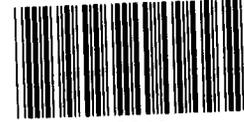


General Government Division

B-249169

September 23, 1992

The Honorable John Glenn
Chairman, Committee on
Governmental Affairs
United States Senate



147699

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your request of June 5, 1991, asking us to report on the retention in federal civilian service of political appointees convicted of felonies. In conjunction with this work we obtained the names, Social Security numbers, dates of birth, and employing agencies of 6,176 political appointees. These appointees were either Schedule C, noncareer SES, or Presidentially Appointed, Senate Confirmed employees who were in the federal workforce sometime during the period October 1, 1987, through June 30, 1991. We asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to run a match of these names and other data against its automated databases that contain criminal history records on individuals.

The FBI's initial computer run identified 158 potential matches. After a preliminary review, the FBI eliminated 12 of the names as not being matches. A team from the Justice Management Division (JMD) of the Department of Justice reviewed the remaining 146 initial matches against the FBI's criminal history records.

As a result of its review, the JMD team determined the following:

- 29 persons were, among other things, not a match based on a review of the FBI reports that showed the persons in the reports had different names, dates of birth, or physical characteristics;
- 1 person was mistakenly included;
- 3 persons were charged but found not guilty;
- 9 persons had the charges dropped or dismissed;

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- 102 persons had some type of criminal record, but the charges did not fall within the October 1, 1987, through June 30, 1991 time period covered by our work; and
- 1 person was charged but not prosecuted.

Only one person met all three of the criteria, i.e., type of appointment, time employed, and felony conviction.

We discussed the JMD team's findings with Mr. Brian Dettelbach of your staff, and he agreed it would be useful to review the methodology used by the team to decide which cases did not match the criteria. To do this, we randomly selected 53 of the 158 cases reviewed by the JMD team and used the FBI reports available to them to determine if we could independently duplicate the results the team achieved. On the basis of our review of the sample cases, we were not able to find any critical flaw in the methodology or identify any additional cases that fit the criteria. We did not independently verify the FBI's initial determination that its automated search resulted in only 158 matches with the names we provided from OPM's personnel database files.

We trust that this information satisfactorily responds to your concerns. If you have any further questions on this matter, please call me on (202) 275-5074.

Sincerely yours,



Bernard L. Ungar
Director, Federal Human Resource
Management Issues