	1,425,900,000	8	963,400,000	33	104	4,974,852,131
1995	29	1,199,824,000	25	845,388,805	86	248	18,868,380,121
1994	65	3,172,180,000	45	1,293,478,546	69	81	2,374,416,284
1993	7	356,000,000	4	206,250,000	57	66	1,962,511,000
TOTAL	**160**	**$6,586,275,000**	**109**	**$3,610,904,351**	**68**	**638**	**$39,742,226,770**

Fiscal Year	Rescissions proposed by President Bush		Presidential proposals accepted by Congress			Rescissions Initiated by Congress During Bush Administration	
	Number	Dollar Amount	Number Accepted	Dollar Amount	Percent Accepted	Number	Dollar Amount
1993	0	$0	0	$0	0	8	$242,825,643
1992	128	7,879,473,690	26	2,067,546,000	20	131	22,526,953,054
1991	30	4,859,251,000	8	286,419,000	27	26	1,420,467,000
1990	11	554,258,000	0	0	0	71	2,304,986,000
1989	0	0	0	0	0	11	325,913,000
TOTAL	**169**	**$13,292,982,690**	**34**	**$2,353,965,000**	**20**	**247**	**$ 26,821,144,697**

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RESCISSIONS BY PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE IMPOUNDMENT CONTROL ACT
(continued)

Fiscal Year	Rescissions proposed by President Reagan		Presidential proposals accepted by Congress			Rescissions Initiated by Congress During Reagan Administration	
	Number	Dollar Amount	Number Accepted	Dollar Amount	Percent Accepted	Number	Dollar Amount
1989	6	$143,100,000	1	$2,053,000	17	0	$0
1988	0	0	0	0	0	61	3,888,663,000
1987	73	5,835,800,000	2	36,000,000	3	52	12,359,390,675
1986	83	10,126,900,000	4	143,210,000	5	7	5,409,410,000
1985	245	1,856,087,000	98	173,699,000	40	12	5,458,621,000
1984	9	636,400,000	3	55,375,000	33	7	2,188,689,000
1983	21	1,569,000,000	0	0	0	11	310,605,000
1982	32	7,907,400,000	5	4,365,486,000	16	5	48,432,000
1981	133	15,361,900,000	101	10,880,935,550	76	43	3,736,490,600
TOTAL	**602**	**$43,436,587,000**	**214**	**$15,656,758,550**	**36**	**198**	**$33,400,301,275**

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RESCISSIONS BY PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE IMPOUNDMENT CONTROL ACT
(continued)

Fiscal Year	Rescissions proposed by President Carter		Presidential proposals accepted by Congress			Rescissions Initiated by Congress During the Carter Administration	
	Number	Dollar Amount	Number Accepted	Dollar Amount	Percent Accepted	Number	Dollar Amount
1981	33	$1,142,364,000	0	$0	0	0	$0
1980	59	1,618,100,000	34	777,696,446	58	33	3,238,206,100
1979	11	908,700,000	9	723,609,000	82	1	47,500,000
1978	12	1,290,100,000	5	518,655,000	42	4	67,184,000
1977	7	791,552,000	2	96,090,000	29	3	172,722,943
TOTAL	**89**	**$4,608,452,000**	**50**	**$2,116,050,446**	**56**	**41**	**$3,525,593,043**

Note: The 33 rescissions proposed in 1981 by President Carter were converted to deferrals by President Reagan in his Fifth Special Message of Fiscal Year 1981, dated February 13, 1981.

Fiscal Year	Rescissions proposed by President Ford		Presidential proposals accepted by Congress			Rescissions Initiated by Congress During Ford Administration	
	Number	Dollar Amount	Number Accepted	Dollar Amount	Percent Accepted	Number	Dollar Amount
1977	13	$1,135,378,000	7	$717,600,000	54	0	$0
1976	50	3,582,000,000	7	148,331,000	14	0	0
1975	87	2,722,000,000	38	386,295,370	44	1	4,999,704
1974	2	495,635,000	0	0	0	3	1,400,412,000
TOTAL	**152**	**$7,935,013,000**	**52**	**$1,252,226,370**	**34**	**4**	**$1,405,411,704**