

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton
Presidential Library Staff.**

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Press Secretary

Series/Staff Member: Mike McCurry

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 11102

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Coia [Arthur]

Stack:

S

Row:

94

Section:

3

Shelf:

10

Position:

1

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 12, 1995

Sent 5/12
also faxed to
783-0832 5/12
phone: 783-0833

Dean Starkman
John E. Mulligan
The Providence Journal-Bulletin
400 North Capitol Street, Suite 890
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Messrs. Starkman and Mulligan:

Michael McCurry asked me to respond to your letter in his absence. This letter responds to the questions posed to Mr. McCurry in your letter of April 25, 1995.

Response to Question 1:

The White House was not part of, nor does it have any information about the reasons for, decisions made by the Justice Department during the course of its investigation, including its decision to settle the civil suit against the Laborers International Union of North America. We therefore have no information about its decision regarding Arthur Coia's status as president of the Union.

Response to Question 2:

The First Lady accepted an invitation to speak at a Tri-Fund Conference in Florida on February 6, 1995. A few days prior to her departure, Ms. Clinton was informed by the Deputy Chief of Staff that the Justice Department had informed the Counsel's Office that Mr. Coia was currently under investigation; therefore, she should not have any private meetings or conversations with Mr. Coia. The President was not advised of the Justice Department's investigation of Mr. Coia as there was no occasion for which he had a need to know this information. Neither the President nor the First Lady was informed about the Department's negotiations in the investigation, including any decisions regarding Mr. Coia's status as president of the Union.

The Department informed the White House Counsel's Office that Mr. Coia was under investigation. Neither the President nor the First Lady discussed this matter with the Justice Department.

Messrs. Starkman and Mulligan
May 12, 1995
Page Two

The President and First Lady did not discuss this matter with Mr. Coia at any time.

Thank you for inquiring.. I trust this information will be useful as you write your article.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Evelyn S. Lieberman", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Evelyn S. Lieberman
Deputy Assistant to the President and
Deputy Press Secretary for Operations

READERS DIGEST



SENIOR EDITOR • Eugene H. Mathwin

September 27, 1995

Ms. Ginny Terzano
Deputy Press Secretary
The White House
Washington, D.C.

BY FAX 456 6210

Dear Ms. Terzano:

Attached are the questions we discussed by phone, and I'd like to talk to a knowledgeable spokesman about them so we can follow up, clarify, etc. I will be around tomorrow but will be out of town Friday. If convenient, I could come over on Monday for an interview. Many thanks for your help.

Sincerely yours,

Eugene H. Mathwin

Copyright 1995 The Providence Journal Company
The Providence Journal-Bulletin

May 14, 1995, Sunday, ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 3680 words

HEADLINE: Bitter fight reveals allegations of corruption in Laborers' union; The White House says Hillary Clinton was advised of an investigation and told to avoid private conversation with the union president.

BYLINE: This story was reported by Journal Bulletin staff writers; Dan Barry, John Mulligan, Mike Stanton,; Dean Starkman and John Sullivan,; and was written by Barry and Stanton.

BODY:

There are problems at headquarters.

The boss has suspended two executives because of suspected ties to the Mafia. They've sued, alleging that the boss has also been linked to organized crime; in fact, they said, he was once indicted with a mob kingpin from New England.

The front office here is at the Laborers' International Union, one of the largest unions in the country. The boss is Arthur A. Coia. Formerly of Providence, he now moves within America's most powerful circles; even President Clinton enjoys his counsel.

But Coia and his union brothers are fighting for their careers.

Their front-office brawling has spilled into open court. It has brought to public light a swirl of allegations against Coia and other Laborers' executives - as well as behind-the-scenes negotiations with the Justice Department.

The most stunning document is a draft of a civil racketeering complaint that Justice officials delivered to the Laborers' Washington headquarters last November. The draft was unsigned, and never filed by the federal government in court; it surfaced as an exhibit in a lawsuit sparked by the internal union struggle.

The draft complaint synthesizes a three-year investigation into the Laborers'; it portrays the union as hopelessly corrupt, rife with organized crime, and led by men who illegally - sometimes violently - crushed dissent and skimmed union funds.

The document zeroed in on Coia. According to court records, the draft said that Coia has "associated with, and been controlled by and influenced by organized crime figures." The draft also said that he had conspired as recently as last year to funnel money from upstate New York locals to the Buffalo Mafia.

The Justice Department was threatening to seek a government takeover of the union. And it was demanding the ouster of Coia and other union executives.

Three months of negotiations followed. The Justice Department dropped its demand for Coia's removal. Meanwhile, Coia suspended two vice presidents accused of having mob connections - including Samuel J. Caivano, a longtime ally of Coia's from New Jersey.

In February, the Laborers' and the Justice Department signed an agreement designed to reform the union; both sides trumpeted the pact as historic in union-government relations. Overseeing the union's cleanup was one of the draft complaint's original targets: Arthur Coia.

Senior Justice Department officials have declined to explain why they allowed Coia to remain in charge when their draft said he had connections to organized crime. But that is exactly what Caivano has been wondering; his lawyers argue that Coia betrayed union colleagues to curry favor with the government.

"The head man initially targeted by the government was able to 'trade down' and convince the government to take two vice-presidents in his stead," Caivano's lawyer argued in court papers. "Defendant Coia had just struck one of the most delicate and fragile arrangements of his life."

That Coia remains in charge of the Laborers' also perplexed a federal judge who recently held a hearing on Caivano's complaint. "Here's a man, the president of the union, who's accused of being associated with organized crime, the focus of a 212-page complaint . . .," U.S. District Court Judge Emmet G. Sullivan said last month. "Why wasn't Coia removed?"

Robert D. Luskin, the lawyer who is representing the Laborers' in the negotiations, says that the draft complaint was more of a bargaining tool for the government to initiate talks than an accurate depiction of the union and Coia. Still, he acknowledges that some of the Justice Department's concerns about the union have merit.

Coia, meanwhile, denies any ties to organized crime, and derides the government's draft complaint as "a history book," "a wish list" and "window dressing." He also praises the agreement that allows him to remain as general president, with new powers to foster reform.

"It's the best of times," he says.

'Letter-writing friendship'

Arthur Coia is paid \$ 191,000 a year to oversee a union with some 770,000 members in the United States and Canada - many of whom clean up hazardous waste, work on road crews, and toil at construction sites. The dues paid to the International exceeds \$ 25 million a year.

In representing their interests, the 52-year-old Coia has become a prominent social and political figure in Washington, and has emerged as one of President Clinton's strongest supporters.

Coia's union loaned \$ 100,000 to the Clinton inaugural committee, and ranks among the top 10 contributors to the national Democratic Party. He co-hosted a \$ 1,500-a-plate fund-raiser that netted \$ 3.5 million for the Democrats. He pledged \$ 100,000 in Laborers' funds to the U.S. Botanic Garden, which gave him and his wife entree to an exclusive dinner attended by the Clintons.

Along the way, Coia has gone from a face in the White House crowd to someone the President calls by first name. The two men share a passion for golf, memorialized by the exchange of gifts of fancy golf clubs. They have also developed what Coia calls a "letter-writing friendship."

Coia's letters have pledged support for Mr. Clinton's economic and health care plans; expressed sympathy on the death of Mr. Clinton's mother; asked for help with a labor-training project in Mexico; and given thanks for a breakfast meeting with the President.

The President often responds, sometimes formally, sometimes personally. In addition, the White House has extended various invitations to Coia: to see the Pope in Denver; to a reception for the Emperor of Japan; to the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement; to breakfast with the First Lady; to accompany Mr. Clinton on a campaign trip to Pawtucket.

In a single week last October, Coia sent Mr. Clinton four letters. In one note, he and his wife thanked the President for a "wonderful evening of dinner and entertainment at the White House."

"We must especially offer our compliments on your choice of music for the event, and thoroughly enjoyed seeing a talented saxophone player entertain the crowd."

The draft complaint

Last Nov. 4, Mr. Clinton sent Coia a handwritten note congratulating the union leader on becoming a grandfather, and thanking him for the gift of a "gorgeous" golf club crafted by Coia's clubmaker in East Providence.

That same day, Mr. Clinton's Justice Department dropped off the draft complaint at the Laborers' Washington headquarters that gave the devastating overview of Coia's union - a union it said had "an aura of criminality and pervasive lawlessness." Among its allegations:

In the last two decades, more than 80 Laborers' officials have been convicted of racketeering, bribery, extortion, usury, income tax evasion - even attempted murder;

The Mafia's dominant organized-crime families - Genovese, Lucchese, Colombo - have been running or influencing union locals in New York, Chicago, Cleveland, St. Louis, Buffalo, Florida and New England.

Union leaders have manipulated trusteeships, district councils and hiring practices to suppress dissent and to maintain a corrupt status quo.

Union leaders have failed to investigate corruption or to address organized-crime influence, and have "prevented and inhibited the rank-and-file members from democratic participation."

It said that Vice President Samuel Caivano, a prominent labor leader in New Jersey, was a Mafia associate who had appointed mob-connected men to oversee union affairs in New York and New Jersey.

Providence Journal-Bulletin, May 14, 1995

It said that Vice President John Serpico of Illinois was a Mafia associate whose connections to the Chicago mob had influenced his union activities.

Nor did the draft complaint spare Coia. It resurrected his 1981 indictment - along with his father and New England mob boss Raymond L.S. Patriarca, both now dead - on racketeering charges. The case was dismissed because the indictment was filed after the statute of limitations expired.

The draft said that the union president has been associating with New England crime figures for "a substantial period of time." But it provided no specifics beyond the 1981 indictment.

The document also said that Coia and others had recently used "actual and threatened force, violence and fear" to wrest control of training funds from union locals in upstate New York.

The money in those funds, the document said, would be used to establish mob-controlled training centers in Buffalo and Albany. Those centers would then be used to reward mob-connected contractors, provide jobs to Buffalo organized-crime figures, and pay for "unnecessary or extravagant" travel by union officials and others.

Further details of the upstate New York allegations were concealed; prosecutors blacked out more than four pages.

The document called for the removal of Coia, Caivano and other union executives and the immediate appointment of federal trustees. This step, it said, would ensure more open elections, correct "financial malpractice," and eliminate organized-crime influence.

The Justice Department gave Coia's union two weeks to respond.

Negotiations

The Laborers' scrambled to salvage its cherished autonomy.

It hired a former Justice Department lawyer, Robert Luskin, to negotiate with high-ranking Justice officials.

On Nov. 16, Luskin met with Paul E. Coffey, chief of the Justice Department's organized crime and racketeering section. Luskin says that Coffey asked whether Coia was prepared to "step aside" during settlement discussions, since the union president was personally named in the draft complaint.

But Caivano said in a court affidavit that he was told Coffey brought up the matter less delicately: "We won't talk to you as long as Arthur Coia is president."

Luskin says he told Coffey that the request was inappropriate, and that Coia would not step down. After that, he says, Justice Department officials never again raised the matter of Coia's resignation - and neither did the union.

"After the first meeting with the government, on Nov. 16, the terms of that draft complaint were never, never a subject of discussion between us," Luskin recalls. "The subjects of discussions were: 'How far can we trust you, why

Providence Journal-Bulletin, May 14, 1995

should we trust you, and what are you prepared to do?' "

In fact, by early December, Coia had his personal lawyers participating in the negotiations, including Brendan V. Sullivan Jr., whose defense of Oliver North during the Irangate hearings had earned him national prominence.

On Dec. 14, Luskin says, the government proposed a settlement that called for the removal of Caivano, Serpico, and others - but not Coia. Said Luskin in a court affidavit: "At no point thereafter was Mr. Coia's status as General President a subject of discussion or an issue in whether or not the government would file the draft complaint."

War of words

Negotiations continued through December and into January.

On Jan. 4, president Coia informed his executive board of the Justice Department investigation that was threatening the union's future. Caivano charges in court records that Coia had not mentioned it earlier because "he was trying to strike a deal to keep his position."

Coia and Luskin encouraged the board members to endorse a "contract" with the Justice Department that was designed to prevent a government takeover; it called for various internal reforms.

Caivano says in his court affidavit that he and Serpico protested, saying that they had not read the document. In addition, they said that the full membership should have a voice in the decision.

The meeting ended testily, and without a vote.

Two weeks later, the executive board reconvened. It was asked to approve an ethics code that gave Coia unprecedented enforcement powers, and to adopt new disciplinary procedures. Both measures passed.

Moments later, Coia suspended the only two executives to vote against the proposals, Caivano and Serpico, apparently based on the government's allegation that both men had organized-crime connections.

The suspensions ignited a war of words, waged through the mail and over fax machines in local Laborers' offices around the country.

Members received copies of the agreement with an urgent message to read the document: "You will then know how your general president Arthur Coia and the executive board sold you down the river."

Coia countered with a "special notice": "The bottom line is clear: The General Executive Board and I are working with, not for, the Federal Government in our effort to make certain this union is operating in the best interests of our members."

Caivano and Serpico also filed separate lawsuits against the union. A common charge in their complaints: That Coia had ousted two former allies to appease the government and to save his own career.

Stephen M. Ryan, one of Caivano's lawyers, expressed disbelief at a U.S. District Court hearing in February. How could Caivano and Serpico be removed, he wondered, when the draft complaint portrays Coia as a "second-generation racketeer."

Ryan said the government's agreement with the union had allowed Coia to "save his own skin at the expense of other people."

That members of the union's executive board had known each other for decades made the dispute all the more painful.

For example, the Coia and Caivano families were once close. As recently as last summer, Coia was effusively praising Caivano at the dedication of the Samuel Caivano Training Center in Albany, N.Y.

A videotape, filed in court, captures Coia speaking at a testimonial for Caivano a few years earlier. He called Caivano a close family friend, and "more than a labor leader. He is truly a quality human being, a humanitarian, someone I am proud to know and be part of his family."

Caivano declined comment; Coia wouldn't discuss their relationship.

'Not . . . a sellout'

On Feb. 15, after three months of negotiations, the Justice Department announced that it had reached an agreement with the Laborers' that was designed to "rid the union of the influence of organized crime."

The agreement gave the union 90 days to demonstrate its commitment to internal reform. But the government reserved the right to take over the union at any time in the next three years if it believes that the union's actions are inadequate.

In addition to Coia, the document was signed by three top Justice lawyers: Assistant Attorney General Jo Ann Harris; James B. Burns, the U.S. Attorney for Chicago; and Paul Coffey, the chief of the organized crime and racketeering section.

Craig Oswald, an assistant federal prosecutor in Chicago who participated in the negotiations, emphatically denies any "sweetheart deal for Arthur Coia."

"Having participated in the heated negotiations myself - as one of the people who lost my temper more than others would have - this is not in any way a sellout," Oswald says. Coia "theoretically is subject to discipline."

Nevertheless, the agreement left Coia in charge. It makes no mention of the allegations contained in the draft complaint that had been delivered to the union just three months earlier.

"What happened was an extraordinary placing of trust," says Luskin. "It's unlike anything that's happened before. It is the first time that a union, in an organized, aggressive way, has decided to clean up its own house."

In a statement Friday, Assistant Attorney General Harris - the Justice Department's number-three official - disclosed that the government and the

Providence Journal-Bulletin, May 14, 1995

union had developed a new, "agreed upon RICO complaint and consent decree" that it reserves the right to file until February 1998.

Luskin declines to comment on the contents of a new draft complaint. Although the union had offered advice on its wording, he says, "we do not acknowledge the truth" of any of its allegations.

'An embarrassment'

Throughout the negotiations, Luskin says, he instructed Laborers' executives to avoid any appearance of seeking political favor.

There is no indication that the Clinton administration intervened in behalf of the Laborers' or that the union sought such intervention. However, the situation reflects the uneasy coexistence of business and politics in Washington, where, Luskin says, "there's always an assumption of political strings being pulled."

"I made it very clear that it was not going to happen here," Luskin says. "And so far as I know, absolutely nobody contacted anybody at a political level. . . . It would be offensive and it would be death."

Coia agrees. He says that in the weeks after receiving the draft complaint, he continued to meet with top Clinton administration officials - but only to discuss labor issues.

And he continued his cordial relationship with President Clinton.

Days after the Justice Department delivered its ultimatum to the Laborers', Mr. Clinton sent two notes to Coia. In one letter, which opened with "Dear Art" and closed with "Bill," the President promised to share Coia's views on labor with Labor Secretary Robert Reich. In the other, Mr. Clinton thanked Coia for his support of the Democratic Party.

Coia says he was too embarrassed to mention the Justice Department case to the top-level federal officials he was dealing with at the time. "Someone says that the government wants to take over the union that I lead?" says Coia. "That's an embarrassment to me."

Nor did the White House want to be embarrassed.

Word of the federal investigation of Coia and the Laborers' had reached the White House Counsel's Office by early February, when First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was preparing for a trip to Florida to speak at a Laborers' convention - at Coia's invitation.

A White House deputy chief of staff advised the First Lady to avoid "private meetings or conversations with Mr. Coia" because he was "currently under investigation," according to a White House statement issued Friday.

The statement also said:

President Clinton was not told of the Laborers' investigation because "there was no occasion for which he had a need to know this information."

Neither the President nor the First Lady was told of the negotiations between the Justice Department and the Laborers, "including any decisions regarding Mr. Coia's status as president of the union."

Neither the President nor the First Lady discussed the investigation with the Justice Department. In addition, the President and the First Lady "did not discuss the matter with Mr. Coia at any time."

The First Lady kept her engagement with the Laborers' in Miami. During her visit, a White House spokeswoman says, Hillary Clinton had no specific discussions with Coia.

But Coia has a different recollection. He says that during an informal moment, he asked the First Lady if she had heard about his efforts to clean up a corrupt local in New York.

" 'I want you to know that we are, have taken over that problem in New York City,' " Coia recalls telling her.

The First Lady replied that she wasn't aware of it, and the conversation shifted to other topics, Coia says. "It was good that she didn't know anything about it."

Investigations

The Laborers' 90-day "probation" runs out tomorrow.

Atty. Gen. Janet Reno, who was in Rhode Island on Friday for an awards ceremony, deferred comment on the Laborers' investigation. "I'll be glad to check it for you," she said.

Coia and Luskin, meanwhile, believe that they will be allowed to continue cleaning up the union without government intervention. They point out that the union has hired former federal prosecutors and ex-FBI agents to investigate nearly 100 allegations of union corruption.

Luskin, who will oversee those investigations, says that he will doggedly pursue any lead he receives. He says, for example, that disciplinary proceedings are moving forward against Serpico and Caivano (Earlier this month U.S. District Court Judge Emmet Sullivan denied, for now, Caivano's bid to be reinstated on the ground that the Laborers' official had not exhausted his union appeal.)

But Luskin says he has not begun an investigation of Coia; nor has he immediate plans to investigate the Justice Department draft complaint's allegations concerning Coia.

Still, Luskin vows: "Before the end of the day, anything in which Arthur's name comes up will be looked at . . . to determine whether or not there is any substantiation."

Coia denies the characterization of him in the document - including the organized-crime allegations - and says he would welcome a background investigation. Such openness, he says, is in keeping with the "spirit of alliance and partnership" that now exists between the government and the union.

Providence Journal-Bulletin, May 14, 1995

"Our process is unfolding," he says. "A lot of the credit I'd like to take personal responsibility (for) and pat myself on the back."

Response from the White House

In response to questions from the Journal-Bulletin, the White House issued a statement on Friday about the Justice Department investigation of the Laborers' Union. That statement reads in part:

The First Lady accepted an invitation to speak at a Tri-Fund Conference in Florida on February 6, 1995. A few days prior to her departure, Ms. Clinton was informed by the Deputy Chief of Staff that the Justice Department had informed the Counsel's Office that Mr. Coia was currently under investigation; therefore, she should not have any private meetings or conversations with Mr. Coia. The President was not advised of the Justice Department's investigation of Mr. Coia as there was no occasion for which he had a need to know this information. Neither the President nor the First Lady was informed about the Department's negotiations in the investigation, including any decisions regarding Mr. Coia's status as president of the Union.

The Department informed the White House Counsel's office that Mr. Coia was under investigation. Neither the President nor the First Lady discussed this matter with the Justice Department.

The President and First Lady did not discuss this matter with Mr. Coia at any time.

GRAPHIC: Photo: HILLARY CLINTON @CAdvised of investigation

NEGOTIATOR: Robert D. Luskin, a former Justice Department lawyer hired by the Laborers', dismisses the allegations against Coia and hails the agreement hammered out with Justice: "It is the first time that a union, in an organized, aggressive way, has decided to clean up its own house."

PRESIDENTS: Bill Clinton and Arthur A. Coia, head of the Laborers' International Union, have developed a friendship in recent years.

-(C) The Providence Journal Company. Copyright 1995. All rights reserved.

LOAD-DATE-MDC: May 16, 1995

The Providence Journal-Bulletin
Washington Bureau

Dean Starkman
Staff Writer
75 Fountain Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02906
Tel: (401) 277-7724

May 16, 1995

Mr. Michael McCurry
Press Secretary
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Hand-Delivered

Dear Mr. McCurry:

Thank you for your response of May 12. I trust you have received a copy of the story we published on May 14. We faxed it to your office.

If I may, here are a few follow up questions I would like to ask:

The White House statement says the Justice Department informed the First Lady in February that Mr. Coia was "currently under investigation." At the time, however, Mr. Coia was negotiating with the Justice Department about the future of his union.

1. Just to clarify, what exactly did Justice tell the White House about the Laborers' racketeering case?

Mr. Coia says he had a brief private conversation with the First Lady at the Tri-Fund Conference on February 6 and raised the matter of a racketeering case involving Laborers' locals in the New York area.

2. What is the First Lady's recollection of that conversation?

3. If the White House was concerned about the First Lady speaking to Mr. Coia, why did she accept his invitation to speak in Florida?

Michael Melusky

Page Two

4. Who at the Justice Department contacted the White House about this case and what information was conveyed?

5. Was Mr. Lokes the deputy chief of staff mentioned in your statement?

6. Why was Mr. Coia invited to travel to Haiti with the president?

I would also like to renew our request for an interview with you on this subject at your convenience.

Again, thank you for your earlier response, and for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

Dean Starkman
by J.E.M.

Dean Starkman

The Providence Journal-Bulletin

Washington Bureau

*Evelyn
Status?
where are we
prior to
departure?
M^C*

April 25, 1995

Michael McCurry
Office of the Press Secretary
The White House
Washington, D.C.

HAND-DELIVERED

Dear Mr. McCurry:

The Providence Journal is preparing a story on the Clinton administration's recent agreement to settle a draft racketeering complaint against the Laborers International Union of North America. The story will also note the personal and financial contacts of President and Mrs. Clinton with Arthur A. Coia, the union's general president.

We would like to present some issues that will be raised in the story:

Issue 1:

The Justice Department's draft complaint says that Mr. Coia has been associated with and controlled and influenced by organized crime figures and has been among those responsible for the systematic abuse of the rights of union members.

The draft complaint also says that Coia conspired unlawfully to induce upstate New York locals to surrender control of training funds to the benefit of members and associates of the Buffalo La Cosa Nostra, employing the . . . wrongful use of actual and threatened force, violence and fear . . .

The draft complaint asks the court to remove Coia and the rest of the union's general executive board and to bar him from future union activities. Otherwise, the draft complaint says, LIUNA will continue to be a labor organization held captive by organized crime.

LIUNA's attorney, in a sworn statement, says that on Nov. 16, 1994, the chief negotiator for the government, Paul E. Coffey, imposed as a condition for beginning settlement talks Mr. Coia's removal as union president. But at a subsequent meeting, Dec. 5, 1994, the lawyer says Mr. Coffey dropped the issue of Mr. Coia's status and agreed to have Mr. Coia's lawyer join negotiations that led to a settlement.

Question: In light of the above, why did the Justice Department reverse its position on Coia's removal as general president?

400 North Capitol Street, Suite 890, Washington, D.C. 20001

The story will also note Mr. Coia's contacts with the President and the First Lady and his active role on behalf of the union in fundraising for various Democratic Party and administration activities. Among them: Mr. Coia's May 1994 contribution of \$100,000 to the U.S. Botanical Garden Conservatory; his co-sponsorship of a June fundraiser, attended by Mr. Clinton, that netted \$3.5-million for the party; his personal delivery in July of a check for \$100,000 to Mr. Clinton for the party's health care reform effort; his October meeting at the White House with Mr. Clinton; Mr. Coia's contribution of \$50,000 to the DNC in October; Mrs. Clinton's private conversation with Mr. Coia and speech at LIUNA's "Tri-Fund" conference in Florida in February, 1995.

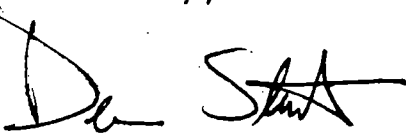
Questions: Were the Clintons aware of the Justice Department's racketeering investigation of Mr. Coia and his union. Did they know about the department's stated objective to remove Mr. Coia and its subsequent reversal?

Did the President, First Lady or other administration officials outside the Justice Department ever discuss this matter with Justice officials?

Did the President or the First Lady ever discuss these matters with Mr. Coia?

We would like to schedule an interview to discuss these and other issues. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Dean Starkman
Staff writer (401-277-7724)



John E. Mulligan
Washington bureau chief (783-0833)

- the best that we can find
our records show that he was invited
twice - attended once
- Potus did not invite Coia - did not see
him - Angelos did not invite Coia
Pres was guest of Angelos
- WH Counsel made a request of Justice
Dept - Coia told Harold and he asked
Counsel's office

LINDA
made a
copy of
just
re