



United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

Accounting and Information
Management Division

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May 12, 1999

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate

Subject: Independent Counsels: Expenditures for Independent Counsels Fiske and Starr

Dear Senator Boxer:

You recently requested information on the total expenditures for the investigations conducted by independent counsels Robert B. Fiske, Jr., and Kenneth W. Starr. Enclosure I summarizes these expenditures for the period January 24, 1994, through September 30, 1998. Enclosure II lists the reports we used to compile the expenditures summary.

Independent counsels are required to report their expenditures from the permanent, indefinite appropriation established within the Department of Justice to fund those expenditures. We are required to audit the expenditures from that appropriation and to report our findings to appropriate congressional committees.

On January 24, 1994, the Attorney General appointed Robert B. Fiske, Jr., to investigate criminal and civil violations of the U.S. Code in Re: Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan. On August 5, 1994, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 593 (b), the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia appointed Kenneth W. Starr to conduct the investigation. After completing a transition of operation to Mr. Starr, Mr. Fiske's appointment ended on October 6, 1994. The court subsequently expanded Mr. Starr's jurisdiction to include selected White House Travel Office and access-to-personnel-file issues; issues related to statements made before the former Government Reform and Oversight Committee, House of Representatives; and whether, in a civil case, certain individuals suborned perjury, obstructed justice, intimidated witnesses, or otherwise violated federal law in dealing with witnesses, potential witnesses, attorneys, or others.

During any 6-month period, other significant costs resulting from an independent counsel's investigation are paid from appropriations other than the permanent, indefinite appropriation established to fund independent counsel activities. These costs arise, for example, from an independent counsel's use of detailees from other federal agencies. Independent counsels are not required to and do not include such costs in their statements of expenditures. However, we have included these costs in the enclosure as "other operating costs-unaudited."

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The information presented in the enclosure was compiled during April 1999 from our prior independent counsel audit work, which was performed in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact me on (202) 512-9489.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D" and a long, sweeping horizontal line at the end.

David L. Clark
Director, Audit Oversight and Liaison

Enclosures

Enclosure I

Independent Counsels Fiske and Starr Schedule of Expenditures
for the Period 1/24/94-9/30/98

Counsel	Personnel compensation and benefits	Travel	Rent, communications, and utilities	Contractual services	Supplies and materials	Acquisition of capital assets	Administrative services	Other operating costs - unaudited	Total costs
Fiske	1,059,153	372,419	205,761	253,096	46,880	543,435	0	3,593,000	6,073,744
Starr	10,940,284	5,633,477	2,746,540	3,872,293	522,380	727,557	1,258,238	14,094,579	39,795,348

This schedule was compiled from reports we have issued on independent counsel expenditures that included independent counsels Robert B. Fiske, Jr., and Kenneth W. Starr. "Other operating costs-unaudited" represent costs for employees assigned to work with independent counsels by federal agencies, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that were financed through funds appropriated to those agencies and, accordingly, are not included in an independent counsel's statement of expenditures. These agencies were not reimbursed for these costs, and we did not audit them.

Enclosure II

GAO Financial Audit Reports on Independent Councils
Fiske and Starr Expenditures

Financial Audit: Expenditures by Four Independent Councils for the Six Months Ended March 31, 1994 (GAO/AIMD-95-112, March 31, 1995).

Financial Audit: Expenditures by Six Independent Councils for the Six Months Ended September 30, 1994 (GAO/AIMD-95-113, March 31, 1995).

Financial Audit: Expenditures by Six Independent Councils for the Six Months Ended March 31, 1995 (GAO/AIMD-95-233, September 29, 1995).

Financial Audit: Independent Counsel Expenditures for the Six Months Ended September 30, 1995 (GAO/AIMD-96-67, March 29, 1996).

Financial Audit: Independent Counsel Expenditures for the Six Months Ended March 31, 1996 (GAO/AIMD-96-166, September 30, 1996).

Financial Audit: Independent Counsel Expenditures for the Six Months Ended September 30, 1996 (GAO/AIMD-97-64, March 31, 1997).

Financial Audit: Independent Counsel Expenditures for the Six Months Ended March 31, 1997 (GAO/AIMD-97-164, September 30, 1997).

Financial Audit: Independent Counsel Expenditures for the Six Months Ended September 30, 1997 (GAO/AIMD-98-100, March 31, 1998).

Financial Audit: Independent Counsel Expenditures for the Six Months Ended March 31, 1998 (GAO/AIMD-98-285, September 30, 1998).

Financial Audit: Independent Counsel Expenditures for the Six Months Ended September 30, 1998 (GAO/AIMD-99-105, March 31, 1999).

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