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Folder Title: Office of Administration; Library & Researcher Services; John Cressman: GAO Audit - Security				
Staff Office-Individual: Counsel's Office				
Original OA/ID Number: CF 670				
Row: 18	Section: 2	Shelf: 1	Position: 2	Stack: v

John Cressman
CA Deputy Director
429-95-42
Bx 9

GAO AUDIT - SECURITY

DUPLICATE FILE

PHOTOCOPY PRESERVATION

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Washington, D.C. 20503

See file

*Not a memo
to/from
named indiv.*

FAX TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

8/2/94	TO: John Cressman
57279	OR: OA

Per our telecon

Marr

DO [unclear] [unclear]

PHONE 54541	FAX NO: 55608
NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover page): 3	

National Security and
International Affairs Division

JUL 11 1994

The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
The Secretary of the Treasury
Department of the Treasury

Attention: Assistant Secretary (Management) and Chief
Financial Officer

Dear Mr. Secretary:

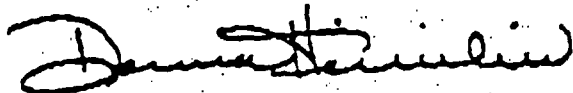
As indicated in our letter of May 25, 1994, the General Accounting Office has been requested by Representatives William F. Clinger, Jr.; Frank R. Wolf; and Porter J. Goss to review procedures and practices regarding the issuance of White House access passes and security clearances. We are requesting information for which the U.S. Secret Service has been identified as the source. Specifically, we request the following dates for employees hired on or after January 20, 1993.

- The date when a temporary pass was issued.
- The date when a permanent pass was approved.
- The date when a permanent pass was issued.

The employees include those paid from appropriations available to the White House Office, Special Assistant to the President (Vice President's Office), Office of Policy Development, Office of Administration, and Office of National Drug Control Policy. We are not requesting names. However, we request that you coordinate with the respective offices to identify the appropriate lists and provide the list with identifiers sufficient to ensure that similar lists being requested from the Office of Administration and the Federal Bureau of Investigation can be combined.

We ask that if the requested information is not to be provided, you furnish your reasons for not doing so. If you have any questions, please contact me on (202) 512-8412 or Uldis Adamsons on (202) 512-4289.

Sincerely yours,



Donna M. Heivilin, Director
Defense Management and NASA Issues

cc: Assistant Secretary (Enforcement)
Director, U.S. Secret Service
Deputy Director, U.S. Secret Service
Agent-in-Charge, Liaison Division, U.S. Secret
Service
Comptroller, Department of Treasury

TELETYPE
JUN 13 1994 10:51 AM 000 1-000

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

GAO
Security Audit

March 23, 1994

Mr. Charles A. Bowsher
Comptroller General of the United States
General Accounting Office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Bowsher:

We are writing to request that the GAO conduct a thorough investigation of the procedures that the White House has followed since January 20, 1993 regarding White House passes and security clearances. Executive Order 10450 requires that individuals being employed by the executive branch of the government be investigated to establish their reliability, trustworthiness, good conduct, character and loyalty to the United States.

The recent revelations that many senior aides including Mack McLarty, Dee Dee Myers, William Kennedy, Patsy Thomasson, Ricki Seidman and others did not have or still do not have permanent White House passes after over a year or more at the White House raises serious concerns. The Aldrich Ames case and recent information indicating that individuals were imprisoned or may have even died because of his actions, highlights the importance of following proper procedures.

As you may know, this issue was raised in conjunction with the ongoing GAO investigation into the White House travel office firings. In the travel office investigation questions were raised as to why Harry Thomason had a White House pass that gave him the access to intervene in White House matters. On a number of occasions GAO staff members have suggested an independent investigation into the White House pass procedures would be needed because the White House has only provided very limited information regarding White House passes in the Travel Office investigation.

Over the past several weeks it has become apparent that this White House has failed to follow the standard procedures followed by previous Administrations in processing permanent White House passes and as a result hundreds of White House employees had temporary passes for longer than the customary three to four month period when an employee first starts work at the White House.

We have enclosed for you, correspondence with the White House over the past nine months, a number of newspaper articles

Mr. Charles A. Bowsher
March 23, 1994
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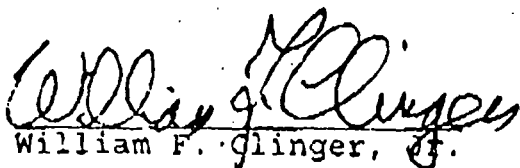
on the lax procedures at the White House regarding passes, and a recent statement made by Congressman Wolf on the subject.

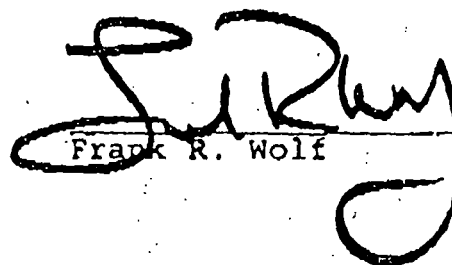
The matters addressed as part of your investigation we believe should include, but not be limited to, how the current staff has responded to the FBI background investigations in terms of their timely response, their cooperation, their providing of accurate and truthful information, the timely processing of financial and tax information and how this information has been processed by the White House Counsel's office and how and when it has been forwarded to the Secret Service for their review and input and if the information that the Secret Service received included the complete file of an individual or if any material was removed or altered in the Counsel's office in any cases. How the Counsel's office has responded to any expressed concerns by the FBI, Office of Government Ethics or Secret Service throughout this process would also be important. Also how security clearances were handled during this time in light of the lengthy delays would be of importance.

In addition, the status of individuals such as James Carville, Paul Begala, Mandy Grunwald and Stanley Greenberg and others who work regularly at the White House should be examined. Are these individuals special government employees? What kind of background investigations have they gone through, how are their conflicts determined? How long can they work at the White House without becoming a special government employee and subject to the same restrictions on outside pay and outside employment as other White House employees?

Please contact us if we can provide you with any additional information.

Sincerely,


William F. Clinger, Jr.


Frank R. Wolf

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 21, 1994

The Honorable William F. Clinger
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

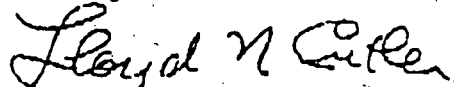
Dear Representative Clinger:

I am writing in response to your June 29 letter concerning a proposed General Accounting Office (GAO) review of the process for issuing White House passes and security clearances. We continue to have serious questions about the statutory basis for the review. Nonetheless, without waiving our legal position and in the spirit of cooperation, we are prepared to provide the GAO much of the information you have requested.

As currently formulated, the request seeks "certain specific dates on which White House staff completed the required steps of the White House pass and security clearance process." We will provide this information to the GAO on the express understanding that this is not merely the first stage of a broader review. In particular, under no circumstances would we permit review of individual background investigations or any other information that would violate the legitimate privacy interests of White House personnel. In that regard, we appreciate your acknowledgement that individuals need not be identified by name. We will continue to work with the GAO to find the best way to provide the requested information in a format that fulfills the purpose of the inquiry while at the same time protecting these confidentiality concerns.

If the terms of this letter are agreeable to you, please let me know. Please let me know if I can answer any further questions on this matter.

Sincerely,



Lloyd N. Cutler
Special Counsel to the President

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 27, 1994

The Honorable Lloyd N. Cutler
Special Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Cutler:

Thank you for your letter of July 21, 1994, regarding the review of the White House pass and security clearance processes being conducted at our request by the General Accounting Office (GAO).

From the outset, we want to assure you that we have never had any interest in reviewing the background investigations of members of the White House staff, or violating in any other way their "legitimate privacy interests". In keeping with that intent, we very carefully crafted our request to GAO to obtain only that information necessary to conduct a meaningful analysis while avoiding any invasion of an individual's personal privacy.

You have our assurance that regardless of wherever the GAO review may lead, we will take extraordinary steps not to violate personal privacy concerns. If at any time you believe any of our requests will lead to crossing that line, we hope you will contact us immediately.

We do not believe any of the information requested to date could be considered a personal privacy concern, especially since we have not asked for any individual to be identified by name. All of the specific dates we have requested are merely representative mileposts of the pass and security clearance processes followed at the White House. Without this information it will be impossible for GAO to perform any objective analysis of the overall process.

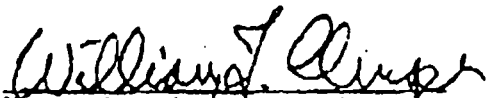
We cannot agree with your suggested condition that the information be provided with the "express understanding that this is not merely the first stage of a broader review". Obviously, the analysis of this data may lead to additional questions. Accordingly, it is quite possible that we may have additional questions regarding the broader context of the pass and security clearance processes. Of course, in pursuing such legitimate requests, we will live by our commitment to avoid specific matters of personal privacy.

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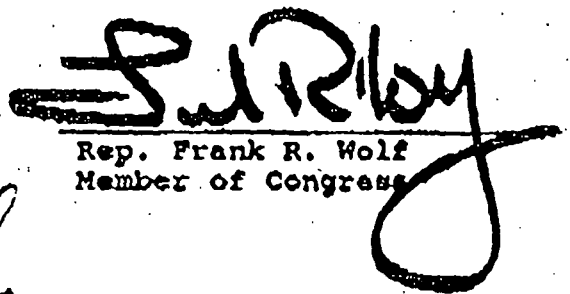
The Honorable Lloyd N. Cutler

We are most appreciative that the White House has removed its objection to making this information available. As you may know, GAO has written to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Secret Service and the Office of Administration to request the specific data elements contained in their respective records. With your continued cooperation, we anticipate their prompt response.

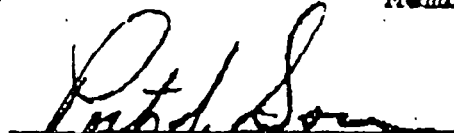
Sincerely,



Rep. William F. Clinger, Jr.
Member of Congress



Rep. Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress


Rep. Porter J. Goss
Member of Congress

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Details - removable

Wed 11:00
Chris' office

As an initial step in our review of procedures and practices regarding White House access passes and security clearances, we are requesting specific event dates for employees hired since January 20, 1993. To respond to our requesters, we need the following for all employees paid from appropriations available to the White House Office, Special Assistant to the President (Vice President's Office), Office of Policy Development, Office of Administration, and Office of National Drug Control Policy. As indicated by the following table, we understand that some of the requested data may be maintained at other agencies.

Consultants - Procurement group?

<u>DATA REQUESTED</u>	<u>PROBABLE SOURCE</u>
✓ 1. Name/identifier number	White House, Office of Administration (OA), Personnel Management Division (PMD)
✓ 2. Date of appointment (SF-50 or equivalent)	White House/OA/PMD
3. Date SF-50 or equivalent was signed by OA/PMD	White House/OA/PMD
4. Date employee reported to drug test collection facility	White House/OA/PMD
5. Date employee signed SF-86	Federal Bureau of Investigation
6. Date temporary pass was issued	Secret Service
7. Date FBI initiated background investigation	Federal Bureau of Investigation
8. Date FBI submitted completed background investigation to White House Counsel or other adjudicating authority	Federal Bureau of Investigation
9. Date employee's permanent pass was approved for issuance	Secret Service
10. Date employee's permanent pass was issued	Secret Service
11. Date employee security clearance was issued, if different from the date pass was issued	Secret Service
✓ 12. Date of separation, if applicable	White House/OA/PMD

We also need initial points of contact for our overall work in reviewing White House pass and security clearance procedures. We wish to discuss how the White House pass/security clearance system works for employees and non-employees; and the laws, regulations, directives, policies, and procedures that the White House applies to govern the process.