



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

Accounting and Information
Management Division

B-281537

November 17, 1998

The Honorable Henry J. Hyde
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter responds to your November 12, 1998, letter regarding our audits of the expenditures of the Office of Independent Counsel Kenneth W. Starr (OIC-Starr).¹ Specifically, you asked whether these audits (1) disclosed material weaknesses in internal controls, (2) determined that the statements of expenditures were reliable in all material respects, and (3) disclosed any instances of noncompliance with selected provisions of laws and regulations that would be reportable under generally accepted government auditing standards.

Our audits of the expenditures of OIC-Starr found the following:

- Our tests of internal controls, which were for the limited purpose of determining our procedures for auditing the statements of expenditures, disclosed no material weaknesses.
- The statements of expenditures were reliable in all material respects.
- Our audit tests of compliance with selected provisions of laws and regulations disclosed no instances of noncompliance that would be reportable under generally accepted government auditing standards.

¹Independent counsels are required to report their expenditures for each 6-month period in which they have operations. Under 28 U.S.C. 596(c)(2) (1994) and Public Law 100-202, we audit the expenditures and report our findings to appropriate congressional committees.

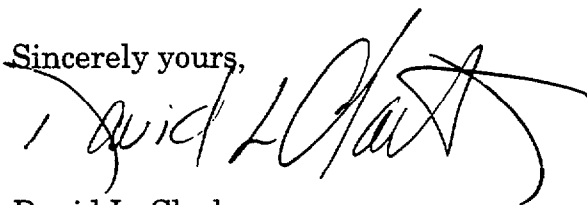
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Enclosed is a copy of our most recent report on the expenditures of OIC-Starr.² The report includes a detailed description of our audit findings and the objectives, scope, and methodology of our audit.

We are also sending this letter today to the Ranking Minority Member of your Committee. If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 512-9489.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Clark", written over a horizontal line.

David L. Clark
Director, Audit Oversight and Liaison

Enclosure

²Financial Audit: Independent Counsel Expenditures for the Six Months Ended March 31, 1998 (GAO/AIMD-98-285, September 30, 1998). We also reported separately on a minor administrative error regarding travel reimbursements to Mr. Starr (GAO/AIMD-98-55R, January 9, 1998).

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