



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

109646



B-125035

June 14, 1979

A.

The Honorable Jesse Helms  
United States Senate



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Dear Senator Helms:

In a March 21, 1979, letter, you requested that we report on the cost of repairing damages to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., as a result of the American farmers' demonstration. As expressed in your letter, you were particularly concerned over various reports of such costs ranging from \$500,000 to \$3 million. ID

In accordance with your request and subsequent agreements with your office, we obtained the most recent cost information available from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, for repairing damages to the Mall. We also obtained an accounting of the costs for law enforcement and other related activities by the U.S. Park Police, National Park Service, and the District of Columbia government. We did not verify the cost figures provided or assess their reasonableness. ACC00003

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A review of the National Park Service records showed that it will cost about \$239,000 to repair damages to the National Mall. (See enc. I.) This amount will be reduced by about \$18,100 as a result of donations received from various groups and individuals, leaving a net cost to the Federal Government for repairing damages of about \$220,900. (See enc. II.) This amount is subject to change pending final billings by contractors.

National Park Service officials said the reasons for the difference between current and earlier estimates was that the earlier estimates

--included rough estimates of law enforcement costs and

--were made before an inspection of the National Mall could be conducted because it was covered by snow, tractors, and vehicles.

Letter Report

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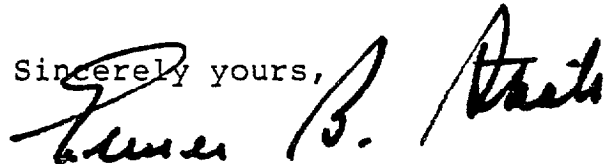
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Regarding law enforcement and other costs associated with the farmers' demonstration, the National Park Service's estimated costs were about \$640,500, and the District of Columbia's estimated costs were \$2,565,200. (See encs. III and IV.) Included in the above amounts are regular salary costs--about \$144,300 for the National Park Service and \$1,105,400 for the District of Columbia government--that normally would have been incurred at other work locations and for purposes not generally associated with the farmers' demonstration at the Mall.

At your request, we did not obtain agency comments; however, we apprised agency officials of the results of our work and their comments were taken into consideration. As agreed with your office, we are sending copies of this report to the Secretary of the Interior, the Director, Office of Management and Budget, and the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia, Senate Committee on Appropriations. We will make copies available to other interested parties.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James B. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "S".

Comptroller General  
of the United States

Enclosures - 4

SUMMARY OF COSTS OBTAINED FROM THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
FOR REPAIRING DAMAGES TO THE NATIONAL MALL AS A RESULT OF THE

FARMERS' DEMONSTRATION

<u>Cost item by organization unit</u>	<u>Total cost</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Salaries and personnel (note a):		
National Park Service-National Capital Region		
National Capital Parks-Central		
Grounds Maintenance Unit	\$40,447	(2,303 regular time hrs. at \$7.59 per hr. and 2,086 overtime hrs. at at \$11.01 per hr.)
Facilities Maintenance Unit	15,792	(1,377 regular time hrs. at \$9.79 per hr. and 163 overtime hrs. at \$14.18 per hr.)
Roads and Trails Unit	<u>5,341</u>	(600 regular time hrs. at \$8.30 per hr. and 30 overtime hrs. at \$12.03 per hr.)
Subtotal	<u>61,580</u>	
Young Adult Conservation Corps (note b)	<u>27,183</u>	(Based on an estimated 8,010 hours at an average hourly rate of \$3.39 per hour.)

<u>Cost item by organization unit</u>	<u>Total cost</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Volunteer services by individual farmers	\$ <u>4,500</u>	(Estimated value of donated services--not a cost incurred by National Park Service. See enc. II.)
Total	<u>93,263</u>	
Equipment use rentals and services:		
National Park Service- National Capital Region		
National Capital Parks- Central (note c)		
Hydroseeder rental	3,341	(51 hrs. at \$47 per hr. plus an additional 16 hrs. at \$59 per hr. for overtime.)
Fuel recovery charges	2,461	(545.25 days at \$4 per day for trucks and 35 days at \$8 per day for heavy equipment.)
Portable comfort stations	2,232	(Installed for health and sanitation purposes.)
Rental of payloader, backhoe, bucket truck, etc.	<u>1,268</u>	(Based on 42 hrs. at an average cost of \$30.19 per hr. Internal pool equipment.)
Subtotal	<u>9,302</u>	

ENCLOSURE I

ENCLOSURE I

<u>Cost item, by organization unit</u>	<u>Total cost</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Young Adult Conserva- tion Corps	\$ <u>677</u>	(Cost of transporting Corps members to Mall.)
Total	<u>9,979</u>	
Supplies and materials:		
National Park Service- National Capital Region		
National Capital Parks- Central		
3 Sod	62,032	(Based on 63,950 sq. yds. at \$0.97 per sq. yd. As of 5/23/79, 59,450 sq. yds. had been de- livered. It is projected that 4,500 sq. yds. or \$4,365 of sod may be needed for areas that didn't respond to previous seed- ing or sodding.)
Seed	12,100	(12,100 lbs. at \$1.00 per lb.-- seed valued at \$7,272 was donated. See enc. II.)

<u>Cost item by organization unit</u>	<u>Total cost</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Fire hydrants	\$ 9,896	(Costs for replacing three fire hydrants at a materials costs of \$1,702 and remaining labor, equipment, and other costs of \$8,194. Work being performed by District of Columbia for the Park Service.)
Park benches	8,963	(39 benches at a cost of \$200.90 each were replaced for a total cost of \$7,835.10. Also, costs of \$1,128.05 were reported for materials and painting of other damaged benches.)
Gravel mix	7,304	(Used for repairing clay sidewalks. 304.35 tons at \$24.00 per ton.)
Trash receptacles	5,985	(72 trash receptacles were replaced at a cost of \$5,614. Also, costs of \$371 were reported for materials and painting of other damaged receptacles.)
Lighting fixtures	4,965	(Includes the cost of \$2,566.92 for one light pole with the remaining costs for globes and bulbs.)
Mulch	4,775	(25 tons at a cost of \$191 per ton.)

ENCLOSURE I

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<u>Cost item by organization unit</u>	<u>Total cost</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Top soil	\$ 4,455	(826 cu. yds. at an average cost of \$5.39 per cu. yd.)
Stakes and ropes (note d)	4,416	(Used for fencing off the Mall.)
Traffic signs	2,292	(Replacement and painting of 44 traffic signs and posts at a unit cost of \$52.10.)
Fertilizer	1,776	(15 tons at an average unit cost of \$118.40.)
Sprinkler system	1,609	(Supplies for the repair of Mall sprinkler system.)
Lime	1,398	(About 37 tons at an average unit cost of \$37.79.)
Elm trees	1,350	(6 trees valued at \$225 each are to be donated. See enc. II.)
Handtools and related work supplies (note d)	763	(Includes costs for rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, etc.)
Catch basins	600	(Replacement of 3 catch basins, including related materials.)
Informational signs	165	(Materials for replacement and repair of signs.)
Sand, gravel, and cement	142	(Materials used in repair of trash receptacles and park benches, etc.)

ENCLOSURE I

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<u>Cost item by organization unit</u>	<u>Total cost</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Kiosk materials	\$ 117	(Materials for repair of kiosk.)
Miscellaneous supplies	<u>51</u>	
Subtotal	<u>135,154</u>	
Young Adult Conservation Corps	<u>320</u>	(Includes cost for food and handtools.)
Total	<u>135,474</u>	
Equipment purchases:		
National Park Service- National Capital Region		
National Capital Parks- Central		
Disk (note d)	<u>285</u>	(Purchase of one disk.)
Total	<u>285</u>	
Total costs for repair- ing damages to the Mall	<u>239,001</u>	(Estimated.)
Less: donations made as of May 29, 1979	<u>18,088</u>	(Includes donations of labor and equipment, seed, trees, and cash. See enc. II for more detail.)
Net estimated costs for repairing damages to the Mall	<u><u>\$220,913</u></u>	

ENCLOSURE I

ENCLOSURE I



Notes:

- a/Salaries and personnel costs do not include certain supervision and administrative support costs of National Capital Region or National Capital Parks-Central personnel.
- b/The Young Adult Conservation Corps is funded through the Department of Labor. Also, the cost figures for the Corps, specifically the number of hours worked, were estimated.
- c/Amortization of equipment costs, i.e., for trucks and tractors, etc., not included, except where highly specialized equipment and contract rentals were utilized.
- d/Certain costs for supplies and equipment purchased to repair the Mall will be useable for future work at the Mall and by the Park Service.

ENCLOSURE I

ENCLOSURE I

SUMMARY OF DONATIONS MADE TO ASSIST IN DEFRAYING  
THE COST OF REPAIRING THE NATIONAL MALL AS A  
RESULT OF THE FARMERS' DEMONSTRATION

<u>Donating party</u>	<u>Donation</u>	<u>Estimated value</u>
Oregon Seed Trade Association, Portland, Oregon	Mixed grass seed--7,272 pounds valued at \$1 per pound.	\$7,272
Forestry associations	Six forestry associations have committed themselves to donating one elm tree each valued at \$225.00 per tree.	1,350
Individual farmers	Several farmers donated time and equipment to prepare the Mall for sodding and seeding and to spread lime and fertilizer. The Service estimated the value of these services at \$100 per acre for 45 acres.	4,500
Various contributors	Cash donations--the National Park Foundation reported that as of May 29, 1979, some 140 contributors had donated \$4,966.	<u>4,966</u>
Total (as of 5/29/79)		<u><u>\$18,088</u></u>

ENCLOSURE II

ENCLOSURE II

SUMMARY OF COSTS OBTAINED FROM THE U.S. PARK POLICE,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES  
RELATING TO THE FARMERS' DEMONSTRATION

<u>Cost item</u>	<u>Total cost</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Salaries and personnel (note a):		
Regular time	\$144,322	(Based on an estimated 14,652 hours at an estimated hourly rate of \$9.85. These hours represent the time over that usually spent in the Mall area.)
Overtime	<u>435,939</u>	(Based on 33,872.5 hours at an average hourly rate of \$12.87.)
Total	<u>580,261</u>	
Equipment use rentals and services:		
Bus rentals	22,914	(Used for the housing of officers and for barricades.)
Towing services	7,063	(Included costs for idle time as well as actual services rendered.)
Wear and tear of vehicles and general maintenance repairs	5,000	(Estimated.)
Helicopter services	3,155	(Estimated.)

ENCLOSURE III

ENCLOSURE III

<u>Cost item</u>	<u>Total cost</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Camera film processing	\$ 800	
Veterinarian services	462	(Estimated.)
Telephone services	445	
Repairs to mobile headquarters unit	148	
Repair of police vehicle	<u>82</u>	
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>40,069</u></b>	
<b>Supplies and materials:</b>		
10 Food	7,064	(For feeding of officers on detail.)
Flares	3,599	
Horse blankets (note b)	2,900	(50 blankets at a unit price of \$58. Park Police officials indicated that blankets were of specialized nature offering protection of horses against foreign objects.)
Gasoline	2,073	(3,466 gallons at \$0.598 per gallon.)
Electronics related supplies	440	(Includes the cost for items such as a radio antenna, microphones, video tapes, etc.)

ENCLOSURE III

ENCLOSURE III

<u>Cost item</u>	<u>Total cost</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Rollaway beds (note b)	\$ 249	(5 rollaway beds at \$49.84 each.)
Miscellaneous supplies	<u>224</u>	
Total	<u>16,549</u>	
Equipment purchases (note b):		
Videocassette recorder	1,636	(Used to video tape news broadcasts and for use in presenting cases for prosecution.)
Lighting equipment	678	
CB base station	606	(3 at \$206 each less discount. Used to monitor communications among farmers.)
Bearcat 210 scanner	426	(2 at \$217.20 each less discount. Used to monitor other law enforcement agencies during demonstration.)
Color T.V.	<u>269</u>	(Used to monitor news broadcasts of demonstration and to review video tapes taken by evidence personnel.)

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ENCLOSURE III

ENCLOSURE III

<u>Cost item</u>	<u>Total cost</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Total	\$ <u>3,615</u>	
Total U.S. Park Police costs	\$ <u><u>640,494</u></u>	

Notes:

a/Regular salary costs of \$144,322 normally would have been incurred at other work locations and for purposes not generally associated with the farmers' demonstration at the Mall. Salaries and personnel costs do not include certain supervision and administrative support costs for National Capital Region or U.S. Park Police personnel. Also, some 500 hours of compensatory time was incurred for which no costs are reflected.

b/Certain supply and material items and equipment purchased during the demonstration will be available for use in future demonstrations and routine work.

SUMMARY OF COSTS REPORTED BY THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
GOVERNMENT RELATING TO THE FARMERS' DEMONSTRATION (note a)

ENCLOSURE IV

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<u>Department</u>	<u>Personnel costs</u>			<u>Total</u>
	<u>Regular salary</u> <u>(note b)</u>	<u>Overtime</u>	<u>Other costs</u>	
Police Department:	\$1,060,200	\$1,081,400	-	\$2,141,600
Bus rental	-	-	\$333,100	333,100
Total, Police Department	<u>1,060,200</u>	<u>1,081,400</u>	<u>333,100</u>	<u>2,474,700</u>
Emergency Preparedness:	<u>9,200</u>	-	-	<u>9,200</u>
Fire Department:				
Liaison for coordinating fire and ambulance activities	700	-	-	700
Recreation Department:				
Roving leaders	<u>2,200</u>	-	-	<u>2,200</u>
Department of Human Resources:				
Medical Command Post	-	400	-	400
Department of Transportation:				
Traffic Engineering & Operations	25,700	-	3,000	28,700
Parking Enforcement	<u>2,200</u>	-	<u>16,500</u>	<u>18,700</u>
Total, Department of Transportation	<u>27,900</u>	-	<u>19,500</u>	<u>47,400</u>

ENCLOSURE IV

<u>Department</u>	<u>Personnel costs</u>			<u>Total</u>
	<u>Regular salary</u> <u>(note b)</u>	<u>Overtime</u>	<u>Other costs</u>	
Department of Environmental Services:				
Environmental Health	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200
Water Resources Management	2,400	1,800	9,200	13,400
Engineering & Construction	2,600	7,500	6,000	16,100
Solid Waste Management	-	900	-	900
Total, Department of Environmental Services	5,200	10,200	15,200	30,600
Total reported costs	<u>\$1,105,400</u>	<u>\$1,092,000</u>	<u>\$367,800</u>	<u>\$2,565,200</u>

## Notes:

a/The District of Columbia government on May 3, 1979, requested that the Office of Management and Budget reimburse these expenses in accordance with Section 737(b) of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act which states:

"The United States shall reimburse the District for necessary expenses incurred by the District in connection with assemblages, marches and other demonstrations in the District which relate primarily to the Federal Government."

b/Regular salary costs of \$1,105,400 normally would have been incurred at other work locations and for purposes not generally associated with the farmers' demonstration at the Mall.