



# United States Senate

## Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Chairman Joseph I. Lieberman, ID-Conn.

Opening Statement for Chairman Joseph Lieberman  
Hearing for Eugene Dodaro to be Comptroller General of the U.S.  
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee  
November 18, 2010  
**As Prepared for Delivery**

The hearing will come to order. Our hearing today is on the nomination of Eugene Dodaro to be Comptroller General of the United States and to thereby lead the Government Accountability Office, which we call GAO.

It is an understatement to say Mr. Dodaro is not a newcomer to government, or the GAO. Gene joined GAO right out of college in 1973 as an entry-level auditor and in less than 10 years was elevated to the rank of senior executive. He served as Assistant Comptroller General of the Accounting and Information Management Division from 1993 to 1999 and Chief Operating Officer - the number two position at the agency - for eight years after that. For the past two and a half years he has ably led GAO as Acting Comptroller General.

I must say in the selection process that led to this nomination, there was a lot of pushing and pulling about politics. But in the end, the President really did select the best possible person for this job. I say that with such confidence because we know you and we work so closely with you and yours is clearly a merit selection, by no means influenced by politics. That is exactly what this position is all about.

In a lot of ways, we in Congress, and more generally the American people—although very few of them know your name--owe you a debt of gratitude for the work you've done for almost 40 years to improve the performance and capacity of their government. This has risen to a crescendo of demand from the public, but you've been out there doing that all along.

GAO is one of those federal agencies that flies under the radar of most Americans. As an arm of the legislative branch of government, GAO provides information and analysis to Congress and the Executive Branch, and I consider it to be a non-partisan advocate for taxpayers and how their money is being spent.

GAO does not offer policy proposals to solve the challenges upon which it reports. That is the job of the President and Congress. Instead we rely on a clear-eyed presentation of solid facts and constructive recommendations to help our government operate efficiently. Gene, that's exactly what you and those you have worked with--and now, I hope, supervise--have done for many, many years.

I'm delighted to preside over his hearing on your nomination and also pleased now to call on Senator Collins.