



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

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B-200593

November 28, 1980

[Request for Exemption From Regulations Restricting Use of Travel Agents]

Harvey J. Baine III
Comptroller
National Credit Union Administration
Washington, D.C. 20456

Dear Mr. Baine:

In a letter dated September 23, 1980, you requested in accordance with our circular letter, dated August 20, 1979, an exemption from our regulations contained in 4 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 52.3(a) (1980), which restricts use of travel agents to procure official Government travel. You submitted a proposal for the use of travel agents by the National Credit Union Administration Washington Office, designed to test whether that Office can achieve savings and efficiencies by using travel agents.

Based on our review, we believe that your proposal complies generally with the requirements set forth in the circular letter and, therefore, an exemption from our regulations in 4 CFR 52.3(a) for 1 year is authorized so that you may test the use of travel agents.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter dated November 7, 1980, from the General Services Administration (GSA) to our Office in response to our request for its comments on your plan. It has requested the opportunity to review the test of your plan as to the specific method of selecting a travel agent, the evaluation criteria, and the procedure for payment of the transportation. Since GSA has audit responsibilities for Government transportation and has assisted other agencies in developing procedures to test the use of travel agents consistent with GSA regulations concerning travel, we believe that you should consult with GSA regarding the matters referred to in GSA's letter.

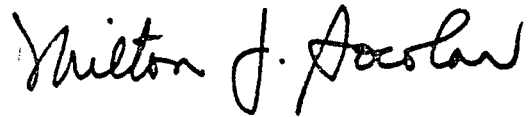
We also believe that you should advise interested travel agents either in the solicitation or by other means that the airlines are prohibited from paying commissions to travel agents for Government air travel under an Air Traffic Conference Agreement Resolution filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board.

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We expect that information you generate by indicating within the parameters of this limited test, whether official Government travel can be obtained in a less costly and more efficient manner by using travel agents, will contribute significantly to the current debate regarding the proposed use of travel agents for official Government travel.

Sincerely yours,



For the

Comptroller General
of the United States

Enclosure