

WARREN URGES SAVING MONEY FOR GOVERNMENT

Comptroller General Cites Examples for Congressmen Where Savings Are Possible

Congress knows little about the General Accounting Office, presided over by Comptroller General Lindsay Warren. It often forgets that this office has pointed the way to huge eliminations of Government waste. In fact this is what it was set up to do.

Mr. Warren last week called attention of Congressmen and Senators to some of the important phases of this office. He said:

My dear Senator:

A few years ago, during a conversation with several Members of Congress, I was amazed to learn how little information Congress as a whole had about the General Accounting Office and its place in our Government. At the suggestion of those Members I sent a short letter to the Congress pointing out certain facts about the Office which I thought every Member would want to know. Since that time, I have sent a similar letter at the beginning of each new Congress. That is the reason for this letter which requires no reply.

The General Accounting Office is in the Legislative branch. It is the agency of the Congress to audit and settle accounts and claims of the Government, and to advise and assist the Congress and the departments and agencies on matters relating to public expenditures. The Comptroller General is appointed for a term of 15 years and cannot be reappointed. He can be removed from office only by the Congress.

I have said on a number of occasions, and I have no hesitancy in repeating it at this time of intense discussion of budgets and expenditures, there is not a department or agency in the Government that cannot reduce the number of its employees, providing there is a will to do so. It is not an easy job, even if you have the will, but I think the results we have achieved in the GAO without any mandate from the Congress furnish ample proof that it can be done. In April 1946, the number of our employees reached a peak of 14,904. There were 6,204 employees on January 1, 1953. This is a reduction of 8,700 or nearly 60% in the last seven years. Of this number, 779 were transferred to the Post Office Department.

Our accomplishments in reducing personnel have been brought about by constant surveys of our work and the elimination of procedures which serve no useful purpose under present-day conditions. In cases where changes were needed, but legal obstacles precluded them, we asked and received from the Congress revisions in the law. In bringing about changes we have always tried to make sure there would be no loss of control of public funds. There has not been. In fact, the revised procedures are enabling the GAO and the Government generally to do a far more competent job.

I know statistics are dull but these will give some idea of the volume of our work last year: 21,000,000 vouchers audited; 508,000 claims settled; 264,000,000 checks reconciled; 12,000 decisions rendered to departments, agencies, claimants and others; inspections made by investigators of 691 different Government offices; 28 audit reports submitted to the Congress, including reports of 1951 audits of all Government corporations; work on accounting systems done in nearly every department and agency of the Government; 820 reports made to the Congress and its committees; and 3,500 replies made to individual members of Congress.

The GAO has continued to make collections of amounts illegally or otherwise improperly paid out far in excess of the cost of operating the Office. The GAO is one of the few agencies in the Government that more than pays its way. Col-

lections from 1941 through December 31, 1952 total over \$816,000,000. It is a fair statement to say that little of this amount would have ever been recovered, except for the work of the GAO. Naturally, I am proud of this record. But, I feel of greater importance is the work the Office is doing to prevent illegal or improvident use of funds by the improvement of accounting and auditing throughout the Government.

In the past few years the GAO has placed a great deal of emphasis on the joint program of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Director, Bureau of the Budget, and the Comptroller General for the improvement of accounting, budgeting, financial reporting and auditing in the Government. Equal emphasis has been placed on the adoption by the GAO of comprehensive and other on-site audits of the departments and agencies. The concepts of these two programs were unanimously adopted by the Congress in the Budget and Accounting Procedures Act of 1950. Remarkable results are being achieved. Although we who are working with the programs every day know we are just commencing to get beneath the surface of many of the problems involved, actual savings already accomplished run into millions of dollars each year. In addition, improved efficiency of operations in the accounting and auditing fields, which cannot always be estimated dollar-wise, has been of great significance.

With the tremendous growth of Government activities and their supporting appropriations, we in the GAO are keenly aware of the financial problems facing the Congress. The magnitude of expenditures makes it of utmost importance that the Government seek every possible means of obtaining full value for each taxpayer's dollar spent. In our work, we are making an all-out effort to create a greater cost consciousness on the part of every department, agency, and bureau. This goes not only to keeping the public spending within the laws enacted by the Congress, but to exposing or better yet preventing extravagances which, although legal, cannot be tolerated under present-day conditions. Yet you and I both know that economy in government cannot be accomplished by any one agency or individual. Each and every officer and employee of the Government and each and every citizen must make his contribution, for real results can only be achieved through a day-by-day, continuing attack by all of us.

Sincerely yours,
LINDSAY WARREN,
Comptroller General
of the United States

BATTLE (Continued from Page One)

owned by Stockard and Company provided one of the many very human interest stories of the sinkings. Ripped open by a torpedo north of Cape Lookout and near Core Banks on March 11, the little Caribsea sank in less than two minutes.

Ocracoke-born Jim Baugham Gaskill, mate aboard the vessel, had told his skipper that he was tired and thought he would turn in at the end of his watch instead of remaining on the bridge to see the glow of Ocracoke Light on his native island which was soon to come in view. The Caribsea never raised Ocracoke light that night, and Gaskill and all the crew, except the five on watch including the skipper, were lost.

The Atlantic Refining Company tanker John D. Gill was torpedoed off Cape Fear on March 12 and three days later a Socony Vacuum tanker, the Ario, got between Lookout and Hatteras.

Hatteras Incident

Next day, after the Ario, the Texas Company's 11,682-ton Australia was attacked in broad daylight and crippled so badly she began sinking within sight of the Cape here.

Before she finally sank beneath the quicksands of Diamond Shoals several days later, Hatteras fishermen went aboard the ship and started salvaging various types of gear ranging from hawsers and cables to foods and paints. They were doing what their ancestors were famous for doing when ships were wrecked along this coast.

The modern day wreckers ran into difficulty however, when they carried their gear to Norfolk for selling. Wrecking was not the same as it had been in days gone by, and especially during early World War-II days. Coast Guard, Customs, Navy, and the Department of Justice made much of the salvaging operation by the Hatterasmen, and the Hatterasmen profited little for their efforts and work.

On the same day the Australia was torpedoed, another ship, the San Demetrio was sunk off the Virginia Capes.

Greek Freighter Sunk

A ship flying the colors of Greece, the Cassandra Louloudis, was torpedoed in the same general area off Cape Hatteras where another Greek, the Tzeny Chandris had broken up and gone to the bottom five years earlier.

The Tzeny Chandris was one of the dozens of ships which hauled scrap iron to North Sea ports prior to the War, from the new port of Morehead City. In those days as the scrap metal left More-

head City for "ports" on the North Sea, there were many prognosticators who opined that it would be only a matter of time until the metal made into bullets would be coming back at us, which no doubt was the case as Hitler tried to take over in the early 40's, doing a good job of it for awhile. The Tzeny Chandris disaster made big headlines in the newspapers, but the Cassandra Louloudis got hardly a mention because of war-time censorship.

More Tankers Hit

The E. M. Clark, another Standard tanker, was sent to the bottom off Ocracoke on March 18 not far from the location of the Pa-poose and W. E. Hutton sinkings on the same date in the general area of Cape Lookout. On the 19th the sulphur laden Lykes Brothers Liberator was hit near Diamond Shoals, a total loss for ship and cargo but most of her crew were rescued and landed first at Ocracoke and then in Morehead City for briefing.

Only half of the Standard tanker Esso Nashville went to the bottom when decapitated by a torpedo between Cape Fear and Cape Lookout. Her afterhalf with cargo still intact was towed into Morehead City. Later, the stern, relieved of its cargo was taken to a northern port, welded to another half ship and was hauling wartime cargoes before it was all over.

The Naeco, Dixie Arrow and Tiger were three more tankers sent to the bottom before the end of March, and a tug boat with three barges into got it between Cape Henry and Cape May during the same month.

Off Nags Head during late March of 1942 the Panamanian freighter Equipoise was attacked and sunk in less than 300 feet of water. Her cargo of manganese ore may in time be salvaged according to stories from Washington some time ago.

April Warfare

It was not until April of 1942 that our offensive forces made a score. On the 14th, the USS Roper, a destroyer sailing south off Nags Head contacted and killed the U-85, between Oregon Inlet and Wimble Shoals. That brought a slight turn in events, despite the fact that during April along the mid-Atlantic Capes, the following ships were lost:

David D. Atwater, Ortho, Byron Benson, British Splendour, Lansing, Atlas, Malchase, Tamaulipas, San Delfine, Ulysses, Empire Thrush, Rio Blanco, Alcoa Guide, Desert Light, Empire Drum and Chemango. More millions in ships and cargoes, and more heavy loss of lives.

Only a few ships were sunk during May. The Lady Drake was sunk on May 5 off Oregon Inlet. The Senator Duhamel, a British armed trawler was a casualty during the month, but not as result of enemy submarine. It was rammed by one of our destroyers and sunk off Cape Lookout.

May 9th was a lucky day off Cape Lookout. On that day the CG Icarus sank the German submarine U-352.

Mystery sinking of the month involved the HMS Bedfordshire. On convoy duty between Morehead City and the net enclosed anchorage at Cape Lookout, and the Virginia Capes, the Bedfordshire was returning to the Carteret coast during mid-May when last heard from. The vessel's name plate washed ashore on Core Banks several days later. No one survived, but bodies found floating at sea or washing ashore along the Outer Banks and as far inland as Swan Quarter Bay were definitely identified by Naval Intelligence as members of this little British warships' crew. Among the bodies was that of Sub-Lieutenant Thomas Cunningham who with some of his shipmates are buried on Ocracoke Island.

Largest ship sunk during June of '42 was the William Rockefeller, a Standard tanker, shortly after she had left the Hatteras-Ocracoke minefield anchorage. Other ships lost during the month of June included the Santore, Ljubica Matkovic, Nardal, Manuela and the Moldanger. After mid-summer less than a score of ships were sunk off North Carolina until the War ended in 1945—that was because our offensive forces, surface and aircraft began successful operations, and also because of the Axis Powers were learning that the United States was taking an important role in the global warfare.

AUTHORITY (Continued from Page One)

offered to pay any expenses involved in putting the proposal before the legislature, such as attorney fees.

Although Avalon Beach, within the Kill Devil Hills area, has its own building restrictions, residents of that section who are eligible to do so have been as quick to sign the petition as any other persons living in the community, Mr. Lewark said.

POLIO (Continued from Page One)

Scientific research programs sponsored by the National Foundation are financed entirely by the March of Dimes. This annual appeal is now on and will be continued until Jan. 31.

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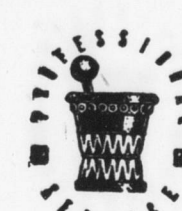
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