NR 99-33
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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April 13, 1999

         Comptroller Addresses Y2K Issues in Congressional Testimony

WASHINGTON -- Comptroller of the Currency John D. Hawke, Jr. told
a House committee today that the vast majority of national banks
are making good progress in their efforts to make computer
systems Year-2000 compliant.

"At the OCC, we have assembled a unique, comprehensive database
and constructed analytic tools that enable us to monitor closely
where national banks stand, and this has enabled us to target our
attention quickly and effectively on banks that require closer
scrutiny," he said in testimony before the House Committee on
Banking and Financial Services.

The Comptroller said that the overwhelming majority of national
banks will meet a June 30 deadline to complete testing of their
computer systems. The OCC will be able to focus additional
resources for the remainder of the year on the relatively few
instituitons that are still experiencing problems, he said.

Mr. Hawke said close communication between banks and their
customers is essential to maintain public confidence in the
system. Banks should provide information about their remediation
efforts to their customers, as well as to local business leaders
and media, he said.

The OCC, he added, is participating in educational efforts
sponsored by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination
Council and will also engage in additional outreach at the local
and regional level.

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The OCC charters, regulates and examines approximately 2,600 national
banks and
66 federal branches of foreign banks in the U.S., accounting for more
than 58
percent of the nation's banking assets. Its mission is to ensure a
safe and
sound and competitive national banking system that supports the
citizens,
communities and economy of the United States.