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OCT 14 1970

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Dear Mr. Scherle:

In response to your request of August 20, 1970, we have obtained a statement of the estimated costs incurred by the National Institutes of Health in connection with a rock concert sponsored by the Viet Nam Moratorium Committee-NIH-NIMH and held on the grounds of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, on August 20, 1970.

You also requested our opinion as to whether the National Institutes of Health had a legal right to disburse Federal funds in support of this concert. As stated in our letter to you of September 8, 1970, we have requested a report from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare regarding this matter. While that letter has been acknowledged, we have not yet received a final reply.

We discussed the concert and its associated costs with officials of the National Institutes of Health who advised us that the Government incurred estimated costs of \$2,048 in connection therewith. Of this amount, \$1,123 represents costs which would not have been incurred if the concert had not been held. Overtime pay to National Institutes of Health security guards accounts for \$1,098 of this amount, and the remaining \$25 represents the costs of electrical material made available for the amplifying system used by the band. No cost has been estimated for use of the National Institutes of Health's electric power because the quantity involved was considered negligible.

The total estimated costs incurred by the Government also includes \$925 for wages and other operating expenses directly related to the concert, but which would have been incurred even if the concert had not been held. This category of estimated costs is composed of the following:

Administrative personnel	\$140
Regular pay of guards	227
Doctor	13
Grounds maintenance	132
Cleanup	15
Electrical service personnel	100
General administrative, first aid, and other expenses	<u>298</u>
Total	<u>\$925</u>

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An official of the National Institutes of Health informed us that to his knowledge no additional costs were incurred as a result of the concert by any Federal agency other than the National Institutes of Health.

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The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has not been given the opportunity to comment formally on this report; however, the information in the report was discussed with National Institutes of Health officials. We plan to make no further distribution of this report unless copies are specifically requested, and then we shall make distribution only after your agreement has been obtained or public announcement has been made by you concerning the contents of this report.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant


Comptroller General
of the United States

The Honorable William J. Scherle
House of Representatives