



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

Office of the General Counsel

B-230354

July 25, 1988

Philip D. Brady, Esq.
Deputy Counsel to the President
The White House

Dear Mr. Brady:

Thank you for your letter of June 14, 1988, relating to matters we had discussed at our meeting on June 6. We are in the process of concluding our review of the formation and operation of the AIDS Commission requested by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs. We have contacted members of the AIDS Commission for information relating to the White House's conflict-of-interest reviews, and, as agreed, we have not asked them for any materials which have become part of White House records.

We appreciate your description of the general procedures the Counsel to the President follows in deciding whether to waive the application of 18 U.S.C. § 208(a) for certain Presidential appointees. However, in order to complete our work for the Committee we need to know the specific actions the White House took in order to screen and resolve potential conflicts of interest on the part of the AIDS Commission members. Therefore, we ask that you provide us with answers to the following questions relating to the Commission members appointed on September 9, 1987, and to the two members appointed on November 10, 1987:

1. On what date(s) did Commission members file the information required by the Personal Data Statement with the White House?
2. Did the White House review the statements to determine whether they disclosed potential conflicts of interest? On what date(s) were the conflict-of-interest reviews completed?
3. In reviewing financial information on the statements, did the White House need to obtain additional or clarifying information from Commission members?

4. What general categories of conflict-of-interest issues were raised during the reviews and what methods were used to resolve potential conflicts?

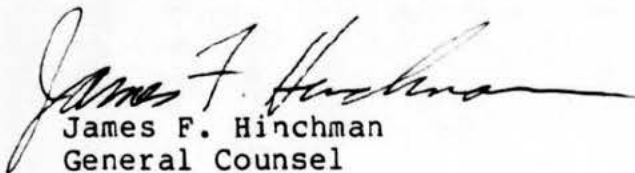
5. Were the results of the conflict-of-interest reviews documented? If so, how were they documented?

6. What type of information did the White House review in deciding whether to grant Commission members limited waivers from the application of 18 U.S.C. § 208(a)? What were the White House's reasons for granting the waivers?

7. With respect to waivers granted to the two Commission members appointed on November 10, 1987, when and by whom was the waiver process initiated, and on what date did the White House grant the waivers?

Since we are now concluding our review of the AIDS Commission, we would appreciate your response to this letter at the earliest possible time. If you prefer to furnish us with the requested information orally, we will be happy to arrange an interview for that purpose.

Sincerely yours,



James F. Hinchman
General Counsel