Year	Month	Recipient	Reason
1975	3	National Science Foundation	For squandering $84,000 to try to find out why people fall in love.
1975	4	National Science Foundation, NASA, and the Office of Naval Research	For spending over $500,000 to determine under what conditions rats, monkeys, and humans bite and clench their jaws.
1975	5	Selective Service System	For a $98,029 contract given to study the all-volunteer army concept in foreign countries two years after an all-volunteer army was adopted by the U.S.
1975	5	Army Corps of Engineers	For an attempt to commit billions of dollars to build a series of new locks and dams on the Mississippi River under a 1909 law designed only for the maintenance, repair, or replacement of existing structures.
1975	6	Congress	For living high off the hog while much of the rest of the country is suffering economic disaster.
1975	7	Bureau of Land Management	For requiring useless paperwork on a contract that resulted in a $4000 piece of equipment costing over $15,000.
1975	8	Federal Aviation Administration	For a $57,800 study of the body measurements of airline stewardess trainees for the purpose of safety equipment.
1975	8	National Institute on Drug Abuse	For spending more than $1 million to probe marijuana effects on sexual arousal, hypnosis, facial expressions of Americans, marijuana use among the Zulus and the use of Qat by the people in the Arabian Peninsula.
1975	9	Department of the Navy	For using 64 aircraft to fly 1334 officers to the Hilton Hotel in Las Vegas for a reunion of a private organization during the height of the energy crisis.
1975	10	National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism	For spending millions of dollars to find out if drunk fish are more aggressive than sober fish, if young rats are more likely than adult rats to drink booze in order to reduce anxiety, and of rats can be systematically turned unto alcoholics.
1975	11	Frank Zarb, Administrator of the Federal Energy Administration	For spending $25,000 and using almost 19,000 gallons of fuel in ten months jetting about the country in chartered aircraft urging businessmen and civic groups to economize on energy resources.

1975	12	The White House	For its efforts to add to its empire through increased funds for consultants, contingencies, travel and high level personnel while calling for austerity from the rest of the government.
Fleece of the Year		Department of the Air Force	For operating a $66 million fleet used solely to transport top government officials at taxpayers expense.
1976	1	National Endowment for the Humanities	For grants to well-heeled doctors, lawyers, and school administrators to attend tuition-free, vacation-like, month-long humanistic bull sessions at some of the choicest university watering holes in the country.
1976	2	Department of the Navy	For exploding an expected $15,000 in repair and maintenance costs for Vice President Rockefeller's temporary home into a $537,000 expenditure for a posh, plush pleasure palace.
1976	3	National Science Foundation	For spending $46,100 to study the effect of scantily clad women on the behavior of Chicago's male drivers.
1976	4	National Aeronautics and Space Administration	For requesting $2.8 million to construct an addition to the existing Lunar Receiving Laboratory at the Johnson Space Center to house 100 pounds of Moon rocks.
1976	5	Federal Aviation Administration	For spending over $417,000 for 95 meteorological instruments so that its employees can make rain predictions while remaining indoors despite the fact that existing instruments perform the same function but must be read outdoors.
1976	6	National Center for Health Services	An examination of over $20 million of their grants and demonstration contracts indicates that routinely they were not completed on time, cost up to five times the original amount, and contained low quality and highly questionable results.
1976	7	National Science Foundation's Research Applied to National Needs program	For awarding a $397,000 contract allegedly to perform an unbiased and scientific study of consumer legislation and services to a principal investigator and research center which have an overwhelming bias in favor of the credit industry.
1976	8	General Services Administration	For spending $1,015,000 for 15 statues, murals, or works of art at federal buildings under the Art in Architecture program.
1976	9	National Aeronautics and Space Administration	For a sole source contract award of $140,000 for a 6,000 word article and a follow-up book-length history of the Viking Mars Landing project.

1976	10	Department of Housing and Urban Development	For a $245,000 study of New Towns. Over the last decade New Towns and New Communities have been studied to death while most of the New Towns are either dead or dying.
1976	11	Treasury Department	For its failure to collect as much as $4.8 million in taxes owed by government big shots who are chauffeured to and from home in government cars.
Fleece of the Year		Army Corps of Engineers	For the worst record of cost overruns in the entire federal government.
1977	1	Department of Agriculture	For spending nearly $46,000 to find out how long it takes to cook breakfast.
1977	2	Law Enforcement Assistance Administration	For spending nearly $27,000 to determine why inmates want to escape from prison.
1977	3	Award of Merit to Veterans Administration Director Max Cleland	A special award of merit to the director, who, notwithstanding, the fact that he is a triple amputee, is driving himself to and from work in his own car, saving taxpayers $16,000 a year.
1977	4	Smithsonian Institution	For spending $89,000 of public funds in producing a dictionary of Tzotzil, an obscure and unwritten Mayan language spoken by 120,000 corn-farming peasants in southern Mexico.
1977	5	National Endowment for the Humanities	For making a $2,500 grant to Arlington County, Virginia, to study why people are rude, ill-mannered, cheat, and lie on the local tennis courts.
1977	6	Award of Merit to Smithsonian Institution, the Farmers Home Administration, and the National Science Foundation	For specific examples of wise, economical, effective, and constructive use of taxpayers' money.
1977	7	U.S. Postal Service	For spending over $3.4 million on a Madison Avenue ad campaign to make Americans write more letters to one another.
1977	8	Department of Transportation	For spending $225,000 on a report which forecasts transportation needs in the year 2025 under four seperate science fiction "scenarios" -- where the U.S. undergoes an Ice Age, becomes a dictatorship, is transformed into a hippy culture or blossoms into a society the authors term the American Dream.
1977	9	National Endowment for the Arts	For making a $6,025 grant to an artist to film the throwing of crepe paper and burning gases out of high flying airplanes.

1977	10	Department of Labor	For granting a $364,000 contract to hire 101 persons under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act to do a door-to-door survey to count the dogs, cats, and horses at the 160,000 houses and apartments in Ventura County, Calif.
1977	11	Pentagon civilian and military brass	For misusing military aircraft on a massive scale at a cost to the taxpayers of at least $52.3 million.
1977	12	Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	For a series of outrageous expenditures for its Chairman's personal use as revealed in a General Accounting Office Report.
Fleece of the Year		Treasury Department	For its zealous support of an end-of-the-year, end run attempt to amend the tax laws at a cost to the taxpayers of over $400 million this year.
1978	1	Law Enforcement Assistance Administration	For a $2 million prototype police patrol car.
1978	2	National Aeronautics and Space Administration	For proposing to spend $14 to $15 million over the next seven years to try to find intelligent life in outer space.
1978	3	U.S. Senate	For proposing to spend well over $122 million of the taxpayers money on a new Senate office building that would include such frivolous frills as a rooftop restaurant and a third gymnasium.
1978	4	National Institute of Mental Health	For funding a study of behavior and social relationships in a Peruvian brothel.
1978	5	Agency for International Development	For a series of deliberate acts, bureaucratic bungles, and selfish and self serving deeds that led its Administrator to complain that his agency was "over-age, over-rank, over-paid, and over-here."
1978	6	Federal Highway Administration	For spending $222,000 to study "Motorist Attitudes Toward Large Trucks."
1978	6	National Endowment for the Arts	For proposing a study to develop a profile of the creative personnel in the fields of radio, television, and film.
1978	6	National Transportation Safety Board	For a $5,340 expenditure to change its official seal.
1978	6	National Institute of Mental Health	For funding a study which compared the amounts of food obese and normal-weight people ate in restaurants where they had a choice between ordering from a menu and going to the buffet.
1978	7	Department of Defense	For spending over $1.2 million a year from a special fund hidden in the defense budget for gifts, parties, trips, dinners, receptions, and other entertainment items.

1978	8	Department of Agriculture	For spending federal tax dollars to exercise confined pregnant pigs on a treadmill and to relieve their boredom and psychological stress.
1978	9	Office of Education	For spending $40,375 in an attempt to give 35 of its ambitious or unhappy bureaucrats a new lease on their career lives.
1978	10	Environmental Protection Agency	For spending $38,174 in a two-year study to find out that runoff from open stacks of cow manure in Vermont farms causes the pollution of the water in nearby small streams and ponds.
1978	11	Department of the Interior	For spending $145,000 to install a wave making machine in a specially designed double Olympic size pool in Salt Lake City.
1978	12	Office of Education (HEW)	For spending $21,592 to develop a "curriculum package" to teach college students how to watch television.
1979	1	Department of Labor	For funding a $140,000 never completed census of the Samoan population of Orange County, California.
1979	1	National Endowment for the Arts	For supporting a "Hanauma Bay [Hawaii] Colored Headcovers Happening," which involved 400 people being filmed from a rented helicopter as they walked along an Oahu beach wearing shiny paper hats color-coded to the wearer's sex and race.
1979	2	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration	For spending $120,126 to build a low-sluing, backward steering motorcycle that no one could ride.
1979	3	Air Force	For conducting a six month $3,000 test at the Pentagon on the use of umbrellas by male personnel in uniform.
1979	4	Department of Housing and Urban Development and Economic Development Administration	For spending $279,000 on a community center so completely useless, that when it collapsed, no one knew it for days.
1979	5	Award of Merit to the U.S. Army and Dr. Percy A. Pierre	For presenting to Congress the most readable and honest presentation on the need of the U.S. Army.
1979	6	National Park Service	For a $75,000 slush fund which pays for entertainment, travel, and other expenses in excess of those appropriated for and approved under the budget.
1979	7	Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	For spending at least $6,000 to determine if pot smoking has a bad effect on SCUBA drivers.

1979	8	Congress	For the eruption in its staff and spending over the past decade.
1979	9	National Science Foundation	For spending $39,600 to study "Himalayan mountaineering, Social change, and the Evolution of (the Buddhist) Religious among the Sherpas of Nepal."
1979	10	Department of Agriculture	For awarding $90,000 for a two-year study of "Behavioral Determinants of Vegetarianism."
1979	11	Air Force	For a last minute $715,000 spending spree at Clark Air Force Base, the Philippines, designed to use up all the available funds before they expired with the new fiscal year.
1979	12	Department of Energy	For spending $1,200 under its small grants energy saving technology program to build and test an above ground aerobic and solar assisted composting toilet.
1980	1	Award of Merit to U.S. Air Force and General Slay	For initiating a tough, no nonsense program of reducing sole source contracts and replacing them with good old-fashioned American competition which could save millions annually.
1980	2	Environmental Protection Agency	For spending an extra $1 to $1.2 million to preserve a Trenton, New Jersey sewer as an historical monument.
1980	3	National Institute for Mental Health	For funding a study of why bowlers, hockey fans, and pedestrians smile.
1980	4	U.S. Coast Guard	For wasting over half a million dollars on a microfiche conversion project which had to be cancelled when it took three years to complete only seven percent of the required work.
1980	5	Department of Education	For fattening its staidd and beefing up its budget after promising that if it were created it would include no more people and would best no more than previously devoted to education programs.
1980	6	Department of Commerce	For spending $9,800 to hire a private public relations firm to review and evaulate the Department's public relations efforts.
1980	7	Award of Merit to General Services Administation	For getting the government a break on sky-rocketing air travel costs. This experimental program will save $7 million in the first six months.
1980	8	Government National Mortgage Association	For spending $6,918 to buy 1,200 nine by twelve inch simulated leather binders which it sent out to savings savings and loan associations across the country to commemorate the uissue of a total of $100 billion in mortgage backed securities.

1980	9	Department of Labor	For funding a summer youth employment program in Tucson, Arizona in which 14 junior college track athletes were paid for twice-a-day training sessions, weekly trips to compete in races, and week-long journeys to Flagstaff, Arizona and Reno, Nevada, to train, compete, and meet with other runners.
1980	10	Department of Defense	For understating by $1.5 million various excessive costs in operations public housing for high ranking generals and admirals..
1980	11	Department of Education's Institute of Museum Services	For a $25,000 Federal grant to a California Zoo part of which was used to send two animal keepers half way across the country to attend a three day elephant workshop in Tulsa, Oklahoma.
1980	12	Federal Highway Administration	For spending $241,764 to produce a computerized system that gives local directions to people who can't or won't read maps.
1981	1	Office of Personnel Management and the Merit System Protection Broad	For sending out duplicate surveys asking top federal employees how they like their jobs ($126,729).
1981	2	Presidential Inaugural Committee	While proclaiming that no public money was spent on the Inauguration, the Inaugural Committee commandeered 1,120 Marines, soldiers, sailors, and other service personnel to act as chauffeurs and aides to 274 Inaugural VIP's as well as several hundred additional Inaugural celebrants. Estimated cost to taxpayer $1.8 million.
1981	3	Office of the Architect of the Capital	For developing plans to build up six new House and Senate Office Buildings that would cost at least $900 million to construct.
1981	4	Department of Housing and Urban Development	For letting slum landlords dump their low quality, sub-standard housing on the backs of taxpayers to the tune of at least $200 billion in fiscal year 1982.
1981	5	National Aeronautics and Space Administration	For a Tracking Data Relay and Satellite System (TDRSS). In a recent unreleased internal NASA Inspector General's report, excessive TRDSS costs of $508 million to $1 billion were cited.
1981	6	Department of Commerce	For giving the City and County of Honolulu $29,600 to study how they can spend another $250,000 for a good surfing beach.
1981	7	Department of the Army	For spending $6,000 to prepare a 17-page document that tells the federal government how to buy a bottle of Worcestershire sauce.
1981	8	Treasury Department managers of the Social Security Trust Fund	Whose investment policies needlessly lost $2 billion in earnings to the Trust Fund in 1980.

1981	9	Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration	For spending $200,000 to build a 600-foot limestone replica of the Great Wall of China in Bedford, Indiana.
1981	10	National Science Foundation	For spending $144,012 to test commonly accepted, historically proven, fundamental economic principles of supply and demand on pigeons.
1981	11	Federal Highway Administration	For the worst record of civilian cost overruns in the Federal Government.
1981	12	Department of Defense	For running a $13,000 six year program in which a bull was tested for possible biological effects resulting from a submarine communications device -- a study later found useless by Navy officials. Long subject to local rumors, the story of "Sylvester the Bull" was recently confirmed in official Navy correspondence.
1982	1	Department of Agriculture	For spending $40,000 for a study entitled "Food Preferences and Social Identity."
1982	2	National Endowment for the Arts	For giving a $7,000 grant for a sound and light show at the state capitol in Madison, Wisconsin.
1982	3	Small Business Administration	For providing two loan guarantees -- almost a million dollars in total -- to a California aquatic park for a giant water slide and other construction.
1982	4	Synthetic Fuels Corporation	For spending over $44,000 for a study which recommended increasing top salaries to as high as $160,000.
1982	5	Department of the Army (DARCOM)	For spending $38 million over 13 years on a new gas mask that is no improvement over the makes it is designed to replace.
1982	6	Commerce and Labor Departments	For shelling out over $700,000 to a non-profit corporation which was supposed to teach minority youth how to make tee shirts.
1982	7	General Services Administration	For losing 49,000 forms -- the equivalent of open-ended airline tickets -- with a potential value of at least $7 million.
1982	8	Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency	For spending $136,000 to conduct three management training seminars located at three star resort hotels.
1982	9	190 Federal Officials	Who have been coddled and pampered at the expense of American taxpayers to the tune of $3.4 million by being provided with door-to-door chauffeur service.

1982	10	Office of Management and Budget	For letting government big-shots eat high off the hog in 22 private dining rooms at an annual cost to the taxpayers of over $2.3 million.
1982	11	Public Health Service	For letting well-heeled doctors welsh on student loans financed by the taxpayer.
1982	12	Social Security Administration	For putting together a high-priced team of employees to plan a move to a new computer center and then shelling out $9.7 million to consultants to do the same work.
1983	1	Economic Development Administration	For allowing US cities and non-profit organizations to misuse a $198 million federal loan fund dedicated to creating local jobs.
1983	2	General Services Administration	For wasting $1.5 million – with a potential for $13 million more – trying to renovate an old train station in Nashville, Tennessee.
1983	3	Department of the Navy	For spending $11,225 to decorate a Navy captain's office.
1983	4	Department of Housing and Urban Development	For wasting over $1.2 million, at one area office, by paying several times for work done once, by approving loan payments on non-existent loans, and by blinking at excessive management fees for public housing projects.
1983	5	National Aeronautics and Space Administration	For spending $22,790 to seek out composers and artist who would like to spend taxpayer money on art and music in a future space station.
1983	6	National Institute of Education	For a flagrant failure to keep tabs on a $600,000 government contract. This resulted in about $500,000 of the taxpayers' money being blown on everything from unsecured personal loans to purchasing a disco and promoting a rock concert.
1983	7	U.S. Coast Guard	For spending $1.1 million to build a boat repair station at Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, which sat empty and unused for about a year.
1983	8	U.S. District Court Judges of Atlanta, GA	For fining the jury on design and construction at the Richard B. Russell Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse and then serving the taxpayers with their bill for an extra $7 million.
1983	9	Department of the Army	For spending about $20,000 to prepare 30,000 fancy, multi-colored pamphlets explaining how to play King of the Hill.
1983	10	Department of Housing and Urban Development	Wasted $232,000 of taxpayers' money by miscalculating rental payments.

1983	11	Health Care Financing Administration	Clipped the taxpayer of $45 million by allowing Medicare to foot the bill for cutting toenails.
1983	12	Economic Development Administration	Allowed firm to violate terms of a $2.5 million federal loan by loaning $500,000 interest free to company's Sole stockholder, paying $314,320 in cash for a helicopter – used by sole stockholder, purchasing a $65,000 lakeside cabin and spending $1.7 million on other questionable transactions.
1984	1	National Aeronautics and Space Administration	For spending over $780,000 in tax funds to transport 2,228 VIPs and special guest to 12 Space Shuttle launches.
1984	2	Fort Worth Regional Office of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration	For mismanaging $64 million of capital improvement projects reviewed by the Department of Transportation auditors for the period of January 1981-May 1983.
1984	3	U.S. Forest Service	For attempting to yoke four helicopters and a blimp into one contraption to lift logs from the national forests. The project was four years behind schedule and costs ballooned from $26 million to $40 million.
1984	4	National Institute of Dental Research	For sponsoring a 5-year, $465,508 study to find out the 'effects of orthodontia on psychological functioning.'
1984	5	Award of Merit to General David B. Hoff of the Wisconsin Air Guard	For solving a safety hazard on A-10 aircraft in three months with $1,100 of his own money when all the experts said it would cost tens of thousands of dollars and take two years.
1984	6	Department of the Interior	For gross mismanagement by allowing the Territory of Guam to waste millions of dollars for paving parking lots at a private nightclub and an apartment building and hiring people who spent much of their time drinking coffee.
1984	7	Federal Crop Insurance Corporation	For spending almost $12 million of federal funds on an advertising campaign to increase awareness of the federal crop insurance program and persuade farmers that it is a good investment. A study showed that farmers ended up knowing no more about this program after the ad campaign than they did before.
1984	8	Health Care Financing Administration	For Medicaid payments to psychiatrists for 'chance meetings' while patients were attending basketball games, sitting on a stoop, etc. – and possibly costing between $40-80 million over the last four years.
1984	9	State Department	For permitting employees to use over $400,000 to frolic on posh ocean cruises.
1984	10	Defense Department	For spending $100,000 to fly cadets and midshipmen to California to attend 1983's Army-Navy game.

1984	11	Social Security Administration	For spending $1.6 million and 6 years trying and ultimately failing to get a new high-tech cassette tape filing system to work.
1984	12	Office of Management and Budget	For cutting domestic spending yet allowing 71 different government agencies to spend at least $12.9 million on entertainment costs in 1984.
1985	1	Award of Merit to Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker	For heading the best run agency in Washington, which brought down the rate of inflation, closed loopholes in banking laws, defused the debt problem of developing nations, and held the line on its own internal expenses.
1985	2	Defense Department	For spending nearly $28,000 to fly nine members of Congress to and from Washington in posh executive jets so they would not miss a close vote on the MX missile.
1985	3	Federal Aviation Administration	For wasting $48 million a year of taxpayer money by allowing Florida airports to let thousands of acres of valuable federal land sit idle and lease other land at bargain basement prices.
1985	4	Mine Safety and Health Administration	For operating its mine equipment testing center at a deficit for the last three years, costing more than $10 million.
1985	5	Department of Housing and Urban Development	For spending over $1 million of public money to build an access road, ramp, and tunnel to a privately-funded entertainment spa.
1985	6	Department of Education	For paying $760,000 in interest and fees to a major U.S. bank on unused student loans.
1985	7	Army Corp of Engineers	For spending over $33 million to rebuild 10 miles of beach, which fronts costly hotels and condominiums in Miami Beach.
1985	8	Western Area Power Administration	For spending over $1.8 million on a jet so that its executives would not have to wait in line at commercial airlines.
1985	9	National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke	For spending $160,000 to study whether someone can 'hex' an opponent during a strength test by drawing an "X" on his chest.
1985	10	The Navy	For buying a $792 8-by-10 foot designer doormat.
1985	11	Defense Department	For spending $182 million annually producing and buying periodicals and newspapers.

1985	12	Urban Mass Transit Administration	For costing taxpayers $30 billion over 20 years while transit revenues have dropped 26%, costs have increased 78%, and the taxpayers subsidy per passenger has increased 1,250%.
1986	1	The Army	For letting former service member slip away with over $150 million in unpaid bills during the last six years.
1986	2	The Air Force	For spending $600,000 to operate a posh private plane for the purpose of flying SAC commanders and other Air Force VIPs.
1986	3	Office of Management and Budget	For allowing federal agencies to increase their public relations efforts from $376.2 million to $436.7 million over the last two years.
1986	4	Federal Highway Administration	For charging taxpayers $21 million to pay for unused or unneeded roads and bridges in Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska.
1986	5	Department of Defense	For spending more than $850,000 in 1985 to entertain foreign dignitaries.
1986	6	U.S. Forest Service and Congress	For spending and appropriating $51 million preparing for Alaska timber sales which lost an average 83 cents on the dollar.
1986	7	Department of Education	For spending $1 million on useless consulting contracts.
1986	8	Food and Nutrition Service	For wasting over $1 million between 1981 and 1985 by allowing a private company to cover its losses with taxpayer funds intended for feeding children in day-care homes.
1986	9	Army Corps of Engineers	For increasing spending on foreign travel by 47 percent between fiscal year 1983 and fiscal year 1985 while their total budget was falling by 3%.
1986	10	Department of Education	For permitting education officials in Louisiana to misuse $912,678 earmarked to serve the educational needs of handicapped children.
1986	11	Federal Aviation Administration	For spending $47 million to pay off debts incurred by bankrupt airlines that used federally-guaranteed loans to buy airlines and spare parts.
1986	12	Economic Development Administration	For recommending the expansion of a failing $4 million business promotion program which its own auditors and the current Administration said deserves to die.

1987	1	Environmental Protection Agency	For wasting $206 million to build sewer treatment plants in Puerto Rico which were never functional and are now falling apart.
1987	2	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the Dept. of Agriculture	For organizing a song contest for its employees while our farmers are in dire economic straits.
1987	3	Air Force	For spending $58,000 over the last six years on playing cards given as souvenirs to visitors aboard Air Force Two.
1987	4	Presidential Inaugural Committee	For spending $15.5 million of the taxpayers' funds for the 1985 Inaugural, and for reimbursing the taxpayers only 1% of the costs incurred.
1987	5	Navy	For spending more than $88,000 on a bloodmobile that couldn't be operated safely.
1987	6	Executive Office of the President	For spending $611,623 to gild one room in the Old Executive Office Building.
1987	7	Department of Commerce	For allowing mismanagement of a federally funded revolving loan program such that the local economy was hurt rather than helped, and $1.3 million was lost.
1987	8	Award of Merit to the Pentagon	For trying to save taxpayers millions of dollars by bailing out of contracts that exceeded cost projections.
1987	9	National Science Foundation	For spending $9,992 on a study of "Bullfights and the Ideology of the 'Nation' of Spain."
1987	10	Department of Energy	For allowing utilities to delay payment on costs of nuclear waste disposal, which may cost taxpayers $1.6 million by 1998.
1987	11	Treasury Department	For a $1.2 billion a year tax loophole which can only be used by U.S. citizens who live and work in foreign countries.
1987	12	Army	For wasting $159,000 of taxpayers' dollars on decorative trees and shrubs which died within a year.



U. S. Senator

William Proxmire

reports to you

from Washington



SEPTEMBER 1979

THE GOLDEN FLEECE OF THE MONTH AWARD

The first "Fleece of the Month" award was given in March, 1975. Since then 55 Fleeces have been given to 34 agencies for the biggest, most ridiculous, or most ironic example of wasteful spending for the month.

In addition, there have been seven "Merit" awards to five agencies for superior work or performance.

The "Fleece" awards are not given to individuals or to non-government institutions. They go to government agencies.

Every Department of the Government -- all 12 of them -- have received at least one award. While academics think most of the "Fleeces" go to agencies for funding of silly research, that's not true. The Pentagon is the big winner with a total of eight. Academics cheer when the Pentagon gets the Fleece but they have been thinned skin and critical when an award is given to a government agency for spending $34,000 to find out why people fall in love.

WHY THE FLEECE?

Why are they given?

Inflation is the country's number one problem. Government spending has skyrocketed. The public wants to cut out fat and waste. But people can't understand or relate to a $125 billion budget for military defense or $199 billion for Health, Education, and Welfare. But they can understand when the Pentagon spends $5,000 for a six month's test on the use of umbrellas by male personnel in uniform or HEW's Office of Education's $21,592 outlay to develop a "curriculum package" to teach college students how to watch television. To fight waste one must produce examples that people can see, feel, and touch.

EXAMPLES

What are some of the most ridiculous ones?

-- The Federal Aviation Agency used $57,800 of your tax money to study 79 body measurements of airline stewardess trainees, ostensibly to design safety equipment. But the study stated that the 423 trainees from each of whom 79 head to foot measurements were taken, were unrepresentative of airlines' stewardesses as a whole.

-- One of HEW's health institutes spent $102,000 of your hard earned cash to study the effects of alcohol on the aggressive behavior of Sunfish, including whether fish are more aggressive when they drink tequila than when they drink gin.

-- The Department of Agriculture spent $46,000 to find out how long it takes to cook breakfast. They found it took 838 time measurement units (TMU's) to fry two eggs in a skillet.

-- The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration spent $27,000 -- enough to pay for a four year education -- for a study to determine why inmates want to escape from prison. That study was a crime.

-- The National Endowment for the Humanities gave a $2,500 grant to Arlington County, Virginia to find out why people are rude, cheat and lie on the tennis court. It had all the trappings of academic research -- a survey followed by consultations with a professor of sociology and a professor of ethics and philosophy. The answer, of course, was that there were more players than courts. $2,500 may not sound like much, but it's the taxes for an entire year for an average American family.

-- The National Endowment of the Arts spent $6,025 to film the throwing of crepe paper out of an airplane in order to capture on celluloid an artistic event.

-- The Federal Highway Administration spent $222,000 to study "Motorist Attitudes Toward Large Trucks." They proposed to ask 2,430 drivers whether they consider that large trucks contribute to traffic congestion, block a driver's vision, or that side splash from trucks on wet roads was a problem.

Not all the "Fleeces" have gone for relatively small amounts. Congress was "Fleeced" for an eruption of its staff and spending over the past decade. The former grew from 10,700 to 18,400 (70%) and the latter from $150 to $550 million a year (270%). The Army Engineers tried to spend $450 million to build a new Lock and Dam 26 two miles downstream from the present Lock and Dam 26 on the Mississippi River without a proper authorization by Congress. They tried to build a new dam

under an old 1909 law which allowed them only to maintain or replace existing structures.

The Senate was "Fleeced" in March of 1978 for spending $122 million for a third office building whose original cost was only $47.9 million. The cost has gone up again to a whopping $137 million. That's an amount equal to all the federal personal income taxes paid by all the people in Racine, Wisconsin for a year.

MERIT AWARDS

Two of the seven "Merit" awards are worth special mention. One went to Max Cleland the Veteran's Administration head who is a triple amputee. While 115 big shots in Washington are driven to and from work, Max Cleland saves the taxpayers at least $25,000 a year by driving himself to and from home.

The Smithsonian Institution got a merit award for the Air and Space Museum. It was built on time. It was built for less money than originally requested. Its quality was improved rather than reduced during construction. That's one for the *Guinness Book of Records*.

WHERE DO THEY COME FROM

Where do the Fleeces come from? Most of them are dug up by the office staff who keep a sharp eye out for examples of ridiculous spending during the routine course of their work. Some come from "secret Patriots" who tip us off to the bizarre behavior of some bureaucracies. Some come from the general public in the letters they write. For every winner there are five or six also rans, often items which superficially look like wasteful spending but are not valid when checked out.

DO THEY DO ANY GOOD?

Do the Fleeces do any good? The answer is "yes." A survey of the first year results found that in two-thirds of the cases the spending had been cut back or ended. Agencies are more careful because they know if they do something outrageously silly they may win a Fleece of the Month. They're more responsible when they know someone is looking over their shoulder.

BRICKBATS IN RETURN

When one is critical one expects to get criticism in return. That's happened, in spades. Routinely there are "retaliatory awards." They include the "Nag of the Year" and the "Senator Scrooge" award for the fight against the loan guarantee for New York City. Some academics proposed the "Earth is Flat" subtitled "Columbus Would Still Be In Port" in retaliation for the fleece to the Space agency's $14 million outlay to try to communicate with intelligent life in outer space. A smelly camel's hide was delivered to the Senate office, along with the "Golden Hide" award because of the fleece to the Treasury for their support of a tax loophole which let Americans working in the Middle East pay NO -- NONE -- taxes on the first $20,000 to $25,000 of their income. They continued with the "Golden Sheep Drop" award -- fortunately, no appropriate symbol was given -- and the "Ig- Noble Prize" for which a pair of marble-mounted clay feet was sent.

One researcher reacted with a libel suit for $8 million but another claimed the Fleece was like getting the Pulitzer Prize and a third routinely lists that she has received a Fleece of the Month Award on her biographical sketch even though she never got one.

THE FLEECE WILL GO ON

Yes, even with the law suit and the brickbats, the Fleece has been worth it. It's been done responsibly. There have been almost no factual errors. We've tried to have fun with it.

And yes, the Fleece will go on. It will be issued month by month. Vigorous criticism of wasteful and ridiculous spending of taxpayer's money will continue. We will strive to be just as emphatic, vivid and, if possible, as humorous in the denunciation of waste as can be.

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

William Proxmire

U.S.S.



U. S. Senator

William Proxmire

reports to you

from Washington



OCTOBER 1979

LET'S DO AWAY WITH CHAUFFEURED LIMOUSINES FOR GOVERNMENT BIG SHOTS



There are now 175 high ranking officials in Washington, D.C. who are driven to and from home in chauffeured government cars, either regularly or from time to time.

This was the result of a survey I made earlier this year of every agency in the government who were asked "What officials by title in your agency are driven to and from home?"

The cost to the taxpayers is about $5 million a year.

At the time the survey was made the cost of the chauffeurs for each of seven officials exceeded $30,000 a year. These were the Secretary of HEW, $30,406; the Secretary of the Treasury, $35,569; three top Justice Department officials, $91,295; the Secretary of Agriculture, $30,039; and the Secretary of Commerce, $33,778.

Routinely the cost of chauffeurs and drivers is $25,000 per car. The big shots either require two chauffeurs or one chauffeur with massive amounts of overtime. Operating costs for each car are about $2,800 a year.

PENTAGON WORST OFFENDER

The worst offender is the Pentagon. Twelve officials there are regularly driven to and from home and another 49 get the privilege when "...they determine it to be essential to the successful accomplishment of their duties for a given day." It is amazing with what alacrity officials decide their cars are necessary.

Of the three branches of government the best record is that of the Judiciary where only the Chief Justice of the United States, among the hundreds of Supreme Court, District, and Appellate Court judges, has the privilege.

There are 111 officials in the Executive Branch, 53 on the regulatory commissions, and 10 in the legislative branch who either regularly or from time to time sit in the back seat of a big car while some liveried driver wends his way through the rush-hour traffic driving them home.

The figure of 175 is conservative. It does not include Ambassadors, Consuls, First Secretaries, military attaches, Chiefs of Station, and AID officials abroad, some domestic security officials who get portal to portal transportation, or the top brass at domestic military bases whom everyone knows are assigned a car.

ILLEGAL FOR ALL BUT 22

But for everyone but the President, the Vice President, 13 Cabinet Officers, the Chief Justice, and six leaders of the House and Senate -- 22 in all -- the practice is illegal.

A law passed many years ago -- Title 31, Section 638a of the U.S. Code -- states that government automobiles may be used only for "official purposes," and that "official purposes" do NOT include being driven to and from home.

The law applies only to the Executive branch and the only domestic exceptions are the President, the Secretaries of a Department (but not the Under-Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, heads of agencies, boards, etc.), doctors on out-patient duty, and individuals on field service great distances from their homes. The Chief Justice and the Legislative branch cars are provided by other specific laws.

The law provides that any official who violates the provision "...shall be suspended from duty...without compensation, for not less

than one month, and shall be suspended for a longer period or summarily removed from office if circumstances warrant."

LAW NOT ENFORCED

But no one enforces the law, including the Justice Department, the law enforcement agency of the Government, and the General Accounting Office, the Congressional watchdog over illegal or wasteful spending.

In a formal letter the Justice Department said that the practice of driving people to and from homes does not violate the law when it ". . .is deemed to be in the interest of the government" and that the ". . .control over the use of Government vehicles is primarily a matter of administrative discretion."

The General Accounting Office's Chief Counsel took the view that since the law has not been enforced it is no longer the law.

What's really behind the failure to enforce the law?

Three top Justice Department officials regularly get the privilege and the two top people at the GAO are driven to and from home.

Some years ago, in 1973, the Department of Housing and Urban Development froze all the housing programs. As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on HUD and Independent Agencies, I took that opportunity, which also coincided with the first energy crisis, to cut out the money for chauffeured cars at HUD.

This was followed by a frenzied lobbying campaign on the part of high HUD officials focused not on funding the housing programs but on keeping their chauffeured limousines.

SO HURT HE CRIED

It was a reminder of the self pity shown by Lord Reith the first head of the British Broadcasting Corporation. He was fired by Winston Churchill and succeeded by Lord Portal, who got both his job and his limousine. Lord Reith wrote in his diary:

> "He (Lord Portal) sailed off in the car I had, leaving me to push about in bus queues and such like. I had a great struggle with myself. Tears flooded my eyes several times."

WHY IT'S WRONG

What's wrong with driving government big shots to and from home?

It wastes gasoline. It means two trips a day back and forth for each official rather than one.

It costs money. Five million may not seem like much, but it is equal to the yearly federal income taxes paid by about 2,000 average American families.

But worst of all, it encourages a sense of privilege and arrogance which is unbefitting public officials.

STERLING EXAMPLE

Officials should follow the practice of the present Veteran's Administrator, Max Cleland. Max is a triple amputee who lost both legs and an arm when he fell on a land mine in Vietnam.

Max Cleland drives himself in his own car to work. He not only sets an example but puts to shame the more than 150 high ranking officials who are now illegally driven back and forth from home to office.

To correct this situation I have introduced a bill, the Limousine Limitation Act, to limit the number of big shots who can have the privilege to a total of 22. If Congress passes the bill, neither the Justice Department nor the General Accounting Office can say it is no longer the law.

If I had my own way or thought it would pass no one would be chauffeured to work and back. It would help keep their sense of proportion if government big shots drove themselves, or better yet, walked or ran to work.

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William Proxmire

WPS



U. S. Senator

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reports to you

from Washington



March 1985

THE FLEECE OF THE MONTH CELEBRATES ITS 10TH BIRTHDAY

Would you spend $84,000 to study why people fall in love? Even if you could find out, would you really want to know the answer and possibly end the mystery, romance and beauty of falling in love? Almost everybody agreed with me when I answered "no" to those two questions back in March 1975 and gave the first Golden Fleece of the Month Award to the National Science Foundation for this foolish study.

Just a decade ago this month, after years of complaining about such outrageous wastes of taxpayers' money, I decided to establish a monthly award for the biggest, most ridiculous or most ironic example of wasteful government spending for the period.

The purpose of the award was to dramatize wasteful and extravagant spending in order to try to discourage it. With such a mammoth federal budget, no one can understand public spending in day-to-day terms. Highlighting specific, single wasteful expenditures is more effective than simply complaining in a general way against waste in government.

Now the Golden Fleece of the Month Award is an institution celebrating its 10th birthday.

Over the past ten years more than 100 Fleeces have been given to every one of the thirteen departments of the government and most executive agencies. In addition, more than a dozen merit awards have been handed out for extraordinarily good work.

The biggest Fleece winner or loser, depending on your perspective, is the Pentagon, which received the dubious distinction 17 times. Even Congress itself has not been spared from Golden Fleece awards. The Fleece first exposed the runaway costs of the new Hart Senate Office Building back in June of 1975. The original estimated cost of the building was $68 million. When it finally opened, the taxpayers had forked over more than $137 million for this glass and marble monstrosity.

Fleeces Come in All Shapes and Sizes

Some people think that the Fleece goes only for small items of waste. However, just like the chairs of the Three Bears in Goldilocks, Golden Fleeces come in all sizes and shapes. Sometimes small waste wins.

• The Fleece for September 1983 went to the Department of the Army for spending about $20,000 to prepare 30,000 fancy multi-colored pamphlets explaining how to play "King of the Hill." That's right – the old playground game.

• The Golden Fleece for February 1982 went to the National Endowment for the Arts for giving a $7,000 grant for a sound-and-light show at the State Capitol in Madison. According to sponsors, the purpose of this winter night happening was to "turn the Wisconsin State Capitol building into a geometrically tuned instrument which would bring together and send forth human and planetary energies in a message of world peace."

But there have been some big ones, too.

• The February 1984 Golden Fleece went to the Fort Worth Regional Office of the Urban Mass Transit Administration for mismanaging $64 million of capital improvement projects reviewed by the Department of Transportation auditors for the period January 1981 through May 1983.

• The August 1984 Golden Fleece went to the Health Care Financing Administration. The HCFA received the award for spending up to $40 million in Medicaid payments to psychiatrists for chance meetings with patients who were attending basketball games, sitting on stoops, etc.

And, of course, there have been middle-size Golden Fleeces.

• In September of 1981 the Golden Fleece went to the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration for spending $200,000 to build an 800-foot limestone replica of the Great Wall of China in Bedford, Indiana. This award followed a $500,000 grant to build a one-tenth scale replica of the Great Pyramid in Egypt!

• In April of 1979 the Department of Housing and Urban Development shared the award with EDA for spending $270,000 on a community center so completely useless that nobody knew for days after it collapsed.

Does It Save Money?

After ten years of giving monthly awards, has it been worth it? Has it saved taxpayers' money? You better believe it has and here is the record to prove it!

OFFICE OF
SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE
WISCONSIN

A SAMPLE OF GOLDEN FLEECE AWARDS

Given to the biggest, most ridiculous or most ironic example of government spending or waste.

Selective Service System; Army Corps of Engineers.

To the Selective Service System for a $98,029 contract it awarded to study the all-volunteer army concept in a number of foreign countries two years after the all-volunteer army had been put into effect in the U.S.

The Army Corps of Engineers shares the fickle finger award for their backdoor attempt to commit $6 to $10 billion to build a series of new locks and dams on the Mississippi River under a little known 1909 law designed merely for the maintenance, repair or replacement of existing structures.

The law (33 USC, Sec. 401) requires specific Congressional legislative authority for any dam or other structure in a navigable river of the United States. But using the excuse of the 1909 law, which allows for maintenance or replacement of existing structures, the Army Engineers are building an entirely new lock and dam, Number 26, at Alton, Illinois, two miles downstream from the existing lock and dam, with two new 1200 foot locks, over twice as long as the existing locks. While the original lock and dam Number 26 was completed in 1938 for less than $30 million, the new dam downstream will cost from $400 to $450 million.

But the consequences of the action are far greater. If the Army Engineers get by with this action, they can replace any of the other 27 locks and dams on the Mississippi and 7 locks and dams on the Illinois River without specific approval. This would cost from $6 to $10 billion.

Congress

For living high off the hog while much of the rest of the country is suffering economic disaster.

1) The Senate has just approved the addition of up to three new committee staff employees per Senator at a salary of $33,975 each. While all Senators may not use their full allotment and add 300 employees at a cost of $10.2 million, it is estimated that about half the number at a cost of $4 to $6 million will be added.

2) Unfortunately, the Senate in enlarging its perquisites and prerogatives has taken its cue from the House of Representatives. Earlier in the year the House Administration Committee increased the expense allowances for equipment, travel, newsletter, phones, etc., by $23,000 a Member for a total cost of $10 million. The House itself then added some 735 staff positions for Members and committees at an additional minimum cost of $6 million.

3) The Senate is now constructing a third Senate Office Building at a cost of $85 million. So far there is an overrun of $37 million, or 78% over the original estimate of $48 million.

4) The ultimate Congressional absurdity is the $1.3 million the House will spend to automate 19 elevators while retaining operators to run them. In this instance the House is merely following the lead of the Senate, where the automatic elevators in the Dirksen Building are routinely run by operators.

Congress owes it to the public to live simply. Senators and Congressmen should not be too far removed from the trials and tribulations of the average citizen whom they represent.

Federal Aviation Administration

For a $57,800 study of the body measurements of airline stewardess trainees. The study was done ostensibly for the design of safety equipment, but the 103 page report dealing with 79 measurements from head to foot seems like a bust to me.

As the study says, "Although all airlines recruit stewardesses from the same general population of young females, each has its own selection standards for age, height, weight, education, and other variables." Thus, the sample of the 423 American Airline stewardess trainees is unrepresentative of the airline stewardesses as a whole and is therefore completely useless.

Information of equal value was available from anthropometric data already gathered on WAF recruits, student nurses and college women as well as the known minimum-maximum requirements of the airlines for height, weight, age, hip girth, etc.

Some of the 79 individual measurements appear to be either unnecessary or irrelevant in any case. Detailed measurements were made of body features such as the skinfold of the upper arm and the posterior calf; the vertical height of the subpyrion; the popliteal length of the buttocks; the transverse distance between the centers of the anterior superior iliac spines; the knee to knee breadth while sitting; the maximum horizontal width of the jaw across the gonial angles and the height of the nose.

Besides, why should the government spend taxpayers' money to do this study at all? It is proper for the FAA to set standards and to require the airlines and aircraft manufacturers to live up to them, but the cost of the research and its application should be borne by the airlines or aircraft manufacturers.

Department of the Navy

For using 64 aircraft to fly 1334 officers to the Hilton Hotel in Las Vegas for a reunion of a private organization during the height of the energy crisis.

During the September, 1974, reunion of the Tailhook Association the Navy placed 64 aircraft, ranging from tactical fighters to VIP jets, at the service of 1334 Navy officers throughout the country who needed transportation

to Las Vegas. The flights cost more than $191,000 in tax funds and squandered 347,000 gallons of fuel in the midst of the most severe energy crisis the nation has ever faced.

The Tailhook Association is a private, non-governmental organization made up of active duty, reserve and retired military aviators and civilians interested in aircraft carrier affairs.

The flights were authorized by the Chief of Naval Operations and justified as "space required" travel. None of the officers carried the required documentation for "space required" travel, however, and none was involved in a temporary or permanent change of station as required by the regulation. The designation was a subterfuge.

Many aircraft were taken off operational duty for these flights. The giant airlift was of such magnitude that it required the assignment of 13 Navy personnel for ground support and administration.

Considering that it will take weeks to reinforce our troops in Europe by air, there is great comfort in noting that the Navy can quickly airlift thousands of officers to Las Vegas in the face of a compelling requirement. Where there's a will.. there's a way.

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

For spending millions of dollars to find out if drunk fish are more aggressive than sober fish, if young rats are more likely than adult rats to drink booze in order to reduce anxiety, and if .ats can be systematically turned into alcoholics.

The NIAAA has the important responsibility of combating the most extensive and tragic drug problem facing our nation. They tell us of their need for additional funds, yet they have wasted funds on the following studies:

-- $102,000 to study the effects of alcohol on aggressive behavior in a species of sunfish. One experiment will measure the effects of gin compared to tequila in a fighting test. NIAAA seems to be interested in testing what it means to be "stewed to the gills." Or perhaps they want to understand what is really behind the expression "drinks like a fish." In any case, the application of this "fishy" research to understanding the problems of alcoholism and aggression in humans will not be swallowed hook, line and sinker by the American taxpayer.

-- At the same time the NIAAA is funding the fish study, they are also funding another $90,000 study. In this one attempts are being made to turn rats into alcoholics by making them neurotic. The rats are placed in insolvable situations or given unpredictable rewards and shocks.

The rationale for this waste of taxpayers' money is to create an animal model of alcohol consumption which would then give NIAAA a better understanding of human alcoholism, but the fish and rat are so much lower on the evolutionary scale than man that the result of these experiments will tell us very little,

if anything, about the nature of complex human problems such as alcoholism.

It is time for the NIAAA to take a hard and sober look at its research priorities and concentrate its effort on overcoming the tragic problem of alcoholism in America.

The White House

For its efforts to add to its empire through increased funds for consultants, contingencies, travel and high level personnel while calling for austerity from the rest of the government.

-- The White House has dramatically increased funding for 'consultants' from an initial $250,000 in FY 68 to a whopping $3,850,000 in FY 76. This is an increase of $1.6 million since Mr. Ford became President.

-- In FY 76 the White House requested a 100% increase (to $1,000,000) for the discretionary contingency fund called "unanticipated needs." The funds can be used for any activity--at home or abroad--the President decides is in "furtherance of the national interest."

-- In FY 75 without any legislative authorization travel funds for the White House staff (not the President) were increased from $40,000 to $100,000.

-- The White House now has 54 aides earning between $37,800 and $44,600 a year. (No less than 9 of these are Executive Level 2 positions although there are only 16 other Executive Level 2 spots throughout the rest of the government.) This year the White House requested authority from Congress to hire an unlimited number of these high level employees; however, the House of Representatives, over White House opposition, placed a ceiling of 95 on the number of supergrade and Executive Level positions in the White House.

Department of the Air Force

For operating a $66 million fleet of 23 plush jets used solely to transport top government officials at a cost to the taxpayers of over $6 million a year. This little known executive airline is called the 89th Military Airlift Wing and is based at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington, D. C.

This fleet cost the taxpayers $66.7 million to purchase. Operation and maintenance costs run from $2,206 an hour to $155 an hour for the smaller planes. In the first 10 months of 1975 the 89th made 975 flights carrying government officials as passengers at a cost of over $6 million.

In fairness to the Air Force this Fleece of the Year should be shared by all the government bigshots who insist on such special treatment at the expense of the taxpayers. 849 of these flights were undertaken for high ranking defense officials. Treasury Department officials used these executive jets on 67 occasions, the State Department 26 times, the Federal Energy Administration 11, ERDA 8, and NASA 6. There were a number of other miscellaneous flights.

Military aides who accompany the passengers on these flights to serve food and drink and assist in their comfort are justified by the AF "for passenger safety."

The stupidity of this massive airlift is that in almost every case, commercial flights were available to the same destination. Commercial flights would not only save the government hundreds of thousands of dollars--if not millions--but they would also help the depressed U.S. airline industry.

Department of the Navy

For exploding an expected $15,000 in repair and maintenance costs for Vice President Rockefeller's temporary home into a $537,000 expenditure.

Among the specific expenditures were:

$41,100 for furniture
$33,000 for miscellaneous furnishings such as linen, silverware chests, etc.
$26,400 for drapes
$21,200 for silverware
$18,100 for carpets
$10,400 for china
$ 4,900 for crystal

Public Law 93-346 (passed in July, 1974) took the home from the Chief of Naval Operations and designated it as "the official temporary residence of the Vice President of the United States." The law gave the Navy Department responsibility for "the staffing, care, maintenance, repair, improvement, alteration and furnishing of the official residence" subject to the supervision and control of the Vice President.

I opposed this bill on the Senate floor but lost after assurances were given that nothing elaborate was contemplated, that only necessary refurbishing would be done, and that the cost of this would be about $15,000. Instead of this modest sum the Navy, through the Executive Office of the President, has since asked for and received $537,000 for refurbishing, repair and rehabilitation--a cost overrun of a whopping 3,500 percent. In addition, the Navy is planning to spend an additional $170,000 to replace window air conditioners with a central unit. Even in the high-priced Washington area this sum would finance a small housing development.

Ironically, the Administration's policy on housing is that present costs are too high and must be reduced.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

For requesting $2.8 million to construct an addition to the existing Lunar Receiving Laboratory at the Johnson Space Center to house 100 pounds of Moon rocks. The fiscal irony of NASA's request is that it is not needed. In 1971 after spending $8.7 million to house the Moon rocks, NASA Curator, Dr. Michael Duke, indicated that the existing building would be "...the permanent facility for storage, handling and doing detailed studies of the rocks."

The American taxpayer, who shelled out nearly $15 billion for the Lunar Exploration program, now is being asked to pay another $2.8 million to construct an addition to a perfectly adequate, $8.7 million concrete structure to house a wheelbarrowful of Moon rocks.

What makes this budget request all the more shocking is that since 1965 the space agency has paid out $9,757,582 for the existing Lunar Receiving Laboratory plus $10,786,676 in research and development expenditures for lunar sample examination and study.

NASA argues that the new addition to the laboratory is needed "to insure that the lunar samples are adequately protected against natural and man-made hazards for the foreseeable future." This statement closely follows NASA's assessment that "the present Curatorial Facility has operated successfully since 1971 to support an active lunar sample research program that involves several hundred scientists mostly from American universities." At the same time, it is still unclear what "hazards" NASA has in mind. The present building is a massive concrete structure. Most observers grant that almost nothing short of a bomb blast or massive earthquake could penetrate the maze of concrete buildings that make up the mammoth Johnson Space Center in Houston.

The landing on the Moon was one of Man's greatest achievements, and we are all proud that American footprints were the first on the lunar surface. But NASA has a perfectly adequate facility in which to house and study the present supply of lunar samples. The space agency has already soaked the beleaguered taxpayer for $20 million for lunar sample research, and he shouldn't have to spend another dime on this wasteful unnecessary addition to the House space complex.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

The FAA, according to its own Public Affairs Office newsletter, spent over $417,000 for 99 new meteorological instruments so that its employees can make rain predictions while remaining indoors despite the fact that existing instruments perform the same function but must be read outdoors.

No longer will FAA employees have to sing "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on my Head" as they make their forecasts. No longer need they fear precipitation during prognostication. But meanwhile the American taxpayer is being soaked to the tune of over $417,000 for this needless extravagance. The newsletter reads:

"RAINDROPS WON'T BE FALLING ON YOUR HEADS . . . A $361,150 /later increased to $417,150/ contract for 79 /later increased to 99/ Remote Readout Hygrothermometers will permit FAA personnel making weather observations to tell if it's likely to rain without running the risk of getting caught in it. The hygrothermometers measure the likelihood of rain by comparing the temperature within a bulb of completely dry air with the temperature of the moisture-laden air around it. When the two temperatures get within three degrees, rain is likely. Existing hygrothermometers do this now, but the FAA employees have to go outside to read them. The new ones, which will be made by the Airflo Instrument Company of Glastonbury, Conn., will relay the temperature readings to inside monitors where they can be read in indoors comfort."

This expenditure by the FAA leaves the American taxpayer out in the rain while the agency's employees, safe and dry, eyeball their new toy in the comfortable indoors.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

For a $245,000 study of New Towns. Over the last decade New Towns and New Communities have been studied to death while most of the New Towns are either dead or dying. We need another New Town study like Boston needs beans.

The Library of Congress has furnished me with an annotated bibliography which lists 67 New Town studies, many of them funded by the government, some done privately, and some done jointly: the funding of New Towns, the quality of life in New Towns, the government of New Towns, the supporting systems of New Towns, the sociology of New Towns. You name it, they've studied it.

HUD itself has funded at least a dozen New Town studies at a cost of more than $1.5 million in the last few years.

New Towns have been studied by a myriad of private foundations, public think tanks and national commissions. They've been studied by the Urban Institute, the Council of State Governments, the Environmental Protection Agency, National Science Foundation, HEW, the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration, the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Conference of Mayors, the Douglas Commission and dozens of others.

One of the major reasons there are so many duplicative studies done by the federal government is that there is no central place where a listing of existing studies is available.

The right hand of the government does not know--and, more often than not, does not even try to find out--what the left hand of the government is studying, has studied or is proposing to study.

Treasury Department

For its failure to collect as much as $4.8 million in taxes owed by government big shots who are chauffeured to and from home in government cars. As much as $17 to $18 million in costs to the taxpayer and taxes not collected have been lost because of the Treasury Department's inaction.

Under the law--Title 31, Section 638a--government cars can be used only for "official purposes" and "official purposes" does not include being driven to and from home. The only exceptions to the law are the President, enumerated Cabinet Officers, Ambassadors, doctors on out-patient duty or government employees on field service. White House staff, generals and admirals at the Pentagon, Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, heads of agencies like the Veterans Administration, NASA, etc., are specifically not eligible for that free service under the law.

Nevertheless, about 800 government officials in the Washington area are driven to and from work in violation of the law.

In hearings I have held as Chairman of the Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have learned that the cost of the cars--depreciation, gas, oil, maintenance, etc.--is about $2,000 a year, and the cost of the chauffeurs is routinely from $15,000 to $17,000 a year.

Proposed Treasury regulations clearly state that government officials not exempted under Title 31, Section 638a, would be taxed for the fair market value of the chauffeur driven service when the regulations went into effect. But as of today, November 26, 1976, the regulations are still not in effect.

As the cost of the cars and the chauffeurs is at least $15,000 a year and as most high ranking government officials are in the 40% marginal income tax bracket, the tax could amount to as much as $6,000 per bigshot using the service. Using the modest number of 800 employees not getting the perquisite--many more people are involved in the regional offices, at military installations, and at Embassies abroad--the government is losing at least $4.8 million a year in taxes.

Army Corps of Engineers

For the worst record of cost overruns in the entire federal government. Compared to the Army Corps of Engineers, the Defense Department, HEW and GSA are marvels of efficiency. The Corps richly deserves the title of cost overrun king, not only for the total dollars involved but for the consistency with which the Corps' projects individually break the 100 percent cost overrun mark.

At the present time, the Army Corps of Engineers has 178 major civilian construction projects underway. Of the 178, 83, or 47 percent, have experienced a cost overrun of 100 percent or more.

Under its flood control program, the following dramatic increases stand out: Caesar Creek Lake, Ohio, up 243%; Cooper Lake, Texas, up 325%; Fire Island Inlet, N.Y., up 329%; New Orleans to Venice Hurricane Protection, La., up 1027%.

The dramatic cost overruns in Corps projects cannot be explained away by inflation. When the General Accounting Office analyzed the reasons for the cost growth in Corps projects last year, it found that at least one-half of the increase was for changes in engineering, estimating and the scope of the project. These are avoidable changes, given thorough and proper planning.

It should be recognized that the Corps provides a useful and even critical service to the country. The amount of lives and property lost to natural disaster would be immeasurably higher were it not for the Corps.

But along with that protection also have come environmental disasters. Perhaps the Corps should be reoriented to reclaiming polluted waterways, building municipal waste treatment facilities and other desperately needed capital programs where Corps resources could be efficiently used.

Award of Merit to Veterans Administration Director Max Cleland

There is no "Fleece of the Month" award for March. Instead, I am giving a special award for merit to Max Cleland, the new VA Administrator, who, notwithstanding the fact that he is a triple amputee, is driving himself to and from work in his own car. My calculation is that this is a saving to the taxpayers of at least $16,000 a year.

Max Cleland's affirmative example will do more to eliminate the chauffeur driven car or limousine from the Washington scene than any other action I know. His action can achieve the objective of my "Fleece of the Month," namely to achieve economy in government and discourage the rip-off of the hardpressed taxpayer through foolish expenditures.

This perquisite, which Mr. Cleland spurns, has been the most difficult to remove. Many officials would rather have their chauffeur driven cars than funds for their programs. But if a triple amputee gets himself to and from work every day, how can any Administrator, Director, Commission Chairman, Under Secretary, Admiral or General or other self-appointed Washington big-shot hold up his or her head when being carried to and from work in a government car?

If the head of the Veterans Administration, who carries the immense burden of a $20 billion budget, supervises 200,000 employees and runs the biggest medical and adult education programs in the country and one of the biggest insurance programs can drive himself to work, why can't the others?

Hearings by my Subcommittee have shown that routinely a government chauffeured car requires two chauffeurs who earn $7,000 to $8,000 a year each or one person who gets $15,000 including overtime. The cost of leasing a car plus its maintenance adds at least another $1,000.

National Endowment for the Humanities

I am calling double fault on the National Endowment for the Humanities for making a $2,500 grant through the state to Arlington County, Virginia, to study why people are rude, cheat and lie on the local tennis courts. The federal taxpayer should not be taxed to determine why tennis can't always be a "love game."

The National Endowment for the Humanities, which will spend about $132 million of federal taxpayers' money this year, made the grant to determine why tennis players hog the courts, become frustrated when they have to wait to play, and what responsibility local tennis players have in trying to help the county solve its problem with overcrowding on the courts.

The grant was justified on grounds that tennis players lie about the time they start to play and resist requests to prove local residency on un-monitored public courts. It was said it was important to find out why tennis players get frustrated when they have to wait forhours or go from court to court to find one on which to play. The vandalism of tennis nets, cables, cranks and lights was also cited as a serious problem.

The $2,500 grant, which will be matched by in-kind services of the County, is provided to: 1) hire the consulting services of a professor of sociology; 2) hire the consulting services of a professor of ethics and philosophy; 3) conduct a survey of the attitudes of about 300 players towards the local tennis regulations and evaluate the results; and 4) conduct two public meetings, where among other things the professors guide the local tennis players in role playing activities, where they take the part of the suffering local tennis buffs.

While there may be too much anger and not enough love on the Arlington tennis courts, spending $2,500 of federal funds for this project is a backhanded shot which any self-respecting linesman would call "out." The taxpayers of this country have been sued for some pretty stupid projects in the past, but a grant to study tennis court etiquette is the biggest default to date.

Awards of Merit to the Smithsonian Institution, the Farmers Home Administration and the National Science Foundation

The Smithsonian Institution gets the award of merit for building its Air and Space Museum on time, for less money than originally requested and for an improvement rather than a reduction in its quality. I cannot find another example throughout the entire federal government of a building, a weapons system or a water project where this has been the case. The Air and Space Museum opened on July 1, 1976, four days early. It cost $39.5 million, or $500,000 less than its projected cost when authorized ten years earlier. And it included at least four major features not provided for in the original plans, namely a large theater, a planetarium, an art gallery and facilities for handicapped visitors.

In the period 1972-76 the Farmers Home Administration had a 32% increase in the weighted total of the loans and grants it made and serviced, while it had a 3% reduction in the number of persons (employee years) doing the job. Some 26% fewer persons (employee years) serviced over 2,800 additional farm ownership and operating loans, low income housing loans, and community loans for watershed and sewers.

1) The National Science Foundation has funded work to build a man-made working gene, the basic chemical unit which in combination controls the growth and development of all living things. This breakthrough may pave the way for producing supplies of infection fighting chemicals, insulin or other medically important substances. 2) NSF research is finding methods of improving on nature's own way of replenishing nitrogen in the soil. 3) The NSF has supported pioneering research on how the brain recovers after being damaged. This type of basic research should result in a clearer understanding and better treatment of a whole range of nerve related medical problems.

U.S. Postal Service

For spending over $3.4 million on a Madison Avenue ad campaign to make Americans write more letters to one another. In addition, the Postal Service spent almost $775,000 more in a seemingly futile effort to test whether the campaign works, a classic case of throwing good money after bad. This tallies up to a grand total of over $4 million of the taxpayers' money.

Spending public money trying to make Americans more prolific letter-writers is a dubious project at best. Moreover, there is a very great question of whether a government subsidized agency should be in the game of trying to drum up more business for itself. After all, we do not ask the Defense Department to start a war in order to use our military hardware more efficiently.

The Postal Service claims the greater volume of first-class mail that might be generated by this campaign would produce more revenues: "This program has as its objective stimulation of revenues through increased personal letter writing volume. Personal letter writing volume has not grown in recent years, and moreover, total first-class mail is expected to decline in future years as a result of increased reliance upon electronic transfers. Since first-class mail is the major revenue producer for the Postal Service and manpower and equipment are presently available to handle additional volume, increased household correspondence volume would provide additional revenues."

Unfortunately, the road to Hell is paved with good intentions, and that's what we've got in this case. Postal Service representatives indicate that all classes of mail are now losing money. In fiscal year 1976 the Postal Service deficit was almost $1.2 billion, and a $2.4 billion deficit is expected in the 12 months beginning next March 25. Increasing the volume of first-class mail may, therefore, simply contribute further to Postal Service deficits.

Beyond that, the Postal Service cannot seem to figure out how to test its campaign to see what effect it is having. Postal Service bureaucrats have so far been unable to agree on the meaning of their over 3/4 of a million dollars' worth of test results. That's why, they say, they may spend another $1 million for further testing of this campaign in 1978.

Department of Labor

For granting a $384,948 contract to hire 101 persons under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) to do a door-to-door survey to count the dogs, cats and horses at the 160,000 houses and apartments in Ventura County, Calif. While the Constitution requires a decennial census of the people, spending the taxpayers' hard earned dollars to count the animals is not required by either the Founding Fathers or by common sense.

CETA funds are not only supposed to provide jobs. They are supposed to satisfy some unmet, pressing local need. According to the proposal submitted to the Department of Labor, the important local need to be satisfied involved finding out how many dogs were not immunized against rabies. Preventing the biting of humans by rabid animals is an important and serious objective; however, the Animal Regulation Director of Ventura County admitted to my staff that there had not been a case of rabies among dogs or cats in the county in over a decade!

Salaries will run from $3.25 per hour for the census takers to $256 per week for the administrative aides who will supervise the project.

Criticisms were raised by both private citizens and federal officials against this project, but local officials doggedly maintained their bite on the federal taxpayers. These officials maintain that needed local revenue would be raised through the sale of licenses to the owners of unregistered dogs. Obviously, the survey will use a great amount of federal tax dollars in order to raise relatively few dollars for a local government. That's clearly a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Here is a perfect example of what can happen when the unit of government which spends money is not the same as the one which has to raise it in the first place. The need to raise the revenues that are spent locally imposes a discipline on a unit of government that was clearly missing in this case.

Pentagon civilian and military brass

For misusing military aircraft on a massive scale at a cost to the taxpayers of at least $52.3 million. These officials have systematically misused military planes for low priority missions--support and personal flights--instead of for combat training and for flights where available commercial transportation was many times cheaper. It is a classic example of putting the privileges of rank and the logistics tail before the combat teeth.

What we have here is the picture of every high ranking officer or civilian in the Pentagon simply being able to request government transportation free regardless of its cost or mission. This puts the lie to the age-old excuse of the military services that transportation of the generals and admirals is appropriate because the aircraft have to fly anyway, and there is no additional cost if the brass go along. In fact there are substantial extra costs: the cost over the price of available commercial transportation; the cost of having extra aircraft on hand; the price we pay in not having our pilots trained for wartime missions.

Defense Department auditors--the Defense Audit Service--should get a commendation for uncovering massive abuse of government aircraft:

--DOD auditors reviewed 2700 military airlift missions and found that 55% of the domestic flights and 17% of the foreign flights could have been accomplished on scheduled commercial air transportation at a saving of $1.4 million.

--The Marine Corps operated an aircraft squadron with the policy of flying an extra plane behind every plane carrying a general or flag rank officer. There would be passengers only on the lead aircraft. The second was for emergency back-up for the brass.

--Air Force pilots were being required to fly so many administrative support missions that they were not getting their required wartime readiness training exercises.

There are 18,000 active aircraft and helicopters in the U.S. arsenal. 11,200 of these are support aircraft or transports. Only 6,800 are pure combat aircraft. It is readily apparent that there are far too many support aircraft

in ratio to combat aircraft.

Wartime readiness training should come before all else. Administrative support and command aircraft should be used only in those few instances where there is no commercial transportation available and then only when there is an official business justification for the flight. Local commanders should be restricted in their broad authority to use administrative jets as their personal toys.

Law Enforcement Assistance Administration

For a $2 million prototype police patrol car. This experimental car would make James Bond green with envy and should leave the taxpayers purple with rage.

LEAA's "Police Patrol Car System Improvements Program" was to incorporate a number of technical improvements to enhance the safety and productivity of police officers. This noble idea originally had some merit, but the car was so loaded down with gold-plated items that it ultimately became a Fleece. Because its load of problems exceeded even its load of gadgets, plans for field testing the model car were halted.

In addition to driving the vehicle and thinking about the usual things found on a normal car, the police officer would have to worry about his multiple spark discharge ignition system while grasping his hand-held voice/digital terminal while reading his heads-up display while listening to his audio recorder while looking at his wide angle periscope rearview mirror. All this while keeping tabs on his carbon monoxide monitor, his voice/digital transceivers, his microcomputer mass memory and digital cassette reader. He would also have to pause to check his tire sensor, his brake wear sensor, his catalytic converter/exhaust temperature sensor, and seven different condition sensors.

Moreover, an LEAA report pointed out that some of these gadgets don't work very well. Speaking of the hands-free communication systems, the report said, "where officers must hook their radios as well as themselves into the system, rapid ingress and egress, especially under stressful situations, could be hampered by the additional necessary disconnect-connect functions." (In other words, they could get stuck in the car.)

One critic pointed out that LEAA ignored the input of working police when designing this car. The median price in 1976 of this space ship on wheels would have been $49,078 per automobile, above and beyond the sticker price of the car, based on the assumption that local police forces would order 20 of these prototypes. Even with federal help and even if the cars were worth the money, how would local police departments come up with this kind of money?

In the past several years I have made a number of attempts to abolish LEAA entirely. Projects like this convince me of the need to continue my efforts.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

For proposing to spend $14 to $15 million over the next seven years to try to find intelligent life in outer space. In my view, this project should be postponed for a few million light years.

Two million dollars this year and $14 to $15 million over the next seven years would go to Pasadena, California's, Jet Propulsion Lab to conduct "an all-sky, all-frequency search for radio signals from intelligent extra-terrestrial life." But the Lab also indicates that it wants to build a technological framework on which future, more sensitive SETI (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence) programs can be based. This tells me that while the American public is fascinated by "Star Wars" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," NASA is trying to ride the enthusiasm into a multi-million dollar, long-range program of questionable searches for intelligence beyond our solar system.

What's wrong with this program? First, there is not now a scintilla of evidence that life beyond our own solar system exists. Second, even if a radio message had been sent from another system, the overwhelming odds are that such a civilization is now dead and gone. Third, NASA didn't even select the least expensive way to do it. A less expensive, more narrowly focused SETI proposal from the Ames Research Center (cost $6.5 million over 7 years) was rejected in favor of the $14 to $15 million Jet Propulsion Lab project. However, to add insult to injury NASA has told my office that what it may do is to plug in the Ames project in the fiscal year 1980 budget so that both projects would be operating at the same time.

At a time when the country is faced with a $61 billion budget deficit the attempt to detect radio waves from solar systems should be postponed until right after the federal budget is balanced and income and social security taxes are reduced to zero.

U.S. Senate

For proposing to spend well over $122 million of the taxpayers' money on a new Senate office building that would include such frivolous frills as a rooftop restaurant and a third gymnasium. The cost to the taxpayer is 2½ times the original estimate, or a cost overrun of 154%.

In 1972 a proposal for a new Senate office building was presented to the Senate with a projected cost of $47,925,000. Two supplemental appropriations later the cost rose to over $85 million, and now with another pending appropriation request that total would rise to an astronomical $122 million, not including furnishings. Moreover, the General Accounting Office calls this figure unrealistically low. The Architect of the Capitol under the direction of the Senate Office Building Commission is charged with carrying out the plans for the building.

Considerable savings might have been made if construction contracts had included clauses to provide incentives for contractors to make every possible savings instead of providing for a flat 6% fee. The Senate contract means that any changes or goldplating the Senate provides or the more inefficient or costly the plans are, the more everybody cleans up--except the taxpayers, of course.

With inflation rates running high, each month's delay costs hundreds of thousands of dollars in escalation costs alone. Completion of the project was originally forecast for May of 1977 and is now expected to be June, 1981, but don't count on it.

The addition of certain luxury features should make taxpayers livid with anger. For example, a Senators-only dining room with a rooftop view of Washington (Senators already have two dining rooms), a small gym, excessive landscaping and artwork, use of marble and bronze throughout the building where cheaper materials would do, wood panelling in Senators' offices (this item alone would cost $1.5 million.)

The Senate must make painful and unpopular decisions to turn down some highly appealing requests for spending. How can a Senate which has squandered tens of millions of dollars on its own comfort find the courage to say no to whatever requests are made on behalf of the elderly for social security increases, farmers for higher price supports, the poor for more welfare, New York for more help?

Agency for International Development (AID)

Bureaucrats at the Agency for International Development seem to live by the motto, "Charity begins at home" even though their mission is to help the poor of the world. A series of deliberate acts, bureaucratic bungles and self-serving deeds led its Administrator to complain that his agency is "over-age, over-rank, over-paid and over here."

During the last fiscal year AID's Foreign Service Officers got average annual salaries of $31,139. This is $6,021 more than the average Foreign Service Officer earned at the State Department and $9,095 more per year than officers working for the Peace Corps, who probably do a better job of helping the poor abroad than those in any other agency.

AID has 51.5% of its employees in the top three pay grades compared to only 6% of its people in the lower three grades.

Last year 64.5% of AID personnel were at the Washington headquarters, and only 35.5% were in the field.

In Mali--admittedly a warm post--all 15 U.S. government-leased houses occupied by AID families had swimming pools even though a public pool was available to all mission personnel.

In preparing a report to Congress on emergency assistance to the Sahel, the drought stricken region of Africa, two AID employees chartered flights between Mauritania and Mali at a cost of $2,353 when commercial flights were available for $263.00. Their report to Congress on this devastated area, produced on banknote quality paper with numerous high resolution photographs, cost $19,726.00. This was $10 per copy for a report on U.S. aid to a disaster area where the per capita income is about $80 per year.

Over-paid, over-rated and over here are the right words to describe the AID bureaucracy. President Truman started this agency under Point IV. Its purpose was to use American know-how to help others help themselves. Thirty years later it is too often used to help AID bureaucrats to help themselves.

Federal Highway Administration

For spending $222,000 to study "Motorist Attitudes Toward Large Trucks." Among the detailed questions proposed to be asked of 2,430 drivers are:

"Do you consider that large trucks
a) contribute to traffic congestion?
b) block a driver's vision?
c) travel too fast on highways?
d) travel too slow going up hills? or
e) Do you consider that side splash from trucks on wet roads is a problem? or
f) that the smoke and fumes from these trucks might be a problem?

This study cannot be justified on grounds of safety or how drivers actually behave when confronted by big trucks. Instead, it centers on motorists' "attitudes" and is in addition to a companion $1 million study of "The Effect of Truck Size and Weight on Accident Experience and Traffic Operations" and a $297,633 study of "The Effects of Truck Size on Driver Behavior."

While there have been a number of previous studies on large trucks, this study is justified as follows: "In examining questions of commercial vehicle/passenger car interactions, the research focus has been on the aerodynamic and human factors aspects. The thrust of these studies was on the physics of the interaction and the psycho-physical performance of drivers. Barely were questions relating to social perception, cognition or affect ever addressed. The cognitive or mentally evaluative dimension of such vehicular interactions or potential interactions was lost in error variance or not considered at all in formulations of aerodynamic disturbance functions and driver performance factors."

So much for previous studies and their possible duplication. And so much, too, for the English language!

It's one thing to "Keep on Truckin'," but does it have to be done with taxpayers' dollars?

Department of Defense

For spending over $1.2 million a year from a special fund hidden in the defense budget for gifts, parties, trips, dinners, receptions and other entertainment items.

Deep within the Pentagon's budget lies a little noticed financial category called "Emergencies and Extraordinary Expenses." It is part of the huge operations and maintenance function which is used to keep aircraft flying and ships sailing. The "Emergencies and Extraordinary Expenses" account is divided into two parts. One is for classified military purposes. The other turns out to be the entertainment fund for Pentagon civilian and military brass.

The Pentagon's party fund is used for a wide range of travel and entertainment activities. It pays for unreimbursed Congressional trips, receptions for foreign military leaders, welcoming parties and going away parties for the Pentagon hierarchy, flowers, corsages, gifts, tea parties for wives, boat cruises, conferences, lunches, dinners, change of command ceremonies and bulk purchases of alcoholic beverages.

This is an "extraordinary" fund, but there is nothing of an "emergency" about it. These social events are planned far in advance. There is no last minute crisis involved here. And it is "extraordinary" only in the amount of dollars spent.

Of the $1.2 million spent in the last 12 reported months, the Air Force accounted for $408,946, the Army $357,800, the Navy $286,265 and the Office of the Secretary of Defense/Joint Chiefs/Defense Agencies $160,992.

A portion of these party funds are used to pay for unreimbursed Congressional travel. By rough calculation at least $75,000 in Air Force funds are associated with Congressional travel. Given this fact, I believe Congress should share in this fleece award.

On one occasion the public paid for entertaining the Air Attache of the Soviet Union. On another the Pentagon gave a Yugoslavian general a tour and briefing on the B-1 bomber, F-16 fighter and AMST transport--three of our most important technological research programs of this decade.

Other entertainment items include:

--Luncheon and flowers for General Toufanian's wife. $129.00
--Tea party for wives of the Standing Consultative Committee at SALT. $107.00
--Reception for Minister of Defense of Israel. $9,879.00
--Dinner for Comptroller of the Navy. $666.15
--Visit of Commander Mexican Air Force, including a visit to Disneyland. $3284
--Expenses incurred in connection with USAF Independence Day Air Attache Gold Tournament (trophies, greens fees, reception). $3,352.91
--Walnut plaque purchases. $2,158.60

Office of Education

For spending $40,375 in an attempt to give 35 of its ambitious or unhappy bureaucrats a new lease on their career lives. By paying over $1,100 for each participant to take what it called a "creative career and life planning" course during working hours, the Office of Education found a way to help its employees on the way up or on the way out while letting the taxpayers down.

While I believe overburdened citizens should not have to shell out tax dollars for such purposes at all, ironically the same course with the same instructors could have been taken on employees' own time for $475, or a total cost of $23,750 less.

The announcement of the Office of Education about the course stated that the "problem solving approach to goal identification" would be used "to help employees determine their own goals in life and make changes in their environment, lifestyles, careers, and direction which will aid them in gaining satisfaction both on-the-job and in their personal life."

Among the things the students faced or were told to do in their 3½ hour sessions on each of ten days were:

--to take a holistic rather than an atomistic approach to life;
--to keep their eye on the "divine radar," i.e., the enjoyable moments or periods in their lives;
--to figure out how they would give away ten million dollars (Do federal bureaucrats really need a course to tell them how to do that?).

My argument is not with the private firm which gave the course, the talented authors of the official textbooks, or the private citizens who want to take the course and pay for it out of their own pockets. My objection is to the government shelling out the money and picking up the tab.

My only advice to those who approved spending taxpayers' money for the course is the old adage, "Physician, heal thyself." After this display of questionable judgment, they may wish to consider most seriously the issue of changing careers themselves, or, as the course textbooks put it, to do a "functional analysis of your transferable skills."

Department of the Interior

For spending $143,000 to install a wavemaking machine in a specially designed double olympic sized swimming pool in Salt Lake City. This marks a historic moment in American history. It can be said that for the first time federal bureaucrats are making waves. In the meantime, the taxpayers are getting soaked.

According to local officials, the 4-foot surf created by the machine "will provide a recreation experience not available in an inland society--an experience of the rushing water of a river or wave action you can only get at the ocean." Based on this rationale, hard pressed taxpayers will next be asked to fund ski slopes in Florida, mountain scenery in Indiana, igloos in Death Valley or tropical rain forests in Wisconsin.

The gigantic, 180-foot long, 17,500 square foot, fan shaped pool is only part of a larger project that includes a marina, boat ramp, bath house and parking lot. The cost of the entire project is estimated, at least preliminarily, at $1,008,000. Some $500,000 of this amount will be supplied by the federal government under a law which calls for developing outdoor recreational resources that are "necessary and desirable." Although such amounts are ordinarily matched on a 50-50 basis by state, local and private groups, an additional $300,000 of federal funds are coming from the Community Development Authority of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. While apparently legal, here is a situation where federal funds are matched in part by federal funds, and the total cost to the state, local and private authorities will be only $208,000. Thus in addition to providing a wave making machine, federal taxpayers will be socked for 80 percent of the cost of this swimming pool and park complex instead of the 50 percent ordinarily required.

Department of Labor

For funding a $140,000 never completed census of the Samoan population of Orange County, California. Bureaucrats say, "Samoa"; the taxpayers are saying loud and clear, "No-moa!"

The money for counting Samoans in Orange County was provided under the Comprehensive Training and Employment Act (CETA) Public Service Jobs Program to a non-profit corporation, the Institute of Emergent Nationalisms Determinacy, Inc., largely created and actually controlled by the members of a single family. The corporation was incorporated only a few short months before it received the CETA grant.

Not only has no final report been submitted--four months after it was due--but even the limited raw data supposedly collected cannot be found. The former head of the program is reported to now be in Western Samoa, outside U.S. jurisdiction, and authorities' attempts to contact him have so far failed.

At the same time that local auditors were questioning the operation of the project, the same group applied for partial funding of a $2,332,702.14 program to create a "Pacific Island Cultural Art Demonstration Team." While the local CETA sponsors did turn down this particular request, they instructed their own staff to "provide technical assistance to this agency, assisting them to redesign this project into a workable format and towards resolving present operational problems."

When questioned about the Samoan project, Labor Department spokesmen justified their lack of oversight and review of the grant on grounds that it was locally reviewed and controlled. However, according to the Orange County Register one local official said that he is not upset by the lack of any finished product to show for the money: "The purpose of the contract was to provide employment and training to unemployed Santa Ana residents and a by-product of this was to be a study. Just because the study wasn't completed I don't think it can be said the city got the raw end of things. That's the philosophy of the CETA program."

Fortunately, local law enforcement officials are presently reviewing the entire question.

There are enough useful and constructive programs and projects--including genuine help to Samoans in need--to employ those unemployed willing to work without resorting to ridiculous make-work projects.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

For spending $120,126 to build a low-slung, backward steering motorcycle that no one could ride. The bureaucrats gave the taxpayers a bum steer on this one.

The Agency insisted on building the motorcycle in spite of repeated warnings beforehand that the contraption simply could not be ridden by even the most expert motorcycle rider. This is the ultimate example of the taxpayer being taken for a ride.

In September, 1977, the Agency issued the $120,126 contract to a California firm to design and test a motorcycle with a low center of gravity powered by the front wheel and steered by the back wheel. Agency officials thought this low slung backward configuration would make the motorcycle safer. However, the Agency's own tests completed before the granting of the contract showed that the backward motorcycle would be difficult if not impossible to steer. But the Agency insisted upon going ahead and therefore searched for a firm willing to take on this backward concept. There was something magical in the backward angle that the highway boys couldn't resist.

The contractor dutifully sought to improve the design of the bike, but every computer simulation it ran showed the backward bike was harder to control than the toughest bucking bronc. On January 9, 1978, the contractor reported, "the major problem at this point is the lack of controllability of the rear steered configuration indicated by computer results obtained so far." The persistent and determined Agency officials told the contractor to try again.

On February 3, both the contractor and the sub-contractor, who were by this time trying to build the backward bike, were ready to give up on the project. They asked the Agency to allow them to stop work on the backward bike design. But again Agency officials insisted upon the backward project going forward and demanded that the bike be built and tested.

In their view, if it was backward, it had to be right. After all, this country has been going forward long enough. What a perfect answer to a bureaucratic dream, going forward with a backward project. That's even better than going backward with a forward project.

By April, 1978, all the building, testing and reviewing were completed, and the contractor reported what everyone except the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration had known all along: that the rear steering motorcycle was completely unridesble whether going forward, backward or sideways. In fact, the bike builders had to add training wheels to the backward motorcycle in order to prevent serious injury to the rider. In some of the tests expert motorcycle riders could not even keep the motorcycle upright for an instant. The longest ride of 2.5 seconds appeared to merely involve the luck of the rider turning the wheel at the right time.

By this time agency officials finally admitted their mistake in insisting upon the completion of the backward motorcycle's testing. However, the bureaucratic urge to compound errors resulted in the agency deciding to continue work on a front steering, low slung model in spite of warnings raised by the contractor and other experts. While the contractor pointed out the problems of controlling the motorcycle at rest and reduced rider and passenger comfort, the editors of Cycle magazine pointed out even greater dangers of the low slung motorcycle, to wit:

/The contractor/ is currently working on a Honda with a seat height comparable to that of an average car - about 16 to 20 inches. That puts a motorcyclist's head right at headlight level and removes from him one of his great advantages: his ability to see over the tops of cars, and to be seen by the occasional driver.

So here was the supreme machine. It couldn't work going forward. It didn't work backwards. And whichever way it went, if you were driving it, you couldn't see where you were going. This was the perfect vehicle for a member of Congress.

Nevertheless, the iron-willed officials of the Agency, insisting that the low slung motorcycle might handle somewhat better than the conventional model, again persisted and a final report on the "Advanced Concept Motorcycle" with a low center of gravity will be submitted shortly by the contractor.

After recent experiences in Iran and elsewhere, they should be able to sell a few thousand of the "don't work forward, don't work backward, can't see where you're going" beauties to the CIA.

Department of the Air Force

For conducting a six month $3,000 test at the Pentagon on the use of umbrellas by male personnel in uniform.

From time to time the USAF Uniform Board has been asked if it were proper for male uniformed Air Force members to carry umbrellas. The answer always came back--no! It was deemed unprofessional and out of image for an Air Force male to carry or use an umbrella while in uniform.

Nonetheless, the question persisted in Air Force ranks. Why shouldn't we be able to use an umbrella?

So, the Air Force Uniform Board, which has jurisdiction over such things, decided to conduct an umbrella test. The plan went up the chain of command and was approved by a general officer last October. The test was scheduled for a six-month period between November 1, 1978, and April 30, 1979.

An announcement went forth to all USAF male personnel working in the Pentagon. For six months you can use an umbrella if you want--nothing outrageous, of course, just a standard black or blue commercial model.

Meanwhile the planners had been busy. A survey was developed. A random sample of 1,700 Pentagon-based Air Force males was designed. According to the survey research experts in the Air Force personnel office, this survey would be 95 percent reliable.

On March 1, 1979, the survey went out to the 1,700 randomly selected males. The package contained a covering page explaining the purpose of the survey and giving return mailing instructions. Also included was a forward, a Privacy Act statement and instructions for completing the survey. Attached were four pages of umbrella questions and the computer survey answer sheet.

What did the Air Force want to know? Such things as: frequency of umbrella use; whether or not it was used with a raincoat; comments received for using an umbrella by military and civilian personnel; type of umbrella used; opinions as to the masculinity of carrying an umbrella; whether or not the umbrella interfered with saluting and other military courtesies; if umbrellas reduced professional image; female Air Force reaction to the use of an umbrella; potential for detracting from the combat ready image of U.S. forces; recommended types of umbrellas; freedom of choice for the use of umbrellas; problems with the design or style of umbrellas.

Sometime in April the survey responses will be fed into a computer. Then the staff experts will sort out the major conclusions. A recommendation will be made. The recommendation will go to the USAF Uniform Board, which will reach a decision and pass it up the chain of command to the Air Force Chief of Staff.

Maybe the survey could come to a conclusion on whether Neville Chamberlain's umbrella was a psychological factor in persuading Hitler the British were too lacking in masculinity to strike back.

Or maybe they should examine Sir George Bowen's poetic observation:

> The rain it raineth on the just
> And also on the unjust fella;
> But chiefly on the just because
> The unjust stole the just's umbrella.

The great umbrella escapade is just the kind of issue that should have been settled by good old fashioned military decision making. No need for a survey, use of tax dollars or any other device. A simple decision one way or the other would have solved the problem long ago. After all, we are not talking about combat readiness or success on the battlefield. How about someone taking a stand, biting the bullet, belling the cat and all the other cliches? If the Air Force can't make a decision on the matter, heaven help the MX program.

It is hoped that this survey will put an end to the great umbrella debate. Perhaps it will. Perhaps not. It's hard to keep a good idea down.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Economic Development Administration (EDA)

For spending $279,000 on a community center so completely useless, that when it collapsed, no one knew it for days. The Department of Housing and Urban Development paid $100,000 for the construction of the center. EDA spent $179,000 on a never-completed road to the center.

The road was never completed because of a lack of easements and

insufficient funds. All this happened in rural Merrill Township, Michigan between 1975 and February 22, 1979, deep in a woods, half-way between two small towns.

Here is the tale of a tragedy of errors. In 1975 HUD approved $100,000 in Community Development funds to build a community center for rural Merrill Township, Michigan. What HUD didn't know was that in order to serve two small towns in the township the center was to be built at a secluded site in a virtually inaccessible forest half-way between.

A HUD Detroit official is quoted in the understatement of the year as saying about its location: "It may have been something that should have been caught."

The collapsed building was spotted on Washington's birthday, 1979, by a sharp eyed woodsman who reported it to the local Postmaster who called the local sheriff and township supervisor who relayed the news to HUD's Detroit office. No one knows the precise date of the building's "downfall." Like the question asked about the tree which fell in the wilderness, since no human being was present to hear it fall, did it make any noise?

When informed of the collapse a HUD Detroit official was quoted in the ultimate bureaucratic frustration: "I don't know what we'll do. I don't know of any set policy we have for that."

The groundbreaking ceremony for the center designed to be used for counseling, food stamp distribution, literacy classes, job training, and other vital township community services was in April, 1976. It lay idle--unpainted, unlandscaped, and unfurnished--from its completion that year until its collapse. Meantime, the township's application for $290,000 from EDA's Public Works Employment Act to build a road to it was reduced to $179,000. This proved insufficient to complete it. At the time the center collapsed the new road led to nowhere and the old two track dirt road or path through the forest was knee deep in snow. In more ways than one both HUD and EDA failed to pave the way for this project.

Among the tragedy of errors no proper records were kept, HUD reported that there was a failure to meet "...sound planning, engineering, and construction standards", there was no maintenance, and the insurance for the building did not cover snow damage. As early as February, 1977, broken trusses were found and repaired but other problems were identified in a July report--cost overruns, cracks in the concrete floor, failure of the ceiling tile to meet fire codes, and exits of insufficient widths.

Virtually everyone shuns responsibility. The project was inherited from the original supervisor who either kept no records or took them with him when he moved to Arizona. The township Treasurer who bought the insurance was unavailable through illness and died almost simultaneously with the building's collapse. EDA was unaware that the funds were insufficient to complete the road or that a railroad easement was needed. HUD's Detroit office contracted for and received routine reassuring reports from certified public accountants in August, 1978, six months before the collapse, indicating "...no major weaknesses or problems in the area of internal control or financial compliance." HUD was assured by the firm that: "Our examination

also included such procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances to determine compliance with regulations, policies, and procedures prescribed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development."

Nevertheless, this unused community center built on a site in the middle of nowhere, inaccessible by public roads, collapsed without anyone knowing it after the expenditure of $279,000 of public funds and four years of time and effort.

Award of Merit to the United States Army

I am giving an "Award of Merit" to the United States Army and, in particular, Dr. Percy A. Pierre, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research, Development and Acquisition. The Army and Dr. Pierre get the special "Merit Award" for presenting to Congress the most readable and honest presentation in my memory on the needs of the U.S. Army.

Merit Awards don't make news and are often greeted with a yawn by the press corps. But it is just as important to praise worthy accomplishments as to criticize waste and inefficiency. Coming from me this award may surprise the Army but it is well deserved.

There are several reasons why the Army's Congressional presentation titled "Equipping the United States Army" and its author Dr. Pierre are to be commended. First it is written in English. One can read it and understand what is being discussed. In a refreshing change from other defense documents, this report has few acronyms and is relatively free of military jargon. That's a big plus in itself.

Second, the Army admits its failures. It is unusual for any bureaucracy to own up to its mistakes. Nonetheless, the Army admits that it has "exercised insufficient managerial self-discipline, encountered technical problems, and lost a few important programs. We have suffered overruns and, as the Congress has correctly pointed out, we took much too long to produce fielded hardware." In its discussion of individual weapon systems, this Army report often addresses current problems head on such as the cost of the Patriot air defense system. It reads: "Patriot is painfully expensive."

Third, it pulls no punches. It states that right now from an equipment point of view the United States Army is "second rate." In my opinion part of this is due to a Congressional fascination with the more exotic weapon systems of the Air Force and Navy.

Fourth, while soberly assessing the strengths of the Soviet Union, this document refuses to portray the Russians as 10 feet tall or to allow the reader to be overwhelmed in a gloomy assessment. It spells out what we have to do to improve.

Fifth, the Army's analysis provides examples which clearly explain military needs. Instead of just mentioning the "combined arms team" as a military doctrine, this report explains just what is meant by combined arms and how the system works.

My award to the Army does not mean that I endorse all aspects of this report. There could be more discussion of the different military requirements

facing the USSR ground forces compared to the US--the influence of China and unease over Eastern Europe for example. Furthermore, I specifically disagree with certain recommendations on weapon systems.

But this is as it should be. There can be no universal agreement on items of this complexity. The most important fact is that the Army has come forth with an honest presentation, balanced in tone, forward looking and thinking. It is time we paid more attention to the needs of our Army.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

A SAMPLE OF GOLDEN FLEECE AWARDS

Given to the biggest, most ridiculous or most ironic example of government spending or waste.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Granted to the EPA for spending an extra $1 to $1.2 million to preserve a Trenton, New Jersey sewer as an historical monument. The sewer is 25 feet underground, full of mud and sludge, has been viewed only twice in the last 23 years, will not be on public view in the future, and is not unique. A clear example of taxpayers' money going down the drain.

Trenton was required to upgrade its sewers and sanitation plant back in 1975 by the EPA, whereby the city proposed to build its new sewers through a part of the 100 year old brick Lamberton Street sewer. The city's report found that:

> "...the nature of the (Lamberton Street) sewer is not conducive to appreciation and investigation since it is underground and, at least, partially full of raw wastewater at all times."

But the Environmental Assessment Statement submitted by New Jersey's State Historical Preservation Officer to the EPA said that:

> "The destruction of the Lamberton Street circular brick interceptor will be a loss for the sewer as both a symbol and expression of America's former engineers, engineering, urban life and planning, and a time and place which are irreversible and irretrievable."

As a result the sewer was placed on the Register of Historic Sites. It was the subject of a mitigation plan approved by the Federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Nine hundred feet of the old sewer will now be left intact as the new sewer by-passes it. A professional archaeologist will be hired to monitor the site to make certain the old bricks are preserved. Commemorative plaques will be placed above ground at each end of the underground sewer to note the sewers historic qualities.

National Institute for Mental Health

Granted to the Institute for funding a study of why bowlers, hockey fans and pedestrians smile. The study was entitled "Social and Emotional Messages of Smiling: An Ethological Approach." It was part of a $75,000 grant to examine verbal and nonverbal cues in detecting perception.

It is interesting to note that this particular study of smiling is never specifically mentioned in the elaborate grant proposal approved by the National Institute of Mental Health. In response to the

question as to where this particular study fit into the research that was approved, the Institute replied:

> "The basic purpose of this grant was to study the accuracy of interpersonal perceptions and how deception is communicated and detected. The purpose of the study of smiling is to assess whether people smile as popularly assumed to indicate an underlying emotion such as joy or for some other socail reason."

They also concluded that:

> "The study provided strong evidence that all social involvement rather than emotional state was the major cause of smiling.

United States Coast Guard (USCG)

Granted to the USCG for wasting over half a million dollar on a microfiche conversion project which had to be cancelled when it took three years to complete only seven percent of the required work. Here is an expenditure of half a million dollars for which the taxpayer got absolutely nothing--zilch, zero, zip.

The original idea was simple and straightforward. The 35,000 officer and enlisted personnel records of the USCG were held in paper files which were bulky and difficult to use. It would be much better to have these records on microfiche.

The USCG bought the idea and estimated that it would cost $261,000 and would require ten people for one year of work. This was early 1976.

A good idea is seldom left alone. Later in 1976 it was decided to add all the reservist's personnel records to the project--an additional 24,000 files or 70 percent more work. The Coast Guard concluded that the additional work could be completed within the same time frame and at the original cost.

But as soon as the project got underway it became obvious that it was impossible to complete it on time or within the budget. So... a new cost estimate of $500,000-$600,000 and 40 man years was developed--twice the price and four times the work.

In 1979, someone finally suggested that they take a look at where they stood. What they found was rather startling: After three years, the project was only seven percent complete! None of the 52,500 reserve or enlisted records had been touched. Only about one quarter of the work involved in converting the officers' records had been accomplished.

So, to give credit to the Coast Guard, at least in the end, the project was cancelled. But not until $375,000 had been spent for equipment and supplies and $150,000 on personnel for a total of $525,000. The seven percent of officer files transferred to microfiche will be returned to the old paper file system--at an undetermined cost.

Department of Education (DOE)

Granted to the DOE for fattening its staff and beefing up its budget after promising that if it were created it would include no more people and would cost no more than previously devoted to education programs. The facts are that by September 30, 1980, on a comparable basis, the Department will include 157 more people than a year ago and 1,121 more people than two years ago. Personnel compensation and other management costs will explode. Between fiscal year 1979 and 1980 Budget Authority for its programs will go up by $1 billion and outlays will rise by $2 billion.

Technically the Department will argue that it has kept its promise. But the public doesn't realize what the small print says or how the sleights of hand and legerdemain actually work. The DOE has, in fact, outdone Dicken's artful dodger.

No matter how one slices it, even if personnel cuts promised for fiscal year 1981 are carried out, the new DOE will have more people, spend more for overhead costs, and spend far more for education programs that when it was proposed.

While excuses will be made, explanations trotted out, and the fine print brought to the force, to prove that the promise that "The Department of Education will include no more people and will cost no more than is now devoted to education programs," has been kept. The hard truth is that the creation of the DOE is a saga showing how bureaucracy grows, costs increase, and promises are broken.

Department of Commerce (DOC)

Granted to the DOC for spending $9,800 to hire a private public relations firm to review and evaluate the Department's public relations efforts. What did the public relations firm recommend? Surprise! More public relations with a potential price tag of tens of millions of dollars.

Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA)

Granted to the GNMA for spending $6,918 to buy 1,200 nine by twelve inch simulated leather binders which it sent out to savings and loan associations across the country to commemorate the issue of a total of $100 billion in mortgage backed securities. All this left the taxpayers in a bind. Directly or indirectly they had to pick up the tab for this wasteful spending.

This expenditure is sheer unadulterated waste. To paraphrase a famous Supreme Court standard, it is without redeeming social or economic value.

It was sent to 1200 associations, in the words of GNMA's President:

> ...to thank those visionaries who conceptualized and shaped the program, the mortgage lenders that issue the securities, the securities dealers that market them, and the many different investor groups that hold the securities, as well as all those GNMA employees who have had a hand in administering the program for their part in making it the success it is today.

It is not only wasteful but in questionable taste. Printed in the maroon colored imitation leather folder in imitation gold lettering are the words:

GOVERNMENT NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION
COMMEMORATES
ONE HUNDRED BILLION DOLLARS
IN
MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES

Below the printing and in the center is the HUD symbol also in imitation gold letters. At the bottom is the date and the individualized name of each of the 1200 institutions which received the folder.

Department of Labor (DOL)

Granted to the DOL for funding a summer youth employment program in Tucson, Arizona in which 14 junior college track athletes were paid for twice-a-day training sessions, weekly trips to compete in races and week-long journeys to Flagstaff, Arizona and Reno, Nevada to train, compete, and meet with other runners.

The athletes' job supervisor, who also just happens to be their track coach, described the project as a 'personal growth' program designed to prepare participants for college. It can be said, without fear of contradiction, that these CETA funds gave the taxpayers a run for their money and that's about all.

The track-coach job supervisor not only justified paying athletes to be athletes but he explained to the Arizona Daily Star why he paid the athletes for full-time effort when they practiced only part of the day:

> "I arbitrarily decided to pay them eight hours a day because of the hard work involved with running work-outs twice a day. I gave them free time whenever I could to explore. You know, it's a real eye opener to go to a city like Reno with all those lights and everything."

The 14 athletes were paid $3.10 per hour for 240 hours or $744 for eights weeks of work this summer. Thus the cost to the Federal taxpayers was over $10,000. CETA summer job program is supposed to provide work for some of the nation's poorest and unemployed youths. While it appears that a number of the junior college athletes may not have come from poor families, they became eligible for the CETA program by stating that they were independent of their families and not living at home. Four of the 14 athletes listed the coach's home as their address, while another five listed the home of the coach's part-time assistant in their application.

Department of Defense (DOD)

Granted to the DOD for understating by $1.5 million various excessive costs in operating public housing for high ranking generals and admirals . The next time the generals and admirals come to Congress asking for more money they should be reminded of the old adage that "economy begins at home."

The fleece is being given for overspending and excesses in the following areas:

--understating the true costs of operating and maintaining general and flag rank quarters by $1.5 million annually

--spending over $30,000 a year for maintenance alone on each of 20 flag rank residences

--spending $126,000 on the house of the Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic Fleet in Norfolk, VA

--spending $500,000 to manicure the lawns of generals and admirals on 22 bases.

--spending $65,000 to repair the gazebos adjacent to 13 generals' quarters at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C.

--spending up to $110,000 in remodeling each time a new general or admiral moved into his house.

Department of Education's Institute of Museum Services

Granted to the Institute for a $35,000 federal grant to a California zoo part of which was used to send two animal keepers half way across the country to attend a three day elephant workshop in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

While this may not be the biggest example of government spending, it illustrates the point that governemnt is now spending the taxpayer's money for almost anything, everywhere. It is one thing for the federal government to provide for the common defense; but it is quite another for it to pander to pachyderms.

This grant to the Santa Barbara Zoo is just one of the 366 general operating support grants totalling $9.5 million given out this year by the Institute of Museum Services to zoos and museums in every state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to spend virtually as the recipients see fit.

Federal Highway Administration

Granted to the Administration for spending $241,764 to produce a computerized system that gives local travel directions to people who can't or won't read maps. This complex system is no substitute for asking at the nearest gas station.

While the system is intended to aid lost motorists and save gasoline, it helps those who need it least. In order to use it, you have to know where you are and where you're going. If you have that much information, you can use a map.

The effect of this program is to substitute a very sophisticated, overly complex and expensive system for one that is simpler and already available--a map. This is not only paternalistic but also is an example of technological overkill at its worst.

Office of Personnel Management and the Merit Systems Protection Board

Granted to these agencies for sending out duplicate surveys asking top federal employees how they like their jobs.

These two agencies spent $126,729 to send near-identical "job attitude surveys" to 19,782 high-level federal employees. The surveys were mailed out within two days of each other in November 1980. The thought of one agency spending taxpayer dollars to find out if public employees who earn an average of $41,000 a year like their jobs is bad enough. To have two agencies sending out surveys on that topic is utterly ridiculous.

When you add in the time these highly paid employees are spending answering these surveys, the cost to the taxpayer becomes a whopping $450,000.

This is the classic case of the first hand not knowing what the left hand is doing. This only deserves the back of the hand from the taxpayers.

This is the second year the Office of Personnel Management has spent money on such a survey. One of the startling discoveries made in last year's survey was, in the words of one OPM executive, that "those with higher pay are happier with their jobs." We needed to spend money to learn that?

Presidential Inaugural Committee

Granted to the Committee for taking taxpayers for a ride. While proclaiming that no public money was spent on the Inauguration, the Inaugural Committee commandeered 1,120 Marines, soldiers, sailors and other service personnel to act as chauffeurs and aides to 274 Inaugural VIP's as well as several hundred additional Inaugural celebrants. The estimated cost to the taxpayer of this chauffeur and escort service, only one of several hidden costs of the Inauguration, was $1.8 million.

Architect of the Capitol

Granted to the office for developing plans to build up to six new House and Senate office buildings that would cost at least $500 million to construct. These plans are available through the Government Printing Office.

Unless we stop this proliferation of House and Senate office buildings, we'll end up with one office building for every member of Congress!

Congress has already spent $450,000 to develop these plans, which are the third phase of a three-part 'master plan' for Capitol expansion. In addition to awarding a Golden Fleece for these extravagant plans, I have introduced a resolution to insure these plans, at least those for the Senate, never make it past the planning stage.

To stem the tide of Senate staff proliferation and future office building construction, I have also introduced a resolution that would place a ceiling on the number of full-time Senate employees and prevent the construction of any new Senate office buildings.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Granted to HUD for letting slum landlords dump their low quality, sub-standard housing on the backs of the taxpayers to the tune of at least $200 million in fiscal year 1982.

Next year HUD will spend hundreds of millions of dollars to subsidize landlords to house low and moderate income families in low grade, sub-par, privately owned existing housing under a program called Section 8.

Under HUD's standards and regulations, promulgated under the Carter Administration and continuing now, existing housing can pass inspection and qualify for HUD's low and moderate Section 8 existing housing subsidies if:

--there are holes in the walls and ceilings provided they are no larger than 8 1/2" by 11"

--holes in the floor are no larger than 4"

--the walls are unpainted or only spot painted.

--floors are unfinished; if finished flooring, it can be half ripped up

--there are no down spouts or gutters

--there are no storm doors and storm windows or no screens

--bedrooms have no doors or closets (even if occupied by adults with children in the next bedroom)

--kitchen cupboards are without doors or hardware

--tenants must pass through a bathroom to get to a bedroom or pass through a bedroom to get to a bedroom

The housing standards for the program are so low that the practical effect is that the tenant gets a run-down, sub-par dwelling; the landlord gets a guaranteed market and an assured return on his investment; and the taxpayer gets the bill.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Granted to NASA for a Tracking Data Relay and Satellite System (TDRSS) which is over-priced, over-weight, over-sold and over-due.

In a recent unreleased internal NASA Inspector General's report, excessive TDRSS costs of $500 million to $1 billion were cited. The report said the 10 year lease costs of the system had risen by 150 percent, from an original estimate of $841.8 million to $2.156 billion.

Part of the overrun results from the Space Shuttle program. Lost in the publicity landslide surrounding the Shuttle was the unpleasant and unreported fact that delays in the Shuttle have posponed the launch date of the TRDDS satellite. This will cost the taxpayers $1 million a day.

It's ironic that while the news media and the public were overwhelmed by the Shuttle extravaganza, the taxpayers were the ones being taken for a ride.

Department of Commerce (DOC)

Granted to the DOC for giving the City and County of Honolulu $28,600 to study how they can spend another $250,000 for a good surfing beach.

Spending federal money so you can figure out how to spend more money is bad enough. What's worse is the fact that the City and County of Honolulu plan to spend $28,600 to hire and outside consultant to find a good surfing beach. Keep in mind, Hawaii is packed with expert surfers--most of whom already know the good surfing spots like the back of their surfboards, and some of whom already work for the City and County of Honolulu and could do the job for free.

The federal bureaucrats should have waved goodbye to this request. Instead, Honolulu got a good buy to study a wave.

United States Army

Granted to the U.S. Army, which spent $6,000 to prepare a 17-page document that tells the federal government how to buy a bottle of Worcestershire sauce.

That's right: 17-eye-glazing pages of single-spaced type on how to buy a 15-ounce bottle of Worcestershire sauce that retails for about $1.50. What's more, in order for our hapless buyer or seller to use those 17 pages of federal specifications, he must refer to another 2,270 pages of government and commercial regulations and references.

I can see having complex federal specifications if the military is buying a weapon system. But Worcestershire sauce? That 17-page specification and the 2,270-page backup is nothing more than a recipe for stuffed paperwork souffle that left the taxpayer with an indigestible $6,000 check. Even a dollar spent on writing and using this document is a dollar too much.

Treasury Department managers of the Social Security Trust Fund

Granted to the Fund's managers whose investment policies needlessly lost $2 billion in earnings to the Trust Funds last year. This is not only a Golden Fleece but a fiscal fiasco.

While private money market managers, (investing exclusively in safe government or government backed securities) earned 13% interest on their investments, in 1980 the Treasury managers, (investing exclusively in safe government of government backed securities) earned only 8.3% interest. While giving the appearance of safety, the result was a sorry return.

A report of the Trustees of the Social Security Trust Funds indicated that the three Social Security Funds (Old Age and Survivors Insurance, Disability Insurance, and Hospital Insurance) earned only 8.3% interest on their $47 billion portfolio in fiscal year 1980. The difference between that figure and what competent money market funds invested entirely in safe government securities earned

Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration

Granted to the Administration for spending $200,000 to build an 800 foot limestone replica of the Great Wall of China in Bedford, Indiana as a follow up to its $500,000 grant to that Hoosier community for the building of a ten story high limestone model of the Great Pyramid of Egypt.

While there are sharp budget cuts being made in social programs from medical care to education of the disadvantaged, the EDA adds money for these make work memorials to the limestone industry. How can the EDA justify such an ironic and outrageous expenditure of public funds? How can there be a renewed commitment to the private sector if the taxpayers are required to support the building of this local tourist attraction?

This project, initiated under the Carter Administration, has now been expanded into the Reagan Administration.

National Science Foundation

Granted to the Foundation for spending $144,012 to test commonly accepted, historically proven, fundamental economic principles of supply and demand--ON PIGEONS.

The researchers coo while the taxpayers get billed.

While it may be said that our current economy is going to the dogs, the NSF apparently felt it had to go to the pigeons and rats to prove it. This is one project that should be pigeonholed pronto.

Ordinarily, experimental animals tests are performed as a preliminary to find out if principles or procedures can be applied to man. In this case proven principles already applied to man were tested on animals.

Technically, the methodologies and mechanics appear to be correct and without fault. The problem was that the Foundation and its researchers were so enchained with the means and methods, that they failed to comprehend the ends. One can paraphrase what George Santayana said about fantacism namely that it means "...redoubling one's efforts after having lost sight of one's aims."

Federal Highway Administration

Granted to the Administration for the worst record of civillian cost overruns in the Federal Government. Mismanagement, delays, and confusion in the construction of our interstate highway system have caused a 267 percent, $100 billion cost overrun that dwarfs any other civil project. While it is said that the road to hell is paved with good intentions, no one expected this to apply to the U.S. highway program.

The numbers involved are so staggering that they numb the mind. When Congress first approved the estimates for the Interstate Highway System in 1958, the firm, hard figures showed a cost of $37.6 billion. Now that same program stands at $137.9 billion, an increase of $100.3 billion.

The blame for this mammoth cost overrun cannot be placed solely at the doorstep of inflation. Of the current $100.3 billion overrun, $55.9 billion represents inflation. Taking inflation out entirely still leaves an unbelievable "real" overrun of $44.4 billion or more than the project was supposed to cost in the first place.

Department of Defense (DOD)

Granted to the DOD for running a $13,000 six year program in which a bull was tested for possible biological effects resulting from a submarine communications device--a study later found useless by Navy officials. Long subject to local rumors, the story of "Sylvester the Bull" was recently confirmed in official Navy correspondence to me.

While the award this month is not as large as other expenditures, the wasted $13,000 represents about the average annual income of a typical Wisconsin family.

The "bull" program began because William Clements, Deputy Secretary of Defense, and now Governor of Texas, mistakenly told a congressional committee chairman in 1974 that a bull was being used to determine if the Extremely Low Frequency (ELF) system, composed of 28 miles of above ground cables which transmit waves into the atmosphere and down into the water to waiting submarines, produced environmental conditions that could harm people, or animals.

The Department spent $13,000 to purchase and keep a Hereford bull, nicknamed Sylvester, in order to make good the statement by Secretary Clements that the ELF facility at Clam Lake, Wisconsin, had been tested on cattle. The Navy kept the charade going for six years until Sylvester was needlessly killed in 1980.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Granted to the USDA for spending $40,000 for a study entitled "Food Preferences and Social Identity." This study, which took a year to complete, tried to demonstrate the old saw, "You Are What You Eat," claiming that people who have a certain kind of personality eat certain kinds of foods.

My answer to this is "So What?" Who cares what it means when you eat carrots instead of caviar? Here's a $40,000 study calculated to make the American taxpayer eat his heart out!

The grant was made by the Competitive Research Grants Office of the USDA's Science and Education Administration.

National Endowment for the Arts

Granted to the organization for giving a $7,000 grant for a sound and light show at the state capitol in Madison, Wisconsin. According to the sponsors, the purpose of this winter-night happening was to "turn Wisconsin's state capitol building into a geometrically-tuned instrument which will bring together and send forth human and planetary energies in a message of world peace." While attempting to tune-in and turn-on, this project has only turned-off the American taxpayers.

The history of this project demonstrates the mindless and wasteful ways in which federal funds are spent.

Small Business Administration (SBA)

Granted to the SBA for providing two loan guarantees--almost a million dollars in total--to a California aquatic park for a giant water sli e and other construction. This is a prime example of how Uncle Sam's credit budget has exploded in recent years, and shoved credit sensitive housing and auto industries down the slide and into the drink in the process.

Waterworld, U.S.A. was the beneficiary of two loan guarantees--each $498,400 for a total of $996,800. SBA rules forbid loan guarantees of more that $500,000, so in this case, one loan guarantee went to a development firm which lent the money to Waterworld, while the other loan guarantee went to back up a loan a bank had guaranteed to Waterworld.

In a loan guarantee, the federal government pledges to repay principal--in whole or in part--and interest on a loan in case of default by a borrower, thus reducing the lender's exposure to risk. If the loan goes bad, it's the taxpayer's dollars that are used to pay it off.

The way this project is working out...people won't just go down a slide...it may be the taxpayers taking a bath since the owners and operators of the park had been in serious financial difficulty.

Synthetic Fuels Corporation

Granted to the Corporation for recently spending over $44,000 for a study which recommended increasing top salaries to as high as $190,000. They paid $35,000 for two consultants who submitted no reports. And they signed an overpriced $10 million lease for exclusive office space and then decorated the offices at a cost of $522,919.

Congress created the Synthetic Fuels Corporation during 1979, at the height of the Iranian crisis. The Corporation provided loan guarantees, price guarantees, purchase agreements, and direct loans to subsidize the production of synthetic fuels. The Corporation uses the U.S. Treasury to borrow its money, and unfairly competes with farmers, small businessmen, and home buyers who try to find credit. The Corporation is authorized to underwrite up to $12 billion in credit by the end of fiscal year 1982. It will spend at least $186 million--off-budget but federal funds--to select projects and administer loans and guarantees.

Here are the facts of the spending splurge. The Corporation paid $44,226 for a study of its "salary structure." The study, delivered in December of 1981, recommended some extraordinary pay increases:

Position	Current Salary	Recommended Salary	%Increase
Chairman	69,630	190,358	173
President	69,630	165,370	137
Senior Vice Pres., Projects	69,630	113,881	64
Vice President, Projects	62,500	90,281	44
Vice President, Admin.	65,000	85,990	32
General Counsel	52,750	85,990	63
Vice President, Finance	69,630	89,145	28
Vice President, Tech. & Engineering	69,630	82,204	18

Inspector General	65,000	78,040	20
Controller	65,000	74,254	14
Vice Pres., External Relat.	69,630	68,575	-2
Director, Planning	69,500	68, 196	-2
Dir. Socio-Econ. Planning	50,000	56,712	13

United States Army Material Development and Readiness Command (DARCOM)

Granted to DARCOM for spending $38 million over 13 years on a new gas mask that is no improvement over the masks it is designed to replace. If we didn't desperately need a new protective mask, this would be an amusing story about bureaucratic ineptness.

DARCOM invested $38 million over the past thirteen years to develop a new protective mask called the XM30. This is intended to be a mulit-purpose, multi-service protective mask for use by pilots, tank commanders and many other military specialists as well as ground troops, to protect them against deadly poison gas or biological warfare. It and its companion masks should replace the twenty-seven year old M17A1 and several other masks for a variety of uses.

In spite of heavy investment in the mask's development, the Army revealed at a recent "In Process Review" that it "does not feel that we could adequately control its quality while mass-producing it." Most of the participants at the review are not too sure that it would be worth producing at all. Principal among the objectors were the Army's Training and Doctrine Command, the Army Logistics Evaluation Agency, and the Marine Corps.

The conclusion from the extensive operational testing of the mask is that its lighter weight and better visibility characteristics have given it but one operational advantage over the M17A1 and the other masks it is designed to replace. It affords a soldier better visibility for M16 rifle firing. In tests of all other aspects, it was found that the utility of the XM 30 to be "substantially less than the standard masks." It was also found that the XM30 fails, on the average, every 46 hours--that's less than two days--compared to 1617 hours--that's more than two months of continuous duty--between failures for the M17A1.

That pricetag is conservatively estimated at an incredible $450 million! Fortunately, the Army and the other services have had the wisdom to call a meeting to discuss the merits of proceeding with the program. The participants may be sufficiently choked up by the results of the operational testing to discontinue this program. I, for one, have been left gasping.

Commerce and Labor Departments

Granted to both agencies for shelling out over $700,000 to a non-profit corporation which was supposed to teach minority youth how to make tee-shirts. Departmental auditors warned Commerce officials that the project was doomed to fail and fail it did. Not one tee-shirt was produced for sale, not one minority youth found a job, but the taxpayer lost his shirt.

General Services Administration (GSA)

Granted to the GSA for "losing" 49,000 forms--the equivalent of open-ended airline tickets--with a potential value of at least $7 million. Now that many taxpayers are taking their vacation, they must wonder if the government has taken them for yet another ride.

GSA's regulations require that employees carefully control these forms because "In regard to obtaining airline tickets, (these forms) shold be considered and are as good as cash." GSA's Inspector General is now trying to find out the extent of the loss.

Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency

Granted to the Agency for spending $138,000 to conduct three management training seminars located at three star resort hotels. According to an agency memo the seminars would:

> "Ensure that ALL-repeat, ALL-agency personnel (from clerk-typists to the senior executives) are 'playing from the same score' in the MBDA symphony! Put another way, we'll all be marching to the same drummer for the first time in the Agency's history.

Last winter, the Inspector General of the Commerce Department issued a report highly critical of the operation of this agency responsible for assisting the development of minority-owned businesses. On May 3, 1982, the agency hired an outside consultant to plan and run training sessions to improve the functioning of the agency.

The three 6-day seminars are scheduled to take place at the Omni Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia, and the Half Moon Inn, San Diego, California. Dozens of MBDA employees have been flown into the Baltimore area from thr regional offices in San Francisco, Dallas, Atlanta, Chicago and New York. A total of 177 participants will attend the three seninars at a cost to the taxpayers of $138,000.

OFFICE OF
SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE
WISCONSIN

GOLDEN FLEECE AWARDS - 1975

Given to the biggest, most ridiculous or most ironic example of government spending or waste.

March: National Science Foundation

For squandering $84,000 to try to find out why people fall in love. They say they want to study this especially between men and women.

I object to this because no one--not even the National Science Foundation--can argue that falling in love is a science. Even if they spend $84 million or $84 billion, they wouldn't get an answer that anyone would believe.

And I'm against it because I don't want the answer. I believe that 200 million other Americans want to leave some things in life a mystery, and right at the top of the list of things we don't want to know is why a man falls in love with a woman and vice versa.

NSF is also spending $16,000 to study hitchhiking; $81,000 to study the social behavior of the Alaskan Brown Bear; $25,000 to study primate teeth; and $112,000 to examine the African climate during the last Ice Age.

April: National Science Foundation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Office of Naval Research

For spending over $600,000 in the last seven years to determine under what conditions rats, monkeys and humans bite and clench their jaws. From the findings of these studies it is clear that the government paid a half million dollars to find out that anger, stepping smoking and loud noises produce jaw clenching in people.

All this money was given to Dr. Roland R. Hutchinson of Kalamazoo State Hospital in Michigan. Last year alone he spent over $200,000, of which more than $100,000 were federal funds. And what are some of the other results reached by these research projects in the last seven years?

Dr. Hutchinson told NASA that people get angry when they feel cheated and tend to clench their jaws or even scream and kick. NSF learned that the researcher's monkeys became angry when they were shocked and would try to get away from the shock. In addition, NSF was informed that drunk monkeys do not usually react as quickly or as often as sober monkeys and that hungry monkeys get angry more quickly than well-fed monkeys. The Office of Naval Research appears to have gotten the same type of so-called research as did the NSF and NASA.

It is interesting to trace the history of these extremely similar and perhaps duplicative projects. In 1967 NSF gave Dr. Hutchinson $44,700 to study "Environmental and Physiological Causes of Aggression." For two years he studied the biting reactions of monkeys when they received electric shocks. He also compared their reaction while being given a number of different drugs such as alcohol and caffeine. In 1969 the NSF gave him another $26,300 to continue these experiments. He received another grant, this one for $51,200 in 1970 from the NSF. In 1970 Dr. Hutchinson received a grant which ran for five years from the ONR to continue "research on subhuman primates to determine the environmental, physiological and biochemical factors responsible for the maintenance of aggressive behavior and systematic replication of results obtained in primates extended to human subjects." Total funding from the Navy ran to $207,000. During this period he applied for and received a $50,000 grant from NASA to develop measurements of latent anger or aggression in humans by means of jaw clenching. In addition he received his fourth NSF grant in 1972 for $51,800 in order to continue his experiments on monkeys and extend the work to human jaw clenching.

The funding of this nonsense makes me almost angry enough to scream and kick or even clench my jaw. It's time for the federal government to get out of this monkey business.

May: Selective Service System; Army Corps of Engineers.

To the Selective Service System for a $98,029 contract it awarded Mr. Kenneth Coffey to study the all-volunteer army concept in a number of foreign countries two years after the all-volunteer army had been put into effect in the U.S.

1) Mr. Coffey negotiated the $98,029 contract from the Selective Service System while he was still the Public Relations Officer at the Selective Service System on May 11, 1973. He retired two weeks later, and the contract was awarded on June 15, 1973. 2) It was a sole source contract, for which Mr. Coffey was the only applicant. 3) It was done without advertising under a provision of the Selective Service Act authorizing "equipment and supplies" to be purchased without advertising or formal contract. Technically, the study was termed the purchase of "equipment." 4) Mr. Coffey received for himself $30,000, $4,500 in fringe benefits, $7,000 for travel, $8,000 per diem for 175 days abroad, plus a $6,413 profit which he gained by incorporating himself--for a total of $55,913. 5) Finally, in the finest tradition of nepotism, Mr. Coffey's wife Osa was placed on the payroll as a part-time assistant.

This may be the most expensive severance pay in the history of government.

The Army Corps of Engineers shares the fickle finger award for their backdoor attempt to commit $6 to $10 billion to build a series of new locks and dams on the Mississippi River under a little known 1909 law designed merely for the maintenance, repair or replacement of existing structures.

The law (33 USC, Sec. 401) requires specific Congressional legislative authority for any dam or other structure in a navigable river of the United States. But using the excuse of the 1909 law, which allows for maintenance or replacement of existing structures, the Army Engineers are building an entirely new lock and dam, Number 26, at Alton, Illinois, two miles downstream from the existing lock and dam, with two new 1200 foot locks, over twice as long as the existing locks. While the original lock and dam Number 26 was completed in 1938 for less than $30 million, the new dam downstream will cost from $400 to $450 million.

But the consequences of the action are far greater. If the Army Engineers get by with this action, they can replace any of the other 27 locks and dams on the Mississippi and 7 locks and dams on the Illinois River without specific approval. This would cost from $6 to 10 billion.

June: Congress

For living high off the hog while much of the rest of the country is suffering economic disaster.

1) The Senate has just approved the addition of up to three new committee staff employees per Senator at a salary of $33,975 each. While all Senators may not use their full allotment and add 300 employees at a cost of $10.2 million, it is estimated that about half the number at a cost of $4 to $6 million will be added.

2) Unfortunately, the Senate in enlarging its perquisites and prerogatives has taken its cue from the House of Representatives. Earlier in the year the House Administration Committee increased the expense allowances for equipment, travel, newsletter, phones, etc., by $23,000 a Member for a total cost of $10 million. The House itself then added some 35% staff positions for Members and committees at an additional minimum cost of $6 million.

3) The Senate is now constructing a third Senate Office Building at a cost of $85 million. So far there is an overrun of $37 million, or 78% over the original estimate of $48 million.

4) The ultimate Congressional absurdity is the $1.3 million the House will spend to automate 19 elevators while retaining operators to run them. In this instance the House is merely following the lead of the Senate, where the automatic elevators in the Dirksen Building are routinely run by operators.

Congress owes it to the public to live simply. Senators and Congressmen should not be too far removed from the trials and tribulations of the average citizen whom they represent.

July: Bureau of Land Management

For requiring useless paperwork on a contract that resulted in a $4000 piece of equipment costing over $16,000.

The Bureau of Land Management issued 166 pages of requirements, including 23 fold-out diagrams, for fire equipment to be placed on two pick-up trucks. The fire equipment could have been supplied for $4,000 per unit without the complicated and massive government requirements detailing the placement of every screw and bolt. In order to bid, the firm would have had to charge three to five times higher than a commercial order and hire 8-10 people for pushing paper alone. The solicitation for bids was sent to 41 companies. Only two responded with a bid. The low estimate won at a level of $16,497 per unit (not including the trucks).

The effect of the overwhelming paperwork burden is to squeeze small business out of government work and to inflate the cost of procurement for government agencies.

It has been estimated that the total cost to the federal government and private business for filling out official forms runs as high as $36 billion annually. Over 130 million manhours a year are lost on paper shuffling. And the amount of paperwork is increasing each year.

August: Federal Aviation Administration

For a $57,800 study of the body measurements of airline stewardess trainees. The study was done ostensibly for the design of safety equipment, but the 103-page report dealing with 79 measurements from head to foot seems like a bust to me.

As the study says, "Although all airlines recruit stewardesses from the same general population of young females, each has its own selection standards for age, height, weight, education, and other variables." Thus, the sample of the 423 American Airline stewardess trainees is unrepresentative of the airline stewardesses as a whole and is therefore completely useless.

Information of equal value was available from anthropometric data already gathered on WAF recruits, student nurses and college women as well as the known minimum-maximum requirements of the airlines for height, weight, age, hip girth,etc.

Some of the 79 individual measurements appear to be either unnecessary or irrelevant in any case. Detailed measurements were made of body features such as the skinfold of the upper arm and the posterior calf; the vertical height of the sphyrion; the popliteal length of the buttocks; the transverse distance between the centers of the anterior superior iliac spines; the knee to knee breadth while sitting; the maximum horizontal width of the jaw across the gonial angles and the height of the nose.

Besides, why should the government spend taxpayers' money to do this study at all? It is proper for the FAA to set standards and to require the airlines and aircraft manufacturers to live up to them, but the cost of the research and its application should be borne by the airlines or aircraft manufacturers.

September: Department of the Navy

For using 64 aircraft to fly 1334 officers to the Hilton Hotel in Las Vegas for a reunion of a private organization during the height of the energy crisis.

During the September, 1974, reunion of the Tailhook Association the Navy placed 64 aircraft, ranging from tactical fighters to VIP jets, at the service of 1334 Navy officers throughout the country who needed transportation to Las Vegas. The flights cost more than $191,000 in tax funds and squandered 347,000 gallons of fuel in the midst of the most severe energy crisis the nation has ever faced.

The Tailhook Association is a private, non-governmental organization made up of active duty, reserve and retired military aviators and civilians interested in aircraft carrier affairs.

The flights were authorized by the Chief of Naval Operations and justified as "space required" travel. None of the officers carried the required documentation for "space required" travel, however, and none was involved in a temporary or permanent change of station as required by the regulation. The designation was a subterfuge.

Many aircraft were taken off operational duty for these flights. The giant airlift was of such magnitude that it required the assignment of 13 Navy personnel for ground support and administration.

Considering that it will take weeks to reinforce our troops in Europe by air, there is great comfort in noting that the Navy can quickly airlift thousands of officers to Las Vegas in the face of a compelling requirement. Where there's a will, there's a way.

October: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

For spending millions of dollars to find out if drunk fish are more aggressive than sober fish, if young rats are more likely than adult rats to drink booze in order to reduce anxiety, and if rats can be systematically turned into alcoholics.

The NIAAA has the important responsibility of combating the most extensive and tragic drug problem facing our nation. They tell us of their need for additional funds, yet they have wasted funds on the following studies:

-- $102,000 to study the effects of alcohol on aggressive behavior in a species of sunfish. One experiment will measure the effects of gin compared to tequila in a fighting test. NIAAA seems to be interested in testing what it means to be "stewed to the gills." Or perhaps they want to understand what is really behind the expression "drinks like a fish." In any case, the application of this "fishy" research to understanding the problems of alcoholism and aggression in humans will not be swallowed hook, line and sinker by the American taxpayer.

-- At the same time the NIAAA is funding the fish study, they are also funding another $90,000 study by the same researcher. In this one attempts are being made to turn rats into alcoholics by making them neurotic. The rats are placed in insolvable situations or given unpredictable rewards and shocks.

The rationale for this waste of taxpayers' money is to create an animal model of alcohol consumption which would then give NIAAA a better understanding of human alcoholism, but the fish and rat are so much lower on the evolutionary scale than man that the result of these experiments will tell us very little, if anything, about the nature of complex human problems such as alcoholism.

It is time for the NIAAA to take a hard and sober look at its research priorities and concentrate its effort on overcoming the tragic problem of alcoholism in America.

November: Frank Zarb, Administrator of the Federal Energy Administration

For spending $25,000 and using almost 19,000 gallons of fuel in the ten months since January 1, 1977, jetting about the country in chartered aircraft urging businessmen and civic groups to economize on energy resources.

Since January 1, 1975, this winged wastrel of energy, fuel and taxpayers' money has used chartered Air Force and private aircraft on 13 trips to various cities around the country. On 7 of the 13 trips Administrator Zarb's basic purpose was to convince local business or civic groups of the need to conserve

fuel. In half or more of the total cases, Mr. Zarb flew in a plush, four-engine Air Force jet which burned enough fuel in an hour to supply the average American driver with enough gasoline to drive for an entire year.

In many instances commercial flights were available at a much lower cost. For example, the cost of Mr. Zarb's chartered round-trip flight to Little Rock on May 9 was more than 20 times greater than the round-trip commercial coach fare.

Mr. Zarb is a hard working, conscientious administrator. He should recognize, however, the supreme irony that the leading advocate of energy conservation presents to the nation when he fails to practice what he preaches.

December: The White House

For its efforts to add to its empire through increased funds for consultants, contingencies, travel and high level personnel while calling for austerity from the rest of the government.

-- The White House has dramatically increased funding for 'consultants' from an initial $290,000 in FY68 to a whopping $3,850,000 in FY76. This is an increase of $1.6 million since Mr. Ford became President.

-- In FY76 the White House requested a 100% increase (to $1,000,000) for the discretionary contingency fund called "unanticipated needs." The funds can be used for any activity--at home or abroad--the President decides is in "furtherance of the national interest."

-- In FY75 without any legislative authorization travel funds for the White House staff (not the President) were increased from $40,000 to $100,000.

-- The White House now has 54 aides earning between $37,000 and $44,600 a year. (No less than 9 of these are Executive Level 2 positions although there are only 16 other Executive Level 2 spots throughout the rest of the government.) This year the White House requested authority from Congress to hire an unlimited number of these high level employees; however, the House of Representatives, over White House opposition, placed a ceiling of 95 on the number of supergrade and Executive Level positions in the White House.

Fleece of the Year: Department of the Air Force

For operating a $66 million fleet of 23 plush jets used solely to transport top government officials at a cost to the taxpayers of over $6 million a year. This little known executive airline is called the 89th Military Airlift Wing and is based at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington, D.C.

This fleet cost the taxpayers $66.7 million to purchase. Operation and maintenance costs run from $2,208 an hour to $155 an hour for the smaller planes. In the first ten months of 1975 the 89th made 975 flights carrying government officials as passengers at a cost of over $6 million.

In fairness to the Air Force this Fleece of the Year should be shared by all the government bigshots who insist on such special treatment at the expense of the taxpayers. 849 of these flights were undertaken for high ranking defense officials. Treasury Department officials used these executive jets on 67 occasions, the State Department 28 times, the Federal Energy Administration 11, ERDA 8, and NASA 6. There were a number of other miscellaneous flights.

Military aides who accompany the passengers on these flights to serve food and drink and assist in their comfort are justified by the AF "for passenger safety."

The stupidity of this massive airlift is that in almost every case, commercial flights were available to the same destination. Commercial flights would not only save the government hundreds of thousands of dollars--if not millions--but they would also help the depressed U.S. airline industry.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1975 FOR TUESDAY P'm

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said on Tuesday, "My choice for the biggest waste of the taxpayer's money for the month of March has to be the National Science Foundation's squandering of $84,000 to try to find out why people fall in love."

The Wisconsin Senator said, "This was the first of a series of monthly awards which would be climaxed by an annual biggest waste of the year award."

Proxmire, who is Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that handles funding for the National Science Foundation said:

"The National Science Foundation is devoting $84,000 to study people's dependence on each other in what they call 'romantic love'. They say they want to study this especially between men and women.

"Now they are also spending $15,000 to study hitchhiking.

"They are going to spend $81,000 to study the social behaviour of the Alaskan Brown Bear.

"They are putting $25,000 into the study of primate teeth.

"And $112,000 to examine the African climate during the last Ice Age.

"These are a few of their candidates for the biggest waste of the taxpayers' money.

"But the biggest waste has to be $84,000 to find out why or how or if or how long people fall in love.

"I object to this not only because no one - not even the National Science Foundation - can argue that falling in love is a science; not only because I'm sure that even if they spend $84 million or $84 billion they wouldn't get an answer that anyone would believe. I'm against it because I don't want the answer.

"I believe that 200 million other Americans want to leave some things in life a mystery, and right at the top of things we don't want to know is why a man falls in love with a woman and vice versa.

"Here we have a case where the National Science Foundation not only cannot give us an answer for the $84,000 they are charging to taxpayers, but even if they could give an answer we wouldn't want to hear it.

"So National Science Foundation - get out of the love racket. Leave that to Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Irving Berlin. Here if anywhere Alexander Pope was right when he observed, "If ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise'."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE: TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1977

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) charged Tuesday that a $210,000 National Science Foundation grant to the University of Minnesota-Duluth to study passionate love is an outrageous waste of the taxpayers' money."

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that reviews the budget of the National Science Foundation annually.

In a statement from his Washington office, the Wisconsin Senator said, "The National Science Foundation's summary of this project states that 'social psychologists have generally tried to explain passionate love within the reinforcement paradigm. Since data have not fit richly into this framework, the investigator will turn to Schacter's theory to explain strong interpersonal attraction.'

"In language which is equally unclear, the NSF report further states that this research will rely primarily on 'the implications of Schacter's general theory of emotion, which suggests that the emotion an individual will experience depends on how he labels his feelings.' In an attempt to explain 'strong interpersonal attraction', the researchers will focus the major part of their attention on three questions:

"1. How can arousal be best defined?

"2. Can the same form of physiological arousal really generate all or almost all emotions -- given appropriate labeling? and

"3. Do individuals related their feelings, and under what conditions is this likely to occur?

"If scholars wish to make this kind of study independently, of course, they are free to do so, but to ask the taxpayer for more than a quarter of a million dollars is a disgrace.

"One of the methods the investigator uses to measure arousal is to give participating students at the university caffeine tablets, and then arrange a 'simulated date' in the laboratory for the students with members of the opposite sex.

"This $210,000 project seems destined to join similar NSF-funded studies at Harvard ($121,000) and the University of Minnesota ($74,000) in a futile and wasteful effort to define the indefinable. For my own part, I do not care whether the project is done at Harvard or at Minnesota or my home state of Wisconsin. If it's a bad project and a waste of the taxpayers' money, it should not be done at any of these places.

"The National Science Foundation could spend its entire $750,000,000 FY 1978 budget trying to define 'arousal' and 'passionate love' and never get an answer.

"I think it is time the National Science Foundation put a stop to this Federal version of 'The Love Machine' and encourage its research principles to address our scientific and our erotic curiosity."

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"The National Science Foundation fails to recognize two fundamental points:

1) The Federal budget is limited

2) There is an endless unlimited variety of problems we could spend Federal money exploring. This means the National Science Foundation should operate under a system of rigorous priorities, expending the taxpayers' money only in those areas where there is an urgent need to know.

"Passionate love and sexual arousal are fascinating subjects. Thousands of people have been writing, talking about and studying this favorite subject of mankind for centuries. The recent flood of books, movies, and TV expositions overwhelm any interested reader. Free enterprise and the profit motive have not, are not and will not neglect the rich pay-off in this field. Indeed we are almost drowning in an ocean of sex discussions.

"For the Federal government, under these circumstances, to get involved with a National Science Foundation award of hundreds of thousands of dollars of the taxpayers' money to explain even more about what we feel when we are 'doing what comes naturally' constitutes an appalling disregard of any reasonable system of priorities."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1975

Senator William Proxmire (D.-Wis) announced on Friday, "My choice for the Golden Fleece Award for the biggest waste of taxpayers' money for the month of April goes jointly to the National Science Foundation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Office of Naval Research for spending almost $500,000 in the last seven years to determine under what conditions rats, monkeys and humans bite and clench their jaws. From the findings of these studies it is clear that the Government paid a half million dollars to find out that anger, stopping smoking, and loud noises produce jaw clenching in people."

The Wisconsin Senator said, "This is the second in a series of 'Fleece of the month' awards which will climax in a Biggest Waste of the Year Award.

"All this money was given to Dr. Roland R. Hutchinson of Kalamazoo State Hospital in Michigan. Last year alone the good doctor spent over $200,000 of which more than $100,000 were federal funds. And what are some of the other results reached by these research projects in the last seven years?

"Dr. Hutchinson told NASA that people get angry when they feel cheated and tend to clench their jaws or even scream and kick. NSF learned that Dr. Hutchinson's monkeys became angry when they were shocked and would try to get away from the shock. In addition, NSF was informed that drunk monkeys do not usually react as quickly or as often as sober monkeys and that hungry monkeys get angry more quickly than well-fed monkeys.

"The Office of Naval Research appears to have gotten the same type of so-called research as did the NSF and NASA.

"It is very interesting to trace the history of these extremely similar and perhaps duplicative projects. In 1967, NSF gave Dr. Hutchinson $44,700 to study 'Environmental and Physiological Causes of Aggression.' For two years Dr. Hutchinson studied the biting reactions of monkeys when they received electric shocks. He also compared their reaction while being given a number of different drugs such as alcohol and caffeine. In 1969, the NSF gave Dr. Hutchinson another $26,300 to continue these experiments. He received another grant, this one for $51,200 in 1970 from the NSF.

(over)

"By this time Dr. Hutchinson was ready to extend his work to human biting and jaw clenching. In 1970, Dr. Hutchinson received a grant which ran for five years from the ONR to continue 'research on subhuman primates to determine the environmental, physiological and biochemical factors responsible for the maintenance of aggressive behavior and systematic replication of results obtained in primates extended to human subjects.' Total funding from the Navy ran to $207,000.

"During this period, Dr. Hutchinson applied for and received a $50,000 grant from NASA to develop measurements of latent anger or aggression in humans by means of jaw-clenching. In addition, Dr. Hutchinson received his fourth NSF grant in 1972 for $51,800 in order to continue his experiments on monkeys and extend the work to human jaw-clenching.

"Dr. Hutchinson, who in addition to being Research Director at Kalamazoo State Hospital, is also an Adjunct Professor at Western Michigan University and President of his own non-profit Foundation for Behavior Research, has proposals presently pending before the NSF, the National Institute of Drug Abuse, and the National Institute of Mental Health to continue research on monkeys' drinking, drug and jaw clenching habits. If Dr. Hutchinson is successful in this new grantsmanship attempt, he would receive an additional $150,000 of taxpayers' money.

"The funding of this nonsense makes me almost angry enough to scream and kick or even clench my jaw.

"Dr. Hutchinson's studies should make the taxpayers as well as his monkeys grind their teeth. In fact, the good doctor has made a fortune from his monkeys and in the process made a monkey out of the American taxpayer.

"It's time for the federal government to get out of this 'monkey business.' In view of the transparent worthlessness of Hutchinson's study of jaw-grinding and biting by angry or hard-drinking monkeys, it's time we put a stop to the bite Hutchinson and the bureaucrats who fund him have been taking out of the taxpayer."

Proxmire said that the public is urged to write him in Washington with suggestions for the "Golden Fleece of the Month" for May.

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

For Release after 6:30 a.m., Wednesday May 20, 1975

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said Wednesday that "I am giving my 'Golden Fleece of the Month' award for May, for the biggest or most ridiculous waste of the taxpayers' money, jointly to the Selective Service System and the Army Corps of Engineers.

"I'm giving the 'Fleece of the Month' to the Selective Service System for a $98,029 contract it awarded Mr. Kenneth Coffey to study the All-Volunteer Army concept in a number of foreign countries two years after the All-Volunteer Army had been put into effect in the United States. While the study had some merit, this is like the Redskins or Packers devising a Super Bowl strategy after the Super Bowl is over.

"The Army Corps of Engineers shares the fickle finger award for their backdoor attempt to commit $6 to $10 billion to build a series of 'new' locks and dams on the Mississippi River under a little known 1909 law designed merely for the maintenance, repair, or replacement of 'existing' structures."

Proxmire, who is Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee and of the Joint Economic committee's Subcommittee on Priorities and Economy in Government, will culminate the monthly "Golden Fleece" award with a "Biggest Waste of the Year" award.

"A series of unusual circumstances surrounding the Coffey study, entitled 'Manning the U. S. Armed Forces in a Post All-Volunteer Force Era' was uncovered in hearings on the Selective Service System budget I held this month. They include:

"1) Mr. Coffey negotiated the $98,029 contract from the Selective Service System while he was still the Public Relations Officer at the Selective Service System on May 11, 1973. He retired two weeks later and the contract was awarded on June 15, 1973.

"2) It was a sole source contract for which Mr. Coffey was the only applicant.

"3) It was done without advertising under a provision of the Selective Service Act authorizing 'equipment and supplies' to be purchased without advertising or formal contract. Technically the study was termed the purchase of 'equipment.'

"4) Mr. Coffey received for himself $3,000 a month for 10 months, or $30,000, $4,500 in fringe benefits, $7,000 for travel, $6,000 per diem for 175 days abroad, plus a $6,413 profit which he gained by incorporating himself -- for a total of $53,913.

"5) Finally, in the finest tradition of nepotism, Mr. Coffey's wife, Osa Coffey, was placed on the payroll as a part-time assistant.

"This may be the most expensive severance pay in the history of the government.

(over)

or $30,000, $4,600 in fringe benefits, $7,800 for travel, $6,000 per diem for 175 days abroad, plus a $6,413 profit which he gained by incorporating himself--or a total of $53,913.

"5) Finally, the finest tradition of nepotism, Mr. Coffey's wife, Ona Coffey, was placed on the payroll as a part time assistant.

"This may be the most expensive severance pay in the history of the government.

"While the Selective Service System and Mr. Coffey get the award for redundant and unnecessary spending, the Army Corps of Engineers is doing things in the grand style.

"The law (33 U.S.C.,Section 401) requires specific Congressional legislative authority for any dam or other structure in a navigable river of the United States.

"But using the excuse of the 1909 law, which allows for maintenance or replacement of 'existing' structures, the Army Engineers are building an entirely new Lock and Dam Number 26 at Alton, Illinois two miles downstream from the 'existing' lock and dam with two new 1200 foot locks, over twice as long as the existing locks. While the original Lock and Dam Number 26 was completed in 1938 for less than $30 million, the new dam downstream will cost from $400 to $450 million.

"But the consequences of the action are far greater. If the Army Engineers get by with this action they can replace any of the other 27 locks and dams on the Mississippi and 7 locks and dams on the Illinois River without specific approval. This would cost from $6 to $10 billion.

"If they succeed they will also have their foot in the door to accomplish their long proposed action to deepen the channel from 9 to 12 feet. The excuse will be that since the new locks at Alton can take 17 barges and a towboat with 12 foot drafts--more than double the 8 barges and a towboat with 9 foot drafts in the existing locks--the other locks on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers should also be enlarged and deepened.

"A Federal judge has already ruled that the 1909 Act cannot be used to authorize the new dam and locks, but only last week in the Senate the friends of the Corps attempted to affirm their actions through a rider on the Second Supplemental Appropriations bill, which fortunately the House killed. But the fight is far from over. The taxpayer may still be fleeced to the tune of $6 to $10 billion by this project.

"If the Corps and their allies get by with this action it will mean that the biggest waterway project in the history of the world will be built without specific approval.

"This action clearly qualifies for the 'Golden Fleece' award. No taxpayer rip-off has exceeded it."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY MAY 28, 1975

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said Wednesday that "I am giving my 'Golden Fleece of the Month' award for May, for the biggest or most ridiculous waste of the taxpayer's money, jointly to the Selective Service System and the Army Corps of Engineers.

"I'm giving the 'Fleece of the Month' to the Selective Service System for a $90,029 contract it awarded Mr. Kenneth Coffey to study the All Volunteer Army concept in a number of foreign countries two years after the All Volunteer Army had been put into effect in the United States. While the study had some merit this is like the Redskins or Packers devising a super bowl strategy after the super bowl is over.

"The Army Corps of Engineers share the fickle finger award for their backdoor attempt to commit $6 to $10 billion to build a series of 'new' locks and dams on the Mississippi River under a little know 1909 law designed merely for the maintenance, repair, or replacement of 'existing' structures.

"Proxmire, who is Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee and of the Joint Economic Committee's Subcommittee on Priorities and Economy in Government, will culminate the monthly 'Golden Fleece' award with a "Biggest Waste of the Year" award.

"A series of unusual circumstances surrounding the Coffey study, entitled 'Manning the U.S. Armed Forces in a Post All-Volunteer Force Era' was uncovered in hearings on the Selective Service System budget I held this month. They include:

"1) Mr. Coffey negotiated the $90,029 contract from the Selective Service System while he was still the Public Relations Officer at the Selective Service System on May 11, 1973. He retired two weeks later and the contract was awarded on June 18, 1973.

"2) It was a sole source contract for which Mr. Coffey was the only applicant.

"3) It was done without advertising under a provision of the Selective Service Act authorizing 'equipment and supplies' to be purchased without advertising or formal contract. Technically the study was termed the purchase of 'equipment.

"4) Mr. Coffey received for himself $3,000 a month for 10 months,

"While the Selective Service System and Mr. Coffey got the award for redundant and unnecessary spending, the Army Crops of Engineers is doing things in the grand style.

"The law (33 U.S.C., Section 401) requires specific Congressional legislative authority for any dam or other structure in a navigable river of the United States.

"But using the excuse of the 1909 law, which allows for maintenance or replacement of 'existing' structures, the Army Engineers are building an entirely new lock and dam, Number 26, at Alton, Illinois, two miles downstream from the 'existing' lock and dam with two new 1200 foot locks, over twice as long as the existing locks. While the original lock and dam Number 26 was completed in 1938 for less than $30 million, the new dam downstream will cost from $400 to $450 million.

"But the consequences of the action are far greater. If the Army Engineers get by with this action they can replace any of the other 27 locks and dams on the Mississippi and 7 locks and dams on the Illinois River without specific approval. This would cost from $6 to $10 billion.

"If they succeed they will also have their foot in the door to accomplish their long-proposed action to deepen the channel from 9 to 12 feet. The excuse will be that since the new locks at Alton can take 17 barges and a towboat with 12 foot drafts--more than double the 8 barges and a towboat with 9 foot drafts in the existing locks--the other locks on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers should also be enlarged and deepened.

"A federal judge has already ruled that the 1909 Act cannot be used to authorize the new dam and locks, but only last week in the Senate the friends of the Corps attempted to affirm their actions through a rider on the Second Supplemental Appropriations bill, which, fortunately, the House killed. But the fight is far from over. The taxpayer may still be fleeced to the tune of $6 to $10 billion by this project.

"If the Corps and their allies get by with this action, it will mean that the biggest waterway project in the history of the world will be built without specific approval.

"This action clearly qualifies for the 'Golden Fleece' award. No taxpayer rip-off has exceeded it."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

For release after 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 17, 1975.

Senator William Proxmire, (D-Wis) announced Tuesday that "I am giving my 'Golden Fleece of the Month' award for June to Congress for living high off the hog while much of the rest of the country is suffering economic disaster.

"This is the fourth in the series of 'Fleece of the Month' awards which are given for the biggest or most ridiculous example of waste or rip-offs for the period. It will culminate in the 'Biggest Waste of the Year' award.

"I am giving the award to Congress this month for a series of actions which must strain the credulity of the country. Here's why Congress deserves the award:

"1) The Senate has just approved the addition of up to three new committee staff employees per Senator at a salary of $33,975 each. While all Senators may not use their full allotment and add 300 employees at a cost of $10.2 million, it is estimated that about half the number at a cost of $4 to $6 million will be added.

"This action, incredible as it is, is a watered down version of the original proposal sponsored by 56 of 100 Senators which called for more than 1,000 new employees at a cost of $40.9 million.

"The argument that bigger staffs are necessary to cut spending by the Executive Branch is wrong. Two of the most effective Congressional budget cutters, John Williams of Delaware and H. R. Gross of Iowa, operated with small but efficient staffs. I have found in my own experience in taking on the SST, military waste and bureaucratic rip-offs that one or two members of my own or committee staffs are far more efficient than a Congressional bureaucracy.

"2) Unfortunately the Senate in enlarging its perquisites and prerogatives has taken its cue from the House of Representatives. Earlier in the year the House Administration Committee, through a series of orders, increased the expense allowances for equipment, travel, newsletters, phones, etc., by $23,000 a Member for a total cost of $10 million. The House itself then added some 735 staff positions for Members and Committees at an additional minimum cost of $6 million.

(over)

"3) All this has reinforced the effort for more space and new buildings to house the added staff. The Senate is now constructing a third Senate Office Building at a cost of $85 million. So far there is an overrun of $37 million or 78 percent over the original estimate of $48 million. This makes the Senate's overrun record almost equal to that of the Department of Defense on weapons systems.

"While the House turned it down this year, the Architect of the Capitol is pressing for a fourth House Office Building for which the preliminary costs alone are $22.5 million. Because of the new staff increase its ultimate approval is inevitable. In view of the history in constructing the Rayburn Building, one can confidently predict a price tag of close to $200 million for the project when it is approved. This would be $50 million more than the Sears building in Chicago which at 110 stories and 4.5 million square feet is both the tallest and largest private office building in the world.

"4) The ultimate Congressional absurdity is the $1.3 million the House will spend to automate 19 elevators but retain the operators to run them. In this instance the House is merely following the lead of the Senate, where the automatic elevators in the Dirksen Office Building are routinely run by operators.

"Congress owes it to the public to live simply. In their perquisites and style of living, Senators and Congressmen should not be too far removed from the trials and tribulations of the average citizen whom they represent. The United States is neither a monarchy nor an aristocracy, and Senators and Congressmen should not live like kings. Profligate spending brings Congress into disrepute and blunts our efforts to cut out the fat and waste in the executive agencies on grounds that we are hypocritical.

"Congress deserves the 'Fleece of the Month' award for June. We should be admonished by the old phrase, 'Physician, heal thyself.'"

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. TUESDAY, JULY 29TH, 1975 FOR P.M.'s

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Monday awarded his "Fleece of the Month" to the Bureau of Land Management for "requiring useless paperwork on a contract that resulted in an award almost four times too high."

Each month a Golden Fleece is given to the institution most deserving of national recognition for wasting tax dollars. Prior awards have gone to the National Science Foundation, the Corps of Engineers and Congress.

"The Bureau of Land Management earned the July Fleece," the Senator said in a statement from his Washington Office, "by issuing 155 pages of requirements, including 23 fold-out diagrams, for fire equipment to be placed on two pick-up trucks."

"The solicitation for bids was sent to 41 companies. Only two responded with a bid. The low estimate won at a level of $15,497 per unit (not including the trucks).

"Why such a poor response? Because the paper-work accompanying the bid created so great a burden to the small companies in the fire equipment business that few could afford to bother.

"According to one firm, Fire-X Corporation, the fire equipment could have been supplied for $4,000 per unit without the complicated and massive government requirements detailing the placement of every screw and bolt. In order to bid, the firm would have had to charge three to five times higher than a normal commercial order and hire 8-10 people for pushing paper alone.

"The effect of the overwhelming paperwork burden is to squeeze small business out of government work and to inflate the cost of procurement for government agencies.

"It has been estimated that the total cost to the federal government and private business for filling out official forms runs as high as $36 billion annually. Over 130 million manhours a year are lost on paper shuffling. And the amount of paper work is increasing each year--by 50 percent since 1967 according to one account.

"The Bureau of Land Management is not the only agency suffering from paper paralysis. It is an epidemic throughout government. The fire equipment case--showing a threefold increase in cost to the taxpayers--unfortunately is representative of the larger problem."

(OVER)

"In order to cut down on wasteful and unnecessary paperwork, I have introduced a Form Reform Bill which will abolish every government form over a five-year period. Before any new or old form could be used it would have to be simplified and certified as necessary by the Comptroller General."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1975

"A $57,800 study of the body measurements of airline stewardess trainees by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) sizes up as my Golden Fleece of the Month award for August," Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) announced Thursday.

"The study was done ostensibly for the design of safety equipment, but the 103 page report dealing with 79 measurements from head to foot seems like a bust to me," Proxmire said.

The "Golden Fleece" award is given monthly by Proxmire for the biggest or most ridiculous example of government waste. It will culminate in the "Fleece of the Year" award.

Proxmire is Chairman of the Priorities and Economy in Government Subcommittee of the Joint Economic Committee as well as the Senate Banking Committee and the Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies of the Appropriations Committee.

"A well-turned ankle or calf may help in getting a job for a would-be stewardess. Yet the study showed that the young women calipered at the American Airlines Stewardess Training Academy in Fort Worth, Texas, may be unique. Each of the 54 other North American airlines employing stewardesses could very well have its own set of anthropometric figures.

"Why? Because as the study says, 'Although all airlines recruit stewardesses from the same general population of young females, each has its own selection standards for age, height, weight, education, and other variables.'

"Whether measured in inches or centimeters, the 'Anthropometry of Airline Stewardesses' done by the FAA doesn't measure up to the $57,800 spent.

"A waist breadth, waist circumference or waist depth is just plain waste.

"In addition to the fact that the sample of the 423 American Airline stewardess trainees is unrepresentative of the airline stewardesses as a whole, the study has fatal flaws. Here's why:

"First, even among the stewardess trainees studied, measurements differed widely. Weight varied from 94 to 145 pounds; height from 5'1" to 6'1"; busts from 29 to 37.5 inches; and waists from 21 to 28 inches. The results are of limited value in designing safety equipment because of the major deviations even among those studied. About all that can be said to aircraft designers is that stewardesses are young women with the body measurements of young women.

"Second, information of equal value was available from anthropometric data already gathered on WAF recruits, student nurses and college women as well as the known minimum-maximum requirements of the airlines for height, weight, age, hip girth, etc.

"Third, some of the 79 individual measurements appear to be either unnecessary or irrelevant measurements in any case. Detailed measurements were made of body features such as the skinfold of the upper arm and the posterior calf; the vertical height of the sphyrion; the popliteal length of the buttocks; the transverse distance between the centers of the anterior superior iliac spines; the knee to knee breadth while sitting; the maximum horizontal width of the jaw across the gonial angles; and the height of the nose.

"Finally, it is questionable why the government should spend taxpayers' money to do this study at all. It is proper for the FAA to set standards and to require the airlines and aircraft manufacturers to meet them. But the cost of the research and its application should be borne by the airlines or aircraft manufacturers. If the costs were borne by the private profit-making companies there would be a greater incentive to do needed studies rather than duplicative or unnecessary ones such as the 'Anthropometry of Airline Stewardesses' based upon a useless sample.

"It is clear that the FAA, in this redundant study, is 'Doing What They Do Best.'"

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1975 FOR WEDNESDAY P.M.'s

"Is it worth more than $1 million of federal money to probe marijuana effects on sexual arousal, hypnosis, facial expressions of Americans, marijuana use among the Zulu and the use of Qat by the people in the Arabian Peninsula?"

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) says, "no." On Wednesday, he criticized the National Institute on Drug Abuse for funding these studies.

Proxmire said, "The NIDA has the responsibility for fighting one of the most serious and tragic social problems in our society, but where in heaven's name are their priorities?

"Consider how outrageously irrelevant the following studies are to the drug problem in America today:

"A recent two-year grant for $121,000 by NIDA to a researcher involves the study of the effects of marijuana on male sexual arousal resulting from the viewing of pornographic films by college students. This is one of the most shocking examples of the 'federal loss machine' I have ever found.

"In one expensive, but totally irrelevant study, NIDA spent $363,000 in order to find out that marijuana smoking does not result in people becoming more easily hypnotized. Unfortunately for the taxpayers, the researcher is so uncertain of the accuracy and meaning of his conclusions that NIDA feels obligated to give the research still more money to repeat and expand this ridiculous research.

"In another study, $80,000 has been spent on measuring the influence of marijuana and alcohol on a person's ability to recognize and simulate facial expressions of emotion such as fear, anger, and happiness. Taxpayers will be happy to learn that their disgusted feelings toward this study can be accurately recognized by most drunks.

"Still other studies funded by NIDA include:

"$236,000 to study the use of Qat, a drug similar to benzidrine obtained by chewing the leaves of a bush, by the people of North Yemen, in the Arabian Peninsula.

"$134,000 to study the sociocultural aspects of marijuana use by the Zulu people of South Africa.

"With the level of drug addiction doubling in only the last 3-4 years, the funding by NIDA of these so-called scientific studies constitutes an appalling disregard of any reasonable system of priorities. It is time for NIDA to stop wasting taxpayers' money on useless research and concentrate its effort on overcoming the nation's drug abuse problem."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1974, FOR PM's

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) Monday awarded his September "Fleece of the Month" to the Navy "for using 64 aircraft to fly 1,334 officers to the Hilton Hotel in Las Vegas for a reunion of a private, non-governmental organization during the height of the energy crisis."

Proxmire awards the "Golden Fleece" each month to the organization offering the best example of wasting or squandering tax funds. This month's award is based on a lengthy investigation made by the General Accounting Office at Proxmire's request and made available to him several days ago.

"During the September 6-8, 1974, reunion of the Tailhook Association," the Senator said in a speech on the Senate floor, "the Navy placed 64 aircraft, ranging from tactical fighters to VIP jets, at the service of 1,334 Navy officers throughout the country who needed transportation to Las Vegas.

"The flights cost more than $191,000 in tax funds and squandered 347,000 gallons of fuel in the midst of the most severe energy crisis the nation has ever faced.

"The flights were authorized by the Chief of Naval Operations and justified as 'space required' travel. None of the officers carried the required documentation for 'space required' travel, however, and none was involved in a temporary or permanent change of station as required by regulation. The designation was a subterfuge.

"Many aircraft were taken off operational duty for these flights, including C-9, C-118, C-117 and CT-39 transports; trainers; A-7 and F-4 fighters; and the VIP configured C-131 and TA-3 planes. A number of flights were one-way and several forced cancellation of planned training exercises.

"The giant airlift was of such magnitude that it required the assignment of 13 Navy personnel for ground support and administration.

"The Tailhook Association is a private, non-governmental organization, comprising active duty, reserve and retired military aviators and civilians interested in aircraft carrier affairs. About 1,600 personnel attended the reunion, according to the Association, including one admiral, 6 vice admirals, 16 rear admirals 69 captains, 1055 other officers, 2 enlisted men, 40 naval reservists, 146 Navy retired, 69 active duty Marines, 7 retired Marines, 8 other military officers, 17 federal employee civilians and 153 other civilians.

More

"Planes left for Las Vegas from California, Washington, D.C., Florida, Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Virginia, Nebraska, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Arizona, and one aircraft carrier (The Coral Sea).

"The GAO has informed me that the Navy has decided that it will not provide aircraft support for this year's September meeting of the Tailhook Association in Las Vegas.

"The Air Force was runner-up to the Navy in this month's contest," the Senator commented. "On April 11-13, 1975, a group of 400 Air Force officers called the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association, nicknamed 'River Rats,' also held a social gathering in Las Vegas.

"The officers of this private organization told investigators from the General Accounting Office that no government transportation was used for the reunion, except for transporting an Air Force general who was guest speaker. Nonetheless, the GAO found a number of aircraft flights into nearby Air Force installations that carried Air Force officers attending the meeting.

"The 'River Rats' refused to provide details to the GAO and blocked entrance to the meeting for 'security reasons.'

"The Air Force also refused to provide details because they considered the 'River Rats' a private organization.

"The GAO concluded that the little information provided by the 'River Rats' officials was 'inaccurate and misleading.'

"Considering that it will take weeks to reinforce our troops in Europe by air, there is great comfort in noting that the Navy and Air Force can quickly airlift thousands of officers to Las Vegas in the face of a compelling requirement. Where there's a will, there's a way.

"This utter disregard for tax dollars and complete mockery of the national energy program can only be described as calculated stupidity. The generals and admirals should spend a lot more time in the Pentagon and a lot less time in Las Vegas at public expense.

"The Chief of Naval Operations should wear an 'I am foolish' button for this boondoggle."

A copy of the GAO investigation is available for review in Rm. 5241 DSOB.

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1975

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) Wednesday awarded his "Fleece of the Month" award for October to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism for "spending millions of dollars to find out if drunk fish are more aggressive than sober fish; if young rats are more likely than adult rats to drink booze in order to reduce anxiety; and if rats can be systematically turned into alcoholics."

Proxmire awards the "Golden Fleece" each month to the biggest or most ridiculous example of waste of federal tax funds. The award will culminate in the "Fleece of the Year" award.

Proxmire said, "The NIAAA has the important responsibility of combatting the most extensive and tragic drug problem facing our nation. They tell us of their need for additional funds, yet they have wasted funds on the following studies:

> -- $132,000 to study the effects of alcohol on aggressive behavior in a species of sunfish. The experiment will measure the effects of fish ingested in tequila in a flotation test. NIAAA seems to be interested in testing what it means to be 'stoned to the gills.' Or perhaps they want to understand what is really behind the expression 'drinks like a fish.' In any case, the application of this 'fishy' research to understanding the problems of alcoholism and aggression in humans will not be swallowed hook, line and sinker by the American taxpayer.
>
> -- At the same time the NIAAA is funding the fish study, they are also funding another $100,000 study by the same researcher. In this case attempts are being made to turn rats into alcoholics by making them neurotic. The rats are placed in insoluble situations or given unpredictable rewards and shocks.

"For the years, NIAAA has spent literally millions of dollars in hundreds of experiments to turn normal rats into rodent 'Hughes' with little or no success. The rationale for this waste of taxpayers' money is to create an animal model of alcohol consumption which would then give NIAAA a better understanding of human alcoholism. Many university animal experimental laboratories have been kept busy and well-funded in pursuing this foolish goal.

"Since we could never allow the testing of a cancer-producing agent on humans, it is clear there is a rule for animal experiments when it is impractical or inhuman to directly test people. However, the most effective way to understand human conditions and problems is to observe human behavior. The fish and rat are so much lower on the evolutionary scale than man that the result of these experiments will tell us very little, if anything, about the nature of complex human problems such as alcoholism.

"It is time for the NIAAA to take a hard and sober look at its research priorities and concentrate its effort on overcoming the tragic problem of alcoholism in America."

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. MONDAY, NOV. 24, 1975, FOR MONDAY P.M.'s

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) Monday gave his "Golden Fleece of the Month" award for November to Frank Zarb, the Administrator of the Federal Energy Administration. "Energy Czar Zarb spent $25,000 and used almost 19,000 gallons of fuel in the ten months since January 1, 1975, jetting about the country in chartered aircraft urging businessmen and civic groups to economize on energy and fuel."

Proxmire awards the "Golden Fleece" each month to the biggest, most ridiculous or ironic example of waste of federal tax funds. The award will culminate in the "Fleece of the Year" award.

In a statement from his Washington office the Senator said, "Since January 1, 1975, this winged wastrel of energy, fuel and taxpayers' money has used chartered Air Force and private aircraft on 13 trips to places such as New Orleans, Louisiana; Jackson, Mississippi; Little Rock, Arkansas; and New York City.

"On 7 of the 13 trips Administrator Zarb's basic purpose was to convince local business or civic groups of the need to conserve fuel. In half or more of the total cases, Mr. Zarb flew in a plush, four-engine Air Force jet which burned enough fuel in an hour to supply the average American driver with enough gasoline to drive for an entire year.

"Mr. Zarb is a hard working, conscientious administrator. He should recognize, however, the supreme irony that the leading advocate of energy conservation presents to the nation when he fails to practice what he preaches. His personal conduct speaks louder than his words.

"Mr. Zarb's plane used more than 2,500 gallons of jet fuel and the flight cost the government $1,063 when he went to Little Rock, Arkansas, on May 9, 1975, where, according to the Arkansas Democrat, he urged Americans to end 'their romance with the chrome-plated gunboat,' the luxury car that has been an American status symbol for a half-century.

"At 12:55 p.m. (local time) on that date a direct commercial flight was scheduled to leave Washington National Airport and arrive in Little Rock at 3:10 p.m. (local time). According to FEA records, Mr. Zarb's first scheduled event in Little Rock was set for 5:30 p.m. The cost of Mr. Zarb's chartered round-trip flight was more than 20 times greater than the round-trip commercial coach fare.

More

"On June 2 Mr. Zarb chartered a flight to New York's LaGuardia Airport in order to receive an honorary degree from and give the Commencement address to the Hofstra University Business School. Mr. Zarb left Andrews Air Force Base at 3:30 p.m. and arrived at LaGuardia at 4:35 p.m. There were at least two hourly scheduled airline flights from Washington's National Airport leaving at 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. and arriving at LaGuardia less than an hour later. In fact, there are at least two flights between Washington and New York every hour on the hour from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day.

"Mr. Zarb told the Mississippi Economic Council in Jackson on April 10 that Americans were going to have to become more efficient in conserving automobile, home heating and industrial fuel so the U.S. could curtail oil imports sharply over the next three years. The cost of the flight on the chartered Air Force jet was $3,199 and the plane used approximately 2,600 gallons of fuel.

"Mr. Zarb left Andrews Air Force Base (about 45 minutes from downtown Washington) at 9 a.m. and arrived back at 7:30 p.m. Commercial flights leaving National Airport (near downtown Washington) at 7:55 a.m. and arriving back by 8:55 p.m. were available on that date. These commercial flights would have made it possible for Mr. Zarb to have met all of his commitments in Jackson. The savings to the government on the ticket alone would have been over $3,000.

"Mr. Zarb is quoted by the Meridian Star as saying on that occasion 'We're going to have to change our use of energy.'

"When he spoke to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association on January 21, 1975, in New Orleans, Mr. Zarb said, according to the New Orleans Times Picayune, that 'everyone will have to give up something' under the energy program.

"Perhaps the best contribution Mr. Zarb could make to the energy program would be to give up his Air Force Jet Star.

"While there may be some instances where the decision to use chartered aircraft rather than regularly scheduled commercial flights was justified, the Administrator of the Federal Energy Administration seems to be one of the most 'fuelish' people in America. He is therefore the recipient of this month's 'Golden Fleece' award."

More

The following is a list of dates, destinations, costs, and estimated fuel use of Mr. Kuch's 14 chartered flights:

Date	Destination	Cost	Estimated Fuel Use
1/21/75	New Orleans	$ 3,344.00	2760 gals.
2/18/75	Houston	4,184.00	3420 gals.
2/25/75	Ft. Lauderdale to Washington, D.C.	3,272.00	2700 gals.
4/10/75	Jackson, Miss.	3,198.00	2640 gals.
5/8/75	Williamsport, PA	295.00	100 gals.
5/9/75	Little Rock, Ark.	3,053.00	2520 gals.
6/2/75	New York	310.00	150 gals.
6/14/75	Myrtle Beach, S.C.	881.10	300 gals.
7/28/75	Ottawa, Canada	2,311.00	1920 gals.
8/10/75	Brunswick, Maine	1,122.00	350 gals.
8/11/75	Andrews AFB from Brunswick, Maine	2,489.00	2040 gals.
8/18/75	Des Moines	286.00	0 gals.*
10/11/75	Hot Springs, VA	584.32	100 gals.

TOTAL COSTS: $25,290.42

TOTAL GALLONS: 18,500

*Unable to meet chartered flight time; due to late cancellation, fee was still required.

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1975

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Monday gave his "Golden Fleece of the Month" award for December to the Office of the White House. "The White House gets the 'fleece' this month for its efforts to add to its Empire through increased funds for consultants, contingencies, travel, and high level personnel while calling for austerity from the rest of the government," Proxmire said.

The "Golden Fleece of the Month" is given for the biggest, most ridiculous, or most ironic example of government waste or spending. In the past it has been given to numerous administrative agencies as well as to the Congress.

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and the Joint Economic Committee's Subcommittee on Priorities and Economy in Government.

"Through a series of little noted actions the Office of the White House has proposed or received an increase in funds or emoluments as follows:

"-- The White House has dramatically increased funding for 'consultants' from an initial $250,000 in fiscal year 1968 to a whopping $5,850,800 in fiscal year 1976. This is an increase of $1.6 m. since Mr. Ford became President when the total was $2,250,800.

"-- In fiscal year 1976 the White House requested a 100% increase for the discretionary contingency fund called 'unanticipated needs.' The appropriation increased from $500,000 in fiscal year 1975 to $1,000,000. In the past such funds have been used to support various executive office activities and commissions. This year the funds can be used for any activity--at home or abroad--the President designates is in 'furtherance of the national interest.'

"--In fiscal year 1975, without any legislative authorization, travel funds for the White House staff (not the President) were increased from $40,000 to $100,000, or by $60,000 and 150%. The fiscal year 1976 figure is $100,000.

- more -

"--The White House now has 54 aides earning between $37,800 and $44,600 a year. (No less than 9 of these are Executive Level 2 positions although there are only 14 other Executive Level 2 spots throughout the rest of the government.) This year the White House requested authority from Congress to hire an unlimited number of these high level employees. However the House of Representatives, over White House opposition, placed a ceiling of 95 on the number of supergrade and Executive level positions in the White House Office. This would be an increase of 41 positions, or by 76% in the number of these authorized high level spots. While the White House may not add to the total number of employees, there is every reason to believe they will push 95 of their staff to fill fat supergrade salary status jobs as fast as they can.

"--Under a bill proposed by the Office of the White House (H.R. 6706--to clarify existing authority for personnel and services for the President and Vice President), travel funds and funds for official receptions, entertainment, and representation would continue to be exempt from audit by the General Accounting Office.

"--To add insult to injury the White House has insisted on a provision in H.R. 8617, the bill to amend the Hatch Act, which would exempt all Office of the White House personnel (now about 500) and those on special assignment to the White House (numbering about 80 in fiscal year 1975) from that provision of the bill which would prohibit government employees from engaging in 'political activity' while on duty, while in a government building, or while wearing a uniform.

"What we have here is a burgeoning proportion of big shots at the Office of the White House, whose travel and entertainment is exempt from audit by the GAO, and for whom the White House is now seeking freedom to engage in unlimited political activity.

"In my view, the Office of the White House is a worthy recipient of this month's 'fleece.'"

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1975, AFTER 6:30 A.M.

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Tuesday awarded the fleece of the year to the Air Force for "operating a $66 million fleet of 23 plush jets used solely to transport top government officials at a cost to the taxpayers of over $6 million a year."

Proxmire is chairman of the Senate Banking Committee and also chairs the Joint Economic Subcommittee on Priorities and Economy in Government.

A monthly "golden fleece" is given by Proxmire for the biggest or most ridiculous example of government waste. A fleece of the year tops off the series.*(See note at end)

"The yearly fleece without any question belongs to the Air Force," the Senator said. "For running a private airline for government bigshots. This little known executive airline is called the 89th Military Airlift Wing (Special Missions) and is based at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington, D.C.

"In fairness to the Air Force, this fleece of the year should also be shared by all the government bigshots who insist on such special treatment at the expense of the taxpayers.

"In the first ten months of 1975, the 89th made 975 flights carrying government officials as passengers at a cost of over $6 million. Not surprisingly, 869 or 87 percent of these flights were undertaken for high ranking defense officials or those requesting Defense Department flights.

"Treasury Department officials used these executive jets on 67 occasions or 7 percent of the time in the January-October period. The State Department found 26 flights essential while the Federal Energy Administration chipped in with 11, the Energy Research and Development Agency had 8 and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration had 6. There were a number of other miscellaneous flights.

"The stupidity of this massive airlift is that in almost every case, commercial flights were available to the same destination. Commercial flights would not only save the government hundreds of thousands of dollars if not millions, they would also help the depressed US airline industry.

"These flights have gone to every point on the globe--from New York to California, the Middle East, South America, Europe, the Far East and the USSR. Except for the White House, costs of non-DoD flights are reimbursed from agency funds--funds which come from the taxpayers' pockets in any case.

(OVER)

"The most frequent single user of this most exclusive airline in the world was William Simon, Secretary of the Department of the Treasury. According to Air Force records, Mr. Simon took 58 flights the first ten months of 1975 at a government cost of $328,794.10. This averages out to $5,669 a flight.

"Other frequent users have been Deputy Secretary of Defense William Clements, then Secretary of the Army Howard Callaway, Administrator of the FEA Frank Zarb, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Navy Secretary William Middendorf.

"The 23-plane fleet is on call 24 hours a day for the top brass and officials. All they need do is call up and request a flight.

"The aircraft all are outfitted in a special VIP configuration--thus the designation of the V before the type of aircraft. There are 3 of the 4-jet VC-137B with a capacity of about 50; 5 of the 4-jet EC-135B with a capacity of about 30; 3 of the 2-jet EC-9C with a capacity of about 42; 11 of the 4-jet VC-140B with a capacity of about 8; and one 2-prop VC-6A with a capacity of about 5.

"This fleet cost the taxpayers $66.7 million to purchase. Operation and maintenance costs run from $2,206 an hour for the VC-137 to $195 an hour for the small VC-6.

"The VC-137B and VC-135B (similar to the Boeing 707) are equipped with sleeping facilities for up to ten persons.

"Military aides who accompany the passengers on these flights to serve food and drink and assist in their comfort are justified by the Air Force 'for passenger safety.' These men are called Air Passenger Specialists.

"The 23 aircraft fleet should not be confused with the Presidential aircraft also based at Andrews Air Force Base (commonly used by the President and Secretary of State) or with the 150 or so 'administrative support' aircraft based at military facilities throughout the world. The latter also are used to transport high ranking brass."

Below is a table indicating the number of flights taken by each department or agency from January-October 1975.

Agency/Department	Number of Flights (Jan-Oct 75)
Defense Department (of which Congressional trips are about)	849 (100)
Treasury	67
State	26
FEA	11
ERDA	8
NASA	6
Commerce	2
Corps of Engineers	1

(MORE)

Agency/Department	Number of Flights (Jan-Oct 75)
FBI	1
Agriculture	2
Secret Service	1
Interior	1

NOTE: All costing and flight data are computed from detailed Air Force raw flight data and may reflect a small degree of scheduling or bookkeeping error.

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* Monthly awards have gone to the National Science Foundation for its $84,000 study on why people fall in love; jointly to the National Science Foundation, NASA, and the Office of Naval Research for spending $500,000 to determine why monkeys clench their jaws; to the Selective Service System for a $60,029 contract to study the need for an all-volunteer army, finished long after the all-volunteer army had been put into effect; to the Army Corps of Engineers for their effort to commit $6 to $10 billion to build a series of new locks and dams on the Mississippi under a little known 1909 law designed for maintenance of existing structures; to Congress for flying high off the hog; to the Bureau of Land Management for issuing a 155-page list of requirements for a bid for fire equipment worth about $4,000 (low bid was $15,497 because the paperwork cost more than the equipment); to the Federal Aviation Administration for a 103-page study costing $57,800 of 79 body measurements of airline stewardess trainees; to the Navy for flying 1304 officers in 64 aircraft to a Las Vegas reunion; to the National Institute on Alcoholism for spending $102,000 to determine if drunk fish are more aggressive than sober fish; to Energy Czar Frank Zarb for 13 foolish jet flights to urge community and business groups to conserve fuel; and to the Office of the White House for increased spending for consultants, contingencies and travel while calling for austerity from the rest of the government.

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

GOLDEN FLEECE AWARDS FOR 1976

Given to the biggest, most ridiculous or most ironic example of government spending or waste.

January: National Endowment for the Humanities.

For grants to well-heeled doctors, lawyers and school administrators to attend tuition-free, vacation-like, month-long humanistic bull sessions at some of the choicest university watering holes in the country next summer. This boondoggle will cost the hard-pressed taxpayer at least $750 thousand this year. The purpose of the seminars, according to the Endowment, is "to broaden and sharpen their humanistic perspectives."

The Endowment started with five of these seminars in FY74. By now, in FY76, they have increased the number fourfold to twenty. The taxpayer will pay about $3,000 for each of the 240 to 300 professionals who will attend the session. The Endowment pays not only for transportation and textbooks but also a flat-out stipend of $1200 to the participants. Doctors and lawyers at mid-career routinely earn more than $30,000 a year.

While at these seminars the fortunate doctors, lawyers and school administrators (both state and local bureaucrats as well as private practitioners) engage in discussions which, according to the National Endowment for the Humanities' brochure, "can help to clarify understanding of the fundamental issues facing modern society and broaden the perspective from which thinking citizens view their professions and society at large." These discussions are limited to about three hours a day--perhaps because of their arduous nature.

It should be stressed that those attending the seminars are not struggling scholars or researchers; instead, they are well-educated, well-paid professionals. I believe the American taxpayers will think that these professionals can afford to raise their humanistic consciousness at their own expense.

February: Department of the Navy

For exploding an expected $15,000 in repair and maintenance costs for Vice President Rockefeller's temporary home into a $537,000 expenditure.

Among the specific expenditures were:

$41,100 for furniture
$33,000 for miscellaneous furnishings such as linen, silverware chests, etc.
$26,400 for drapes
$21,200 for silverware
$18,100 for carpets
$10,400 for china
$ 4,900 for crystal

Public Law 93-386 (passed in July, 1974) took the home from the Chief of Naval Operations and designated it as "the official temporary residence of the Vice President of the United States." The law gave the Navy Department responsibility for "the staffing, care, maintenance, repair, improvement, alteration and furnishing of the official residence" subject to the supervision and control of the Vice President.

I opposed this bill on the Senate floor but lost after assurances were given that nothing elaborate was contemplated, that only necessary refurbishing would be done, and that the cost of this would be about $15,000. Instead of this modest sum the Navy, through the Executive Office of the President, has since asked for and received $537,000 for refurbishing, repair and rehabilitation--a cost overrun of a whopping 3,500 percent. In addition, the Navy is planning to spend an additional $170,000 to replace window air conditioners with a central unit. Even in the high-priced Washington area this sum would finance a small housing development.

Ironically, the Administration's policy on housing is that present costs are too high and must be reduced.

March: National Science Foundation

For a study, supported by an NSF grant, on "Environmental Determinants of Human Aggression."

The method of operation was simple. The researcher's assistant would pull his car to a stop at a red light at a Chicago intersection. When the light turned green, the assistant would refuse to move the car for about 15 seconds. The purpose was to determine when and how often the driver immediately behind would become impatient and aggressive enough to honk his horn at the assistant to get moving.

In order to see if "environmental determinants" such as sexual arousal, humor and empathy reduced "human aggression" in the form of horn honking, the researcher had a young woman walk past the stopped driver dressed in a variety of costumes.

--In the "sexual arousal" case, the female assistant was "dressed in an extremely brief and revealing outfit of a very unusual type."

--For the "humor" case, the young woman wore "an outlandish humorous clown mask."

--In the "empathy" case, the woman "hobbled along on crutches and wore a bandage on her left leg."

The study found that empathy and humor as well as sexual arousal reduced the amount of horn honking.

The application of the study is less clear. The NSF seems to suggest that to reduce the tension and aggression of drivers caught in the middle of traffic jams in American cities, we should organize thousands of bikini-wearing young women, clowns and women with broken legs to strut, stagger and dance across the streets at every busy intersection in our big cities at rush hour!

April: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

For requesting $2.8 million to construct an addition to the existing Lunar Receiving Laboratory at the Johnson Space Center to house 100 pounds of Moon rocks. The fiscal irony of NASA's request is that it is not needed. In 1971 after spending $8.7 million to house the Moon rocks, NASA Curator, Dr. Michael Duke, indicated that the existing building would be ". . . the permanent facility for storage, handling and doing detailed studies of the rocks."

The American taxpayer, who shelled out nearly $15 billion for the Lunar Exploration program, now is being asked to pay another $2.8 million to construct an addition to a perfectly adequate, $8.7 million concrete structure to house a wheelbarrowful of Moon rocks.

What makes this budget request all the more shocking is that since 1965 the space agency has paid out $9,757,582 for the existing Lunar Receiving Laboratory plus $10,786,676 in research and development expenditures for lunar sample examination and study.

NASA argues that the new addition to the laboratory is needed "to insure that the lunar samples are adequately protected against natural and man-made hazards for the foreseeable future." This statement closely follows NASA's assessment that "the present Curatorial Facility has operated successfully since 1971 to support an active lunar sample research program that involves several hundred scientists mostly from American universities." At the same time, it is still unclear what "hazards" NASA has in mind. The present building is a massive concrete structure. Most observers grant that almost nothing short of a bomb blast or massive earthquake could penetrate the maze of concrete buildings that make up the mammoth Johnson Space Center in Houston.

The landing on the Moon was one of Man's greatest achievements, and we are all proud that American footprints were the first on the lunar surface. But NASA has a perfectly adequate facility in which to house and study the present supply of lunar samples. The space agency has already soaked the beleaguered taxpayer for $20 million for lunar sample research, and he shouldn't have to spend another dime on this wasteful, unnecessary addition to the Houston space complex.

May: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

The FAA, according to its own Public Affairs Office newsletter, spent over $417,000 for 95 new meterological instruments so that its employees can make rain predictions while remaining indoors despite the fact that existing instruments perform the same function but must be read outdoors.

No longer will FAA employees have to sing "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on my Head" as they make their forecasts. No longer need they fear precipitation during prognostication. But meanwhile the American taxpayer is being soaked to the tune of over $417,000 for this needless extravagance. The newsletter reads:

"RAINDROPS WON'T BE FALLING ON YOUR HEADS . . . A $361,150 /later increased to $417,150/ contract for 79 /later increased to 95/ Remote Readout Hygrothermometers will permit FAA personnel making weather observations to tell if it's likely to rain without running the risk of getting caught in it. The hygrothermometers measure the likelihood of rain by comparing the temperature within a bulb of completely dry air with the temperature of the moisture-laden air around it. When the two temperatures get within three degrees, rain is likely. Existing hygrothermometers do this now, but the FAA employees have to go outside to read them. The new ones, which will be made by the Atrflo Instrument Company of Glastonbury, Conn., will relay the temperature readings to inside monitors where they can be read in indoors comfort."

This expenditure by the FAA leaves the American taxpayer out in the rain while the agency's employees, safe and dry, eyeball their new toy in the comfortable indoors.

June: National Center for Health Services

An examination of over $20 million of their grants and demonstration contracts indicates that routinely they were not completed on time, cost up to five times the original contract and contained low quality and highly questionable results.

I asked the General Accounting Office to examine how the National Center for Health Services managed its research and demonstration projects. The Center is charged with improving health care delivery by providing funds for research in this field. The results of the audit were staggering.

The information bought and paid for with over $10 million of the taxpayer's money under one contract was not only unavailable to the public but much of it was essentially unavailable to the National Center itself.

A one-year study originally costing $325,000 to compare the costs of different types of medical arrangements, such as group practice, solo fee for services, use of paramedic personnel, etc., ballooned into a four-year, $1.25 million project.

After spending $1.6 million to study how to make hospitals, clinics, and other health care institutions more efficient, a group of experts found the data provided by the study was of low quality and of questionable value and that the project director was relatively uninformed in the health services field.

The examination by the GAO of a representative number of grants and awards indicated to this Senator that the Center more than rivals the Pentagon in cost overruns, modified contracts and late deliveries.

July: National Science Foundation's Research Applied to National Needs program (RANN)

RANN has awarded a $397,000 contact allegedly to perform an unbiased and scientific study of consumer legislation and services to a principal investigator and research center which have an overwhelming bias in favor of the credit industry.

This is like asking the Air Force to study the need for the B-1 bomber or the oil and gas industry to evaluate the depletion allowance.

The $397,000 contract has been awarded to Dr. Robert W. Johnson, the Executive Director of the Credit Research Center at Purdue University. As the principal investigator, he proposed that most of the research be done at the Credit Research Center at Purdue University. Here is why this contract is wrong and why RANN should never have awarded it.

--the Purdue Credit Research Center is dominated and derives a significantpart of its financialsupport from the credit industry--the friendly loan offices which charge interest up to 36 percent.

--its Advisory Council has 37 members, 33 of whom are affiliated with the credit industry.

--four of the nine members of the Center's Governing Board are credit industry executives.

--Dr. Johnson was a principal witness against the Truth in Lending legislation when it was before the Senate.

--Dr. Johnson has received financial support from the industry to provide it with research and materials used in testimony against a long list of consumer legislation now law and which the study proposed to evaluate.

The conflict is so blatant that there is no way the research can be accepted as unbiased whatever its results. Further, this kind of research should be paid for by the industry, not the taxpayer.

August: General Services Administration (GSA)

For spending $1,015,000 for 15 statues, murals or works of art at federal buildings under the Art in Architecture program.

Consider the case in Chicago where GSA plans to spend $100,000 for a gigantic 80-100 foot baseball bat. That's right--a baseball bat made of red painted steel to be put in a plaza of a federal building. The bat is called a "high structural latticed column in red painted steel."

Other questionable items include a $34,000 modern mural in Wilmington, Del.; a 54-foot high red steel arch for the Federal Building in Chicago; a sculpture for Las Cruces, N.M, which looks like the tail of a yellow whale sounding; a steel sculpture for St. Paul for $42,500 which seems to be a rusty piece of farm machinery left out in the field; a rather mystifying $45,000 sculpture for Rochester, N.Y.; five steel pilings in Van Nuys, Calif., ($15,000); and a life-sized representation of restaurant scene for $60,000 in Buffalo, N.Y.

In fairness, some projects have come off better--for example, the five pieces of carved granite in Seattle, though the $100,000 price tag could be questioned.

According to GSA, these works of art are "intended to be an integral part of the total architectural design (of the building) and enhance the building's environment for the occupants and the general public. Now, this clearly has not been accomplished. How a 100-foot baseball bat is going to be an "integral part" of the federal Building in Chicago is beyond me.

Where tax dollars are being spent, the public has a right to play art critic. We are a nation of enormous talent and good judgment. GSA should apply its own standards and use good sense before spending another dime on these controversial projects.

September: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

For a sole source contract award of $140,000 for a 6,000 word article and a follow-up book-length history of the Viking Mars Landing project.

If a major publishing firm had given an author $24,000 for a 6,000 word short story with a promise of another $116,000 for a book, pending further negotiations, the lucky recipient would be an overnight celebrity. Yet this is exactly the deal NASA proffered on a silver platter to a young man whose major claim to authorship fame heretofore has been an as yet unpublished history of the Apollo-Sayuz space venture, written for NASA, and a series of articles on small arms appearing in publications such as Gun Week and Rifle Magazine.

The author will be paid $20,000 plus $4,000 in expenses to write a 6,000 word article on the landing and initial operations of the two Viking spacecraft and for a survey of the available historical documentation needed for a book-length history of Viking. This means that he will be receiving $4,000 a word for this article.

The author NASA picked had already gotten his foot in the door with a $73,850 contract to immortalize the joint US-USSR space docking venture. Although this manuscript has not been published, the author demonstrated an "ability to work smoothly with NASA managers and technicians . . . doing this in such a way as to avoid irritating the sources of information." In other words, the author is writing a sanitized government history of the Apollo-Sayuz project without asking embarrassing questions.

NASA has spent $1,378,391 since fiscal 1969 on the research and writing of these "official histories."

I can't blame the author. This is a far better deal than any but the most renowned author would get from a major publishing firm. But NASA should not be spending these vast amounts to embellish its own image.

October: Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

For a $245,000 study of New Towns. Over the last decade New Towns and New Communities have been studied to death while most of the New Towns are either dead or dying. We need another New Town study like Boston needs beans.

The Library of Congress has furnished me with an annotated bibliography which lists 67 New Town studies, many of them funded by the government, some done privately, and some done jointly: the funding of New Towns, the quality of life in New Towns, the government of New Towns, the supporting systems of New Towns, the sociology of New Towns. You name it, they've studied it.

HUD itself has funded at least a dozen New Town studies at a cost of more than $1.5 million in the last few years.

New Towns have been studied by a myriad of private foundations, public think tanks and national commissions. They've been studied by the Urban Institute, the Council of State Governments, the Environmental Protection Agency, National Science Foundation, HEW, the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration, the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Conference of Mayors, the Douglas Commission and dozens of others.

One of the major reasons there are so many duplicative studies done by the federal government is that there is no central place where a listing of existing studies is available.

The right hand of the government does not know--and, more often than not, does not even try to find out--what the left hand of the government is studying, has studied or is proposing to study.

November: Treasury Department

For its failure to collect as much as $4.8 million in taxes owed by government big shots who are chauffeured to and from home in government cars. As much as $17 to $18 million in costs to the taxpayer and taxes not collected have been lost because of the Treasury Department's inaction.

Under the law--Title 31, Section 638a--government cars can be used only for "official purposes" and "official purposes" does not include being driven to and from home. The only exceptions to the law are the President, enumerated Cabinet Officers, Ambassadors, doctors on out-patient duty or government employees on field service. White House staff, generals and admirals at the Pentagon, Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, heads of agencies like the Veterans Administration, NASA, etc., are specifically not eligible for that free service under the law.

Nevertheless, about 800 government officials in the Washington area are driven to and from work in violation of the law.

In hearings I have held as Chairman of the Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have learned that the cost of the cars--depreciation, gas, oil, maintenance, etc.-- is about $2,000 a year, and the cost of the chauffeurs is routinely from $15,000 to $17,000 a year.

Proposed Treasury regulations clearly state that government officials not exempted under Title 31, Section 638a, would be taxed for the fair market value of the chauffeur driven service when the regulations went into effect. But as of today, November 26, 1976, the regulations are still not in effect.

As the cost of the cars and the chauffeurs is at least $15,000 a year and as most high ranking government officials are in the 40% marginal income tax bracket, the tax could amount to as much as $6,000 per bigshot using the service. Using the modest number of 800 employees now getting the perquisite--many more people are involved in the regional offices, at military installations, and at Embassies abroad--the government is losing at least $4.8 million a year in taxes.

December: Army Corps of Engineers

For the worst record of cost overruns in the entire federal government. Compared to the Army Corps of Engineers, the Defense Department, HEW and GSA are marvels of efficiency. The Corps richly deserves the title of cost overrun king, not only for the total dollars involved but for the consistency with which the Corps' projects individually break the 100 percent cost overrun mark.

At the present time, the Army Corps of Engineers has 170 major civilian construction projects underway. Of the 170, 83, or 47 percent, have experienced a cost overrun of 100 percent or more.

Under its flood control program, the following dramatic increases stand out: Caesar Creek Lake, Ohio, up 243%; Cooper Lake, Texas, up 325%; Fire Island Inlet, N.Y., up 326%, New Orleans to Venice Hurricane Protection, La., up 1027%.

The dramatic cost overruns in Corps projects cannot be explained away by inflation. When the General Accounting Office analyzed the reasons for the cost growth in Corps projects last year, it found that at least one-half of the increase was for changes in engineering and the scope of the project. These are avoidable changes, given thorough and proper planning.

It should be recognized that the Corps provides a useful and even critical service to the country. The amount of lives and property lost to natural disaster would be immeasurably higher were it not for the Corps.

But along with that protection also have come environmental disasters. Perhaps the Corps should be reoriented to reclaiming polluted waterways, building municipal waste treatment facilities and other desperately needed capital programs where Corps resources could be efficiently used.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 1976

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) Monday awarded the "Golden Fleece of the Month" for January to the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Endowment won the award, "for grants to well-heeled doctors, lawyers and school administrators to attend tuition-free, vacation-like, month-long humanistic bull sessions at some of the choicest university watering holes in the country next summer. This boondoggle will cost the hard-pressed taxpayer at least $790 thousand this year. The purpose of the seminars, according to the Endowment, is 'to broaden and sharpen their humanistic perspectives.'"

The "Golden Fleece of the Month" award is given to the biggest, most ridiculous or most ironic example of government spending or waste. It culminates in a "Fleece of the Year" award.

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and the Joint Economic Committee's Subcommittee on Priorities and Economy in Government.

"The National Endowment is an $82 million a year federal agency which subsidizes the humanities. Federal spending for the humanities has nearly doubled in the past two years.

"The Endowment apparently decided that the many years of undergraduate and graduate education these professionals undergo is inadequate. It is proposing that a seminar 'for concentrated mid-career humanistic study' at Uncle Sam's expense is just the remedy needed.

"The Endowment started with five of these seminars in FY 74. By now, in FY 76, they have increased the number fourfold to twenty. The taxpayer will pay about $3,000 for each of the 240 to 300 professionals who will attend the sessions. The Endowment pays not only for transportation and textbooks but also a flat-out stipend of $1200 to the participants. Doctors and lawyers at mid-career routinely earn more than $30,000 a year.

"These seminars will be held at locations ranging from Stanford University at the foot of San Francisco Bay to Williams College in the beautiful Berkshire mountains of Massachusetts. All the seminars will be held in the summer.

More

"While at these seminars the fortunate doctors, lawyers and school administrators (both state and local bureaucrats as well as private practitioners) engage in discussions which, according to the National Endowment for the Humanities' brochure, 'can help to clarify understanding of the fundamental issues facing modern society and broaden the perspective from which thinking citizens view their professions and society at large.' These discussions are limited to about three hours a day--perhaps because of their arduous nature.

"It should be stressed that those attending the seminars are not struggling scholars or researchers; instead, they are well-educated, well-paid professionals. I believe the American taxpayers will think that these professionals can afford to raise their humanistic consciousness at their own expense."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1976

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) Thursday awarded his "Golden Fleece of the Month" for February to the Navy for exploding an expected $16,000 in repair and maintenance costs for Vice President Rockefeller's temporary home into a $537,000 expenditure for a posh, plush pleasure palace.

"Among the specific expenditures were:

$41,100 for furniture
$33,000 for miscellaneous furnishings such as linen, silverware chests and accessories
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"Public Law 93-346 (passed in July, 1974) took the home from the Chief of Naval Operations and designated it as 'the official temporary residence of the Vice President of the United States.' The word 'temporary' was added because legislation has been passed authorizing a permanent home. The law gave the Navy Department responsibility for 'the staffing, care, maintenance, repair, improvement, alteration and furnishing of the official residence' subject to the supervision and control of Vice President Rockefeller.

"I opposed this bill on the Senate floor but lost after assurances were given that nothing elaborate was contemplated, that only necessary refurnishing would be done, and that the cost of this would be about $15,000.

"Instead of this modest sum, the Navy, through the Executive Office of the President, has since asked for and received $537,000 for refurbishing, repair and rehabilitation -- a cost overrun of a whopping 3,500 percent.

"In addition, the Navy is planning to spend an additional $170,000 to replace window air-conditioners with a central unit. Even in the high-priced Washington area this sum would finance a small housing development.

"This is ironic because the Administration's policy on housing is that present costs are too high and must be reduced. As Housing Secretary Carla Hills said recently in a speech before the National Association of Home Builders, the single-family home has

More

become 'laden with amenities.'

"I think in this case the American taxpayer will agree that it is the public homes of some government big-shots that are 'laden with amenities' -- and at the taxpayers' expense."

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SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSI

FOR RELEASE After 6:30 P. M. Tuesday March 16, 1976

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) Tuesday gave his "Golden Fleece of the Month" award for March to the National Science Foundation for "spending $46,100 to study the effect of scantily clad women on the behavior of Chicago's male drivers."

Proxmire is the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee charged with the responsibility of reviewing the budget of the NSF. The "Fleece of the Month" award is given each month for the biggest or most ridiculous or most ironic example of government waste.

"This study was supported by an NSF grant on 'Environmental Determinants of Human Aggression' given to Dr. Robert A. Baron, now of the University of Texas, when he was at Purdue University.

"The method of operation was simple. Dr. Baron's assistant would pull his car to a stop at a red light at a Chicago intersection. When the light turned green, the assistant would refuse to move the car for about 15 seconds. The purpose was to determine when and how often the driver immediately behind would become impatient and aggressive enough to honk his horn at the assistant to get moving.

"In order to see if 'environmental determinants' such as sexual arousal, humor and empathy reduced 'human aggression' in the form of horn honking, Dr. Baron had a young woman walk past the stopped driver dressed in a variety of costumes.

--In the 'sexual arousal' case, Dr. Baron had his female 'dressed in an extremely brief and revealing outfit of a very unusual type.'

--For the 'humor' case, the young woman wore 'an outlandish humorous clown mask.'

--In the 'empathy' case, the woman 'hobbled along on crutches and wore a bandage on her left leg.'

Fleece Annie
put Back -
Sold

"Dr. Baron concluded that the different costumes had their intended effect. He reported that not only did male drivers smile at the briefly attired young lady and watch her walk down the street; but some whistled or made sexually-oriented comments.

"Dr. Baron found that empathy and humor as well as sexual arousal reduced the amount of horn honking.

"But Dr. Baron did not stop his NSF supported research after the completion of the study of humor, sex and horn honking. He went on to find out with funds from the same grant that people who get literally hot under the collar when placed in a very warm room become aggressive unless cooled off by a drink of iced lemonade.

"While this piece of contrived research may appear ridiculous to most American taxpayers, the National Science Foundation officials who authorized spending $46,100 on this project must have had something like the following in mind: To reduce the tension and aggression of drivers caught in the middle of traffic jams in American cities, the foundation seems to tell us we should organize thousands of bikini wearing young women, clowns, and women with broken legs to strut, dance, and stagger across the streets at every busy intersection in every big city in every rush hour from now on.

"That's not my way to bring down unemployment."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1976

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) in a statement from his Washington office Thursday announced, "My Tax Day 'Golden Fleece of the Month Award' for April goes to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for requesting $2.8 million to construct an addition to the existing Lunar Receiving Laboratory at the Johnson Space Center to house 100 pounds of Moon rocks. The fiscal irony of NASA's request is that it is not needed. In 1971 after spending $8.7 million to house the Moon rocks, NASA Curator, Dr. Michael Duke, indicated that the existing building would be '. . . the permanent facility for storage, handling and doing detailed studies of the rocks.'"

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on NASA. The "Fleece of the Month Award" goes to the biggest, most ridiculous or ironic example of wasteful, unneeded, or low priority government spending. It culminates in a "Golden Fleece of the Year Award."

"It is appalling to think that the American taxpayer, who shelled out nearly $15 billion for the Lunar Exploration program, now is being asked to pay another $2.8 million to construct an addition to a perfectly adequate, $8.7 million concrete structure to house a wheelbarrowful of Moon rocks. In spite of Dr. Duke's statement NASA is back at Congress' doorstep, asking for the extra millions to add to a facility that only five years ago was considered to be the final resting place for the Moon rocks.

"What makes this budget request all the more shocking is that since 1965 the space agency has paid out $9,757,582 for the existing Lunar Receiving Laboratory plus $10,786,676 in research and development expenditures for lunar sample examination and study. The following table gives the history of NASA spending for lunar sample activities since FY1965:

Fiscal Year:	Construction Costs:	R and D:	Total Costs:
1965	$664,025	$-0-	$664,025
1967	$8,897,161	$10,001,255	$18,762,441
1970	$-0-	$469,808	$469,808
1971	$-0-	$145,575	$145,575
1972	$-0-	$74,023	$74,023
1974	$57,498	$96,215	$154,111
1975	$518,500	$-0-	$518,500
1976	$420,000	$-0-	$420,000
Total:	$9,757,582	$10,786,676	$20,544,258

(FY 77 request: $2,800,000)

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"What this table shows is that NASA already has over $9.7 million of existing lunar sample facilities stocked with expensive storage and research equipment, plus a $500,000 Remote Storage Facility at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, to store a representative portion of the lunar sample collection. The taxpayer must surely be asking, 'how much is enough?'

"NASA argues that the new addition to the laboratory is needed 'to insure that the lunar samples are adequately protected against natural and man-made hazards for the foreseeable future.' This statement closely follows NASA's assessment that 'the present Curatorial Facility has operated successfully since 1971 to support an active lunar sample research program that involves several hundred scientists mostly from American universities.' At the same time, it is still unclear what 'hazards' NASA has in mind. The present building is a massive concrete structure. Most observers grant that almost nothing short of a bomb blast or massive earthquake could penetrate the maze of concrete buildings that make up the mammoth Johnson Space Center in Houston.

"If the space agency is so concerned about 'natural' or 'man-made' hazards, they might consider the use of several empty Titan I silos, lying dormant in the hills of Montana, that the Air Force has been trying to unload for years. These silos can withstand the force of an atomic bomb, as well as the possible disasters that might befall the Moon rocks in the quiet suburbs of Houston, Texas.

"The landing on the Moon was one of Man's greatest achievements, and we are all proud that American footprints were the first on the lunar surface. But NASA has a perfectly adequate facility in which to house and study the present supply of lunar samples. The space agency has already soaked the beleaguered taxpayer for $20 million for lunar sample research, and he shouldn't have to spend another dime on this wasteful, unnecessary addition to the space complex at Houston.

"Fortunately, the House of Representatives has voted to delete funds for this Lunar Curatorial Facility in FY77. Unfortunately, the Senate voted on April Fool's Day to keep the money in. As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on NASA, I intend to fight hard over the next few months to assure that it will be 'many moons' before the American taxpayer has to put up another $2.8 million for NASA's latest whim--the House of Many Moon Rocks. NASA is a worthy recipient of the 'Golden Fleece of the Month Award' for April."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M., THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1976

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) announced Thursday that his "Golden Fleece" award winner for May is the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), "which, according to its own Public Affairs Office newsletter, spent over $417,000 for 95 new meterological instruments so that its employees can make rain predictions while remaining indoors despite the fact that existing instruments perform the same function but must be read outdoors."

"No longer will FAA employees have to sing 'Raindrops Keep Fallin' on my Head' as they make their forecasts. No longer need they fear precipitation during prognostication. But meanwhile the American taxpayer is being soaked to the tune of over $417,000 for this needless extravagance."

Proxmire makes monthly "Golden Fleece" awards for the biggest or most blatant example of wasting Federal tax funds. Monthly awards are followed by a "Fleece of the Year" winner in late December.

Proxmire sits on the Senate Appropriations Committee, which oversees FAA's budget. He also serves as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs and the Joint Economic Committee's Subcommittee on Priorities and Economy in Government.

"In explaining why I tapped the FAA for this month's 'Golden Fleece' award, I cannot improve upon the words of that agency's own Public Affairs Office, which contributed the following statement to a recent FAA newsletter:

> RAINDROPS WON'T BE FALLING ON YOUR HEADS . . . A $361,150 [later increased to $417,150] contract for 79 [later increased to 95] Remote Readout Hygrothermometers will permit FAA personnel making weather observations to tell if it's likely to rain without running the risk of getting caught in it. The hygrothermometers measure the likelihood of rain by comparing the temperature within a bulb of completely dry air with the temperature of the moisture-laden air around it. When the two temperatures get within three degrees, rain is likely. Existing hygrothermometers do this now, but the FAA employees have to go outside to read them. The new ones, which will be made by the Airflo Instrument Company of Glastonbury, Conn., will relay the temperature readings to inside monitors where they can be read in indoors comfort.

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"FAA, I should note, now contends that these new instruments are needed 'in the interest of better observations and more efficient manpower utilization.' But this attempted justification came only after my inquiry about the hygrothermometer contract. It has at least the appearance of a 'quickie rationale' for what is, in fact, an inexcusable luxury.

"This expenditure by the FAA leaves the American taxpayer out in the rain while the agency's employees, safe and dry, eyeball their new toy in the comfortable indoors. For this the FAA is surely worthy of my 'Golden Fleece' award for May."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

For Release After 6:30 A.M. Tuesday, June 22, 1976

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) announced Tuesday that "My Golden Fleece of the Month award for June goes to the National Center for Health Services. An examination of over $20 million of their grants and demonstration contracts indicates that routinely they were not completed on time, cost up to five times the original contract, and contained low quality and highly questionable results."

The Golden Fleece award is given each month for the biggest or most ironic or ridiculous example of waste in government spending. Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, the Subcommittee on Priorities and Economy in Government of the Joint Economic Committee, and a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee which has jurisdiction over HEW and the National Cener for Health Services funds.

"Some time back I asked the General Accounting Office to examine how the National Center for Health Services managed its research and demonstration projects. The Center is charged with improving health care delivery by providing funds for research in this field. The results of the audit were staggering. Here are some of them.

1) "--The information bought and paid for with over $10 million of of taxpayers' money under one contract was not only unavailable to the public but much of it was essentially unavailable to the National Center itself.

"The purpose of the project was to develop a comprehensive computer system to include both the medical and billing records of patients.

"When the General Accounting Office audited the project, officials of the National Center asked the GAO to give them any information the auditors could get from the contractor because the Center was having trouble getting the information itself.

"This is an example of an uncompleted, seven year old project in which the government is having to pull teeth to get the data it paid for.

2) "--A one year study originally costing $325,000 to compare the costs of different types of medical arrangements, such as group practice, solo fee for services, use of paramedic personnel, etc., ballooned into a four year, $1.25 million project.

"An evaluation in the third year, but AFTER the contract was increased by $950,000 and extended to four years, found that '...the work had generally been of low quality,...of 48 papers (produced), only one had been published, and that was in a journal of generally low technical quality,' and that the work would neither '...contribute to or expand the existing body of...knowledge...or be particularly useful for policy formulation.'

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"In other words, the agency blindly shovelled out money and extended the time for an essentially worthless project.

5) "--After spending $1.6 million to study how to make hospitals, clinics, and other health care institutions more efficient, a group of experts found the data provided by the study was of low quality and of questionable value and that the project director was relatively uninformed in the health services field.

"What they found, essentially, was that the contractor who was paid to study efficiency was inefficient. The project was finally cancelled--after spending $1.59 million--because of 'poor productivity.'

4) "--After spending about $1 million to study how computers could be used to strengthen health services, expert reviewers stated that they had '...no confidence in the project director's ability to administer and complete the project.'

"In addition to the problems connected with these specific studies, the GAO found that:

'The Center lacks the ability to determine whether goals are being achieved.

'Of 94 contracts awarded in 1974, 37 were sole-source awards. The July 1974 report showed that 67 percent of all Center contracts active as of March 30, 1974, were noncompetitive awards.

'Of the 22 contracts (the GAO reviewed), 21 had from 2 to 17 modifications after award. Many of the modifications were for increases in time and contract amount and for changes in scope.

'Here is an agency and a program designed to improve health care delivery--one of the most costly aspects of American life and one vital to the well being of every American citizen.

"The examination by the GAO of a representative number of grants and awards indicates to this Senator that the Center more than rivals the Pentagon in cost overruns, modified contracts, and late deliveries."

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The GAO study is available for examination in 5241 Dirksen Office Building, United States Senate.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 AM FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1976

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) said Friday that "Today I am giving my 'Golden Fleece of the Month' award for July to the National Science Foundation's RANN (Research Applied to National Needs) program. RANN has just awarded a $397,000 contract allegedly to perform an unbiased and scientific study of consumer legislation and services to a principal investigator and research center which have an overwhelming bias in favor of the credit industry.

"This is like asking the Air Force to study the need for the B-1 bomber or the oil and gas industry to evaluate the depletion allowance."

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, which has jurisdiction over consumer legislation and of the Senate HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, which oversees the National Science Foundation. The "Fleece" is given monthly to the biggest, most ironic or ridiculous example of government spending.

"The $397,000 contract has been awarded to Dr. Robert W. Johnson, the Executive Director of the Credit Research Center at Purdue University. As the principal investigator, he proposed that most of the research be done at the Credit Research Center at Purdue University. Here is why this contract is wrong and why RANN should never have awarded it.

"1. The Purdue Credit Research Center is dominated and derives a significant part of its financial support from the credit industry--the friendly loan offices which charge interest up to 36 percent.

"2. Its Advisory Council has 37 members, 33 of whom are affiliated with the credit industry.

"3. Four of the nine members of the Center's Governing Board are credit industry executives.

"4. Dr. Johnson was a principal witness against the Truth in Lending legislation when it was before the Senate.

"5. Dr. Johnson has received financial support from the industry to provide it with research and materials used in testimony against a long list of consumer legislation now law and which the study proposes to evaluate.

"The conflict is so blatant that there is no way the research can be accepted as unbiased whatever its results.

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"There is a serious question of propriety when government money is used to finance research on controversial issues of public policy when the work is to be done by organizations or individuals with close links to the industry which has an important financial interest in the results of the research.

"Further, this kind of research should be paid for by the industry, not the taxpayer.

"Last January I wrote to the Director of the National Science Foundation supporting the NSF's announcement for a series of studies on the effects of government regulation on consumer financial services. I believed that this was a fruitful area for empirical study. I wrote to Dr. Stever then that:

> Consumer groups especially do not have the resources to develop data to contrast with the self-serving information supplied by the credit industry.

Further, I applauded his action in studying this area.

"Now I find that RANN has turned the program upside-down and awarded the grants to the credit industry itself.

"The 'Fleece of the Month' is given to RANN, not to Dr. Johnson or his Center. They and the credit industry have every right to exist and to carry on research. The questionable action is by RANN in awarding a contract to an investigator and a center with such an obvious bias or vested interest in preconceived conclusions.

"This is not the first time NSF has selected known partisans on controversial issues to do allegedly unbiased research. It has also financed studies on the oil and gas industry where principal investigators had done research financed directly by the industry. The results of such 'unbiased' study have since been used in industry advertising.

"RANN richly deserves the 'Fleece.' Contracts for scientific and objective research should not be awarded by any government agency to partisan investigators or institutions which have an overwhelming bias in the areas to be studied."

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SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE
WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 p.m. MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 1976

Senator William Proxmire Monday awarded the August "Fleece of the Month" award to the General Services Administration (GSA) for spending $1,015,000 for 15 statues, murals or works of art at federal buildings under the Art in Architecture program.

The "Fleece of the Month" is awarded for the best example of wasteful, foolish or ironic government spending and culminates at the end of the year with the a "Fleece of the Year" award.

"I am not awarding the 'Fleece' to GSA because I am opposed to encouraging art," Proxmire said. "The concept is sound. But the execution leaves a lot to be desired.

"Consider the case in Chicago where GSA plans to spend $130,000 for a gigantic 80-100 foot baseball bat. That's right--a baseball bat made of red painted steel to be put in a plaza of a federal building.

"The bat is called a 'high structural latticed column.' It will be painted steel.' But if it's not a baseball bat, then I'm blind as a bat.

"Baseball is indeed our national game. A statue of Babe Ruth, Ernie Banks or Bill Madlock, the Cubs' current star, would have some merit. But a $130,000 bat paid for by all of America's taxpayers is a strikeout with the bases loaded.

"Other questionable items include a $34,000 modern mural in Wilmington, Delaware; a 56-foot high red steel arch for the Federal Building in Chicago; a sculpture for Las Cruces, New Mexico, which looks like the tail of a yellow whale sounding; a steel sculpture for St. Paul for $45,000, which seems to be a rusty piece of farm machinery left out in the fields; a rather mystifying $45,000 sculpture for Rochester, New York; five steel pilings in Van Nuys, California, ($15,000); and a life-sized representation of a restaurant scene for $60,000 in Buffalo, New York.

"In fairness, some projects have come off better--for example, the five pieces of carved granite in Seattle, though the $100,000 price tag could be questioned.

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hat we have here is not a question of 'what is art.' That can be debate endle sly and without solu ion. Luckily, we have a standard by which to j dge.

According to GSA, these work of art are 'intended to be an integral part of the t tal architectural design (o the building) and enhance the building's environment f r the occupants and general public.'

'N w, this clearly has not been accomplished. H w a 100 foot baseball ba going to be an 'integral art' of the Federal Building in Chicago is c me. And in fact, I'll bet that many occupants of that building and many passe by will find it distracting and in bad taste.

'I m sure the American public agrees that this baseball bat does not re e nt 'the finest work of art' standard ap li GSA nd the National En owment of the Arts.

'n re tax dollars are being spent, the publ c a righ to play art c t we are a nation of enormous talent and ood j dgme t. GSA should app t w standards and use good sen e before s ending a ot er dime on these c tro rsial pro ect ."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1976

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Tuesday presented his Golden Fleece of the Month for September to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for "a sole source contract award of $140,000 for a 6,000 word article and a follow-up book-length history of the Viking Mars Landing project."

In a speech prepared for delivery in the Senate the Wisconsin Senator said: "If a major publishing firm had given an author $24,000 for a 6,000 word short story with a promise of another $116,000 for a book, pending further negotiations, the lucky recipient would be an overnight celebrity. Yet this is exactly the deal NASA proffered on a silver platter to a young man whose major claim to authorship fame heretofore has been as as yet unpublished history of the Apollo-Soyuz space venture, written for NASA, and a series of articles on small arms appearing in publications such as Gun Week and The Rifle Magazine.

"The author will be paid $20,000 plus $4,000 in expenses to write a 6,000 word article on the landing and initial operations of the two Viking spacecraft and for a survey of the available historical documentation needed for a book-length history of Viking. This means that he will be receiving $4.00 a word for this article.

"After the author delivers a written report regarding available historical documentation, NASA will be in a position to exercise the option clause of the contract, which calls for the payment of $116,000 including $6,160 in expenses, for a book length manuscript on the Viking project of between 100,000 and 150,000 words.

"Perhaps the most eminent official Federal history was Samuel Eliot Morison's History of the United States Naval Operations in World War Two. This work of massive scholarship appeared in 14 volumes between 1947 and 1960. Before Commander Morison died he was easily the equal of Barbara Tuchman or John Toland. How much did the Navy pay for these remarkable volumes? The Navy paid Morison not $130,000 or $65,000 or even $32,500, but $15,000 a volume, and I understand the Navy received more of a return

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in royalties than was spent on producing the books, attesting to their value and popularity.

"To put it another way, the NASA-picked author is receiving more for writing a 6,000 word article than Commander Morison got for writing an entire volume. In fact if the Commander had received $4.00 a word, as the NASA writer is, he would have been getting $300,000 or $400,000 per book.

"Why did NASA accept the proposal without bothering to see whether there were other qualified authors who would do the job for less? Apparently the prime reason was that the author NASA picked had already gotten his foot in the door with a $73,850 contract to immortalize the joint U.S.-U.S.S.R. space docking venture--the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project. Although this manuscript has not been published, the author demonstrated an 'ability to work smoothly with NASA managers and technicians...doing this in such a way as to avoid irritating the sources of information.' In other words the author is writing a sanitized government history of the Apollo-Soyuz project without asking embarrassing questions.

"The taxpayer should know that NASA has spent $1,378,391 since fiscal 1969 on the research and writing of these 'official histories'. For example, NASA will spend $307,742 on a history of the Saturn program, $174,628 on the history of Skylab and $60,500 on an administrative history of NASA.

"I can't blame the author. This is a far better deal than any but the most renowned author would get from a major publishing firm. But NASA should not be spending these vast amounts to embellish its own image. The publishing marketplace can supply the need if such a need exists. Furthermore in this case NASA should have gone through its normal procedure of relying on current historical literature plus the recommendations of the NASA Historical Advisory Committee to select potential contractors rather than let the contract on a sole source basis to a writer whose experience consists largely of magazine articles plus an as yet unpublished book commissioned by NASA itself."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1976

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) said Thursday, "I am giving my 'Fleece of the Month' award for October to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for a $245,000 study of New Towns. Over the last decade New Towns and New Communities have been studied to death while most of the New Towns are either dead or dying. We need another New Town study like Boston needs beans or Jimmy Carter needs peanuts."

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee which has jurisdiction over HUD funding.

"The new HUD New Town study is entitled 'Analysis of Administrative Problems in the Title VII New Communities Program.' It is being done by Booz-Allen, but its real purpose is to determine why New Towns have gone broke. However, that question has been answered time and again. New Towns require such a massive investment before there is any cash flow that not only private enterprise but government subsidies can't make new towns profitable. Just ask anybody who has tried to sell their bonds.

"The study gets this month's 'Fleece' because it has been done over and over and over:

1) The Library of Congress has furnished me with an annotated bibliography which lists 67 New Town studies, many of them funded by the government, some done privately, and some done jointly. Researchers have studied the funding of New Towns, the government of New Towns, New Towns in Town, the supporting systems of New Towns, the quality of life in New Towns, planning in New Towns, the sociology of New Towns, and on and on. You name it, they've studied it.

The only thing new about this New Town study is the 'new' in the title. In fact, it's old hat.

2) HUD itself has funded at least a dozen New Town studies at a cost of more than $1.5 million in the last few years.

3) In 1973-74 the National Science Foundation spent $1.2 million for a major New Town study by the University of North Carolina, which in my view was unnecessary and duplicative.

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4) New Towns have been studied by a myriad of private foundations, public think tanks, and national commissions. They've been studied by the Urban Institute, the Council of State Governments, the Environmental Protection Agency, by HEW, by the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration, by the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Cleveland Foundation, the Conference of Mayors, the Douglas Commission and dozens of others.

"The sad fact is that most government-financed and many privately financed New Towns have gone bust. HUD is sponsoring no new New Towns now. In the parlance of the trade both public and private developers 'broke their picks' on New Towns.

"One of the major reasons there are so many duplicative studies done by the federal government is that there is no central place where a listing and description of existing or previous studies is available.

"Before HUD, HEW, the National Science Foundation, the EPA or any other agency funds another New Town study it should at least find out what has gone on in the past. And what is true for duplication of New Town studies is also true of duplication in other areas.

"The right hand of the government does not know--and, more often than not, does not even try to find out--what the left hand of the government is studying, has studied or is proposing to study."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1976

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Friday gave his Fleece of the Month Award for November to the Treasury Department "... for its failure to collect as much as $4.8 million in taxes owed by government big shots who are chauffeured to and from home in government cars. The cost to the taxpayer to provide the cars and chauffeurs is estimated at $13 million. Therefore, as much as $17 to $18 million in costs to the taxpayer and taxes not collected have been lost because of the Treasury Department's inaction."

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Priorities and Economy in Government of the Joint Economic Committee. The Golden Fleece of the Month is given for the biggest or the most ironic or ridiculous example of government spending, tax expenditure or waste for a particular month.

"The Treasury Department richly deserves the Fleece of the Month for November. It deserves it for failing to collect taxes clearly owed by government big shots, for a double-standard of tax collection compared with the way ordinary citizens are treated, and for inordinate delay. The Treasury's lack of action in this instance exemplifies why there has been a breakdown in the respect the average citizen has for his government. Here are the facts on which this month's Fleece is based.

"Fact Number One. Under the law--Title 31, Section 638a--government cars can be used only for 'official purposes' and 'official purposes' does not include being driven to and from home. The only exceptions to the law are the President, enumerated Cabinet officers, Ambassadors, doctors on out-patient duty or government employees on field service.

"White House staff, Generals and Admirals at the Pentagon, Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, heads of agencies like the Veterans Administration, NASA, Environmental Protection Agency, FEA, the SEC, etc. are specifically not eligible for that free service under this law.

"Fact Number Two. Nevertheless about 800 government officials in the Washington, D.C. area are driven to and from work in violation of the law. There are many more outside Washington, who do not qualify for the gratuity.

"Fact Number Three. In hearings I have held as Chairman of the Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies of the Senate Appropriations Committee the cost of the cars--depreciation, gas, oil, maintenance, etc.--is about $2,000 a year and the cost of the chauffeurs is routinely from $15,000 to $17,000 a year. In most cases, they are chauffeurs required, and they earn large amounts of overtime.

"On September 5, 1975, more than 14 months ago, the Treasury Department printed in the Federal Register a 'Discussion Draft of Regulations' on 'Fringe Benefits' which, under the regulations would be treated as gross income and subject to the personal income taxation.

"Example (11) of those proposed regulations clearly states that government officials not exempted under Title 31, Section 638a would be taxed for the fair market value of the chauffeur driven service when the regulations went into effect.

"But as of today, November 26, 1976, the regulations are still not in effect. Meanwhile the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service have cracked down on such groups as insurance salesmen who are provided cars for use in their business. They are not only being taxed currently for the 'imputed income' of the value of using their cars to go to and from home, but the IRS has called them in, reviewed their old tax returns, and taxed them for previous years as well.

"While the Treasury has been tough on ordinary citizens, high ranking government officials still go untaxed almost 15 months after the proposed regulations were published.

"As the cost of the cars and the chauffeurs is routinely at least $15,000 a year and as most high ranking government officials are in the 40% marginal income tax bracket, the tax could amount to as much as $6,000 per government big shot receiving the chauffeured, portal to portal service. Using the modest number of 800 employees now getting the perquisite--many more people are involved in the regional offices at military installations and at Embassies abroad--the government is losing at least $4.8 million a year in taxes.

"Further, if these taxes were collected most of the big shots would give up their cars and there would be a further savings of at least $13 million a year.

"It's time for the Treasury to put its proposed regulations into effect. It hasn't taken them 14 months to collect from the ordinary, middle income taxpayers. There is no reason for another day's delay in taxing government big shots for the free limousine service they now receive."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1976

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) Wednesday awarded the "Golden Fleece of the Year" to the Army Corps of Engineers for "the worst record of cost overruns in the entire federal government."

Proxmire is a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Priorities and Economy in Government of the Joint Economic Committee. A monthly "Golden Fleece" is awarded for the worst example of government waste, inefficiency or unnecessary spending. The awards culminate in the yearly "Golden Fleece" selection.

"Compared to the Army Corps of Engineers," Proxmire said, "the Defense Department, HEW and GSA are marvels of efficiency. The Corps richly deserves the title of cost overrun king, not only for the total dollars involved but for the consistency with which the Corps' projects individually break the 100 percent cost overrun mark.

"At the present time, the Army Corps of Engineers has 178 major civilian construction projects underway. Of the 178, 83, or 47 percent, have experienced a cost overrun of 100 percent or more. Without exception, this is the worst record for mismanagement and cost growth in the entire government.

"The baseline cost of these 178 projects was first estimated as being $12.7 billion. Congress authorized and began funding these projects with those costs in mind. Now the same projects will cost $26.7 billion, for an overrun of $14 billion or 110 percent.

"While occasionally the Defense Department or the Department of Transportation may have high figures on specific programs, the scope and consistency of the Corps' excesses are breathtaking.

"Corps projects are concentrated heavily in the South and West. Under its flood control program, the following dramatic increases stand out: Caesar Creek Lake, Ohio, up 243%; Cooper Lake, Texas, up 325%; Fire Island Inlet, New York, up 325%; New Orleans to Venice Hurricane Protection, Louisiana, up 1027%; Sacramento river Bank up 356%.

"Navigation projects also have huge cost increases such as Jacksonville Harbor, Florida, up 316% and Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, Alabama, up 321%.

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"The dramatic cost overruns in Corps projects cannot be explained away by inflation. When the General Accounting Office analyzed the reasons for the cost growth in Corps projects last year, it found that at least one-half of the increase was for changes in engineering, estimating and the scope of the project. These are avoidable changes, given thorough and proper planning.

"It should be recognized that the Corps provides a useful and even critical service to the country. The amount of lives lost to natural disaster and property destroyed would be immeasurably higher were it not for the Corps of Engineers.

"But along with that protection also have come environmental disasters, the loss of anadromous fish spawning grounds, destruction of wildlife habitats, channelization of streambeds, silting and eutrophication of lakes and countless other problems.

"It seems to be a good time for the Executive Department to rethink the mission of the Corps of Engineers. Perhaps the Corps should be reoriented to reclaiming polluted waterways, building municipal waste treatment facilities and other desperately needed capital programs where Corps resources could be efficiently used."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

GOLDEN FLEECE AWARDS FOR 1977

Given to the biggest, most ridiculous or most ironic example of government spending or waste.

January: Department of Agriculture

For spending nearly $46,000 to find out how long it takes to cook breakfast. USDA did more than lay an egg on this one. It also spent the taxpayers' money to figure out how many minutes it takes to cook it.

For instance, USDA's researchers found that it takes 838 time measurement units (TMU's) to fry two eggs in a skillet. A 'time measurement unit' or 'TMU' is something that was also cooked up by the folks at USDA. They decided that each TMU equals 0.036 second. The Department found that it takes 1,222 TMU's to come up with a 6-ounce order of hash and 960 TMU's for some French toast.

The study gives us more than the big picture. In the case of French toast, for example, USDA tells us that it takes 22 TMU's to get the egg, 15 TMU's to break it against the bowl, and so it goes.

Now just whom is this study intended to benefit? According to USDA, it is the food service industry, which allegedly can use this study 'to determine the direct labor costs to produce a specific menu order and as building blocks to develop productivity measures for scheduling employees and controlling labor costs.' Maybe this is so, maybe not. But why should the taxpayers foot the bill? If members of the food service industry can use this information, let them pay for it.

USDA plans to issue similar studies for lunch and dinner menu items. This would bring the total cost of the project to almost $160,000. The breakfast tab is bad enough. I ask USDA not to saddle the American people with the check for lunch and dinner as well.

February: Law Enforcement Assistance Administration

For spending nearly $27,000 to determine why inmates want to escape from prison. This study is a crime. And if those responsible for it were tossed in jail, I'll bet they wouldn't need a dime of the taxpayers' money to decide why they wanted to get out.

Why does LEAA deserve the "Fleece?" 1) It should be obvious to one and all why someone in jail wants to get out, and this study belabors the obvious in concluding that 'escape is both a function of the characteristics of individuals and the situations in which they find themselves.' 2) The study's findings rest heavily on the responses of inmates themselves to a questionnaire. Can anyone be sure that the inmates were giving straight answers to the researchers, and if not, can we have any faith in the study's conclusions? 3) Its conclusions are presented in such technical and obscure language as to reduce greatly any usefulness it might have: 'The increase in predictability of escape from $R=.64$ when secondary variables are used singly and $R=.61$ when questionnaire variables are used singly to $R=.77$ when both are used conjointly, empirically demonstrates that escape is associated with both static and dynamic factors.

The study was supposed to help predict which prisoners are most likely and least likely to escape and thereby reduce the costs of escape and of providing more security than necessary. These are excellent goals. But public funds were used to pay for obvious conclusions that anyone could have come up with.

Last year I voted to abolish LEAA. Had I been successful, the American taxpayer would not be saddled with studies like this one. Unfortunately, LEAA lives on, but so does my determination to keep an eye on its spending habits. And that's why LEAA gets the Fleece for February.

March: Award of Merit to Veterans Administration Director Max Cleland

There is no "Fleece of the Month" award for March. Instead, I am giving a special award for merit to Max Cleland, the new VA Administrator, who, notwithstanding the fact that he is a triple amputee, is driving himself to and from work in his own car. My calculation is that this is a saving to the taxpayers of at least $16,000 a year.

Max Cleland's affirmative example will do more to eliminate the chauffeur driven car or limousine from the Washington scene than any other action I know. His action can achieve the objective of my "Fleece of the Month," namely to achieve economy in government and discourage the rip-off of the hardpressed taxpayer through foolish expenditures.

This perquisite, which Mr. Cleland spurns, has been the most difficult to remove. Many officials would rather have their chauffeur driven cars than funds for their programs. But if a triple amputee gets himself to and from work every day, how can any Administrator, Director, Commission Chairman, Under Secretary, Admiral or General or other self-appointed Washington big-shot hold up his or her head when being carried to and from work in a government car?

If the head of the Veterans Administration, who carries the immense burden of a $26 billion budget, supervises 200,000 employees and runs the biggest medical and adult education programs in the country and one of the biggest insurance programs can drive himself to work, why can't the others?

Hearings by my Subcommittee have shown that routinely a government chauffered car requires two chauffeurs who earn $7,000 to $8,000 a year each or one person who gets $15,000 including overtime. The cost of leasing a car plus its maintenance adds at least another $1,000.

April: Smithsonian Institution

For spending nearly $89,000 of public funds in producing a dictionary of Tzotzil, an obscure and unwritten Mayan language spoken by 120,000 corn-farming peasants in southern Mexico.

To make matters worse, this dictionary records the specific dialect spoken by only about 10,000 members--or a mere one-twelfth--of this already small group. To top it off, there are no Spanish definitions in the dictionary and thus, as acknowledged in the volume's introduction, it is essentially useless to even this tiny band of peasants. All this adds up to spending the taxpayers' money in a way that doesn't make sense in any language.

I am not saying the dictionary is useless or without merit, but we must have a set of priorities when it comes to spending public funds. The shortcomings of this work and its limited utility make it, in my view, not worth the public money spent, however worthy it might be as the object of funding from other sources. My criticism, I should emphasize, is of the Smithsonian's lack of judgment in spending taxpayers' money for this purpose and in no way reflects adversely on the competence and skills of the scholar who produced this work.

Let me point out, too, that the Smithsonian Institution has recently been criticized by the General Accounting Office for creating two private corporations to convert millions of the taxpayers' dollars into "private money," which it then allegedly spends outside the reach of federal restrictions. One of those corporations provided over half the grant money for this dictionary project. This strikes me as a good example of what the GAO report might have had in mind.

I don't know how to say "We've been had" in Tzotzil, but that sums up my feelings on having federal funds pay for this dictionary.

May: National Endowment for the Humanities

I am calling double fault on the National Endowment for the Humanities for making a $2,500 grant through the state to Arlington County, Virginia, to study why people are rude, cheat and lie on the local tennis courts. The federal taxpayer should not be taxed to determine why tennis can't always be a "love game."

The National Endowment for the Humanities, which will spend about $132 million of federal taxpayers' money this year, made the grant to determine why tennis players beg the courts, become frustrated when they have to wait to play, and what responsibility local tennis players have in trying to help the county solve its problem with overcrowding on the courts.

The grant was justified on grounds that tennis players lie about the time they start to play and resist requests to press local residency on un-monitored public courts. It was said it was important to find out why tennis players get frustrated when they have to wait for hours or go from court to court to find one on which to play. The vandalism of tennis nets, cables, cranks and lights was also cited as a serious problem.

The $2,500 grant, which will be matched by in-kind services of the County, is provided to: 1) hire the consulting services of a professor of sociology; 2) hire the consulting services of a professor of ethics and philosophy; 3) conduct a survey of the attitudes of about 300 players towards the local tennis regulations and evaluate the results; and 4) conduct two public meetings, where among other things the professors guide the local tennis players in role playing activities, where they take the part of the suffering local tennis buffs.

While there may be too much anger and not enough love on the Arlington tennis courts, spending $2,500 of federal funds for this project is a backhanded shot which any self-respecting linesman would call "out." The taxpayers of this country have been acad for some pretty stupid projects in the past, but a grant to study tennis court etiquette is the biggest default to date.

June: Awards of Merit to the Smithsonian Institution, the Farmers Home Administration and the National Science Foundation

The Smithsonian Institution gets the award of merit for building its Air and Space Museum on time, for less money than originally requested and for an improvement rather than a reduction in its quality. I cannot find another example throughout the entire federal government of a building, a weapons system or a water project where this has been the case. The Air and Space Museum opened on July 1, 1976, four days early. It cost $39.6 million, or $800,000 less than its projected cost when authorized ten years earlier. And it included at least four major features not provided for in the original plans, namely a large theater, a planetarium, an art gallery and facilities for handicapped visitors.

In the period 1972-76 the Farmers Home Administration had a 32% increase in the weighted total of the loans and grants it made and serviced, while it had a 3% reduction in the number of persons (employee years) doing the job. Some 265 fewer persons (employee years) serviced over 2,800 additional farm ownership and operating loans, low income housing loans, and community loans for watershed and sewers.

1.) The National Science Foundation has funded work to build a man-made working gene, the basic chemical unit which is combinatice controls the growth and development of all living things. This breakthrough may pave the way for producing supplies of infection fighting chemicals, insulin or other medically important substances. 2) NSF research is finding methods of improving on nature's own way of replenishing nitrogen in the soil. 3) The NSF has supported pioneering research on how the brain recovers after being damaged. This type of basic research should result in a clearer understanding and better treatment of a whole range of nerve related medical problems.

July: U.S. Postal Service

For spending over $3.4 million on a Madison Avenue ad campaign to make Americans write more letters to one another. In addition, the Postal Service spent almost $775,000 more in a seemingly futile effort to test whether the campaign works, a classic case of throwing good money after bad. This tallies up to a grand total of over $4 million of the taxpayers' money.

Spending public money trying to make Americans more prolific letter-writers is a dubious project at best. Moreover, there is a very great question of whether a government subsidized agency should be in the game of trying to drum up more business for itself. After all, we do not ask the Defense Department to start a war in order to use our military hardware more efficiently.

The Postal Service claims the greater volume of first-class mail that might be generated by this campaign would produce more revenues: "This program has as its objective stimulation of revenues through increased personal letter writing volume. Personal letter writing volume has not grown in recent years, and moreover, total first-class mail is expected to decline in future years as a result of increased reliance upon electronic transfers. Since first-class mail is the major revenue producer for the Postal Service and manpower and equipment are presently available to handle additional volume, increased household correspondence volume would provide additional revenues."

Unfortunately, the road to Hell is paved with good intentions, and that's what we've got in this case. Postal Service representatives indicate that all classes of mail are now losing money. In fiscal year 1976 the Postal Service deficit was almost $1.2 billion, and a $2.4 billion deficit is expected in the 12 months beginning next March 25. Increasing the volume of first-class mail may, therefore, simply contribute further to Postal Service deficits.

Beyond that, the Postal Service cannot seem to figure out how to test its campaign to see what effect it is having. Postal Service bureaucrats have so far been unable to agree on the meaning of their over 3/4 of a million dollars' worth of test results. That's why, they say, they may spend another $1 million for further testing of this campaign in 1978.

August: Department of Transportation

For spending $225,000 on a report which forecasts transportation needs in the year 2025 under four separate science fiction "scenarios"--where the United States undergoes an Ice Age, becomes a dictatorship, is transformed into a hippy culture or blossoms into a society the authors term "the American Dream." In its imaginary setting, its pursuit of the obvious and its predictions of the future, this is perhaps the most speculative, impractical and redundant study ever paid for by the government.

What did the American taxpayer get for $225,000? Certain obvious facts and dubious predictions:

--that if there were an Ice Age, a "very large number of people" will be forced or attracted to move to the South and Southwest to escape an undesirable climate.
--that if there were urban guerilla warfare, cities would need more transit police, automobile use in afflicted regions would become risky and damage insurance rates would rise.
--the cost per gallon of gasoline (tax included) would be $1.70 in an Ice Age, $1.50 in a hippy society, $1.85 under a dictatorship and $1.05 in a "success" future.

The authors urge their readers to study a new rail cargo transport system and then "solve the legal, organizational, financial, union, and political problems attendant to bringing such a special intermodal rail network into existence." In other words, we are told that the solution to the problem is to solve it! Perhaps the Department of Transportation should examine the transportation implications if Congress were to abolish the Department's futuristic research division.

September: National Endowment for the Arts

For making a $6025 grant to an artist to film the throwing of crepe paper and bursing gases out of high flying airplanes. The National Endowment for the Arts, which will spend $123.6 million of federal money in the coming year, made this grant in order to "document on film an event designed to alter an audience's immediate environment for a short period of time," according to Nancy Hanks, the Endowment's Chairman.

The audience's immediate environment is altered when four one mile-long 20 inch-wide crepe paper rolls were thrown out of two small planes flying over El Paso, Texas. The crepe paper rolls were accompanied by two sky divers, who reeled out the crepe paper as they (the paper and sky divers) fell to the ground. Another taxpayer-sponsored drop involved a team of skydivers parachuting down to earth in Pennsylvania wearing backpacks of glowing gases.

Here is how some of the $6025 in grant money were spent: $1424.28 for air fare and lodging for the artist and her husband, who served as cameraman, for a week's stay in February of 1976 on the Caribbean island of St. Maarten. (The artist explained that it was necessary to go to this exclusive resort island in order to film one of the environments which had influenced her development as an artist.) $1713.32 for travel expenses, including air fare, meals, car rental and airport parking to the Southwest in August, 1976, for the artist, her cameraman husband, a sky diver and two of her children, who were the ground crew assigned to retrieve the dropped crepe paper.

The movie, which runs about 20 minutes, was received by the Endowment only after my staff asked to see it last month. The film, to which the artist retains the copyright, contains only brief glimpses of the crepe paper and light drops. Much of the film shows various scenes of the artist posing in St. Maarten.

While I strongly support the idea of free expression by all creative artists and believe that the crepe paper dropping artist sincerely believes in the importance of her work, I see no reason for the federal government to support these activities.

October: Department of Labor

For granting a $384,948 contract to hire 101 persons under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) to do a door-to-door survey to count the dogs, cats and horses at the 160,000 houses and apartments in Ventura County, Calif. While the Constitution requires a decennial census of the people, spending the taxpayers' hard earned dollars to count the animals is not required by either the founding fathers or by common sense.

CETA funds are not only supposed to provide jobs. They are supposed to satisfy some unmet, pressing local need. According to the proposal submitted to the Department of Labor, the important local need to be satisfied involved finding out how many dogs were not immunized against rabies. Preventing the biting of humans by rabid animals is an important and serious objective; however, the Animal Regulation Director of Ventura County admitted to my staff that there had not been a case of rabies among dogs or cats in the county in over a decade!

Salaries will run from $3.25 per hour for the census takers to $256 per week for the administrative aides who will supervise the project.

Criticisms were raised by both private citizens and federal officials against this project, but local officials doggedly maintained their bite on the federal taxpayers. These officials maintain that needed local revenue would be raised through the sale of licenses to the owners of unregistered dogs. Obviously, the survey will use a great amount of federal tax dollars in order to raise relatively few dollars for a local government. That's clearly a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Here is a perfect example of what can happen when the unit of government which spends money is not the same as the one which has to raise it in the first place. The need to raise the revenues that are spent locally imposes a discipline on a unit of government that was clearly missing in this case.

November: Pentagon civilian and military brass

For misusing military aircraft on a massive scale at a cost to the taxpayers of at least $52.3 million. These officials have systematically missed military planes for low priority missions--support and personal flights--instead of for combat training and for flights where available commercial transportation was many times cheaper. It is a classic example of putting the privileges of rank and the logistics tail before the combat teeth.

What we have here is the picture of every high ranking officer or civilian in the Pentagon simply being able to request government transportation free regardless of its cost or mission. This puts the lie to the age-old excuse of the military services that transportation of the generals and admirals is appropriate because the aircraft have to fly anyway, and there is no additional cost if the brass go along. In fact there are substantial extra costs: the cost over the price of available commercial transportation; the cost of having extra aircraft on hand; the price we pay in not having our pilots trained for wartime missions.

Defense Department auditors--the Defense Audit Service--should get a commendation for uncovering massive abuse of government aircraft:

--DAS auditors reviewed 2700 military airlift missions and found that 56% of the domestic flights and 17% of the foreign flights could have been accomplished on scheduled commercial air transportation at a saving of $1.4 million.
--The Marine Corps operated an aircraft squadron with the policy of flying an extra plane behind every plane carrying a general or flag rank officer. There would be passengers only on the lead aircraft. The second was for emergency back-up for the brass.
--Air Force pilots were being required to fly so many administrative support missions that they were not getting their required wartime readiness training exercises.

There are 18,000 active aircraft and helicopters in the U.S. arsenal. 11,200 of these are support aircraft or transports. Only 6800 are pure combat aircraft. It is readily apparent that there are far too many support aircraft in ratio to combat aircraft.

Wartime readiness training should come before all else. Administrative support and command aircraft should be used only in those few instances where there is no commercial transportation available and then only when there is an official business justification for the flight. Local commanders should be restricted in their broad authority to use administrative jets as their personal toys.

December: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

For a series of outrageous expenditures for its Chairman's personal use as revealed in a General Accounting Office Report. These expenditures were made by the FDIC on behalf of its former Chairman, Robert E. Barnett, who served March 76-May 77.

-- Agency funds were used to pay the travel expenses of his wife, who accompanied him on 7 trips to such exotic places as Puerto Rico, Manila, and Mexico City. Mr. Barnett billed the FDIC for over $6,100 to pay his and his wife's travel expenses on these 7 trips.
-- Agency vehicles were used to transport Mrs. Barnett to the doctor, to transport Mrs. Barnett and her children on a visit to the Hirschhorn Museum, and in one case the Barnett children were chauffered to Rehoboth Beach by two FDIC employees using an agency car.
--The FDIC paid Mr. Barnett's membership fees in a private tennis club in Virginia.

Even though funds to support the FDIC are derived from fees and premiums assessed against commercial banks, the cost of this high living by certain bank regulatory officials is ultimately passed on to the public in the form of higher prices for bank services. Many of these items may be dismissed as petty chiseling. Nonetheless, taken as a whole, I think they indicate the need for closer budgetary and accounting controls over the FDIC.

Fleece of the Year: Treasury Department

For its zealous support of an end-of-the-year, end run attempt to amend the tax laws at a cost to the taxpayers of over $400 million this year.

A little known provision of the tax laws allows Americans who are residents abroad for 17 of 18 months to exclude $20,000 of earned income from their income tax base. If they stay three years, the amount rises to $25,000. Further, if they pay any income taxes to a foreign government, that amount can be offset against any American tax owed on amounts in excess of the $20,000 or $25,000. In addition, the exclusion is "taken off the top" so that an American living on the French Riviera for 18 months who makes $40,000 can not only deduct $20,000 from the $40,000 but pays his remaining taxes at the lower $20,000 rather than the higher $40,000 rate.

In 1976 Congress reformed this provision. But because of extraordinary pressures and lobbying from Americans and American firms doing business abroad, the effect of the new law was postponed until the tax year 1977. Now the Treasury is pushing postponement for yet another year. Officials there have succumbed to the moans from mink-swathed Americans abroad who now pay no or few taxes but will have to begin paying taxes (of course they moan) and to arguments that the provision both creates jobs and stimulates business abroad. If we provided a $20,000 tax exclusion for employees of any firm doing business in Wisconsin, the state would be overrun with new businesses. But that wouldn't be fair to the rest of the American taxpayers living either at home or abroad.

These provisions make absolutely no sense. An American living in London, Paris, Rio or on a Greek island resort has no hardships equal to those of an auto worker in Racine, a paper mill employee in northern Wisconsin or a farmer near LaCrosse. Yet a Wisconsin family of four would pay taxes of $2,500 to $4,000 a year on the amount of income which the American abroad excludes from his income entirely.

No argument can be made that it helps the "little man." According to the Treasury's Office of Tax Analysis, more than half the benefits of this loophole goes to Americans making $50,000 or more. Over 90% of the benefits are taken by those with incomes over $30,000 a year.

Americans living abroad receive a vast array of services and should pay the same taxes as those at home. They get the protection of the American military forces, the services of the American embassy where they live, and the benefit of subsidies to the American airline or shipping company which got them there. In fact, the American may well be living abroad because he is working for a company which has a contract paid for by our foreign aid or at a military base provided by the American taxpayer.

There is one legitimate complaint against the reform provisions, namely that a few Americans in high cost, hardship posts are unable to deduct the excessive costs. Senator Ribicoff has a bill which would get at that problem, and I support the 1976 law.

When it was learned that I was blocking this and run for the rest of the year, I was besieged by top officials of this and previous administrations, by an intense mail campaign and by expert lobbyists all dedicated to continue this gross injustice. It was a perfect lesson in why tax reform gets clobbered. In spite of these pleas I have put a hold on any attempt to pass this extension by unanimous consent during the dying moments of this Congressional session. I am not moved by pleas of hardship made to me personally on behalf of the President of Aramco and high officials of ITT!

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 1972

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) announced Monday that his "Golden Fleece of the Month" award winner for January is the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), "which spent nearly $46,000 to determine how long it takes to cook breakfast."

"USDA did more than lay an egg on this one. It also spent the taxpayers' money to figure out how many minutes it takes to cook it."

Proxmire makes monthly "Golden Fleece" awards for the biggest or most ironic example of wasting federal tax funds. Monthly awards are followed by a "Fleece of the Year" winner in late December.

Proxmire sits on the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, which oversees USDA's budget. He also serves as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs and the Joint Economic Committee's Subcommittee on Priorities and Economy in Government.

"Why does USDA deserve the 'Fleece' for January? A few examples of what its study produced answers that question.

"For instance, USDA's researchers found that it takes 838 time measurement units (TMU's) to fry two eggs in a skillet. In case you're wondering, a 'time measurement unit' or 'TMU' is something that was also cooked up by the folks at USDA. And they decided that each TMU equals 0.036 seconds.

"Frankly, I think it would take less time just to fry those two eggs and eat them than it would to translate all those TMU's into seconds on your handy calculator. And besides, it might be a lot more fun.

"But let's see what else USDA discovered in its culinary Olympics. Did you realize that it takes 1,222 TMU's to come up with a six-ounce order of hash? But you needn't wait that long for a nice breakfast. If you can sit still for 960 TMU's, you'll be enjoying some French toast.

"This study gives us more than the big picture. Refinements abound. In the case of French toast, for example, USDA tells us that it takes 22 TMU's to get the egg. If that seems like a long time, it's reassuring to know that only 15 TMU's are consumed in breaking that same egg against the bowl. And so it goes.

"Now just who is this study intended to benefit? According to USDA, it is the food service industry, which allegedly can use this study 'to determine the

"The estimated $16,000 a year savings is based on extensive hearings by my Subcommittee which show that routinely a government chauffeured car requires two chauffeurs who earn $7,000 to $8,000 a year each or one person who gets $15,000 including overtime. The cost of leasing a car plus its maintenance adds at least another $1,000.

"I intend to continue giving a 'Fleece of the Month' award to the agency that has indulged in the most conspicuous or outrageous example of wasteful spending for that month. But I also intend to recognize from time to time fine examples of economizing which should shame the remaining government agencies into reforming their practices and to cut down waste."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1977

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) announced Thursday that his "Golden Fleece of the Month" award winner for February is the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), "which spent nearly $27,000 to determine why inmates want to escape from prison.

"This study is a crime. And if those responsible for it were tossed in jail, I'll bet they wouldn't need a dime of the taxpayers' money to decide why they wanted to get out."

Proxmire makes monthly "Golden Fleece" awards for the biggest or most ironic example of wasting federal tax funds. Monthly awards are followed by a "Fleece of the Year" winner in late December.

Proxmire sits on the Senate Appropriations Committee, which oversees LEAA's budget. He also serves as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs and the Joint Economic Committee's Subcommittee on Priorities and Economy in Government.

"Why does LEAA deserve the 'Fleece' for February? There are at least three good reasons.

"First of all, the researchers are beating a dead horse in asking this question. It should be obvious to one and all why someone in jail wants to get out. And this study belabors the obvious in concluding that 'escape is both a function of the characteristics of individuals and the situations in which they find themselves.'

"Second, the study's findings rest heavily on the responses of inmates themselves to a questionnaire. I can't for the life of me imagine why prisoners anywhere would want to help their captors keep them in captivity. In other words, can anyone be sure that the inmates were giving straight answers to the researchers? And if not, can we have any faith in the study's conclusions?

"And finally, even if one concedes there might be some merit to this study, its conclusions are couched in such technical and obscure language as to reduce greatly any usefulness it might have. To cite one example, the researchers tell us that:

> The increase in predictability of escape from R=.64 when secondary variables are used singly and R=.61 when questionnaire variables are used singly to R=.77 when both are used conjointly, empirically demonstrates that escape is associated with both static and dynamic factors.

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"Now just what is the avowed purpose of this study? It is supposed to help predict which prisoners are most likely and least likely to escape and thereby reduce the costs of escape and of providing more security than necessary.

"This sounds great. I am all for these goals of escape prediction and cost reduction. But let's look at some specific examples of what the researchers found.

"First, they said that the escaper is more likely than other inmates to be, among other things, one who has been 'turned down for parole' and 'not scheduled for parole review.' Is it surprising to learn that a prisoner whose parole route is blocked might seek the escape route instead? Of course not. Yet public funds were used to pay for just such a profound conclusion.

"In a second conclusion, the study reported that 'Analyses tend to depict the escaper, particularly the multiple escaper, as a career criminal.' Again, is anyone dumbfounded by this finding? Hardly. This is a matter of common sense. Yet our tax dollars and cents paid for the research that produced this gem.

"Thirdly, an 'implication' of the study is that there are certain 'critical times' for escape. These are said to include the times 'when an inmate is first admitted or transferred to a unit, when his program progress is stalemated, when he encounters family difficulties, and when he feels his security threatened.' I must ask, again, are these elusive or amazing determinations? I don't think so. The man on the street knows as much. Yet that very same average American citizen was forced to foot the bill for such findings.

"Let me be very clear on one point. I am not saying this study is all bad. Its objectives are good, and some of its contents may well be helpful. But we must have a set of priorities when it comes to spending the taxpayers' money. The deficiencies of this study make it, in my view, not worth the money spent.

"Last year I was one of two United States Senators to vote against reauthorizing LEAA. I wanted to abolish the agency entirely. Had I been successful, the American taxpayer would not be saddled with paying for studies like this one.

"Unfortunately, LEAA lives on. But so does my determination to keep an eye on its spending habits. And that's why LEAA gets the 'Fleece' for February."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1977

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) announced Wednesday that "There will be no 'Fleece of the Month" award for March. Instead, I am giving a special award for merit to Max Cleland, the new Administrator of the Veterans Administration, who, notwithstanding the fact that he is a triple amputee, is driving himself to and from work in his own car. My calculation is that this is a savings to the taxpayers of at least $16,000 a year."

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies, which has jurisdiction over the funds of the Veterans Administration.

"For two years I have given a 'Fleece of the Month' award to the biggest, most ridiculous, or ironic example of waste of the taxpayers' money. This month I am substituting an award of merit to Mac Cleland, who drives himself to work in his own seven year-old specially equipped Oldsmobile, which has clocked 160,000 miles.

"Max Cleland's affirmative example will do more to eliminate the chauffeur driven car or limousine from the Washington scene than any other action I know. This special award is given to him because his affirmative example can achieve the objective of my 'Fleece of the Month,' namely to achieve economy in government and discourage the rip-off of the hardpressed taxpayer through foolish expenditures.

"I am giving the award to Max Cleland because his action is aimed at getting rid of the one government perquisite which has been the most difficult to remove. Many officials would rather have their chauffeur driven cars than funds for their programs.

"But if a triple amputee who holds both the Bronze and Silver Stars gets himself to and from work every day, how can any Administrator, Director, Commission Chairman, Under Secretary, Admiral or General or other self-proclaimed Washington big-shot hold up his or her head when being carried to and from work in a government car?

"If the head of the Veterans' Administration who carries the immense burden of a $20 billion budget, supervises 200,000 employees and runs the biggest medical and adult education programs in the country and one of the biggest insurance programs can drive himself to work, why can't the others?

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"The estimated $16,000 a year savings is based on extensive hearings by my Subcommittee which show that routinely a government chauffeured car requires two chauffeurs who earn $7,000 to $8,000 a year each or one person who gets $15,000 including overtime. The cost of leasing a car plus its maintenance adds at least another $1,000.

"I intend to continue giving a 'Fleece of the Month' award to the agency that has indulged in the most conspicuous or outrageous example of wasteful spending for that month. But I also intend to recognize from time to time fine examples of economizing which should shame the remaining government agencies into reforming their practices and to cut down waste."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1977

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) announced Thursday that "I am giving the 'Golden Fleece of the Month' award for April to the Smithsonian Institution for spending nearly $88,000 of public funds in producing a dictionary of Tzotzil, an obscure and unwritten Mayan language spoken by 120,000 corn-farming peasants in southern Mexico.

"To make matters worse, this dictionary records the specific dialect spoken by only about 10,000 members--or a mere one-twelfth--of this already small group.

"To top it off, there are no Spanish definitions in the dictionary and thus, as acknowledged in the volume's introduction, it is essentially useless to even this tiny band of peasants.

"All this adds up to spending the taxpayers' money in a way that doesn't make sense in any language."

Proxmire makes monthly "Golden Fleece" awards for the biggest or most ironic example of wasting federal tax funds. Monthly awards are followed by a "Fleece of the Year" winner in late December.

Proxmire sits on the Senate Appropriations Committee, which oversees the Smithsonian Institution's budget. He also serves as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs and the Joint Economic Committee's Subcommittee on Priorities and Economy in Government.

"An attempted justification for this expenditure of public funds includes the following statement from the dictionary's introduction:

> General dictionaries of obscure languages are not fashionable, but if the understanding of human cultural behavior is the goal of anthropology, and if language is, in a sense, a 'mirror for man,' the pragmatic and semantic investigation of man's socially patterned linguistic habits is surely relevant.

"Yet that same introduction contains other statements which raise serious doubts about the wisdom of spending tax dollars on such a project. Let me cite some specifics.

"First, the dictionary's introduction, which was written by the same person who compiled the volume, contains this passage:

> I have been asked how I secured the information in this dictionary. And aside from the techniques described for the botanical section, I have no answer. I know that sober and drunk we laughed and groaned and chatted in 'the true language' for ten days and ten years, in museums, and on mountain trails, shivering in icy San.Cristobal rooms, and basking beneath a Zinacantec sun.

to say the least, this description of 'research technique' makes me wonder about the worth of this volume and certainly about spending public funds to support it.

"Second, the dictionary's researcher made this comment in the introduction about the absence of Spanish definitions:

> My main regret is that this dictionary bears heavy witness to the school of imperialistic anthropology--lacking Spanish definitions, it could have but one use for the Zinacantecs, the same alluded to discretely by Don Juan, 'You know what we do with paper in Mexico.'

This remark speaks for itself. I, for one, do not think we should spend public money to produce 'paper' for that purpose.

"And finally, the compiler of this volume, in the 'acknowledgments' section, uses the phrase 'soon to collect dust on library shelves' in referring to this tome. That helps me make my final point. I am not saying the dictionary is useless or without merit. But we must have a set of priorities when it comes to spending public funds. The shortcomings of this work and its limited utility make it, in my view, not worth the public money spent, however worthy it might be as the object of funding from other sources.

"I recognize, of course, that some of the statements I've quoted were made tongue-in-cheek. And I certainly appreciate the candor and sense of humor underlying these remarks. But this doesn't help much in justifying the federal funds that were spent on this project.

"My criticism, I should emphasize, is of the Smithsonian's lack of judgment in spending taxpayers' money for this purpose and in no way reflects adversely on the competence and skills of the scholar who produced this work.

"Let me point out, too, that the Smithsonian Institution has recently been criticized by the General Accounting Office for creating two private corporations to convert millions of the taxpayers' dollars into 'private money,' which it then allegedly spends outside the reach of federal restrictions. One of these corporations provided over half the grant money for this dictionary project. This strikes me as a good example of what the GAO report might have had in mind.

"I don't know how to say 'We've been had' in Tzotzil, but that about sums up my feelings when I learned that federal funds had been used to help produce this dictionary. For that reason, the Smithsonian Institution is more than deserving of the 'Golden Fleece' award for April."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. MONDAY, MAY 9, 1977

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said Monday "I am calling double fault on the National Endowment for the Humanities and giving them my Fleece of the Month Award for May for making a $2,500 grant to Arlington County, Virginia to study why people are rude, ill-mannered, cheat and lie on the local tennis courts. By watching Ile Nastase or Bob Hewitt throw their tantrums on national television taxpayers could be saved the expense. The federal taxpayer should not be taxed to determine why tennis can't always be a 'love game'."

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and a member of the Senate Appropriations and Congressional Joint Economic Committee. The Fleece of the Month Award is given for the biggest, most ironic, or most ridiculous example of wasteful government spending for the month.

"The National Endowment for the Humanities, which will spend about $132 million of federal taxpayer's money this year, has made a grant to Arlington County, Virginia to determine why tennis players hog the courts, become frustrated when they have to wait to play, and what responsibility local tennis players have in trying to help the country solve its more tennis players than tennis courts' problem.

"The $2,500 grant, which will be matched by in-kind services of the County, is provided to: 1) hire the consulting services of a professor of sociology, 2) hire the consulting services of a professor of ethics and philosophy, 3)conduct a survey of the attitudes of about 300 players towards the local tennis regulations and evaluate the results, and 4) to conduct two public meetings where among other things the professors guide the local tennis players in role playing activities where they take the part of the suffering local tennis buffs.

"While there may be too much anger and not enough love on the Arlington tennis courts, spending $2,500 of federal funds for this project is a backhanded shot which any self-respecting linesman would call 'out.'

"Even though $2,500 is equal to 27 weeks of work at the minimum wage or about the federal tax bill of the average American family, it is not the biggest example of waste in the government. Perhaps it should be called a mini-Fleece. But spending $2,500 to determine why people misbehave on the tennis courts is certainly the most ridiculous example of federal spending for the month.

"The grant was justified on grounds that tennis players lie about the time they start to play and resist requests to prove local residency on un-monitored public courts. It was said it was important to find out why tennis players get frustrated when they have to wait for hours or go from court to court to find one on which to play. The vandalism of tennis nets, cables, cranks, and lights was also cited as a serious problem(OVER)

"The taxpayers of this country have been aced for some pretty stupid projects in the past, but a grant to study tennis court etiquette is the biggest default to date.

"The ball is in your court, National Endowment. Studying why tennis buffs hog the courts is not exactly on any list of national spending priorities of which I am aware."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 1977

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) announced Thursday that "instead of a 'Fleece of the Month' award for June I am giving a special 'Award of Merit' to three government agencies--the Smithsonian Institution, the Farmers Home Administration and the National Science Foundation--for specific examples of wise, economical, effective and constructive use of taxpayers' money.

"This month's merit award gives me special pleasure as two of the three agencies--the National Science Foundation and the Smithsonian Institution--have in the past received my 'Fleece of the Month' award for the biggest, most ridiculous or ironic example of waste of the taxpayers' money."

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which has jurisdiction over the public funds Congress appropriates to these agencies or institutions.

"Here are the facts on which the awards are based.

"The Smithsonian Institution gets my award of merit for building its Air and Space Museum on time, for less money than originally requested and for an improvement rather than a reduction in its quality. I cannot find another example throughout the entire government of a building, a weapons system or a water project where this has been the case. Routinely government projects are finished late, at many times the originally estimated cost and with a reduction in quality.

"The Air and Space Museum opened on July 1, 1976, four days early. It cost $39.5 million, or $500,000 less than its projected cost when authorized ten years earlier in 1966. And it included at least four major features not provided for in the original plans, namely a large theater, a planetarium, an art gallery and facilities for handicapped visitors.

"In its own way the Farmers Home Administration has done a remarkable job in increasing the productivity of its programs. In the period 1972-1976 the FmHA had a 32 percent increase in the weighted total of the loans and grants it made and serviced, while it had a 3 percent reduction in the number of persons (employee years) doing the job. Some 265 fewer persons (employee years) serviced over 2,800 additional farm ownership and operating loans, low income housing loans, and community loans for watershed and sewers among the 19 major programs included in their productivity index.

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"This was done under a government-wide productivity program sponsored by the General Accounting Office. The program is designed to provide the government with the same kind of measurement system for productivity which is widely used in the private sector. As many aspects of government programs can be automated--sending out social security or Veterans Administration checks, for example--tens of millions of dollars can be saved by the use of capital equipment, making procedures more routine and providing a measurement system for government processes.

"The National Science Foundation, which I have strongly criticized in the past for frivolous or ridiculous projects, gets my award for merit for three major activities.

"First, NSF has funded work, in whole or in part, to build a man-made working gene, the basic chemical unit which in combination controls the growth and development of all living things.

"This breakthrough was heralded around the world last year and may well pave the way for producing large supplies of expensive, rare or medically important substances such as insulin or infection fighting chemicals.

"Second, research sponsored by the NSF has achieved promising results in finding methods of improving on nature's own way of replenishing nitrogen in the soil. NSF-sponsored research has involved two methods. The first increases the number of edible plants which can interact with bacteria living at the plants' roots in order to 'fix' atmospheric nitrogen in the soil. The second is an exotic approach which involves getting the plants themselves to directly 'fix' the atmospheric nitrogen without the presence of the bacteria.

"With the serious energy crisis upon us, these breakthroughs when further developed might be substituted for artificial chemical fertilizers, which cost the U.S. producers over $2 billion last year.

"Third, the NSF has supported pioneering research on how the brain recovers after being damaged. For the first time biologists can study how nerve growth takes place in a particular part of an animal's brain after the brain has been injured. This type of basic research should result in a clearer understanding and better treatment of a whole range of nerve related medical problems.

"It gives me great pleasure to honor the Smithsonian Institution, the Farmers Home Administration and the National Science Foundation this month."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. MONDAY, JULY 25, 1977

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) announced Monday that "I am giving my 'Golden Fleece of the Month' award for July to the United States Postal Service for spending over $3.4 million on a Madison Avenue ad campaign trying to make Americans write more letters to one another. In addition, the Postal Service spent almost $375,000 more in a seemingly futile effort to test whether the campaign works, a classic case of throwing good money after bad. This tallies up to a grand total of over $4 million of the taxpayers' money.

"Spending public money trying to make Americans more prolific letter-writers is a dubious project at best. People write letters for many reasons, but I doubt that a public relations pitch from the federal government is one of them. In my view, this kind of hype just won't make Americans type.

"Moreover, there is a very great question of whether a government-subsidized agency should be in the game of trying to drum up more business for itself.

"We do not ask the Defense Department to start a war in order to use our military hardware more efficiently.

"We do not ask social security contributors to retire earlier so we can make more efficient use of that agency's computers to send out the checks.

"We do not try to increase the level of unemployment so we may make more efficient use of our administrative machinery for sending out the compensation checks.

"Yet the Postal Service insists on coughing up millions of dollars on an ad campaign to promote increased household correspondence.

"In launching this effort the Postal Service claims the greater volume of first-class mail that might be generated by this campaign would produce more revenues.

"But Postal Service representatives with whom my staff has talked indicate that all classes of mail are, at this time, losing money. Increasing the volume of first-class mail may, therefore, simply contribute further to Postal Service deficits.

"Beyond that, the Postal Service cannot seem to figure out how to test its campaign to see what effect it is having. Postal Service bureaucrats have so far been unable to agree on the meaning of their over 3/4 of a million dollars' worth of test results.

"That is why, they say, they may spend another $1 million for further testing of this campaign in 1978.

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"To sum it up, while the Postal Service public relations people, statisticians, and market analysts have been hunched over the drawing board trying to devise and test this highly questionable Madison Avenue caper, the American taxpayer has picked up the tab.

"This is a burden which our taxpayers should not be asked to bear and a luxury which our federal Treasury cannot afford."

Proxmire makes monthly "Golden Fleece" awards for the biggest, most ridiculous or most ironic example of wasting federal tax funds. Monthly awards are followed by a "Fleece of the Year" winner in late December.

Proxmire sits on the Senate Appropriations Committee, which oversees the use of appropriated funds by the Postal Service. He also serves as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs and the Joint Economic Committee's Subcommittee on Priorities and Economy in Government.

"The Postal Service may have had good intentions when it embarked on its so-called 'Household Correspondence Program.' As one of its senior officials wrote to me:

> This program has as its objective stimulation of revenues through increased personal letter writing volume. Personal letter writing volume has not grown in recent years and moreover, total first-class mail is expected to decline in future years as a result of increased reliance upon electronic transfers. Since first-class mail is the major revenue producer for the Postal Service and manpower and equipment are presently available to handle additional volume, increased household correspondence volume would provide additional revenues.

"But unfortunately, the road to Hell is paved with good intentions, and that's what we've got in this case.

"In fiscal year 1976, the Postal Service deficit was almost $1.2 billion. And a $2.4 billion deficit is expected in the 12 months beginning next March 25.

"So what does the Postal Service do in the face of these staggering deficits? It comes up with a multi-million dollar, Madison Avenue style ad campaign. This venture belongs on the junkpile, along with other ill-conceived Postal Service schemes like unjustified rate increases and the proposal to end Saturday deliveries.

"There are lots of other possibilities for the Postal Service to ponder if it wants to increase revenues. As one of the Postal Service's Madison Avenue friends might put it, it's time for the Postal Service to run these options up the flagpole and see if anyone salutes. For sticking with a slick, shaky and expensive ad campaign instead, I award the Postal Service my 'Golden Fleece' for July."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 1977

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) announced Friday that "I am giving the Golden Fleece of the Month award for August to the Department of Transportation for spending $225,000 on a report which forecasts transportation needs in the year 2025 under four separate science fiction 'scenarios'--where the United States undergoes an Ice Age, becomes a dictatorship, is transformed into a hippy culture or blossoms into a society the authors term 'the American Dream.'*

"In its imaginary setting, its pursuit of the obvious and its predictions of the future, this is perhaps the most speculative, impractical and redundant study ever paid for by the government."

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and a member of the Senate Appropriations and Congressional Joint Economic Committee. The Fleece of the Month award is given for the biggest, most ironic, or most ridiculous example of wasteful government spending for the month.

"What did the American taxpayer get for $225,000? They were told certain obvious facts:

> --that if there were an Ice Age, a 'very large number of people' will be forced or attracted to move to the South and Southwest to escape an undesirable climate.
>
> --that if there were urban guerrilla warfare in a 21st century imaginary society, cities would need more transit police, automobile use in afflicted regions would become risky, and damage insurance rates would rise astronomically.
>
> --that if there were a population surge because people 'missed having children around,' the immediate transportation effects would be 'in general, increased demand for transportation services of all kinds.'

"Taxpayers were not only given obvious facts, but certain predictions were made. For example:

> --if an Ice Age ensues, hitchhikers will be 'ubiquitous, even riding on roofracks' and drivers will 'charge about 25¢ for local trips,' but that in a "Disciplined Society,' hitchhiking will be 'illegal but common' and hitchhikers will 'sometimes hide in vehicles to avoid detection.'
>
> --the cost per gallon of gasoline (tax included) would be $1.70 in an Ice Age, $1.50 in a hippy society, $1.05 under a dictatorship, and $1.05 in a "Success" future. (The price of gasoline, obviously, in the year 2025 will depend far more on discoveries, conservation, the development of solar and other fuels and substitutes than on the nature of the society.)
>
> --if there is an Ice Age, by 2025 'it will no longer be socially unacceptable to attend a business meeting or social engagement in traditional walking, bicycle, or motorcycle attire.'

"Here are some examples of the 'moving language' which taxpayers got for $225,000:

*Transportation in America's Future: Potentials for the Next Half Century. U.S. Department of Transportation. Office of Transportation Planning. Washington, D.C.

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"In one description the report looks ahead 50 years to a United States victimized by 'Climatic Catastrophe.' The authors tell a story to show how it might feel to live in the Ice Age then:

> Anne Jamison awoke with a start, shivering involuntarily. She'd been dreaming of endless expanses of swirling, snow beneath a slate grey sky.

Later on in the story Anne and her friend Jim . . .

> reflected that they were of a new generation, having missed the economic distress at the end of the twentieth century. . . The initial impacts of the climate shift, the disasters caused by subsequent weather modification attempts, the nuclear accidents, the genetic experiments gone awry--they had experienced none of these.

"There is a second possible future, the authors say. 'a way of life that we call 'voluntary simplicity.' It values frugality, simplicity, harmony with nature, and inner spiritual development.' A research director involved in the project shortened the description to the 'hippy, or back-to-nature movement.' The authors describe life in this society with another story:

> Jud wanted a rug that was predominantly light blue, and he had been collecting old jeans for months. They would take all the buttons and zippers off to save before the weavers ripped the old clothing into strips . . . In his introspection he had found the courage to adopt a new way of living that was more rich and rewarding than anything he could have imagined. And he had the courage to accept himself, warts and all, for the person he was and wanted to be. Yes, personal growth was difficult but very satisfying.

"In a third imaginary future, American comes out of a depression as a 'Disciplined Society' where a 'bureaucratized leadership, faceless and diffuse, would have at its disposal sophisticated psychotechnology.' Railroads, as in Italy under Mussolini, 'run efficiently . . . and on time.'

"In the final 'future,' the United States 'continues to move toward rising affluence--so that by the year 2025 the 'post industrial society" is a reality. It is a world of high technology, sophisticated communication, rapid mobility, and high levels of consumption. It is the fulfillment of the traditional American Dream.'

"To flesh out these imaginary futures, the report gives statistics for the year 2025 which neither the Office of Management and Budget nor the Council of Economic Advisors can predict even a year in advance. For example, the interest rate is supposed to vary from 4% in a hippy society to 12% in an Ice Age.

"Of what use is the report? It describes future transportation situations, but what solutions does it recommend to future transportation problems?

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"The authors urge their readers to study a new rail cargo transport system and then 'solve the legal, organizational, financial, union, and political problems attendant in bringing such a special intermodal rail network into existence.' In other words, we are told that the solution to a problem is to solve it.

"Another ridiculous recommendation offered by the report is that we should develop improved sailing ships for a possible Ice Age, dictatorship, or hippy society, but develop nuclear powered ships only for a 'Success' future.

"Even if the report could come up with some reasonable solutions, should the Department of Transportation devote time and effort to solving transportation needs in these nightmare societies? Suppose there were going to be a dictatorship in 50 years. Should we start planning its transportation system now?

"Perhaps the Department of Transportation should examine the transportation implications if Congress were to abolish the Department's futuristic research division.

"That may be the most realistic 'scenario' of the future."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1977

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) Thursday awarded the "Golden Fleece of the Month" for November to the Pentagon civilian and military brass who, according to an internal DOD audit, have misused military aircraft on a massive scale at a cost to the taxpayers of at least $52.3 million. They have systematically misused military planes for low priority missions--support and personal flights--instead of for combat training and for flights where available commercial transportation was many times cheaper. It is a classic example of putting the privileges of rank and the logistics tail before the combat teeth."

Proxmire awards the Golden Fleece monthly for the biggest or most ironic example of wasting federal funds. The Wisconsin Democrat is a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and is Chairman of the Priorities and Economy in Government Subcommittee of the Joint Economic Committee.

"What we have here is the picture of every high ranking officer or civilian in the Pentagon simply being able to request government transportation free regardless of its cost or mission--simply on the basis of rank," Proxmire said. "This internal audit puts the lie to the age-old excuse of the military services that transportation of the generals and admirals is appropriate because the aircraft have to fly anyway, and there is no additional cost if the brass go along.

"In fact, there are substantial additional costs: the cost over the price of available commercial transportation; the cost of having extra aircraft on hand; the price we pay in not having our pilots trained for wartime missions.

"While the Pentagon brass get the Fleece, Defense Department auditors--the Defense Audit Service--should get a commendation for uncovering the massive misuse of government aircraft for non-essential and wasteful purposes. Here are some of the facts:

--An audit of Army executive and support flight found them not cost effective compared to available commercial transportation. At one command alone, 119 support aircraft valued at $24.9 million would no longer be required if current cost effectiveness standards were applied.

--The Air Force systematically used 104 T-39 jet aircraft designated for wartime readiness training as support aircraft instead--at a cost of $26 million in excess flying time and 24 million gallons of wasted aviation fuel. After the audit the Air Force got around this problem by redesignating the aircraft for support purposes instead of wartime readiness training and continued the excesses as before.

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--DOD auditors reviewed 2700 military airlift missions and found that 55 percent of the domestic flights and 17 percent of the foreign flights could have been accomplished on scheduled commercial air transportation at a savings of $1.4 million.

--The Navy and Marine Corps operate a semiregular helicopter taxi service between Norfolk, Virginia, and the Washington, D.C., area for high ranking brass that duplicates regular commercial service between these two points at a much higher cost.

--The Marine Corps operated an aircraft squadron with the policy of flying an extra plane behind every plane carrying a general or flag rank officer. There would be passengers only on the lead aircraft. The second was for emergency back-up for the brass.

--A review of 6,000 Navy and Marine Corps support flights at six locations found that 1500 flights did not even carry passengers on official business.

--Marine Corps helicopters at Quantico Marine Base were being used to provide air taxi transportation for high ranking military and civilian Navy and Marine personnel between the Pentagon, Andrews Air Force base, Norfolk, Philadelphia and Quantico.

--Air Force pilots were being required to fly so many administrative support missions that they were not getting their required wartime readiness training accomplished.

--Flying administrative support missions is not effective for wartime readiness training. With high ranking passengers on board the pilots cannot conduct multiple landings, high level penetrations, simulated emergency operations, single engine landings and other wartime training exercises.

--When told by the Secretary of Defense to cut down on the number of flights for high level Pentagon employees, Congress and the Executive Branch, the Air Force transferred several of the unused aircraft to 'administrative support' in another part of the country even though this was contrary to the instructions of the Secretary.

"There are 18,000 active aircraft and helicopters in the U.S. arsenal. 11,200 of these are support aircraft or transports. Only 6800 are pure combat aircraft. Even counting the transports as combat related aircraft, it is readily apparent that there are far too many support aircraft in ratio to combat aircraft.

"It's time to place first things first. Wartime readiness training should come before all else. Administrative support and command aircraft should be used only in those few instances where there is no commercial transportation available and then only when there is an official business justification for the flight. Local commanders should be restricted in their broad authority to use administrative jets as their personal toys.

"The audit report concluded that 'The military departments were providing air passenger services in a manner that was not efficient or cost effective. Reductions in support aircraft, personnel and operating costs could be achieved if greater use was made of commercial airlines.' I agree wholeheartedly. The abuses have gone on for too long."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1977

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) said Wednesday "I am giving the Golden Fleece of the Month Award for December to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) for a series of outrageous expenditures including membership fees for its Chairman in a private tennis club, payment for the locks on the doors of his private home, and the personal travel expenses of his wife. The specific details are contained in a General Accounting Office report which I am releasing today."

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, which oversees the FDIC. The expenditures which the GAO criticized were made by the FDIC on behalf of its former Chairman Robert E. Barnett, who served in that capacity from March 18, 1976, until May 31, 1977.

The Fleece of the Month is given for the biggest, most ridiculous, outrageous or ironic example of government spending for the month.

"The GAO report indicates that the FDIC allowed its former head to use agency funds for his personal benefit. These improprieties are not only deserving of a Fleece but underscore the need to put the expenditures of the FDIC and the other bank regulatory agencies in the federal budget.

"Here are just some of the improper or questionable uses of FDIC funds by Mr. Barnett revealed in the GAO report:

--The use of agency funds to pay the travel expenses of his wife, who accompanied him on seven trips to such exotic places as Puerto Rico (twice), Manila, and Mexico City. Mr. Barnett billed the FDIC for over $6,100 to pay his and his wife's travel expenses on these seven trips.

--The use of agency vehicles for personal reasons. The GAO report confirms that agency vehicles were used to transport Mrs. Barnett to the doctor, to transport Mrs. Barnett and her children on a visit to the Hirschhorn Museum, and in one case, the Barnett children were chauffered to Rehobeth beach by two FDIC employees using an agency car.

--The FDIC spent $1,387.95 in June and July of 1976 to install locks and other security devices in Mr. Barnett's private residence.

--Two FDIC employees delivered surplus carpeting to Mr. Barnett's residence. Mr. Barnett paid 60¢ a yard for the carpeting.

--Mr. Barnett used materials from the FDIC's carpentry shop to make a doll house for his children.

--Upon leaving the agency, Mr. Barnett took two end tables from the agency's executive dining room, which he returned after being questioned by GAO investigators.

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--The FDIC paid Mr. Barnett's membership fees in a private tennis club in Virginia.

"I think it is outrageous that the head of a federal agency can use agency funds for his own personal benefit. Even though the funds to support the FDIC are derived from fees and premiums assessed against commercial banks, the cost of this high living by certain bank regulatory officials is ultimately passed on to the public in the form of higher prices for bank services. I see no reason why we should have one ethical standard for the heads of our bank regulatory agencies and a stricter standard for the rest of the federal government.

"Many of these items may be dismissed as petty chiseling. Nonetheless, taken as a whole, I think they indicate the need for closer budgetary and accounting controls over the FDIC. When a federal agency is outside the budget and immune to annual audits by the GAO, abuses of the type attributed to Mr. Barnett are bound to occur."

Copies of the GAO report may be obtained from the Senate Banking Committee, Room 5300, Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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RELEASE

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1977

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said Tuesday "I am giving my 'Fleece of the Year' award to the U.S. Treasury Department for its zealous support of a last-minute, end-of-the-year, end run attempt to amend the tax laws at a cost to the taxpayers of over $400 million this year. The provision the Treasury is supporting would allow about 150,000 American citizens living abroad to continue to pay no American taxes at all on $20,000 to $25,000 of earned income even though this loophole was supposedly closed in 1976.

"When it was learned I was blocking this end run for the rest of the year, I was besieged by top officials of this and previous administrations, by an intense mail campaign, and by expert lobbyists all dedicated to continue this gross injustice. It was a perfect object lesson in why tax reform gets clobbered."

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and a member of the Senate Appropriations and the Congressional Joint Economic Committees. The Wisconsin Senator gives a "Fleece of the Month" award for the biggest, most ridiculous, or ironic example of government action which "fleeces" the taxpayers. This culminates in a "Fleece of the Year" in December.

"A little known provision of the tax laws allows Americans who are residents abroad for 17 of 18 months to exclude $20,000 of earned income from their income. If they stay three years, the amount rises to $25,000. Further, if they pay any income taxes to a foreign government that amount can be offset against any American tax owed on amounts in excess of the $20,000 or $25,000. In addition, the exclusion is 'taken off the top' so that an American living on the French Riviera for 18 months who makes $40,000 can not only deduct $20,000 from the $40,000 but pays his remaining taxes at the lower $20,000 rather than the higher $40,000 rate.

"These provisions make absolutely no sense. An American living in London, Paris, Rio, or at a Greek Island resort has no hardships equal to those of an auto worker in Racine, a paper mill employee in Northern Wisconsin, or a farmer near LaCrosse. Yet a Wisconsin family of four would pay taxes of $2,500 to $4,000 a year on the amount of income which the American abroad excludes from his income entirely.

"No argument can be made that it helps the 'little man'.

"According to an October 2, 1977 study by the Treasury's own Office of Tax Analysis, more than half the benefits of this loophole go to Americans making $50,000 or more. Over 90 percent of the benefits are taken by those with incomes over $30,000 a year."

"Americans living abroad receive a vast array of services and should pay the same taxes as those at home. They get the protection of the American military forces, the services

(MORE)

of the American Embassy where they live, and the benefit of [illegible] American airline or shipping company which got them there. In fact, the American may still be living abroad because he is working for a company which has a contract paid for by our foreign aid or at a military base or space tracking station provided by the American taxpayer.

"In 1976 Congress reformed this provision. But because of extraordinary pressures and lobbying from Americans and American firms doing business abroad, the effect of the new law was postponed until the tax year 1977.

"I'm giving the 'Fleece of the Year' award to the Treasury because now they are pushing postponement for yet another year. They have succumbed to the moans from mink-spattered Americans abroad who now pay no or few taxes but will have to begin paying taxes(of course they moan),and to the arguments that the provision both creates jobs and stimulates business abroad. If we provided a $20,000 tax exclusion for employees of any firm doing business in Wisconsin, the State would be overrun with new businesses. But that wouldn't be fair for the rest of the American taxpayers living either at home or abroad.

"There is one legitimate complaint against the reform provisions, namely that a few Americans in high cost, hardship posts are unable to deduct the excessive costs. Senator Ribicoff has a bill which would get at that problem and I support his general thrust to reach a fair solution. That could be done quickly by amending the 1976 law.

"While the Treasury Department is sympathetic to that proposal they want to go further and support a generous $15,000 overseas exclusion for almost everybody, everywhere. Those Americans who spend their waking hours in the gambling casinos of Monte Carlo would get the same or better tax treatment as the American paying excessive rent for a third rate house at a construction camp in the Arabian desert. In fact the most recent Treasury suggestion would be worse than the law before the 1976 reforms.

"In spite of the pleas from the Treasury Department, pressures from well-heeled Washington lobbyists, and an outpouring of telegrams from American firms abroad, I have put a 'hold' on any attempt to pass this extension by unanimous consent during the dying moments of this Congressional session. I was not moved by pleas of hardship made to me personally on behalf of the President of Bronco and high officials of I.T.T.

"The Treasury Department richly deserves the 'Fleece of the Year' award for its stand to continue this flagrant tax loophole. I will continue my opposition until the Treasury Department pledges its support to end the exclusion while attempting to ameliorate those [illegible] limited, special cases of hardship."

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OFFICE OF
SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE
WISCONSIN

GOLDEN FLEECE AWARDS - 1978

Given to the biggest, most ridiculous or most ironic example of government waste.

January: Law Enforcement Assistance Administration

For a $2 million prototype police patrol car. This experimental car would make James Bond green with envy and should leave the taxpayers purple with rage.

LEAA's "Police Patrol Car System Improvements Program" was to incorporate a number of technical improvements to enhance the safety and productivity of police officers. This noble idea originally had some merit, but the car was so loaded down with gold-plated items that it ultimately became a Fleece. Because its load of problems exceeded even its load of gadgets, plans for field testing the model car were halted.

In addition to driving the vehicle and thinking about the usual things found on a normal car, the police officer would have to worry about his multiple spark discharge ignition system while grasping his hand-held voice/digital terminal while reading his heads-up display while listening to his audio recorder while looking at his wide angle periscope rearview mirror. All this while keeping tabs on his carbon monoxide monitor, his voice/digital transceivers, his micro-computer mass memory and digital cassette reader. He would also have to pause to check his tire sensor, his brake wear sensor, his catalytic converter/exhaust temperature sensor, and seven different condition sensors.

Moreover, an LEAA report pointed out that some of these gadgets don't work very well. Speaking of the hands-free communication systems, the report said, "where officers must hook their radios as well as themselves into the system, rapid ingress and egress, especially under stressful situations, could be hampered by the additional necessary disconnect-connect functions." (In other words, they could get stuck in the car.)

One critic pointed out that LEAA ignored the input of working police when designing this car. The median price in 1976 of this space ship on wheels would have been $49,078 per automobile, above and beyond the sticker price of the car, based on the assumption that local police forces would order 20 of these prototypes. Even with federal help and even if the cars were worth the money, how would local police departments come up with this kind of money?

In the past several years I have made a number of attempts to abolish LEAA entirely. Projects like this convince me of the need to continue my efforts.

February: National Aeronautics and Space Administration

For proposing to spend $14 to $15 million over the next seven years to try to find intelligent life in outer space. In my view, this project should be postponed for a few million light years.

Two million dollars this year and $14 to $15 million over the next seven years would go to Pasadena, California's, Jet Propulsion Lab to conduct "an all-sky, all-frequency search for radio signals from intelligent extra-terrestrial life." But the Lab also indicates that it wants to build a technological framework on which future, more sensitive SETI (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence) programs can be based. This tells me that while the American public is fascinated by "Star Wars" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," NASA is trying to ride the enthusiasm into a multi-million dollar, long-range program of questionable searches for intelligence beyond our solar system.

What's wrong with this program? First, there is not now a scintilla of evidence that life beyond our own solar system exists. Second, even if a radio message had been sent from another system, the overwhelming odds are that such a civilization is now dead and gone. Third, NASA didn't even select the least expensive way to do it. A less expensive, more narrowly focused SETI proposal from the Ames Research Center (cost $6.5 million over 7 years) was rejected in favor of the $14 to $15 million Jet Propulsion Lab project. However, to add insult to injury NASA has told my office that what it may do is to plug in the Ames project in the fiscal year 1980 budget so that both projects would be operating at the same time.

At a time when the country is faced with a $61 billion budget deficit the attempt to detect radio waves from solar systems should be postponed until right after the federal budget is balanced and income and social security taxes are reduced to zero.

March: U.S. Senate

For proposing to spend well over $122 million of the taxpayers' money on a new Senate office building that would include such frivolous frills as a rooftop restaurant and a third gymnasium. The cost to the taxpayer is 2½ times the original estimate, or a cost overrun of 154%.

In 1972 a proposal for a new Senate office building was presented to the Senate with a projected cost of $47,925,000. Two supplemental appropriations later the cost rose to over $85 million, and now with another pending appropriation request that total would rise to an astronomical $122 million, not including furnishings. Moreover, the General Accounting Office calls this figure unrealistically low. The Architect of the Capitol under the direction of the Senate Office Building Commission is charged with carrying out the plans for the building.

Considerable savings might have been made if construction contracts had included clauses to provide incentives for contractors to make every possible savings instead of providing for a flat 6% fee. The Senate contract means that any changes or goldplating the Senate provides or the mere inefficient or costly the plans are, the more everybody cleans up--except the taxpayers, of course.

With inflation rates running high, each month's delay costs hundreds of thousands of dollars in escalation costs alone. Completion of the project was originally forecast for May of 1977 and is now expected to be June, 1981, but don't count on it.

The addition of certain luxury features should make taxpayers livid with anger. For example, a Senators-only dining room with a rooftop view of Washington (Senators already have two dining rooms), a small gym, excessive landscaping and artwork, use of marble and bronze throughout the building where cheaper materials would do, wood panelling in Senators' offices (this item alone would cost $1.5 million.)

The Senate must make painful and unpopular decisions to turn down some highly appealing requests for spending. How can a Senate which has squandered tens of millions of dollars on its own comfort find the courage to say no to whatever requests are made on behalf of the elderly for social security increases, farmers for higher price supports, the poor for more welfare, New York for more help?

April: National Institute for Mental Health

For funding a study of behavior and social relationships in a Peruvian brothel. This study was part of a $97,000 grant which paid for an 18-month field trip to Peru by a researcher and his associate to enable them to study ethnic and class relationships among Indians and non-Indians in the Peruvian Andes.

The researcher describes his method as follows: "During this time, 21 prostitutes were formally interviewed and many more were interviewed informally. In addition, the staff of the brothel was interviewed, especially the madam. Prostitutes were also observed outside the brothel. By visiting the brothel at various times, it was possible to obtain a good idea of its everyday functioning."

Federal tax dollars supported other studies as well during this trip, producing several articles and two books, including "Ethnicity and Social Structure in the Inca Empire," "The Use of Ethnic Terms in the Peruvian Social Science Literature," "Aymara-Quechua Relations in Puno," and Inequality in the Peruvian Andes. Class and Ethnicity in Cuzco.

I do not object if academic researchers want to study Peruvian brothels or even ancient Inca vestal non-virgins. What I object to is the federal government paying for it. With federal research budgets so tight and the needs for mental health research here at home so great, it is unbelievable that NIMH would give this project such priority and fund the field trip to Peru.

Ironically, the researcher had written a somewhat tongue-in-cheek book entitled, Academic Gamesmanship, just before he received his grant from NIMH. In his chapter on grants, he notes that "not all disciplines are in an equally good position to milk the government and foundations." He goes on to say, "In addition to paying part of your basic salary, grants will typically also give you an extra two months of summer salary. You can finance numerous jaunts to domestic and international conferences out of your research money without having to beg your university for it or having to justify your trip by reading a paper. And, if your research calls for going overseas, you can lead the life of an oriental potentate with an American income in a low-cost-of-living country. Should you remain an expatriate for eighteen months or more, you even get a $20,000 tax exemption . . . ."

Most distressing is NIMH's record of mismanagement. It is sad to report that NIMH officials knew nothing of the brothel research until a member of my staff questioned them about it. NIMH officials never obtained the required final report and copies of all the published works which flowed from the grant. Only after my staff insisted that NIMH obtain a final report did NIMH officials contact the researcher and ask him for the report, which was more than three years overdue. While he did finally send a very short final report to NIMH, he refused to supply NIMH with a copy of the books produced with federal tax dollars. In an imperious moment he told an official of NIMH that all his books were available for purchase!

May: Agency for International Development (AID)

Bureaucrats at the Agency for International Development seem to live by the motto, "Charity begins at home" even though their mission is to help the poor of the world. A series of deliberate acts, bureaucratic bungles and self-serving deeds led its Administrator, John J. Gilligan, to complain that his agency is "over-age, over-rank, over-paid and over here."

During the last fiscal year AID's Foreign Service Officers got average annual salaries of $31,139. This is $6,021 more than the average Foreign Service Officer earned at the State Department and $9,095 more per year than officers working for the Peace Corps, who probably do a better job of helping the poor abroad than those in any other agency.

AID has 51.5% of its employees in the top three pay grades compared to only 6% of its people in the lower three grades.

Last year 64.5% of AID personnel were at the Washington headquarters and only 38.5% were in the field.

In Mali--admittedly a warm post--all 15 U.S. government-leased houses occupied by AID families had swimming pools even though a public pool was available to all mission personnel.

In preparing a report to Congress on emergency assistance to the Sahel, the drought stricken region of Africa, two AID employees chartered flights between Mauritania and Mali at a cost of $2,353 when commercial flights were available for $263.00. Their report to Congress on this devastated area, produced on banknote quality paper with numerous high resolution photographs, cost $19,736.00. This was $10 per copy for a report on U.S. aid to a disaster area where the per capita income is about $80 per year.

Over-paid, over-rated and over here are the right words to describe the AID bureaucracy. President Truman started this agency under Point IV. Its purpose was to use American know-how to help others help themselves. Thirty years later it is too often used to help AID bureaucrats to help themselves.

Jane: Federal Highway Administration

For spending $222,000 to study "Motorist Attitudes toward Large Trucks." Among the detailed questions proposed to be asked of 2,430 drivers are:

"Do you consider that large trucks
a) contribute to traffic congestion?
b) block a driver's vision?
c) travel too fast on highways?
d) travel too slow going up hills? or
e) Do you consider that side splash from trucks on wet roads is a problem? or
f) that the smoke and fumes from these trucks might be a problem?

This study cannot be justified on grounds of safety or how drivers actually behave when confronted by big trucks. Instead, it centers on motorists' "attitudes" and is in addition to a companion $1 million study of "The Effect of Truck Size and Weight on Accident Experience and Traffic Operations" and a $297,633 study of "The Effects of Truck Size on Driver Behavior."

While there have been a number of previous studies on large trucks, this study is justified as follows: "In examining questions of commercial vehicle/passenger car interactions, the research focus has been on the aerodynamic and human factors aspects. The thrust of these studies was on the physics of the interaction and the psycho-physical performance of drivers. Rarely were questions relating to social perception, cognition or affect ever addressed. The cognitive or mentally evaluative dimension of such vehicular interations or potential interactions was lost in error variance or not considered at all in formulations of aerodynamic disturbance functions and driver performance factors."

So much for previous studies and their possible duplication. And so much, too, for the English language!

It's one thing to "Keep on Truckin'," but does it have to be done with taxpayers' dollars?

July: Department of Defense

For spending over $1.2 million a year from a special fund hidden in the defense budget for gifts, parties, trips, dinners, receptions and other entertainment items.

Deep within the Pentagon's budget lies a little noticed financial category called "Emergencies and Extraordinary Expenses." It is part of the huge operations and maintenance function which is used to keep aircraft flying and ships sailing. The "Emergencies and Extraordinary Expenses" account is divided into two parts. One is for classified military purposes. The other turns out to be the entertainment fund for Pentagon civilian and military brass.

The Pentagon's party fund is used for a wide range of travel and entertainment activities. It pays for unreimbursed Congressional trips, receptions for foreign military leaders, welcoming parties and going away parties for the Pentagon hierarchy, flowers, corsages, gifts, tea parties for wives boat cruises, conferences, lunches, dinners, change of command ceremonies and bulk purchases of alcoholic beverages.

This is an "extraordinary" fund, but there is nothing of an "emergency" about it. These social events are planned far in advance. There is no last minute crisis involved here. And it is "extraordinary" only in the amount of dollars spent.

Of the $1.2 million spent in the last twelve reported months, the Air Force accounted for $408,948, the Army $357,800, the Navy $286,285 and the Office of the Secretary of Defense/Joint Chiefs/Defense Agencies $160,992.

These funds have been systematically misused. In one case a retiring official was given a party by his colleagues with full expenses of $176.00 charged to the taxpayers. Then several days later the same official gave a party for his friends at a cost of $271.80, again charging it to the taxpayers.

Farewell parties for top officials often run to thousands of dollars. When Secretary Rumsfeld and Deputy Secretary Clements left office, taxpayers paid for a farewell dinner at a cost of $1992.00 plus $507.00 more for five custom made cakes and checkroom services.

A portion of these party funds are used to pay for unreimbursed Congressional travel. By rough calculation at least $75,000 on Air Force funds are associated with Congressional travel. Given this fact, I believe Congress should share in this fleece award.

On one occasion the public paid for entertaining the Air Attache of the Soviet Union. On another the Pentagon gave a Yugoslavian general a tour and briefing on the B-1 bomber, F-16 fighter and AMST transport--three of our most important technological research programs of this decade.

Other entertainment items include:

--Luncheon and flowers for General Toufanian's wife. $129.00
--Tea party for wives of the Standing Consultative Committee at SALT. $107.00.
--Reception for Minister of Defense of Israel. $8879.00.
--Dinner for Comptroller of the Navy. $666.15.
--Visit of Commander Mexican Air Force, including a visit to Disneyland. $3284.19.
--Expenses incurred in connection with USAF Independence Day Air Attache Golf Tournament (trophies, greens fees, reception). $3,362.91.
Walnut plaque purchases. $2,158.60.

August: Department of Agriculture

For spending federal tax dollars to exercise confined pregnant pigs on a treadmill and to relieve their boredom and psychological stress. As an avid runner myself, I think we need more joggers in this country, but spending federal funds on this "hog jog" is going too far. The folks at USDA went hog wild on this one. As a result, the taxpayers may get stuck with a pig in a poke.

Let me point out, first of all, that raising pigs in confinement is, according to USDA, the method used in perhaps as much as 40 to 50 percent of this nation's hog production. This confinement approach has some recognized advantages when it comes to marketing pigs, but when sows are bred in confinement and kept there during the gestation period, it is not at all clear what, if any, advantages may result.

Once the USDA-funded researchers decided to study pigs in confinement, all kinds of problems developed for the pregnant pigs that are a part of the experiment, including lack of exercise, boredom and psychological stress. To try to offset these problems, federal funds were spent on an exercise treadmill "to identify methods of reducing psychological stress and boredom of the tethered sows during gestation."

It may well be that raising hogs in a confinement system is the wave of the future. But what USDA is doing in this study is both ironic and ridiculous. First it puts pregnant pigs in confinement, then it spends federal tax dollars to try to ease the burdens produced by this confinement.

What would the next step be? Perhaps federal funds might go to paying for the services of a psychiatrist to examine our tense and stress-laden pigs. Or someone might want to look into whether or not too much treadmill exercise for pregnant pigs is bad for their health.

The total amount of federal funds being spent on this research is not in the stratosphere. It is a five-year project that will involve perhaps as little as $5,000 of the federal taxpayers' money to study the exercise, boredom and stress issues. Other concerns are being addressed in the overall study. State funds will make up the bulk of the total expenditure along with some initial support from private industry.

I am not saying this research should not be done at all. Perhaps some good will come of it. But there are enough questions in my mind about the use of federal tax dollars to help pay for this study to convince me that USDA deserves a Fleece.

September: Office of Education

For spending $40,375 in an attempt to give 35 of its ambitious or unhappy bureaucrats a new lease on their career lives. By paying over $1,100 for each participant to take what it called a "creative career and life planning" course during working hours, the Office of Education found a way to help its employees on the way up or on the way out while letting the taxpayers down.

While I believe overburdened citizens should not have to shell out tax dollars for such purposes at all, ironically the same course with the same instructors could have been taken on employees' own time for $475, or a total cost of $23,750 less.

The announcement of the Office of Education about the course stated that the "problem solving approach to goal identification" would be used "to help employees determine their own goals in life and make changes in their environment, lifestyles, careers, and direction which will aid them in gaining satisfaction both on-the-job and in their personal life."

Among the things the students faced or were told to do in their 35-hour sessions on each of ten days were:

--to take a holistic rather than an atomistic approach to life;
--to keep their eye on the "divine rader," i.e., the enjoyable moments or periods in their lives;
--to figure out how they would give away ten million dollars; [Do federal bureaucrats really need a course to tell them how to do that?];

My argument is not with the private firm which gave the course, the talented authors of the official textbooks, or the private citizens who want to take the course and pay for it out of their own pockets. My objection is to the government shelling out the money and picking up the tab.

My only advice to those who approved spending taxpayers' money for the course is the old adage, "Physician, heal thyself." After this display of questionable judgment, they may wish to consider most seriously the issue of changing careers themselves, or, as the course textbooks put it, to do a "functional analysis of your transferable skills."

October: Environmental Protection Agency

For spending $38,174 in a two-year study to find out that runoff from open stacks of cow manure on Vermont farms causes the pollution of the water in nearby small streams and ponds. This research is an example of both solid waste in spending and what the "trickle down" theory of government is all about.

The study, entitled "Alternate Methods of Manure Handling," was carried out at two Vermont sites, one at the University of Vermont Animal Sciences Research Center and another on a dairy farm. The University contributed $29,040 to the project so that the total cost was $67,214. Here are the major conclusions in the words of the report:

"The concentrations and amounts of nutrients in runoff from the manure storage facility were high enough to cause deterioration of water quality in small streams and ponds.

"The runoff from such a facility should be confined in a lagoon and irrigated on cropland, or

"The manure stack should be covered to eliminate the large volume of contaminated runoff.

"Covering for the facility should probably be a permanent roof rather than a thin plastic sheet placed directly on the pile. The latter is cumbersome and not very efficient."

The key recommendations were: "It is therefore strongly suggested that either the manure storage area be covered or the runoff contained in a lagoon and later irrigated on cropland."

In this case the award is for redundancy. There is not a dairy farmer in all of Wisconsin or Vermont who didn't know the results of this study before it was made.

November: Department of the Interior

For spending $145,000 to install a wavemaking machine in a specially designed double olympic sized swimming pool in Salt Lake City. This marks a historic moment in American history. It can be said that for the first time federal bureaucrats are making waves. In the meantime, the taxpayers are getting soaked.

According to local officials, the 4-foot surf created by the machine "will provide a recreation experience not available in an inland society--an experience of the rushing water of a river or wave action you can only get at the ocean." Based on this rationale, hard pressed taxpayers will next be asked to fund ski slopes in Florida, mountain scenery in Indiana, igloos in Death Valley or tropical rain forests in Wisconsin.

The gigantic, 180-foot long, 17,500 square foot, fan shaped pool is only part of a larger project that includes a marina, boat ramp, bath house and parking lot. The cost of the entire project is estimated, at least preliminarily, at $1,000,000. Some $500,000 of this amount will be supplied by the federal government under a law which calls for developing outdoor recreational resources that are "necessary and desirable." Although such amounts are ordinarily matched on a 50-50 basis by state, local and private groups, an additional $300,000 of federal funds are coming from the Community Development Authority of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. While apparently legal, here is a situation where federal funds are matched in part by federal funds, and the total cost to the state, local and private authorities will be only $208,000. Thus in addition to providing a wave making machine, federal taxpayers will be socked for 80 percent of the cost of this swimming pool and park complex instead of the 50 percent ordinarily required.

December: Office of Education (HEW)

For spending $21 ,592 to develop a "curriculum package" to teach college students how to watch television. The product of the contract, according to its recipient, will enable college students to ". . . distinguish between television's fact and fiction, recognize its various viewpoints, and evaluate it messages."

Under its Special Projects Act, the Office of Education--which has in fact developed some outstanding programs, like Sesame Street and the Electric Company--has let four contracts totaling $823,651 to develop "critical television viewing skills" at the elementary, middle, secondary, and post-secondary school levels. Another $800,000 to train teachers and distribute the materials developed and tested in phase one is contemplated. In view of the amount of violence on television or the attempt of advertisers to aim commercials at children, there may be some justification for the elementary, middle, or secondary proposals. But the spending of $219,000 for the college program gets such low ratings it should be cancelled.

If a student's critical viewing skills have not been well enough developed by college age so he or she can understand (in the words of the proposal itself)". . how weekly viewing of Rhoda affects the viewer's attitude toward divorce or more broadly towards feminism," one doubts seriously whether development by the federal government of this curriculum will help. While students may see an easy A in "TV Viewing 101," the Office of Education deserves a solid F for this contract.

One can envision a proliferation of such grants. This one could be followed by federal funding to develop college curricula in the "critical skills" needed to watch football, shop for Christmas gifts or shovel snow.

The grant raises a whole series of issues. Should the government be involved in developing curricula to teach students how to watch the mass media? If needed, why shouldn't it be done by individual university faculties to fit their own specific needs? Why shouldn't the materials be developed and produced by one of the many private textbook publishing houses? Is it clear that college students are, in fact, watching too much television or that they are unable to criticize it intelligently? Should the federal government be offering inducements for the proliferation of new courses to substitute for the limited time students have for fundamental subjects?

In my view, in this period of inflation and budget stringency the money should not be spent at all.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M., TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1978

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) announced Tuesday that "I am giving my Golden Fleece of the Month for January for a $2 million prototype police patrol car. The car ended up as an earthbound space ship on wheels. This experimental car would make James Bond green with envy. It should leave the taxpayers purple with rage.

"The 'Fleece' winner for January is the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), which spent the money to develop this car. Fortunately, this is one space capsule that never got off the ground. Because its load of problems exceeded even its load of gadgets, plans for field testing the model car were halted. But this welcome relief came only after $2 million had been drained from the Federal Treasury to pay for this ill-conceived project.

"What we have here is an idea which might originally have had some merit. But the car was so loaded down with one gold-plated item after another that ultimately it became a Golden Fleece."

Proxmire makes monthly "Golden Fleece" awards for the biggest, most ridiculous, or most ironic example of wasting Federal tax funds.

Proxmire sits on the Senate Appropriations Committee, which oversees LEAA's budget. He also serves as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs and the Joint Economic Committee's Subcommittee on Priorities and Economy in Government.

"What was the purpose of LEAA's so-called 'Police Patrol Car System Improvement Program'? According to that agency's draft summary final report on the program, the objective was:

> Incorporating into the police car the expressed requirements of the police community for a number of technical improvements and the evaluation and demonstration of an improved police car to enhance capabilities, utility, safety, economy, and, ultimately, police officer productivity.

"In view of this seemingly noble goal, why does LEAA deserve the 'Fleece' for January? There are at least three good reasons.

"First, let's look at what LEAA tried to cram into and onto its model car and what this would mean, in practical terms, for the police officer trying to use such a vehicle.

"A policeman who was thrust behind the wheel of this 'wonder car' would have a lot on his mind besides crime prevention and law enforcement. In addition to driving the vehicle and thinking about the usual things found on a normal car, he would have to worry about his multiple spark discharge ignition system while grasping his hand-held voice/digital terminal while reading his heads-up display while listening to his audio recorder while looking at his wide angle periscope rearview mirror.

(MORE)

"If this did not keep our beleaguered patrolman busy enough, he would be further occupied by the need to check out his tire sensor, his brake wear sensor, his catalytic converter/exhaust temperature sensor, and seven different condition sensors.

"On top of this, he would have to be concerned about keeping tabs on his carbon monoxide monitor, using his voice/digital transceivers, and operating his microcomputer mass memory, while at the same time keeping a watchful eye on his digital cassette reader and his keyboard.

"Rather than 'too little, too late,' this is an example of too much, too soon.' The result of this equipment over-kill would be, in effect, a gold-plated police car suitable, perhaps, for a potentate or a playboy, but not, in my view, for the average working patrolman in this country. What this mountain of equipment suggests is not a 'close encounter of the third kind' but an 'extravagant encounter of the worst kind' with the taxpayers' hard-earned money.

"Moreover, anyone who believes that a car with all those gadgets would get more miles per gallon and have lower maintenance costs, as the contractor claims, would also have to believe that Tampa Bay won the Super Bowl and the tooth fairy is alive and well in Keokuk.

"Second, LEAA itself, in the draft report referred to earlier, cites a number of shortcomings and problems in its prototype car. Here are some examples from that report:

"--The multiple spark discharge ignition system 'was prone to failure while the vehicle was in operation' and 'did not demonstrate any substantive improvement in vehicle operating economics.'

"--Speaking of the hands-free voice communication systems, the report said, 'where officers must hook their radios as well as themselves into the system, rapid ingress and egress, especially under stressful situations, could be hampered by the additional necessary disconnect/connect functions.' (In other words, they could get stuck in the car.)

"--In the case of the hand-held audio-digital terminal, 'A problem was the rather large size of the combined unit that includes the terminal, batteries, and two-way radio,' and also, 'Battery life was quite short due to the high power requirements of the display.'

"--The report, in discussing the wide-angle rearview mirror, said that 'It was considered doubtful that a satisfactory design to meet all specifications could be achieved without expensive roof modifications.'

"These and other difficulties noted in the LEAA report contributed to the demise of this project. But again, this termination came about only after $2 million of tax dollars had gone down the drain.

"Third, a critique of this LEAA program by an outside, non-official, analyst provided further reasons why it was a wasteful and unwise expenditure of Federal funds. Two points, in particular, stood out.

(MORE)

"This observer reported, first of all, that the median price, in 1976, of the LEAA-recommended police-car package would have been $49,078 per automobile, above and beyond the sticker price of the car itself. This amount that local police departments would have had to pay per car was based on an assumption that a city or county would initially invest in twenty prototype cars, choosing what LEAA calls 'sophisticated features' midway between the lowest-priced and highest-priced. Where in the world would local governments get that kind of money, even if these cars were worth every penny?

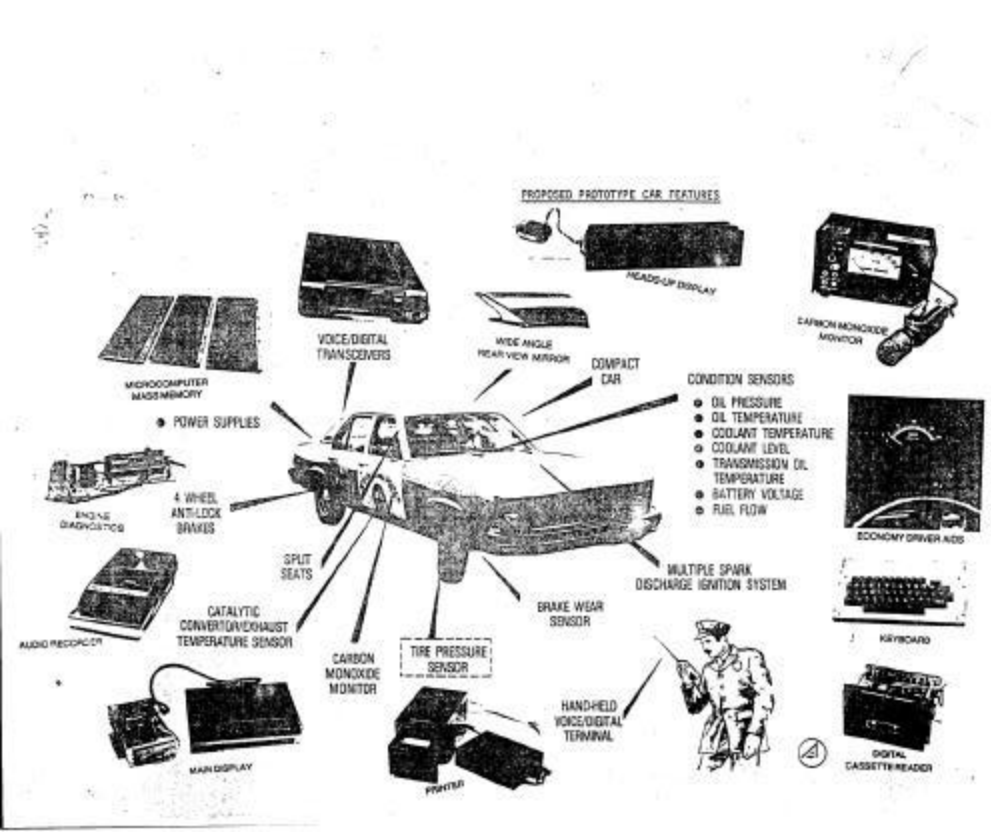
"And second, this critic of the LEAA model car project charged that working police input was ignored by LEAA in developing the prototype. This charge was supported in a General Accounting Office report on the LEAA. Clearly, this failure on the part of LEAA is indefensible, especially when we stop to realize that the kind and amount of equipment in a police patrol car may mean the difference between life and death for the officers in that vehicle.

"In 1976, I was one of two United States Senators to vote against reauthorizing LEAA. I wanted to abolish the agency entirely. I still do, as I recently indicated to President Carter in soliciting his help to bring this about.

"If I am successful in getting rid of LEAA, the taxpayers will not be burdened with paying for projects like this one. In the meantime, I intend to tell the American people about LEAA's wasteful spending practices. And that's why LEAA gets the 'Fleece' for January."

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[A composite representation of proposed prototype car features, based on materials provided by LEAA, is attached to this release.]



Sources: Aerospace Corporation, Police Car System Improvements (Advisory Council)
Aerospace Corporation for LEAA, In pursuit of an improved police car.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1978

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) said Thursday "I am giving my Golden Fleece of the Month award for February to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, which, riding the wave of popular enthusiasm for 'Star Wars' and 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind,' is proposing to spend $14 to $15 million over the next seven years to try to find intelligent life in outer space. In my view, this project should be postponed for a few million light years."

The Golden Fleece of the Month Award is given for the biggest, most ironic or most ridiculous example of wasteful spending for the month. Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee which has jurisdiction over NASA funds.

"NASA is proposing to pay $2 million this year and $14 to $15 million over the next seven years to Pasadena, California's, Jet Propulsion Lab to conduct 'an all-sky, all-frequency search for radio signals from intelligent extra-terrestrial life.' But this is only the foot in the door. Under the heading of 'broad objectives' the Jet Propulsion Lab proposal indicates that the purpose of the study is to

> Build an observational and technological framework on which future, more sensitive SETI (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence) programs can be based.

"What this tells me is that while the public is intrigued by the outer space phenomena, the Space Agency is so mesmerized that it is attempting to translate the momentum into a multi-million dollar, long-range program of questionable searches for intelligence beyond our solar system.

"What's wrong with the program? Like so many other big spending projects, this is a low priority program which at this time constitutes a luxury which the country can ill afford.

"First, while theoretically possible, there is now not a scintilla of evidence that life beyond our own solar system exists. Yet NASA officials indicate that the study is predicated on the assumption that intelligent extra-terrestrial beings are out there trying to communicate with scientists here on Earth. If NASA has its way, this spending will go forward at a time when people here on Earth--Arabs and Israelis, Greeks and Turks, the United States and the Soviet Union, to name a few--are having a great difficulty in communicating with each other.

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"Second, what if from some place, somewhere a radio message had been sent? The Earth is four and one-half billion years old. Some solar systems are 10 to 15 billion years old. If we intercept messages sent from them, they could have been sent not only before Columbus discovered America or the birth of Christ, but before the Earth itself existed. The overwhelming odds are that such civilizations, even if they once existed, are now dead and gone.

"Third, NASA didn't even select the least expensive way to do it. A less expensive, more narrowly focused SETI proposal from the Ames Research Center (cost $6.5 million over 7 years) was rejected in favor of the $14 to $15 million Jet Propulsion Lab project. However, to add insult to injury NASA has told my office that what it may do is to plug in the Ames project in the fiscal year 1980 budget so that both projects would be operating at the same time.

"At a time when the country is faced with a $61 billion budget deficit, the attempt to detect radio waves from solar systems should be postponed until right after the federal budget is balanced and income and social security taxes are reduced to zero."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1978

Senator William Proxmire announced Wednesday, "Today I am awarding the 'Golden Fleece of the Month' for March to the Senate for planning to spend over $122 million of the taxpayers' money on a new Senate office building that would make a Persian prince green with envy. It would include such frivolous frills as a rooftop dining room and a third gymnasium. The cost to the taxpayer is 2½ times the original estimate, or a cost overrun of 154%. Like Topsy--and the CIA--it 'just growed' and growed and growed. And it hasn't stopped *rising*."

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee and is a member of the Senate Appropriations and the Congressional Joint Economic Committees. The "Golden Fleece" award is given every month to the biggest, most ridiculous or most ironic example of waste of the taxpayers' money.

"In 1972 to get a foot in the door a proposal for a new Senate office building was presented to the Senate with a projected cost of $47,925,000. Later the scope of the building was broadened considerably, requiring a supplemental appropriation of $20,900,000. In 1975 the total cost figure rose to $85,147,000, and now with another pending appropriation request that total would rise to an astronomical $122,647,000--with still more to come!

"The Architect of the Capitol under the direction of the Senate Office Building Commission is charged with carrying out the plans for the office building.

"The reasons for the king-sized overrun are several: built-in incentives to spend, delays coupled with rising costs, and the addition of unnecessary luxury features.

"Considerable savings might have been made if construction contracts had included clauses to provide incentives for contractors to make every possible savings. Instead, the contracts awarded by the Senate include a built-in incentive to spend since they provide a flat 6 percent fee for the project. This means no penalties for cost increases. To illustrate, if the fees cover the entire building cost, they would be $3,000,000 if the building cost $50,000,000. But as the building has increased in cost to over $100,000,000 the fees would go up past $6,000,000. The Senate contract means that any changes or goldplating the Senate provides or the more inefficient or costly the plans are, the more everybody cleans up--except the taxpayer, of course.

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"With inflation rates running high, each month's delay costs hundreds of thousands of dollars in escalation costs alone. And there have been many months of delay. Completion of the project was originally forecast for May of 1977, was later set for January, 1978, and is now expected to be June, 1981, but don't count on it. An inordinate amount of time has been taken on preparation of drawings and specifications, on review of same and on letting bids and awarding contracts. As a result, a big hole, half a city block long, has sat waiting for a superstructure for 10 costly months.

"The addition of certain luxury features shows an arrogance on the part of the Senate that should make taxpayers livid with anger. For example:

> -- A Senators-only dining room with a rooftop view of Washington. This third dining room is unnecessary: the two we already have are more than enough.
>
> -- A physical fitness center with a convertible basketball/handball/tennis court. The Senate already has a gym in the Russell Building and a rarely used gym in the Dirksen Building. This would be the third gym. Consider that the average American, whose tax dollars would pay for this luxury, has no access to such facilities. If Senators want to stay in shape, why shouldn't they pay for a membership in a health club, or--better yet--run to work?
>
> -- Excessive landscaping and artwork.
>
> -- Use of marble and bronze throughout the building where other, less expensive materials would do.
>
> -- Wood panelling for Senators' offices. (This item alone costs $1.5 million.)

"Elimination of such 'goldplating,' along with other suggestions which I have made to the Commission, could result in a saving of as much as $9 million.

"Ironically, the new office building is to be named for the late Senator Philip A. Hart--of all Senators the most averse to pomp or show.

"In fairness the architect does deserve credit for increasing the amount of usable office space and for instituting energy saving design.

"But it is interesting to compare the record of the Hart Building to that of the new Air and Space Museum on the Mall, which was completed before its deadline, had no cost overrun and included four additional major features within the original cost estimate.

"Fortunately, it's not too late to cut back on some costs. The examples of goldplating which I have mentioned can be eliminated from the plans. Senator Domenici has demanded, and the Senate Office Building Commission has approved, a GAO study of the project and a moratorium on further funding until all possible savings have been made.

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"The Architect has requested a more than $37 million supplemental appropriation to bring the total cost to over $122 million, and I will work as a member of the Appropriations Committee to stop all of that supplemental.

"The Senate must make painful and unpopular decisions to turn down some highly appealing requests for spending. How can a Senate which has squandered tens of millions of dollars on its own comfort find the courage to say no to whatever requests are made on behalf of the elderly for social security increases, farmers for higher price supports, the poor for more welfare, New York city for more help?

"This Senate fiasco must stop."

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FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30RM AM THURSDAY APRIL 19TH (THURSDAY PMS)

The Golden Fleece of the Month for April goes to HUD and EDA for spending $279,000 on a community center so completely useless, that when it collapsed, no one knew it for days.

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis) announced the joint fleece award Thursday to theDepartmentof Housing and Urban Development that paid $100,000for the construction of the center, and the Economic Development Administration. EDA spent $179,000 on a never-completed road to the center.

The road was never completed because of a lack of easements and insufficient funds. All this happened in rural Merrill Township, Michigan between 1975 and February 22, 1979, deep ina woods half waybetween twosmall towns.

"I do not object if academic researchers, especially of Dr. van den Berghe's or Dr. Primov's generally high reputation, want to study Peruvian brothels or even ancient Inca vestal non-virgins. What I object to is the federal government paying for it. With federal research budgets so tight and the needs for mental health research here at home so great, it is unbelievable that NIMH would give this project such priority and fund the field trip to Peru.

"It is very interesting to note that Dr. van den Berghe wrote a somewhat tongue-in-cheek book entitled, Academic Gamesmanship, just before he received his grant from NIMH. In his chapter on grants, Dr. van den Berghe notes that 'not all disciplines are in an equally good position to milk the government and foundations.' (p.104).

"He explains (on page 108) that 'In drafting a research proposal, the primary concern should be to write it in such a way as to appear worthwhile to the evaluators rather than to give a candid description of what you intend or hope to accomplish; hence the need for dishonesty.' And on page 107 he says,

> In addition to paying part of your basic salary, grants will typically also give you an extra two months of summer salary. You can finance numerous jaunts to domestic and international conferences out of your research money without having to beg your university for it or having to justify your trip by reading a paper. And, if your research calls for going overseas, you can lead the life of an oriental potentate with an American income in a low-cost-of-living country. Should you remain as expatriate for eighteen months or more, you even get a $20,000-a-year tax exemption for waiving the star-spangled banner from the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli.

"At another point (p.102) he notes that 'Public and private milch cows vie with each other to keep their coteries of academic retainers and to lubricate the scholarly printing press.'

"At still another point (p.110) he says, 'A good budget must show two qualities: it must be both detailed and extravagant.' Dr. van den Berghe practiced what he preached. The scientific panel which reviewed his original application stated: 'The budget seems highly inflated and should be subject to considerable negotiated reduction; in particular, requests for foreign travel for dependents, professional meetings, and consultant cost should be substantially reduced.'

"To the credit of NIMH, the suggestion of the review panel was followed, and the final budget was somewhat less than Dr. van den Berghe first requested.

"What is not to the credit of NIMH is their record of mismanagement and lack of control of taxpayer funds once the grant was issued. It is sad and ironic to report that NIMH officials knew nothing of the brothel research until a member of my staff questioned them about it. NIMH officials never obtained the required final report and copies of all the published works which flowed from the grant from either

Dr. van den Berghe or Dr. Primov.

"Only after my staff insisted that NIMH obtain a final report did NIMH officials contact Dr. van der Berghe and ask him for the report which was more than three years overdue. While Dr. van den Berghe did finally send a very short final report to NIMH last month, he refused to supply NIMH with a copy of the books produced with federal tax dollars. In an imperious moment he told an official of NIMH that all his books were available for purchase!

"For so mismanaging this highly questionable research trip to Peruvian brothels and beyond, I award this month's 'Golden Fleece' award to the National Institute for Mental Health."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 1978

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) announced Wednesday that "I am giving my Golden Fleece of the Month Award for May to the bureaucrats at the Agency for International Development (AID), whose motto appears to be 'Charity begins at home' even though their mission is to help the poor of the world. A series of deliberate acts, bureaucratic bungles, and selfish and self serving deeds led its Administrator, John J. Gilligan, to complain that his agency is 'over-age, over-rank, over-paid and over-here.' A detailing of only some of the misdeeds indicates why Administrator Gilligan is right and why the AID bureaucracy richly deserves this month's award."

The Fleece of the Month Award is given for the biggest, most frantic or ridiculous example of government waste for the period. Its purpose is to illustrate how the fat can be trimmed from the federal budget without crippling the muscle. Proxmire is chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and a member of both the Joint Economic Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee. He is a member and former chairman of the Appropriations Committee subcommittee which funds foreign aid.

"Administrator Gilligan's statement was true when he made it, and, unfortunately, is still true today. Here are the details why AID gets the May Fleece.

"--AID's Foreign Service Officers ARE over-paid. During the last fiscal year they got average annual salaries of $31,139. This is $6,021 more than the average Foreign Service Officer earned at the State Department, the agency in charge of foreign affairs. They earned $3,722 more than Foreign Service Officers at the United States Information Agency and $9,095 more per year that Foreign Service Officers working for the Peace Corps, who probably do a better job of helping the poor abroad than those in any other agency.

"--AID IS over-rank, which also means they ARE over-aged. In fiscal year 1978, five years after the Senate Appropriations Committee complained that AID was 'top heavy and its personnel priorities are in substantial need of reevaluation' because 53.1 percent of its personnel were in the top three pay grades, (then $30,674 to $47,500 per year), AID still had 51.6 percent in the top three pay grades compared with only 6 percent of its people in the lower three grades.

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"--AID employees are over-here, namely at headquarters. Last year 64.5 percent of AID personnel were at the Washington headquarters and only 35.5 percent were in the field. This situation has gotten worse. In fiscal year 1973, only 55 percent served at headquarters.

"There are other abuses as well.

"--According to the General Accounting Office, inventory records at the beginning of fiscal year 1970 showed that AID had more typewriters in Washington (2,480) than AID had full-time employees (2,329) in Washington. As not all AID employees type or need typewriters, this is indeed an anomalous figure. To add insult to injury, AID spent $214,664 to buy 326 additional electric typewriters in the weeks just prior to the inventory.

"--In Mali--admittedly a warm post--all 15 U.S. government-leased houses occupied by AID families had swimming pools even though a public, nearly Olympic-size pool was available to all mission personnel.

"--AID's mission director in Kenya placed the following ad in the Nairobi Standard:

Official Residence Required

> The Director of the U.S. Economic Mission to Kenya needs an unfurnished house either rent or for purchase in a close and convenient area with a mature and developed garden and at least one large covered terrace for all seasonal entertaining. There should be an entrance hall, a spacious living room, separate dining room, study, downstairs toilet and cloakroom. The service area should include a large kitchen with cabinets, a servery and food storage area. A minimum of four bedrooms is necessary, three bathrooms, two en suite and ample hanging closet space and storage for linens. Laundry facilities/adequate hot water and four quarters for live-in staff are also requirements.

"AID also paid $126.49 for a garden consultant for the same mission director. As Director Gilligan testified to the Senate Appropriations Committee, 'Let it be said, sir, that he has no further need of such quarters.' That mission director is now out of a job.

"--In preparation of a report to Congress on emergency assistance to the Sahel, the drought stricken region of Africa, two AID employees chartered flights between Mauritania and Mali at a cost of $2,353 when commercial flights were available for $263.00. Their report to Congress on this devastated area, produced on banknote quality paper with numerous high resolution photographs, cost $59,736.00. This was $10 per copy for a report on U.S. aid to a disaster area where the per capita income is about $80 per year.

"Over-paid, over-rated, and over-here are the right words to describe the AID bureaucracy. President Truman started this agency under Point IV. Its purpose was to use American know-how to help others help themselves. Thirty years later it is too often used to help the AID bureaucrats to help themselves."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1978

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) announced Thursday that "I am giving the Golden Fleece of the Month Award for June to the Federal Highway Administration for spending $222,000 to study 'Motorist Attitudes Toward Large Trucks.' Among the detailed questions proposed to be asked of 2,430 drivers at nine sites (rest stops, parking garages, turnpike exits, etc.) in three states are:

'Do you consider that large trucks
a) contribute to traffic congestion?
b) block a driver's vision?
c) travel too fast on highways?
d) travel too slow going up hills? or
e) Do you consider that side splash from trucks on wet roads is a problem? or
f) that the smoke and fumes from these trucks might be a problem?'

"The study further inquires as to how serious the party interviewed believes the problem is.

"Let the record show that I am willing to donate my small car to the Federal Highway Administration for experimental purposes if the answer to these questions is not a resounding YES. In fact when interviewed motorists find out how much is being spent on the survey, their anger at the Federal Highway Administration will exceed that toward the big trucks."

The Fleece of the Month Award is given for the biggest, most obvious, or ridiculous example of wasteful government spending for the period. Senator Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and a member of the Joint Economic Committee and its Subcommittee on Economy and Priorities in Government.

"This study cannot be justified on grounds of safety or how drivers actually behave when confronted by big trucks. Instead, it centers on motorists' 'attitudes' and is in addition to a companion $1 million study of 'The Effect of Truck Size and Weight on Accident Experience and Traffic Operations' and a $297,633 study of 'The Effects of Truck Size on Driver Behavior.'

"While there have been a number of previous studies on large trucks, this study is justified in the supporting statement because of the '. . . dearth of information specifically on motorists attitudes towards large trucks.' The justification states:

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> In examining questions of commercial vehicle/passenger car interactions, the research focus has been on the aerodynamic and human factors aspects. The thrust of these studies was on the physics of the interaction and the psycho-physical performance of drivers. Rarely were questions relating to social perception, cognition or affect ever addressed. The cognitive or mentally evaluative dimension of such vehicular interactions or potential interactions was lost in error variance or not considered at all in formulations of aerodynamic disturbance functions and driver performance factors.

"So much for previous studies and their possible duplication. And so much, too, for the English language!

"The original prospectus was also replete with the jargon of social science behavioral research. The hard pressed American taxpayer will be delighted to know that the contractor '. . . will be expected to develop a multidimensional attitude measurement device' to '. . . collect sufficient behavioral data to relate each attitude dimension to its associated behavioral correlates' and to '. . .define in detail the experimental design including statistical analysis paradigms.'

"It's one thing to 'Keep on Truckin',' but does it have to be done with taxpayers' dollars?"

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 1978

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) said Thursday that "Today I am making public the three runners-up for the 'Fleece of the Month' award for June, which was won by the Federal Highway Administration for a $222,000 study of motorists' attitudes toward large trucks.

"These three 'place' candidates--the 'Mydars' to the Fleece of the Month Award's 'Affirmed'--were 1) a proposed study by the National Endowment for the Arts to develop a profile of the creative personnel in the fields of radio, television and film; 2) a study funded by the National Institute of Mental Health which compared the amounts of food obese and normal-weight people ate in restaurants where they had a choice between ordering from a menu and going to the buffet or smorgasbord. (It concluded that far more food was eaten at the smorgasbord than from the menu); and 3) a $5,340 expenditure by the National Transportation Safety Board to change its official seal."

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and a member of the Senate Appropriations and Congressional Joint Economic Committees. The Fleece of the Month Award is given for the biggest, most ironic or ridiculous example of waste in government spending.

"The Fleece of the Month Award is selected from a number of promising candidates. While the winners have been made public, the 'also-rans' in the past have been relegated to the dustbins of history. I am often asked which candidates lost. Here are the June runners-up:

"1) Study of Creative Personnel in the Media Fields of Radio, Television and Film.

"The National Endowment for the Arts advertised in the Commerce Business Daily of June 6, 1978, for applicants for this study. The announcement read:

> The study will be conducted in a series of tasks involving the collection and analysis of data with the objective of developing a profile of the creative personnel in these fields and assessing their condition, needs, and the potential impact of new technical and industry developments (sic).

"I had visions of the project manager interviewing Burt Reynolds, Farrah Fawcett-Majors, or Walter Cronkite to find out what made them tick, a project for which Uncle Sam should not spend a dime of the taxpayers' hard earned money. Playboy or the slick weekly movie magazines seem a more appropriate vehicle than the federal government to perform such a task. But the project is even worse than

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I expected. What is proposed is to take a census or provide a Who's Who of people who work in the industry.

"It's a make-work project if there ever was one and par for the course for the Endowment, which traditionally has spent far more money supporting the bureaucracy of the arts than creative artists themselves.

"This project was an also-ran because the contract has yet to be awarded and no precise amount of money has yet been obligated or spent. (It will cost several hundred thousand dollars.) If the Endowment actually goes through with this highly questionable study, it may run in a future month's Derby.

"2) Smorgasbord and Obesity.

"This was a pedestrian study with all the trappings of research, which reached amazingly obvious conclusions. Some 1,718 patrons were observed in four restaurants of different ethnic origin (Italian, Irish, American and Danish), where one could order either from a menu or visit a buffet or smorgasbord. The customers were rated as obese or nonobese by two observers 'who had been trained on both silhouettes of Sheldon sometotypes and in the field to recognize people who were about 30 percent or more over desirable weight.'

"Among the conclusions were:

> Obese persons formed a far higher percentage of the customers in restaurants when smorgasbord was served than under conditions of traditional menu service.
>
> . . . far more food was eaten in the smorgasbord than in the menu service condition.
>
> . . . obese people may be more likely to seek out sites where more food is available (than nonobese people).

"This study was an 'also-ran' for a number of reasons. It was done under a general contract which produced a number of useful studies. Its precise cost could not be calculated. (The researcher estimated it at a few hundred dollars; My staff estimated it cost $2500 to $3000 when the routine charges for overhead were calculated.) The researcher, unlike many others, took no salary for himself and had generally worked for relatively modest amounts compared with the professional grant-getters. Further, he had a very good reputation in his field.

"3) The $5,000-plus expenditure to change the seal of the National Transportation Safety Board.

"The National Transportation Safety Board is spending about $5,340 to change its emblem. It felt, according to its spokesmen, that the old emblem had

'too much of a Bicentennial look' to it, that the old seal on the credentials and badges of their investigators did not readily identify them as federal government personnel, and that the substitution of an eagle as the centerpiece of the new gold colored rather than silver colored emblem would allow it to 'subliminally get attention.'

"The NTSB is therefore spending $740 to prepare the graphics for the new design, $300 to print new credentials for its investigators, $50 for two new Notary Public-like seals to authenticate documents, $500 for 150 printed paper emblems about 8½ by 8½ inches, and $3,750 for 250 new badges at a cost of $15 apiece.

"Although it is an unnecessary expenditure merely to upgrade the accessories and appurtenances of bureaucracy, it ran several lengths behind the June winner on merit and amount."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1978

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) Thursday awarded his Fleece of the Month for July to "the Pentagon brass for spending over $1.2 million a year from a special fund hidden in the defense budget for gifts, parties, trips, dinners, receptions, and other entertainment items."

Proxmire is a member of the Defense Appropriations Committee and is Chairman of the Priorities and Economies in Government Subcommittee of the Joint Economic Committee. The Fleece of the Month award is given for the biggest, most obvious or ridiculous example of wasteful government spending for the period.

"Deep within the Pentagon's budget lies a little noticed financial category called 'Emergencies and Extraordinary Expenses.' It is part of the huge operations and maintenance function which is used to keep aircraft flying and ships sailing.

"The 'Emergencies and Extraordinary Expenses' account is divided into two parts. One is for classified military purposes. The other turns out to be the entertainment fund for Pentagon civilian and military brass.

"The Pentagon's party fund is used for a wide range of travel and entertainment activities. It pays for unreimbursed Congressional trips, receptions for foreign military leaders, welcoming parties and going away parties for the Pentagon hierarchy, flowers, corsages, gifts, tea parties for wives, boat cruises, conferences, lunches, dinners, change of command ceremonies and bulk purchases of alcoholic beverages.

"This is an 'extraordinary' fund, but there is nothing of an 'emergency' about it. These social events are planned far in advance. There is no last minute crisis involved here. And it is 'extraordinary' only in the amount of dollars spent.

"Of the $1.2 million spent in the last twelve reported months (dates vary by service), the Air Force accounted for $408,946, the Army $357,800, the Navy $286,265, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense/Joint Chiefs/Defense Agencies $160,992.

"These funds have been systematically misused. In one case a retiring official was given a party by his colleagues with full expenses of $176.00 charged to the taxpayers. Then several days later the same official gave a party for his friends at a cost of $271.80, again charging it to the taxpayers.

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"Farewell parties for top officials often run to thousands of dollars. When Secretary Rumsfeld and Deputy Secretary Clements left office, taxpayers paid for a farewell dinner at a cost of $1992.00 plus $507.00 more for five custom made cakes and checkroom services.

"The super secret National Security Agency spent $12,161.74 entertaining foreign visitors and some U.S. citizens. Of course, the guest list is secret.

"Sometimes local military bases entertain local officials with tax dollars. A prehoiiday Commanders reception in Philadelphia for 'prominent officials and members of the Philadelphia Industrial community' cost $975.06. A Commanders reception for 'local dignitaries' in Richmond, Virginia, cost $604.00.

"Every conference seems to have a reception paid for out of the 'Emergencies and Extraordinary Expenses' account. For example, the Defense Mapping Agency in Monaco--$700.00; the Four Nations Digital Radar Landmass Simulation Conference luncheon in Rome--$100.000; dedication and luncheon at the new Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences--$718.00; Annual supergrade conference expenses--$891.40; reception for civilian aides and Army Secretariat Alumni Conference--$7,108.77; reception for the press in New York--$299.00; party for Congressional Committee and Budget Office staff--$468.76; a reception at the American Bar Association meeting--$452.40.

"Even small items were charged off to the country's taxpayers. Former Deputy Secretary Clements, a multi-millionaire, was reimbursed $8.00 for porter service in New Orleans.

"A portion of these party funds are used to pay for unreimbursed Congressional travel. By rough calculation at least $75,000 in Air Force funds are associated with Congressional travel. Given this fact, I believe Congress should share in this fleece award.

"Some of the most extensive entertaining is performed on behalf of visiting military leaders from other countries. This list is extensive and includes Chile, Venezuela, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Sweden, Mexico, Bolivia, Korea, Denmark, Norway, Turkey, Iran, Kuwait, Iceland. Each trip costs on average about $2,000.

"On one occasion the public paid for entertaining the Air Attache of the Soviet Union. On another the Pentagon gave a Yugoslavian general a tour and briefing on the B-1 bomber, F-16 fighter and AWST transport--three of our most important technological research programs of this decade.

more

"Meanwhile, our officials overseas are running up huge entertainment bills. It is difficult to say who has the highest bills because the competition is close among our representatives to the SALT talks, the Mutual Balanced Force Reduction talks and the Law of the Seas Conference.

"The Defense Department has elaborate internal regulations discussing how the Emergency and Extraordinary funds shall be spent. According to Directive 7250.13 they 'will be used to maintain the standing and prestige of the United States.' Ratios are established for the number of non-DOD guests to be entertained (20% in groups under 30, 50% in groups over 30) compared to DOD officials.

"The regulations establish a list of items that entertainment funds cannot be used for and then immediately make exceptions to those restrictions. Thus retirement ceremonies are not covered (except where approved in advance); entertainment of DOD officials is not approved (except minimal official courtesies to the highest ranking officials); expenses for conferences, conventions and working groups are not approved (except where specifically approved in advance); gifts, mementos and calling cards are not approved (except wreaths, nominal cost mementos and others approved in advance).

"As a matter of practice, these restrictions are meaningless. Retirement ceremonies <u>are</u> funded, self entertainment <u>is</u> allowed with frequency and great expense, and receptions at conferences are working groups <u>are</u> common.

"What should be done about these expenditures? Obviously, some amount of entertaining for diplomatic purposes may be necessary. But I am convinced that it is an amount far, far less than now being spent. Furthermore, the party funds should not be hidden in the budget and colocated with classified military purpose expenditures. They should be identified, called by a correct discriptive name and reduced drastically. I intend to recommend such steps on the Defense Appropriations bill."

Attached is a selected list of expenditures under the "Emergencies and Extraordinary Expenses Account." Technically, there are four budget items, one for the Office of the Secretary of Defense/Joint Chiefs/Defense Agencies, and three others for Army, Navy and Air Force--all in the Operations and Maintenance function.

OSD/JCS/Agencies

Stag reception for the German armament director. $363.00.

Stag dinner for Ambassador Robert Strausz-Hupe. $178.59.

Boat cruise and picnic for foreign officials. $173.

Luncheon and flowers for General Toufanian's wife. $129.00.

Tea party for wives of the Standing Consultative Committee at SALT. $107.00.

Replenishment of gifts for the Secretary of Defense to give away. $1660.32.

Dinner for the Defense Science Board. $967.00.

Reception for the Reserve Force Policy Board. $850.00.

Functions hosted by the Defense Mapping Agency at the International Hydrographic Organization in Monaco. $700.00.

A party given for Dr. Walter LaBerge, Assistant Secretary for Defense Support NATO by his colleagues. $176.00.

A party given by Dr. Walter LaBerge for his colleagues. $271.80.

Various hotel bills for the Secretary of Defense on overseas trips. $1280.

Social functions at the National War College. $2,000.

Air Transportation from Capetown to Bloemfontein for Mrs. Getewood, wife of the Republic of South Africa Naval Attache, who was joining an attache tour arranged by the South African Defense Force for foreign attaches and their wives. $139.42.

Secret entertainment by the National Security Agency. $12,161.74.

Luncheon in honor of the representatives attending the Four Nations Digital Radar Landmass Simulation Conference in Rome. $100.00.

Change of Command ceremonies for retiring general and flag rank officers. $474.42.

Luncheon and dedication of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. $718.00. Luncheon and dinner for Board of Regents of the University. $370.00.

Cocktail and dinner party for officials of the Four Power Armament Directors meeting in Bonn. $484.79.

1977 Annual Supergrade Conference expenses. $891.40.

Reception for representatives to U.S.-Micronesia Consultations. $600.00.

Reception for Minister of Defense of Israel. $9879.00.

Bouquets, flowers, corsages. $166.25.

Farewell dinner for Secretary Rumsfeld, Deputy Secretaries Clements and Ellsworth. $1992.00. Five custom made cakes and checkroom services for farewell reception for Secretary Rumsfeld. $507.00

Porter fees for Deputy Secretary Clements in New Orleans. $8.00.

Refreshments for Congressional staffs and press corps. 15Jan77. $149.50.

Dinner honoring distinguished guests attending the U.N. Regional Cartographic Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, 17Jan77. $200.00.

Purchase of alcoholic beverages, "to be used in connection with representational functions to promote U.S. national interests." $486.34.

Prehollday Commanders reception for "prominent officials and members of the Philadelphia Industrial Community." $975.00.

Commanders reception for "local dignitaries" in Richmond, Va. $604.00.

Army

Annual luncheon for spouses of civilian aides to the Secretary of the Army. $387.14.

Reception for unveiling painting honoring the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. $68.00.

Exemption requested for hosting the 148th Meeting of the Permanent Joint Board on Defense, Canada-U.S. $3400.00.

Monthly vouchers for entertaining Congressional aides; average about $400.00.

Army Commanders Dinner, Oct. 3, 1977. Cost at least $1100.00.

Party for Congressional Committee staff and Congressional Budget Office staff. $460.76.

Reception for Civilian Aides and Secretariat Alumni Conference. $7,108.77 (includes reception, badges, luncheons, dinners, ceremonies.)

Reception by Office of Chief of Public Affairs, New York Branch, for the press. $299.00.

Proposed for June 30, 1978: Requested exemption for costs of reception following retirement review in honor of General Walter T. Kerwin.

Navy

Reception on 201st birthday of U.S. Navy. $2808.00.

Dinner for Comptroller of the Navy. $666.15.

Dinner for consular corps on 201st birthday of the Marine Corps. $1000.00.

Reception for guests attending commissioning of the USS Los Angeles. $1200.00.

Reception, dinner and ball to honor 400 000 guests on 201st birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps. $2540.36.

Reception in honor of the Assistant Secretary of the Army. $2556.32.

Reception to honor state and city officials in Philadelphia. $684.08.

Dinner in honor of local Memphis, Tennessee, officials. $1680.00. (900 personnel paid their own costs--civilians charged to government.)

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Dinner in honor of Navy Oceanographic Advisory Committee. $450.00.

Breakfast to honor certain civilian officials during the annual American Bar Association meeting. $452.40.

Reception in honor of the Virginia Supreme Court, Norfolk City Council and Presidents of local business leagues. $828.00.

Reception in honor of the Commandant of the Marine Corps and community leaders at Camp Lejeune. $1566.62.

Reception to honor local civil and business leaders in the Philadelphia area. $2370.25.

Air Force Lunch at La Bagatelle for Brazilian military representatives. $336.00.

Dinner by Secretary Stetson for General McBride. $1100.06.

Purchase of confiscated beverages. $49.62.

Visit of Col. General Cemalovic of Yugoslavia. The general was given tours and briefings on the B-1 bomber, F-16 and AMST. $3410.37.

Reception for Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records. (Secretary Stetson by memo states this will be the last time he will approve this expenditure.) $324.30.

Party at Andrews Air Force Base Officers Club for Col. Arbe, Air Attache, Embassy of Uruguay. $195.68.

Reception for Scientific Advisory Board Fall General Meeting. $1453.59.

Luncheon at Watergate Terrace in honor of Col. Shport, Air Attache, USSR. $82.95.

Visit of Commander Colombian Air Force. Dinners, Teches, transportation, golf, laundry, flowers. $2077.32.

Reception in honor of Secretary of Air Force John C. Stetson. $2,320.82.

Visit of Commanderof Bolivian Air Force. $2,892.36.

Visit of Commander Mexican Air Force, including a visit to Disneyland. $3284.19.

Books, stamp plaques, medallions for Secretary Stetson's trip to the Middle East, including an eagle weathervane. $861.41.

Reception honoring the Corps of Air Attaches. $6,471.00.

Reception for Assistant Secretary of the Air Force. $334.75.

Farewell dinner for Brig. Gen. Temporini of Argentina. $357.24.

Visit by Chief of Staff, Kuwait Armed Forces. $4,197.34.

Reception for Air Force Historical Advisory Committee. $221.80.

Expenses incurred in connection with USAF Independence Day Air Attache Golf Tournament (trophies, greens fees, reception) $3,352.91. Walnut plaque purchases. $2,158.60.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M., THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1978

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) announced Thursday that "I am giving my Golden Fleece Award for August to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for spending Federal tax dollars to exercise confined pregnant pigs on a treadmill and to relieve their boredom and psychological stress.

"As an avid jogger myself, I think we need more joggers in this country but spending Federal funds on this 'hog jog' is going too far.

"And even though we humans are being psychoanalyzed more than ever these days, that is no reason to start putting pregnant pigs on the psychiatrist's couch instead of in the farmer's barnyard--especially at taxpayers' expense.

"The folks at USDA went hog wild on this one. As a result, the taxpayers may get stuck with a pig in a poke."

Proxmire makes monthly "Golden Fleece" awards for the biggest or most ironic or most ridiculous example of wasting Federal tax funds. Monthly awards are followed by a "Fleece of the Year" winner in late December.

Proxmire sits on the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, which oversees USDA's budget. He also serves as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs and the Joint Economic Committee's Subcommittee on Priorities and Economy in Government.

"To help explain the irony that lies at the heart of this month's award, let me point out, first of all, that raising pigs in confinement is, according to USDA, the method used in perhaps as much as 40 to 50 percent of this Nation's hog production.

"But two separate issues need to be considered in looking at the confinement system: first, the marketing of pigs, and second, their breeding and gestation periods.

"This confinement approach has some recognized advantages when it comes to marketing pigs. These include, for example, the more economical use of land, mechanized feeding, getting pigs fatter faster, and possibly cutting down on the disease rate.

"Purely incidental to the raising of pigs in confinement is their breeding in confinement. And when sows are bred in confinement and kept there during the gestation period, it is not at all clear what advantages may result. We know, for example, that a bigger litter is not produced nor is the weight-per-pig increased.

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"My argument is not with the private firm which gave the course, the talented authors of the official textbooks, or the private citizens who want to take the course and pay for it out of their own pockets. My objection is to the government shelling out the money and picking up the tab.

"The announcement of the Office of Education about the course stated that the 'problem solving approach to goal identification' would be used 'to help employees determine their goals in life and make changes in their environment, lifestyle, careers, and direction which will aid them in gaining satisfaction both on-the-job and in their personal life.'

"My only advice to those who approved spending taxpayers' money for the course is the old adage, 'Physician, heal thyself.' After this display of questionable judgment, they may wish to consider most seriously the issue of changing careers themselves, or, as the course textbooks put it, to do a 'functional analysis of your transferable skills.'"

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1978

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) said Friday that, "I am giving my Golden Fleece of the Month award for September to the Office of Education for spending $40,375 in an attempt to give 35 of its ambitious or unhappy bureaucrats a new lease on their career lives. By paying over $1,100 for each participant to take what it called a 'creative career and life planning' course during working hours, the Office of Education found a way to help its employees on the way up or on the way out while letting the taxpayers down.

"While I believe over-burdened citizens should not have to shell out tax dollars for such purposes at all, ironically the same course with the same instructors could have been taken on employees' own time for $475, or a total cost of $23,750 less."

The "Golden Fleece" award is given for the biggest, most brazen or ridiculous example of wasteful spending by the federal government for the month. Senator Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, and the Senate Appropriations Committee and its subcommittee which has jurisdiction over Office of Education funding.

"Among the things the students faced or were told to do in their three and one-half hour sessions on each of ten days were:

1) to take a holistic rather than an atomistic approach to life;

2) to write a 50 to 200 page autobiography;

3) to analyze their hobbies;

4) to keep their eye on the 'divine radar,' i.e., the enjoyable moments or periods of their lives;

5) to figure out, in Walter Mitty fashion, how they would give away ten million dollars; (Do federal bureaucrats really need a course to tell them how to do that?)

6) to reconstruct and write a diary of their entire lives in which they 'boast a lot.'

7) to conduct an on-site personal survey of a community in the general area of where they live, during which they talk to people according to a well thought-out plan which leaves room for 'improvisation, serendipity, and the chance encounter.' (Let's hear it for the chance encounter!)

More

"But once the USDA-funded researchers decided to study pigs in confinement, all kinds of problems developed for the pregnant pigs that are a part of the experiment, including lack of exercise, boredom, and psychological stress.

"To try to offset these problems, Federal funds were--and are still being--spent on an exercise treadmill and, to quote from USDA's research project description:

> to identify methods of reducing psychological stress & boredom of the tethered sows during gestation.

"All of this leaves us very much in the world of George Orwell. In fact, it links the title of one of Orwell's works--Animal Farm--with the thesis of another--1984.

"It may well be that raising hogs in a confinement system is the wave of the future. As I have said, it is already used, according to USDA, in producing a substantial percentage of the hogs in this country.

"But what USDA is doing in this study is both ironic and ridiculous. First, it puts pregnant pigs in confinement. And then, it spends Federal tax dollars to try to ease the burdens produced by this confinement.

"I am not questioning the economic and other advantages of the confinement system in getting pigs ready for market. And whether or not there may be positive effects when it comes to breeding and the gestation period is perhaps open to some debate.

"But just how far do we want to go? What would the next steps be? Perhaps Federal funds might go to paying for the services of a psychiatrist to examine our tense and stress-laden pigs. Or someone might want to look into whether or not too much treadmill exercise for pregnant pigs is bad for their health.

"The total amount of Federal funds being spent on this research is not in the stratosphere. It is a five-year project that will involve perhaps as little as $5,000 of the Federal taxpayers' money to study the exercise, boredom, and stress issues. Other concerns are being addressed in the overall study. State funds will make up the bulk of the total expenditure along with some initial support from private industry.

"I am not saying this research should not be done at all. Perhaps some good will come of it.

"But there are enough questions in my mind about the use of Federal tax dollars to help pay for this study to convince me that--whatever the number of dollars involved--USDA deserves the 'Golden Fleece' award for August."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1978

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) said Tuesday that "I am giving my Golden Fleece of the Month award for October to the Environmental Protection Agency for spending $38,174 in a two-year study to find out that runoff from open stacks of cow manure on Vermont farms causes the pollution of the water in nearby small streams and ponds. This research is an example of both solid waste in spending and what the 'trickle down' theory of government is all about."

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee which has jurisdiction over EPA funding, and a member of the Congressional Joint Economic Committee.

The Fleece of the Month award is given for the biggest, most ridiculous or most ironic example of foolish government spending for the month. "In this case," Proxmire said, "the award is for redundancy. There is not a dairy farmer in all of Wisconsin or Vermont who didn't know the results and findings of this study before it was made. It reminds me of the old saying 'She was a cowman's daughter and all the cowmen knew her.'

"The study, entitled 'Alternate Methods of Manure Handling,' was carried out at two Vermont sites, one at the University of Vermont Animal Sciences Research Center and another on a dairy farm. The University contributed $29,040 to the project so that the total cost was $67,214. The study also included a questionnaire answered by 874 dairymen '... to learn what farmers might do both in the presence and absence of external regulation.'

"Here are the major conclusions in the words of the report:

> The concentrations and amounts of nutrients in runoff from the manure storage facility were high enough to cause deterioration of water quality in small streams and ponds.
>
> The runoff from such a facility should be confined in a lagoon and irrigated on cropland, or
>
> The manure stack should be covered to eliminate the large volume of contaminated runoff.
>
> Covering for the facility should probably be a permanent roof rather than a thin plastic sheet placed directly on the pile. The latter is cumbersome and not very efficient.

"The key recommendations were:

> It is therefore strongly suggested that either the manure storage area be covered or the runoff contained in a lagoon and later irrigated on cropland.

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"Coming from a dairy state, I strongly favor economical studies with a favorable cost/beneflt ratio in support of milk, dairy farmers or the cow. But I am at a loss to understand what this study found out that every dairy farmer not only in Wisconsin but in Vermont did not already know.

"While neither the study nor the conclusions ever make this point, the project officer agreed with the suggestion of my staff that a purpose of the study was how to prevent runoff from manure by inexpensive means.

"This is one occasion when the city slickers at the EPA got taken by the 'Down Easters' from Vermont. Not only was the manure in this study stacked high, but the deck was stacked even higher against the American taxpayer.

"This is one case where there was too much bull and not enough common sense. There was not only a deterioration in water quality but in the thinking of those who authorized this study."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6 A.M. TUESDAY NOVEMBER 28, 1978

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) said Tuesday "I am giving my Golden Fleece of the Month award for November to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation of the Department of the Interior for spending $145,000 to install a wave making machine in a specially designed double olympic sized swimming pool in Salt Lake City.

"This marks a historic moment in American history. It can be said that for the first time federal bureaucrats are making waves. In the meantime the taxpayers are getting soaked.

"According to local officials, the 4-foot surf created by the machine 'will provide a recreation experience not available in an inland society--an experience of the rushing water of a river or wave action you can only get at the ocean.' Based on this rationale, hard pressed taxpayers will next be asked to fund ski slopes in Florida, mountain scenery in Indiana, igloos in Death Valley, or tropical rain forests in Wisconsin."

Senator Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Congressional Joint Economic Committee. The Fleece of the Month is given for the biggest, most ridiculous or most ironic example of wasteful government spending for the period.

"The gigantic, 180-foot long, 17,500 square foot, fan shaped pool is only part of a larger project that includes a marina, boat ramp, bath house, and parking lot. The cost of the entire project is estimated, at least preliminarily, at $1,008,000.

"Some $500,000 of this amount will be supplied by the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation under a law which calls for developing outdoor recreational resources that are 'necessary and desirable.' Although such amounts are ordinarily matched on a 50-50 basis by state, local and private groups, an additional $300,000 of federal funds are coming from the Community Development Authority of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"While apparently legal, here is a situation where federal funds are matched in part by federal funds, and the total cost to the state, local and private authorities will be only $208,000. Thus in addition to providing a wave making machine, federal taxpayers are going to be socked for 80 percent of the cost of this swimming pool and park complex instead of the 50 percent ordinarily required.

"This project is merely one of a number of surf making machines paid for in whole or in part by the federal government. So the overburdened taxpayer is drowned in the undertow of federal spending. And other projects similar to the Salt Lake City project have been approved for construction in Kentucky and Mississippi, according to Bureau of Outdoor Recreation officials.

[OVER]

"Why should this wave making pool be funded at all? A project spokesman told us that the surf making machine should help to keep Salt Lake City citizens home where they belong now that the energy crunch has made gasoline expensive. As one official justified the expenditure to my office, '. . . residents will no longer need to jump in their campers and travel 300 miles to feel the rushing water of Flaming Gorge."

"As Community Development funds under the law must go primarily to low and moderate income persons, either the camper-owner residents of the area are impoverished, or the justification is of questionable merit.

"Another official justified the project on the grounds that it was an experimental and innovative approach to outdoor recreation.

"The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation-provided surf machine and pool are expected to be completed in time for the summer of 1979. Desert surfers will ride the 4-foot swells while mothers and their children splash in the wavelets at pool's edge. So, surf's up in Salt Lake City, but the federal taxpayers are the ones taking a bath."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1978

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) said Saturday that "One is always honored by the retaliatory awards given by the recipients of the Golden Fleece of the Month. The most recent was the 'Golden Hypocrisy award' by the mayor of Salt Lake City. This one was especially pleasing, for it indicates that the Fleece to the Interior Department for granting Salt Lake City $145,000 to buy a wave-making machine hit home. Further, we congratulate the mayor and welcome his support to hold down spending in the Congress and for the fight against extravagance in the Senate office buildings."

Proxmire is chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and a member of the Senate Appropriations and Congressional Joint Economic Committees, where he chairs the latter's Subcommittee on Priorities and Economy in Government. In a statement from his Washington office late Saturday Proxmire said:

"This is not the first retaliatory award received since the Golden Fleece of the Month was started in March of 1975.

"Among others given were the 'Mog of the Year' award for the fight against waste in government, the 'Senator Scrooge' award for the hard line against a second government loan guarantee to New York City, and the "Earth Is Flat" award, subtitled 'Columbus Would Still Be in Port,' because of objections to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration spending $84 million to try to communicate with intelligent life in outer space.

"The greatest honor was when no less than three awards were given for the Fleece of the Month to the Treasury for taking a soft line against one of the biggest tax loopholes in the tax system, namely the provision that allowed Americans living abroad to pay NO taxes at all on the first $20,000 to $25,000 of their earned income.

"Obviously, that Fleece of the Month hit more raw nerves than all the others combined. Among the brickbats given in return were the 'Golden Hide' award [a smelly camel's hide from the Middle East was delivered to my office], the 'Golden Sheep Drop' award (fortunately, no appropriate symbol was given), and the 'Ig-Noble Prize' (for which a pair of marble-mounted clay feet was sent).

"These awards and the thoughts which lie behind them are most welcome. In the future they will be worn like a badge of honor."

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SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE
WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1978

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) said Wednesday, "I am giving my Golden Fleece of the Month Award" for December to the Office of Education (HEW) for spending $219,592 to develop a 'curriculum package' to teach college students how to watch television. The product of the contract, according to its recipient, will enable college students to '. . .distinguish between television's fact and fiction, recognize its various viewpoints, and evaluate its messages.'

"Rather than teaching the undergrads at Old Siwash how to look at the tube, it would perhaps be better for both students and the taxpayers if this contract went down the tube."

Proxmire is chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and a member of the Congressional Joint Economic Committee and the Subcommittee on HEW of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Office of Education funds. The Fleece of the Month is given for the biggest, most ironic or most ridiculous example of wasteful government spending for the period. It is given to the government agency, not the contractor or grantee.

"If a student's critical viewing skills have not been sufficiently developed by college age so he or she can understand (in the words of the proposal itself) '. . . how weekly viewing of Rhoda affects the viewer's attitude toward divorce or more broadly towards feminism,' one doubts seriously whether development by the federal government of this curriculum will help. While students may see an easy A in 'TV Viewing 101,' the Office of Education deserves a solid F for this contract.

"Under its Special Projects Act, the Office of Education--which has in fact developed some outstanding television programs, like Sesame Street and the Electric Company--has let four contracts totaling $823,651 to develop 'critical television viewing skills' at the elementary, middle, secondary, and post-secondary school levels. Another $900,000 to train teachers and distribute the materials developed and tested in phase one is contemplated.

"In view of the amount of violence on television or the attempt of advertisers to aim commercials at children, there may be some justification for the elementary, middle, or secondary level proposals. But the spending of $219,000 for the college program gets such low ratings it should be cancelled. If education has failed to endow college students with critical faculties which can be applied to the spectrum of their lives, a series of new courses on how to watch television critically will not provide it.

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"The college program, to be undertaken by the School of Public Communication at Boston University, calls for the development of student materials to

> . . . help viewers to understand the differences and the values of various types of television programming, i.e., commercials, drama, soap opera, situation comedies, documentaries, public affairs, news, (and) sport programs.

"The viewer will learn to

> . . . become aware of the differences between an issue presented in a television drama (fiction) and the same issue treated in a television documentary (fact).

"One can envision a proliferation of such grants. This one could be followed by federal funding to develop college curricula in the 'critical skills' needed to watch football, shop for Christmas gifts, or to shovel snow.

"In addition the study proposal is replete with the jargon of modern education, psychology, and testing. There are 'target populations,' the 'replication of results,' 'impact evaluations,' 'feedback' from teachers, and 'deliverables' under the contract.

"The analysis of the field test program is described in the following language:

> A series of univariate and multivariate analyses will be performed in order to delineate the characteristics of the sample in terms of pre-test level of critical viewing skills, as well as sociodemographic and other variables, and the effect of the test curriculum. Among these analyses will be a multiple analysis of variance, with experimental vs. control as the independent variable, and a set of difference [post-minus pre-test] scores assessing selected critical viewing skills as the dependent variable. In addition, multiple regression analysis and canonical correlation will be used to assess the relationships between the critical viewing skills on one hand, and on the other, sociodemographic and other variables.

"Is it possible that those who wrote that paragraph can write materials or textbooks to provide '. . . an understanding of the relation between television programming and the printed word?'

"The grant raises a whole series of issues. Should the government be involved in developing curricula to teach students how to watch the mass media? If needed, why shouldn't it be done by individual university faculties to fit their own specific needs? Why shouldn't the materials be developed and produced by one of the many private textbook publishing houses? Is it clear that college students are, in fact, watching too much television or that they are unable to criticize it intelligently? Should the federal government be offering inducements for the proliferation of new courses to substitute for the limited time students have for fundamental subjects?

"In my view in this period of inflation and budget stringency, the money should not be spent at all. There is already ample literature in the field. Why shouldn't college students develop their critical viewing skills by reading Newton Minow, Vance Packard, or Marshall McLuhan rather than by having taxpayers' money spent to provide the Office of Education with the results of univariate and multivariate analyses delineating the sociodemographic, dependent and independent variables, all nicely assessed through multiple regressions and canonical correlations?"

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Summary of Fleeces - 1979

January - Department of Labor

For funding a $180,000 never completed census of the Samoan population of Orange County, California.

February - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

For spending $120,126 to build a low-slung, backward steering motorcycle that no one could ride.

March - Air Force

For conducting a six month $3,000 test at the Pentagon on the use of umbrellas by male personnel in uniform.

April - HUD and EDA

For spending $279,000 on a community center so completely useless, that when it collapsed, no one knew it for days.

May - Award of Merit to the U.S. Army and Dr. Percy A. Pierre

For presenting to Congress the most readable and honest presentation on the needs of the U.S. Army.

June- National Park Service

For a $75,000 slush fund which pays for entertainment, travel, and other expenses in excess of those appropriated for and approved under the Budget.

July - Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin.

For spending at least $6,000 to determine if pot smoking has a bad effect on SCUBA divers.

August - Congress

For the eruption in its staff and spending over the past decade.

September - National Science Foundation

For spending $39,600 to study "Himalayan mountaineering, Social change, and the Evolution of (the Buddhist) Religious among the Sherpas of Nepal."

October - Department of Agriculture

For awarding $90,000 for a two-year study on "Behavioral Determinants of Vegetarianism."

November - Air Force

For a last minute $715,000 spending spree at Clark Air Force Base, the Philippines, designed to use up all available funds before they expired with the new fiscal year.

December - Department of Energy

For spending $1,200 under its small grants energy saving technology program to build and test ...an above ground aerobic and solar assisted composting toilet.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1979

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) announced Thursday that the Golden Fleece of the Month award for January goes to the Department of Labor for funding a $140,000 never completed census of the Samoan population of Orange County, California. Bureaucrats say, 'Samoa;' the taxpayers are saying loud and clear, 'No-moa!'"

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Congressional Joint Economic Committee. The Fleece of the Month award is given for the biggest, most ironic or most ridiculous example of wasteful government spending for the month.

"The money for counting Samoans in Orange County was provided under the Comprehensive Training and Employment Act (CETA) Public Service Jobs Program to a non-profit corporation, The Institute of Emergent Nationalism Determinacy, Inc., largely created and actually controlled by the members of a single family. The corporation was incorporated only a few short months before it received the CETA grant.

"Not only has no final report been submitted--four months after it was due--but even the limited raw data supposedly collected cannot be found. The former head of the program is reported to now be in Western Samoa, outside U.S. jurisdiction, and authorities' attempts to contact him have so far failed.

"At the same time that local auditors were questioning the operation of the project, the same group applied for partial funding of a $2,332,702.14 program to create a 'Pacific Island Cultural Art Demonstration Team.' While the local CETA sponsors did turn down this particular request, they instructed their own staff to 'provide technical assistance to this agency, assisting them to redesign this project into a workable format and towards resolving present operational problems.'

"When questioned about the Samoan project, Labor Department spokesmen justified their lack of oversight and review of the grant on grounds that it was locally reviewed and controlled. However, according to the Orange County Register one local official said that he is not upset by the lack of any finished product to show for the money:

> 'The purpose of the contract was to provide employment and training to unemployed Santa Ana residents and a by-product of this was to be a study. Just because the study wasn't completed I don't think it can be said the city got the raw end of things. That's the philosophy of the CETA program.'

Fortunately, local law enforcement officials are presently reviewing the entire question.

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"There are enough useful and constructive programs and projects--including genuine help to Samoans in need--to employ those unemployed willing to work without resorting to ridiculous make-work projects.

"This mindless method of spending is exactly why there is so much waste and so little accountability of government spending. For example, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration excused their research on why inmates want to escape from prison and the National Endowment for the Humanities for supporting a study of why people lie, are rude and cheat on the local tennis courts on the grounds that the approval for spending the federal money was given by the state or locality. Congress should reexamine the procedures that have led to this lack of federal oversight of federally funded projects."

##

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1979

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) announced Tuesday that the "runner-up" January Golden Fleece of the Month award goes to the National Endowment of the Arts "for supporting a 'Hanauma Bay (Hawaii)-Colored Headcovers Happening,' which involved 400 people being filmed from a rented helicopter as they walked along an Oahu beach wearing shiny paper party hats color-coded to the wearer's sex and race."

Proxmire is chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Congressional Joint Economic Committee. The Fleece of the Month Award is given for the biggest, most ironic or most ridiculous example of wasteful government spending for the month. Because of the relatively small amount of federal funds involved, this project lost out in the competition for the January Fleece of the Month, which went to a $140,000 Department of Labor grant to Orange County, California, to pay for a yet uncompleted census of the Samoan population living there.

"The Hawaiian State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, as part of a $20 million NEA federal-state matching funds program, spent $1,000 on this work of 'contemporary environmental conceptual art.' The happening was dreamed up by a group of art students and professors at the University of Hawaii. One professor explained the project:

> Contemporary art, and this is contemporary art, is conceptual. Meanings are layered, referring to things and ideas that are not there. (Emphasis added.)

"The 'Hanauma Bay-Colored Headcovers Happening' happened last December. While the artists sent out more than 2,000 invitations and hoped to hat attire at least 1,500 beachcombers, only 400 people turned out to wear the shiny paper party hats. Those who did found themselves holding hands and strolling along the beach and in the surf as their ambulatory art experiment was being preserved for posterity from a helicopter hovering overhead.

"The distribution of hats was supposed to be based strictly on the sex and race of the wearer. For example, blue hats were handed out to Caucasian males while Caucasian females got green ones. Oriental males were assigned purple hats, and the distaff members of the Oriental race were given red ones. According to the grant application, the reason for this ethnic and sexual designation was to allow

more

for 'post project analysis of racial integration.' Unfortunately, the sociological aspect of this contemporary environmental conceptual art happening was confounded by the voluntary exchange of hats among the sexes and races.

"In addition, one of the artists has already envisioned a follow-up project with

> 5,000 people in orange day-glo shirts simulating an eruption in Diamond Head. See we'll start with everybody inside the crater, then we'll have some people from hiking clubs climbing up the inside and spilling down the outside like hot lava.

"When asked about the colorful but dubious happening, a National Endowment for the Arts spokesman pointed out that this type of mini-grant does not legally require prior approval by Washington. As the National Endowment for the Arts conveniently interprets its legislation, only the individual state art councils can determine how the 20 percent of the Endowment funds which go directly to the state shall be spent.

"While I strongly support free expression by creative artists and believe that the Hanauma Happening artists sincerely believe in the importance of their work, I see no reason why the federal government should spend hard pressed taxpayers' money to support such activities. If the artists want to do it, let them pay for it themselves or with private contributions.

"While the amount of money involved in this project is relatively small and therefore worthy of only a runner-up Fleece award, a significant portion of federal funds is spent without any federal oversight. This mindless method of spending is exactly why there is so much waste and so little accountability in government spending."

##

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1979

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) Monday awarded his Golden Fleece of the Month for March to the Air Force "for conducting a six month $3,000 test at the Pentagon on the 'use of umbrellas by male personnel in uniform.'"

Proxmire is chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Congressional Joint Economic Committee. The Fleece of the Month award is given for the biggest, most ironic or most ridiculous example of wasteful government spending for the month.

"I hate to throw cold water on this exercise," Proxmire said, "but the taxpayers are the ones getting soaked. Here's how it happened.

"From time to time the USAF Uniform Board has been asked if it were proper for male uniformed Air Force members to carry umbrellas. The answer always came back--no! It was deemed unprofessional and out of image for an Air Force male to carry or use an umbrella while in uniform.

"Nonetheless, the question persisted in Air Force ranks. Why shouldn't we be able to use an umbrella?

"So, the Air Force Uniform Board, which has jurisdiction over such things, decided to conduct an umbrella test. The plan went up the chain of command and was approved by a general officer last October. The test was scheduled for a six-month period between November 1, 1978, and April 30, 1979.

"No announcement went forth to all USAF male personnel working in the Pentagon. For six months you can use an umbrella if you want--nothing outrageous, of course. Just a standard black or blue commercial model.

"Meanwhile the planners had been busy. A survey was developed. A random sample of 1700 Pentagon-based Air Force males was designed. According to the survey research experts in the Air Force personnel office, this survey would be 95 percent reliable.

"On March 1, 1979, the survey went out to the 1700 randomly selected males. The package contained a covering page explaining the purpose of the survey and giving return mailing instructions. Also included was a foreword, a Privacy Act statement and instructions for completing the survey. Attached were four pages of umbrella questions and the computer survey answer sheet.

More

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

19 MAR 1979

Honorable William Proxmire
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Proxmire:

This is in response to your recent inquiry concerning an Air Force Uniform Board survey and confirms information telephonically provided a member of your staff.

Proposals to permit male airmen (officer and enlisted) to use umbrellas while in uniform have been reviewed periodically over the past few years. The umbrella issue was raised again and considered at the 88th meeting of the Air Force Uniform Board in July 78. The Board recommended a test period in which these individuals could use the umbrella while in uniform. The recommendation was approved in October 1978.

The plan calls for a six month test period (November 1, 1978 to April 30, 1979), with a survey of attitudes/feelings to be taken toward the end of the test period. After an analysis of the survey results, a final recommendation will be forwarded to the approving authority for final decision.

The Air Force selected the Pentagon as the test site. Attached for your use are the estimated manhour and cost data associated with the survey.

It is a pleasure to provide you this information. If we may be of further assistance please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Mike Chen

Attachment

MICHAEL B. CHEN, [illegible]
Congressional [illegible]
Office of [illegible]

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1979 FOR THURSDAY P.M.s

The Golden Fleece of the Month for April goes to HUD and EDA for spending $279,000 on a community center so completely useless, that when it collapsed, no one knew it for days.

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) announced the joint fleece award Thursday to the Department of Housing and Urban Development that paid $100,000 for the construction of the center, and the Economic Development Administration. EDA spent $179,000 on a never-completed road to the center.

The road was never completed because of a lack of easements and insufficient funds. All this happened in rural Merrill Township, Michigan between 1975 and February 22, 1979, deep in a woods, half-way between two small towns.

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and a member of the Senate Appropriations and Joint Economic Committees. The Fleece of the Month is given for the biggest, most ridiculous, or ironic example of wasteful federal spending for the period.

"Here is the tale of a tragedy of errors. In 1975 HUD approved $100,000 in Community Development funds to build a community center for rural Merrill Township, Michigan. What HUD didn't know was that in order to serve two small towns in the township the center was to be built at a secluded site in a virtually inaccessible forest half-way between.

"A HUD Detroit official is quoted in the understatement of the year as saying about its location: 'It may have been something that should have been sought.'

"The collapsed building was spotted on Washington's birthday, 1979, by a sharp eyed woodsman who reported it to the local Postmaster who called the local sheriff and township supervisor who relayed the news to HUD's Detroit office. No one knows the precise date of the building's 'downfall'. Like the question asked about the tree which fell in the wilderness, since no human being was present to hear it fall, did it make any noise?

"When informed of the collapse a HUD Detroit official was quoted in the ultimate bureaucratic frustration: 'I don't know what we'll do. I don't know of any set policy we have for that.'

"The groundbreaking ceremony for the center designed to be used for counseling, food stamp distribution, literacy classes, job training, and other vital township community services was in April, 1976. It lay idle--unpainted, unlandscaped, and unfurnished--from its completion that year until its collapse. Meantime, the township's application for $390,000 from EDA's Public Works Employment Act to build

(OVER)

a road to it was reduced to $179,000. This proved insufficient to complete it. At the time the center collapsed the new road led to nowhere and the old two track dirt road or path through the forest was knee deep in snow. In more ways than one both HUD and EDA failed to pave the way for this project.

"Among the tragedy of errors no proper records were kept. HUD reported that there was a failure to meet '...sound planning, engineering, and construction standards', there was no maintenance, and the insurance for the building did not cover snow damage. As early as February, 1977, broken trusses were found and repaired but other problems were identified in a July report--cost overruns, cracks in the concrete floor, failure of the ceiling tile to meet fire codes, and exits of insufficient widths.

"Virtually everyone shuns responsibility. The project was inherited from the original supervisor who either kept no records or took them with him when he moved to Arizona. The township Treasurer who bought the insurance was unavailable through illness and died almost simultaneously with the building's collapse. EDA was unaware that the funds were insufficient to complete the road or that a railroad easement was needed. HUD's Detroit office contracted for and received routine reassuring reports from certified public accountants in August, 1978, six months before the collapse, indicating '...no major weaknesses or problems in the area of internal control or financial compliance.' HUD was assured by the firm that

> 'Our examination also included such procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances to determine compliance with regulations, policies, and procedures prescribed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.'

"Nevertheless, this unused community center built on a site in the middle of nowhere, inaccessible by public roads, collapsed without anyone knowing it after the expenditure of $279,000 of public funds and four years of time and effort.

"It is for such mindless funding and lack of oversight that HUD and EDA get the Golden Fleece of the Month Award for April."

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FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30PM AM THURSDAY APRIL 19TH (THURSDAY PMS)

The Golden Fleece of the Month for April goes to HUD and EDA for spending $279,000 on a community center so completely useless, that when it collapsed, no one knew it for days.

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis) announced the joint fleece award Thursday to theDepartmentof Housing and Urban Development that paid $100,000for the construction of the center, and the Economic Development Administration. EDA spent $179,000 on a never-completed road to the center.

The road was never completed because of a lack of easements and insufficient funds. All this happened in rural Merrill Township, Michigan between 1975 and February 22, 1979, deep ins woods half waybetween twosmall towns.

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said _____ that "I am giving my Fleece of the Month Award for April jointly to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Economic Development Administration (EDA). HUD spent $100,000 to build a community center literally in the middle of nowhere which was left idle and unused from its completion in 1976 until its ultimate collapse, apparently from the weight of snow in February, 1979, without anyone knowing about it. EDA spent $179,000 to finance a road to the building which was never completed because the highway was left incomplete because of lack of easements and insufficient funds. All this happened in rural Merrill Township, Michigan between 1975 and February 22, 1979, deep in a woods halfway between two small towns."

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and a member of the Senate Appropriations and Joint Economic Committees. The Fleece of the Month is given for the biggest, most ridiculous, or ironic example of wasteful federal spending for the period.

"Here is the tale of a tragedy of errors, [illegible] a comedy. In 1975 HUD approved $100,000 in Community Development funds to build a [illegible] community center for poor, rural Merrill in order to serve two small towns in the township, Michigan. What HUD didn't know was that the center was to be built at a secluded site in a virtually inaccessible forest half-way between the two towns. HUD lied THE UNDERSTATEMENT OF THE YEAR Detroit official is quoted as saying about its location:

'It may have been something that should have been caught.'

"The collapsed building was spotted on Washington's birthday, 1979,

by a sharp eyed woodsman who reported it to the local Postmaster who called the local Sheriff and Township Supervisor who relayed the news to HUD's Detroit office. No one knows the precise date of the buildings 'downfall'. Like the question asked about the tree which fell in the wilderness, since no human being was present to hear it fall, did it make any noise?

"When informed of the collapse a HUD Detroit official was quoted as saying: THE ULTIMATE BUREAU CRATIC FRUSTRATION:

> 'I don't know what we'll do. I don't know of any set policy we have for that.'

"The ground-breaking ceremony for the center designed to be used for counseling, food stamp distribution, literacy classes, job training, and other vital township/community services was in April, 1976. It lay idle--unpainted, unlandscaped, and unfurnished--from its completion that year until its collapse. Meantime the township's application for $290,000 from EDA's Public Works Employment Act to build a road to it was reduced to $179,000. This proved insufficient to complete it. At the time the center collapsed the new road led to nowhere and the old two track dirt road or path through the forest was knee deep in snow. In more ways than one both HUD and EDA failed to pave the way for this project.

"Among the tragedy of errors no proper records were kept, HUD reported that there was a failure to meet '...sound planning, engineering, and construction standards', there was no maintenance, and the

insurance for the building did not cover snow damage. As early as February, 1977, broken trusses were found and repaired but other problems were identified in a July report--cost overruns, cracks in the concrete floor, failure of the ceiling tile to meet fire codes, and exits of insufficient widths.

Virtually everyone shunned responsibility. The project was inherited from the original supervisor who either kept no records or took them with him when he moved to Arizona. The township Treasurer (who bought the insurance) was unavailable through illness and died almost simultaneously with the building's collapse. EDA was unaware that the funds were insufficient to complete the road or that a railroad easement was needed. HUD's Detroit office contracted for and received routine reports from certified public accountants (beginning in August, 1975) six months before the collapse, indicating '...no major weaknesses or problems in the area of internal control or financial compliance.' HUD was reassured by the firm that 'the examination

> 'Our examination also included such procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances to determine compliance with regulations, policies, and procedures prescribed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.'

"Nevertheless, this unused community center built on a site in the middle of nowhere, inaccessible by public roads, collapsed without anyone knowing it after the expenditure of $279,000 of public funds and four years of time and effort.

"It is for such mindless funding and lack of oversight that HUD and EDA get the Golden Fleece of the Month Award for April."

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

For Release After 5:30 A.M., Monday, June 25, 1979

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) said Monday, "I am giving my Golden Fleece of the Month Award for June to the National Park Service for a $75,000 slush fund which pays for entertainment, travel, and other expenses in excess of those appropriated for and approved under the Budget."

"The money, called the National Park Service 'Director's Discretionary Fund' has paid out $1,625 for a Secretary of Interior's reception, $6.30 for champagne glasses, $1,095 for a tent for a Congressional breakfast, $125.95 for lunches at Dominique's, and almost $5,000 for President's visit to Yellowstone including $317.88 to purchase chicken wire to fence in Old Faithful and $172 for box lunches and rooms for the White House advance staff."

The Fleece of the Month is given for the biggest, most ridiculous or most ironic example of wasteful government spending for the period. Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and a Member of the Senate Appropriations and Congressional Joint Economic Committees.

"The Director's Discretionary Fund, also know as the Cooperating Association Fund, has existed since February 1960, has been used by officials of six Administrations, and by and for Republicans and Democrats and bureaucrats alike.

"Expenditures in the three year period from November 1, 1975 to September 30, 1978 amounted to $174,450.65 according to the records of the fund furnished to me by the General Accounting Office. The balance on hand at the beginning of the present fiscal year was $74,875.

"While the Park Service justifies the fund under a law which allows 'donations' to be used for broad National Park Service purposes, this fund was established and is maintained through an annual assessment of some 59 non-profit 'Cooperating Associations' who sell literature, books, maps, and handicraft items in the National Parks.

(over)

"A memorandum from the National Park Service Director noted how 'gratifying' it was for him to learn that at a Conference of the Associations in Albuquerque the latter had endorsed

> '...contributions to the Servicewide Fund on a voluntary, fair share basis at ½% per year.'

"Sales for 58 Associations in the 1978 tax year, on which the one half of one percent assessment is based, were $11.3 million.

"There are several things wrong with the fund.

1) It is not a 'voluntary' fund. Contributions are clearly required by the Park Service of its non-profit concessionaires. It is an assessment or shake down, not a 'donation.'

2) It is a method of circumventing the official limitations on travel and entertainment imposed by both the Office of Management and Budget and the Congress. For example, the official entertainment allowance for the Secretary of the Interior is only $5,000.

Any assessment, contribution or donation from the Cooperating Associations should be paid into the Treasury, appropriated by Congress, and disbursed under and not outside the federal budget.

3) The fund violates the National Park Service Director's own directive to 'All NPS Employees' that

> "...an employee shall not solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, any gift, gratuity, favor, loan, entertainment, or any other thing of monetary value, from a person who: 1) Has or is seeking to obtain, contractual or other business or financial relations with this Department; 2) Conducts operations or activities that are regulated by this Department; or 3) Has interests that may be substantially effected by the performance or non-performance of the employee's official duty".

"While some of the recipients may not have been aware of the source of the funds used for their entertainment, among the items for which the fund has been used in recent years are:

Travel expenses for Cooperative Association Seminars, FY 1978	$13,650.00
Photos and Wall Prints, Interior Department Congressional Liaison, FY 1977	1,833.00

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Lunches, Interior Subcommittee, Virgin Islands, April 1977	$74.25
Mrs. Mondale, Blue Ridge, June 1977	137.50
Secretary of Interior Kleppe's Reception, FY 1976.	1,625.00
August 29, 1976:	
Beef for President Ford's BBQ at Old Faithful.	602.07
Purchase of Chicken Wire to fence in Old Faithful for President Ford's BBQ	317.88
Box lunches for White House advance staff, rooms.	172.00
Reception for Rep. Roy Taylor, House Interior National Parks and Recreation Subcommittee Chairman. 9/30/76	3,000.00
December 7, 1976:	
Champagne & Wine from PX Liquor Shop	107.10
Cocktail sandwiches from Woodward and Lothrop	75.03
Champagne glasses from IDEA	6.30
Cheese platter from Grand Union	22.50
Floral centerpiece and corsages, 11/29/76	85.00
Coffee Breaks and Guest Dinners at Cooperative Association banquet, Albuquerque, Dec. 1976	885.46
Flowers, August 1976	40.00
September, 1976:	
Congressional Breakfast	73.00
Congressional Breakfast Music	250.00
Congressional Breakfast Tent	1,095.00
LBJ Dedication, Sept. 1976	712.40
Reception, Secretary Interior, Nov. 1975	1,625.00
Coffee, Office of the Secretary, served at Wolf Trap, 12/9/76	9.10
Watergate Wine and Beverage. Dec. 1976	85.13
Farewell Party for Russ Dickenson. Jan. 1976	113.72
Director's Cocktail Party, Dulles. Feb. 1976	49.46

(N.B. Original and additional documents and details available in the office of Senator William Proxmire, 5241 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510)

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M., FRIDAY, JULY 20, 1973

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said Friday that "I am giving my Fleece of the Month Award for July -- the first since the June 26th Supreme Court decision -- to the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for spending at least $6,000 to determine if pot smoking has a bad effect on SCUBA divers. While the amount may be relatively small, the taxpayers should get high over this one. One might seriously ask, 'Were these trips really necessary?'

"I intend to continue to issue the Fleece of the Month, to criticize vigorously the wasteful spending of public money, and to strive to be just as emphatic, vivid and, if possible, as humorous in the denunciation of waste as I can be."

The Fleece of the Month is given for the biggest, most ridiculous, or most ironic example of wasteful spending for the month. Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and a Member of the Senate Appropriations and Congressional Joint Economic Committees.

"The experiment was a minor part of an otherwise useful appearing $726,000 federal grant, matched by $625,000 from the University of Hawaii, into "Human Performance in the Sea."

"Ten pot smoking men students aged 21 to 28 were recruited from a large class at the University. According to the published results entitled 'Marijuana Smoking and Cold Tolerance in Man' appearing in the Journal of Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine,

> 'Specifically we were interested in cold stress similar to that encountered by SCUBA divers off Hawaii' (p. 634)

"The effects of marijuana smoking after one or two hour exposures to both mildly cold water and cold air were undertaken.

"After a preliminary hour's rest, the ten were subjected to one hour immersions with only their heads above the 28° Centigrade (82.4° Fahrenheit) water. This was done three times, each on a separate day with a day in between, after smoking pot, after smoking a placebo, and after no smoking at all.

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"Similar cold air experiments were performed on the subjects lasting two hours in a chamber with the air temperature at 20°Centigrade (68° Fahrenheit). Dressed only in bathing suits, they were hooked up to temperature gauges attached to 9 parts of the body. In addition, breath holding tests taking from 15 to 30 minutes were involved.

"While the body core temperatures were essentially unaffected, there were significant losses of body heat, elevated heart action, and shivering after smoking pot.

"The diving aspects of the study were summarized as follows:

'...marijuana did not produce simple hypothermia [1] during cold exposure at rest, but it did increase heat production, probably due to more rapid and intensive shivering. Thus, it would appear hypothermia during diving is not anticipated. However, the consequences of tachycardia [2] due to marijuana interacting with diving bradycardia [3] may be consequential. Similarly, the observed increase in oxygen uptake might conflict with the normally higher $\dot{V}O_2$ during swimming. IN EITHER CASE, CAUTION SHOULD BE SUGGESTED UNTIL CANNABIS ACTION ON SWIMMERS CAN BE DETERMINED.' (p. 638. Emphasis added).

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1. subnormal temperature of the body
2. swift action of the heart
3. slow action of the heart

"In my view, the government was at sea on this one. What the study tells us is that if you smoke pot don't go swimming, SCUBA diving or mountain climbing.

"If there were an unlimited budget, perhaps it might be undertaken. But on the scale of national needs, this experiment seems to have a very low priority.

"Finally, a word about costs. While no detailed figures for this specific part of the overall project were available, the Commerce Department estimated the cost at $6,000, which seems misleadingly low. Here's why.

-- Some seven professional researchers signed the academic article.

-- The ten students were involved for more than 200 hours.

-- A similar amount of time was involved with the lab, breathing equipment, smoking equipment (spirometer techniques were used), etc.

-- The routine charges by universities for lab time, professional salaries, equipment costs, and overhead, apparently not available for this study, are not routinely insignificant.

--more--

"All this, plus the cost of the pot itself (I am told $40 to $45 an ounce is not an unusual price), would indicate that, at best, the Department's estimate is based on the marginal rather than the total costs."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1979

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said Thursday "I am giving my Fleece of the Month Award for the month of August to Congress for the eruption in its staff and spending over the past decade. In that period the staff of the House and Senate has grown by about 70 percent (from about 10,700 to 18,000 persons) and the cost by 270 percent (from $150 to $560 million a year). While bread is the staff of life, it can now be said that too much of the taxpayer's bread has been used to give too much life to the Congressional staff."

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and a Member of the Senate Appropriations and Congressional Joint Economic Committees. The Fleece of the Month is given for the biggest, most ironic, or most ridiculous example of excessive spending for the period.

In a statement released from his Washington Office Proxmire said "The charge of a 'billion dollar' Congress is wrong.

"The $1.22 billion budgeted for the 'Legislative Branch' in fiscal year 1979 includes funds for such agencies as the Government Printing Office, the General Accounting Office, the Botanic Gardens, the entire Library of Congress, the Tax Court, the Cost Accounting Standards Board, the Copyright Royalty Tribunal, and the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

"But while it may be a bum rap to call it a 'billion dollar' Congress, it is fair to call it 'a half a billion dollar' Congress. When one excludes the agencies not directly serving the House and Senate (almost 60% of the $1.22 billion total) there has still been an increase in both numbers and funds in excess of increases in both staff and funding for the Executive Branch and greater than the increases in either the cost of living or the wholesale price indexes.

"Here are some of the facts about the Congressional increases.

--"The staff of the Senate has increased from about 3,400 to 6,800 in the sameperiod, a big,fat, whopping 100 percent. Then there were 34 employees for each Senator. Now there are 68.

--"The Capitol Police force has grown from an authorized strength of 602 in fiscal year 1968 to 3187 in the middle of 1979, a 97 percent increase.

--"Additional costs and staff have been added through new agencies or new administrative functions not directly involved in the work of Standing Committees or Congressional Member offices. These include 130 authorized employees at the Office of Technological Assessment(OTA) and 218 at the Congressional Budget Office. There are also 1,284 employees of the Architect of the Capital and 866 at the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress.

"There are some good reasons for some of the increases. In the past Congress has often

been unable to cope with the vast staff and resources of the Executive Branch. Issues have become more complex. Constituents have demanded a vast array of services. The amount of mail has taken a qualitative jump. A bombing of the Capitol; demonstrations by farmers, anti-abortionists, and others; and the increase in the general level of crime have called for an expansion of the Capitol Police. The breakdown in the seniority system, on the whole a good thing, has meant a large increase in the staff to serve junior Members of Congress who in the past were often starved for staff by Committee Chairmen. Further, the figures include some 824 LBJ interns in the House and hundreds of other interns on House or Senate payrolls for short periods and unall pay.

"Nevertheless, these reasons do not justify the massive increase in Congressional staff. At one session of a recent Congressional Committee some 27 staff members were present to serve two Members of the Committee. Many of the staff were not permanent Committee staff members but staff provided Senators under Senate Resolution 60 to oversee the Committees on which they serve.

"Senators and staff are now stumbling over themselves. Additional staff generates additional bills and additional work, much of it unneeded at a time when Congress has difficulty coping with its regular, routine, and oversight functions.

"The added staff is then used to justify new buildings, more restaurants, added parking spaces, and greater support personnel all of which has led to a quantum jump in Congressional spending.

"Congress should first of all hold the line on staff. New needs should be met by re-ordering priorities and the dismantling of old functions. Actual cuts should then be made below existing levels.

"At a time of galloping inflation and taxpayer's fiscal revolt, Congress should put its own house in order."

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(Senator Proxmire has routinely returned funds to the Senate from his clerk hire and office expense allowances. For clerk hire, the amounts returned were $49,474.52 in fiscal year 1977; $148,864.40 in fiscal year 1978; and $139, 801.34 through July, 1979.

The office expense allowance is calculated on a calendar year basis. $22,264.39 was returned in 1976; $33,987.36 in 1977; and $31,699.00 was returned in 1978.

With respect to the performance of the Committee of which Proxmire is Chairman, the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and its associated Defense Production Committee--now Subcommittee--, there has been no increase and, in fact, an actual decline in the total staff since he became Chairman in January, 1975.)

For Release After 6.30 A.M. Thursday August 23, 1979

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said Thursday "I am giving my Fleece of the Month for August to Congress for the eruption in its staff and spending over the past decade. In that period the staff of the House and Senate has grown by about 70 percent (from about 10,700 to 18,400 persons) and the cost by 270 percent (from $150 to $550 million a year). While it can now be said that bread is the staff of life, too much of the taxpayer's bread has been used to give too much life to the Congressional staff."

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and a Member of the Senate Appropriations and Congressional Joint Economic Committees. The Fleece of the Month is given for the biggest, most ironic, or most ridiculous example of excessive spending for the period.

In a statement released from his Washington office Proxmire said "The charge of a 'billion dollar' Congress is a misnomer. The $1.22 billion budgeted for the Legislative Branch in fiscal year 1979 includes funds for such agencies as the Government Printing Office, the General Accounting Office, the Botanic Gardens, the entire Library of Congress, the Tax Court, the Cost Accounting Standards Board, the Copyright Royalty Tribunal, and the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

"But while it may be a bum rap to call it a 'billion dollar'

Congress, it is fair to call it 'a half a billion dollar' Congress. When one excludes the agencies not directly serving the House and Senate (almost 60% of the $1.22 b. total) there has still been an increase in both members and funds in excess of increases in both staff and funding for the Executive Branch and greater than the increases in either the cost of living or the wholesale price indexes.

"Here are some of the facts about the Congressional increases.

--"The staff of the House of Representatives grew from about 7,300 to 11,600 from 1968 to fiscal year 1979, or by almost 60 percent.

--"The Staff of the Senate has increased from about 3,100 to 6,800 in the same period., a big, fat, whopping 100 percent. Then there were 3½ employees for each Senator.Now there are 68.

--"The Capitol Police force has grown from an authorized strength of 602 in fiscal year 1968 to 1187 in the middle of 1979, a 97 percent increase.

--"Additional costs and staff have been added through new agencies or new administrative functions not directly involved in the work of Standing Committee or Congressional Member offices. These include 130 authorized employees at the Office of Technological Assessment (OTA) and 218 at the Congressional Budget Office. There are also 1,286 employees of the Architect of the Capitol and 856 at the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress.

"There are some good reasons for some of the increases. In the past Congress has often been unable to cope with the vast staff and

resources of the Executive Branch. Issues have become more complex. Constituents have demanded a vast array of services. The amount of mail has taken a quantitative jump. A bombing of the Capitol, bombings, demonstrations by farmers and anti-abortionists, and the increase in the general level of crime have called for an expansion of the Capitol Police. The breakdown in the seniority system, on the whole a good thing, has meant a large increase in the staff to serve junior Members of Congress who in the past were often starved for staff by Committee Chairmen. Further, the figures include some 824 LBJ interns in the House and hundreds of other interns on House or Senate payrolls for short periods and small pay.

"Nevertheless, these reasons do not justify the massive increase in Congressional staff. At one session of a recent Congressional Committee some 27 staff members to serve two Members were present. Many of them were not permanent Committee staff members but staff (the Committee staff) provided Senators under Senate Resolution 60 to oversee the Committees on which they serve.

"Senators and staff are now stumbling over themselves. Additional staff generates additional bills and additional work, much of it unneeded at a time when Congress has difficulty coping with its regular, routine, and oversight functions.

"The added staff is then used to justify new buildings, more restaurants, added parking spaces, and greater support personnel

all of which has led to a quantum jump in Congressional spending.

"Congress should first of all hold the line (STAFF). New needs should be met by re-ordering priorities and the dismantling of old functions. Actual cuts should then be made below existing levels.

"At a time of galloping inflation and taxpayer's fiscal revolt, Congress should put its own house in order."

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With respect to the performance of the Committee of which Proxmire is Chairman, the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and its associated Defense Production Committee--now Subcommittee--, there has been no increase and, in fact, an actual decline in the total staff since he became Chairman ~~of~~ in January, 1975.)

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1979

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said in a speech prepared for delivery in the Senate Thursday that "I am giving my Fleece of the Month Award for September to the National Science Foundation (NSF) for spending $39,600 to study "Himalayan mountaineering, Social Change, and the Evolution of (the Buddhist) Religion among the Sherpas of Nepal." It has often been said that the government is foolish enough to send taxpayer's money to the ends of the earth. Now the NSF has done it. Funding this study raises the question of priorities. The government is not required to fund every study on every subject everywhere in the world. Is this trip really necessary?"

The Fleece of the Month Award is given for the biggest, most ironic, or most ridiculous example of excessive spending for the period. Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and a member of the Senate Appropriations and Congressional Joint Economic Committee.

"The study is a part of the NSF's anthropological science program under which the NSF requested $7.4 million for fiscal year 1980, which was $800,000 and 12.1 percent more than the estimated spending for fiscal year 1979.

"I first raised the issue about this study in the Appropriations Committee hearing on the NSF budget. The NSF argued for the study and provided additional information for the record. Further detailed information about it has been asked for and received since those hearings.

"The purpose of the project is to determine what, if any, connection there is between Sherpa involvement as mountaineering guides, which began early in the 20th Century, and the contemporaneous rise of more orthodox Tibetan Buddhist religious practices in Nepal. The project director proposed to spend the first six months of 1979 in Nepal and the last six months at a University in the United States. The researcher proposed to study the interaction of mountaineering, society and religion by carrying out household surveys, interviews with village residents and mountaineers, research into libraries and archives in Buddhist monasteries, and a study of recent religious texts and rituals.

"The original proposed budget included $19,697 for salaries, wages and fringe benefits for the principal investigator (including small amounts for clerical and graduate assistance); $7,313 for travel to Nepal and return; $260 for a tent; $195 for a down jacket, down sleeping bag and a mattress; $90 for lanterns; and $75 for cooking gear.

"In defense of the NSF and the researcher, it is clear that the latter would not live high off the hog in the Himalayan Hilton but would more likely be roughing it on the stone floors of the monasteries.

(over)

"Additional funds requested included $3,587 for materials and supplies and other direct costs, and $14,576 for 'indirect costs'. The latter is the overhead routinely charged by universities and research institutions. In this case it was 74% of the salaries, wages, and benefits.

It illustrates how lucrative government funds are to institutions. In this case it was a questionable amount for the researcher proposed to spend the first six months in Nepal where overhead charges could not appropriately be charged to the researcher's academic institution. The NSF reduced this amount to $8,253, cut the travel funds to $1,750, and reduced the total from $49,983 to $39,400.

"The project is being undertaken by an obviously highly qualified researcher who speaks the language fluently and has built a solid foundation of information about the Sherpa's and their culture through previous studies of the Sherpa society in Nepal.

"I have no objection as such to a study of Sherpa mountaineering and its possible connection to the rise of local Buddhist celibate monasteries anymore than one could object to R. H. Tawney's Religion and the Rise of Capitalism or Max Weber's The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, although I doubt very much if the literary style of the NSF study will or could rival that of Professor Tawney. I do not believe in censorship.

"What I object to is the use of taxpayer's money at a time of rampaging inflation to send researchers half way around the world to study what is at best an esoteric question. There may be no relationship at all between Sherpa's moving to a cash economy as a result of their mountaineering endeavors and the advent of a more orthodox Buddhist religion.

"Measured against needed government programs is this study not at the bottom end of the list of priorities for which the hard pressed taxpayer's money should be spent? Should it not more appropriately be funded by either a religious order or a private foundation or university?

"Is there no limit to the subjects which are now said to be the responsibility of the federal government to pursue?"

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M., MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1979

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said in a speech prepared for delivery to the Senate Monday that "I am giving my Golden Fleece of the Month Award for October to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for awarding $90,000 for a two-year study on 'Behavioral Determinants of Vegetarianism.' In my view, this subject is just not meaty enough to warrant such an expenditure of federal funds. The taxpayers may, in fact, be getting something for their money which is neither fish nor fowl.

"While I not only do not object to those who choose vegetarianism as their life style but would applaud it, 'Hesitate, don't vegetate' should have been the motto of the free-spending bureaucrats at USDA in considering this outlay of federal tax dollars."

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs and a member of the Congressional Joint Economic Committee. He also serves on the Appropriations Committee, including the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over USDA's budget.

The Golden Fleece of the Month Award is given for the biggest, most ironic, or most ridiculous example of excessive or wasteful spending for the period.

"This study is part of a series of social behavioral research projects in human food preferences being funded by USDA. The nature of the studies being undertaken in these projects has been a cause of concern to the members of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, including myself. As a result, no new USDA funds in fiscal year 1980 will be spent for research efforts of this kind. The Senate and House conferees on the FY-80 agriculture appropriations bill recently decided that no new funds from the USDA's competitive grants program are to be used for social behavioral research projects, including research in human food preferences. The competitive grants program has provided the federal funding for these social behavioral projects in fiscal years 1978 and 1979.

--more--

"What is it about this kind of study--including the particular study that is the subject of this month's Golden Fleece Award--that has led to the cutting off of further USDA funding? The key word is priorities. In this period of ravaging inflation, it is imperative that taxpayers' dollars be spent only on those projects and purposes which are at or near the high-priority end of the spectrum. This study does not, in my view--and it is a view shared by the other/FY-80 agriculture appropriations conferees--meet that test.

"What are the purposes of the study on 'Behavioral Determinants of Vegetarianism'? The project description summarized them this way:

> In summary, demographic data, extent of nutritional knowledge, and physiological and psychological factor(s) will be studied for their relative influence on food-related behavior. The overall, long-term goals of the proposed research are as follows:
>
> 1. To understand behavioral determinants regarding the selection and perpetuation of vegetarianism as a lifestyle.
>
> 2. To differentiate behavioral and attitudinal differences regarding nutrition, food, self, and society between vegetarians and non-vegetarians.
>
> 3. To assess the influence of nutritional knowledge and attitudes on dietary behavior.
>
> 4. To evaluate the relationship between taste acuity and food preferences in vegetarianism.

"In discussing 'Significance', this same project description includes this statement:

> A comprehensive study of the factors which motivate adoption and perpetuation of vegetarian practices can furnish a basis for forecasting appropriate modifications by government in food and nutrition policies.

"I am not criticizing the methodology, the objectives, or the perceived significance of this research project. My objection, again, is one of priorities. In these troubled economic times, we must shut the Treasury door to all but the most essential expenditures. In the case of social behavioral research projects in human food preferences funded by USDA, that is exactly what the FY-80 agriculture appropriations conferees have done.

"This notion of priorities and what the American taxpayer expects in the way of fiscal prudence can be illustrated in some words from a letter I received from a citizen irate over, ironically, yet another of these social behavioral research projects in human food preferences funded by USDA. The study in question--this time in the amount of

$65,000 'to develop psychological profiles of nutrition enthusiasts, to contribute to knowledge about nutrition behavior and motivation'-- was itself certainly worthy of a Golden Fleece Award and I hereby declare it to be this month's runner-up.

"To quote from the letter I received:

> I wonder what they would pay to know of my motivation and behavior not when buying or using health foods but trying to make ends meet? That $65,000 would have bought a lot of dinners for the elderly in this area who don't eat at the end of the month if the checks do not arrive until Monday.

"I certainly cannot improve on this eloquent statement on the need for getting our priorities straight in federal government spending. For its contribution to misplaced spending priorities, I confer the October 'Fleece' on USDA."

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[Note to editors -- We showed considerable restraint in not considering a Golden Fleece award to the Department of Agriculture for spending several thousand dollars to develop a non-flatulent bean. That could have involved considerable fun, but further checking on our part disclosed that the research had considerable nutritional as well as esthetic merit.]

For Release After 6:30 PM Tuesday 15th Nov 27th 1979
For Wed AM's

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Tuesday gave his Golden Fleece Award for November to the Air Force for a last minute $715,000 spending spree at Clark Air Force Base, The Philippines, designed to use up all available funds before they expired with the new fiscal year. Among the items obliged during an emergency two-day period September 28-October 1, 1979 were $20,000 for new television sets and fans, $32,000 to resurface four tennis courts, $45,000 for supplies and for cleaning of the base swimming pools."

Proxmire is a member of the Defense Appropriations Committee and is Chairman of the Priorities and Economy in Government Subcommittee of the Joint Economic Committee. The Golden Fleece award is given to the biggest, most ridiculous or most ironic example of government spending or waste.

"Consider the dilemma Air Force budget officers at Clark Air Force Base faced on September 28, 1979--two days before the fiscal year expired and $715,000 in defense funds remained unobligated and unspent. If these funds were not obligated, then they would lapse back to the government. Future budgets for Clark Air Force base undoubtedly would be reduced. The solution? Spend the money as fast as possible. And that is just what happened.

"According to the local base newspaper which carried the story in glowing headlines, Air Force budget officers were told to spend the $715,000 on any program that would help people. The Civil Engineering, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Base Services, Security police and Maintenance people were called together in an emergency meeting to attack this spending problem.

"They worked late on September 28th and throughout the weekend in a patriotic attempt to find a way to spend those embarrassing funds on hand. The 'can do' attitude prevailed. All the funds were obligated. Here is how they did it:

"New dormitory furniture was ordered for $333,200. $20,000 was set aside for 30 new color television sets and 40 fans. The fans were back ups for the air conditioning units. Of course, they also bought 184 new window air conditioners to replace older models throughout the base at a cost of $78,700. The Civil Engineers did their part by obligating $25,900 for new wall and floor coverings for the dining hall and $32,000 to resurface four tennis courts.

--more--

"The Morale section found a use for $115,000 to purchase new furniture for the John Hay Air Base recreational cottage while $45,000 was allocated for supplies and cleaning up of the base swimming pools and for pool furniture.

"The Security Police chipped in by accepting $30,000 to improve living conditions by purchasing new refrigerators, televisions, stereos, jungle fatigues, boots and berets.

"The Maintenance Department did not let down on its obligation. They needed $35,400 for boots, tools and microwave ovens.

"According to the Base newspaper Col. Thomas McInerney, 3d TFW commander, stated that this was the finest team effort on the part of base personnel that he had ever seen to use year end money to directly support people. He is quoted as giving a 'hats off' to the Base Supply, Procurement, Civil Engineering, Maintenance and Comptroller Divisions for the extra effort they put forth.

"The Air Force was exercising that old bureaucratic imperative--'Use it or lose it'. There is nothing worse than not being able to spend the federal funds that have been alloted to a department or agency or base. It is unthinkable that anything be given back or spent on more pressing national security items.

"The Pentagon tells us that just one more penny cut from their budget would result in a drastic reduction of the muscle of our military forces. Certain members of Congress demand that more defense spending occur and deny that savings can be made. They bemoan the state of U.S. defenses.

"Well, here is just one more example of money being spent for the sake of spending. Did we improve our readiness? Did we add any fighting capability? Hardly! Perhaps there was a positive effect on morale. Who wouldn't like new televisions, refinished tennis courts, new furniture and all the other trimmings. But who would argue that this spending was essential.

In fairness to the Air Force I would like to point out some of the arguments they use in justifying these last minute expenditures. They say that they spent most of their money on mission essential items earlier in the year and waited until the last minute to buy many other things. They also argue that a Congressional Supplemental came late in the year and they had to rush to obligate all of it. And lastly it should be noted that the Air Force stresses spending on personnel oriented objectives and that most of this spending at Clark Air Force Base was designed to help

[illegible] essential.

In fairness to the Air Force I would like to point out some of the arguments they use in justifying these last minute expenditures. They say that they spend most of their money on mission essential items earlier in the year and wait until the last minute to buy many other things. They also argue that a Congressional Supplemental came late in the year and they had to rush to obligate all of it. And lastly it should be noted that the Air Force stresses spending on personnel oriented objectives and that most of this spending at Clark Air Force Base was designed to help Air Force personnel. Last year theAir Force had $1.3 billion in unfunded operation and maintenance requirements.

Summary of Fleeces - 1980

January - Award of Merit to U.S. Air Force and General Slay

For initiating a tough, no nonsense program of reducing sole source contracts and replacing them with good old fashioned American competition which could save millions annually.

February - Environmental Protection Agency

For spending an extra $1 to $1.2 million to preserve a Trenton New Jersey sewer as an historical monument.

March - National Institute for Mental Health

For funding a study of why bowlers, hockey fans and pedestrians smile.

April - U.S. Coast Guard

For wasting over half a million dollars on a microfiche conversion project which had to be cancelled when it took three years to complete only seven percent of the required work.

May - Department of Education

For fattening its staff and beefing up its budget after promising that if it were created it would include no more people and would cost no more than previously devoted to education programs.

June - Department of Commerce

For spending $9,800 to hire a private public relations firm to review and evaluate the Department's public relations efforts.

July - Award of MErit to General Services Administration

For getting the government a break on sky-rocketing air travel costs. This experimental program will save $7 million in the first six months.

August - Government National Mortgage Association

Spent $6,918 to buy 1,200 nine by twelve inch simulated leather binders which it sent out to savings and loan associations across the country to commemorate the issue of a total of $100 billion in mortgage backed securities.

September - Department of Labor

For funding a summer youth employment program in Tucson, Arizona in which 16 junior college track athletes were paid for twice-a-day training sessions, weekly trips to compete in races, and week-long journeys to Flagstaff, Arizona and Reno, Nevada to train, compete, and meet with other runners.

October - Department of Defense

For understating by $1.5 million various excessive costs in operations public housing for high ranking generals and admirals.

November - Department of Education's Institute of Museum Services

For a $25,000 Federal grant to a California Zoo part of which was used to send two animal keepers half way across the country to attend a three day elephant workshop in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

December - Federal Highway Administration

They are spending $241,764 to produce a computerized system that gives local travel directions to people who can't or won't read maps.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1980

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Thursday announced that "Instead of a Fiasco of the Month award for January, I am giving an 'Award of Merit' to the United States Air Force and in particular General Alton D. Slay, Commander of AFSC Systems Command. The Air Force and General Slay receive my commendation for initiating a tough, no nonsense program of rescinding defense contracts and replacing them with good old fashioned American competition which could save millions annually. In addition it will reduce goldplating and other unnecessary wasteful practices."

Proxmire is a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and its Chairman of the Subcommittee on Priorities and Economy in Government of the Joint Economic Committee. He has given 60 Golden Fleece awards since March 1975 and eight merit awards.

"While the Air Force has borne the brunt of several of my 'Fiasco awards,' most notably the study of whether or not male officers should carry umbrellas, it is only fitting that they receive praise and public recognition where it is merited.

"General Slay is responsible for approving $10 billion in annual contracts awarded by the Air Force for various weapon systems. In order to improve contracting practices he has insisted on a number of reforms which will benefit our national security and the pocketbooks of our taxpayers. Here is what his program calls for:

--Elimination of competitive contracting rather than sole source.

--Using more commercial type contracting procedures. The techniques used commercially often are more successful in holding down costs than the normal government contracting devices.

--Establishing and holding to baseline statistics of each weapon system so that the Air Force and Congress can assess if the program is on time, at cost and up to specifications.

--[illegible] of in-house utility enhancement.

--Having that contractors provide warranties on their work.

"The General pays more than lip service to these concepts. For example, when the expected results in obtaining more competitive contracting did not materialize in early 1979, he fired off a memorandum to his commanders (attached) and sent a high ranking general into the field to insist on improvements.

"The net results. After the fired message and high level visits,

(OVER)

Strong Letter Follows?

THE TWX WHICH FOLLOWS has got to be a classic, sent by Air Force Systems Commander General Allen Slay on May 24th to the Commander of Air Force Systems Command, Lt. Gen. Leroy Shemtis. *AFJ* asked General Slay's public affairs office for copies of similar TWXs he sent on the same subject to the commanders of AFSC's Electronics System Division (which we're told was even more strongly worded) and of the Space and Missile Systems Organization. None of the TWXs could be located, until General Slay took them out of his personal safe. He has, however, declined to make them available on the basis that they are "personal" messages exempt from release under the Freedom of Information Act. *AFJ* is considering taking the issue to court to "test" General Slay's interesting theory. In the meantime, we thought *Journal* readers should be able to read for themselves what a senior Air Force commander sounds like when he's really mad.



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SUBJ: COMPETITION

1. I HAVE JUST REVIEWED POLICY LETTER 2) IMPLEMENTATION STATISTICS FOR THE FIRST TWO QUARTERS OF FY 79. THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT I AM HIGH DISAPPOINTED. WHILE THE STATISTICS OVERALL ARE SOMEWHAT OF A MIXED BAG, THE AREA OF GREATEST SHORTFALL AND CONCERN IS SOLE SOURCE VERSUS COMPETITIVE AWARDS, BOTH NUMBERS AND DOLLAR VALUE. DURING THE FIRST HALF OF FY 79 SOLE SOURCE ACTIONS ARE UP AND THE COMPETITIVE DOLLARS ARE DOWN AS COMPARED TO FY 78. THAT WASN'T THE IDEA BEHIND POLICY LETTER 2). THE REVERSE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN. I AM FORCED TO CONCLUDE, SINCE I KNOW THAT YOU PERSONALLY SUPPORT MY ACQUISITION POLICIES, THAT YOU DON'T HAVE CONTROL OF THE FIRST HALF OF FY 79 MUST BE REVERSED SIGNIFICANTLY AND IMMEDIATELY. THIS WILL REQUIRE YOUR PERSONAL DETAILED ATTENTION, DIRECTION, AND ABOVE ALL, MONITORING OF YOUR CONTRACTS PEOPLE AND YOUR PROGRAM DIRECTORS/MANAGERS.

2. GEN STAMBERSKY WILL VISIT YOUR ACTIVITY IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND GO OVER THE STATISTICS WITH YOU. I HAVE ASKED HIM TO REVIEW IN DETAIL THE SOLE SOURCE ACTIONS YOU HAVE TAKEN THIS YEAR AND TO GO OVER WITH YOU ALL CONTRACTS YOU PROPOSE TO AWARD FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR. I WANT TO SEE PROGRESS. NOW. AND, I AM RELYING ON YOU TO MAKE THIS PROGRESS HAPPEN. IF I DON'T SEE IMPROVING TRENDS VERY SOON, I WILL FIRE YOU (QUOTA). I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS SINCE IT MIGHT PRECIPITATE SOME OVERSIGHT ACTIONS, BUT QUOTAS ARE THE NORM DEALING WITH MANDATORY "GOALS". IF YOU WANT TO AVOID THIS, YOU'LL GET YOUR PEOPLE "WITH THE PROGRAM" IN FACT AS WELL AS IN RHETORIC. PLEASE BE CONFIDENT THAT I DO INTEND TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD COMPETITION. ONE WAY OR THE OTHER – BY THE END OF THIS FISCAL YEAR.

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1980

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said Friday "I am giving my Fleece of the Month Award for February to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for spending an extra $1 to $1.2 million to preserve a Trenton, New Jersey sewer as an historical monument. The sewer is 25 feet underground, full of mud and sludge, has been viewed only twice in the last 23 years, will not be on public view in the future, and is not unique. This is clearly an example of taxpayers' money going down the drain."

The Fleece of the Month is given for the biggest, most ironic, or most ridiculous example of wasteful government spending for the month.

"When Trenton, New Jersey was required to upgrade its sewers and sanitation plant back in 1975 by the Environmental Protection Agency, Trenton proposed to build its new sewers through a part of the 100 year old brick Lamberton Street sewer. It's own report found that:

> '...the nature of the (Lamberton Street) sewer is not conducive to approachation and investigation since it is underground and, at least, partially full of raw wastewater at all times.'

"But the Environmental Assessment Statement submitted by New Jersey's State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) to the EPA said that:

> 'The destruction of the Lamberton Street circular brick interceptor will be a loss for the sewer is both a symbol and expression of America's former engineers, engineering, urban life and planning, and a time and place which are irreversible and irretrievable.' (Isn't all time irretrievable?)

"As a result the sewer was placed on the Register of Historic Sites. It was the subject of a mitigation plan approved by the Federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Nine hundred feet of the old sewer will now be left intact as the new sewer by-passes it. A professional archaeologist will be hired to monitor the site to make certain the old bricks are preserved. Commemorative plaques will be placed above ground at each end of the underground sewer to note the sewers historic qualities.

"Trenton officials estimate that the additional costs attributable both to the environmental requirements and the more than one year delay will add $1 to $1.2 million to the cost of this segment of the overall project. The Federal government pays 75% of the total.

"But the view that the old Lamberton Street interceptor might rival the Catacombs, Roman Aqueducts, or the Moscow Subway was disputed by Trenton's chief sanitation engineer, John Vogler. In an interview with the Trenton Times, verified with him by my staff, Engineer Vogler said:

(OVER)

"With respect to the uniqueness of the Lambert Street sewer:

> 'You know we've got another 20 miles just like it or older all over the city, not to mention every other city in the Northeast that's got the same old sewers,' he chuckled....

"Whether one can see this historical site?

> 'I've been on this job for 23 years, and my men have only gone down there twice.' Then another chuckle.
>
> 'But we're going to keep 900 feet of it in operation, so it will be available for scrutiny if anyone wants to get down there and see it.' A long peal of chuckles.

"Bids for the project are now in and will be let in the next few days.

"While the paid archaeologist consultant identified the Lamberton Street sewer as '...an historic or pre-historic cultural resource', neither its listing on the Register of Historic Sites nor the submission of Trenton's plans to the Advisory Commission on Historic Preservation requires the EPA to preserve an old, non-unique, underground brick sewer filled with sludge as an historic monument.

"While an extra $1 to $1.2 million is not the largest example of wasteful spending by the Federal government, it most certainly qualifies as the most ridiculous for this month."

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. THURSDAY , MARCH 27, 1980

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said in a speech prepared for delivery in the Senate on Thursday that "I am giving my Golden Fleece of the Month Award for March to the National Institute for Mental Health for funding a study of why bowlers, hockey fans and pedestrians smile.

"In my opinion, the American taxpayers will say, with a puckish grin, that they are not bowled over by this pedestrian study."

Proxmire is the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee charged with reviewing the budget of the National Institute of Mental Health. The Golden Fleece Award is given monthly to a federal agency for the biggest, most ridiculous or most ironic waste of the taxpayers money.

"The study was entitled 'Social and Emotional Messages of Smiling: An Ethological Approach.' It was part of a $75,000 grant to examine Verbal and Nonverbal Cues in Detecting Deception.

"Here is the abstract of the smiling study in the authors' own words:

> 'Did smiling evolve as an expression of happiness, friendliness, or both? Naturalistic observation at a bowling alley (N=1,793 balls) shows that bowlers often smile when socially engaged, looking at and talking to others, but not necessarily after scoring a spare or a strike. In a second study, bowlers (N=166 balls) rarely smiled while facing the pins but often smiled when facing their friends. At a hockey game, fans (N=3,726 faces) smiled both when they were socially involved and after events favorable to their team. Pedestrians (N=663) were much more likely to smile when talking but only slightly more likely to smile in response to nice weather than to unpleasant weather. These four studies suggest a strong and robust association of smiling with a social motivation and an erratic association with emotional experience.'[1]

"The researchers studied the smiles of bowlers by both openly video taping some rolls of the bowling ball and by also secretly watching from near the pin setting machine. According to the study:

> 'An observer knelt on a platform among the pin setting equipment at the end of the bowling alley behind the bowling pins and watched bowlers through binoculars as they finished their roll. The observer was 19.2 meters from the bowlers and observed through a narrow slit in the facade of the pin setting equipment.'[2]

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1. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, Vol. 37, Number 9, September, 1979, p. 1539
2. Ibid. p. 1546.

"The smiles of hockey fans were studied from photographs taken through a telephoto lens during a college hockey game.

"The pedestrian smiles were observed along several sidewalks in a small city in both good and bad weather.

"And what did it cost to observe people's smiling and unsmiling behavior? There is a controversy about that. The National Institute of Mental Health reported that only $1,325 was spent directly for salaries and expenses during the smiling study. However, that small figure does not include the cost of the equipment used in the study which was purchased under the grant for all aspects of the project on nonverbal cues. The taxpayers also paid for the video cassette tape recorder, two video cameras, two zoom camera lenses, two tripods, three nine inch television monitors, one camera handler and special effects generator, two microphones, 50 video cassettes and other miscellaneous supplies and equipment. Clearly the real cost to the taxpayer is at least several thousand dollars more than the $1,325 suggested to my staff by the Institute.

"In addition, it is interesting to note that this particular study of smiling is never specifically mentioned in the elaborate grant proposal approved by the National Institute of Mental Health. In response to my staff's questions as to where this particular study fit into the research that was approved, the Institute replied:

> 'The basic purpose of this grant was to study the accuracy of interpersonal perceptions and how deception is communicated and detected. The purpose of the study of smiling is to assess whether people smile as popularly assumed to indicate an underlying emotion such as joy or for some other social reason.'

"They also concluded that:

> 'The study provided strong evidence that social involvement rather than emotional state was the major cause of smiling.'

"While the rest of the project may well be of value, does the smiling study really go beyond Herman Melville's century old observation 'A smile is the chosen vehicle for all ambiguities?' Does it substantially add to the original contribution to knowledge made by Charles Darwin in The Expression of Emotions in Man and Animals which he published 108 years ago in 1872?

"While I have no objections to a study of smiling as such, involved here is a question of priorities. In this period of double digit, galloping inflation, should the hard pressed taxpayer be asked to pay for an academic version of Bowling for Dollars?

(MORE)

"It is my view that, like Darwin's, such studies might better be done under private auspices. I therefore smilingly award my Golden Fleece of the Month for March to the National Institute for Mental Health. I leave it to NIMH to determine whether my smile is a deception, an emotional state, or a sign of friendliness."

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. MONDAY, APRIL 21, 1980

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Monday awarded his April Golden Fleece of the Month to the United States Coast Guard for "wasting over half a million dollars on a microfiche conversion project which had to be cancelled when it took three years to complete only seven percent of the required work. Here is an expenditure of half a million dollars for which the taxpayer got absolutely nothing -- zilch, zero, zip."

Proxmire is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and is Chairman of the Subcommittee on Priorities and Economy in Government of the Joint Economic Committee. The Golden Fleece Award is given monthly to a federal agency for the biggest, most ridiculous or most ironic waste of the taxpayers money.

"The original idea was simple and straightforward," Proxmire said. "The 35,000 officer and enlisted personnel records of the Coast Guard were held in paper files which were bulky and difficult to use. It would be much better to have these records on microfiche.

"The Coast Guard bought the idea and estimated that it would cost $260,000 ($161,000 for equipment and supplies and $110,000 for personnel costs) and would require ten people for one year of work. This was in early 1976.

"A good idea seldom is left alone. Later in 1976 it was decided to add all the reservist's personnel records to the project--an additional 24,000 files or 70 percent more work. The Coast Guard concluded that the additional work could be completed within the same time frame and at the original cost.

"But as soon as the project actually got underway it became obvious that it was impossible to complete it on time or within the budget. So ... a new cost estimate of $500,000-$600,000 and 40 man years was developed--twice the price and four times the work.

"Now this caused some concern but the Coast Guard decided that it still saved space and the 'more easily managed record-keeping system and a possible small reduction of personnel' justified the additional work and expense. So the project went on.

"From late 1976 to late 1979 the Coast Guard toiled at the task of converting the files. Then finally someone said 'let's take a look at where we stand'. What they found was rather startling: After three years, the project was only seven percent complete! None of the 52,500 reserve or enlisted records had been touched. Only about one quarter of the work involved in converting the officers' records had been accomplished.

(OVER)

"A new estimate had to be made. It would now take two years more just to complete the officer records and perhaps four or five times as long to finish off the enlisted records, not to mention the reservists. Further it was found that the microfiche was of 'questionable quality and desirability.' There was virtually no savings of space for the officer records. The management team responsible for the enlisted and reserve records said they didn't want their records converted.

"So to give credit to the Coast Guard, at least in the end, the project was cancelled. But not until $375,000 had been spent for equipment and supplies and $150,000 on personnel for a total of $525,000. The seven percent of officer files transferred to microfiche will be returned to the old paper file system--at an undetermined cost.

"Some of the equipment, the Coast Guard states, will be used on another microfiche project currently underway at Coast Guard Headquarters. This other project, it is claimed, is 'not nearly so dynamic in nature.'

"In any event, the Coast Guard now concludes that 'in the future periodic reviews of modern state of the art personnel records maintenance systems will be carried out in search for a more acceptable and practical system for the future.

"Too bad this wasn't considered way back in 1976. $525,000 is a lot of money for nothing."

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

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5211
14 MAR 1980

Honorable William Proxmire
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Proxmire:

The following information is provided in response to your letter of January 31, 1980, concerning Coast Guard personnel records.

In early 1976, a decision was made to convert some 35,000 officer and enlisted personnel records from paper files to microfiche. The project was estimated to cost a total of $261,000, which included an equipment and supply cost of $151,000 and a personnel cost of $110,000 based on the need for ten people for one year to carry out the project.

Later in 1976, some 24,000 Reserve personnel records were added to the project. It was optimistically estimated that the effort of converting the 59,000 records could still be completed in one year with ten people.

Following commencement of the actual project in late 1976, it took only a short amount of hands on experience before it was realized that both equipment and personnel costs had been grossly underestimated. A new cost estimate showed that $500,000 to $600,000 in additional costs would be required for the project, including some 40 man-years. The project was continued, however, because of the perceived benefits of some savings in space, a more easily managed recordkeeping system, and a possible small reduction of personnel.

In late 1979, the division responsible for the conversion effort for the three-year period recommended that the project be cancelled and that those records converted to microfiche be returned to paper format. The project was actually less than seven percent complete. None of the 52,500 Reserve or enlisted records had been converted to microfiche. While half of the 6,500 officer records had been converted, the effort represented only some 25 percent of the total officer record volume because many of the records converted belonged to junior officers and were quite short.

NASA LMIT 55
It's a few we can live with.

Given space and personnel constraints, it was estimated that it would have taken at least two years to complete the officer part of the conversion effort alone, followed by a number of additional years to complete the much larger enlisted and Reserve portions of the project. Thus the reasons for the recommendation to cancel the project were that it was far behind schedule; the actual microfiche product was of very questionable quality and desirability; seeing the product, the management personnel responsible for enlisted and Reserve records expressed opposition to conversion of their records; the cost to complete the effort would far exceed estimates; the saving of space for an relatively few records would be minimal overall and virtually non-existent for officer records; and, the amount of time required of management in an overseeing role for the project had been excessive.

Costs expended on conversion efforts have been $375,000 for equipment and supplies and $150,000 for personnel, or some $525,000 total. However, there is another microfiche project at Coast Guard Headquarters, not nearly so dynamic in nature, which has been on-going for some time and uses exactly the same type of equipment. This project requires additional storage capability and camera equipment within the next year. Thus, the equipment associated with the personnel records conversion project very much continues to be required by the Coast Guard and, if it had to be purchased at today's prices, it would cost some one and a half times what it cost three years ago.

In summary, a genuine attempt was made to convert Coast Guard personnel records to microfiche format. However, the project was far from successful in the eyes of those responsible for the conversion effort and for a number of reasons, including the fact that the equipment is needed elsewhere, the effort has been terminated as recommended. In the future, periodic reviews of modern, state of the art personnel records maintenance systems will be carried out in search for a more acceptable and practical system for the future.

Sincerely,

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. TUESDAY, MAY 20, 1980 FOR PM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-WI) said Tuesday that "I am giving my Fleece of the Month Award for May to the new Department of Education for fattening its staff and beefing up its budget after promising that if it were created it would include no more people and would cost no more than previously devoted to education programs. The facts are that by September 30th, 1980, on a comparable basis, the Department will include 157 more people than a year ago and 1,121 more people than two years ago. Personnel compensation and other management costs will explode. Between fiscal year 1979 and 1980 Budget Authority for its programs will go up by $1 billion and outlays will rise by $2 billion.

"So much for the promises of no more costs and no more people."

Proxmire is the Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee and a member of the Congressional Joint Economic Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee and its subcommittee which has jurisdiction over the new Department of Education budget. The Fleece of the Month is given for the biggest, most ridiculous, or most ironic example of wasteful government spending for the period.

"Technically the Department will argue that it has kept its promise. But the public doesn't realize what the small print says or how the sleights of hand and legerdemain actually work. The Department has, in fact, outdone Dicken's artful dodger. Here's the long sad story.

"From the time the first bill to create the Department passed the Senate in September 1978 until the Department officially came into business on May 5, 1980, there were repeated promises of no new jobs and no new costs. For example:

-- The Senate report accompanying the original Senate bill in 1978 stated that 'Staff additions outside the executive positions newly authorized in the bill [16 permanent and 15 transitional] to carry out the administrative functions of the new Department are not anticipated.' [emphasis added].

-- In September 1978 the 86th amendment to the original Senate bill placed a staff ceiling on the Department allowing only a one percent leeway from then current staff estimates. There were 6,460 full and part-time employees at that time.

-- On April 5th, 1979, the Senate manager of the new Senate bill said the Department '...will not result in any new costs...The Office of Management and Budget estimates that 350 to 400 positions will be eliminated by the reorganization...'

-- In March of 1979, OMB Director McIntyre testified 'The Department will include no more people and will cost no more than is now devoted to education programs. In fact 350 to 450 positions will be eliminated, saving $35 to $39 million. Creation of the Department will require no new funds.'

-- On June 7, 1979 the House Manager said 'Far from adding to the Federal bureaucracy, the new Department will result in a smaller and simpler management structure' and repeated the 350 to 450 estimate of jobs to be eliminated.

Because of these pledges Congress wrote into the law a provision which stated:

> 'Not later than the end of the first fiscal year beginning after the effective date of this Act, the number of full-time equivalent personnel positions available for performing functions transferred to the Secretary or the Department by this Act shall be reduced by 500.'

"Therein lies the catch. The Department interprets this language to mean that the 500 reduction should be from the number on board on September, 30, 1980, estimated to be 7,581. This figure is 1,121 more persons than were on board on September 30, 1978 in the agencies which made up the new Department. Thus, even if the Department achieves its reduction of 500 by September 30, 1981, it will have 621 more people than when the original Senate bill and the early promises were made.

"After marching up the hill, the Department of Education will march only part way down. They will take two steps forward and one step back. Or as Rip Van Winkle, when he was trying to stay on the wagon, would say before taking a drink, 'We won't count this one.'

"The following table may help make this clear:

Table 1. Personnel at the Department of Education or Comparable Agencies at End of Fiscal Years

Date	Full Time Permanent	Other	Total
9/30/78	5,551	909	6,460
9/30/79	5,943	1,483	7,426
9/30/80 (est)	6,120	1,461	7,581
9/30/81 (est)	6,032	1,049	7,081

Source: Department of Education, May, 1980.

(Note that the big cuts are proposed for the temporary, not the permanent positions)

"In their official reply to questions raised in the Senate Appropriations Committee about these increases, the new Department of Education in May, 1980 attempted to blame the increase in full-time permanent employment from FY 1978 to FY 1979 on the Congress. The said it '...results from the fact that Congress approved a substantial increase in positions for the Office of Civil Rights to eliminate its case backlog.'

"What they failed to say was that the Administration itself made the request for 898 full-time permanent positions and that Congress cut that back and allowed a total increase of only 418.

"Further, in the FY 1981 budget justification of the new Department (p. 348) they state that 'At the beginning of fiscal year 1980, the backlog of (civil rights) complaints filed in these areas was largely eliminated, enabling the Office for Civil Rights to direct additional resources to the areas of compliance reviews and technical assistance, while maintaining a strong complaint investigation program.'

"What this means is that while the backlog was said to be eliminated the Department kept the people. Note also that the backlog was eliminated with less than half the people the Department asked for.

"But whether it was the fault of Congress or the Administration, the fact is that the bureaucracy now in the new Department of Education, like Topsy, just grew and grew and grew.

"With respect to the OMB promise that the Department "...will cost no more than is now devoted to education programs', OMB estimates that between fiscal years 1979 and 1981:

-- Personnel compensation will rise from $115 to $165 million, or by $50 million and 44%.

-- Contractual services, including travel, utilities, printing and supplies, go up from $342 to $518 million, or by $176 million or 51%.

-- The budget for capital assets rises from $634 million to $932 million, or by $298 million or 47%.

"In addition, the overall costs for the Department, including the cost of education programs, grows as well. While there are no comparable figures for fiscal year 1978, the latest official figures, including President Carter's revised budget estimates, for Budget Authority (BA) and Outlays (O) are as follows:

Fiscal Year	Budget Authority	Outlays
1979	$12.6 b.	$10.9
1980	13.6	12.9
1981	15.1	13.1
1982	16.2	15.3
1983	17.6	16.8

Source: Fiscal Year 1981 Budget Revisions, March 1980. Executive Office of the President. Office of Management and Budget. Pp. 67, 69.

"No matter how one slices it, even if the personnel cuts promised for fiscal year 1981 are carried out, the new Department of Education will have more people, spend more for overhead costs, and spend far more for education programs than when it was proposed.

"While excuses will be made, explanations trotted out, and the fine print brought to the fore, to prove that the promise that 'The Department will include no more people and will cost no more than is now devoted to education programs' has been kept. The hard truth is that the creation of the Department of Education is a saga showing how bureaucracy grows, costs increase, and promises are broken.

"For this display of bureaucratic razzle-dazzle the Department of Education wins the Golden Fleece of the Month Award for May."

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. MONDAY, JUNE 23, 1980 FOR P.M. Papers

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said Monday that "I am giving my Golden Fleece of the Month award for June to the Department of Commerce for spending $9,800 to hire a private public relations firm to review and evaluate the Department's public relations efforts. What did the public relations firm recommend? Surprise! More public relations with a potential price tag of tens of millions of dollars."

"If the recommendations are adopted we will see a burgeoning of public relations from the Department of Commerce which could rival the selling of the Pentagon and bring back the gray flannel suit."

Senator Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and a Member of the Senate Appropriations and Congressional Joint Economic Committees. The Fleece of the Month is given for the biggest, most ironic, or most ridiculous example of wasteful public spending for the period.

"Unhappy with the state of their public relations, on April 7, 1980 the Associate Deputy Secretary of the Department of Commerce requested a purchase order for a review and evaluation of the Department's Office of Public Affairs from an outside, Washington based public relations firm. The outside review was ordered even though the Department's roster includes 112 positions for public relations experts at a cost of $4.8 million. Twenty-one positions budgeted for $781,000 in FY 1981 are located in the Office of the Secretary of Commerce itself.

"According to the Department's Memorandum requesting the review:

> 'The Secretary of Commerce has placed a high priority on immediate improvement of the Department's public relations efforts.'

"Attachment B of the Memorandum,outlining the scope of the study, stated:

> 'We must demonstrate what is needed in Public Affairs to market, promote and certainly support the Department, beginning with Secretary Klutznick.'
>
> 'What should result is a demonstration of both servicing and creative communications to support the marketing of the Department.'

"The Department not only did not use any of its 112 specialists to review its public relations policies but let a sole-source contract to the outside firm. Although the names of more than 250 public relations counselors appear in the yellow pages of the Washington,D.C. phone book along with that of the firm selected, it was chosen without competitive bidding because it was 'uniquely qualified'. Among the reasons given for the firm being 'clearly more desirable' than other firms in the same general field were that it specialized in handling public relations and public policy issues for government agencies and has previous working knowledge of the Department of Commerce and its public relations needs....

"And what to the delight of the bureaucrats at Commerce did their uniquely qualified, hand picked consultants recommend?

"The Department of Commerce should '...take action to insure the designation of an Assistant Secretary of Public Affairs.'

"Why? The report states that:

> 'The public affairs program budgets of departments headed by assistant secretaries are generally more impressive as well as larger than those agencies headed by a director of public affairs.' (p.308).

"In its thoroughly detailed 324 page twenty-five Chapter report submitted May 21,1980 the public relations counselors also note that the Commerce Department has '...the opportunity to create a fresh, dynamic image of itself.'

"While it neither gives detailed budget amounts nor costs out its dozens of recommendations, the report looks with favor on the Office of Public Affairs at the Department of Agriculture and states that

> 'It is the closest thing to a "model" Public Affairs structural concept for Commerce to be found in any federal agency.'

"The report notes that the USDA '...has a staff of nearly 1,200 information specialists around the country and has had a budget for them of more than $40 million...'

"And what policies should the Department of Commerce follow to create the dynamic new image of itself? How should it speed the many-fold increase in funds it would take to emulate the public relations program at the Department of Agriculture?

"The report tells the Commerce Department clearly where its bread is buttered. The Office of Public Affairs should, it states, '...recognize the White House as a priority audience.'

"There are few limitations to the scope of the recommended public relations proposals. 'Public Affairs materials' it says, 'are needed to support the new outreach program around the world.'

"Here are some of the other key proposals. It recommends:

--that budgeting and staffing plans need to be assessed and upgraded;

--a news service for both print and broadcast media;

--a new public affairs manual;

--an audit to build up the field apparatus;

--the beefing up of work with state and local officials;

--greater relations with Capitol Hill press secretaries and administrative assistants;

--the liaisoning with 'influentials' in business and labor groups;

--reaching out to experts in academia;

--more radio and public service announcements;

--that new and exciting publications be designed;

--increased status for the Secretary's speechwriter;

--that additional speechwriting talent be hired in public affairs;

--that the Department revise and computerize all distribution lists;

--a regular monthly reporting system by all public information heads;

--a new information center like EPA's;

--more and better training for public affairs officers;

--that the Department assemble a panel of 'futurists' '...to perceive long range trends and possible discontinuities....'

--greater use be made of public opinion polls;

--emphasizing plans to support its outreach program not only nationally but internationally;

--that the Office of Public Affairs should be certain that it has warm personal contact with major representatives of the various media around the country ....It must also expand its efforts to work in close harmony with the more than 1,000 representatives of the foreign media in the United States.'

--that new public affairs officers be appointed to support the ten regional Secretarial Representatives.

"It may be too much to hope that in lieu of 'the marketing of the Department', 'distribution targets', 'news bridges', and 'media outreach', the Department of Commerce will emphasize its substantive programs instead of hiring an army of public relations flaks."

* * * * * * *

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 1980 FOR THURSDAY AMs

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) announced late Wednesday that, "Instead of a Fleece of the Month Award for July, I am giving an "Award of Merit" to the General Services Administration for getting the government a break on sky-rocketing air travel costs. Provided it's not grounded by the Civil Aeronautics Board, this experimental program will save $7 million in the first six months."

Proxmire is Chairman of the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, a member of the Committee on Appropriations, and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Priorities and Economy in Government of the Congressional Joint Economic Committee. There have been 64 Golden Fleece Awards since March, 1975, and nine Merit Awards.

"A Merit Award to the beleaguered GSA, which has historically been perhaps the most scandalized, least efficient and most politically humstrung agency in the federal government, may amaze and astound government watchers. It's a man bites dog--irony of ironies--situation that these fiscal grims dozens should get an award.

"But fair is fair and just is just. Believe it or not, GSA has put into effect a program to save the taxpayers money. For this long-overdue action, they get a precious Merit Award for July.

"And what did they do to deserve such accolades from the giver of the Golden Fleece? GSA has negotiated special discount airline rates for federal employees, far below those paid in the past or which would be paid if no GSA action had been taken.

"Starting July 1, federal employees traveling on official business will pay only 35 to 69 percent of standard fares on trips between Washington and eight other cities. Altogether there are 22 contracts for service on 22 routes.

"Based on the unassailable business principle that large volume should bring reduced rates, the discounts should save the government $7 million over a six-month trial period.

"I especially welcome this effort, for in April I complained that the federal government had spent nearly $3 billion in 1979 for travel by employees. It was outrageous of the federal government to spend an average of $1,500 per employee for travel. GSA's new ticket rates will help slightly. The big saving must come with an overall reduction in the amount of government travel. If this happens the GSA will have wrought a modern miracle.

"Providing there is space on board, federal officials, including uniformed military personnel, can now fly for feather-weight fares to Boston, Chicago, Denver, Dallas-Ft. Worth, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Salt Lake City, and San Antonio. A sample reduced fare is the one from Washington, D. C. to Salt Lake City. Standard

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fare is $251. The new rate for government employees is shot down to $147.41, a savings of 41.2 percent.

"The GSA contract is such a big bargain for the government that one major airline and a travel agents' organization have filed complaints with the CAB over fares on four of the 11 routes. They charged World Airways and Texas International Airways with offering 'predatory' prices for service to government employees between Washington and San Francisco, between Washington and Los Angeles, between Los Angeles and San Francisco, and between Salt Lake City and Denver.

"The CAB will decide whether the GSA can go ahead with contracts for service between those West Coast cities.

"The discounts are a welcome break for the federal government. Federal employees in the past were grounded when it came to qualifying for the special discount fares airlines offer other passengers. Restrictions such as prior purchase of tickets and length of stay have too often been incompatible with the average federal employee's work schedule.

"GSA has launched this discount plan as a trial balloon. If the plan flies it will become permanent. I salute GSA for their high performance."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1980 FOR PM PAPERS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) announced Tuesday that "I am awarding my Golden Fleece of the Month Award for September to the Department of Labor for funding a summer youth employment program in Tucson, Arizona in which 14 junior college track athletes were paid for twice-a-day training sessions, weekly trips to compete in races, and week-long journeys to Flagstaff, Arizona and Reno, Nevada to train, compete, and meet with other runners.

"The athletes' job supervisor, who also just happens to be their track coach, described the project as a 'personal growth' program designed to prepare participants for college. It can be said, without fear of contradiction, that these CETA funds gave the taxpayers a run for their money and that's about all."

Senator Proxmire is a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee which reviews the budget of the Department of Labor. The Golden Fleece Award is given to the biggest, most ridiculous or most ironic example of government spending or waste.

"The track coach-job supervisor not only justified paying athletes to be athletes but he explained to the Arizona Daily Star why he paid the athletes for full-time effort when they practiced only part of the day:

> 'I arbitrarily decided to pay them eight hours a day because of the hard work involved with running work-outs twice a day. I gave them free time whenever I could to explore. You know, it's a real eye opener to go to a city like Reno with all those lights and everything.'

"The 14 athletes were paid $3.10 per hour for 240 hours or $744 for eight weeks of work this summer. Thus the cost to the Federal taxpayers was over $10,000. CETA summer job program is supposed to provide work for some of the nation's poorest and unemployed youths. While it appears that a number of the junior college athletes may not have come from poor families, they became eligible for the CETA program by stating that they were independent of their families and not living at home. Four of the 14 athletes listed the coach's home as their address, while another five listed the home of the coach's part-time assistant in their application.

"The original statement of work provided to CETA officials never listed the running, racing, and Reno trip; but instead, discussed landscaping the school's cross-country course as the major project to be completed by the young athletes. According to the athletes' coach and job supervisor, the athletes did provide maintenance and landscaping for both the college's track and cross-country course; and he says that the young workers may have even put in more than 30 hours a week, which is the maximum for which they could receive pay from the Federal program.

"The local CETA sponsor, which was headed by the wife of the school's athletic director, conducted several reviews of the program but somehow failed to question or

(OVER)

find out about the activities and possible ineligibility of the student athletes. In fact, the head of the local CETA sponsor defended the program as valuable. She is quoted as saying: 'The point is / you're just trying to teach them things they can use in their personal lives.'

"After discovering some of the facts and events surrounding this particular project, Federal CETA officials have moved quickly to find out exactly how federal funds were spent and have assured me that they will attempt to recover any funds improperly spent.

"However, for failing to initially properly review and question this obvious misuse of federal funds, I am awarding my Golden Fleece Award for September to the Department of Labor."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 19, 1980 FOR PM PAPERS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said on Wednesday that:

"I am giving my Golden Fleece Award for November to the Department of Education's Institute of Museum Services for a $35,000 federal grant to a California zoo part of which was used to send two animal keepers half way across the country to attend a three day elephant workshop in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

"The star of 'Bedtime for Bonzo' will be moving into the White House in January. But does this mean the federal government -- which has just run a $60 billion deficit -- should be asked to take on those historically local and private activities?

"While this may not be the biggest example of government spending, it illustrates the point that government is now spending the taxpayer's money for almost everything, everywhere. It is one thing for the federal government to provide for the common defense, but it is quite another for it to pander to pachyderms."

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, a member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Priorities and Economy in Government of the Congressional Joint Economic Committee. The Fleece of the month is given for the biggest, most ridiculous, or most ironic example of wasteful spending for the period.

"This grant to the Santa Barbara Zoo is just one of the 301 general operating support grants totalling $8.5 million given out this year by the Institute of Museum Services to zoos and museums in every state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to spend virtually as the recipients see fit.

"The Director of the Institute of Museum Services said in a press release accompanying the announcement of these grants that they 'are the most valuable type a museum can receive because they are applied toward the basic services that museums provide - education, conservation, security, exhibitions, and outreach programs - while allowing local museums to establish their own priorities.' (OVER)

"In other words, what we have here is another example of the old, 'Put the money on the stump and run' approach to federal spending. The local officials were never required to say how the zoo would spend the money.

"Secretary of Education Hufstedler has said that 'IMS grants can mean the difference between success and failure - for instance, in preserving the irreplacable treasures in our nations museums or just helping the museums to keep the doors open.'

"However, as with so many of these 'Put the money on the stump and run' programs, the difference between the ideal set down by the Director and Secretary and the actual spending was as great as the difference between the scope and location of an elephant's trunk and tail.

"The money didn't go to feed the animals or to help keep the doors to the Santa Barbara Zoo open. Within a few short weeks after receiving this grant, the Santa Barbara Zoo spent $1,718.16 on sending zoo keepers to conferences. In addition to sending two animal keepers to the Elephant Workshop, the newly promoted senior animal keeper was sent at federal taxpayers expense, to the American Association of Zoo Keepers Conference in Montgomery, Alabama.

"Ironically, the people who should be funding a local zoo, the city and county government officials, used the cutback in thrir own funding as an excuse to ask the federal government to pick up part of the tab for running their zoo.

"For example, Santa Barbara's Mayor writing on behalf of the zoo's application argued that 'Due to cutback in city, county and state funding and the availability of local and community funds, the procurement of this grant is necessary in order to meet the rising costs to maintain the facility at its current level.'

"A local county supervisor also writing to the Institute of Museum Services said: 'The severe curtailment of funds at county and city levels has resulted in a loss of revenue to the zoological garden from local government.' [MORE]

"To all this I say that if a zoo is that important to a local community, that community should be willing to pay for it out of its own funds. Multiply this small example by the thousands of federal programs in thousands of communities across our nation and the public can begin to see why the federal government has grown so large and involved itself in so many areas of our lives.

"There is nothing wrong in maintaining and improving our nation's museums and zoos. There is a need to have museum and zoo personnel well trained and the animals and museum exhibits well cared for and maintained.[1] But should the federal taxpayers provide funds for lions and tigers and bears as well as elephant workshops? There could be federally funded trips to other workshops for each of the species in the Animal Kingdom.

"Clearly we have gone too far. It is time for Congress and the executive to stop these types of expenditures."

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[1] In a letter to me dated November 11, 1980, the Director of the Santa Barbara Zoo wrote in part:

"The $35,000 General Operations Support granted by IMS will be used as follows: 72% for Master Planning, 14% for the expansion of educational programs and 14% for professional staff development. The zoo has already put some of the IMS funds allocated to professional staff development to good use. As a result of a two-day elephant workshop hosted by the Tulsa Zoo and attended by over 40 elephant keepers from 15 states, new techniques for handling and caring for these endangered animals are being employed at the Santa Barbara Zoo. In addition, structural changes on the zoo's elephant barn are in progress to ensure greater safety for our elephant keeper staff.

"In addition, the zoo's Senior Animal Keeper was sent to the National Conference of the American Association of Zoo Keepers in Montgomery, Alabama. Nearly 100 keepers from 21 states attended to hear professional papers and exchange ideas with colleagues on the latest techniques in the captive management of exotic species. Our keeper presented a 1 1/2 hour seminar to the zoo staff upon his return, detailing all he had learned.

"The experience gave not only the Senior Keeper, but also the entire staff, new information, enthusiasm and perspective to apply to their work. We feel that this justifies the $1,718.75 spent for the conference and workshop."

The entire letter is available for examination in my office, 5241 Dirksen Senate Office Building.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1980 FOR TUESDAY PMS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said Tuesday that "I am giving my Golden Fleece Award for December to the Federal Highway Administration. They are spending $241,764 to produce a computerized system that gives local travel directions to people who can't or won't read maps. This complex system is no substitute for asking at the nearest gas station.

"While the system is intended to aid lost motorists and save gasoline, it helps those who need it least. In order to use it, you have to know where you are and where you're going. If you have that much information, you can use a map."

The Fleece of the Month is given to the biggest, most ridiculous or most ironic example of wasteful federal spending for the period. Proxmire is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee which has jurisdiction over Federal Highway Administration funding.

"The effect of this program is to substitute a very sophisticated, overly complex and expensive system for one that is simpler and already available--a map. This is not only paternalistic but also is an example of technological overkill at its worst.

"The system throws up many road blocks between the hapless, map-less and their ultimate destinations. To operate it, the user is presented with a list of 16 instructions, each with its own potential detours. The user: (1) contacts the computer by telephone (dialing the correct number); (2) punches in code numbers for both present and desired destinations (carefully checking the destination map); and; (3) adds other codes for such commands as 'yes', 'no', 'stop', and 'go'. The process takes several steps to complete and may require many more where instructions are complicated. Of course, each additional step increases the chance of making an error!

"Aside from complexity there are at least three other defects to this sytem which limit its usefulness.

"First, it doesn't help much with the hardest part of the trip - those confusing local roads close to your destination where most people go wrong.

(OVER)

Second, on the other hand, in order to make the system specific enough to be helpful, it would have to be very detailed and very costly. Imagine having to update it for every short-term detour or to provide exact instructions for complicated clover-leaves. If this sounds difficult for one city, imagine using it for all cities--and at what cost!

"Finally, the driver who won't or can't read a map is probably not likely to benefit from this system either. The chances are great that he will ignore it altogether or get confused because he can't talk back to the computer or get answers to his questions.

"While I appreciate the motives that would lead the Federal Highway Administration to spare us the frustration of being lost, I am sure the American taxpayers will be more frustrated by the loss of the $240,000 the study cost them."

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A copy of the Federal Highway Administration contract and supporting documents are available for review in Room 5241 Dirksen Office Building.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1980 FOR PM PAPERS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Wednesday announced from his office in Washington that he had received a check for $10,922.67 from his publisher for 1980 royalties on his book "The Fleecing of America", and that he was giving the full amount to the U.S. Treasury as an unrestricted gift, after he paid his state and federal income taxes on the royalties.

Proxmire sent a check to the State of Wisconsin for $1,892.27, to the Internal Revenue Service for $8,515.20 and to the U.S. Treasury, as an unrestricted gift, for $ 8,515.20.

Proxmire said, "This means that the full royalty check (after taxes) that I have received this year on my book "The Fleecing of America" will go to the government to begin to pay the government off for its defense of the libel suit brought against me by one of the recipients of funds that I characterized as a Golden Fleece.

"In addition to this expenditure, I have paid - out of my pocket - the $10,000 settlement in that suit. The $10,000 was the advance I had received for my book "The Fleecing of America."

"I am also turning over to the government - after paying taxes - the full amount I have received from a radio program I make monthly throughout 1980 featuring the Golden Fleece. In 1980 that was $900.

"Although I am under no obligation to repay any part of the government's expenses incurred in that suit. I am hopeful that I can repay as much as possible, and I intend to continue to repay whatever royalties I may receive in the future from this book or any other writing or broadcasting I may do in connection with the Golden Fleece."

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Summary of Fleeces - 1981

January - Office of Personnel Management and the Merit System Protection Board

For sending out duplicate surveys asking top federal employees how they like their jobs. ($126,789)

February - Presidential Inaugural Committee

While proclaiming that no public money was spent on the Inauguration, the Inaugural Committee commandeered 1,120 Marines, soldiers, sailors and other service personnel to act as chauffeurs and aides to 274 Inaugural VIP's as well as several hundred additional Inaugural celebrants. Estimated cost to taxpayer $1 8 million.

March - Office of the Architect of the Capitol

For developing plans to build up to six new House and Senate Office Buildings that would cost at least $500 million to construct.

April - Department of Housing and Urban Development

For letting slum landlords dump their low quality, sub-standard housing on the backs of the taxpayers to the tune of at least $200 billion in fiscal year 1982.

May - National Aeronautics and Space Administration

For a Tracking Data Relay and Satellite System (TDRSS). In a recent unreleased internal NASA Inspector General's report, excessive TDRSS costs of $500 million to $1 billion were cited.

June - Department of Commerce

For giving the City and County of Honolulu $28,600 to study how they can spend another $250,000 for a good surfing beach.

July - Department of the Army

For spending $6,000 to prepare a 17-page document that tells the federal government how to buy a bottle of Worcestershire sauce.

August - Treasury Department managers of the Social Security Trust Fund

September - Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administratio

For spending $200,000 to build an 800 foot limestone replica of the Great Wall of China in Bedford, Indiana.

October - National Science Foundation

For spending $144,012 to test commonly accepted, historically proven, fundamental economic principles of supply and demand -- on PIGS

November - Federal Highway Administration

For the worst record of civilian cost overruns in the Federal Government.

December - Department of Defense

For running a $13,000 six year program in which a bull was tested for possible biological effects resulting from a submarine communications device -- a study later found useless by Navy officials. Long subject to local rumors, the story of 'Sylvester the Bull' was recently confirmed in official Navy correspondence to me.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1981 FOR SUNDAY PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said late Saturday "For my January Golden Fleece of the Month, I am giving a joint award to the Office of Personnel Management and the Merit Systems Protection Board for sending out duplicate surveys asking top federal employees how they like their jobs.

"These two agencies spent $126,729 to send near-identical 'job attitude surveys' to 19,782 high-level federal employees. The surveys were mailed out within two days of each other in November. The thought of one agency spending taxpayer money to find out if public employees who earn an average of $41,000 a year like their jobs is bad enough. To have two agencies sending out surveys on that topic is utterly ridiculous.

"When you add in the time these highly paid employees are spending answering these surveys, the cost to the taxpayer becomes a whopping $450,000.

"This is the classic case of the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing. This only deserves the back of the hand from the taxpayers."

Proxmire is ranking minority member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and a member of the Banking and Joint Economic Committees. The Golden Fleece award is given monthly to the biggest, most ridiculous or most ironic example of government spending and waste.

"The Office of Personnel Management sent a 225 question survey to 13,282 employees. The Merit Systems Protection Board sent an 83-question survey to 5,000 employees in grades GS 13 to 15 and a similar 88-question survey to 1,500 members of the Senior Executive Service.

"Both surveys ask federal employees how they like their jobs and working conditions and how they feel about the merit pay system and the performance evaluation process. The Merit System Protection Board says it will use its survey to determine if any agencies aren't complying with merit pay rules. The Office of Personnel Management plans to conduct 'job attitude' surveys for at least four more years and officials of that agency are vague about exactly what the survey results will be used for.

"This is the second year the Office of Personnel Management has spent money on such a survey. One of the startling discoveries made in last year's survey was, in the words of one OPM executive, that 'those with higher pay are happier with their jobs.' We needed to spend money to learn that?

"Using the agencies own estimates, some 16,500 hours of taxpayer-funded time will be wasted as federal executives answer questions such as 'Doing my job well makes me feel good about myself as a person' and 'Do you feel that taxpayers are getting their money's worth from the contributions you are able to make in your current job?' That last question is one the people who dreamed up these surveys should ask themselves.

(OVER)

"The average hourly salary of the employees who received the surveys -- Grades GS 13 to 15 and members of the Senior Executive Service -- is $20. So while federal employees spend their work time responding to statements like 'I often think about quitting' and 'All in all I am satisfied with my pay', some $330,000 (20 x 16,500) worth of tax funds will go down the drain.

"The Office of Management and Budget must approve all agency surveys that go out to the public, to prevent citizens from being deluged with repetitive and time-consuming government questionnaires. The Office of Personnel Management and the Merit Systems Protection Board didn't have to get approval for their surveys because they went to federal employees. Perhaps it's time to demand that the Office of Management and Budget start monitoring surveys of federal employees to prevent such waste and duplication.

"The results of the surveys will be available in the spring. It will be interesting to see the answers to one question on the Office of Personnel Management survey. Employees were asked to agree or disagree with this statement - 'I feel that the results of this survey will not serve any useful purpose.' I think the average taxpayer knows the answer to that question already."

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NOTE:
Copies of the surveys are available for review in Room 6241 Dirksen Senate Office Building

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 8:30 A.M. FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1981 FOR PM PAPERS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said Friday "I am giving my Golden Fleece of the Month Award for March to the office of the Architect of the Capitol for developing plans to build up to six new House and Senate office buildings that would cost at least $500 million to construct. These plans, not yet made public, are at the Government Printing Office and will be unveiled in May or June.

"Unless we stop this proliferation of House and Senate office buildings, we'll end up with one office building for every member of Congress.

"Congress has already spent $450,000 to develop these plans, which are the third phase of a three-part 'master plan' for Capitol expansion. In addition to awarding a Golden Fleece for these extravagant plans, I have introduced a resolution to insure these plans, at least those for the Senate, never make it past the planning stage.

"It is vital that these plans be killed now, at the very beginning, before the money has been committed, construction has begun and it is too late to turn back. In the past the taxpayer has been stuck with unnecessary buildings because Congress failed to act in time.

"These plans - which include another new Senate office building, (actually two buildings connected by an overpass) at least five new House office buildings, an office building for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and an underground parking garage with space for 500 cars beneath the East Plaza of the U.S. Capitol - are based on the assumption that Congressional staffs will continue to grow. To stem the tide of Senate staff proliferation and future office building construction, I am introducing a resolution that would place a ceiling on the number of full-time Senate employees and prevent the construction of any new Senate office buildings."

Proxmire is ranking minority member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. In the past he has criticized the expansion and construction of the second and third Senate office buildings.

"Congress shares the blame for this Fleece for not reining in the Architect. The authorization and appropriation that led to the development of these plans was the 1976 Legislative Appropriations Bill. That legislation said nothing about plans for new House and Senate office buildings. While I voted against that appropriation, I am sure those who voted for it never dreamed it would spawn such a grandiose proposal.

"The fact that the Architect of the Capitol has even drawn up a map showing exactly where each of these proposed buildings would be located shows those plans aren't so tentative after all. The proposed office buildings would be scattered on sites

(OVER)

throughout Capitol Hill from Union Station to the railroad trestle southwest of the Rayburn House Office Building. It is clear the Architect intends to make Capitol Hill a monument to the Congress' unwillingness to check the growth of its own bureaucracy.

"The Architect based these plans on the assumption that Congressional staffs will continue to grow at a rate of one-half the historical rate of the last 20 years. And that bureaucracy has indeed grown and grown and grown.

"My resolution would place a ceiling on full-time Senate employment at 6,550 and a ceiling on those employees of the Architect of the Capitol, working either directly or indirectly on Senate operations, at 822, for a total ceiling of 7,372. The resolution would also prevent the initiation or implementation of plans, drawings, architect engineering, design work, site preparation or acquisition, or actual construction of a new Senate office building after the date of the adoption of the resolution.

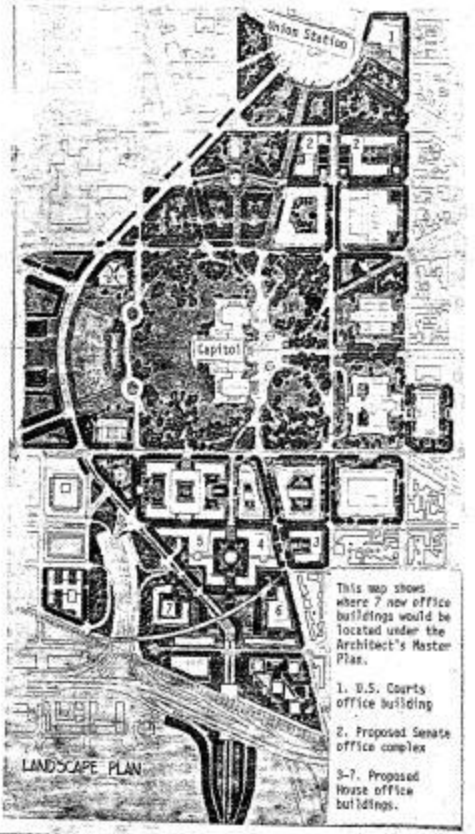
"This resolution takes into account the 10 percent reduction in committee staffs that the new Republican majority of the Senate made as soon as it came to power. The Republicans are to be commended for that action. We Democrats should have done the same thing a long time ago.

"The Architect of the Capitol estimates that up to 5,000,000 additional gross square feet of office space will be needed to accomodate the projected growth in staff. At the current rate of approximately $100 per square foot, the plan would cost taxpayers at least $500 million. We can expect the actual cost of this construction would be three to five times that estimate. Look what happened with the Philip A. Hart Senate Office Building - from an original estimate of $48 million, the cost of that building has mushroomed to more than $137 million.

"Due to the comity shown by one house for the other, my resolution does not affect the staff of the House of Representatives or those employed jointly by both houses. I'm preparing a further joint resolution to control the latter and I'm sure any number of House members are prepared to introduce their own resolutions to limit the growth of House staff and prevent the construction of additional House office buildings.

"In a time of severe budget restraint - when Medicaid and aid to the handicapped are being cut, when the Wisconsin dairy farmer must take a 1/3 cut in his income - it is disgraceful to even consider the construction of additional Senate and House office buildings. By putting a ceiling on Senate employment and saying 'no' to future Senate office building construction, we will be sending a signal to the American taxpayers that the Senate of the United States is not exempting itself from the tough economy measures that must be imposed in order to bring Federal spending under control."

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Union Station
Capitol
LANDSCAPE PLAN
This map shows where 7 new office buildings would be located under the Architect's Master Plan.
1. U.S. Courts office building
2. Proposed Senate office complex
3-7. Proposed House office buildings.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1981 FOR P.M. PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said Wed. that I am giving my Fleece of the Month Award for April to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for letting slum landlords dump their low quality, sub-standard housing on the backs of the taxpayers to the tune of at least $200 million in fiscal year 1982.

"Next year HUD will spend hundreds of millions of dollars to subsidize landlords to house low and moderate income families in low grade, sub-par, privately owned existing housing under a program called Section 8.

"Under HUD's standards and regulations, promulgated under the Carter Administration and continuing now, existing housing can pass inspection and qualify for HUD's low and moderate Section 8 existing housing subsidies if:

--there are holes in the walls and ceilings provided they are no larger than 8½" by 11";

--holes in the floor are no larger than 1";

--the walls are unpainted or only spot painted;

--floors are unfinished; if finished flooring, it can be half ripped up;

--there are no down spouts or gutters;

--there are no storm doors and storm windows or no screens;

--bedrooms have no doors or closets (even if occupied by adults with children in the next bedroom;

--kitchen cupboards are without doors or hardware (merely shelves will pass);

--tenants must pass through a bathroom to get to a bedroom or pass through a bedroom to get to a bedroom.

"The housing standards for the program are so low that the practical effect is that the tenant gets a run-down, sub-par dwelling; the landlord gets a guaranteed market and an assured return on his investment; and the taxpayer gets the bill.

"This amounts to a raw deal for the tenant, a good deal for the landlord, and a bad deal for the taxpayer. It is one more reason why the Department deserves to be known as DUD rather than HUD.

Proxmire is the Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and a Member and former Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. The Fleece of the Month is given for the biggest, most ridiculous, or most ironic example of wasteful public spending for the month.

"HUD's standards are mandatory and take precedence over higher local housing code standards unless the local housing authority gets a waiver, both time consuming and involving considerable paper work, from the HUD Area Office.

"Normally HUD requires higher standards than the localities impose in order to upgrade the housing stock. Here we have the reverse. The federal government steps in to weaken local standards.

"HUD's justification for these low standards, which they acknowledged in detail to my staff, is that higher standards would 'unduly restrict the housing supply to low and moderate income tenants.' The conditions listed above are not ones which must be rectified in a few weeks or months. They are conditions acceptable to HUD and are passing standards.

"In fiscal year 1982 HUD proposes to spend $392.7 million for additional subsidies to house low and moderate income families in privately owned housing under the program (Section 8).

"To add insult to injury not only did HUD promulgate these ridiculous and slum promoting standards but in true traditional bureaucratic fashion HUD has now spent an additional $154,651 to prepare a 133 page Housing Inspection Manual, a 20 page detailed Inspection Form which the localities are required to use, and numerous audio-visual training films to help put the low standards into effect.

"In addition fifty to sixty mandatory training sessions for the Section 8 Existing Housing Program Administrators are taking place in virtually all parts of the country. Each of the several day-long sessions trais about 30 administrators at a cost to the localities of $250 each.

"Why should HUD use the taxpayer's money to subsidize slum lords to house low and moderate income families in sub-standard, slum housing?

"The 1949 Housing Act called upon the country to provide a decent home in a suitable living environment for every American family.

"These HUD regulations not only violate that promise but endanger the health and safety of hundreds of thousands of Americans housed under this low and moderate income HUD program.

"The Reagan Administration has called upon the government to get rid of unnecessary rules and regulations. These HUD standards are a good place to begin."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. SUNDAY, MAY 10, 1981 FOR MONDAY AMS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Sunday gave his Golden Fleece award for May to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for a Tracking Data Relay and Satellite System (TDRSS) which Proxmire characterized as "over-priced, over-weight, over-sold and over-due."

In a statement from his Washington office, the Wisconsin Senator, who each month awards a Golden Fleece to the biggest, most ridiculous or ironic example of wasteful Federal spending, said: "In a recent unreleased internal NASA Inspector General's report, excessive TDRSS costs of $500 million to $1 billion were cited. The report said the 10 year lease costs of the system had risen by 150 percent, from an original estimate of $841.8 million to $2.156 billion.

"Part of the overrun results from the Space Shuttle program. Lost in the publicity landslide surrounding the Shuttle was the unpleasant and unreported fact that delays in the Shuttle have postponed the launch date of the TRDSS satellites. This will cost the taxpayers $1 million a day.

"It's ironic that while the news media and the public were overwhelmed by the Shuttle extravaganza, the taxpayers were the ones being taken for a ride.

"The Inspector General's report makes it clear that the effort to create a space-based equivalent of our current ground-based space tracking network was mishandled from the very start, when NASA decided to lease the system over ten years rather than buy it because of a lack of appropriations.

"Since it would have been difficult to get the Congress to foot the bill for developing this expensive satellite, NASA decided to 'charge it.' This mistake alone will cost $689 million in interest payments, an increase of 220 percent over initial interest estimates.

"When it became clear that no contractor would assume full financial responsibility for developing, delivering, operating and maintaining such a system, NASA decided in June of 1976 to shift the financing responsibility from the contractor to the Federal government, namely the Federal Financing Bank (FFB). NASA will repay the principal and interest on this guaranteed loan over a period of ten years. The contractor risks nothing and in effect gets an interest subsidy, since funds are made available at close to the Federal borrowing rate.

"Furthermore NASA is borrowing money from the contractor to pay for

(OVER)

launch vehicle costs. In the words of the Inspector General's report: 'The Government, through the FFB is loaning the contractor money which the contractor in turn loans to NASA which NASA must repay to the FFB with interest. The net effect of this transaction is that the Government is borrowing from itself and only adds to the contract cost.' This increases the interest costs associated with the program by $92 million.

"In justifying the TDRSS program NASA claimed that the technology was readily available to provide the service. However, within 90 days after the contract was negotiated a serious satellite weight problem developed which made the satellite exceed the capabilities of the planned launch vehicle, an Atlas Centaur. As a result the system will have to be launched on the Space Shuttle. This change in launch vehicle, together with certain development difficulties, such as a radio frequency interference problem that cost $75 million plus interest to fix, has resulted in a schedule delay of over three years.

"Because the first TDRSS satellite cannot be launched until the Shuttle is ready to take it aloft, costs continue to soar. Just a few weeks ago, launch was supposed to take place in September of 1982. However this first launch date (with three more to follow) has apparently been postponed until January of 1983. The delay will cost the taxpayer almost $1 million a day -- a total of at least $100 million.

"The TDRSS system was estimated to cost $50 to $55 million a year to lease back in 1975. Now it is estimated that the Federal taxpayer will have to pay at least $200 million a year to lease a system that was built with Federally made and guaranteed loans."

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A copy of the Inspector General's report is available for review in Room 1245 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1981 (FOR FRIDAY A.M. PAPERS)

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) announced late Thursday "I am presenting my Golden Fleece of the Month Award for June to the Department of Commerce for giving the City and County of Honolulu $28,600 to study how they can spend another $250,000 for a good surfing beach."

"Spending federal money so you can figure out how to spend more money is bad enough. What's worse is the fact that the City and County of Honolulu plan to spend the $28,600 to hire an outside consultant to find a good surfing beach. Keep in mind, Hawaii is packed with expert surfers--most of whom already know the good surfing spots like the back of their surfboards, and some of whom already work for the City and County of Honolulu and could do the job for free.

"The federal bureaucrats should have waved goodbye to this request. Instead, Honolulu got a good buy to study a wave."

Proxmire, who is ranking minority member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, gives his Golden Fleece Award each month to the biggest, most ridiculous or most ironic example of wasteful federal spending.

"Spending tax dollars to study where the surf's up is certainly not on most people's lists of national priorities," Proxmire said. "Honolulu City and County Councilman Rudy Pacarro put it best when he said of this $28,600 handout to the local government: 'I know the money is free, but it's taxpayers' money. In Parks and Recreation we have some people who have been surfing all their lives. And we're gonna pay a guy $28,600 to tell us where to put the damn place? That's a lot of horse manure.'

"Unfortunately, Councilman Pacarro's perceptive words failed to override the attractiveness of a free federal grant.

"The story of this wasteful spending begins with the Hawaiian Electric Company, which paid $250,000 to the City and County of Honolulu to settle a lawsuit over the disruption of a surfing beach.

"Two surfers, angered that Hawaiian Electric's expansion of a power plant ruined the nearby surfing, filed the lawsuit because the Army Corps of Engineers failed to require a federal environmental impact statement for the expansion.

"The power company agreed to compensate the City and County by providing the $250,000 to improve other surfing areas on the west coast of Oahu.

"Realizing that in a state full of surfers the last thing Honolulu needed was a paid surfing adviser, the lawsuit's settlement ordered that none of the $250,000 be spent for surfing study teams or consultants.

(OVER)

"But the lure of a federal handout proved too strong for City and County officials. Honolulu turned to Uncle Sam.

"The City and County applied to the Department of Commerce's Office of Coastal Zone Management to pay for a planning study under a program with the fancy title of 'Mitigation of Environmental and Recreational Impact of Coastal Energy Activities.'

"In Fiscal Year 1980, the federal bureaucrats approved the $28,600 to conduct a study to tell Honolulu how to spend $250,000 for a good surfing beach.

"In order to justify spending $28,600, a series of the usual bureaucratic 'tasks' were planned. These included setting up a number of public meetings for interested and affected people including officials, as well as conducting surveys and studies of the economic and physical characteristics of the various surfing sites.

"Are all these meetings, surveys and studies necessary? Of course not! If ever there were a project that should totally involve local money, effort and control, this one is it. Should the hard-pressed federal taxpayers really pay for a study of how to spend money searching for the perfect wave?"

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*Local Government for the entire Island of Oahu is under the jurisdiction of the City and County of Honolulu.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1981 FOR PM PAPERS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) announced Friday that, "I am giving my Golden Fleece of the Month Award for July to the United States Army, which spent $6,000 to prepare a 17-page document that tells the federal government how to buy a bottle of Worcestershire sauce.

"That's right: 17-eye-glazing pages of single-spaced type on how to buy a 15-ounce bottle of Worcestershire sauce that retails for about $1.50. What's more, in order for our hapless buyer or seller to use those 17 pages of federal specifications, he must refer to another 2,270 pages of government and commercial regulations and references.

"I can see having complex federal specifications if the military is buying a weapons system. But Worcestershire sauce? That 17-page specification and the 2,270-page backup is nothing more than a recipe for stuffed paperwork souffle that left the taxpayer with an indigestible $6,000 check. Even a dollar spent on writing and using this document is a dollar too much."

Proxmire, who is ranking minority member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, gives his Golden Fleece Award each month to the biggest, most ridiculous or most ironic example of wasteful federal spending.

"The 'Federal Specification: Worcestershire Sauce', which the Department of Defense estimates cost $6,000 in 1981 dollars to draft, was prepared for all agencies by the Army's Natick Research and Development Laboratories in Natick, Massachusetts.* It should have been entitled 'Everything You Wanted to Know About Worcestershire Sauce; But Would Never Bother To Ask.'

"Chemical analyses in the specifications are spelled out for every last molecule in the Worcestershire sauce -- from the pH for the tamarind to the salt content of the anchovy paste.

"Only the federal government could devote a full-time paragraph to ... someone how to check if the bottle cap to the Worcestershire sauce is screwed on tightly.

"The federal specifications also are written in a language that would make a bureaucrat's mouth water.

"For example, I can't imagine a supermarket shopper wanting to check whether the label is stuck tightly onto the Worcestershire sauce bottle. But if he did, he'd probably just pick at the label to make sure it didn't come off.

(over)

That's too simple for the Army, which apparently considers these labels or Nomenclature more detailed material to the optional. Reference, Paragraph 4.2.1.3 of Federal Specification ZZ-P-715B (for Nomenclature Plates, which, incidentally, supersedes Fed. Spec. ZZ-P-715 (GSA) April 10, 1957 and ZZ-P-715(NAVY) (Navy-SA) December 18, 1956) says it on the line:

> Federal-regulatory specification for label adhesive (to manufacturer specified specification). The label adhesive shall be modified for metal substrates as follows: Package C.(as supplied, dry) label affixed, cure room temperature aged for four hours. Remove from metal and remove excess label by flotation with paper towel. Reuse finger firmly against the label in area where the adhesive has been applied and move finger across applied against the label, forward and backward of the bicycle. Displacement of the label indicates failure to meet this requirement.

The Nomenclature plate specifications represent the tip of the iceberg of a chronic problem the Federal government has with needlessly complicated food specifications. In 1972, the Commission on Government Procurement found Federal food specifications some of the most difficult to use or understand. The specifications, it turns out, have often limited competition for Federal contracts because only the largest of companies could plow through them.

"Indeed, the government now is trying to wade through all this excess paperwork. The Agriculture Department, which has been assigned the responsibility of cutting the food specifications down to size, established in FY-1980 a Food Quality Assurance Program with a $1.3-million-a-year budget to tackle the problem.

"Unfortunately [illegible] food quality workers [illegible] may deny to go after the budget cuts have been passing over 100 federal specification documents. So far, 28 of the specification documents have been reduced to more reasonable and realistic lengths.

"The federal specifications for Nomenclature plates are used when a federal agency [illegible] or size of the product. For that reason, the [illegible] the government's largest food buyer, has [illegible] specifications also than any other federal agency. While currently [illegible] Defense Department is [illegible] with [illegible] a standard of any Nomenclature plate. The Army's [illegible] Army's engagement to determine if other agencies [illegible] Nomenclature plates.

"[illegible] efforts in the battle of the Nomenclature plate of [illegible].

"In all [illegible], federal specifications need to be [illegible] [illegible] specifications for. But as the Nomenclature plate example [illegible] to be replaced with a reappraisal of [illegible]."

[illegible] Office Building.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 1981 FOR MONDAY AMS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said Sunday that "I am giving my Golden Fleece of the Month Award for August to the Treasury Department managers of the Social Security Trust Funds whose investment policies needlessly lost $2 billion in earnings to the Trust Funds last year. This is not only a Golden Fleece but a fiscal fiasco.

"While private money market managers, (investing exclusively in safe government or government backed securities) earned 13% interest on their investments in 1980 the Treasury managers, (investing exclusively in safe government or government backed securities) earned only 8.5% interest. While giving the appearance of safety, the result was a sorry return."

Sen. Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee and a member and former Chairman of both the Senate Banking Committee and the Congressional Joint Economic Committee. The Fleece of the Month Award is given for the biggest, most ironic, or most ridiculous example of the waste or loss of taxpayers money for the period.

"The just released report of the Trustees of the Social Security Trust Funds indicates that the three Social Security Funds (Old Age and Survivors Insurance, Disability Insurance, and Hospital Insurance) earned only 8.3% interest on their $47 billion portfolio in fiscal year 1980. The difference between that figure and what competent money market funds invested entirely in safe government securities earned in 1980 (13.5%) cost the Social Security beneficiaries $2 billion.

"This was not an accident. It was done by design. It happened at a time when the Trustees told the world that either benefits had to be cut or Social Security taxes raised. There are three reasons for this bureaucratic bungle.

"First, there is a massive built in conflict of interest on the part of the Trustees and the Treasury Department managers who have given priority to the interests of the Treasury against the interests of the Social Security Trust Funds.

"There are three Trustees of the Funds. They are the Secretaries of the Treasury, of Labor, and of Health and Human Services. The Funds are managed by the Treasury.

"But the managers and the Secretary of the Treasury--every Secretary of the Treasury going back to 1935--have subjugated the interests of the

(OVER)

Trust Funds to the interests of the Treasury. Instead of investing to get the MAXIMUM return commensurate with safety, they have invested the Funds in low interest bearing Treasury issues in order to MINIMIZE the interest on the national debt. The Trust Funds have thus been used to subsidize the general revenues of the government.

"If the Trust Department of your local bank told you they had invested your small family inheritance in order to further the interests of the bank rather than your interests you would fire them and sue them for misfeasance, malfeasance, and perhaps even fraud. But that's precisely what the Treasury managers of the Social Security Trust Funds have done.

"Second, in carrying out this policy the Treasury Managers invested over 90% of the $47 billion in Treasury Department "special issues". By law these issues carry an interest rate based on the weighted average of all the issues making up the national debt which are four years old or older. As long term issues carried a 4½% ceiling until recent years and as interest rates have skyrocketed in the last few years, this calculation brings an artificially low interest rate for 92% of the investments of the Social Security Trust Funds.

"One can look in vain in the Funds' portfolios for any government agency security carrying yields of 14 to 17 percent. By law these securities, whose principle and interest are guaranteed by the government, are eligible for Trust Fund purchase. The Trustees have deliberately eschewed purchasing any of these high yielding securities even though they are both legal and completely safe.

"Third, in reply to inquiries from my office as to why the managers do not move in and out of the market in order to achieve the maximum return as any good money market manager or insurance portfolio manager would do, we were told the Funds' managers do not have the technological equipment and sophistication to do so.

"To rectify this sad situation I have introduced a bill (S.1528) entitled the Social Security Trust Fund Investment Reform Act of 1981. It has 15 bi-partisan Senate sponsors.

"The bill adds four new members to the Board of Trustees of the Funds; one representing the employers who contribute to the Funds, one representing employees who contribute, one representing the beneficiaries, and a fourth highly competent expert in the management of investment funds.

"The bill charges all seven of the Trustees with the responsibility to maximize the return on the Funds commensurate with safety.

(MORE)

"The bill also repeals the 'less than four year' provision for calculating the interest on 'special issues' and requires that, if used, they carry an interest rate which is the average of all the Treasury and Agency securities available for purchase by the Funds.

"Finally, the bill directs the managers to purchase enough new equipment and to hire experts in order to manage the Funds effectively and efficiently.

"For putting their agency's bureaucratic interests ahead of the interests of the millions of American employers and employees who contribute to the Social Security Trust Funds, the Fleece of the Month for August goes to the Treasury Department managers of the Funds."

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O FICE OF
SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE
WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1981 FOR FRIDAY AMS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said late Thursday, "I am giving my Golden Fleece of the Month Award for September to the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration for spending $200,000 to build an 800 foot limestone replica of the Great Wall of China in Bedford, Indiana as a follow up to its $500,000 grant to that Hoosier community for the building of a ten story high limestone model of the Great Pyramid of Egypt."

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee and a member and former chairman of both the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and the Congressional Joint Economic Committee. The Fleece of the Month Award is given to the biggest, most ironic or most ridiculous example of waste or loss of taxpayers money for the period.

"While there are sharp budget cuts being made in social programs from medical care to education of the disadvantaged, the EDA adds money for these make work memorials to the limestone industry. How can the EDA justify such an ironic and outrageous expenditure of public funds? How can there be a renewed commitment to the private sector if the taxpayers are required to support the building of this local tourist attraction?

"This project, initiated under the Carter Administration, has now been expanded by the Reagan Administration.

"In November, 1978 the Bedford Chamber of Commerce through its non-profit Bedford Industrial Development Foundation proposed a public works project to the Economic Development Administration which was approved in March 1979.

"The proposals summary read as follows:

> 'This project consists of the construction of a Limestone Tourist and Demonstration Center. It would include a museum constructed in the shape of the Great Pyramid of Cheops in Egypt and scaled to one-fifth size of this pyramid. There will also be a camping area constructed, utilities, roads and other needed items.
>
> 'The purpose of this project is to attract more tourists to this area and demonstrate the value of using limestone in the building industry. All of this would lead to more jobs for the unemployed residing in the area.'

"The limestone quarries in the area have tons and tons of commercially useless limestone which they donated to the project. The pyramid-building

(OVER)

workers came from several different job training programs in the area and therefore the labor costs to the project were reduced considerably.

"The major portion of the money from the Economic Development Administration went for equipment, hardware, and plumbing and electrical facilities.

"By January 1981 only the base of the pyramid had been laid, work was seriously behind schedule and costs were rising. Therefore, the Bedford Industrial Development Foundation again turned to EDA for help. In addition to asking for more money ($125,000), and time (18 months), the Foundation added an ingenious method for spending more taxpayers money by using the scrap materials remaining after the pyramid blocks were shaped.

"The Foundation's proposal suggested the following:

> 'Inasmuch as this entire Venture is being designed to memorialize mankind's use of stone throughout the centuries, we wish to construct a replica of an 800 ft. section of the Great Wall of China. The terraine (sic) in the northwest section of our property is ideally suited for the design of the towers and rolling wall, similar to the structure near Peking.'

"The Reagan Administration, perhaps not wanting to be outdone by the previous Administration's attempts to reproduce a man made wonder of the ancient world, in March of this year approved spending $200,000 more for the pyramiding costs and the construction of a small piece of the Great Wall of China in southern Indiana. The project was also extended for an additional 18 months.

"Certainly some people will be attracted to Bedford, Indiana to visit the Pyramid and Wall and Bedford may yet become known as the ancient wonder limestone replication capitol of America. Also a few people will get jobs selling miniature versions of the Great Wall of China and the Great Pyramid of Egypt.

"I have absolutely no objection to the Bedford community and the limestone industry building these structures with private money. Since private interests in Arizona were able to move the entire London Bridge to the United States without federal funds, shouldn't private funds be used to build pyramids and Great Walls in Indiana?

"Perhaps the EDA will next pay for a scale model of the Eiffel Tower made out of steel to be placed in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. As the Administration draws up its lists of additional budget cuts, it should start with the Great Wall of China public works boondoggle."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 PM TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1981 FOR WEDNESDAY AMs

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) announced Tuesday that "I am giving my Golden Fleece of the Month Award for October to the National Science Foundation for spending $140,012 to test commonly accepted, historically proven, fundamental economic principles of supply and demand -- ON PIGEONS.

"The researchers coo while the taxpayers get billed. Speaking as Senator Bill Proxmire, This is one 'BILL' who won't coo.

"While it may be said that our current economy is going to the dogs, the NSF apparently felt it had to go to the pigeons and rats to prove it. This is one project that should be pigeonholed pronto."

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee and a member and former chairman of both the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and the Congressional Joint Economic Committee. The Fleece of the Month Award is given to the biggest, most ironic or most ridiculous example of waste or loss of taxpayers money for the period.

"Ordinarily, experimental animal tests are performed as a preliminary to find out if principles or procedures can be applied to man. In this case proven principles already applied to man were tested on animals.

"Technically, the methodologies and mechanics appear to be correct and without fault. The problem was that the National Science Foundation and its researchers were so enchanted with the means and methods, that they failed to comprehend the ends. One can paraphrase what George Santayana said about fantacism namely that it means '. . .redoubling one's efforts after having lost sight of one's aims.'

"The research was expertly performed by highly professional economists and psychologists. The results of their experiments were reported in leading economic journals.

"One set of experiments tested the principle of the substitution of cheaper for more expensive goods. The price of food and other goods to the pigeons was raised by either making the birds peck more times on a key in order to receive the same amount of food or reducing the amount of food per peck. Changes in the relative price of these goods resulted in the birds substituting the lower priced good just as humans would buy fewer apples when their price rose.

"The problem is that these relationships have been tested and retested thousands of times in human economics.

"If the past is any test of the future, the National Science Foundation will now find additional research in this area to study animal consumers and workers throughout the animal kingdom -- from amoebas to elephants.

"In these experiments with pigeons, the scientific approach was stood on its head. More than two hundred years after Adam Smith described the behavior of humans in the market place the National Science Foundation studied whether economic animal could be made to behave in the same way as economic man.

"Another outcome of the research was a paper on the supply of pigeon labor under certain laboratory conditions. According to the paper, the experiments showed that: 'Non-human workers (pigeons) are willing to trade-off income for leisure if the price is right.'

"It is highly questionable whether these animal experiments can really give us any insight into the much more complex and serious problems of a modern society. For example, if it is found that pigeons choose leisure rather than additional work, will the pigeons turn to recreational activities such as tennis or jogging? And what will that imply in turn for the use of resources in the pigeon economy or the price of pigeon recreation companies on their stock exchange?

"In 1978, as part of the justification for funding this project the National Science Foundation stated the following: 'Preliminary results from experiments using pigeons and rats as subjects on consumer demand and labor supply decisions are encouraging. These results suggest that animal "consumers" and "workers" are governed by the same basic behavioral laws as humans. Animals consistently substitute cheaper for more expensive goods or leisure for work as their environment changes. If further experimentation by the investigators confirms these results, then animal experiments will have been shown to be a viable means of testing some basic economic models. Also, these experimental results will provide empirical evidence of the validity of these models.'

"It is ironic that while there are major economic questions which need to be studied, the National Science Foundation chose to fund animal studies concerning well-established economic principles regarding human economic behavior. They tend to re-invent the wheel. Clearly, the NSF has its economic priorities upside down."

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1981 FOR TUESDAY PMS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Tuesday gave his 'Golden Fleece' of the month for November to the "Federal Highway Administration for the worst record of civilian cost overruns in the Federal Government. Mismanagement, delays, and confusion in the construction of our Interstate highway system have caused a 267 percent, $100 billion cost overrun that dwarfs any other civil project. While it is said that the road to hell is paved with good intentions, no one expected this to apply to the US highway program."

Proxmire is Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and is a member of the Joint Economic and Senate Banking Committees. Each month he awards a 'Golden Fleece' for the biggest, most ridiculous or ironic example of wasteful federal spending.

"When it comes to civilian cost overruns, the Interstate Highway System under the Federal Highway Administration stands at the top of the list--the undisputed champion of mismanagement and waste. Every other civilian project pales by comparison.

"Even the numbers involved are so staggering that they numb the mind. When Congress first approved the estimates for the Interstate Highway System in 1956, the firm, hard figures showed a cost of $37.6 billion. Now that same program stands at $137.9 billion, an increase of $100.3 billion.

"The cost growth in the highway program is as big as the entire defense budget in 1977 or as large as the combined 1982 budgets for the Departments of Agriculture, Education, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice, State, and Transportation.

"The blame for this mammoth cost overrun cannot be placed solely at the doorstep of inflation. Of the current $100.3 billion overrun, $55.9 billion represents inflation. Taking inflation out entirely still leaves an unbelievable 'real' overrun of $44.4 billion or more than the project was supposed to cost in the first place.

"Funding for the Interstate Highway System continues to the present day so the end of cost overruns is not yet in sight. On October 3, 1981, the Senate passed a Transportation Appropriations Bill which contained about $3.2 billion in funding for the system. (note: Proxmire opposed the bill which passed by a vote of 77-15) From $35 billion to $53 billion remains to be spent on the Interstate system.

[OVER]

"Perhaps the worst example of spending in the highway program is the 'Westway' in New York City. The final cost of this four mile long road will reach an incredible $1 billion per mile making it inch for inch the most expensive highway every built by mankind any time, anywhere.

"Taxpayers will pay for 90 percent of 'Westway' including the actual construction of a tunnel along and in the Hudson River bed, creation of 234 acres of development real estate, and upgrading of a parallel 6-8 lane highway next to 'Westway'.

"The Glenwood Canyon Project in Colorado is another example of an outrageous throw-away. It has been exempted from the new cost reduction program (as has Westway). This 12.6 mile four lane highway is currently estimated to cost $300 million but more likely will run to over $600 million during the eight year construction period.

"Every year the Comptroller General of the United States makes a detailed listing of all major federal acquisitions. The most recent list includes 1,040 projects.

"The total cost growth in these 1,040 projects is $325.8 billion! Thus the Federal Highway Administration, by itself, accounts for over 30 percent of the total federal overruns. The only challenger to the Federal Highway Administration is the United States Navy with a cost growth of $104.2 billion but this includes 96 different Navy programs."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1981 FOR TUESDAY PMS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said Tuesday that "I am giving my Golden Fleece of the month Award for December to the U.S. Department of Defense for running a $13,000 six year program in which a bull was tested for possible biological effects resulting from a submarine communications device -- a study later found useless by Navy officials. Long subject to local rumors, the story of 'Sylvester the Bull' was recently confirmed in official Navy correspondence to me."

The Golden Fleece is given each month for the most ironic, ridiculous or wasteful example of federal spending. While the award given this month is not as large as the $100 billion Interstate Highway System cost overrun which won the award in November, the wasted $13,000 represents about the average annual income of a typical Wisconsin family. The ELF system is composed of 28 miles of above ground cables which transmit waves into the atmosphere and down into the water to waiting submarines. Wisconsin was selected along with Michigan for ELF because of the underlying rock formation used to help transmit the waves.

"The 'bull' program began because William Clements, Deputy Secretary of Defense, and now Governor of Texas, mistakenly told a congressional committee chairman in 1974 that a bull was being used to determine if the Extremely Low Frequency (ELF) system, then called 'Sanguine', produced environmental conditions that could harm people, or animals" Proxmire said.

"The Department spent $13,000 to purchase and keep a Hereford bull, nicknamed Sylvester, in order to make good the statement by Secretary Clements that the ELF facility at Clam Lake, Wisconsin, had been tested on cattle. The Navy kept the charade going for six years until Sylvester was needlessly killed in 1980. Here is the full story as confirmed by Navy documents:

"Deputy Secretary of Defense William Clements, Jr. was a strong supporter of the ELF project. He briefed many Congressional Committees and members of Congress giving his view about the importance of ELF. During a briefing in 1974, to Congressman George Mahon, Chairman of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Mr. Clements was asked about the effects of Sanguine (ELF) radio waves on cattle.

(OVER)

"He told Chairman Mahon that the Navy had a bull at Clam Lake to study this very issue. Shortly afterward, the Navy informed Mr. Clements that there was no such bull and there were no plans to put one in Wisconsin. A Navy memo sums up by saying that 'it has been determined that no one has ever heard of the bull idea.'

"Now obviously, this was not a satisfactory situation. A most important chairman of the most important committee had been told there was a bull. According to a Nov. 18, 1974 Navy document, Mr. Clements 'was most upset and told Mr. Reed (Director of Telecommunications and Command and Control) that he wanted a bull at the Wisconsin Test facility by Monday 25 November.'

"And so it came to be. An 18 month old bull, named Sylvester, was purchased for $300 plus $700 for six months feed and delivered as promised on Monday 25 November to the Wisconsin Test Facility. He was duly examined by a vet and placed in the only available place, a 10 x 10 foot enclosure.

"I have always been bullish on Wisconsin but this is not what I had in mind," Proxmire said.

"The Navy didn't think much of the bull plan. Internal messages flowed back and forth in the Navy pointing out that no scientific research could be conducted with just one animal of 'questionable quality.'

"Further, they argued that if the bull died, the local population might think that the Sanguine facility had caused it. And a young bull within the Wisconsin Test Facility compound presented a certain amount of danger to employees there, Navy officials thought.

"In other words," Proxmire said, "they were definitely not 'sanguine' about having the bull on board. But no one wanted to buck Secretary Clements. So Sylvester stayed put.

"In official Navy correspondence, Sylvester became the 'Bovine Test Subject.' Veterinarians were called in periodically for fertility tests. Soon, more objections came from Navy scientists. The fertility study was declared useless. Plans were made for transferring the fertility study over to mice or monkeys. When questioned by local visitors, the Chief Engineer at Clam Lake was told to say nonetheless that 'there is no intention to sacrifice the animal.'

"Even a letter from a Vice Admiral of the Navy, Director of Command and Control, G. H. Nagler, acknowledged the uselessness of the study from a scientific point of view. Here's what he said in a

(MORE)

letter to me dated October 27, 1981:

> 'It was ascertained, however, that the bull's presence at the Wisconsin Test Facility would not constitute an experiment having any scientific value because of lack of precise documentation of the bull prior to his purchase and also due to the limited size (one bull) of the sample data base.'

"But the story has a grim ending for Sylvester," Proxmire said.

"The Navy knew the test was phoney. But no one wanted to challenge Secretary Clements and succeeding secretaries either knew nothing about Sylvester or chose to ignore the situation. So Sylvester was kept in his pen year after year. He grew fat and sluggish from lack of exercise. His disposition soured.

"Finally, on October 18, 1980, someone in the Navy gave the order to shoot Sylvester. In order to carry out the fiction of a scientific test, he was subjected to a necropsy (an autopsy). The Navy, in its thoroughness concluded that Sylvester 'appears to be essentially a normal bull although somewhat obese.' The last line in the necropsy report reads: 'Since Sylvester had been kept by himself during his adult life probably his main interest was only food.' What an insult to our Wisconsin cows.

"So Sylvester came to a cruel and unnecessary death at the hands of an embarrassed bureaucracy.

"While exact cost records are not available, the Navy admits that they spent at least $13,000 on Sylvester over six years. This may be one of the few cases in history where bureaucrats literally killed one of their own programs, and no bull."

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Summary of Fleecing - 1982

January - Department of Agriculture

For spending $40,000 for a study entitled 'Food Preferences and Social Identity.'

February - National Endowment for the Arts

For giving a $7,000 grant for a sound and light show at the state capitol in Madison, Wisconsin.

March - Small Business Administration

For providing two loan guarantees--almost a million dollars in total--to a California aquatic park for a giant water slide and other construction.

April - Synthetic Fuels Corporation

For spending over $44,000 for a study which recommended increasing top salaries to as high as $190,000.

May - Department of the Army (DARCOM)

For spending $38 million over 13 years on a new gas mask that is no improvement over the masks it is designed to replace.

June - Commerce and Labor Departments

For shelling out over $700,000 to a non-profit corporation which was supposed to teach minority youth how to make tee shirts.

July - General Services Administration

For losing 49,000 forms--the equivalent of open-ended airline tickets--with a potential value of at least $7 million.

August - Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency

For Spending $138,000 to conduct three management training seminars located at three star resort hotels.

September - 190 federal officials

Who have been coddled and pampered at the expense of American taxpayers to the tune of $3.4 million by being provided with door-to-door chauffeur service.

October - Office of Management and Budget

For letting Government big-shots eat high off the hog in 22 private dining rooms at an annual cost to the taxpayer of over $2,500,000.

November - Public Health Service

For letting well-heeled doctors welsh on students loans financed by the taxpayer.

December - Social Security Administration

For putting together a high-priced team of employees to plan a move to a new computer center and then shelling out $6.7 million to consultants to do the same work.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1982 FOR PMS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said that "I am giving my Golden Fleece of the Month Award for January to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for spending $40,000 for a study entitled 'Food Preferences and Social Identity.' This study, which took a year to complete, tried to demonstrate the old saw, 'You Are What You Eat,' claiming that people who have a certain kind of personality eat certain kinds of foods.

"My answer to this study is 'SO WHAT?' Who cares what it means when you eat carrots instead of caviar? Here's a $40,000 study calculated to make the American taxpayer eat his heart out."

The Golden Fleece is given each month for the most ridiculous, ironic or wasteful example of federal spending. "To some people $40,000 may not be much, but it still can buy a modest townhouse in some cities--or certainly buy a lot of food for a family--no matter what kinds of personalities they have."

The grant was made by the Competitive Research Grants Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Science and Education Administration.

"This is the same agency which was strongly criticized in the past for funding esoteric studies that have little or no practical value. In fact, as a result of studies like it, the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee has now put language in bills that prohibited that grants office from using money to pay for social science or psychological studies."

The study came to public attention in an article entitled Profiles in Eating--Sexy Vegetarians and other Diet-Based Social Stereotypes in the October 1981 issue of Psychology Today magazine. That article consisted mainly of a description of the study and its results.

"While the contract for the study itself was let under the Carter Administration, it can nevertheless serve as a warning to the new administration of the kinds of wasteful studies that the bureaucratic system can force on them.

"Participants were asked their preferences about five categories of food: synthetic, vegetarian, fast food, health and gourmet food.

"Here are the results your tax dollars paid for:

(OVER)

-- Vegetarian food eaters are supposed to like intellectual tasks, crafts, and want a good education.

-- Gourmet lovers are supposedly interested in 'life in the fast lane,' want spouses but few children, and like to mix it up on the tennis court.

-- Fast food eaters supposedly are antidrug, patriotic, conservative--and interested in doing extra hard work on the job.

-- Health food nuts are the laid back folks among us.

"It goes downhill from there, guaranteed to cause a mighty case of indigestion for the poor taxpayer whose money has been used to fund this study.

"To gain these marvelous bits of wisdom, people were asked to do such things as take the food preferences of a hypothetical person and make inferences about the person's personality and lifestyle. Or the participants' own personalities were used to predict the kind of food they would like.

"And as usual, the final report was done with plenty of social science gobbledegook and obscure writing. For example: 'Food preferences were also analyzed by correlating the totals for each food preference category with the self-ratings on personality descriptors across all subjects.'

"The instructions given to the folks who participated in the study followed the usual social science self rating scales:

> Please rate how much you would prefer to eat the following foods. Do this by using the rating scale below. For each of the foods on the list, choose a number off the rating scale which best represents how you feel about that food. An example will help make this clear. If the food in question were parsnips, and you can't stand parsnips, then you would choose a low number off the scale to represent how you feel about this food. If on the other hand, you like parsnips quite a bit you would choose a higher number. The higher the number, the more you prefer to eat the food.

"Whether you like parsnips or parsley what reasons were given for doing a study on food and personality? When the Department of Agriculture's Research Grants Office was asked that question by my staff, they were referred to the study under a section labeled 'Rationale and Significance.'

"Here's what that section says:

> It seems likely with increased world population growth and the development of new technologies for producing foods, humans will be presented with new food alternatives at a continually increasing rate.
> Adequate human nutrition in the future will increasingly depend upon acceptance of the results of new food technologies.

(MORE)

In light of the well documented tendency of humans to reject unfamiliar types of food, it is important to explore the extent to which food choices are influenced by the meaning and symbolism in food.

Understanding the symbolic significance of food is a prerequisite for presenting new diets or nutritional technologies in a manner which will lead to their acceptance.

"With such aims, the question begs to be asked, what does personality have to do with any of this? Will someone who's hungry--or just plain looking for a good meal out on the town refuse to eat certain kinds of foods because he or she doesn't want someone to think the worst of their personality. How is anybody going to know that it means one thing if you like soybeans or carrot juice and quite another if you eat hamburgers or head for Chez Louie's instead? Who's even going to care?

"At a time when some federal officials think catsup is a vegetable on a poor kid's plate, maybe we ought to spend more time educating them about nutrition,and less time worrying about personalities. To be fair about it, maybe this study will provide 'food for thought' to the American taxpayer who is already fed up to the gills."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1982 FOR PMS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) in a statement from his Washington office announced that "I am giving my Golden Fleece of the Month Award for February to the National Endowment for the Arts for giving a $7,000 grant for a sound and light show at the state capitol in Madison, Wisconsin. According to the sponsors, the purpose of this winter-night happening was to 'turn Wisconsin's state capitol building into a geometrically-tuned instrument which will bring together and send forth human and planetary energies in a message of world peace.' While attempting to tune-in and turn-on, this project has only turned-off the American taxpayers.

"The history of this project demonstrates the mindless and wasteful ways in which federal funds are spent."

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee and a member and former chairman of both the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and the Congressional Joint Economic Committee. The Fleece of the Month Award is given to the biggest, most ironic or most ridiculous example of waste or loss of taxpayers money for the period.

"The sponsors used 16 loud speakers and a complex lighting system on the evening of December 21, 1981 in their attempt to turn Wisconsin's beautiful state capitol into a quivering mystical musical instrument. The nature and intent of this project is best represented by the description offered by the participating artists.

'For 9 hours, a series of time-delayed voice overlays will be sent through the speakers around the outside of the capitol dome. The overlays will use the word "ocean", specially chosen since its sound frequencies are best suited to stimulate the crystalline structure of the building. At each changing hour, a 12 minute period of heightened energies resulting from the rotating planetary influences of the Winter Solstice will be used to carry live performances of different spoken and sung languages. The capitol building is located on the site of an ancient mound which once was part of a giant medical wheel used by ancient tribes in rites combining the energies of earth and space. It is hoped that the new combination of sound frequencies and colors will vibrationally interact with the magnetic energies intersecting at the capitol mound. The building will become a giant energy pyramid, spiralling the "Tongues of Light" out into the universe to join with other voices -- past, present and future -- as a message of peace and hope.'

* * *

(OVER)

'Our supposition is that 'Canonical Architecture' which characterizes the Capitol Building derives from principles which intentionally link through higher space geometry, earth energies with star and planetary movements. Consequently, the Capitol is a geometrically tuned instrument, with a capacity to send (or receive) space/time communications.

'The 'passageway' to other worlds was accomplished by an understanding which enabled a person or persons to combine the magnetic or telluric energies of earth with that of star and planet during the time of year when this is possible: the solstices and equinox. The coupling of these energies created a 'bridge of light' carrying voices of people as they travelled to wherever, or whenever, they desired.'

* * *

'The Word OCEAN: The Geometry of Sound - Audiologists have broken this word into three basic sound elements; vowel, fricative, and glottal. The interaction of these elements when the word is spoken by a mezzo soprano female voice stimulates alpha wave patterns in the human nervous system. The sound structure evolved from these patterns is a geometric equation which integrates human and planetary frequencies.'

'The history of this project clearly shows the inability of the National Endowment for the Arts to control the spending of taxpayers' money once a grant has been approved.

"For the past three years, the National Endowment for the Arts has supported an equinox festival in September in Madison. The festivals involved and celebrated the rich diversity of ethnic cultures found in our state's capital. Their music, art, dance, customs and food, were brought together in a local festival.

"Given the success of the previous festival, it was not surprising that the National Endowment for the Arts approved the partial funding of another equinox festival to be held in Madison, Wisconsin in September, 1981. However, in late September, the grant was extended to December and then early in December, the whole grant was transferred to the light and sound project.

"In a matter of days, a grant issued to continue a fine community project with a proven track record, was transferred into supporting a conceptual art project involving an exhibition of colored lights and unintelligible sounds.

"According to local newspaper reports, the winter solstice program was a disappointment on several accounts. The Wisconsin State Journal reported:

'A sparse crowd turned out for the winter solstice Light/State/Earth event at the Capitol Square Monday night.'

* * *

-(MORE)

"Overcast skies may have dimmed the dome lights over the state capitol and many among the cluster of people who wandered around and through the building seemed more intrigued by the seal-like, undistinguishable sounds humming from the dome.'

"The review in the Madison Capitol Times read in part:

'"Light/State/Earth" an intriguing and grand event on paper, provoked a sigh of disappointment rather than a gasp of awe. Most participants undoubtedly left more confused than inspired.

'One of the culprits was mechanical failure. Two of the four lights failed to function, and the two remaining were white rather than colored.'

* * *

'Another element that didn't quite work was the recorded chanting of the word "oceaaa," echoing around the dome at lapsed intervals, which came across as too disjointed, sometimes to comical effect.'

* * *

'Far more disappointing was the lack of detailed planning for the various segments of the celebration.'

"After funding this event in Madison, will the National Endowment for the Arts, go on to fund cult rituals, hippie-happenings and exorcism events?

"Certainly, here is an area in which additional budget cuts can be made."

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1982 FOR PMS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said "I am giving my Golden Fleece of the Month Award for March to the Small Business Administration (SBA) for providing two loan guarantees--almost a million dollars in total--to a California aquatic park for a giant water slide and other construction. This is a prime example of how Uncle Sam's credit budget has exploded in recent years, and shoved credit sensitive housing and auto industries down the slide and into the drink in the process."

Proxmire is the Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee which approved the funding of the SBA. He also is a member of the Senate Banking Committee which has jurisdiction over credit policy and many loan guarantee programs. The Golden Fleece is given each month for the most ridiculous, ironic or wasteful example of federal spending.

"In December 1981, the SBA approved two loan guarantees in connection with Waterworld U.S.A., in Cal Expo, a park in the Sacramento, California area. An SBA official said, 'The Sierra Security Bank of Susanville, California granted a loan of $560,000 to Waterworld U.S.A. The SBA, in December of 1981 approved a loan guarantee for 89 percent or $498,400 of that $560,000.'"

"The SBA official continued, 'In a second case, also in December, 1981, a guarantee bank loan in the amount of $560,000, of which SBA guaranteed 89 percent or $498,400, was approved for the Bay Area Business Development Company, who in turn loaned the funds to the business--Waterworld U.S.A.

"In plain English, Waterworld U.S.A. was the beneficiary of two loan guarantees--each $498,400 for a total of $996,800. SBA rules forbid loan guarantees of more than $500,000, so in this case, one loan guarantee went to a development firm which lent the money to Waterworld, while the other loan guarantee went to back up a loan a bank had granted to Waterworld.

"According to SBA, money in one of the cases involved was used for paying off contractors and suppliers involved in the construction of the water slide, and in the other case, the funds were used to pay off other construction costs and to purchase machinery and equipment.

"In a loan guarantee, the federal government pledges to repay principal--in whole or in part--and interest on a loan in case of

(OVER)

default by a borrower, thus reducing the lender's exposure to risk. If the loan goes bad, it's the taxpayer's dollars that are used to pay it off.

"You might wonder why SBA thought it would be worthwhile to guarantee almost a million dollars to an aquatic park. I wondered, too. Here's what an SBA official said: 'The reason was the fact that it's a water slide. It's located in a large recreational area in Sacramento, in a community type of park. It's a recreational facility, and it's considered in the interest of the public.'

"Well, the way this project is working out...people won't just go down a slide...it may be the taxpayers taking a bath since the owners and operators of the park had been in serious financial difficulty.

"According to an article in the Sacramento Bee, 'Waterworld's private investors last October appealed to the Cal Expo Board of Directors to relax the terms of its contract (lease on land in Cal Expo) because of financial problems. The Waterworld General Manager said then that the first phase of park construction, projected to cost $1.8 million, had exceeded that amount by almost $1 million.'

"The article added, 'A late initial opening date in August 1981 also contributed to Waterworld's financial woes, officials said.'

"But SBA officials noted that 'this venture's equity position, with the $1.6 million, is much stronger than the usual SBA loan situation.'

"This loan guarantee, which the federal government will have to pay off if the venture fails, is an excellent example of the little noticed explosion in federal loan guarantee programs. The Federal government is expected to guarantee new loan commitments in Fiscal year 1983 of $98.4 billion. This staggering sum not only shoves inflation up and puts upward pressure on interest rates, it distorts the marketplace by taking the risk out of ventures which never would have been offered credit by private sources. Guaranteeing loans also dries up available funds for other less risky projects.

"The Federal government should not be the lender of last resort. If private financial institutions say no to a loan, the Federal government should keep its hands off.

"It's ridiculous that the Federal government--using taxpayer's money--provides loan guarantees for anybody, and especially for a water slide, when few individuals can get a loan for housing, cars, or anything else

(MORE)

now. In a time of growing budget deficits, we need to get Uncle Sam out of the credit market as soon as we can--to as great a degree as we can.

"Federal loan guarantees simply shift the risk from the lenders to the taxpayers.

"Hasn't the taxpayer been burdened enough? Inflation, tight credit, high taxes, deficits, all of these have hit the taxpayer hard enough. If the burden isn't worth bearing by lenders--those who should know about credit worthiness--is it worth dumping on the taxpayers?

"The Reagan Administration has proposed eliminating SBA direct loans and reducing guaranteed loans 10 percent. This is too modest a goal if the aquatic park is any example.

"The individuals and organizations that get hurt from this kind of guaranteed loan are the needy small businessmen across the nation."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1982 FOR PMS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Tuesday announced that "I am giving my Golden Fleece of the Month for April to the Synthetic Fuels Corporation for a splurge of spending that would make an Arab sheik green with envy. The Corporation recently spent over $44,000 for a study which recommended increasing top salaries to as high as $190,000. They paid $35,000 for two consultants who submitted no reports. And they signed an overpriced $10 million lease for exclusive office space and then decorated the offices at a cost of $522,919."

Sen. Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee and a member and former chairman of both the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and the Congressional Joint Economic Committee. The Fleece of the Month Award is given to the biggest, most ironic, or most ridiculous example of waste or loss of taxpayers money for the period.

"Congress created the Synthetic Fuels Corporation during 1979, at the height of the Iranian crisis. The Corporation provides loan guarantees, price guarantees, purchase agreements, and direct loans to subsidize the production of synthetic fuels. The Corporation uses the U.S. Treasury to borrow its money, and unfairly competes with farmers, small businessmen, and home buyers who try to find credit. The Corporation is authorized to underwrite up to $12 billion in credit by the end of fiscal year 1982. It will spend at least $186 million--off-budget but federal funds--to select projects and administer loans and guarantees.

"Here are the facts of the spending splurge.

"The Corporation paid $44,236 for a study of its 'salary structure.'

"The study, delivered in December of 1981, recommended some extraordinary pay increases:

Position	Current Salary	Recommended Salary	Percent Increase
Chairman	69,630	190,358	173
President	69,630	165,370	137
Senior Vice Pres., Projects	69,630	113,881	64
Vice President, Projects	62,500	90,281	44
Vice President, Admin.	65,000	85,990	32
General Counsel	53,750	85,990	63
Vice President, Finance	69,630	89,145	28
Vice Pres., Tech. & Engr.	69,630	82,204	18
Inspector General	65,000	78,040	20
Controller	65,000	74,254	14
Vice Pres. External Relations	69,630	68,575	-2
Director, Planning	69,500	68,196	-2
Dir. Socio-Economic Planning	50,000	56,712	13

(OVER)

"The President must approve any salaries over $69,630, the pay of a cabinet officer. The Corporation's Board of Directors has already decided to recommend that two positions be paid more than this. The Corporation is scarcely two years old but it has what every teenager dreams about--a credit card with a $12 billion limit.

"Starting in September of last year and continuing into this year the Corporation hired two consultants to 'develop an organizational framework and interim operational capability for the Office of the Inspector General.' One consultant was paid $300 a day, the other $285 a day. After paying these consultants more than $35,000, the Corporation reported that 'no reports have been submitted to the Corporation.' The 'junkyard dogs' in the Corporation need to see a good dentist.

"The Corporation signed a five year lease for 67,321 square feet of office space in Washington's high rent K-Street corridor. The lease cost over $10 million which works out to about $30 a square foot a year. According to the General Services Administration, which rents space for executive agencies, adequate but less opulent space can be leased for $20 a square foot. The Corporation could have saved the taxpayers about $3.3 million by leasing the less luxurious space.

"To furnish its fancy new quarters, the Corporation:

--hired an interior decorator at a cost of $14,661;

--bought furniture at a cost of $374,739;

--bought and installed carpet at a cost of $133,519, including $83,260 for 'velvet' carpet.

"This money was spent in December of 1981 and January and February of this year. The Congress should give this turkey the euthanasia it has so well earned as the one sure way to stop it from hiring more people and buying more furniture. Otherwise, the taxpayer will take yet another shellacking.

"Congress made a mistake when it created the Corporation. The last thing the economy needs now is another quasi-federal agency, elbowing its way to the front of the credit line. The Corporation should be abolished."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 1982 FOR FFle

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Tuesday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month award for June to the Commerce and Labor Departments for "shelling out over $700,000 to a non-profit corporation which was supposed to teach minority youth how to make tee shirts. Departmental auditors warned Commerce officials that the project was doomed to fail and fail it did. Not one tee shirt was produced for sale, not one minority youth found a job, but the taxpayer lost his shirt."

Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee and serves on the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, where he is Vice Chairman of the Subcommittee on International Trade, Finance, and Security Economics. The Fleece is given monthly to the most ridiculous, wasteful or ironic use of taxpayer's money for that period.

"The story of this fleece is documented in an unpublished audit report completed in late March of this year. Here is the history spanning five years and two different Administrations:

"In July 1977, Giant Step, Inc. submitted to the Commerce Department a proposal 'to demonstrate in five different metropolitan areas the possibility of successful youth-owned and operated manufacturing enterprises.' These companies were to make tee shirts. Giant Step was a non-profit corporation with a prominent Board of Directors who, as the grant application put it, 'are a major ingredient towards ensuring a successful operation of Giant Step, Inc.'

"In August 1977, Commerce Department auditors prepared an evaluation of this proposal. The auditors, who were not overly impressed by the nationally-known figures serving on the Board, questioned the feasibility of the proposal. They recommended 'that a contract not be awarded on the basis of the subject proposal.'

"The Commerce Department disregarded this advice and awarded a $443,570 grant in September 1977. In February 1978, the Labor Department chipped in another $260,100. It was not until March of 1982 that the extent of the failure came home as the final Commerce Department audit was finished.

"The project, as predicted, was a spectacular failure. Only 76 trainees enrolled and none of these received usable training.

(OVER)

Of the 13 trainees who were supposed to have 'graduated':

--A majority did not realize they had finished the program.

--Over half had spent less than four months in the program. Some had been in the program less than two months--and these were the trainees who graduated!

--Nine months after graduation, none had found a job related to his training.

"This failure did not stop program administrators from spending the taxpayers money with abandon. Among the more outrageous expenditures are those for:

--hiring the nephew of a Commerce Department official as a 'Plant Coordinator' even though the position was not in the grant proposal.

--hiring staff for plants at which no training or production took place.

--paying travel costs and telephone bills for employees who were apparently conducting private business.

--paying over $350 to buy tee shirts as presents for the Board of Directors and Commerce officials.

"This is an especially painful fleece since the goals of the program--to reduce teenage unemployment and provide skill training--were so laudatory. It is now up to the Commerce Department auditors to pick up some of the pieces. They have recommended that Commerce try to recover about $450,000 of costs which were clearly unallowable. Here is one taxpayer who hopes that Commerce listens to its auditors this time."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1982 FOR FRIDAY AM:

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Thursday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for July to the General Services Administration (GSA) for "losing 49,000 forms -- the equivalent of open-ended airline tickets -- with a potential value of at least $7 million. Now that many taxpayers are taking their vacations, they must wonder if the government has taken them for yet another ride."

Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee and a former Chairman of the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. The Fleece is given monthly to the biggest, most wasteful, or ironic use of the taxpayer's money for that period.

"The GSA has lost 49,000 potentially valuable special government forms. GSA's regulations require that employees carefully control these forms because, 'In regard to obtaining airline tickets, [these forms] should be considered and are as good as cash.' GSA's Inspector General is now trying to find out the extent of the loss.

"Here is how the GSA lost the forms. In January of 1979, a GSA regional office decided to order 50 books of these forms. Each book contains 10 forms so the region wanted 500 blank forms.

"This was a simple enough request but then bureaucratic procedure reared its ugly head and goof followed goof.

--The standard unit of issue for these forms is a box, not a book. The Washington Office sent the region 50 boxes, but a box contains 1,000 forms. The region received 50,000 forms, instead of 500.

--The region spotted this foul-up and tried to return the unneeded 49 boxes to the Washington Office. But these forms are controlled, and Washington's books were in balance. Instead of allowing the forms to be returned, Washington advised the region to destroy those that were unneeded.

--The region balked at doing this and stored the 49 boxes while the powers that be tried to decide what to do with the 49,000 forms, which had become a bureaucratic hot potato. Unfortunately, the region used an unlocked storeroom as a storage place.

--Time passed, employees came and went, no solution was found and the forms were forgotten.

(OVER)

"Forgotten, that is, until this year when regional officials, in anticipation of a routine audit, started searching for the 49 boxes. They were not to be found.

"Regional officials first said they had shipped the forms to another region, which promptly denied having received them. These officials later decided that perhaps the forms had been thrown away. But no one knows for sure what happened to the missing forms. Meanwhile, in late May, GSA's Inspector General had to write to all the other Inspector Generals to alert them to the missing forms and to request their help in discovering if any had been used.

"This bureaucratic bungling would be almost laughable except for this possibility--if the forms are misused, and the average ticket bought costs $150.00, the taxpayer will be out a cool $7 million. That is no laughing matter."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1982 FOR FRIDAY AMS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) in a statement from his Washington office Thursday announced that "I am giving my Golden Fleece of the Month Award for August to the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce for spending $138,000 to conduct three management training seminars located at three star resort hotels. According to an agency memo the seminars would:

> Ensure that ALL - repeat, ALL - agency personnel (from clerk-typists to the senior executives) are 'playing from the same score' in the MBDA symphony! Put another way, we'll all be marching to the same drummer for the first time in the Agency's history.

Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee and a former Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. The Fleece is given to the biggest, most wasteful or ironic misuse of taxpayer's money for that period.

"Last winter, the Inspector General of the Commerce Department issued a report highly critical of the operation of this agency responsible for assisting the development of minority-owned businesses. On May 3, the agency hired an outside consultant to plan and run training sessions to improve the functioning of the agency.

"A June 3 memo to the Deputy Director of the agency from the Assistant Deputy Director explained the need for a top level staff seminar led by the outside consultant and located at a site outside of Washington in the following manner:

> ...it's where we begin to move the Northbound train down the tracks with more speed and a definite destination that all can know about, but it sets the stage for individuals to decide whether or not they're going to buy a ticket!

"More than 40 agency people attended this seminar held at the lovely Airlie House in Virginia June 14-16.

"The schedule for the seminar carefully noted the following about some of the planned activities:

> NOTE: This is NOT an exercise. This is a real-time delivery of a reality-based requirement.

"The consultant next conducted a series of seminars in Dallas, San Francisco, New York, Chicago, Atlanta and Washington during the months of June and July.

"By August 2, a memo from the Deputy Director of the agency proudly stated:

(OVER)

As you are all now aware, MBDA is moving in a new direction, symbolized by the Northbound Train! The process is going well but we must move ahead to ensure that every one of our employees knows the score to play from and is aware both regionally and nationally who is conducting the symphony!

To complete Phase I--the planning and development phase of the new directions, both Victor Rivers [Agency Director] and I believe the most important investment we--and each of you--can now make is our participation in the three management development seminars to be held as noted below. When we are all through with this series of seminars, every employee in MBDA will know the score, have the operating information, and will be expected to perform accordingly.

The Seminars have been scheduled as follows:

August, 1982

1.	August 15-20	The Omni Hotel, Norfolk, VA
2.	August 22-27	The Half Moon Inn, San Diego, CA
3.	August 29-Sept. 3	The Half Moon Inn, San Diego, CA

"The top Washington staff would attend all three seminars and the rest of the Washington staff as well as all the employees of the various regional offices would attend one or more of the seminars.

"On the morning of August 9, my staff contacted the agency concerning the three planned seminars. On August 11, the Inspector General of the Commerce Department wrote to the Director of the MBDA:

Confirming my telephone conversation with you about this, I want to repeat and emphasize my concerns about your bringing in support staff to these seminars.

"The Inspector General goes on to elaborate his concerns especially in light of David Stockman's memo concerning the need to reduce and control wasteful year-end spending.

"On August 11, the agency's Deputy Director told the entire staff:

In light of recent development around cost, site, support staff participation, headquarters staffing during the seminars and concerns related thereto, I have made adjustments with regard to Headquarters' participation.

"The support staff was dropped and the two San Diego seminars were switched to a site near Baltimore. However, the seminar sites were still three-star resort hotels and the support staff was told by the Director on August 12 that he was planning a training program for them to begin 10 days after the last management development seminar was held.

"The management training seminars are now in progress. Dozens of MBDA employees have been flown into the Baltimore area from the regional offices in San Francisco, Dallas, Atlanta, Chicago and New York. A total of 177 participants will attend the three seminars at a cost to the taxpayers of $138,000.

(MORE)

"I have no quarrel with an agency trying to improve its effectiveness. But how many of these management training seminars must the taxpayers support before the MBTA symphony finally plays in harmony and the Northbound Train reaches its final destination?"

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:10 AM, SEPTEMBER 30, 1982 FOR PM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D.-Wis.) announced on Thursday that "I am awarding my Golden Fleece of the Month for September to the 190 federal officials who have been coddled and pampered at the expense of American taxpayers to the tune of $1.4 million by being provided with door-to-door chauffeur service. This is an increase of 15 officials, or 8% more than the results of my Carter Administration survey in 1979."

In releasing the results of his just-completed government-wide survey, Proxmire noted that "three agencies deserve special mention for their use of chauffeur service:

* the Department of Defense as the worst offender (with 60 officials eligible for chauffeur service);

* the Department of Housing and Urban Development for maintaining the most expensive automobile of any cabinet member (at an annual cost of $9,500, Secretary Pierce's car weighs in at twice the average cost);

* and the Central Intelligence Agency for most overtime for a chauffeur (while the Director's chauffeur received a salary of $20,000, which is near the average, his overtime pay was a whopping $26,000 for a total of $46,000)."

Proxmire is the Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Joint Economic Subcommittee on International Trade, Finance and Security Economics. The Fleece of the Month is awarded for the biggest, most wasteful or ironic use of taxpayers' funds for the month. In the last two months, Proxmire conducted a survey of all major governmental agencies and departments to determine the extent of chauffeur service.

"Only a handful of federal officials are specifically given the authority under law to enjoy home-to-work chauffeuring, but my survey of federal agencies demonstrates that the lack of legal authority has not stopped scores of federal officials from hopping into the backseat.

"Title 31, Section 638(a) of the U.S. Code restricts the use of government automobiles to 'official purposes' only and 'official purposes' does NOT include door-to-door chauffeur service to and from home. The only exceptions provided in the law are for the President, the Secretary of a Department (not undersecretaries or assistant secretaries), a doctor on out-patient duty, individuals in field service and our diplomatic personnel abroad.

"In addition to Title 31, Section 638(a), the Congress has provided statutory authority for chauffeur service for its leadership through appropriations bills.

"My survey shows that despite a 1979 ruling by the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel interpreting the law very strictly, bureaucrats fall all over themselves attempting to justify this unwarranted luxury.

"Their excuses are legendary! Here are just a few:

"Excuse Number One. A chauffeured automobile enables me to conserve my valuable time and be more productive.

"Excuse Number Two. I must often attend early morning and late night meetings and public transit is often unavailable.

"Excuse Number Three. Our offices are in a high crime precinct.

"Excuse Number Four. My use of a chauffeured automobile is in the Government's interest.

"The only interest being served here is the personal convenience and desire for status of the federal official. There is no Government interest.

"In reviewing all of these excuses in 1979, the Justice Department Office of Legal Counsel in an opinion just now made public, found that they were all invalid! The Justice Department concluded that: 'Nothing in [the law's] text, background or prior interpretation supports a reading so contrary to its plain meaning.'

"The Justice Department even had a few practical suggestions for the poor, overworked bureaucrat needing chauffeur service:

> A senior official may lengthen his or her working day, if necessary, by coming earlier, leaving later and living closer to the office. Using government transportation instead is a matter of personal convenience.

"At an average annual cost of $32,000 for this personal convenience, the American taxpayers are being billed enough to provide these bureaucrats with over 3,000 roundtrip rides in a taxicab from Capitol Hill to Georgetown each and every year.

"That is why I offered an amendment -- which the Senate Appropriations Committee accepted -- to the Treasury, Postal Service & General Government Appropriations Bill to reinforce existing law by denying funds for home-to-work transportation, except in rare emergencies, for any official not specifically exempted from the law. It also requires the Office of Management and Budget to report to the Appropriations Committee quarterly justifying any exceptions which are made.

"If enacted, this legislation will go a long way to cutting down the abuses by high Administration officials. No longer will they be able to spend time in their chauffeured cars figuring out how to cut school milk programs, or reducing retirement benefits for social security recipients, or slashing other programs while wasting thousands of dollars themselves in tax funds.

"Let them ride the bus to work to study how effective our transportation system is, or run to work to consider the value of federal health programs, or car pool to save on energy consumption as they urge everyone else to do."

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Specific Listing By Federal Agency of the Number of Federal Officials Receiving Chauffeur Service On a Full-Time or Occasional Basis or Being Provided A Government Vehicle on an Exclusive Basis

The White House (6)

The President
The Vice-President
Counsellor to the President
Chief of Staff
Deputy Chief of Staff
Assistant for National Security Affairs

Office of Management and Budget (2)

Director
Deputy Director

Defense Department (60)

Regular Basis (12)
- Secretary of Defense
- Deputy Secretary
- Under Secretary for Research & Engineering
- Under Secretary for Policy
- Secretaries of Army, Navy & Air Force
- Chiefs of Staff for Army, Navy & Air Force
- Commandant of Marine Corps

Exceptional Basis (48)
- Assistant Secretaries of Defense
- General Counsel of Department
- Under Secretaries of Army, Navy & Air Force
- Vice Chiefs of Staff of Army and Air Force
- Vice Chiefs of Naval Operations
- Assistant Commandant of Marine Corps
- Assistant Secretaries of Army, Navy and Air Force
- Commander, Army Material Development & Readiness Command
- Chief, Naval Material
- Commander, Air Force Systems Command
- Director, Joint Staff

Transportation Department (23)

Regular Basis (14)
- Secretary
- Deputy Secretary
- Commandant, Coast Guard
- Coast Guard District Commanders

Assigned Car on an Exclusive Basis (8)
- Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration
- Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration
- Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- Administrator, Urban Mass Transportation Administration
- Administrator, Saint Lawrence Seaway
- Administrator, Research & Special Programs
- Administrator, Maritime Administration

State Department (13)

Secretary
Deputy Secretary
Under Secretary for Political Affairs
Under Secretary for Management
Under Secretary for Economics
Under Secretary for Security Assistance
Chief of Protocol
Arms Control Disarmament Director
U.S. Representative to the UN*
Deputy U.S. Representative
Alternative U.S. Representative for Special Political Affairs
Deputy Representative to Security Council
U.S. Representative on Economic and Social Council

(*for U.S. UN Representative, chauffeured vehicles are maintained in NCY & DC)

Justice Department (6)

Attorney General
Deputy Attorney General
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigations
Solicitor General (during Supreme Court term)

Treasury Department (4)

Secretary
Deputy Secretary
Under Secretary for Monetary Affairs
Comptroller of the Currency

Health and Human Services (3)

Secretary
Commissioner, Social Security (occasional use)
Administrator, Health Care Financing
Administration (occasional use)

Agriculture Department (2)

Secretary
Deputy Secretary

Housing and Urban Development (2)

Secretary
Under Secretary (since discontinued as a result of an Inspector General investigation)

Labor Department (2)

Secretary
Under Secretary (exclusive use of car)

Commerce Department (1)

Secretary

Education Department (1)

Secretary

Interior Department (1)

Secretary

Energy Department (1)

Secretary

Congress (11)

Senate
President Pro Tempore
Majority Leader
Minority Leader
Majority Whip
Minority Whip

House
Speaker
Majority Leader
Minority Leader
Majority Whip
Minority Whip

Architect of the Capitol

The Judicial Branch (1)

The Chief Justice

Agencies, Corporations, Instrumentalities (17)

President of Amtrak
President and Executive Vice President of Overseas Private Investment Corporation
President and Chairman of the Board, Synthetic Fuels Corporation
Postmaster General
Deputy Postmaster General
Director and Deputy Director, U.S. International Communications Agency
Public Printer, Government Printing Office (since discontinued)
Smithsonian - 3 (using non-appropriated funds according to their letter)
Administrator, Agency for International Development
Director, ACTION (occasional use)
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Deputy Director, Central Intelligence Agency

Regulatory Commissions, Boards (30)

Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission on occasion, 4 commissioners
Commissioner, Civil Aeronautics Board: on occasion, 4 commissioners
Chairman, Securities & Exchange Comm.: on occasion, 4 commissioners
Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board
Chairman and Director, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Chairman, Federal Communications Comm.
Chairman and 4 Commissioners, Commodity Futures Trading Commission (all on an occasional use)
Chairman, Federal Reserve Board
Chairman and 4 commissioners, National Labor Relations Board (occasional use)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESENT SURVEY ON THE USE OF GOVERNMENT AUTOMOBILES

* The worst offender continues to be the Department of Defense with 60 officials eligible for this service (12 on a daily basis and 48 others occasionally receive home-to-work transportation).

  The Transportation Department comes in second with 22 officials (14 officials receive home-to-work transportation regularly and 8 Administrators have a car exclusively under their control).

  The Congress comes in third with 11 officials including the Senate's President Pro Tempore, Majority and Minority Leaders and Majority and Minority Whips. On the House side, the Speaker, Majority and Minority Leaders and Whips are provided with automobiles. The Architect of the Capitol is also provided with a car.

* The survey found that the average cost of maintaining an automobile was $4,054 per year, which includes leasing and depreciation costs. This figure is just slightly less than the Defense Department's estimate of $4,074 per year per automobile.

  The highest costs for automobiles for Cabinet Officers were:

+Department of Housing and Urban Development	--	$9,580 per year
+Department of Energy	--	7,900 per year
+Department of Interior	--	7,010 per year

  (Note: The Secretary of State's vehicle was not included in this comparison because of the difficulty in developing comparable estimates in light of the special security equipment which has been added to his automobile.)

* The average cost of a civilian driver (averaging the first 33 estimates received) was $28,145, which compares to an average cost reported by the Department of Defense of $35,280, for civilian drivers. The lower figure was used for all estimates.

* The overtime costs for government chauffeurs which were reported substantiate the General Accounting Office findings just issued on this subject. Of the 33 reports of overtime costs for government drivers received, the average yearly payment for overtime was $11,205.60.

  Three agencies reported chauffeurs receiving overtime pay in excess of their yearly salary:

+Central Intelligence Agency	--	Overtime of $26,616 on a base salary of $20,009 for a total of $46,625
+Commerce Department	--	Overtime of $23,922 on a base salary of $17,738 for a total of $41,660
+State Department	--	Overtime of $19,489 on a base salary of $18,720 for a total of $41,660

* The number of officials eligible for exclusive use of a government automobile or chauffeur service is compiled from the attached list. In summary, there are 183 on the list including 1 from the Judiciary, 11 from Congress, 6 from the White House and 3 from CMB, 116 from the Executive Cabinet Departments, 17 from Agencies, Corporations and Institutions and 30 from Regulatory Commissions and Boards. The figure "198" is based on additional estimates from the Small Business Administration, General Accounting Office, the Veterans Administration, and Office of Personnel Management, which have not officially responded.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1982 FOR PMS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Wednesday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month award for October to the Office of Management and Budget for "letting Government big-shots eat high off the hog in 22 private dining rooms at an annual cost to the taxpayer of over $2,300,000. This month's Fleece is particularly ironic since the President has directed that those who specifically benefit from government subsidies should be required to pay the full costs of that subsidy. This fleece is based on a government wide survey of executive dining room costs--the first of its kind. Details for each agency are attached to this statement."

Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee and a former Chairman of the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. The Fleece is given monthly to the most ridiculous, wasteful, or ironic use of the taxpayer's money for that period.

"The President directed that each government agency apply 'uniform principles of cost recovery' when preparing its 1983 budget. These principles were:

o determining 'the extent to which benefits accure to clearly identifiable users' and;

o recovering 'the cost of providing those benefits through the use of specific fees instead of placing the burden on the general taxpayer.'

"These are sound principles and the Office of Management and Budget recommended that a number of specific fees be charged. Somehow, one group of 'clearly identifiable users' escaped OMB's fabled eye--Government executives. These executives can still dine in exclusive dining rooms and place most of the 'burden on the general taxpayer.'

"And quite a burden it is. The taxpayer pays about $2,300,000 so that these executives can be cooked for, waited on, and cleaned up after in splendid surroundings. These executives, who normally earn over $55,000, pay about $500,000 towards the cost of their meals and are subsidized at a rate of 82%. Wouldn't it be nice if every taxpayer could walk into a swanky restaurant and have Uncle Sam pick up 82% of the tab like these officials?

"The Pentagon makes the greatest use of this privilege. The Secretary of Defense has a private dining room. Not to be outdone, so do the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

The taxpayer pays about $1,814,400 toward the cost of these dining rooms while the brass chips in about $366,400 or a net subsidy of nearly $5 k.

"Not every Department has an executive dining room. Although the Secretaries of Energy and Housing and Urban Development may have to miss a cabinet meeting because of the loss of face, their Departments manage to get along without a dining room for big-shots. Even the Senate manages to almost break even on its dining rooms--it lost less than one percent.

"I suggest that the President add a new principle to his list of 'uniform principles of cost recovery' for next year's budget: What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.

"Economy begins at home and Government executives making decisions on how and when to cut social security, food stamps, Medicare and Medicaid should provide the example of frugality by eliminating their own government subsidy programs."

Executive Dining Rooms in
the Washington, D.C. Area

Agency	Operating Costs ($000)	Sales Revenues	Taxpayer Subsidy	Authorized Users
Department of Defense:				
Sec. of Defense	$453.0	$108.2	344.8	Deputy A/S of Defense and equivalent
Chiefs of Staff	262.3	50.0	212.3	Gen./Flag Officers, Civilian Agency Heads
Dept. of Army	449.2	77.6	371.6	Maj. Gen., SES4 and above
DARCOM, Alex. VA	108.8	11.4	97.4	Commanding General and Guests
Dept. of Air Force	458.5	80.1	370.4	GS-16, SES 1, Brig. Gen. and above.
Dept. of Navy	457.0	39.1	417.9	0-7, SES 1, Level V and above
Subtotal, Pentagon	$2,180.8	$366.4	$1,814.4	
Department of Health and Human Services	55.3	20.0	35.3	SES 1, Level V and above
Department of Commerce	49.9	16.7	33.2	Asst. Sec. or equivalent
Department of Justice:				
Department	38.9	1.4	37.5	Sec. and guests, Dept. Executives
FBI	66.7	5.1	61.6	Director, members of
Subtotal, DOJ	$105.6	$6.5	$99.1	executive conference
Department of Labor	40.5	3.7	36.8	SES, Executive Level
Department of State:				
Sec.	8.9	3.0	5.9	Secretary and guests
Dep. Sec.	6.0	2.0	4.0	Deputy Sec. and guests
Executives	72.4	45.0	27.4	GS-15 and above
Subtotal, State	$87.3	$50.0	$37.3	
National Aeronautics and Space Admin.	69.6	7.9	61.7	GS-15 and above
U.S. Postal Service	44.6	-	44.6	Agency head and guests
Department of Treasury	49.7	10.0	39.7	GS-15 and above
Export-Import Bank	15.4	-	15.4	Agency heads and guests
Department of Education	16.7	4.1	12.6	Secretary and guests
Department of Agriculture	7.0	-	7.0	Secretary and guests
Department of Interior	not in operation			
Dept. of Transportation:				
Secretary	131.6	17.0	114.6	Executive level
USCG Flag Mess	55.6	11.0	44.6	GS-15 and above
Subtotal, Trans	$187.2	$28.0	$159.2	
GRAND TOTAL	$2909.6	$513.5	$2396.3	

Note: The following agencies reported having no executive/private dining rooms:

Department of Energy
Department of Housing and Urban Development
ACTION
Environmental Protection Agency
General Services Administration
Office of Personnel Management
Small Business Administration
Veterans Administration

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1982 FOR SUNDAY AMS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Sunday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month award for November to the Public Health Service for "letting well-heeled doctors welsh on student loans financed by the taxpayer. The average doctor earns over $80,000, about four times as much as the average family. In February of this year, those who had received these loans were delinquent in repaying $28.1 million. Of this amount, about $5 million may be uncollectable. About 11% of those receiving loans were delinquent in making payments. Podiatrists had the highest rate of delinquencies and veterinarians the lowest. The taxpayer may have to foot the bill for 22% of the podiatrists compared to 6% of the veterinarians who are dogging it.

"This sorry record leads me to believe that some of these doctors must have taken the hypocritical rather than the Hippocratic oath. Paying these debts is one doctor's prescription the patient taxpayer should not have to fill."

Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee and a former Chairman of the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. He awards a monthly Fleece to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of the taxpayer's money for that period.

"The Public Health Service administers a program which provides low-interest loans to medical, osteopathic, dental, veterinary, optometry, pharmacy, and podiatry students. The loans can be repaid over a ten year period with a three year grace period provided under certain circumstances. Interest is charged but at the subsidized rate of nine percent. The Federal Government pays for 90 percent of the loan while the school antes the remaining 10 percent.

"Here are some facts regarding the Public Health Service's malpractice while administering this program.

o 859 loans, valued at $1.6 million, have been delinquent more than five years and are probably uncollectable because of the statute of limitations.

o 442 doctors, who were behind on their repayments, received $12.4 million from medicare and medicaid during 1980 and 1981--an average of $28,000 apiece.

(OVER)

o The Department of Health and Human Services, the Public Health Service's parent department, employed 40 doctors who were behind and 20 of these had salaries exceeding $40,000.

o 83 of the delinquent doctors were employed by 19 universities including: Harvard (25), University of Illinois (11), University of Mississippi (7), University of California (6), Wake Forest University (5), Ohio State University (5), and Meharry Medical College (5).

"After dragging their feet for 20 years, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Public Health Service, and the participating universities have begun to improve their administration of this program--a long overdue effort. The Congress recently passed, and the President signed into law, the Debt Collection Act. This new law provides additional means by which debts owed to Uncle Sam can be collected. I urge the Department to make quick use of these new powers to collect these loans.

"Despite these recent improvements, the Public Health Service fiddled around for 20 years, letting these debts accumulate. They richly deserve this month's Fleece for that delay."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1982 FOR PM PAPERS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Monday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month award for December to the Social Security Administration (SSA) for "putting together a high-priced team of employees to plan a move to a new computer center and then shelling out $6.7 million to consultants to do the same work. The SSA spent this money even though its staff had recommended against hiring the consultants because their team could do the job. This is one moving experience the harried taxpayer should not have had to endure."

Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee and a former Chairman of the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. He awards a Golden Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of the taxpayer's money for that period.

"The SSA started planning for this move back in 1979, but it actually took place during the summer of 1982. Their experience proves that too many cooks spoil the broth.

"When the SSA decided to move to the new computer center, they set up a project move team of SSA employees specifically to plan and direct the move. This team consisted of 11 people including: one GS-15 ($48,553-57,500), three GS-14s ($41,277-53,661), five GS-13s ($34,930-45,406), and two GS-12s ($29,374-38,185). Each employee of this team had to have 'the expressed capability to prepare comprehensive move plans.' The team was responsible for preparing such plans and for 'independently assuming full control and directly coordinating all activities' regarding the move.

"So far, so good. But then SSA management apparently realized that they might be criticized if anything went wrong and decided to buy some bureaucratic-failure insurance.

"They hired a consultant to prepare an 'independent evaluation' of the plans for moving to the new center. This contract lasted six months and cost the taxpayer $99,729. Then SSA management awarded another contract to this consultant immediately after the first contract expired. This one was for 'progress reviews' and an assessment of 'relocation implementation planning.' Management estimated that

(OVER)

this contract would cost $345,000, but it finally cost the taxpayer a whopping $650,277.

"One consultant, and two contracts, still were not enough insurance for SSA management. They hired still another consultant to 'provide the detailed planning' for the move to the new center. They awarded this contract without a proper technical review and without adequately specifying what services the consultant was to provide. As a result, the final cost of the contract was over $5.9 million instead of the $1.5 million which SSA had initially estimated.

"Before the SSA awards a consulting contract, it has the proposal reviewed to determine if its employees could do the work. In each of the three examples I have cited, a unit within SSA examined what the move team was responsible for doing and what the consultant was to do and concluded that no consultant was needed! Their advice was ignored.

"The Social Security Administration deserves the Fleece because of the offhand way it spent the taxpayer's money at a time when the social security trust fund was running into financial problems. The money SSA paid to the two consultants would have paid for the average monthly benefit check for about 16,580 social security beneficiaries. That is the real tragedy of this bureaucratic bungling."

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SUMMARY OF FLEECES - 1983

January - Economic Development Administration

For allowing US cities and non-profit organizations to misuse a $198 million federal loan fund dedicated to creating local jobs.

February - General Services Administration

For wasting $1.5 million--with a potential for $13 million more--trying to renovate an old train station in Nashville, Tennessee.

March - Department of the Navy

For spending $11,225 to decorate a Navy captain's office.

April - Department of Housing and Urban Development

For wasting over $1.2 million, at one area office, by paying several times for work done once, by approving loan payments on non-existant loans, and by blinking at excessive management fees for public housing projects.

May - National Aeronautics and Space Administration

For spending $22,700 to seek out composers and artists who would like to spend taxpayers' money on art and music in a future space station.

June - National Institute of Education

For a flagrant failure to keep tabs on a $900,000 government contract. This resulted in about $500,000 of the taxpayers' money being blown on everything from unsecured personal loans to purchasing a disco and promoting a rock concert.

July - U.S. Coast Guard

For spending $1.1 million to build a boat repair station at Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, which sat empty and unused for about a year.

August - U.S. District Court Judges of Atlanta, GA

For fixing the jury on design and construction at the Richard B. Russell Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse and then serving the taxpayers with their bill for an extra $7 million.

September - Department of the Army

For spending about $20,000 to prepare 30,000 fancy, multi-colored pamphlets explaining how to play King of the Hill.

October - Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)

Wasted $232,000 of taxpayers' money by miscalculating rental payments. Tenants in these projects pay 25% of rent and landlords who own housing submit claims to HUD.

November - Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA)

Clipped the taxpayer of $45 million by allowing Medicare to foot the bill for cutting tonsils.

December - Economic Development Administration (EDA)

Allowed firm to violate terms of a $2.5 million federal loan by loaning $500,000 interest free to company's sole stockholder, paying $314,320 in cash for a helicopter - used by sole stockholder, purchasing a $65,000 lakeside cabin and spending $1.7 million on other questionable transactions.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1983 FOR TUESDAY AMs

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Monday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month award for February to the General Services Administration for "wasting $1.5 million--with a potential for $13 million more--trying to renovate an old train station in Nashville, Tennessee. This project, which began nearly seven years ago, has survived the Reagan Administration's budget cutting despite overwhelming evidence showing that costs were underestimated and that the space was unneeded. To add insult to injury, a flock of roosting pigeons--that's right, pigeons--made this turkey of a project their home and it cost the taxpayer $500,000 to clean up after them."

Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and serves on the Appropriations Committee. He awards a Golden Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money. This month's winner--the General Services Administration (GSA)--is the landlord for much of the Federal Government.

"The story begins in 1976 when Congress passed the Public Buildings Cooperative Use Act. That law authorized GSA to 'acquire and utilize space in suitable buildings of historic, architectural, or cultural significance, unless use of such space would not prove feasible and prudent compared with available alternatives.'

"The Administrator of GSA saw an opportunity to expand his bureaucratic empire, but believed that his employees were not moving fast enough to acquire these more classy buildings. He ordered his employees to pursue 'an aggressive program to significantly improve that record.'

"In fact, as the following quote demonstrates, he ordered that these buildings be acquired before GSA knew whether the space would be needed: 'In essence then, the identification of the need will in most cases follow the identification of the building.'

"By now, GSA's bureaucrats had to find and renovate an historic building. When a railroad offered to donate a dilapidated, but historic, railroad station in Nashville, it appeared their prayers had been answered.

(OVER)

"But when officials in GSA's regional office took a closer look at the station, they discovered what a turkey they had on their hands. They estimated that the Government could construct a brand new building for $10.2 million. And the cost of renovating the station? About $14.4 million!

"The Central Office refused to accept this cost estimate. They sent a team to Nashville to 're-evaluate' the project. After this visit, the regional office saw the light and prepared a proposal for Congress which estimated the cost of renovating the station at $7.2 million. The Congress approved this proposal.

"In April of 1979, the General Accounting Office issued a report on the Nashville project. They found that Congress did not have 'complete and reliable information on several important issues concerning the merits of the proposed renovation.' They also believed that 'General Services efforts stemmed from its desire to acquire the train station building, rather than the need for additional space.' GSA's Administrator disagreed indignantly. 'The critical report ... leads me to believe that the GAO is intent upon frustrating, without justification, GSA's efforts to implement the Public Buildings Cooperative Use Act of 1976. In the regard, I believe the proposed renovation of the Nashville Station is an outstanding example of the implementation of the Act.'

"But while the Administrator was bestowing this glowing endorsement of the project, the building itself was falling apart. Pigeons had been roosting in the vacant building, and their droppings were a major health hazard. The station had to be decontaminated--twice--at a cost of over $500,000.

"These problems did not stop the GSA from going ahead with design of the project in January of last year. GSA then discovered that the post office building, which is located nearby and in good condition, will be available sometime in 1987. This building contains far more space than the Government will need in Nashville.

"Despite the critical GAO report, despite local and regional officials' conclusions that the space is unneeded, GSA cannot make up its mind to end this project. I urge the GSA to act now and stop making a pigeon of the taxpayer before an additional $13 million is wasted. There have been far too many boo-boos made while trying to renovate this old choo-choo station."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1983 FOR PMS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Wednesday released the text of a letter written to the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee responding to his request that Senators identify defense activities in their states that could be eliminated or cutback.

"During this year when the defense budget needs to be cut back sharply, I welcome Chairman Tower's interest in finding specific defense projects and installations that could be cut back or eliminated in various states.

"For Wisconsin, I have offered up the Extremely Low Frequency communications system (ELF). I have recommended that it be struck from the defense budget with a five year savings of over $230 million.

"My most recent poll sent to 100,000 Wisconsin residents (with 12,000 responding) found that 60% of our citizens oppose the deployment of ELF. This is one system we can gladly give up for the sake of greater economies in the Department of Defense."

A copy of the Proxmire letter follows:

(OVER)

March 18, 1983

The Honorable John Tower
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In response to your inquiry that Members of Congress indicate what specific defense installations in their state be recommended for closure, let me say that I welcome your interest and I am prepared to offer a suggestion which will save your Committee over $230 million alone--from my state and one other.

The Navy plans to deploy the Extremely Low Frequency communications system in Wisconsin and Michigan. In the spirit of giving up projects of economic importance to my state I offer up ELF. At a cost of $230 million, you could make significant budgetary savings over the next five years. It will cause some local unemployment and loss of some federal dollars but I am sure that the people of Wisconsin will make this sacrifice for the national good.

My most recent poll of over 100,000 Wisconsin residents found that 60% of our citizens oppose the deployment of ELF. With 17,000 responses from all over the state, I think this clearly shows that our residents are willing to reduce defense spending in this area even though it occurs in our state.

Sincerely,

/s/

William Proxmire, U.S.S.

WP:rtm

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1983 FOR FRIDAY AMs

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Thursday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for April to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for, "wasting over $1.2 million, at one area office, by paying several times for work done once, by approving loan payments on non-existant loans, and by blinking at excessive management fees for public housing projects. HUD's administration of these programs is eating the taxpayer out of house and home."

Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and he serves on the Appropriations Committee. He awards a Golden Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous or ironic use of the taxpayers' money.

"The Congress has enacted a number of laws intended to help poor people find and pay for better housing. HUD's management of these laws demonstrates that landlords can do well by doing good.

"HUD policy is to allow rents which are sufficient to pay for loan costs, operating costs, and a reasonable return to the owner. Because of the various Federal subsidies involved, the taxpayer winds up paying for about 75 percent of the rent. Before HUD approves a proposed rent increase, it requires the project owner to submit a financial statement and a detailed justification of the need for an increase. The only acceptable justifications are 'a bona fide increase in operating expenses or real estate taxes.'

"In theory, these rules should protect the taxpayer and the tenant. In practice, both are sheep ready for shearing.

"HUD gives the data justifying the need for a rent increase only a cursory review. It approved unjustified rent increases for 12 of the 13 projects analyzed at HUD's San Francisco area office. Here are some examples of increases approved mostly during 1982:

--HUD counted the cost of guard service twice and added over $161,000 to the rent at one project.

--HUD approved a grounds maintenance proposal and increased the rent by $60,000. But the contract cost less than $49,000 a year so the taxpayer paid $11,000 a year--apparently for nothing.

(OVER)

--HUD permitted over $200,000 in non-recurring capital costs to be included in the rental base as operating costs. The taxpayer pays, year after year, for work done once every five or ten years.

--HUD allowed property owners to be paid for the costs of loans even though the loan had not been made or was smaller than anticipated. For example, HUD allowed one property owner a rent increase to pay for a $336,000 yearly mortgage although the actual payment was $276,000.

"HUD pays management fees which are about double what their own criteria say they should be. The taxpayer will pay at least $95,000 more a year because of these higher fees.

"This is management of the Wiskin, Blinkin, and Nod school. Because faceless bureaucrats can make decisions which will enable property owners to buy that spiffy new Cadillac, HUD's careless management is an open invitation to fraud.

"I have asked the General Accounting Office to examine HUD's management practices nationwide and advise me if this administrative discretion should be legislatively limited."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1983 FOR WEDNESDAY AMS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Tuesday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month for May to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for "spending $22,700 to seek out composers and artists who would like to spend taxpayers' money on art and music in a future space station.

"This flat note in NASA's symphony leads me to conclude that NASA itself may be getting 'spacey'. The arts and sciences should act in concert, but this is enough to drive the taxpayers 'lunacy'."

Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and he serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee. He awards a Golden Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous or ironic use of the taxpayers' money.

"The purpose of the grant by NASA is to examine the possibility of using artists and the arts in a NASA space station in the future. According to a member of NASA's Space Station Task Force as quoted in the Seattle Post Intelligencer:

> 'We're not yet thinking of a permanent colony, or a place where humans can live with their families, but a permanent station in space where different people can take 90 day tours.'

"If interest is found in the space arts concept, NASA could fund selected arts programs for this space station -- which is yet to be approved or funded either by the Administration or Congress and is not scheduled for deployment even if approved until 1990 or later. Estimated costs for a space station range from $5 billion to $20 billion depending on a number of variables.

"According to the application which NASA approved, Federal taxpayers will pay to:

> '(1) Survey existing literature in a broad range of disciplines on the interactions of arts and science, and their cross influences.
>
> (2) Solicit and summarize opinions from a broad range of scientists and artists who have expressed an interest in utilizing space as a medium for art endeavor.
>
> (3) Potentially, solicit brief proposals from artists interested in this area, and summarize these for further consideration by NASA."

(OVER)

"In other words, NASA is paying good money to uncover artistic ways to spend money on or at a space station. This is as productive as pouring money up, down, through, out, or in one of the universe's black holes.

"Among the examples listed in the application for possible space art and music were the following: '"Fellowships" for composers to work in space; conceptual artists to experiment with new arrangements of materials in zero g (gravity) situations which would be visible from earth; or visual artists to participate as design team members for the internal and external form of the station itself.'

"This is part of a larger program, which NASA says, '. . . may lead to innovative uses of a future space station. . . This is in line with NASA's desire to involve space station users early in the planning process so that user requirements will be fully considered in the design and construction of hardware.'

"I do not question the sincerity of those involved in approving this proposal. But, in this time of sky-rocketing deficits of more than $200 billion and severe budgetary limitations on the important scientific work of NASA, why is it necessary for the agency to fund an individual to go out to solicit proposals which might result in the spending of scarce federal funds on this type of activity? Artful Enterprises have their place, but this is not pleasing to my palette."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. MONDAY, MAY 30, 1983 FOR TUESDAY AMS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) in a follow-up to one of his Golden Fleece awards Monday made public a General Accounting Office report concluding that the Pentagon's provision of personnel, chauffeurs, aides, and other support for the 1981 inauguration of President Reagan was "without proper legal authority."

Proxmire is a Member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. In February of 1981 he gave the Presidential Inauguration Committee a 'Golden Fleece' for claiming that no public money had been spent on the insugural while conveniently overlooking the $1.8 million in inaugural support that came out of the Pentagon's budget. To this day Inaugural Committee members still claim that no public funds were spent.

"In support of the President's inaugural activities, the Inaugural Committee commandeered 1,533 Marines, soldiers, sailors and other service personnel to act as chauffeurs and aides to 274 inaugural VIPs as well as several hundred additional inaugural celebrants.

"Of the 1,533 uniformed personnel, 616 served as drivers, 175 served as personal military escorts to VIPs and 529 served as 'social aides' on call at the various festivities. Over 250,800 miles were driven by ferrying members of the Inaugural Committee and other VIPs around town--the equivalent of driving from Washington, D.C. to Rancho Cielo and back 47 times.

"Immediately after the inauguration activities I asked the Comptroller General to determine the legality of the Pentagon's operation. The Comptroller General has responded by stating in a report to me:

> There is no specific statutory authority for DOD to provide chauffeurs, personal escorts and social aides, as well as other non-safety and non-medical support, for inaugural activities, nor are many of DOD's inaugural activities covered by more general authorities such as the Economy Act or those which support expenditures for local community relations activities.

(OVER)

Lack of a statutory base for this support has resulted in practices questionable on policy as well as legal grounds.

"The Comptroller General found that DOD could provide expenses for its personnel actually participating themselves in the ceremony plus medical and safety support. But logistics and administrative support for other participants was clearly ruled out.

"Similar though less extensive support was provided by the Pentagon for the Inauguration of President Carter in 1977. For example the Carter Inaugural used 8,329 military personnel compared to the Reagan total of 11,430.

"The irony of these facts is that the Reagan Administration came to office riding a campaign of national frugality and reductions in expenditures. And the first thing they did was commandeer military personnel at a cost of $1.8 million to the taxpayers.

"I personally think that the 1981 Inaugural Committee should reimburse the Pentagon for all its expenses. After all, this money was taken out of a defense program the President has called essential to our security--a defense budget he says should not be reduced without harm to our national security. If this is true, then come on Inaugural Committee--cough up the $1.8 million!

"The Congress needs to establish specific guidelines for what DOD can and cannot contribute to future inaugural activities. We can no longer live under the fiction, promoted by the Inaugural Committee, that only private funds were spent."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 1983 FOR MONDAY AMS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Sunday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for June to the National Institute of Education (NIE) for a "flagrant failure to keep tabs on a $940,000 government contract. This resulted in about $500,000 of the taxpayers' money being blown on everything from unsecured personal loans to purchasing a disco and promoting a rock concert. Instead of doing their homework, the NIE bureaucrats were caught napping.

"In my grade book, the NIE gets an F- for protecting the Nation's taxpayers but an A+ for promoting waste, fraud and abuse. They should be given a dunce cap, a good rap on the knuckles, and made to stand in the corner for a fiscal year."

Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and serves on the Appropriations Committee. He awards a Fleece monthly to the most ridiculous, wasteful, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money for that period.

"This month's Fleece, like most, has a humorous twist to it, but this one also merits review by the Justice Department. Therefore, I am sending the Attorney General a copy of the internal audit reports done by the Education Department. These reports are the basis of this Fleece.

"The NIE sponsors a number of conferences each year on topics such as Urban Superintendents Network and National State-of-the-art Conference on Principalship. They hire consulting firms to arrange these conferences--a doubtful idea in itself.

"These consultants are responsible for setting up the meetings, reimbursing those who attend for their travel costs, and paying honoraria when earned. The consultants submit their bills to NIE which should review them for accuracy and only then pay the tab. This is how things should work. But here is what the NIE let happen between January, 1980 and May 14, 1981, when a bankruptcy spilled the dirty linen.

"The NIE stood by while over $100,000 in personal loans were made. According to the Education Department auditors, 'Our review showed that [the consulting firm] loaned three of its corporate executives $100,676 which was not repaid.'

(OVER)

"They turned a blind eye while Federal funds were used to support private, profit-making businesses. At least nine unrelated firms were run from the same offices paid for through the NIE consulting contract. Yet up to 98 percent of overhead costs, including travel and pay costs, incurred by these unrelated businesses were charged to the NIE and, ultimately, to the taxpayer.

"The auditors said that these businesses added to the Government's cost by using 'administrative staff, space, communications, etc. at little or not cost to themselves.' In addition to rock concerts and discos, these firms were involved in real estate speculation, mining ventures in Greece, and aircraft sales to Bangladesh.

"The NIE handed over more than $70,000 to cover travel costs and honoraria for several conferences. Investigators discovered that this money did not go to the intended recipients. Because the NIE later had to pay these overdue bills, the poor taxpayers were socked twice with the same bill.

"The NIE had received numerous indications that the contract had problems. They received five earlier warnings that travel costs were not being paid but continued with business as usual.

"How could the NIE watch this mess develop and not stop it? The answer: the contract division thought the project officers, who were responsible for supervising the conferences, should also check the bills to make certain they were proper. The project officers--guess what--thought the contract division should be doing the checking. The bills, of course, were not checked, only paid."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. TUESDAY, JULY 26, 1983 FOR TUESDAY PMS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Tuesday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for July to the U.S. Coast Guard for "spending $1.1 million to build a boat repair station at Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, which sat empty and unused for about a year. Why? Because the Coast Guard forgot to assign anyone to work there, that's why!

"The Coast Guard should consider changing its motto from 'Always Ready' to 'Never Remember.' The taxpayer can be forgiven for having a sinking feeling about this boat repair station."

Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and serves on the Appropriations Committee. He awards a Fleece monthly to the most ridiculous, wasteful, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money for that period.

"The case of the forgotten repair station started back in 1975. The district office decided they needed a building in which to repair boats during bad weather. They estimated such a building would cost $580,000.

"The Commandant of the Coast Guard disapproved this proposal in 1977. He was not convinced that the new building was needed.

"The district office would not take 'no' for an answer and prepared an analysis showing that the Coast Guard would save money by repairing the boats itself instead of having private companies do the work. The analysis assumed that staff would be transferred from other Coast Guard stations, that no additional salary costs would be incurred.

"The Commandant then approved the proposal in 1979 and in 1980 Congress appropriated $1.1 million for the new building. By December of 1981, the building was ready for use.

"There it sat, unused, day in and day out. Months passed, the seasons changed, and still no one appeared to work in the building.

"Finally, after about a year, the Coast Guard assigned a skeleton staff to the building. Listen to their explanation of this incident:

> 'We accurately and correctly demonstrated the benefits which would result from a [new building] but we totally overlooked the fact that if you increase activity at a unit, you can expect additional staffing will be needed to do the work.'

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"Think about that for a moment before you take your next boat ride. The government agency charged with search and rescue on the high seas 'totally overlooked the fact' that additional people would be needed to work in a new $1.1 million building!

"Now comes the insult. To move boats from the water to the repair building, the Coast Guard purchased a $45,750 boat hoist. They successfully tested it by moving the largest boat available--one 44 feet long and weighing 20 tons. Because the repair building was 20x40 feet in size, moving this boat should have been a reasonable test for anybody.

"But not for the Coast Guard. They decided the hoist should have to lift a 50 ton load. A boat this size would scarcely fit into the new building. But the Coast Guard--Always Ready?--built a 50 ton test weight--at a cost of over $1,400. What happened when they used this weight, which was shaped more like a brick than a boat? The hoist broke and repairs will cost around $12,000.

"The Coast Guard hoisted the taxpayer on its petard once again.

"This new building is within sight of the area where Blackbeard the pirate was killed. He used a sword to commit piracy. Now the Coast Guard has shown that when it comes to modern-day buccaneering, the pen, applied to a government check, is truly mightier than the sword."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 1983 FOR MONDAY AMS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) gave his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for August to the U.S. District Court judges of Atlanta, Georgia for "fixing the jury on design and construction at the Richard B. Russell Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse and then serving the taxpayers with their bill for an extra $7 million. The Atlanta judges really flipped their wigs on this one, forcing the General Services Administration (GSA) to make hundreds of last minute design changes to suit their whims. I rule the Atlanta court totally out of order."

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and serves on the Appropriations Committee. He awards a Fleece monthly to the most ridiculous, wasteful or ironic use of the taxpayers' money for that period.

"The $47 million Atlanta courthouse project was originally designed in the 1960s. But in 1977, a good two years into the actual construction, the Federal judges started making their demands. The list of changes included building a total of six jury rooms to serve just four courtrooms. Another change provided for an oversized, but seldom used chamber for 'ceremonial' occasions. Their list of injudicious changes also included orders to install extra wood panelling behind each judge's chair and to trade in all the stainless steel rails and chair bases for more elegant brass fittings.

"But the real loser in this 'Let-The-Judges-Design-It' contest was the building's poor 22nd floor. It had already been finished, or so the GSA thought, when the judges decided to completely revamp the Clerk of the Court's filing system. They wanted to install a new mechanized system that was so heavy, the entire concrete slab floor had to be gutted, the building cross-supports replaced, and the exterior building skin replaced. The judges' caprice created a gaping hole in the building for three months.

"The GSA has sometimes been the defendant in the past Fleeces concerning construction cost overruns. But not this time. The record shows that GSA tried its best to keep the project within

(OVER)

budget and on time. But the Atlanta judges decided to bend the rules. They took unfair advantage of the traditional separation of powers between the judicial and legislative branches.

"Congress is responsible for providing the courts with the funds necessary to run their own show. In Atlanta, the judges decided to go for the gold, prolonging the project by a year and adding 11% to the original contract price. GSA says normally it is able to hold change costs to just one percent of the original project estimates.

"In all, there were a total of 230 change orders submitted, most of them to satisfy the court's many demands. And to cover the added costs, the local Atlanta contractor sued the government for $18 million. After negotiations with GSA, the company reduced its claim to $7 million. But so far, the bill still hasn't been paid.

"In his court brief, GSA's legal counsel had to admit that the contractor's claims were valid. He wrote that '...the Government issued a plethora of change orders turning the project into a design as you build exercise. Work was interrupted because many times it was unclear whether a change order would be issued or what the scope of the change order would be ...'

"Unfortunately, Atlanta is not an isolated case. Despite a 1977 agreement between GSA and Chief Justice Warren Burger that limits the size of federal courtrooms to 1880 square feet, judges routinely demand -- and get -- exceptions over GSA's objections. Last year, the Chief Justice approved a 3200 square foot ceremonial courtroom for Norfolk, Virginia. On the drawing boards for Pasadena, California are two oversized chambers, one 3120, the other 2170 square feet. In addition, judges in North Dakota and Ohio have had the gall to issue court orders that force the GSA to set building air conditioning levels to the court's liking, in defiance of federal energy conservation rules.

"Who judges the judges when they break the rules and make Uncle Sam pay for it? Clearly, no one outside the judiciary can do the whole job. But at least these judges ought to be sentenced to embarrassment for life without hope of parole for holding the American taxpayer in such contempt!"

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1983 FOR FRIDAY AMS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Thursday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for September to the Department of the Army for "spending about $20,000 to prepare 30,000 fancy, multi-colored pamphlets explaining how to play King of the Hill. That's right--the old playground game. The Army has made a mountain out of a molehill but the poor taxpayer has taken the financial tumble."

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and serves on the Appropriations Committee. He awards a Fleece monthly to the most ridiculous, wasteful, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money for that period.

"The pamphlet contains a preface, four pages of detailed rules, and a multi-colored diagram of an 'earthen mound' to be used when playing the game. The Army states that the purpose of the pamphlet is to 'incorporate leadership, strategy-planning, and decision-making skills into the physical fitness training program.'

"I believe this statement is bottled-in-bond nonsense and here's why.

"First, while the U.S. Army is practicing King of the Hill, the Russian Army practices blitzkrieg tactics, massed infantry attacks, chemical warfare, and subversion. Our playing King of the Hill will not keep Defense Minister Ustinov awake nights.

"Second, King of the Hill has little resemblance to the modern battlefield, which is fluid, makes use of high technology weapons including remote targeting and attack, and is not bound by detailed rules. Whatever lessons about strategy which can be learned from King of the Hill will be useless on the battlefield.

"Third, the rules of King of the Hill can be easily learned. Children have been doing so for decades if not centuries. Drill instructors are notably proficient at keeping the troops fit. If these instructors want to play King of the Hill to improve fitness, they do not need a Defense Department pamphlet filled with silly rules.

"Fourth, the pamphlet is written like a second grade 'Dick and Jane' reading primer. Here are some direct quotes from the pamphlet.

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'King of the Hill uses a defending team and an attacking team.

'The game is played under the supervision of three referees. One of them is designated chief referee. All referees have whistles.

'When possible, senior NCOs and/or officers from other units or sections should be used as officials. It is important that their authority not be questioned during play. If it is, the game quickly gets out of hand.

'Unsportsmanlike conduct is called for abusive or insulting language directed at a referee or language determined to be excessive or blatant.'

"The rules also provide that the defending team leader cannot be attacked by anyone but the attacking leader as long as the defender remains in an 'inner circle.' Ordinary soldiers are expendable but the leaders are exalted personages only to be attacked by others of equal rank. Is this a lesson the Army wants to teach?

"I believe physical fitness should be a goal for every American.It is es Hill to teach strategy and decision-making strikes me as an exercise in futility."

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Editors note: Attached is the cover of the pamphlet. It can be examined in Room SD-530 of the Dirksen Building.

DA Pamphlet
No. 350-18



Rules for Playing KING of the Hill

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Washington, DC, 1 May 1983

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OFFICE OF OCT 27

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1983 FOR THURSDAY AMs

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Wednesday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for October to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for "wasting $232,000 of the taxpayers' money because HUD officials could not correctly do simple addition. Private landlords hauled away this juicy windfall when HUD bureaucrats miscalculated rental payments. These Adders puffed the rents and snaked $232,000 from the taxpayers' alligator wallets when they should have scaled back the payments."

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, which has jurisdiction over HUD's programs. He awards a Fleece monthly to the most ridiculous, wasteful, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money for that period.

"HUD forked over these overpayments to landlords who own housing projects in Dallas, Chicago, and San Francisco. The tenants who live in these projects pay about 25 percent of the rent while HUD--meaning the taxpayer--pays the rest.

"Because the taxpayer pays most of the rent, HUD is supposed to require landlords to submit financial data justifying proposed rent increases. If they expect utility costs to increase 7 percent, for example, HUD approves an increase sufficient to pay these additional costs.

"In a sample of 46 requested rental increases, which were checked after HUD had approved them, the Department paid an additional $1,900,000 in rent, but $232,000 of this total was flat overpaid because of plain, old errors in addition. The error rate amounted to a staggering 12 percent of the total. If this same error rate applies throughout HUD, the taxpayer is being bilked out of tens of millions of dollars.

"HUD supervisors were out to lunch and did not check the data on 27 of the 46 requested increases. The addition errors slipped by when supervisors rubber-stamped whatever their in-boxes contained.

"These addition errors were all too typical of HUD's management of this program. Some of the required justification data were missing

(OVER)

for 37 of the 46 approved increases. HUD approved every cent of the $1.9 million even though $1.2 million was unjustified as required by HUD regulations.

"Landlords could have submitted this data and HUD promptly lost it. Or HUD officials may have approved the increases without the data. In either case, HUD stands convicted of administrative sloppiness. Perhaps HUD really stands for Haven't Used Diligence.

"The Department has been organized and reorganized into administrative chaos. I am sure that top management gets a kick from shifting boxes around on an organizational chart. But HUD's performance down in the trenches leads me to conclude that management should spend less time brewing this organizational snake-oil and more time dealing with the ABCs of proper management."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1983 FOR FRIDAY AMS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Thursday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for November to the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) for "callously clipping the taxpayer of $45 million a year by allowing Medicare to foot the bill for cutting toenails. In my 'o'bunion,' HCFA should toe the line instead of standing by while podiatrists trim the toe."

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies. The Health Care Financing Administration is part of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and is responsible for oversight of the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

"Health care costs have increased at double-digit rates for many years. Here is one of the reasons why.

"Medicare does not usually pay for routine foot care such as cutting toenails. But if patients have a fungus infection around the toenail, then Medicare will pay for a procedure called debridement of mycotic toenails--in other words, cutting infected toenails. The taxpayers pay about $90 million a year for this treatment. HHS estimates that $45 million of that total could be saved if abuses were stopped.

"According to the Inspector General of HHS, studies 'conducted in Pennsylvania, Florida and Illinois show significant overutilization of debridement of mycotic toenails.' His investigators found 'solid indications that some podiatrists in these three states are mis-diagnosing the medical condition of beneficiaries in order to obtain Medicare reimbursement for routine toenail cutting, which is generally not a covered service.'

"In another study, conducted in Virginia, the Inspector General discovered that 'podiatrists billed the Medicare program $791,000 for their services, over 70 percent of which were for the debridement of mycotic toenails.' A professional debridement should take about 15 minutes to complete but some podiatrists seeking reimbursement for one day's work 'billed for 50 to as many as 116 debridements which, in the latter case, is virtually impossible to accomplish within a 24-hour period.' Some might ask what kind of a clip joint

(OVER)

are the taxpayers financing.

"How can these abuses be stopped? Two effective reforms--no petty cure--would save the taxpayer that $45 million a year. First, limit reimbursements for debridements to once every 60 days unless a doctor documents the need for more frequent treatment. Second, require that doctors, not podiatrists, diagnose that the toenail is really infected.

"HCFA has archly refused to implement these reforms and, therefore, has no kick coming about this Fleece. Congress has now stepped up to the problem and the Budget Reconciliation bill will put a 60 day limit on this treatment.

"HCFA has been footloose with the taxpayers' money. Instead of allowing some podiatrists to get a toehold on this program, HCFA bureaucrats should have done a lot more soul searching. These bureaucrats gave the podiatrists an inch but they took a foot. HCFA should be nailed to the wall and brought to heel for this footling expenditure."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1983 FOR THURSDAY AMs

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Thursday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month for December to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) "which, according to its own auditors, permitted a sand and gravel mining firm to violate the terms of a $2.5 million federal loan by loaning $500,000 interest free to the company's sole stockholder, paying $314,320 in cash for a helicopter which is used primarily by the company's sole stockholder, purchasing a $65,000 lakeside cabin for entertainment purposes, and spending $1.7 million on other questionable transactions.

"EDA was first alerted to certain loan term violations upon receipt of the firm's 1980 required financial statement. Subsequent financial statements for 1981 and 1982 disclosed that the firm 'had not cleared any of the previous violations' and yet EDA officials let the problems continue. EDA is fighting back like the 98 pound weakling who is getting sand and gravel kicked in his face. It should change its initials from EDA to 'WIMP.'"

Proxmire is the ranking minority member of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs and a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee which funds EDA. He awards the Golden Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous or ironic use of taxpayers' money.

"The Commerce Department's auditors found that 'the company violated the loan terms by increasing its debt and cash outlays for ventures completely unrelated to mining.'

"A semiannual report by the Office of the Inspector General states: 'Our review showed that the firm disregarded the EDA loan agreement and violated the loan covenants restricting (1) loans to individuals; (2) purchases of property; and, (3) incurring additional indebtedness. The violations are a by-product of the owner's habitual depletion of the company's cash for loans to himself and for purchases of dubious assets. So far, the company has:

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--Spent $750,000 to purchase land, and another $450,000 to develop it for commercial use completely unrelated to the sand and gravel company.

--Spent over $500,000 since 1976 for farm equipment and machinery to use at a farm that has never made a profit.

--Loaned $500,000 to the company's sole stockholder.*

--Paid $114,320 in cash for a helicopter whose need is questioned because of the nearness of the mines to the company offices.**

--Bought a $65,000 lakeside cabin for entertainment purposes without documenting when, and for whom, entertainment was provided.

"The auditors also stated: 'If the owner keeps diverting cash from the company's operation, financial strains could result. So we recommended that, due to continuous violations of the EDA loan agreement and the current financial strength of the company, EDA take immediate action to call the loan. EDA has taken the first necessary steps in this direction.

"But did they? The WIMP won out over EDA. Why do I say that? The Commerce Department informed my staff that they sent a letter to the firm asking for a meeting to discuss the loan violations and that the firm did not respond to the substance of the request. After being contacted by my staff, EDA officials stated that they were immediately sending out a follow-up letter to the firm demanding a meeting.

"EDA officials sounded like Rodney Dangerfield in justifying their hesitancy to come down hard on the firm. They argue payments on the loan were being made and the firm has adequate security to guarantee the principal of the loan.

"And no wonder! The Department of Commerce auditors discovered that the Farmers Home Administration had guaranteed 90 percent of another $4 million loan to this firm. The EDA did not know of this other loan in 1976 when they first approved the initial loan. The audit report concludes: 'The EDA loan application did not disclose FmHA's loan guarantee. It is possible that this information may have been withheld in order to obtain the EDA lower interest rate loan.'

"EDA seemed more interested in the security of the loan than its purpose. EDA loans are far below the market rate of interest and are intended to provide help for private firms when such help is in the public interest. By justifying inaction on the ground that the loan was still safe, the EDA is demonstrating once again that its activities could either be taken over by the private sector or do

(MORE)

not serve a clear national purpose. This is precisely the reason that I continue to support efforts to abolish the Economic Development Administration. I hope examples such as this Golden Fleece will help convince my colleagues in the Congress of the need to get the Rodney Dangerfields and wimps out of doing business for the U.S. taxpayer by abolishing this agency."

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* According to the September 1983 Audit Report: "A loan agreement was not available upon our initial request. Subsequently, a note was provided that showed the loan was interest free with the first payment due July 1, 1984."

** The Audit Report states: "/the firm/ purchased a helicopter for cash totaling $314,920. The cost to the company to operate the helicopter is approximately $60,000 per year. The helicopter is used primarily by /the company's sole stockholder/. We question the propriety of the helicopter purchase because of the proximity of /the firm's/ mines to their /the firm's/ offices."

SUMMARY OF FLEECES - 1984

January - National Aeronautics and Space Administration

For spending over $780,000 in tax funds to transport 2,228 VIPs and special guests to 12 Space Shuttle launches.

February - Fort Worth Regional Office of the Urban Mass Transportation Adm.

For mismanaging $64 million of capital improvement projects reviewed by Department of Transportation auditors for the period January 1981-May 1983.

March - U.S. Forest Service

For attempting to yoke four helicopters and a blimp into one contraption to lift logs from the national forests. The project was four years behind schedule and costs ballooned from $26 million to $40 million.

April - National Institute of Dental Research

For sponsoring a 5-year, $465,500 study to find out the 'effects of orthodontia on psychosocial functioning.'

May - Instead of a Fleece, Merit Award to General David B. Hoff of the Wisconsin Air Guard

For solving a safety hazard on A-10 aircraft in three months with $1,100 of his own money when all the experts said it would cost tens of thousands of dollars and take two years.

June - Department of the Interior

For gross mismanagement by allowing the Territory of Guam to waste millions of dollars for paving parking lots at a private nightclub and an apartment building and hiring people who spent much of their time drinking coffee.

July - Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

For spending almost $12 million of federal funds on an advertising campaign to increase awareness of the federal crop insurance program and persuade farmers that it is a good investment. A study showed that farmer ended up knowing no more about this program after the ad campaign than they did before.

August - Health Care Financing Administration

For Medicaid payments to psychiatrists for 'chance meetings' while patients were attending basketball games, sitting on a stoop, etc., - and possibly costing between $40-80 million over the last four years.

September - State Department

For permitting employees to use over $400,000 to frolic on posh ocean cruises.

October - Defense Department

For spending $100,000 to fly cadets and midshipmen to California to attend last year's Army-Navy game.

November - Social Security Administration

For spending $1.6 million and 6 years trying and ultimately failing to get a new high-tech cassette tape filing system to work.

December - Office of Management and Budget

For cutting domestic spending yet allowing 71 different government agencies to spend at least $12.9 million on entertainment costs in 1984.

Summary of Fleecing - 1985

January - Award of Merit to Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker

For heading the best run agency in Washington, which brought down the rate of inflation, closed loopholes in banking laws, defused the debt problem of developing nations, and held the line on its own internal expenses.

February - Defense Department

For spending nearly $28,000 to fly nine members of Congress to and from Washington in posh executive jets so they would not miss a close vote on the MX missile.

March - Federal Aviation Administration

For wasting $48 million a year of taxpayers' money by allowing Florida airports to let thousands of acres of valuable federal land sit idle and lease other land at bargain basement prices.

April - Mine Safety and Health Administration

For operating its mine equipment testing center at a deficit for the last three years, costing more than $10 million.

May - Department of Housing and Urban Development

For spending over $1 million of public money to build an access road, ramp, and tunnel to a privately-funded entertainment spa.

June - Department of Education

For paying $760,000 in interest and fees to a major U.S. bank on unused student loans.

July - Army Corps of Engineers

For spending over $33 million to rebuild 10 miles of beach, which fronts costly hotels and condominiums in Miami Beach.

August - Western Area Power Administration

For spending $1.8 million on a jet so that its executives would not have to wait in line at commercial airlines.

September - National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke

For spending $160,000 to study whether someone can "hex" an opponent during a strength test by drawing an "X" on his chest.

October - The Navy

For buying a $792 8-by-10 foot designer doormat.

November - Defense Department

For spending $162 million annually producing and buying periodicals and newspapers.

December - Urban Mass Transit Administration

For costing taxpayers $30 billion over 20 years while transit revenues have dropped 28%, costs have increased 78%, and the taxpayers subsidy per passenger has increased 1,350%.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1985 FOR PM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Wednesday awarded Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker an award of merit for heading the best run agency in Washington.

In a statement released from his office in Washington, Proxmire said: "Every month, I issue a 'golden fleece' award for the most outrageous example of government waste. However, I also on occasion issue an award of merit, a kind of 'golden star', for exceptional service to the taxpayer. Today I am giving a 'golden star' not just of the month, but of the year, for Extraordinary achievement to Paul Volcker, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

"The Federal Reserve clearly deserves a gold star for its stunning achievement in bringing down the rate of inflation from 13 percent in 1979 to less than 4 percent by 1982. During the last two years, the FED managed to keep the inflation rate from exceeding 4 percent. The credit for curbing inflation belongs to the FED alone. Neither Congress nor the Administration deserves the slightest share of credit for it. By getting tough on the rate of new money growth, Volcker and his colleagues reversed the trend towards run-away inflation which almost wrecked the American economy.

"The FED's achievement is all the more impressive given the colossal budget deficits of the Reagan Administration, and the last two Congresses. If Volcker had caved in to pressure to monetize the Reagan deficits, we would have been back to double digit inflation today. And while interest rates are still too high, they would be far higher if inflation had not been checked by the FED.

"Given the spectacular accomplishments of the FED, it is incredible that Treasury Secretary Regan is scheming to 'reform' the FED. Recent press reports indicate that the Treasury is studying various 'reform' plans including making the Secretary of the Treasury an ex-officio member of the Federal Reserve Board. With all due respect to Secretary Regan, such a move would have a disastrous effect in the fight against inflation.

"This is not merely my opinion. It is the widespread opinion of Secretary Regan's financial peers on Wall Street who are in the good position to judge. According to a recent poll, 38 percent of financial executives singled out Secretary Regan as the one individual in whom they had the least confidence for handling monetary policy. Moreover, Secretary Regan won the least confidence title going away. His closest rival was Milton Friedman at 14 percent.

"Given these perceptions, Secretary Regan would do well to refurbish his own credibility before he tries to gain control of the FED -- the only agency in Washington with a proven track record. Giving the Treasury more control over the FED would send an unmistakable signal to the financial community that the war against inflation is over.

(OVER)

"Another reason why the FED deserves the gold star award is because of its singular efforts to close loopholes in our banking laws which threaten to undermine our banking system. While the other two bank regulatory agencies have often been cheerleaders in the drive to gut our banking laws, the FED alone has stood firm in maintaining the integrity of the laws passed by Congress. While other bank regulators actively encourage the formation of 'non-bank banks' the FED has consistently argued that change should come about by statute rather than by loophole.

"A third reason for giving the FED the gold star award is its role in defusing the potentially explosive debt problem of developing nations. Chairman Volcker and New York Federal Reserve Bank President Tony Solomon have been consistently ahead of the Treasury in understanding the nature of the third-world debt crisis and its consequences for the international financial system. Indeed, up until the time the government of Mexico confessed it could not meet its debt payments on time in 1982, the Treasury was denying the need for any increase in the IMF lending quotas.

"Finally, the Federal Reserve is to be commended for holding the line on its own internal expenses. During the last ten years, FED administrative expense increased at a rate of 1 percent a year in constant dollars compared to 5 percent a year for the federal government as a whole. If every agency followed the FED's example, total federal spending would be $200 billion less than it is today and we would have no federal budget deficit."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1985 FOR MONDAY AMs

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Sunday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for February to the Defense Department for "spending nearly $28,000 on a futile, possibly illegal, venture to fly nine Members of Congress to and from Washington in posh executive jets so they would not miss a close vote on the MX missile. The Department lost on a 199-197 vote so the $28,000 was not only wasted but also proved to be all but illegal.

"The taxpayers have good reason to object to these flights of fancy. Here is one Senator who believes it's time to pull the Pentagon back from the wild blue yonder."

Senator Proxmire serves on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and is the ranking Democrat on the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. He awards a Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money.

"Picture the situation. The MX had survived an earlier, close vote in the House. Now, on May 31, 1984, it faces another test and the vote looks close. The Department counts noses and discovers that after the Memorial Day recess some MX supporters are still away from Washington.

"The Pentagon pulls out all the stops. It scrambles its fleet of posh executive jets. They wing their way around America to pick up the missile's stray supporters and rush them back to Washington. The taxpayers pay the tab of $11,744.

"In every case, commercial flights were available. They would have made it to Washington within 30 minutes to 3 hours of the time the military's Washington express arrived. These flights would have cost $1,431. Opponents of the MX had to use commercial flights to come back to vote.

"Now the irony. The Department lost the vote by 199-197. But to demonstrate its gratitude, the next day it flew four members back out into the country at a cost of $16,016. Commercial flights to the same destinations would have cost $1,367.

"According to the General Accounting Office, the Department has no legal authority to provide such flights. The best justification the Pentagon could offer was to bleat that Congress had not prohibited such flights.

"I thought this Administration was committed to a 'strict constructionist' approach to the law. But when it comes to the Defense Department, the only principle it follows is: Anything goes, unless Congress says 'No.' Imagine the howls of outrage had the Carter Administration followed this standard in deciding how to protect workers' safety or eliminate subsidies to water projects.

(OVER)

"Finally, the Department's abuse of power raises an issue of simple fairness. Don't hold your breath until it cranks up those jets to find Members who want to vote to cut some fat from the defense budget. 'Billions for us but not one cent for the deficit' is now the motto at the Pentagon.

"The Department's high-flown tactics are enough to make every taxpayer want to cause a flap. This Senator also thinks their wings should be clipped."

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M., SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 1985, FOR MONDAY AMs

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Sunday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for March to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for "snookering the taxpayers out of $48 million a year by turning a blind eye while Florida airports let thousands of acres of valuable federal land sit idle and leased other land at bargain basement prices. The FAA's stewardship makes the Indians who sold Manhattan to the Dutch for $24 worth of trinkets look like shrewd operators.

"The FAA really landed on the taxpayers this time. Their behavior typifies the fiscal 'decade-nce' which the Fleece has come to symbolize on this its 'tin-th' anniversary."

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and serves on the Appropriations Committee. He awards a Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money. He made the first award in March, 1975 — making this month's award the 10th anniversary of the Fleece.

"In 1944, Congress decided to assist the fledgling civil aviation industry by allowing municipal airports to use surplus federal land and buildings. They were to use this property — under the supervision of the FAA — to help pay their operating costs.

"Did this approach work? No, and its failure proves once again that there's many a slip between cup and lip.

"At 23 airports in Florida, more than 9,300 acres are sitting idle, home to mosquitos and sawgrass. This land would cause real estate brokers to do cartwheels: it has an estimated rental value of about $32 million a year. That is each and every year. How much is the taxpayer receiving? — a big, fat zero.

"Even when airports did lease this land, the taxpayers still took a beating. One airport leased 417 acres (valued at $52 million) for use as a golf course and stables. They were paid $240 an acre as rental: the fair market rate, $14,000 an acre. In another case, an airport rented 374 acres to a famous speedway. The rental — $11.00 an acre. A fair market rent would be near $8,000 an acre. The taxpayers are stuck with this one for a long time -- the lease is for 99 years. Overall, 21 airports were leasing federal land but instead of receiving fair market value — $22 million a year — they settled for a paltry $6 million.

"Similar abuses of the taxpayer may be occurring nationwide, not just in Florida. If they are, the taxpayers are losing hundreds of millions of dollars.

"Why did this assistance bellyflop? The federal government began to take an active role in helping airports by handing out grants. The FAA found it easier all around to sign a federal check than to supervise the management of surplus federal property.

(OVER)

The airports started getting a hand-out instead of a hand-up. What's more, the same 23 airports have received more than $112 million in Federal grant assistance and have asked for another $208 million.

"The FAA should be grounded for this fly-by-night approach to managing these valuable lands. Its 'un-tar-able' stewardship has earned this 10th anniversary award."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1985 FOR THURSDAY AM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Wednesday gave the Golden Fleece of the Month Award for April to the Labor Department's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) for "operating its mine equipment testing center in the hole for the past three years at a coal-lossal cost to the Government of more than $18 million."

Senator Proxmire, who is the ranking Democrat on an Appropriations Subcommittee which funds MSHA, awards a Fleece monthly for the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of Government funds.

"Federal law requires the MSHA center to recover the entire cost of equipment testing by charging manufacturers a fee for performing this service. By not charging these manufacturers nearly enough, MSHA has been shifting the cost of mine product approvals from the manufacturer to the general taxpayer. What this amounts to is a hidden -- and hefty -- Government subsidy for a lot of large corporations.

"The taxpayer really got raked over the coals this time, especially since the Labor Department's own auditors pointed out major cost overruns at the center as early as 1981. Now more than three years have passed and MSHA's fees continue to be so low that the facility still recovers from manufacturers less than 10 cents for every dollar it spends testing their equipment.

"Could you or I keep a business running for years that was so far from being in the black? Hardly. Unlike us, though, MSHA doesn't have to take its lumps for such fiscal irresponsibility. It simply passes them right along to the taxpayer.

"Think about it. Almost twenty years have gone by since MSHA last updated most of the fees it charges manufacturers for testing their equipment. Moreover, the Agency has not revised a single fee schedule to reflect current operating costs since Labor Department auditors urged it to do so in 1981. Result? The Government continues to lose about $300,000 each month.

(OVER)

"MSHA officials apparently aren't too upset about it either, since they don't intend to have a fee schedule revision take effect until next July at the earliest -- at a cost to the Government of at least another $4 million!

"The MSHA center also failed to maintain a strong quality assurance program to ensure that products it tested and approved continue to meet Federal safety requirements. In fact, in the last four fiscal years MSHA has post-evaluated less than two percent of the 25,000 pieces of equipment it previously had approved for use. This is especially troubling, since one out of every eight pieces of equipment the center did test has turned out to have critical or major deficiencies.

"The mission of the MSHA testing center is a highly important one -- ensuring that products used in our nation's mines are safe. The center's failure to establish an effective quality assurance program probably means that every day U.S. miners are working with equipment that is defective and hazardous, even though it proudly bears the MSHA seal of approval.

"The MSHA center tests equipment for all types of U.S. mines -- metal and non-metal, as well as coal. The fact that coal alone provides more than one-fifth of the energy consumed in the United States underscores how important it is that the center operate efficiently. And you can't help wondering whether there is any connection between the center having such a lax quality assurance program and the number of U.S. coal mine deaths jumping 77% last year -- from 70 in 1983 to a whopping 124!

"In the past few months, MSHA has taken some faltering steps to bolster its quality assurance program, increasing its rate of evaluation to about 8% of all products tested. In such a critical area, though, this comes as too little too late.

"Isn't it ironic too that MSHA probably could acquire sufficient funds to stoke up its quality assurance efforts simply by charging manufacturers realistic fees for equipment testing?

"April might be too early to give MSHA coal in its stocking for this pit-iful performance", the Senator concluded, "but it's a grand time for awarding it the Golden Fleece."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M., THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1985 FOR PM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Thursday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for May to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for "be-stowing over $1 million in public money to build an access road, ramp and tunnel to a privately-funded entertainment spa in Pittsburg featuring sightseeing and shuttle boats, and a 3-tiered floating dock. The taxpayers' money was actually spent, nothing new about that, but the promised passenger boat ended up in New York, the shuttle has yet to be seen, and the dock, to be bustling with restaurants, lounges, and offices, faded into the bureaucratic fog and re-emerged as two barges.

"The sinking of this project gives new meaning to the phrase 'Up the creek without a paddle.' HUD's riverboat gamble leaves the taxpayers with a losing hand."

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, which has jurisdiction over most HUD programs. He awards a Golden Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money for that period.

"The Urban Development Action Grant program (UDAG) has the dubious distinction of funding this project. These grants are touted as seed money for local governments, which chase after them because the money can be used to encourage private development. According to HUD, 'As a requirement for funding, a firm private sector financial commitment must be in place.'

"HUD must have a squishy-soft definition of the word 'firm.' In support of this project, HUD committed a $530,000 grant, a $370,000 loan, and $155,000 in other funding. This money was spent essentially to improve access to the project.

"In return for this taxpayer money, the private concern was to spend $1,551,000 for that sightseeing boat, $500,000 for the shuttle, and$1,500,000 for the entertainment dock. HUD spent its money based on a January 29, 1982 agreement. But the required private investment, remember that 'firm private sector financial commitment', sank faster than the Titanic.

"An internal HUD audit concluded, 'The Developer failed to complete any of the activities identified in the Grant Agreement, including the acquisition of a 1,000 passenger sightseeing boat and a 100-passenger shuttle boat, and the development of an 18,000 square foot floating dock...' HUD was not completely routed -- the developer

(OVER)

found two barges in place of the dock. HUD clearly bankrolled this floating crap game without covering their bets.

"The lawyers will now pick over the bones of this failure. This Fleece demonstrates why I oppose UDAG grants. They do some good for a few communities but all too often they subsidize outright boondoggles, support development which would have taken place without a subsidy, or help one community pirate industry from another. They are corporate welfare and have no place in the budget."

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OFFICE OF 1189

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M., SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1985, FOR SUNDAY AM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Saturday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for June to the Department of Education (DOEd) for "taking a recess while paying $760,000 in interest and fees on unused student loans to a major U.S. bank. For playing softball with the bank instead of fair with the taxpayer, the DOEd has earned a dunce cap".

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Appropriations Subcommittee which has jurisdiction over the DOEd's budget. That cabinet department administers the student loan program and pays interest subsidies and fees to banks which participate in the program. The Senator awards a Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money for that period.

"From 1978 to 1982 a major U.S. bank processed the paperwork, obtained all the necessary approvals, and issued 1,600 checks to students. Months passed, semesters went by, school years ended, but for some reason the students never cashed their checks. The money stayed in the bank's till.

"But DOEd went ahead and paid interest and fees as if the students had cashed their checks. No one at the bank or at DOEd 'checked' on whether the money had been used for its intended purpose--to pay for educations. With this level of supervision, no wonder some students and schools give in to temptation and rip-off this program.

"This failure of oversight meant a bonanza for the bank. It could earn interest twice on this money, first by loaning it to students with the DOEd subsidy and then to other borrowers when the students failed to cash their checks. The taxpayers coughed up $760,000 to pay interest and fees on these Bermuda triangle loans.

"Was this a flash-in-the-pan, one-time affair? Not on your life. In fact, some of these loans went unused for so long that the bank assumed they were in default. Once again, no one checked to see whether the students had actually used the money to attend school. The bank submitted default claims, which DOEd dutifully paid.

"Now that the jig is up, the bank has agreed to repay these default claims. But is stubbornly hanging on to the interest and fees paid by the taxpayer.

(OVER)

"DOBS has given a new twist to that old adage, 'Neither a borrower nor a lender be.' If the Department took more interest in its business, and less in paying it to a bank, the taxpayers would not be out a cool $760,000. DOBS gets a big, red 'F' for its stewardship of the taxpayers' money."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M., MONDAY, JULY 1, 1985 FOR AM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Monday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for the month of July to the Army Corps of Engineers for "spending $33 million, with another $17 million in the pipeline, to pump sand on 10 miles of beach, which fronts costly condominiums and haughty hotels in Miami Beach. The Corps is really sandbagging the taxpayers with this one because one large storm could easily sweep away all this sand. The Corps' efforts are making it easier for those staying in these pleasure palaces to bathe but the average taxpayer is taking the bath."

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee. He serves on the Appropriations Committee and is a former Chairman of the Joint Economic Committee. He awards a Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money for that period.

"The Corps is in the midst of a costly, never-ending, and futile effort to rebuild the beach in front of Miami Beach. They are dredging sand offshore and pumping it onto the beach to widen it. Natural geologic forces are eroding the beach, but the Corps is attempting to thwart those forces. Taxpayers in Wisconsin, Nebraska, and throughout the Nation, are paying $5-6 million a mile to underwrite this effort.

"Are these efforts futile? Here is a quote from Living with the East Florida Shore, a book written by expert geologists and marine scientists: 'Shoreline engineering destroys the beach it was intended to save.' Taxpayers can pour in the millions, the Corps can pump ton upon ton of sand, but recent research demonstrates that the best that can be hoped for is that Miami Beach will become Miami Seawall. If local interests want to protect their investment and reimburse the Corps for the total cost -- fine -- but the taxpayer should not be handed even part of the bill.

"Make no mistake: the Corps is doing this work to protect the investment of developers who built high-rise condominiums and hotels along an unstable beach. Without that sand, could they charge $150 a night for a room or $1 million for that condo? The Corps moves the sand, but developers reap the beach.

"Once this type of work starts, finding a time to say 'Enough, already!' is next to impossible. The Corps is now rebuilding about 10 miles of beach, but is ready to start work on another 2.5 miles because 'Local interests desire extension of the northern limit.' Where does the Corps stop -- Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale, or Maine?

(OVER)

"The money for this extension is hidden away in the Supplemental Appropriations Bill recently debated by Congress, which appropriates an initial $1 million as a downpayment on a $4.1 million project. But before the money can be spent, the Administration and local interests have to agree on a cost-sharing formula. If local developers want a nice, sandy beach, let them pay for it -- all of it. That is the only formula which is fair.

"We laugh today at the story about Xerxes, an ancient Persian Shah who ordered his army to whip the sea after a storm destroyed his fleet. Before laughing too hard, however, the taxpayers should consider what the Corps -- a modern-day Xerxes -- is doing for Miami Beach."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1985 FOR PM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Wednesday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for August to the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) for "wasting $1.8 million to buy an executive jet so that its big shots would not have to wait in line to board commercial flights or pick up their baggage. They bought this flying limousine exactly one week before the end of fiscal year 1983, when the deficit hit a record breaking $208 billion.

"While the deficits and WAPA executives were flying off into the wild blue yonder, the taxpayers were sinking in a sea of red ink. Looking at this comparison, I wonder if WAPA has not had its ticket punched once too often."

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and serves on the Appropriations Committee. The Western Area Power Administration -- part of the Energy Department -- markets federal power in 15 central and western states. Senator Proxmire awards a Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money for that period.

"On September 23, 1983, WAPA spent $1.8 million to purchase a 7-passenger executive jet. It justified this purchase on the grounds that the airplane would be used to:

--transport employees to remote locations.

--respond during emergency power outages, and

--improve employee productivity.

"Regarding travel to remote locations, WAPA cited its need to go to 7 smaller western cities, which have limited commercial air service. But over a 13-month period, WAPA employees made only 25 trips to these cities. About 60 percent of travel was to cities such as Phoenix, Las Vegas, or Salt Lake City, which have a number of scheduled commercial flights.

"WAPA was even less successful in using their $1.8 million plaything to respond during emergencies. They had 25 power outages during the first six months of the plane's operation and not once was it used to respond. It was used to cart around executives, not repair crews.

"Finally, WAPA contended that its employees were less productive if they had to suffer through: '(1) 30 to 50 minute check-in time before aircraft departure, (2) waiting to pickup baggage, (3) delays in flight departures, and (4) overnight layovers.' Oh, pity those poor executives who had to stand for such indignities. WAPA -- you laid it on a bit thick this time.

"This Senator suspects that the real reasons WAPA purchased this jet are that the fiscal year was about to end and -- shocking thought! -- the personal convenience of WAPA executives. For this rip-off, WAPA richly deserves this month's Fleece."

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Here are some of the characteristics of the type of airplane purchased by the Western Area Power Administration.

- It is 47 feet long with a wingspan of 52 feet.
- Its maximum operating altitude is 43,000 feet. Its operating speed at 25,000 feet is 443 MPH.
- It has accommodations for from 6 to 10 passengers. The cabin is fully carpeted and has a refreshment unit.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1985 FOR PM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Thursday awarded his Golden Fleece of the Month for September to the National Institutes of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke, for "tossing away $160,000 to study in part whether someone can 'hex' an opponent during a strength test by drawing an 'X' in front of his opponent's chest. Look out, Hercules, here comes the 98-pound weakling who is good at drawing 'Xs' in the air.

"Those bulging biceps and swollen pectorals can be pounded into submission by a hocus-pocus move. That is a thesis the Institute is testing with taxpayers' money. We have had voodoo economics, now we may get voodoo physiology."

Proxmire is the ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee which funds the Institute. He awards a Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous or ironic use of the taxpayers' money for that period. This Institute, which is part of the National Institutes of Health, is charged with spending its $395 million budget studying disorders of the nervous system and muscles. This includes such destructive illnesses as cerebral palsy, Parkinsonism, and stroke.

"The Institute is paying to determine whether a bulking, muscle-bound subject will lose in a strength test, like arm wrestling, to an obviously weaker opponent. That opponent, however, knows a secret — making an 'X' causes those muscles to turn into jelly.

"The Institute is sponsoring a series of tests. In one case, the spaghetti arms will be tested against the bulk's without performing the 'X'. Other times, they will use this secret technique and see if they do better.

The 'X' is not the only technique which will be tested. On other occasions, the wimps while gently resisting defeat will concentrate on sapping their opponent's energy as their opponents become WEAKER, weaker, weaker. This Senator has a different idea of whose strength is being sapped -- the taxpayers' by the Institute.

"On second thought, maybe the Secretary of Defense should be involved in this study. Think of the money we could save if we bought the 'X' instead of the 'M-X'.

"This Senator thinks that the only people who will really be pinned as a result of this study are the taxpayers, because the Institute has already put the hex on them. Clearly, taxpayers and vital health research have been double-crossed!

"In a memo justifying support for the project the Institute states: '...the phenomenon under investigation cannot be understood or explained by information currently available and it is of obvious interest to determine what other heretofore unknown factors or mechanisms significantly influence muscle strength and movement, particularly as they relate to diseases such as cerebral palsy, Parkinsonism, and stroke.'

(OVER)

"The United States is faced with many serious health problems and a staggering deficit that limits the amount of money we can spend. It is important that limited medical research dollars be spent as wisely as possible.

"No one can deny that cerebral palsy, Parkinson disease and stroke are serious health problems which must be addressed through private and government research. But in this time of severe economic distress, this Senator can only ask is this particular expenditure the best approach for solving these problems?"

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M., SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1985, FOR MONDAY AMs

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) today gave his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for October to the Navy "for -- hold on to your galoshes on this one -- buying a $792 designer doormat."

"That's right, $792 for a custom-made doormat so Navy personnel can walk on nothing but the best; meanwhile, the poor taxpayer gets walked all over with this outrageous expense," said Proxmire, who is a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. He awards a Golden Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of taxpayers' money.

"Move over $7,000 coffee pots! Stand aside $400 hammers! We now have the $792 doormat! It was installed this August at the Naval Medical Command Southeast Region in Jacksonville, Florida.

"The poor taxpayer may wipe his shoes on a $3 doormat when he goes home, but not the Navy. It's damn the cost, full feet ahead on a doormat you'd be ashamed to get muddy.

"The Navy in this case got what it ordered. The 8-by-10-foot doormat it bought is a posh top-of-the-line beauty. What tripe me up is why in the world the Navy paid for it in the first place?

"Wipe your boots on any old doormat! Not the Navy. Since the taxpayer was footing this bill, it bought the Rolls Royce of doormats -- a 'luxo link custom' doormat with the Medical Command's logo woven into it in metallic blue, white, yellow and turquoise.

"I realize the Navy's job is to protect our seas so the enemy doesn't reach our doorstep. But a $792 doormat hardly qualified as being vital to our national defense.

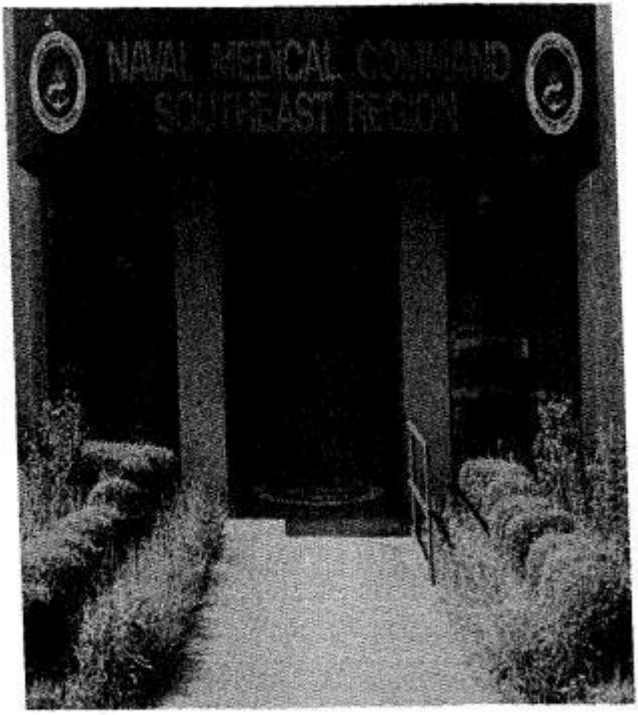
"The problem is the Medical Center's designer doormat seems to be just the tip of the mat pile. These fancy doormats seem to be lying around at military facilities everywhere. Imagine the envy of a visiting admiral bereft of a 'luxo link custom' doormat. Won't he just have to have one?

"I asked the Navy to justify this outrageous expense. Its response: 'This purchase fills a legitimate command requirement.' I'd like to see how legitimate they'd think this purchase was if their commanders had to pay for it, instead of the poor taxpayer. What's more, the Navy said these designer doormats 'are used by most major naval headquarters commands.'

"With the whopping budget deficit we're facing, all the cuts in spending we're having to make in vital programs, and the belt-tightening the military is now being asked to take, the Navy can hardly afford 'luxo link custom' doormats. Caspar Weinberger ought to call a few admirals on the carpet (VIP-doormat) and kill this type of spending deader than a doormat."

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NOTE: See Photo on following page.


NAVAL MEDICAL COMMAND
SOUTHEAST REGION

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. OCTOBER 31, 1985 FOR NOV. 1, AMs

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Thursday gave his Golden Fleece Award in November "for -- now read 'em and weep on this one -- spending $162 million annually producing and buying periodicals and newspapers.

"The poor taxpayer is being dog-eared and sent to the bindery with this expense -- especially since the Pentagon admits that many of its own publications are nonessential," said Proxmire.

"And browse over this one -- $119 million of this amount was spent for purchasing about 1.9 million copies of various public newspapers and magazines such as Newsweek or the Washington Post.

"What we have here is evidence of the Pentagon's new motto: 'Better read than dead.'"

Proxmire is a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. He awards a Golden Fleece monthly for the most wasteful, ridiculous or ironic use of the taxpayer's money.

"When the American taxpayers hear this story I think they will conclude that 'no news would be good news.' Here are the facts:

"The Pentagon is the world's largest consumer of newspapers and magazines with $119.3 million spent each year to purchase an estimated 1.9 million copies. There are no management controls over these purchases which are approved routinely -- probably because the cost of each individual subscription is not very high. But add them all up and you get a real budget buster.

"Even the Defense Department Inspector General's Office has concluded that 'We believe that the lack of controls over commercial periodicals has resulted in the procurement of nonessential commercial periodicals.'

"In addition to purchases of magazines and newspapers, the Defense Department spent $20.4 million for publishing periodicals. Ten periodicals alone cost over $6.8 million annually. They are:

Soldiers	Army Reserve Magazine
PS the Preventive Maintenance Magazine	Army Echoes
	Airman
Army Logistician	Driver
Air University Review	Air Reservist Magazine
All Hands	

"Many of these publications contain similar information and are directed to the same audiences. A sample taken by an internal audit found that the military publishes 126 civilian personnel bulletins and newsletters, 25 safety bulletins and 40 retiree newsletters and bulletins.

(OVER)

"Why so many addressing the same questions and the same audiences? Because each military service, each major component, each recognizable group or category of individuals wants their own publications. The Army doesn't want to read an Air Force publication even if the information is relevant. And the Navy wouldn't consider an Air Force publication as appropriate to their interests.

"When the Pentagon reads about its reading habits as a result of this fleece, I hope they will follow the recommendations of their own Inspector General auditors and take out the budget cutting knife. There is no doubt about it, the pen had proved to be mightier than the purse at the Pentagon."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1985, FOR THURSDAY AM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Wednesday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for December to the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) for "playing Santa Claus to the nation's mass transit systems at a 20-year cost of over $30 billion and to what end: transit revenues per vehicle mile have dropped 26 percent, costs have increased by 78 percent, and the taxpayers' subsidy per passenger has jumped by a whopping 1,250 percent. As for the broad social improvements expected -- decreased congestion, air pollution, and energy use -- not one has come up to snuff.

"About the only fact proven by this dismal record is that the taxpayers were taken for a ride. They have gone bus-ted buying buses."

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, which has legislative jurisdiction over mass transit programs. He awards a Golden Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money for that period.

"The federal government jumped into the mass transit business in 1964. It started with a little putt-putt of an appropriation in 1965 -- $51 million. Although the money was small, the expectations were enormous: more people were going to use mass transit, air pollution was going down and energy saved up, and the nation's cities would be revitalized.

"Two decades later, that little $51 million putt-putt has grown into a $6 billion a year juggernaut. Although costs have been more powerful than a speeding locomotive, benefits for the taxpayers are tricycle-sized at best:

- Despite two energy crises, occasional long gas lines, and a growing taxpayer subsidy, commuters who used public transit to get to work fell from 9 percent in 1970 to 6.4 percent in 1980 -- a drop of 29 percent.
- Meanwhile, after adjusting for inflation, revenues per vehicle mile dropped from 71¢ in 1965 to 53¢ in 1982 but costs during the same period zoomed from 72¢ to $1.28.
- The result is what you might expect once Uncle Sam opens his wallet -- the taxpayer subsidy went from 2¢ per passenger in 1965 to 27¢ in 1982.

(OVER)

- Finally, research demonstrates that air pollution could be cut and energy saved far more effectively by spending millions to improve automobile efficiency instead of billions on mass transit assistance.

"The evidence is in. The record is clear and the verdict is long overdue. Federal support of mass transit has been a spectacular flop, the Edsel of federal programs.

"It's time to go back to the drawing board and start anew. Federal assistance to mass transit may be justified in specific situations, but the current program is clearly a lemon. The taxpayers should not have to keep making $4 billion-a-year payments on it."

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Summary of Fleecing - 1986

January - The Army

For letting former service members slip away with over $150 million in unpaid bills during the last six years.

February - The Air Force

For spending $600,000 to operate a posh private plane for the purpose of flying SAC commanders and other Air Force VIPs.

March - The Office of Management and Budget

For allowing federal agencies to increase their public relations efforts from $376.2 million to $436.7 million or by 16% over the last two years.

April - The Federal Highway Administration

For charging taxpayers $21 million to pay for unused or unneeded roads and bridges in Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska.

May - The Department of Defense

For spending more than $850,000 in 1985 to entertain foreign dignitaries.

June - The U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Congress

For spending and appropriating $51 million preparing for Alaska timber sales which lost on average 83 cents on the dollar.

July - The Department of Education

For spending $1 million dollars on useless consulting contracts.

August - The Food and Nutrition Service

For wasting over $1 million between 1981 and 1985 by allowing a private company to cover its losses with taxpayers funds intended for feeding children in day-care homes.

September - The Army Corps of Engineers

For increasing spending on foreign travel by 47 percent between FY 83 and FY 85 while their total budget was falling by 3%.

October - The Department of Education

For permitting education officials in Louisiana to misuse $912,678 earmarked to serve the educational needs of handicapped children.

November - The Federal Aviation Administration

For spending $47 million to pay off debts incurred by bankrupt airlines that used federally-guaranteed loans to buy airplanes and spare parts.

December - The Economic Development Administration

For recommending the expansion of a failing $4 million business promotion program which its own auditors and the current Administration said deserves to die.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 TUESDAY JANUARY 7, 1986 FOR WEDNESDAY A.M. PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Wednesday awarded his Golden Fleece for the month of January to the Army "for sleeping on guard duty and letting former service members skip away with over $150 million the last six years in unpaid bills."

"The Army's debt collection operation is so fouled up at this point, they'll need Rambo to rescue it," said Proxmire, who's a senior member of the Senate's Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. "Every year the Army discharges battalions of soldiers who owe the service tens of millions of dollars for everything from unpaid bar tabs to re-enlistment bonuses they didn't deserve.

"A four-month investigation I requested by the General Accounting Office uncovered that the Army is marching backwards with these debts, writing off or losing over $150 million since 1980. But hold onto your collection plates, folks. Not only does the Army do little to retrieve tax dollars ex-service members have spirited away, but in many cases when a debtor comes back to the Army to pay off what he owes the Army refuses to take his money!

Proxmire awards a Golden Fleece monthly for the most wasteful, ridiculous or ironic use of the taxpayer's money.

"As far as debt collection goes," Proxmire said, "the Army's motto for this Sad Sack operation seems to be 'do not disturb.' Here's what the GAO found in reviewing a sample of Army debt collection cases this fall:

"• A former service member, who owed the Army $942, mailed in an unsigned affidavit claiming he couldn't pay off the debt because he had no job, no money, no family, and no assets. The Army wrote off the debt even though it had in its hands a credit report showing the man had a wife, two kids, a job paying $23,000 a year, and a $70,000 house.

"• One soldier, who was discharged because of drug use, left the Army with $973 in re-enlistment bonus money that he owed back because he didn't serve his full term. Even though the ex-soldier had a low income as a stock clerk, he promised to pay $5 a month toward the debt. What did the Army do in response? It closed the case and relieved him of the debt.

"• This one gets the 'Tough Negotiator Award.' An individual discharged for unsatisfactory performance owed the Army $3,800 for unearned re-enlistment bonus money and court martial fees. The debtor paid the Army $1,185 then wrote to ask if the service would compromise and thereafter require him to pay only $1,300 (for a total of about two-thirds of the debt) in ten monthly installments of $130 each.

(over)

Hey, we'll go you one better, the Army responded. Seeing as how you're strapped for cash, pay us only $50 a month until things improve. What did the debtor do? Never paid the Army another dime. What did the Army do? Cancelled the debt.

"• Before it decides whether to write off an uncollected debt, the Army is supposed to review a signed affidavit from the debtor detailing his financial condition. But GAO found that the Army was writing off many debts based on unsigned affidavits that were never even checked for authenticity. In one case, the Army wrote off an $822 debt from a former serviceman on a letter from his grandmother.

"• And in the 'we'll-show-you category,' a former female service member, who owed the Army $545, remarried to an enlisted man currently in the Army. I'm a housewife with no income now, the woman told the Army, so take $50 a month out of my husband's Army paycheck to pay off the debt. No, we won't do that, said Army bureaucrats. So the couple made no more payments. And the Army eventually wrote off the debt.

"Instead of saying 'Be All You Can Be,' the Army's recruiting ads should say 'Steal All You Can Steal.' For example, for debts up to $600, if an ex-serviceman simply doesn't answer the Army's mail, Army collectors will eventually give up and write off the debt. GAO found all kinds of problems with the Army's debt collection operation: antiquated regulations, a sloppy management review system, and foot-dragging on solving the mess. The Army, for example, was told by GAO in 1981 it needed to reform its collections operation but so far the Army has sat on its hands.

"And to this day, most of the reforms the Army has made have been eyewash, such as writing off more debts and papering over the problem with accounting tricks to make the collection figures look better. But the bottom line is that over the last six years the amount of money escaping the Army through uncollected debts has more than doubled.

"The obvious solution to this problem is simply not letting service members leave the Army until they've worked off their debts. But the Army hasn't gotten off the dime to implement this major reform. Since these are taxpayer dimes that are missing, the Army doesn't seem to mind losing what amounts to loose change in its multi-billion dollar budget. But $150 million is not loose change for the poor taxpayer."

A copy of the GAO report on Army debt collection can be obtained at Room 530 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M., SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1986 FOR MONDAY AM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D.Wis.) Sunday awarded his Golden Fleece for the month of February to the Air Force "for jetting away with over $600,000 in taxpayer money so some of its generals can fly in high style in their own posh airliner."

"Talk about flying the friendly skies," said Proxmire. "The Strategic Air Command is the bomber leg of our strategic triad, whose mission would be to retaliate in time of a nuclear war. But it turns out there's one plane in the SAC fleet whose primary mission is to make sure Air Force brass get a pampered, better-than-first-class ride when they fly around the country and overseas. Meanwhile, the taxpayer gets taken down the runway with the $600,536 bill the Air Force ran up last year mainly so SAC commanders and other bigwigs could fly in their own private plane.

"Two thirds of the time, the jet was being used to ferry SAC commanders and other Air Force VIPs. The rest of the time was spent in flight training for the crew. So of the $600,536 spent to maintain this plane, about $406,000 worth of flight hours was consumed running a high-priced taxi service."

Proxmire, who is a senior member of the Senate's Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, awards a Golden Fleece monthly for the most wasteful, ridiculous or ironic use of taxpayer's money.

"If an enlisted man has to fly anywhere, it's likely to be in the bucket seat of a cargo plane, tourist class, or space available," said Proxmire. "But if you're a SAC general, the sky's the limit in making sure you get a comfy ride.

"SAC has converted a large KC-135A tanker jet into a VIP plane with all the trimmings. A crew of 13 -- including, of course, two flight stewards -- is on call all the time, ready to scramble so SAC brass can have 'something special in the air' during the one to two times a month they use the plane.

"The money the Air Force wastes each year maintaining this flying palace is bad enough. But they've also squandered more than $20,000 for a number of not-so-strategic furnishings. They include:

(OVER)

- Commercial panels and overhead luggage compartments that cost $2,000;
- $2,283 worth of carpeting;
- Vinyl wallcovering with hanging pictures: $614;
- New covering for the 24 seats: $865;
- Custom-built wood passenger tables, cabinets, trim and moldings, plus $1,646 worth of simulated wood-finished formica, according to an Air Force report.
- 'A distinctive paint scheme,' according to the report, 'and the bare metal surfaces are polished'; and
- An 'enhanced' galley, consisting of range/oven, ice box, microwave oven, double sink, and cabinets that set the taxpayer back more than $6,400.

"And, of course, if you're flying generals around the country, your crew can't just wear any old uniform -- certainly not the one issued to other members of the Air Force. No, this crew wears 'distinctive blue' flight suits and jackets that have to be specially bought at a department store and cost about twice what the regular Air Force uniforms cost.

"The Air Force conducted its own investigation of this plane and insisted that the money to maintain it isn't being wasted. But I can't think of a more fly-by-night expense as we begin the Gramm-Rudman budget cuts.

"Congress is being asked to cut money next year for school children, the poor, inner cities, the environment, veterans and military retirees. A lavish airliner for generals certainly should be the first to go.

"It's time to ground this VIP jet."

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VIP Jet used by SAC Commanders.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1986 FOR PM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Wednesday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for the month of March to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for "looking the other way while federal agencies cranked up their public relations machines. Between 1983 and 1985, spending on 'PR' zoomed from $376.2 million to $436.7 million, an increase of 16 percent. OMB is supposed to be tightfisted but when it comes to 'PR' they snap open the taxpayers' purses even as the deficits hit record highs."

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and serves on the Appropriations Subcommittee which approves OMB's budget. He awards a Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money for that period.

"At my request, the General Accounting Office (GAO) conducted a comprehensive survey of executive agency spending on public and congressional affairs. In 1985, these agencies spent $336.8 million and assigned 3,599 employees to public affairs. Another $99.9 million and 1,982 people looked after relations with Congress.

"But an arresting pattern emerged from this survey. Between 1981 and 1983, spending on 'PR' actually decreased from $383.3 million to $376.2 million. Could this Administration really be serious about its efforts to cut fat from the budget?

"This auspicious beginning quickly turned around as OMB put down its knife and started giving away chocolate fudge. Between 1983 and 1985 spending on 'PR' jumped from that slimmed down $376.2 million to a bloated $436.7 million.

"Why this abrupt reversal? When people are out of office, they look on governmental public relations as the quintessential definition of wasteful spending. But once the 'outs' become the 'ins', then public relations is magically transformed from waste into a shield to guard against a hostile press and an obtuse Congress. And spending increases in proportion to the number of unfavorable stories and congressional oversight hearings.

"For this survey, GAO used a strict definition of what constitutes public relations. If the cost of closely-related activities is included the figure becomes much higher. For example, in 1985 the Defense Department spent an additional $15.4 million on its special aerial teams, $26.9 million

(OVER)

on ceremonial bands in the Washington area, and another $116.5 million on bands elsewhere. This Senator is not the only one who thinks such spending sounds a sour note.

"Not all public relations spending is fat. Informing the public can be a useful function of government. But OMB richly deserves this month's Fleece for first demonstrating that such spending can be cut without harming the Republic and then beating a hasty retreat."

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Editor's Note: A limited number of copies of the GAO survey are available from Senator Proxmire's office, Room 530, Dirksen Senate Office Building. Other copies may be obtained from the GAO (Report #B221097, February 14, 1986).

Public Affairs Activities
FY 1985

Agency	Obligations ($mil)	Staff years
Agriculture	38.7	712
Commerce	8.7	183
Defense	59.6	1,288
Education	2.8	70
Energy	60.0	496
Health & Human Services	62.9	908
Housing & Urban Development	3.9	66
Interior	12.4	271
Justice	16.0	298
Labor	8.2	185
State	29.6	773
Transportation	15.6	335
Treasury	30.8	556
International Development	19.3	281
Consumer Product Safety	2.6	36
Environmental Protection	8.4	207
Equal Employment Opportunity	1.0	24
Federal Communications	0.7	28
Federal Deposit Insurance	0.6	[illegible]
Federal Reserve	0.9	19
Federal Trade	1.2	37
General Services	0.9	21
Interstate Commerce	2.0	46
NASA	13.9	196
National Labor Relations Board	0.4	10
Personnel Management	1.1	31
Securities & Exchange	4.5	89
Small Business	2.3	44
U.S. Information Agency	1.2	33
Postal Service	21.7	208
Veterans	4.8	113
TOTALS	$436.7	7,581

Notes: Public relations means efforts to develop and disseminate information to the public to explain the activities and issues facing an organization. Congressional affairs means briefing witnesses, preparing testimony, and responding to congressional requests for information.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 1986 FOR PM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Wednesday awarded his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for April to the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) for "hitting the taxpayers with a $21 million toll to pay for unused and unneeded roads and bridges. This waste occurred in only one FHA region so the potential loss in all nine could easily top a whopping $100 million. The FHA has shown that although some sections of the road to Hades were paved with good intentions, other wrong turns have been paid for with a different medium -- the taxpayers' money."

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and serves on the Appropriations Committee. He awards a Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money for that period.

"In one FHA region, covering Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska, departmental auditors found that 13 percent of the highway and bridge projects they analyzed were either unneeded and unused, or else used far below expectations. Some of the unneeded projects had been sitting, lonely and forlorn, for over two decades. The federal share of the cost of these projects came to $21.4 million.

"Here are some examples of road and bridge projects with which the taxpayers were tarred:

- The FHA paid $900,000 for a four lane bridge, which had one little problem, two years after completion of the bridge, no road led to it or from it. The taxpayers had a dirty trick pulled on them in this bridge game.

- The FHA helped pay for 6.5 miles of new roadway because traffic was supposed to nearly double within 20 years. In 1974, an average of 3,410 vehicles per day used the old road. A dozen years later traffic has gone down to a measly 1,600 vehicles per day on the new road, which is less usage than the old road received.

- The FHA approved construction of two extra-long overpass bridges in anticipation that the road underneath would be widened to four lanes. More than 25 years have passed.

(OVER)

but the road underneath is still only two lanes wide. These bridges are overly long and the taxpayers are at least $26,000 short.

"When the auditors asked FHA management for a response, those officials offered a litany of excuses. My favorite: 'Their designs were consistent with the needs identified by the planning process.' Let us all bow down and pay homage to the omnipotent process. In fact, if management's excuses were traffic, then these roads and bridges would be jammed.

"This is one interchange between the FHA and the taxpayers where the taxpayers have been sideswiped. FHA deserves a ticket for reckless spending."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M., SUNDAY, MAY 4, 1986, FOR MONDAY AMS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Sunday presented his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for the Month of May to the Department of Defense for "spending $873,643 in 1985 to keep the fun, food, and good times rolling when foreign pooh-bahs came calling. The Gramm-Rudman grinch may have put a crimp into the rest of the government, but it is always party time at the Pentagon, which spent an additional $205,107 in just the first quarter of 1986. To the Pentagon, life may seem like one long New Year's Eve, but the taxpayer suffers the fiscal hangover."

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and serves on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. He awards a Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous or ironic use of the taxpayers' money for that period.

'What sort of shenniqans go on when Uncle Sam puts on the ritz and plays host? Take a look at what happened in November of 1985 when a group of fun-loving Soviets showed up for the 13th Annual US-USSR Incidents at Sea Negotiations. It was anchors aweigh and full speed ahead to party time at the tony Washington spa--the Watergate Hotel--where expenses totaled a staggering $15,665.42. Here's the corker: when the high-living Soviets wobbled back to Moscow they had said skoal, prosit, and za vasha starovia to the tune of $1,228.23 in room bar charges. They ran up individual room bar service bills of $80.46, $143.37, $152.01, and $154.44, all on the last day. All paid for by us taxpayers.

"Insult is sometimes added to fiscal injury. A group of Moroccans visited the United States from July 27-31, 1985 and stayed at the Watergate Hotel, evidently a popular stop. They then skipped town without paying $499.68 in long-distance telephone charges, which they had previously agreed to pay. The Moroccan Embassy told hotel officials--this is a quote from the voucher--'to go to Morocco to collect the payment.' You and I ended up paying this bill--another quote--'to avoid further embarrassment.' The total cost of this frolic came to $32,264.41.

"Defense officials say these visits by foreign officials strengthen ties with important allies and establish rapport with others. Here are some other examples of rapport building:

--$6,266.87 for the visit of the Italian High Level Group, which spent the period from February 19-24, 1985 at the posh Caesars Palace Hotel in Las Vegas.

--$15,532.50 for a Columbian official who visited Florida and then Washington, D.C. This sum included $435.00 for a rental yacht--to go to lunch--and $286.40 for an air boat tour of the Everglades.

--$51,724.52 lavished on the U.S.-Republic of Korea Security Consultative Meeting on May 6-8, 1985. This bill included a charge of $46.80 for spare ignition keys 'in order to have spares should contingencies or misplacement occur.' Even the Pentagon blanched at this one as 'unnecessarily wasteful', possibly in contrast to the normal necessarily wasteful spending.

"What do we get for this money? If more rapport is the goal, then evidence of it is hard to find, because many foreign governments seem to take special delight in insulting this country. It is high time that we took a long, hard look at how this money is being spent. Here is one Senator who thinks we are being taken to the cleaners."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1986 FOR THURSDAY AM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) announced Wednesday from his Washington office, "I am giving my Fleece of the Month for June jointly to the U.S. Forest Service for spending $11 million preparing for Alaska timber sales and to Congress, which makes them do it. Over the last five years the Forest Service offered for sale 2.36 billion board feet of timber in Alaska's Tongass National Forest but sold only 43.7%; spent $116 million building 255 miles of new roads to service the sales, and lost on average 83 cents on the dollar for every sale they made.

"Talk about a classic case of logrolling. The taxpayers get rolled while the timber companies get the logs."

Proxmire is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which funds the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service operations.

"Why did the Forest Service spend millions on roads for timber that no one wants to cut, or which gets harvested only at giveaway prices?

"The answer is simple. Under a last-minute amendment to the 1980 Alaska Lands Act, the Forest Service must offer for sale 450 million board feet of timber each year in Alaska's south-eastern panhandle. The law sets up a separate fund immune from congressional review which must pay out, at a minimum, $40 million each year in subsidies for these sales. Yet, even with the enormous subsidies, only 39.5% of the timber offered for sale last year attracted buyers.

"According to the Forest Service's own figures, the agency could lose as much as $6 billion over the next 50 years by continuing the Tongass program.

"Only the federal government could defy the laws of nature by planting a pinecone and growing a deficit. These sales prove the government has truly gone nuts.

"What about the specific practices which run up the program's price tag? Here are just a few:

"At Couverden in 1984 and 1985 the Forest Service spent over 85½ million putting in almost 30 miles of road and eight bridges in advance of a sale which drew no bidders. While the Department of Agriculture intends to re-offer the sale, their minimum acceptable bid for the area will bring in just $266,233, a loss of 95%.

(OVER)

"Even worse, cutting the timber in the Couverden area could harm the region's rich natural resources, rated by the State of Alaska as in the top 8% of all fish and wildlife habitat in all Southeast Alaska.

"In Yakutat, the Forest Service built a 'bridge to nowhere' across the Dangerous River where no timber sales have been offered or planned for in the near future. No road connects to the far end of the bridge. From the taxpayer's viewpoint this river certainly deserves its name.

"At Berners Bay, only a successful lawsuit by environmental groups stopped a 26-mile road costing $5 million for a timber sale even the Forest Service admits it could not sell. The road would have jeopardized one of the most popular recreational areas in the region.

"Why did the Forest Service run up large bills for unneeded roads? Because in Alaska, unlike the rest of the U.S., forest roads are not paid for by timber purchasers but are built and paid for in advance by the U.S. government with Joe Taxpayer footing the bill.

"The values of fish and wildlife in the spectacular Tongass Forest far outweigh in both dollar and spiritual value the entire Alaska timber program. The forest contains the largest habitat for bald eagles and grizzly bear and the richest salmon fishery in the world.

"It's time to reform the Tongass program. Therefore, I am asking the General Accounting Office for an investigation of the management of the Tongass Timber Supply Program."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986 FOR THURSDAY AMs

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Wednesday awarded his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for July to the Department of Education (DOEd) for "earning a big, fat 'F' by wasting well over $1 million of the taxpayers' money on useless consulting contracts. DOEd is promoting a good line about getting back to the basics but when it comes to the taxpayers' money those basics are waste, fraud, and abuse, instead of reading, writing and arithmetic."

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Appropriations Subcommittee which oversees the Department of Education and on the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. He awards a Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money for that period.

"The villains of this Fleece are not all faceless bureaucrats but high-level political appointees, supposedly committed to wiping out waste. Yet these 'true believers' have set a record for abuse which would make even the biggest spending liberal blink.

"Start with the actions of a former Under Secretary, who directed the non-competitive award of two contracts to a firm judged to be unqualified to do the work. Bureaucrats were concerned that the $355,000 involved would be wasted so they went to the Under Secretary with their fears. Their gutsy warnings fell on deaf ears when the Under Secretary told them to go ahead anyhow.

"The bureaucrats were right, the work done was useless, and $355,000 of the taxpayers' money went down the tubes.

"Next, the White House Initiatives staff in the Department finagled a $238,000 contract just as a fiscal year was about to end. Had this contract not been awarded the money would have gone back to the Treasury. It would have reduced the deficit. Once again, career officials were doubtful, but were pressed to award the contract. The consultant was to set up 3 regional conferences, a questionable undertaking at best. But even this task was not performed. The money was wasted.

"Finally, in another year-end spending spree, the Department shelled out approximately $300,000 in an effort to prepare job descriptions by using a computer. They spent the money and formally accepted the work. Then they promptly threw it in the wastebasket.

"In response, the Department says they are doing better, that they are learning from these mistakes. Talk about costly lessons. Students this thickheaded should flunk. So should the Department of Education."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1986 FOR FRIDAY AM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) in a statement from his Washington office Thursday said, "In spite of receiving my Golden Fleece of the Month award and two devastatingly critical audit reports, the 'Great Pyramid' and 'Wall of China' project in Bedford, Indiana, seems to have a lifespan which may approach that of the two great ancient wonders it attempts to replicate.

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Congressional Joint Economic Committee.

"Back in September of 1981, I gave my Golden Fleece award to the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration for spending $250,0000 to build an 880 foot limestone replica of the Great Wall of China in Bedford, Indiana as a follow-up to its $500,000 grant to that hoosier community for the building of a 10-story-high limestone model of the Great Pyramid of Egypt. My Golden Fleece of the Month award is given to the biggest most ironic or most ridiculous example of waste or loss of taxpayers' money for the period.

"Just two years later, in September of 1983, the Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Commerce issued a cost report which questioned more than two-thirds of the cost claimed by the Pyramid-builders in Indiana. Unfortunately, the audit report did not disclose the disastrous lack of progress on the project. At that time EDA did not close the project or even collect any of the questionable costs because they readily accept the additional data supplied by the project managers which purported to support the questioned expenditures.

"Only in January of this year did the full story come to light when the Office of the Inspector General once again reviewed this disastrous project. The conclusions of the report speak for themselves.

> 'The grantee grossly failed to complete the project contemplated in the grant application and the grant amendment. Our physical examination of the project verifies that the grantee fell disastrously short of completing either the 'Great Pyramid' or the 'Great Wall' project.

"The audit report goes on the say that the EDA had not adequately monitored the work because the grantee was able to change the scope of the project with EDA approval and still obtain 90% of the funds.

(OVER)

"Finally, the Inspector General recommended that EDA terminate the grant for cause, seek recovery of the $630,000 that had been disbursed and take possession of the Foundation's EDA-funded assets.

"And what action has the Regional Office in Chicago taken in response to this devastating Inspector General report? Nothing! They merely assured my staff on June 27th that they hoped to recommend to the top-level EDA officials in Washington that action be finally taken to close down the project and seek reimbursement.

"This is analogous to attempting to close the barn door after the horse has galloped away and the barn itself has fallen down.

"Other than the remaining $70,000 of the grant and a piece of construction equipment worth no more than several thousand dollars, there are no assets remaining.

"If ever an agency of government has clearly demonstrated its lack of concern over the appropriate spending of taxpayers' money, it is the Economic Development Administration in its mishandling and mismanagement of this project which began seven long years ago.

"I intend the continue to follow this depressing story and will continue to work for the abolishment of the entire Economic Development Administration."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M. SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 1986 FOR MONDAY AMs

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Sunday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for August to the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in the Department of Agriculture for "chucking away over $1 million between 1981 and 1985 by allowing a private company to cover its losses with taxpayers' money intended for children in day-care homes. The FNS fed corporate cuffers instead of hungry children. And, adding insult to injury, FNS ignored numerous warnings from Departmental auditors that this money was being devoured by the wrong people."

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and serves on the Appropriations Committee. He awards a Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money for that period.

"The federal government pays the bill when some hungry children are fed. But the FNS contracts with private firms which actually do the work in conformance with government guidelines which specify how the taxpayers' money should be spent. This Fleece proves that this arrangement failed in at least one instance.

"Back in 1981, the FNS asked the Agriculture Department's Inspector General to take a look at how this program was working. Auditors found a multitude of problems: the private firm's accounting system was a joke and federal money was being spent without a paper trail to show who got it and why. These problems were longstanding. An independent CPA firm had found similar problems as far back as 1979.

"What did the auditors recommend? They thought that FNS should either immediately help the company improve its management or, failing that, terminate the contract. What did the FNS do? They responded in the best bureaucratic fashion by delaying, by temporizing, by passing the buck, and by saying just watch for improvements in next year's audit.

"Meanwhile, the FNS helped the company stay one step ahead of the bailiff by letting the taxpayers' money be used to pay the company's bills. In 1981, auditors found that about $71,000 had been used for this purpose. But by 1985, this sum had grown to a whopping $1.1 million. All this money was to no avail. The company declared bankruptcy in 1985.

"Now the taxpayers will be standing in line in bankruptcy court to see if any of their money can be recovered. They stand a slim chance of that ever happening."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M., SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1986 FOR MONDAY AMs

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Sunday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for September to the Army Corps of Engineers for "pigging out on foreign travel by increasing spending from $276,662 in FY 1983 to at least $406,638 in FY 1985, a fat 47 percent increase. Their total budget during this period actually got leaner, falling by 3 percent.

"When the trough at home starts leaking, the Corps casts its eyes overseas. But the taxpayer should not have to pay for the Corps' sudden craving for stir-fried pork."

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. He awards a Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money for that period.

"In FY 1983, 275 Corps eager beavers flew off to foreign lands. Of this number, 118 (43 percent) stayed in this Hemisphere, 91 (33 percent) went to the Far East, and 54 (20 percent) headed to Europe. Each trip by an individual lasted about 6 days and cost the taxpayer a little over $1,000 on the average.

"By FY 1985, the number of globe-hopping porkmeisters had increased to 413, a jump of 50 percent, even though their budget for work at home had fallen on hard times. Many travelled in this Hemisphere (196 -- 47 percent), followed by trips to the exotic East (142 -- 34 percent), then by trips to Europe (69 -- 17 percent).

"The Corps is still digging around trying to find out how much it spent on foreign travel in FY 1985. At first, it reported spending $513,417, but after catching some flak for the increase, it reduced its estimate to $406,638. Whatever the amount of the increase, it is too much.

"That statement applies with extra-force to the Corps because economic development experts are thoroughly disenchanted with large-scale public works, the Corps' forte. Far too many of these projects are conceived in hope but end in despair. The American taxpayer ends up paying for many of these flops in the form of foreign aid.

"Talk about a double whammy. First, Corps employees hop, skip, and jump around the world looking for new business. Then foreign countries hit on Uncle Sam to pay for their pork barrel projects. The taxpayers get it going and coming.

(OVER)

"We should be hammering a tight lid on this pork barrel. The taxpayers have suffered more than enough from the Corps' home grown pork barrel. They should not have to pay for exporting it."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M.THURSDAY,OCTOBER 16, 1986 FOR PRI.A.M.PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Thursday awarded his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for October to the Department of Education for "permitting education officials in Louisiana to misuse $912,678 earmarked to serve the educational needs of handicapped children."

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee which approves the budget for the Department of Education. He approves a Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money for that period.

"No group deserves a 'fair deal' more than handicapped children. Instead these special needs young people were given the worst type of 'raw deal' by the people assigned to protect their interest. According to the Audit Report prepared by the Inspector General of the Department of Education:

> 'Our review of 13 projects funded between fiscal years 1982 and 1985 disclosed that, overall, the handicapped children received little, if any, benefit from the projects, some expenditures were for unallowable activities, and some purchased services were not provided.'

"Inspite of the fact federal law requires that the funds under this program be spent exclusively to serve the unique needs of handicapped children, the auditors found that $385,200 was spent on two highly suspicious computer projects for the general student population. After examining the project files, the federal auditors could not find any information to support either the choice of the contractor or his estimated cost. After reviewing the major subcontract the report of the Inspector General stated:

> 'In our opinion, the amounts paid for the two of the major items were unreasonable. The first item was software development for which the subcontractor received $43,715. We requested a copy of the software to determine how it was designed to meet the unique needs of handicapped children. Our request was denied for the stated reason that the software had been marketed for general use in the classroom for some time and was proprietary. If no new software was developed to meet the special needs of handicapped children, the subcontractor should not be paid for research and design. The second item, for which the subcontractor was paid $89,700, was consultant services. According to the teachers interviewed, the subcontractor provided only minimal guidance on the basic use of the computers and software. It is the general practice in the computer sales field to provide such services free of charge when a number of computers are purchased. Moreover, costs of $89,700 for such minimal guidance appears to us to be unreasonable.'

The audit report goes on to describe many other instances of misuse of federal fundings including the hiring of inexperienced and non-certified personnel for unapproved projects and the paying of an individual for nine months when in fact he performed only minimal work for six weeks before falling ill.

It is my understanding that officials from the Department of Education are now attempting to reach an agreement with Louisiana State education officials on refunding at least a portion of the misspent federal money. However for permitting a gigantic, three year long, rip-off of funds for the education of handicapped children to take place, the U. S. Department of Education richly deserves to received this month's Golden Fleece Award.

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 PM, Sunday, Nov. 9,1986 FOR Mon. AM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Sunday in a statement released from his Washington office gave his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for November to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for "landing a $47 million default on the taxpayer, with another $75 million on final approach, and still another $192 million in a holding pattern. This money is going to pay the debts incurred by bankrupt airlines which used federally-guaranteed loans to buy airplanes and spare parts.

"This sounds like 'plane' nonsense to me. The taxpayers should be making a flap over this loss."

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and serves on the Appropriations Committee. He awards a Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money for that period.

"Congress established this federally-guaranteed loan program nearly 30 years ago, but it was not until the coming of deregulation that it ran into turbulence. Then, market demand instead of bureaucratic decisions, started determining which airlines would prosper. What had been a comfortably settled industry was thrown into turmoil.

"The taxpayers are paying for part of that turmoil. Since 1983, when the FAA stopped making these guaranteed loans, the agency has paid out about $47 million to cover the resulting defaults. This money comes straight from the Treasury and is not paid for by some sort of user fee or tax. Here is the record so far:

Air Carrier	Amount($000)
Air Florida	$ 907
Altair	24
Cascade	13,436
Continental	11,824
Dorado Wings	11
Escellair	10,287
Golden West	298
Pocono	2,166
Wheeler	107
Subtotal	39,060

Interest paid	8,720
Grand Total	$47,780

"The story continues. For fiscal year 1987, the FAA has set aside $75 million to pay for possible defaults. Which air carriers might need this money? The FAA says 'it would be inappropriate to speculate on the possibility of default for specific carriers in the absence of definitive information on that prospect.' Talk about flying blind. Why should the taxpayers have to take this trip to the wild blue yonder?

"How much could the taxpayers end up shelling out? They are potentially liable for '$267 million in active FAA guaranteed loans' again according to that agency. Tighten your seatbelts, taxpayers, the worst is yet to come.

"These loans have put the government in a 'heads, they win; tails, we lose' situation. Some air carriers are going to make a bundle from deregulation. Their owners will win. What about the losers? Let the taxpayers pick up part of those costs. For rigging this situation, the FAA deserves a 'Fleece.'"

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSEN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. TUESDAY, DEC. 16, 1986 FOR P. M. PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Tuesday awarded his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for December to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for "recommending the expansion of a failing $4 million business pro otion program which its own auditors and the current Administration said deserves to die because it has promoted little business and has cre ted very few jobs."

Senator Proxmire is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Banking Committee and serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Joint Economic Committee. He gives a Golden Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous or ironic use of taxpayers' money for that period. EDA is part of the Department of Commerce and received $180 million this year.

"The Reagan Administration is trying to throw the last shovelfuls of dirt on this costly and inefficient agency, but EDA officials, their hands protruding from the grave like zombies in a B horror movie, are trying to hang on and create a sequel that would bring on more horrors for the American taxpayers who have already seen enough of this scary mess."

"EDA's $4 million a year University Center program was touted as creating thousands of jobs and helping hundreds of local businesses. Bu when Departmental auditors examined these claims, they melted faster than snow on a July day in Miami. They found that the program created only a miniscule number of jobs, and did little to help new businesses.

"For the jobless, this program proved to be a cruel joke, much like Santa Claus filling their Christmas stocking with a chunk of coal. Instead of creating jobs, this program did one on the taxpayer.

"The Commerce Department's Inspector General found that the University Centers had reported grossly inflated accomplishments to EDA, which was only too willing to gulp down these claims. After the auditors had carefully reviewed the ten most successful programs, they found that the actual number of jobs created or saved was 83 not the 5,834 jobs claimed. The administrators of the program reacted to this body blow by challenging the accuracy of the auditors' work. The Inspector General's staff then went back to double-check their results and reached the following conclusions:

> We find that the numbers we provided in the draft report were often too charitable; the actual accomplishments tended to be even skimpier. In many cases 'saved or created' which the centers reported to EDA in an attempt to discredit our draft findings quite literally never existed. Not infrequently, the businesses whose formation was supposed to have generated these jobs either never got off the ground or failed shortly after they were started.

"One university claimed creating 25 jobs for a business that lasted only a few months and had filed for bankruptcy before the university's report was even prepared!

"In other cases, the auditors found that the handful of jobs that were created in a given year were reported in each of the following three or four annual reports. As a result of this multiple counting, one center claimed over a four-year period over a thousand jobs when the business itself told the auditors that only thirty-five jobs had been saved in 1981.

"How did the bureaucrats administering the University Center Program in Washington react to this even more overwhelming evidence of misleading reports? They said that many of the jobs claimed to be saved or created were 'potential' rather than 'actual' ones. Perhaps the bureaucrats who supported this tortured logic would be willing to trade their actual jobs for potential ones.

"The Inspector General's report also found that the University Center Program overlapped and was very similar to other federal programs in types of services provided, clients served, and geographical areas involved.

"In response to this withering criticism of one of his programs, the Assistant Secretary for Economic Development offered the following supreme example of bureaucratic chutzpah:

> The Administration has sought to terminate and rescind funding for all EDA programs for several years. While we agree that the agency's programs are not essential, we do not believe the evidence produced by your audit of 10 of the EDA-funded centers is sufficient to support a recommendation that the University Center Program should be singled out for elimination. We believe that the steps being taken to improve the program and extend it to other areas will result in increased involvement by educational institutions in economic development, as well as greater benefits for the areas and people EDA was created to serve.

"For responding to a carefully documented report recommending the ending of a clearly useless program by acknowledging that the program is

not essential but yet calling for its expansion the Economic Development Administration clearly deserves this month's Golden Fleece Award."

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SUMMARY OF FLEECES - 1987

January - Environmental Protection Agency

For wasting $206 million to build sewage treatment plants in Puerto Rico which were never functional and are now falling apart.

February - The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture

For organizing a song contest for its employees while our farmers are in dire economic straits.

March - The Air Force

For spending $59,000 over the last six years on playing cards given as souvenirs to visitors aboard Air Force Two.

April - Presidential Inaugural Committee

For spending $15.5 million of the taxpayers' funds for the 1985 Inaugural, and for reimbursing the taxpayers for only 4% of the costs incurred.

May - The Navy

For spending more than $88,0000 on a bloodmobile that couldn't be operated safely.

June - Executive Office of the President

For spending $611,623 to gild one room in the Old Executive Office Building.

July - Department of Commerce

For allowing mismanagement of a federally funded revolving loan program such that the local economy was hurt rather than helped, and $1.3 million was lost.

August - Award of Merit to the Pentagon

For trying to save taxpayers millions of dollars by bailing out of contracts that exceeded cost projections.

September - National Science Foundation

For spending $9,992 on a study of "Bullfights and the Ideology of the 'Nation' in Spain."

October - Department of Energy

For allowing utilities to delay payment on costs of nuclear waste disposal, which may cost taxpayers $1.6 billion by 1998.

November - Treasury Department

For a $1.2 billion a year tax loophole which can only be used by U.S. citizens who live and work in foreign countries.

December - The Army

For wasting $159,000 of taxpayers' dollars on decorative trees and shrubs which died within a year.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 15,1987 FOR PRI.AM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Thursday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for January to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for "wasting, and that is the right word, $206 million to build sewage treatment plants in Puerto Rico which were never functional and are now falling apart. Yet EPA is suing Puerto Rico, and has been for the past 10 years, because the Commonwealth is still suffering from massive water pollution.

"This episode gives new meaning to the concept of the taxpayers' money being flushed down the drain. It is such a stinker that the taxpayers have every right to offer gripes about these useless pipes."

Senator Proxmire is now Chairman of the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and of the Appropriations Subcommittee which oversees the EPA's budget. He awards a Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money for that period.

"EPA awarded $206.8 million in grants to build 5 large sewage treatment plants in Puerto Rico. They were built at:

Plant	Amount($ millions)
Aguadilla	$29.6
Arecibo	35.4
Camuy-Hatillo	19.2
Carolina	83.2
Mayaguez	40.0
Total	206.8

"Not one of these expensive plants is operating. After construction, they were not maintained. They are now corroded, rusted, and bushes have started growing from cracks in the concrete.

"Even after these plants were constructed, Puerto Rico was, and still is, in violation of the Clean Water Act. EPA first took administrative action to try to correct these violations as long ago as 1975. They went to Federal Court in 1977, but the problems continued. They tried a number of pattycake remedies, but never protected the taxpayer.

"EPA is back in Court again this time requesting substantial fines unless Puerto Rico complies with a number of earlier Court orders. But EPA took this action only after their Inspector General prepared a

(OVER)

devastating report indicting EPA's regional management, which allowed the problems to fester for over a decade. Here is what the Inspector General said, 'In reviewing the status of these programs through November 1985, we concluded that hundreds of millions of dollars had been expended ineffectively in an atmosphere of poor internal controls, procrastination and lax enforcement.' Whether this latest remedy will prove more effective than the earlier ones is still a questionmark.

"Why did it take EPA so long to take what may be decisive action? Here is what the Inspector General says: 'Instead of simply demanding corrective action, EPA is following a strategy of providing assistance to (the Puerto Rican agency) to deal with its financial, administrative, and technical problems coupled with a strategy of increasingly severe enforcement actions.' If the taxpayers tried to take that attitude with the Internal Revenue Service, they would find themselves up the creek without a paddle.

"EPA has evidently decided to crack down and for that decision they deserve credit. But the taxpayers took a dipping while EPA was taking its sweet time."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 P.M., SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15,1987, FOR MON. AM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said Sunday that, "I am giving my Golden Fleece Award for February to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U. S. Department of Agriculture for organizing a song contest for its employees. It may be okay to whistle while you work, but I think this is going too far. It doesn't make any sense to have APHIS employees warbling their new agency song while our farmers are singing the blues in these dire economic times for American agriculture."

Senator Proxmire is the Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and is also a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Joint Economic Committee.

"I award a Golden Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money for that period. Whatever the amount of money spent on the APHIS song contest turns out to be, it will be too much. But this is a prime example of a ridiculous expenditure of federal dollars, and that is what makes it a fleece winner.

"The notice announcing the APHIS song contest indicates that the winning song 'will be sung on occasions both great and small.' This raises all sorts of interesting possibilities. Imagine the workday at a given office within APHIS being interrupted by a loud and boisterous rendering of the agency song. If asked about such a bellowing interlude by his supervisor or colleagues, the APHIS songbird might well defend his vocal efforts by saying he was merely choosing to sing the agency song on a 'small occasion' -- a typical day at work -- as set forth in the Administrator's notice announcing the song contest.

"There are numerous other scenarios that come to mind when the famous APHIS song might well fill the rafters. But would any work get done on behalf of America's farmers, the supposed beneficiaries of APHIS? Instead of singing for their supper, I think the APHIS employees should work for it. That would be doing it the old-fashioned way -- earning it!

"The APHIS song contest notice also points out that, 'A committee comprised of top management officials will judge all entries and determine an appropriate award.' It is amazing to learn that the upper echelon of APHIS management can find the time to take on this challenging assignment. I always assumed that there was other more pressing business

to fill their day. And I wonder what that award might turn out to be and who will pay for it. Needless to say, hard-earned tax dollars should not go for such a purpose.

"I learned about the APHIS song contest from a federal employee. That employee wrote the following comment on the administrative notice announcing the song contest: 'This is an absurd waste of time, a classic example of administrative waste!' I couldn't agree more. With a song in my heart but not on my lips, I must say that I think APHIS has hit a sour note with this ill-conceived project."

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Editor's Note:

A copy of the APHIS Administrative Notice announcing the song contest is reproduced below.

United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Administrative Notice B-87-10 12/31/86

APHIS SONG CONTEST

I. PURPOSE — This Notice is being issued to announce the APHIS Song Contest. This song, which will be sung on occasions both great and small, is to remind us of the team spirit that guides us in our job of protecting U.S. Agriculture.

II. PROCEDURES — Simply jot down some spirit-building words and a tune to which they can be sung. A committee comprised of top management officials will judge all entries and determine an appropriate award.

Entries should be submitted to the Employee Conduct and Labor Relations Programs, Human Resources Division, 6505 Belcrest Road, Room 205, Federal Building, Hyattsville, MD 20782, by February 9, 1987.

Bert M. Hawkins
Administrator

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 PM Sunday March 8, 1987 FOR Monday AM PAPERS

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wisc.) Sunday awarded his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for March to the Department of the Air Force for "decking taxpayers about $59,000 over the last six years for the cost of playing cards that were given away as souvenirs to visitors aboard Air Force Two. Technically, the Air Force gets the Fleece because they spent the money, but the blame should be shared by the Executive Office of the President, which usually makes these requests.

"In this day and time of outrageous federal spending, we certainly don't need to have taxpayers subsidizing poker and gin rummy for guests who fly on the official Vice Presidential plane."

Senator Proxmire is the chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and serves on both the Appropriations and Joint Economic Committees. He gives a Golden Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous or ironic use of taxpayers' money for that period.

"It looks like the taxpayers have been dealt another bad hand. This is a classic case. We've got a Joker of a federal budget deficit that needs to be Aced soon, or we'll all go busted. But here we are throwing away tens of thousands of dollars in hard-earned tax money to buy playing cards for the Vice Presidential aircraft. It makes no sense. I think the Executive Office has drawn a bum card on this one.

"The Air Force explains this fanciful flight into financial frenzy by saying that these playing cards are for official use. Only the Vice President and his staff are authorized to distribute them. And these are not just any old playing cards. They are inscribed with the Vice Presidential seal and all sorts of other trim. These cards may make nice memorabilia, but their importance in terms of the national interest escapes me. The taxpayer may question who is playing with a full deck on this one.

"What's really ridiculous is that this has been going on for some time. According to the Air Force, taxpayer-financed playing cards for the Vice Presidential aircraft have been purchased for over 20 years. Because Air Force contract records only go back to 1981, we only know for certain the amount that taxpayers have been billed since then --- $59,000. Since these fancy souvenir cards were bought with tax dollars, I wonder if

somebody would consider setting up a high stakes poker game for the taxpayers ? At least the public could realize some benefits from this misdeal.

"For now, this year's version of the 'Zap the Taxpayers' card game appears to be on hold. The contract solicitation was suddenly cancelled. According to the Air Force, the solicitation was pulled upon discovery that only one company was able to fulfill a special requirement to bronze the Vice Presidential seal. Now the more expensive bronzing requirement has been dropped, and the Air Force says another deal for the specially-made decks may still be in the cards. They just don't know when to hold them and when to fold them.

"When you take a look at the description the Air Force's Washington Area Contracting Center gave in seeking bids on this most unusual project, you'll know this was no ordinary set of playing cards:

> cards, playing, single deck, bronzed with current Vice Presidential seal, "black on gold" on back of all cards... with "Welcome Aboard Air Force Two" printed in gold on back of all cards. Jokers to include image of capitol building on face, deck in light blue velour case...Vice Presidential seal in gold...

"Without the earlier records, it's no telling how much of our tax dollars have been sunk into souvenirs and playing cards for Air Force Two. But at the rate of $10,000 a year since 1981 just for playing cards, we may well be looking at a wasteful project totalling more than $200,000 since the mid-60s, not to mention what we may have spent on Air Force One. It is easy to see why we have been buried under huge deficits, with spending way out of control, and taxpayers hurting in the pocketbook.

"I've seen a lot of card tricks, but this one beats them all. This is one case where somebody needs to play a trump card for the taxpayers."

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 PM March 31, 1987 FOR April 1, 1987 AM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) today awarded his Golden Fleece of the month of April to the Presidential Inaugural Committee "for spending $15.5 million of the taxpayers funds for the 1985 Inaugural--reimbursing the taxpayers for only 4% of the total costs incurred. Most of this money went for private parties, military chauffeurs, escorts, and entertainment for the privileged few invited to Inaugural balls and other events."

Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs and is a senior member of the Appropriations Committee. The Fleece is awarded monthly for the biggest example of ridiculous, ironic or wasteful government spending.

"The Presidential Inaugural Committee is a private entity like no other in existence. It's members were high officials in the Administration and they used their clout to demand that the Department of Defense and other government agencies provide taxpayer support to the Inaugural.

"The result was an Inaugural where $15.5 million was spent from tax dollars--most of it coming out of the Department of Defense budget. DoD provided 8400 military personnel to the Inaugural including chauffeurs, personal aides to visiting VIPs, ushers, and 270 so called 'coordinators' who were party organizers. Twenty-three military aides were assigned to the First Family members and the Vice President's party. Governors had 56 more aides and 71 were provided to various VIPs and entertainers.

"Lavish partying at Inaugurals has grown alarmingly. Historically there was one inaugural ball. Then that was expanded to three and then five under JFK in 1961 and 9 for Ronald Reagan in 1985. A spectacular Gala has been added. Commemorative items are sold although in 1985 sales brought in $98,800 less than expenses for these items.

"There are no laws authorizing much of these expenditures. The General Accounting Office has concluded that "During the 1985 Inaugural, a significant amount of DOD's support was again provided without proper legal authority."

(OVER)

"What should be done about this situation? There are several corrective actions that need to be taken. First, Congress should pass a law spelling out exactly what kind of support should be given to Inaugural committees. This would clear up the legal questions.

"Second, all government expenses required by the Presidential Inaugural Committee should be fully reimbursed by private funds. The taxpayers should not have to subsidize those aspects of Inaugurals which are private in nature and essentially are given to provide entertainment for a President's political supporters and contributors. After all the public is not invited to the Galas and Balls so why should the public subsidize the wealthy campaign contributors who do get invitations?

"Inaugurals have gotten out of hand. It's time to bring back some sense of fiscal discipline and exercise common sense. When an Administration campaigns to get the federal government off the backs of the taxpayers, it should get it hands out of their wallets at Inaugural time."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. Monday May 11, 1987 FOR P.M. PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Monday awarded his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for May to the U.S. Navy "for throwing away more than $88,000 of taxpayers' money on a bloodmobile so poorly designed and so badly built that the vehicle can't be operated safely, has numerous defects and has been gathering dust in a Bethesda Naval Hospital garage for the last three years.

Senator Proxmire is chairman of the Banking Committee and serves on both the Appropriations and Joint Economic committees. He gives a Golden Fleece award monthly for the most wasteful, ridiculous or ironic use of taxpayers' money for that period.

"This purchase has turned out to be one big bloody mess for the Navy and for the taxpayers. There's no way they'll collect a pint of anything, except for taxpayers' tears, in this ridiculously-built rolling rickety riot of a ride.

"Like a big, sick elephant a heartbeat away from demise, this monstrosity is shedding parts all over the place. It's got more component pieces missing than a tiger has stripes and drags its big rear across the road like a bear with no hind legs. When you apply the brakes after backing, the front wheels leave the ground like a bucking horse. This thing would probably lead to more bloodshed than blood collection.

"That's not all. Space wasn't even provided for two important laboratory-style blood separation units. That's like building a house without a doorway. As a white elephant, this jalopy fits the bill.

"The poor taxpayer, weary from years of irresponsible government spending, will need a tranfusion of the pocketbook when the final numbers are in. If the Navy buys submarines this way, we're sunk.

"The Navy's problems with this purchase go back to the very beginning when a firm that had never built a bloodmobile got the contract. From the first inspection of the product up until final delivery, defects were discovered, but the critically-ill vehicle was accepted. Despite the infection of more government money and time into the vehicle's veins to get it going, the poor patient never registered more than a faint pulse.

"The Navy says some of the blame goes to the Defense Department's contracting arm in Indianapolis, which handled the solicitation. In

describing its own role in the debacle, the Navy says it was 'penny wise, and pound foolish.' I find it hard to see any wisdom, even a penny's worth. But there is more than a pound's worth of foolishness to go around. It seems elementary that somebody would have checked to make sure all the bidders were qualified.

"When you look at some of the 23 deficiencies found on the first inspection in September 1983, right after this $88,328 'doom buggy' limped off the assembly line, you could sense trouble:

Markings were smudged with white paint

Fuel gauges were unidentified

Weight was improperly distributed (a safety hazard)

Cabinet doors would not stay shut while the vehicle was in operation

A ceiling storage cabinet was missing

Fans and mufflers were missing

Water leakage occured at all windows and doors

The sink and drain tank leaked

The toilet was installed too close to the sink

"More deficiencies turned up after delivery to the Bethesda Naval Medical Center. But the Navy still accepted this 'junkmobile:'"

Hydraulic jacks would not reach the ground

Brake lines were poorly routed

The rear springs were collapsed

Wiring did not match manufacturer's schematics

Water collected on the roof because of faulty design

The rear tires were overloaded

Troublesome main and auxiliary generators, including faulty wiring

"When the Navy pulled the *sputtering machine from service* in March 1984, five months after delivery to Bethesda, the vehicle had made only test runs. They ought to shoot the thing and take it out of its misery.

"The Navy says it is now investigating the matter and is pursuing legal action. A day late and a dollar short they're now reviewing their procedures.

"The Navy wants to convert the truck portion of the bloodmobile into a flatbed and snow removal vehicle. That would be quite appropriate and useful. After all, they're going to need something to dig the taxpayers out from under this latest snow job."

A photograph of the vehicle is reproduced below:



OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSEN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:10PM, Sunday June 14, 1987 FOR MONDAY AM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) awarded his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for June to the Executive Office of the President for "spending $611,623 to gild one medium sized room in the Old Executive Office Building which is next door to the White House. They were ready to go on to six other offices, including the lair of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget at a cost of $728,000, but suddenly 'deferred' these plans after my inquiries.

"The taxpayers may have saved millions because somebody had an attack of common sense. But now I know how Charlie Brown feels when Lucy holds the football and good old Charlie is ready to kick it into the next county, only to have Lucy jerk it away at the last moment."

Senator Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and serves on the Appropriations Subcommittee which has jurisdiction over the Executive Office of the President's budget. He awards a Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money.

"Under the auspices of the Executive Office, the General Services Administration--the government's housekeeping agency--was in the midst of renovating the interior of the Old Executive Office Building. It is home to many top officials of the executive branch, including the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

"This renovation started rather modestly. Published reports indicate that GSA had earlier renovated three libraries, the east rotunda, and four domes at a total cost of about $400,000.

"But like so many government programs, this renovation soon went from cost-conscious modesty to big-spending opulence. The Executive Office then approved renovating one medium-sized room, which most recently was used by Vice Presidents but in the past had housed the Secretary of the Navy. What did this one-room renovation cost? Not $100,000, nor even $400,000, but a staggering $611,623 was shelled out by the taxpayers. This office is now to be used for 'ceremonial functions and conferences', but remained unused as of mid-April.

"When asked of any other offices were going to be renovated, the GSA replied on April 14, 1987, that 'Yes, a project to renovate rooms 252 and

254 is in the procurement process. Future projects are planned for rooms 226, 231, 232, and 236.' Rooms 252 and 254 are occupied by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. GSA officials reported that the work in these rooms would cost over $500,000, and had an artist's depiction of the renovated office. Workmen had already started stripping the walls.

"My staff visited the Old Executive Office Building to see how the taxpayers' money had been spent. They reported that the work was indeed beautiful. They walked over the the OMB Director's office to see what was planned, and admired the artist's depiction. But as taxpayers themselves, they came away wondering why the work needed to be done now, given the size of the deficit--a sentiment I shared.

"Over the telephone, we asked for some additional information regarding the work planned, but the Executive Office was getting antsy. So on May 19, 1987, I asked in writing for the additional information regarding this work: who occupied the offices now, who would after renovation, the cost, and the historical significance of the offices. This inquiry evidently caused some consternation in the Executive Office. A reply, dated June 8, 1987 stated that the $728,000 renovation of the Director's office, instead of being in the procurement process 'has been deferred.' Note that this project has been deferred, not eliminated. GSA went on to say 'No firm dates have been established for any of the other rooms.'

"It now looks as if the Director of the Office of Management and Budget is going to have to wait to have his office fancied up. This Senator is glad to see that economy does begin at home, at least after a little elbow nudging. But for spending $611,623 to fix one office, the Executive Office of the President richly deserves this month's Fleece, even after giving credit for a late-blooming passion for saving the taxpayers' money."

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Editor's Note: Attached are GSA's replies to my two inquiries.

Note: GSA reply to Proxmire inquiry dated March 18, 1987

Renovation of the
Secretary of the Navy's Office
Old Executive Office Building

1. Only one room has been restored. Temporary partitions have been removed to restore the Secretary of the Navy's office to its original size.

2. The room is planned to be used for ceremonial functions and conferences.

3. Historical nature of room:

   Fifteen Secretaries of the Navy utilized that room including Jonathan Davis Long, who directed naval activities during the Spanish/American War and the First World War.

   In 1885, the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, was inaugurated through that office.

   President Herbert Hoover occupied the room from December 26, 1929 through April 12, 1930.

   General Pershing occupied the room from 1921 through 1947.

   All Vice Presidents, with the exception of Hubert H. Humphrey, occupied that room after 1947.

4. The total construction cost of the renovation was $611,623. The cost of moving the Vice President and adjacent staff offices was approximately $36,000.

5. The room is open to the public for tours every Saturday. Based on current usage, it is estimated that 15,000 people per year will tour the room.

6. Yes, a project to renovate rooms 252 and 254 is in the procurement process. Future projects are planned for rooms 226, 231, 233, and 236.

Note: GSA reply to ProxmIre inquiry dated May 19, 1987

Renovation of the
Rooms 252, 254, 226, 231, 232, and 236
Old Executive Office Building

1. Estimated Costs of Work:

Room 252	$230,000
Room 254	$498,000
Room 226	Budget not developed
Room 231	$450,000
Room 232	$300,000
Room 236	Budget not developed

2. The Present Room Occupants:

Room 252/254	James Miller, Director, Office of Management and Budget and staff
Room 231/232	Charles Bobbs, Assistant to the President for Policy Development and staff
Room 226	Office of Policy Development Staff
Room 236	Office of Management and Budget Staff

3. Future Room Occupants:

Same as noted in 2 above.

4. Historic Significance of Rooms:

a. Rooms 252-254

Rooms 252-254 in the North wing of the Old Executive Office Building were designed as the offices of the Secretary of War and were used as such from 1883 until 1888, when the Secretary moved to a corresponding suite in the west wing of the OEOB.

Robert Todd Lincoln was the first Secretary of War to occupy the suite, taking occupation in February 1881. When the Secretary moved to the West wing in 1888, Room 254 became the office of the Commanding General of the Army until the abolishment of the office in 1903. Room 254 was then occupied by the Adjutant General, followed by the State Department, upon the War Department's departure.

Since the Department of State left the OEOB in 1948, Room 254 has housed first, the Directors of the Bureau of the Budget, and later the Directors of the Office of Management and Budget.

b. Rooms 231-232

This room housed the Secretary of War from 1888 to 1938, when the War Department moved to new quarters in Foggy Bottom. Among the notable occupants of this office were Robert Todd Lincoln (grandson of Abraham Lincoln and the first of the Secretaries to occupy the north wing office), Elihu Root, William Howard Taft, and Henry L. Stimson. It was in this office in 1908 that Secretary Taft first heard of his Presidential nomination by the Republican Party at its national convention.

c. Rooms 226 and 236

These rooms have no historic significance, however they have decorative features which require restoration.

5. Dates for Completion of Work and Appropriation of Funds

The renovation/restoration of rooms 252/254 has been deferred. No firm dates have been established for any of the other rooms.

Funds for these projects are provided to the General Services Administration on an annual basis in a lump sum for all projects, each of which is less than $500,000, through the Federal Building Fund. Projects greater than $500,000 each would require submission and approval of a prospectus by the appropriate Public Works Committees prior to accomplishment.

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M., WEDNESDAY, JULY 22,1987 FOR P.M. PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) awarded his Golden Fleece of the month for July to the Department of Commerce for "a 'see no evil' policy permitting local authorities to so mismanage a federally-funded, revolving loan program that the local economy was hurt rather than helped and $1.3 million -- over 90 percent -- of the money was lost. In one case, $95,000 was used to hijack 45 jobs from another part of the country. In another, EDA stood by while a $700,000 loan was frittered away over seven years, leaving the taxpayers with zilch.

"The Economic Development Administration--EDA--stands for: no economy, no administration, and precious little development. Instead of providing as many new jobs as promised, EDA did a job on the American taxpayer."

Senator Proxmire is Chairman of the the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Commitee and serves on the the Senate Appropriations Committee which has jurisdiction over the Department of Commerce's budget. He awards a Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money.

"The Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration gives grants to local areas to establish revolving loan programs. Local authorities are expected to use the funds to make loans which will further economic development, increase incomes and reduce unemployment. EDA officals are required to supervise the local programs to see that these goals are accomplished.

"The 'turn-a-blind-eye' approach to reviewing one community's loan program resulted in questionable, improper and illegal loans being made over the past several years. According to the Department of Commerce's own auditors, the less than eagled-eyed EDA officals missed the following:

> --'The loan portfolio was in poor conditon at best, and certain loan practices had hindered rather than stimulated the local economy. For example, four loans were approved by the city council rather than the industrial board, with no loan applications having been submitted and with insufficient funds to cover them. Two years later, funding for two of the loan still had not been disbursed. The delay disrupted planning and created private financing problems for the intended borrowers.

(OVER)

--'Loan records show, and City officials confirmed, that the initial loan...,which is now in default, was never monitored or serviced throughout the seven years the company was operating and in financial trouble. Although the grantee may not have been able to prevent the company from ultimately defaulting on the loan, adequate loan monitoring may have helped reduce the $700,000 loss to the RLF. Similarly, there has been no monitoring of the other loans.

--'To further exemplify the grantee's poor RLF management, our review revealed that the Board knowingly violated the job relocation prohibition. Title 13 of the Code of Federal Regulations (Section 309.3) and Section 2.,C of the General Terms and Conditions of the grant award prohibit grant funds to be used in any way that would relocate jobs from one labor area to another EDA is to terminate those awards where the grantee knew about a relocation but did not inform the agency. In December 1985, the Board provided ...its first of three installments of about $95,000 which was used to relocate its manufacturing operation...The plant was closed and the relocation completed in mid-1986. Labor union officials said that 45 jobs were lost as a result.

--'To illustrate obvious violations of the grant agreement, the Board permitted excessive loan approvals...Four loans were approved that exceed the $100,000 maximum loan amount stipulated in the grant agreement.'

"EDA officals have finally decided to terminate this particular local loan program. How much of the $1,400,000 have they recovered? About $92,000 -- or 6 percent -- meaning that the taxpayers took a $1,300,000 bath.

"The Economic Development Administration is a $215 million a year economic dinosaur. This Fleece is one example -- one of many -- of why Congress should put a stop to this waste. Here is one program that should be killed before taxes are raised."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, AUG. 26, 1987 FOR WED. PM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis) in a statement from his Washington Office Wednesday said, "Instead of a Golden Fleece award this month, today I'm giving the Pentagon an award of merit for three instances where the Defense Department trained its guns on waste and is trying to save taxpayers millions of dollars.

"In one case, the Defense Department wants to shoot down a Congressional maneuver to bail out a defense contractor for a cost overrun. Now that's turning the tables on Congress with a vengeance.

"In the other two cases, Defense Department employees came to me with ideas on ways to save tax dollars. And after a little prodding from my office, the Pentagon agreed, with the American taxpayer being the ultimate beneficiary."

Proxmire is a member of the Senate's Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and is Chairman of the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. Normally he gives a Golden Fleece award monthly for the biggest, most ridiculous or ironic example of wasteful spending. On occasion he substitutes a Merit Award for the Golden Fleece.

"In the first case, the Pentagon is wearing the white hat and Congress is the taxpayer's villain. Instead of Congress complaining that the Pentagon is bailing out a defense contractor, the Pentagon is asking Congress to stop shoveling out money for a $10 million cost overrun that can't be defended.

"Last year Congress slipped an unnoticed provision into its catch-all spending bill ordering the Secretary of the Navy to pay up to $10 million to a contractor building the Norfolk Navy Steam Plant. The Pentagon, in uncharacteristic bluntness, characterized this as a 'private relief effort' and a 'gratuity without the close Congressional scrutiny normally associated with such legislation.'

"The Navy says the contractor had a binding contract to build the plant using his own specifications. When he ran into cost overruns, he went to the back door and got a provision placed in the congressional spending bill. The Pentagon is asking Congress to say no to this bailout but so far no relief is in sight. An amendment to deny the payment in the House of Representatives was changed on the floor to allow most if not all of the $10 million to be paid.

"Hat's off to the Pentagon and a big boo for the Congress on this one.

"In the second case, William Ostrander, an Air Force captain from Mather Air Force Base in California, wrote to me a while back that he knew of a supplier that could sell the Air Force high-quality computer diskettes for about 40 cents a copy cheaper than what his air base was paying for them. Now 40 cents might not sound like much, but Captain Ostrander, who's a computer expert, estimated that his base alone could save $8,000 a year from the cheaper price.

"But when Captain Ostrander turned in his suggestion to his air base he ran into a squadron of red tape. After six months of hitting bureaucratic brick walls trying to get some action on his idea, he contacted my office. So I fired off a letter to the Air Force to shake out the cobwebs.

"I'm happy to see that the Air Force turned on the afterburners and has directed the air base to begin buying the cheaper diskettes as long as they meet government standards. What's more, contracting officials will now consider Captain Ostrander's suggestion for use in the entire Air Force.

"In the third case, a civilian employees of the Defense Department mailed me two small, flat gaskets, which looked identical. Nothing earth shaking about that. Except for the fact that the Navy was paying $17 for the gasket, while the Army was paying $52 for the same item.

"I asked the Defense Department to investigate, and sure enough they discovered it was the same gasket made by two different companies, and the Army was paying three times as much for it than the Navy. It was a case of the left hand not coordinating with the right hand.

"Both services are now buying the $17 gasket, and the Pentagon tells me that change will save them $5,000 a year."

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 PM THURSDAY, SEPT. 24, 1987 FOR FRIDAY AM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) awarded his Golden Fleece of the month for September to the National Science Foundation (NSF) "for spending $9992 on a study of 'Bullfights and Ideology of the "Nation" in Spain.' By supporting a trip to Spain and a year-long series of visits to bullfights around that nation, the NSF has given the American taxpayer a bum steer."

Senator Proxmire is Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee which has jurisdiction over the NSF's budget. He awards a Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of federal funds.

"The summary of the project states:

> 'This research proposes to examine the dialectical relationship between the categories "nation" and "region" in Spain as these are manifested through the polemical spectacles known as the "national fiesta," the Spanish bullfights in their several formats...The research will entail ethnographic descriptions and comparisons of the local vs. national bullfighting formats, and intensive interviews with informants to record their identification with, or rejection of, the various forms of bullfights, as well as other specific socio-political categories of Spain.'"

"While the proposed budget includes $500 for a camera and accessories, the assumed daily expenses are relatively modest. The researcher will probably not be staying in very many five star hotels during visits to the bullfights in Seville, Madrid, Valencia and other exciting Spanish cities.

"The project is being undertaken by an obviously highly qualified researcher who speaks Spanish fluently having lived and worked in Spain.

"I have no objection as such to a study of bullfighting as a cultural manifestation of the Spanish regional and national character; although I suspect that a few hours spent with Ernest Hemingway's

writings would be better reading and would probably give just as much understanding of the Spanish culture.

"What I do object to is, given the giant federal budget deficit and the needs of other government programs, the decision by the NSF to fund this study. Clearly it is time for the NSF to grab the bull by the horns and get its priorities straight.

"The bullfight study is a part of the NSF's anthropological science program whose budget the Foundation has purposed to increase by $640,000 to $8,220,000 next year.

"I first raised questions about this and several other studies in the Appropriations Subcommittee hearings on the NSF budget. The NSF argued in favor of the studies and later provided me with additional information on them.

"After examining the complete record, I continue to doubt the value of spending taxpayers money on two other studies but see the NSF's argument of some possible worth to the studies.

"The first project involved spending $23,279 to study the cultural and social context of astronomical knowledge by two native groups in Indonesia. One group used the stars to do impressive feats of open seas navigation and the other studied the sky to predict the changing seasons for their primitive agricultural society.

"The second project devoted $28,578 to study the role of non-marriage in rural Irish family systems. Irish society has one of the highest rates of late and non-marriage. A study of how these single adults fit into their families and culture might help us understand similar situations in our own nation.

"Funding these studies once again raises the question of priorities. The taxpayers cannot afford to fund every study on every subject everywhere in the world. To the question, is this trip necessary?, the NSF should more frequently answer with a resounding: NO!"

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OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 AM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 19__ FOR PM PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Wednesday awarded his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for October to the Department of Energy for, "concocting a witches brew to dispose of nuclear waste which may cost the taxpayers a glowing $1.6 billion by 1998. The Department has let some utilities avoid paying any of the costs of this disposal until a decade from now. As a result, the taxpayers are likely to end up with hot wallets.

"The Department of Energy is making some of our more extravagant saving and loan associations look like paragons of virtue. This approach is wasting the taxpayers and belongs in the pits. Somebody's common sense has decayed."

Senator Proxmire is the Chairman of the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and is a senior member of the Appropriations Committee. He awards a Golden Fleece monthly to the most ridiculous, wasteful, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money for that period.

"In 1982, Congress required that the federal government assume the responsibility of disposing of nuclear waste. Those who generated this waste, usually private utilities operating nuclear plants, were to pay all costs of this disposal.

"The Department of Energy established three methods of payment, two of which make sense. These are payment in full, and payment over 40 quarters, ten years, with interest. Of the 47 companies which own spent nuclear fuel, 36 selected one of these two methods of payment.

"But that leaves 11 who selected the third method--a future lump-sum payment with accumulated interest. These companies are charging their customers a fee to cover the costs of disposal and have collected about $625 million. But the Department, in an electrifying decision, did not require these utilities to set this money aside in escrow.

"The Department's Inspector General did a survey and found that many of these companies were using this money for internal company purposes, such as paying for new construction or meeting the payroll. They intended to pay the disposal fee, when the time came, either by borrowing the money or by using internally generated cash. The problem with this

approach: six of these utilites are already in financial hot water, usually because of the cost of constructing nuclear power plants.

"What is going to happen ten years from now when these utilities will be facing a $1.6 billion bill? One possibility would be a whopping big rate increase for those served by these utilites. But after serving in the Senate for over 30 years, I believe a much more likely outcome is a federal BAILOUT. The taxpayers will be stuck with this $1.6 billion bill.

"The Department of Energy richly deserves the October Fleece for this 'waste now, pay later' policy. They have done a much better job of digging a grave for the taxpayers than of disposing of nuclear waste."

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 AM, November 23, 1987 FOR MONDAY PMs PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) Monday gave his Golden Fleece of the Month Award for November to the Treasury Department for, "a world-class $1.2 billion a year tax loophole which can only be used by U.S. citizens who live and work in foreign countries. This loophole allows these citizens to exclude a $70,000 chunk of their income from our income tax. What a nice reward for working in London, or Paris, or other hardship posts favored by big multi-national corporations.

"Charity may begin at home, but when it comes to tax breaks they get a running start in the old country. This loophole is enough to tax the patience of the long-suffering, home-bound taxpayer who may soon see his taxes increased."

Senator Proxmire is Chairman of the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and serves on the Appropriations Committee. He awards a Fleece monthly to the most wasteful, ridiculous, or ironic use of the taxpayers' money. Tax loopholes are like entitlement spending but on the revenue side of the budget: anyone who qualifies gets the break without regard to income or need.

"Imagine the outcry if a Member of Congress proposed a new entitlement program which had the following provisions. Americans who decided to work overseas would be entitled to a $25,000 a year grant, which is the approximate cash value of a $70,000 a year tax exclusion. They would receive this grant no matter their income and no matter where they worked. This new program would cost the taxpayer about $1.2 billion a year. It would stand about as much chance of passage as would a hard freeze in Hades.

"The continued existence of this loophole is especially ironic, given the huge trade deficit we face. If economists agree on anything it is that we need to reduce the federal fiscal deficit in order to improve the trade deficit.

"Yet proponents of this loophole argue that we need it in order to--you guessed it--reduce the trade deficit. They contend that Americans need a tax break before they will work overseas and that these Americans are better able to sell American made products.

"A decade ago, a thread-sized version of this loophole earned a Fleece. Then, the exclusion was $20,000, which cost the taxpayer about $400 million, and our trade deficit was less than $10 billion. Now, the exclusion is $70,000; it costs a cool $1.2 billion; and the trade deficit is in the range of $150 billion. At best, these facts demonstrate that the exclusion has no effect on that deficit. At worst, it appears that the higher the exclusion, the worse the deficit. Then, as now, the argument that this exclusion is vital to our international trade simply doesn't stand up to examination.

"A Fleece results in less spending or a program's elimination about two-thirds of the time. This one is a whopper that got away. Despite a decade of efforts to reduce the deficit this loophole has not only survived but prospered.

"I believe the reason this loophole survives has more to do with living well than with the trade deficit. American executives who live and work overseas generally do quite well, thank you. If this loophole were eliminated, they would have to become lean and mean instead of fat and sassy. That would be difficult for them, but good for the country. And we could sure use that $1.2 billion."

OFFICE OF

SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE

WISCONSIN

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 A.M., Wednesday, December 23,1987,FOR P.M.PAPERS

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) in a statement from his Washington office, Wednesday, awarded his Golden Fleece for the month of December to the Department of the Army for "digging a hole and burying $159,000 of taxpayers' dollars on decorative trees and shrubs which died within a year and had to be uprooted. The Army succeeded in treeing the taxpayer this time, and should turn over a new leaf. This spending was truly bush league."

Senator Proxmire is the chairman of the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and serves on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. He awards a Fleece monthly for the most wasteful, ridiculous or ironic use of the taxpayers' money.

"During September, 1986, the Army at Fort Belvoir, Virginia found a stray $159,000. Rather than returning this money to the taxpayer, they decided to spruce up their fort, which has four thousand acres of trees and shrubs that nature has already provided. They spent $35,000 for the landscaping design. Then on September 29th and 30th, right before the fiscal year ended, they spent the other $124,000. This smacks of year-end spending just to get money off the books. I suspect it was a last ditch effort to bury the money before it expired at Fort Belvoir.

"What did the taxpayers buy? Faulty landscape design work along with holly bushes, summit ash trees and various other shrubs for areas around buildings. These buildings include the General's office building, the comissary, the Finance and Accounting office building and others. This was in the midst of thousands of acres of trees that could have been used for transplanting or tree farming.

"Evidently the trees and shrubs did not take well to this military approach to gardening. As the seasons passed, so did the greenery. Finally, they hit the dust. On December 5, 1987, the Army dug up the brown, shriveled plants, which had become an eyesore. The Army has really dug themselves in on this one. Their efforts to make parts of Fort Belvoir look like a posh English garden have failed. The trees and shrubbery were nothing more than a forgotten gleam in some officer's eyes. But the taxpayers had plowed $159,000 into this garden of sorrows only to reap an empty purse."