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

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Dear Mr. Kuykendall:

You requested in a letter dated January 17, 1972, that we report on the alleged misappropriation of monies allocated for the operation of the Memphis, Tennessee, District Office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), which was contained in statements to you from two employees in the Memphis District Office.

We reviewed the administrative activities of the Memphis District Office and interviewed the two EEOC employees concerning their statements. We were informed by the two employees that several of the employees, including themselves, had filed with EEOC discrimination and other charges against the Memphis office. Resolution of these charges, pending at the time of our visit, is the specific responsibility of EEOC and/or the Civil Service Commission. Employees can appeal to the Civil Service Commission if their charges are not resolved satisfactorily by EEOC.

In most instances we were not able to substantiate or prove false the statements of alleged irregularities because of the lack of documentary evidence.

Our examination of employee expense and travel vouchers showed that the vouchers were supported properly by approved travel authorizations. The per diem claimed and the mileage rates authorized were in accordance with the amounts allowed in the Government standard travel regulations. On some vouchers we noted that expenses were claimed for rental of motel meeting rooms; however, this is not an abnormal practice in EEOC when Government-furnished space is not available for discussing cases.

We could not confirm or prove false the statement that employees were making unauthorized calls through the Federal Telecommunications System (FTS), because records were not maintained to show what use had been made of FTS. We were told by the EEOC district director that all of his technical

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staff members and their clerical assistants were authorized to use FTS for official business.

The EEOC control over the use of General Services Administration vehicles was weak because employees were not required to record their use of the vehicles. We brought this matter to the attention of the district director who has taken action to establish controls over the use of vehicles. Because of the lack of records, we could not determine when or for what specific purposes vehicles were used, and therefore we could not determine whether unauthorized use was made of Government vehicles.

Our investigation of absenteeism and tardiness showed that, in about one third of the instances mentioned in one of the statements, the employees had taken authorized leave. Because the rest of the instances were not documented on the sign-out register or on the time and attendance records, we could not determine whether they were authorized absences. Our review showed, however, other instances of employees' having signed out on the register for personal reasons and not having charged leave. We brought this practice to the attention of the district director who agreed to take corrective action.

Most of the statements of misconduct could not be substantiated or proven false through a review of EEOC records. We did not observe any misconduct by EEOC employees during our brief visit to the Memphis office.

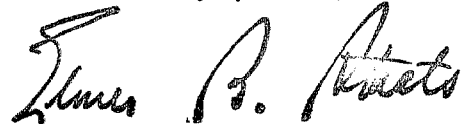
The statement concerning falsification of production reports pertained to one part of the report regarding interim action on cases that were in process. The employee making the statement informed us that it did not appear that the cases were being counted more than once in the production reports but rather that certain interim actions were being reported prematurely. To verify the accuracy of the production reports would require an in-depth review. We do not have any evidence that the total cases received or completed have been misrepresented.

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We believe that, because the charges of discrimination have been made known to the EEOC Memphis District Office, Atlanta Regional Office, and Washington Headquarters Office, they would be handled more properly by that agency or by the Civil Service Commission.

We shall be pleased to discuss any of these matters with you in more detail if you so desire.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James B. Argets". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "Argets" being clearly legible, and "B." in the middle.

Comptroller General
of the United States

The Honorable Dan Kuykendall
House of Representatives