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Position:

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Original
Concept

MIL -

[For your
files.

- Katti

To Beth Nolan
From Paul Toback
May 2, 1994

Forward to
Chris Cuf

FRANK R. WOLF
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4610

January 14, 1994

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE:
TRANSPORTATION
TREASURY—POSTAL SERVICE—GENERAL
GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

JAN 18 1994

Mr. Thomas McLarty III
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. McLarty:

NSC SAID
THEY HAD
ANSWERED
(I NEVER SAW THE
RESPONSE)

Having returned from my third trip to the former Yugoslavia, and having just seen, first hand, the unspeakable tragedy that is daily fare in the besieged city of Mostar in southern Bosnia, I am writing to you and others to deliver a copy of my trip report and a few pictures of what life is like there.

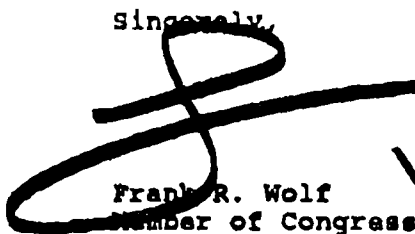
I also want to ask your support for doing what we can to help. And we can help. I ask that our government appoint a high level representative whose sole duty is to aggressively pursue this matter. Someone of the stature of Admiral Crowe, General Vernon Walters or former Secretary of State Shultz. First priority is to bring the Bosnian Croats and Muslims together to bring to an end the atrocities, ethnic cleansing and killing that senselessly goes on. We should stop being an observer and become a forceful participant. If diplomacy comes up short, we should impose sanctions on Croatia. If this fails, perhaps air strikes should be considered to end this 20th century holocaust.

We cannot have an effective policy on this region with out being there. We need someone on the ground at the point of conflict who has the power and the inclination to force these warring sides to hammer out solutions. And we need to do this now.

Please read the enclosed report. And then do what you can to help.

Thank you and best wishes.

Sincerely,


Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:cw

We need to
get on this soon
Thank You

February 24, 1994

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
U.S. House of Representatives
104 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

C O P Y
from ORIN

Dear Representative Wolf:

Thank you for writing and for your continued concern regarding White House passes and security. I apologize for the delay in responding to your inquiries.

As I have previously stated, to our knowledge, security clearances are being handled both in a timely manner and in accordance with the procedures of previous Administrations and the requirements of the law. Please be advised that the receipt of backgrounds from the Federal Bureau of Investigation is but one step in a multi-step process of issuing permanent White House passes.

Moreover, I continue to share the concern you state about the importance of dealing with conflicts of interest, and this Administration is constantly striving to see that the White House meets the highest standards of ethics.

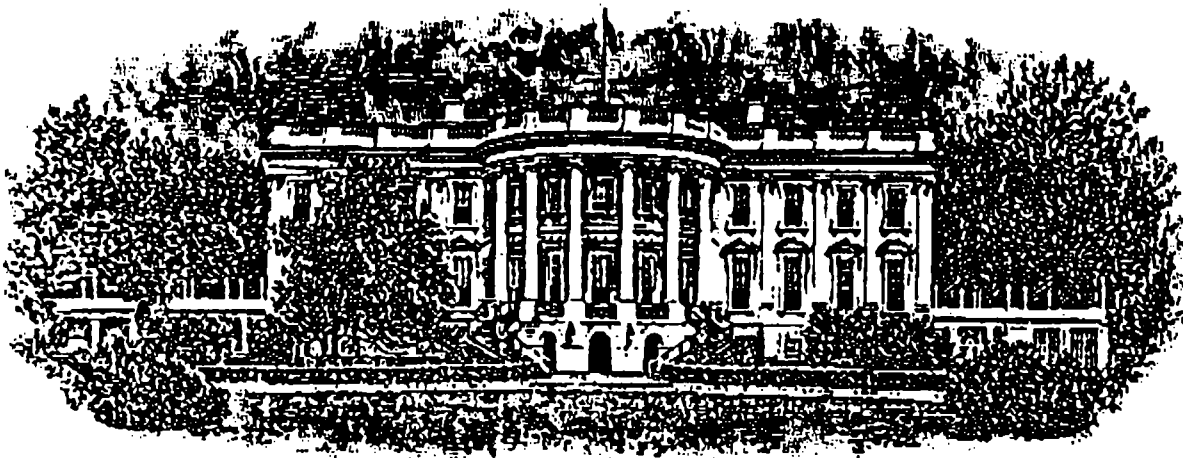
Again, thank you for your letter.

Personally,



Mack McLarty
Chief of Staff to the President

The White House



COUNSEL'S OFFICE

FACSIMILE-TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

DATE: February 24, 1994

TO: Lynda Rathbone

FACSIMILE NUMBER: 6-2464

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

FROM: William H. Kennedy III

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 6-6229

PAGES (WITH COVER): 6

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE DELIVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

FEBRUARY 24, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR TODD STERN
LYNDA RATHBONEFROM: WILLIAM H. KENNEDY III *whk*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: WOLF LETTER

I fax herewith a suggested response to the latest Wolf missive. To ensure that the draft response is understood, I also fax the missive itself.

I have discussed this response with Bernie and Beth Nolan in our office. Please advise if either of you have questions.

whk/s

C O P Y
from [illegible]

DRAFT

February __, 1994

Hon. Frank R. Wolf
House of Representatives
104 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515-4610

Dear Congressman Wolf:

This responds to your letter of December 21, 1993. In addition to the response set forth herein, I refer you to my earlier letters on the subjects which you raise.

As I have previously stated, to our knowledge security clearances are being handled both in a timely manner and in accordance with both the procedures of previous Administrations and the requirements of law. Please be advised the receipt of backgrounds from the Federal Bureau of Investigation is but one step in a multi-step process of issuing permanent White House passes.

Moreover, I continue to share the concern you state about the importance of dealing with conflicts of interest, and this Administration is constantly striving to see that the White House meets the highest standards of ethics.

Personally,

Mack McLarty
Chief of Staff to the President

JAN - 4 1994

FRANK R. WOLF
16TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4810

December 21, 1993

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
TRANSPORTATION

TREASURY—POSTAL SERVICE—GENERAL
GOVERNMENT

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

Mr. Thomas McLarty III
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. McLarty:

As you know, I have written to you now on a number of occasions regarding the issuance of White House passes and the use of political operatives in the White House on a regular basis. In all honesty, I have been frustrated and dismayed by the inability to receive basic and concrete answers on how these policies are being handled by this Administration.

In my role as a member of the House appropriations subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government which oversees the White House budget, I continue to have serious concerns about the policies of this Administration in issuing White House passes and the continuing potential for conflicts that will arise if this situation is not remedied.

The questions remaining are:

1. As part of the White House Management Review (July 2, 1993) of the travel office firings, the report stated that the "Chief of Staff, in conjunction with the Counsel to the President, will provide guidance on access to the White House." Has a new policy been issued and if so, what is this policy? If not, when will a new policy be issued?
2. The White House Management Review stated:

When private persons are granted regular access to the White House to undertake White House assignments, without analysis of their employment status or possible conflicts of interest, and without explanation to them of their ethical responsibilities, problems may arise. Individual White House staff members who approve such assignments may not be in a position to evaluate the ethical implications of a private person's access to the White House office.

How has this situation been remedied? What guidelines exist for private persons such as political operatives?

Mr. Thomas McLarty III
December 21, 1993
Page 2

3. What policies were in effect when Harold Ickes, Susan Thomases, Harry Thomason, Darnell Martens and other personal friends of the President obtained White House passes? In a Washington Post interview Susan Thomases stated that she "provided the Clinton transition team with a partial list of her clients, based on her own judgment of their relevance and 'told them the issues I cannot deal with,' in order to satisfy ethics requirements." Were such self-disclosure rules in effect at the time?
4. Did Harold Ickes write the Administration's ethics guidelines as was reported by New York Newsday newspaper in December of 1992? Did Mr. Ickes actions in lobbying for Puerto Rico violate any of these guidelines?
5. Is William Kennedy, who was previously reprimanded for improper actions in contacting the FBI and threatening to call the IRS regarding the travel office, in charge of the sensitive matters regarding background checks and the issuance of White House passes?
6. In a previous letter you have stated that "there have been no material changes in security procedures at the White House when compared to those of previous Administrations." Yet permanent White House passes which were issued within 30-60 days in previous Administrations, have yet to be issued to many White House employees almost one year into this Administration. Why has there been a delay in issuing permanent passes?
7. In a letter to me from the Department of Justice, John Collingwood has stated that the "standard deadline" for a background investigation for "a first time employee or access individual is 45 calendar days from the date the request is received from the White House. Mr. Collingwood stated that they have generally met their deadlines on the background investigation. Why then has there been a delay in issuing the permanent passes? Why is the Counsel's office delaying this process?
8. Are there individuals with regular access to the White House and use of a White House pass who have not had a background investigation?
9. Who are the "non-government persons who have rendered regular services to the Administration" who have White House passes that you referred to in your letter of August 19, 1993? Have these individuals obtained White House clearance and have they filed financial disclosure forms? How are the individuals different from special

Mr. Thomas McLarty III
December 21, 1993
Page 3

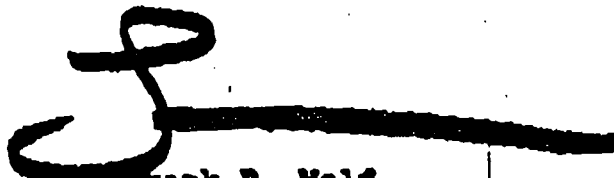
As you stated that "during the Reagan Administration, the Office of the Legal Counsel of the Department of Justice opined that the White House has authority to accept the services of volunteers and that these persons may be paid by outside sources." What opinion were you referring to? Would your office kindly provide a copy of this report since the Justice Department has refused repeated requests by congressional staff to provide this document?

11. If private sources are paying for these individuals, what are these private sources and what efforts have been made to avoid potential conflicts?
12. Finally, the issue of who has temporary passes is of particular concern because unless a member of the staff has a permanent pass, it is my understanding that they are unable to get top security briefings or review top secret material. Do all members of the staff who review top secret material or have access to top secret material have permanent passes? Have the appropriate levels of security clearances been obtained for all members of the staff reviewing sensitive materials?

I would appreciate responsive answers to these serious concerns as soon as possible. As we review the White House budget in the upcoming months I believe it is important that we know the guidelines and policies presently in operation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:bja

THANK YOU

FRANK R. WOLF
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4610

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES
TRANSPORTATION

TREASURY—POSTAL SERVICE—GENERAL
GOVERNMENT

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

December 21, 1993

Mr. Thomas McLarty III
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. McLarty:

As you know, I have written to you now on a number of occasions regarding the issuance of White House passes and the use of political operatives in the White House on a regular basis. In all honesty, I have been frustrated and dismayed by the inability to receive basic and concrete answers on how these policies are being handled by this Administration.

In my role as a member of the House appropriations subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government which oversees the White House budget, I continue to have serious concerns about the policies of this Administration in issuing White House passes and the continuing potential for conflicts that will arise if this situation is not remedied.

The questions remaining are:

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2. The White House Management Review stated:

When private persons are granted regular access to the White House to undertake White House assignments, without analysis of their employment status or possible conflicts of interest, and without explanation to them of their ethical responsibilities, problems may arise. Individual White House staff members who approve such assignments may not be in a position to evaluate the ethical implications of a private person's access to the White House office.

How has this situation been remedied? What guidelines exist for private persons such as political operatives James Carville or Paul Begala who work regularly with the White House while continuing extensive and lucrative outside work?

Mr. Thomas McLarty III
December 21, 1993
Page 2

3. What policies were in effect when Harold Ickes, Susan Thomases, Harry Thomason, Darnell Martens and other personal friends of the President obtained White House passes? In a Washington Post interview Susan Thomases stated that she "provided the Clinton transition team with a partial list of her clients, based on her own judgment of their relevance and 'told them the issues I cannot deal with,' in order to satisfy ethics requirements." Were such self-disclosure rules in effect at the time?
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10. In a previous letter of October 27, 1993, that you wrote to

Mr. Thomas McLarty III
December 21, 1993
Page 3

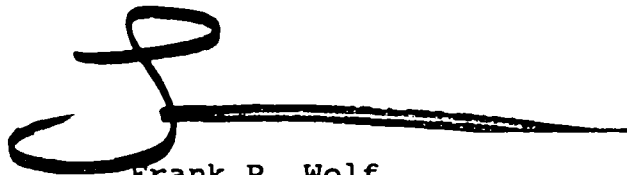
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I would appreciate responsive answers to these serious concerns as soon as possible. As we review the White House budget in the upcoming months I believe it is important that we know the guidelines and policies presently in operation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



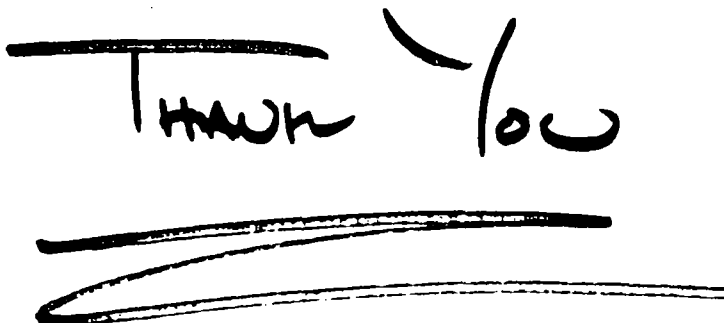
Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

STEVE

FRW:bjc

BILL
KENNEDY
COUNSEL
X66229

THANK YOU



FRANK R. WOLF
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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095-21

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4610

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION

TREASURY—POSTAL SERVICE—GENERAL
GOVERNMENT

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

February 24, 1994

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

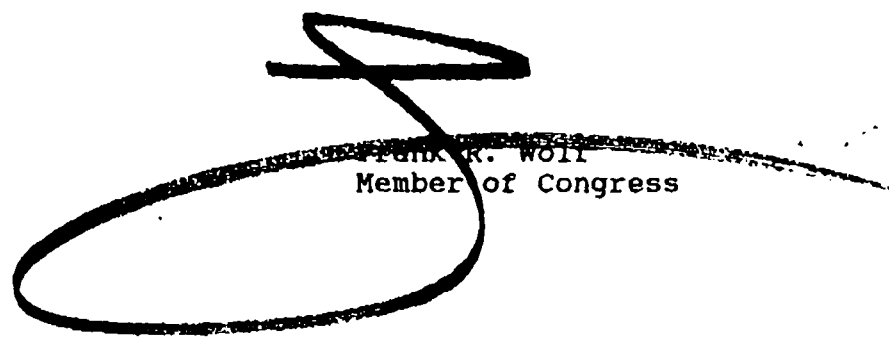
Dear Mr. President:

In light of the recent revelations regarding top CIA official Aldrich Ames, the concerns that I have been expressing to the White House for almost a year now about White House passes and security clearances are even more critical.

As you know, Aldrich Ames had a top security clearance. From my understanding of the Administration's current White House pass policy, there are still many White House employees who have temporary passes and thus, I assume, do not have their full security briefings. I have been requesting information for months now about how the White House is handling security matters given the predominance of temporary passes among the White House staff. I believe this is a situation of grave concern now that we are a year into your Administration. In previous Administrations these matters were usually handled within the first few months.

I have attached the letters that I have been sending over the past eight months regarding the White House pass policy. I hope you and your staff will be able to give this important issue immediate attention.

Sincerely,


Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:bjc

This is so important

34 FEB 28 AM 11:44

FRANK R. WOLF
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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TREASURY—POSTAL SERVICE—GENERAL
GOVERNMENT

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4610

December 21, 1993

Mr. Thomas McLarty III
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. McLarty:

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In my role as a member of the House appropriations subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government which oversees the White House budget, I continue to have serious concerns about the policies of this Administration in issuing White House passes and the continuing potential for conflicts that will arise if this situation is not remedied.

The questions remaining are:

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Mr. Thomas McLarty III
December 21, 1993
Page 2

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Mr. Thomas McLarty III
December 21, 1993
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I would appreciate responsive answers to these serious concerns as soon as possible. As we review the White House budget in the upcoming months I believe it is important that we know the guidelines and policies presently in operation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

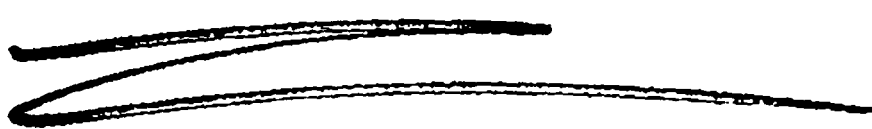
Sincerely,



Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:bjc

Thank You



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 27, 1993

C O P Y
from OIRM

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
U.S. House of Representatives
104 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Wolf:

Your most recent letters have been received and noted.

As you know, the identities of holders of passes to the White House are confidential. Security clearances are being handled in a timely manner and in accordance with both the procedures of previous Administrations and the requirements of the law.

I share your concern about the importance of dealing with conflicts of interest, and we are constantly striving to see the White House meets the highest standards of ethics. As an example, we have recently tightened procedures for the issuance of passes. It is important to point out, however, that during the Reagan Administration, the Office of the Legal Counsel of the Department of Justice opined that the White House has authority to accept the services of volunteers, and that these persons may be paid by outside sources. As was the case with previous Administrations, this White House operates under that authority.

Personally,



Mack McLarty
Chief of Staff to the President

FRANK R. WOLF
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4610

October 14, 1993

Mr. Thomas McLarty III
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. McLarty:

I am writing regarding my continuing concern about the issuance of White House passes and matters of security and potential conflicts of interest.

While I have not heard from the White House regarding my most recent letters (Sept. 22, 1993, attached), I understand since my previous correspondence there has been a change in White House pass privileges and a number of individuals, such as Harold Ickes and Susan Thomases, have had their White House passes pulled. Nevertheless, an unprecedented number of political consultants continue to hold passes, while they represent foreign interests and work on campaigns that sometimes have interests quite contrary to those of the President (for example, opposition to Nafta).

In particular, the "temporary" status of many of the passes of those working in the White House is of interest. Why at such a late date do so many White House employees hold temporary passes? Considering that many of these individuals are privy to volumes of sensitive material, what measures have been taken to insure security of information and the elimination of potential conflicts of interest as well as the personal security of the President? What percentage of employees currently hold temporary passes? What has been the average time frame for obtaining FBI background investigations and securing permanent passes? Have the non-government employees had FBI background checks conducted on them? Do temporary passholders have the appropriate level of security clearance commensurate with their official work assignments? Have any temporary passholders been granted security clearances above the level of top secret?

From previous White House practice, I am told that the predominance of temporary White House passes at this late day is unprecedented. Sixty or ninety days was usually the outside limit for most temporary passes. This Administration is close to three times this outside limit. The proliferation of passes to non-governmental employees is also unusual. Combined I believe these matters pose a potential threat to the Secret Service's ability to perform its statutory function of implementation of an access control system and assistance in providing independent

Mr. Thomas McLarty III
October 14, 1993
Page 2

judgment regarding suitability of individuals who serve as staff members at the White House.

In reviewing previous procedures in these areas it would seem that the FBI would have completed background checks on many or most individuals, particularly those who have been there since the start of the Administration. Is this the case or has there been some hold up? If they have been in keeping with past timetables and have forwarded the information on to the White House Counsel's office, I can only assume that the reason that many of the individuals who hold temporary passes do so because the Counsel's office is holding them up and Secret Service has not had an opportunity to independently review the FBI investigative reports on such individuals as was customary in the past. Has the Secret Service, as was customary in previous Administrations, reviewed the FBI background checks in order to assist with providing passes to the appropriate individuals? I am sure you appreciate the potential conflicts of interest and security risks that can occur if these matters are not handled expeditiously.

Of particular concern to me is that the individual in charge of handling these very sensitive matters is White House Associate Counsel William Kennedy, a previously reprimanded employee. This sensitive position should be held by someone who has demonstrated himself to be of impartial, informed judgment and above reproach. Mr. Kennedy's reported improper actions in contacting the FBI and threatening to call the IRS in conjunction with his involvement in the Travel Office firings and his continued involvement as part of the ongoing GAO and Treasury investigations (which are proceeding slowly in part due to footdragging by the White House Counsel's office) do not meet this test. I would like to take this opportunity to express my opinion that this is not the right man for this highly sensitive position. Does Mr. Kennedy himself even have a permanent pass? The individual who holds this position makes critical decisions of judgment affecting the President's personal security, conflicts of interest and national security.

In addition, in the area of potential conflicts, I would be interested in knowing if Harold Ickes wrote the ethics laws as reported by New York Newsday newspaper? Did he have a background check done in conjunction with his holding of a White House pass? A Washington Post interview with Susan Thomases from earlier this year stated that Thomases "provided the Clinton transition team with a partial list of her clients, based on her own judgment of their relevance and 'told them the issues I cannot deal with,' in order to satisfy ethics requirements. Was this self-disclosure standard part of the new ethics laws promulgated by the Clinton administration?

At a time when the Secret Service will be getting a new Director, I believe it is important to see that procedures and

Mr. Thomas McLarty III
October 14, 1993
Page 3

precedents are being followed. I am concerned that the ability of the Secret Service to do its jobs may currently be compromised by the job that Mr. Kennedy is doing in this area.

I would appreciate your response to these matters as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:bjc

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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES
TRANSPORTATION

TREASURY—POSTAL SERVICE—GENERAL
GOVERNMENT

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4810

October 14, 1993

Mr. James Bourke
Unit Chief, Special Inquiry Unit
Federal Bureau of Investigation
10th and Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Bourke:

As a member of the House appropriations subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government with oversight in White House administration, I am writing because of my continuing concern about the status of White House passes.

I understand the job of the FBI is to provide independent investigations to the White House Counsel's office on which the White House can base decisions that individuals being employed by the White House demonstrate reliability, trustworthiness, good conduct, character and loyalty to the United States. Your independent investigations inquire into issues of character, associates, loyalty and reputation in the community according to statutory guidelines and Executive Orders issued over the years. I know you appreciate the seriousness of your role in providing security for both the President and the national security of this country.

I also understand that the primary role of judgment on these matters resides in the White House Counsel's office (Mr. William Kennedy is currently in charge) with consultation with the Secret Service. However, the temporary passes that are currently the norm at the White House lead me to believe procedures are not being followed as usual in this matter. Sixty or ninety days was usually the outside limit for most temporary passes to be held while the FBI completed background investigations. This Administration is close to three times this outside limit. The proliferation of passes to non-government employees is also highly unusual. I believe this poses a serious threat to the Secret Service's ability to perform its statutory function of implementation of an access control system and assistance in providing independent judgment regarding suitability of individuals who serve as staff members at the White House or other places under the protection of the U.S. Secret Service.

Historically and statutorily it has been the role of the Secret Service to provide their seasoned judgment on these matters. I can only assume that the reason that many of these individuals with temporary passes have them is because the Secret Service has not had an opportunity to independently review the

Mr. James Bourke
October 14, 1993
Page 2

FBI investigative reports on such individuals or that the FBI has not completed its investigations in a manner consistent with that in the past.

I understand that the primary role in this matter resides in the White House Counsel's office, that Mr. William Kennedy is in charge of these matters and that your own work is limited to providing the background checks. However, understanding the importance of security and confidentiality in these matters, I would like to stress that I am not asking for information about individual staff members or confidential material but I would request that you respond to the following matters:

1. Has your office had the opportunity to do background checks on employees at the White House? What percentage of currently employed individuals have you been able to complete investigations on?

2. What is your usual time period for conducting investigations? Has your time frame been greater or lesser than usual under the current Administration and if so, what seem to be the reasons?

3. Have you been asked to do background investigations on temporary White House pass holders who are non-government employees? If not, what efforts have been made to insure that such passholders meet the standards that have historically been upheld for those working regularly at the White House?

I would appreciate your response to these matters as soon as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:bjc



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

November 17, 1993

Honorable Frank R. Wolf
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Wolf:

Your letter of October 18, 1993, expressed your concern about the status of White House passes. As you state in your letter the primary role of judgment as to who receives White House passes rests with White House personnel; the FBI has no role in the decision making process. Also, any threat assessment concerning the United States Secret Service's ability to perform its statutory function relevant to access control at the White House is the responsibility of that agency.

Within the limited scope of our responsibility outlined above, the following responds to the questions posed in your letter. Since the Clinton administration assumed office on January 20, 1993, the White House has requested and the FBI has conducted over 500 background investigations for White House staff employees and individuals requiring access to the White House grounds. These numbers are consistent with the requests of former administrations, and they include employees and access individuals who have continued their access status from prior administrations and on whom the FBI has conducted background investigations or five-year update investigations at the request of prior administrations. Because the FBI is not privy to the White House employment/access numbers, we have no way of providing you with the percentages of current employees who have completed background investigations. The FBI conducts the background investigations as the requests are made by the White House.

The White House and the FBI have agreed to flexible time frames for the completion of a background investigation, dependent upon the nature and priority of the particular position. The standard deadline for a first-time employee or

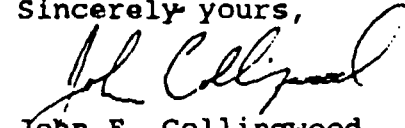
Honorable Frank R. Wolf

access individual is 45 calendar days from the date the request is received from the White House. If the request is for a five-year update at the FBI, the deadline is 90 calendar days. These time frames were initially established during the Bush administration; except for unavoidable circumstances, they have normally been met during both Administrations.

The FBI has conducted background investigations on certain, but not all, individuals who have required or received access to the White House but are non-government employees; e.g., C&P telephone service/repair persons. These investigations have been conducted in order to provide White House officials with accurate and complete information concerning the character, associates, reputation and loyalty of the person who is the subject of the investigation. As stated above, the FBI only conducts background investigations at the request of the White House; accordingly we respectfully refer you to the White House Counsel for information about persons with White House access on whom FBI background investigations have not been performed.

I hope this is responsive to your questions. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely yours,


John E. Collingwood
Inspector in Charge
Office of Public and
Congressional Affairs

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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES
TRANSPORTATION

TREASURY—POSTAL SERVICE—GENERAL
GOVERNMENT

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

October 14, 1993

Mr. Guy P. Caputo
Acting Director
U.S. Secret Service
1800 G St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20223

Dear Mr. Caputo:

As a member of the House appropriations subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government with oversight in White House administration, I am writing because of my continuing concern about the status of White House passes.

I believe this is a continuing problem that does not seem to be progressing to a satisfactory resolution. Given the recent departure of the Director of Secret Service, John Magaw, to serve at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the talk of bringing in an outside individual to direct Secret Service I believe these issues are of heightened concern.

Political consultants who have recently represented foreign interests continue to hold passes, presumably with no background checks that have been independently reviewed by the Secret Service. And it is my understanding that many or even most of the passes of individuals working at the White House are "temporary" passes at this time -- even for many who have worked at the White House since January.

From previous White House practice this is unprecedented. Sixty or ninety days was usually the outside limit for most temporary passes. This Administration is close to three times this outside limit. The proliferation of passes to non-government employees is also highly unusual. I believe this poses a serious threat to the Secret Service's ability to perform its statutory function of implementation of an access control system and assistance in providing independent judgment regarding suitability of individuals who serve as staff members at the White House or other places under the protection of the U.S. Secret Service. I know you appreciate and that it has been your practice to give scrupulous attention to following the proper procedures and confidentiality interests in securing the White House and the President. I am concerned that your historical role is being impaired by current lax attention to such concerns.

Historically and statutorily it has been the role of the Secret Service to provide their seasoned judgment on these matters. I can only assume that the reason that many of these

Mr. Guy P. Caputo
October 14, 1993
Page 2

individuals with temporary passes have them is because the Secret Service has not had an opportunity to independently review the FBI investigative reports on such individuals.

I understand that the primary role in this matter resides in the White House Counsel's office, that Mr. William Kennedy is in charge of these matters and that your own work is limited to the extent that he follows the procedures. However, understanding the importance of security and confidentiality in these matters, I would like to stress that I am not asking for information about individual staff members or confidential material but I would request that you respond to the following matters:

1. What is the percentage of White House staffers who have permanent White House passes? What is the percentage of White House staffers who have been there for over six months who have permanent passes? What is the average length of time that employees are holding temporary passes?

2. What is the percentage of White House passholders (including non-government persons holding passes) who hold temporary as opposed to permanent passes?

3. What percentage of non-government persons with White House passes have you had the opportunity to review their FBI background checks?

4. How do these percentages compare with previous Administrations at this point in time into the year? Is ten months an usual amount of time to be working at the White House with a temporary pass?

5. What would be the impact on your ability to provide independent judgment on security if the White House Counsel's office failed to pass on to your office for your independent review the FBI background checks?

At a time when the Secret Service will be getting a new Director, I believe it is important to see that procedures and precedents are being followed. I am concerned that the ability of the Secret Service to do so is currently being compromised.

I would appreciate your response to these matters as soon as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRANK R. WOLF

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Mr. Thomas McLarty III
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4610

September 22, 1993

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
TRANSPORTATION
TREASURY - POSTAL SERVICE - GENERAL
GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

Dear Mr. McLarty:

I am writing in regard to your response to my letter concerning the issuance of White House passes.

While you declined to provide information on individuals who hold White House passes, I continue to remain concerned given that at least some of the non-government persons known to have White House passes are highly paid lawyers, consultants and lobbyists who are not subject to any kind of oversight or disclosure requirements that are routine for regular White House employees. As a member of the Treasury/Postal Appropriations subcommittee, I am concerned with this situation. Serious ethical and conflict of interest problems abound with this kind of loose operation.

In your letter you stated that, "A limited number of non-government persons who, for the most part, have rendered regular services to the Administration, also have White House passes." Given that these individuals are providing "regular services" to the White House while some or many continue to hold high paying outside jobs, I would like to know the following:

1. Who are these non-government persons who have rendered regular services to the Administration? (Regardless of whether they have White House passes or not)
2. Have these individuals obtained White House clearance and have they filed financial disclosure?
3. Since I would assume these non-government persons are unpaid, what kind of efforts have been made to determine potential conflicts of interest?
4. For whom do these individuals providing "regular services" work or who pays their salaries? From whom do they receive outside contracts or consulting fees?
5. What types of positions are these non-government persons serving in on a regular basis? Do they have office space such as was made available to Harry Thomasson earlier this year? Do they have use of office and secretarial services? Do they have limited or unlimited passes throughout the White House?

Mr. Thomas McLarty III
September 22, 1993
Page 2

6. If these individuals are providing services to the Administration on a "regular basis" in what way, if any, are they considered different than government employees?
7. How are the various "war rooms" being staffed and paid for? Are there non-paid staff who are paid from other sources on the outside working these "war" rooms?
8. Is the Democratic National Committee, labor organizations, lobbying groups (for example, Families USA which paid for the families who attended the White House health care event to discuss their health care situations) or other groups paying the salaries of any of these "volunteers"?

I also understand that many of the staff and volunteers continue to hold "temporary" passes with many clearances pending and being held in the White House Counsel's office for further review. I am told that information on many individuals is of a nature that would in previous Administrations make them ineligible for clearance. What is the status of these pending clearances?

I am concerned that this White House seems to be developing a pattern of having highly paid (from outside sources) "volunteers" working on a regular basis in the White House with potentially unknown dubious connections. What outside group or corporation wouldn't mind "paying" an employee to go "volunteer" at the White House if that "volunteer" could promote their cause or have the White House access? Furthermore, many of these "volunteers" have the best of both worlds: They don't have to give up their outside salaries or subject themselves to financial disclosure or limits on outside income yet they have the access and the cache of working from the White House.

Your letter declining to disclose who holds these passes at least admitted that these individuals who are holding passes are providing "regular services" and as such virtually operate as employees of the White House. If these individuals are providing "regular services" doesn't the public have a right to know who they are, what their connections are and what potential conflicts of interest they might have?

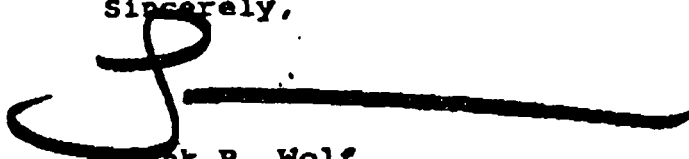
Earlier this year we saw the consequences of providing Harry Thomasson with the wide roaming access that he had with his White House pass. Now we have individuals such as corporate attorney, Susan Thomases, who I understand will be doing the President's scheduling until November 1 on a "volunteer" basis. In addition, Harold Ickes who recently lobbied successfully to get the White House to switch positions on a Puerto Rican tax break and has been put on retainer by the Puerto Ricans to instruct them on "how best to deal with the Clinton administration" (WSJ, 9/21/92) bragged to The Wall Street Journal: "Many people get access to the White House; I am one of those, I see nothing improper about it." The scrutiny of Michael Deaver during the Reagan Administration was for conduct very much like that of Mr. Ickes. It was wrong when Michael Deaver did it; it is wrong now.

Mr. Thomas McLarty III
September 22, 1993
Page 3:

Further, I am told that earlier this year White House Administrator David Watkins made inquiries as to whether it would be possible to put privately donated transition money or other private donations into some kind of nonprofit fund that could then be used to hire individuals and pay them on that payroll while allowing them to be "volunteers" in the White House. I would like to know if this has been done in any capacity.

I would appreciate your response to this matter as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Frank R. Wolf', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:bjc

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 19, 1993

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-4610

Dear Congressman Wolf:

Thank you for your letter of July 29.

To our knowledge, there have been no material changes in security procedures at the White House when compared to those of previous administrations. The security function as to personnel rests primarily with the Office of White House Personnel Security, which is under the direction of the Office of Counsel to the President. Other security functions regarding the White House are provided by the Secret Service and other agencies, such as the Department of Defense. The Office of White House Personnel Security originates the necessary paperwork for security clearances.

The vast majority of the holders of White House passes are employees or detailees. Certain administration officials employed by various agencies of the Executive Branch, whose duties require regular White House access, possess White House passes. ~~A limited number of non-government persons who, for the most part, have rendered regular services to the Administration, also have White House passes.~~ The list of these persons is confidential. As a result of a review being conducted by my office, in conjunction with the Office of Counsel to the President, there may be some modification of our pass policy with respect to non-government persons.

Personally,



Mack McLarty

POLITICS & POLICY

Ickes, Clinton Insider and Puerto Rico Advocate, Shows Not All Who Lobby Must Wait in the Hall

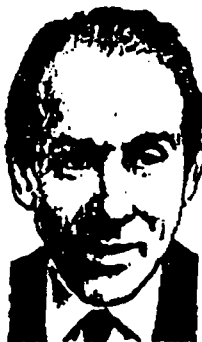
By JEFFREY H. BIRNBAUM

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON — When New York lawyer Harold Ickes visited the Capitol in early June, a senator's aide asked him quizzically, "Are you here on behalf of the White House or Puerto Rico?"

The confusion was understandable. Mr. Ickes, the son of Franklin D. Roosevelt's interior secretary, is widely known as an influential friend of President Clinton, has often been mentioned for a top White House job and even has the kind of Secret Service issued pass that is issued to presidential aides, allowing him to roam the White House corridors at will.

But Mr. Ickes was hardly representing the president that day on Capitol Hill. Rather, he was lobby-



Harold Ickes

ing for Puerto Rico and working to defeat one of Mr. Clinton's most important tax proposals, the severe curtailment of a generous subsidy to U.S. manufacturers, especially pharmaceutical makers, with operations in the island commonwealth. In the end, the president relented, and Mr. Ickes's side won, when most of the tax break was preserved.

Many Hats

During his election campaign, Mr. Clinton insisted that he wouldn't tolerate special access for narrow interests, and promised to "take away power from the entrenched bureaucracies and special interests that dominate Washington." As Mr. Ickes's example shows, however, not only have special interests continued to flourish, but people close to the president are participating in the bazaar.

The Puerto Ricans placed the 54-year-old Mr. Ickes on retainer starting in mid-April, at a fee that lobbyists put at \$10,000 a month. Mr. Ickes won't discuss how much he is being paid. He began meeting with prominent lawmakers and their staffs; he also attended numerous strategy sessions

with lobbyists and Puerto Rican officials, helping to plot how to beat the president's proposal. Participants say he gave advice on a variety of matters, including how best to deal with the Clinton administration.

Mr. Ickes's roles as White House adviser and Puerto Rico lobbyist sometimes blurred. The chief of staff of the Senate Finance Committee, Lawrence O'Donnell, talked to Mr. Ickes as if he were the Puerto Ricans' conduit to the White House, and even admonished Mr. Ickes for failing to lobby the White House harder.

"It struck me as something of a waste of time being in my office when all the resistance was coming from the administration," Mr. O'Donnell says. "I made it clear that anyone who has access to the White House on this should be lobbying the White House."

Mr. Ickes, whose practice is based in Mineola, N.Y., contends he wasn't lobbying the White House at all at the time. In fact, after serving as the chief operating officer of the Clinton transition in Little Rock, Ark., he had agreed not to lobby any government agency for six months after the start of the new administration. He insists that the advice he gave to lobbyists didn't violate that agreement, and adds that "I certainly had no information and did not attempt to obtain any information about where different people in the White House stood" on the issue.

But he did meet with several Democratic lawmakers whose influence proved to be pivotal. These included such tax writers as House Ways and Means Chairman Dan Rostenkowski of Illinois, New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley, New York Rep. Charles Rangel and Connecticut Rep. Barbara Kennelly. Mr. Ickes also met with two

freshman lawmakers of Puerto Rican descent, Reps. Nydia Velazquez of New York and Luis Guterres of Illinois, whose personal pleas to the president on June 18 were said by Clinton aides to have been critical to his decision to bend on the issue.

Despite those meetings, Mr. Ickes insists that he doesn't have to register as a lobbyist because he is serving as a strategist and adviser to the Puerto Ricans in dealing with the Democratic Party. The current lobbying-registration laws are so loosely worded that he appears to be correct.

Reducing the Cut

But his work produced results nonetheless. The original Clinton proposal would have cut the Puerto Rican tax subsidy by \$6.8 billion over five years. The final tax change reduced the break by \$3.7 billion over the period.

Mr. Ickes is continuing to represent Puerto Rican interests, and has been meeting with White House officials on their behalf since the six-month ban on contacts by former transition staffers lapsed in July. He arranged a meeting for himself and the governor of Puerto Rico with senior White House aide Marcia Hale at the National Governors Association meeting in Tulsa, Okla., last month. He also arranged, and stayed for the start of, a meeting between the governor and Hillary Rodham Clinton at the same Tulsa event.

Meanwhile, he continues to use his White House pass to come and go at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. "Many people get access to the White House; I am one of those," Mr. Ickes says. "I see nothing improper about it."

And clearly he is still welcome there. "His work with the government of Puerto Rico involved a whole wide range of issues; the tax issue is just one aspect of it," says White House Communications Director Mark Gearan. "Harold is a valued friend of the administration."

Wash. Post 9/21/93

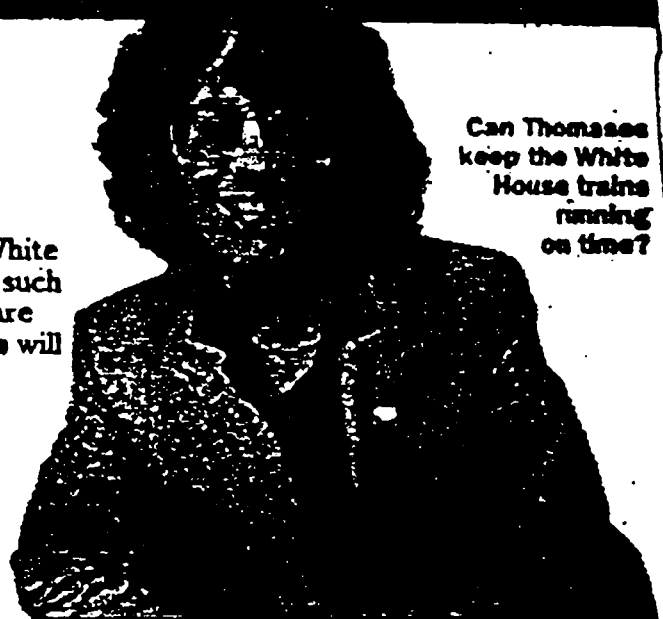
The

Sheeeeeeeeeeeee's Baaaaaacck . . .

It's kind of hard to imagine, but White House scheduling is obviously in such disarray right now that staffers are actually hoping that Susan Thomases will temporarily step into her old campaign job.

Several aides yesterday expressed relief—even enthusiasm—that the Clintons' controversial friend will likely fill the scheduling job on a volunteer basis until about Nov. 1. Marcia Hale recently vacated the post to head the White House intergovernmental affairs office, and it's slated to be filled permanently by Ricki Seidman, who's on an extended R&R leave. Lately, the president's schedule has been handled seat of the pants.

We hate to rehash old stuff, but we will: Thomases, a New York lawyer and one of Hillary Clinton's closest pals, drove the campaign staff nuts with her abrupt, controlling and often autocratic handling of the campaign schedule last



Can Thomases
keep the White
House trains
running
on time?

BY ALITH JENNINGS—THE WASHINGTON POST

year. There was even a time when aides went into shock just thinking she might get a White House job.

But time apparently heals old wounds. "She's organized, to the point and she understands the Clintons," said one staffer. "Doing the president of the United States' schedule by committee just isn't making it."

As for Thomases, a call to her New York office went unreturned.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 19, 1993

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-4610

Dear Congressman Wolf:

Thank you for your letter of July 29.

To our knowledge, there have been no material changes in security procedures at the White House when compared to those of previous administrations. The security function as to personnel rests primarily with the Office of White House Personnel Security, which is under the direction of the Office of Counsel to the President. Other security functions regarding the White House are provided by the Secret Service and other agencies, such as the Department of Defense. The Office of White House Personnel Security originates the necessary paperwork for security clearances.

The vast majority of the holders of White House passes are employees or detailees. Certain administration officials employed by various agencies of the Executive Branch, whose duties require regular White House access, possess White House passes. A limited number of non-government persons who, for the most part, have rendered regular services to the Administration, also have White House passes. The list of these persons is confidential. As a result of a review being conducted by my office, in conjunction with the Office of Counsel to the President, there may be some modification of our pass policy with respect to non-government persons.

Personally,



Mack McLarty

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4610

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES
TRANSPORTATION
TREASURY—POSTAL SERVICE—GENERAL
GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

July 29, 1993

Mr. Thomas McLarty III
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. McLarty:

As the former ranking member and current member of the House Appropriations subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government, I am writing regarding questions I have about current security procedures at the White House.

It is my understanding that there have been changes in security procedures and I am interested in getting a clearer picture of what those changes entail and why they have been made. I would appreciate if you or your staff could address the following issues:

1. Who has White House passes other than White House employees or detailees? Please provide a list of such individuals and the type of pass issued.
2. What changes have been made in the obtaining of White House clearances? Who is currently in charge of this function? Who originates the paperwork for clearances and who is ultimately in charge? What role does the General Counsel's office play in the providing of clearances currently as compared to procedures in effect during the prior Administrations? If there have been changes what are the reasons for such changes?

I would appreciate your response to this matter as soon as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:bjc