



COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

9694

B-118622  
CED9-222

April 2, 1979

The Honorable Russell B. Long  
Chairman, Committee on Finance  
United States Senate

SEN 04100

Dear Mr. Chairman:

[Section 303 of]

Your committee currently has ~~under consideration a bill, S. 463, which would be cited as the Sugar Stabilization Act of 1979~~ Section 303 of the bill would require all persons engaged in the sugar and sweetener industry to furnish the Secretary of Agriculture with the information he deems necessary to enable him to administer the provisions of the act. Section 303 also states:

AB 200042

"All information required to be furnished to the Secretary under this section shall be kept confidential by all officers and employees of the Department of Agriculture."

We believe that this provision should not affect the General Accounting Office's right of access to any data collected by the Department. Our Office has had problems in the past, however, in obtaining access to such types of data. To insure that our Office would have ready access to such data, we request that appropriate qualifying language be placed in Section 303. This could be accomplished by adding the following proviso to the confidentiality provision:

Provided that all information obtained by the Secretary pursuant to this section shall be made available, upon request, to the Comptroller General or his delegates or employees, who shall keep such information confidential.

Sincerely yours,

Deputy Comptroller General  
of the United States

3 addresses

letter

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COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

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April 2, 1979

The Honorable Charles A. Vanik  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Trade  
Committee on Ways and Means  
House of Representatives

*XSE0405*

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Your subcommittee currently has under consideration a bill, H.R. 2172, which would be cited as the International Sugar Stabilization Act of 1979. Section 403 of the bill would require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct cost of production and other studies he deems necessary to enable him to administer the provisions of the act. Subpart (e) of Section 403 states:

"CONFIDENTIALITY--All information that is required to be furnished to the Secretary under this section and that relates to the separate operations of the person providing the information shall be kept confidential by all officers and employees of the Department of Agriculture."

We believe that this provision should not affect the General Accounting Office's right of access to any data collected by the Department. Our Office has had problems in the past, however, in obtaining access to such types of data. To insure that our Office would have ready access to such data, we request that appropriate qualifying language be placed in Section 403(e). This could be accomplished by adding the following proviso to the confidentiality provision.

Provided that all information obtained by the Secretary pursuant to this section shall be made available, upon request, to the Comptroller General or his delegates or employees, who shall keep such information confidential.

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A similar letter is being sent to the Chairman, House  
Committee on Agriculture.

Sincerely yours,

  
Deputy Comptroller General  
of the United States



COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

B-118622

~~CE99-221~~

April 2, 1979

The Honorable Thomas S. Foley  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture  
House of Representatives

*AXSE-00700*

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Your Committee currently has under consideration a bill, H.R. 2172, which would be cited as the International Sugar Stabilization Act of 1979. Section 403 of the bill would require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct cost of production and other studies he deems necessary to enable him to administer the provisions of the act. Subpart (e) of Section 403 states:

"CONFIDENTIALITY--All information that is required to be furnished to the Secretary under this section and that relates to the separate operations of the person providing the information shall be kept confidential by all officers and employees of the Department of Agriculture."

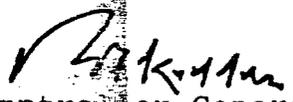
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A similar letter is being sent to the Chairman,  
Subcommittee on Trade, House Committee on Ways and Means.

Sincerely yours,

  
Deputy Comptroller General  
of the United States