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COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

RELEASED

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JUL 20 1973

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The Honorable Clement J. Zablocki  
House of Representatives

R Dear Mr. Zablocki:

Your letter dated May 22, 1973, requested that we review the circumstances of the inclusion of a sculpture as part of the Chicago Federal Center project. Enclosed with your letter were copies of a constituent's inquiry and your reply and two General Services Administration (GSA) press releases dated April 13 and April 23, 1973, respectively.

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The Chicago Federal Center is the most recent of a number of Federal buildings where fine arts have been incorporated into the construction. Under GSA supervision sculptures have been included in recent Federal construction projects in Boston, Cincinnati, Denver, Jacksonville, and several other cities. In the past, sculptures and other fine arts have been included in many other Federal buildings throughout the United States.

Although there is no specific legislation authorizing fine arts in Federal construction projects, GSA considers such art to be an integral part of Federal buildings. GSA's only current administrative prohibitions regarding the incorporation of fine arts in Federal buildings are that the cost of such art should (1) not exceed 0.5 percent of the estimated construction cost of the proposed building and (2) ordinarily not be included in buildings with an estimated cost of less than \$250,000.

The Chicago Federal Center's sculpture does not violate either of the prohibitions. The Center's estimated cost is approximately \$77 million. The estimated cost of the sculpture is \$325,000, including \$75,000 for installation, which is less than 0.5 percent of the project's total cost.

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We trust this information meets your needs, and we will be pleased to discuss the matter further with you if you wish. In accordance with your instructions, we are returning the enclosures to your request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James B. Axtell".

Comptroller General  
of the United States

Enclosures