



UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

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PROGRAM ANALYSIS  
DIVISION

IN REPLY  
REFER TO

JAN 27 1978

B-184659

The Honorable John Tower  
United States Senate

Dear Senator Tower:

This is in reply to your letter of January 9, 1978, enclosing an inquiry from Mr. Al Scott, 610 First National Bank Building, Abilene, Texas, 79601. Mr. Scott requested information on the White House Conference on Balanced Growth and Economic Development to be held in Washington from January 29 through February 2, 1978.

In a statement issued on August 4, 1977, President Carter said that the Conference offered an opportunity for citizens' organizations, public interest groups, labor and business representatives, and State and local officers to recommend ways in which his administration can work toward balanced economic growth and development in the years ahead. The Department of Commerce organized the Conference and appointed as Director, Dr. Michael S. Koleda, former vice president of the National Planning Association. The Secretary of Commerce, Mrs. Juanita M. Kreps, was asked by the President to coordinate the efforts of her Department with those of the Departments of Agriculture and Housing and Urban Development as well as other departments and agencies.

We are advised by Mr. Jerry Manalos, Director of Operations, White House Conference on Balanced National Growth and Economic Development that \$750,000 was appropriated by Congress for the Conference. He said this money is being used as follows:

1. Administrative costs; i.e., any hotel support-- conference rooms, audio-visual rooms, and staff.
2. \$40.00 to each delegate for expenses. No travel expenses have been allowed.
3. A large portion of the amount appropriated was paid to private contractors to prepare background material for each participant in the Conference.

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4. The remainder of the money has been used in the planning and organization of the Conference and in the salaries of the personnel employed to administer it.

There will be a total of 500 delegates; 375 of which were picked by the governors of their States (in proportion to its electoral vote) as experts in their fields. There are a number of union and business leaders and many State and local elected officials. The other 125 participants were selected at-large to assure balance among business and labor leaders, local and national groups, as well as representation by a fair cross-section of academic authorities, citizens, and other interested parties.

I trust that this information will be helpful to you in responding to your constituent's inquiry. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Harry S. Havens

Harry S. Havens  
Director

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Mr. Crowther  
Mr. Myers  
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Mr. Comtois  
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