

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. letter	To Maggie Williams from constituent re: President and Mrs. Clinton (partial) (2 pages)	08/11/96	b(6)
001b. letter	To Mrs. Clinton from constituent re: second term (partial) (1 page)	08/14/96	b(6)
002. letter	To: Jesse Brown and the Veterans Administration from veteran re: illness (with attached medical records) (9 pages)	10/30/1994	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Maggie Williams (Correspondence)
OA/Box Number: 12630

FOLDER TITLE:

[Maggie Williams mail 1995-1996]: K

2013-0359-S

ry1339

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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First Lady's Office
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Mrs. Maggie Williams,
Chief of Staff,
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.,
Washington, D.C.

(b)(6)

[001a]

11th Aug '96.

Dear Madam,

Hope that this letter would reach you in good health. I am a 24 year old 'Commerce' student. I very much admire most of U.S. policies and it's leadership in leading to a better world.

During the last Presidential election, I had hoped Mr. Bush to win, because I did not know about Mr. Clinton's ability and I sincerely wanted the 'United States' in safer hands. But by now, I very much admire Mr. Clinton and I believe he is undoubtedly one of the most able leaders, the nation has ever had.

The 'NOA' interview with the First Lady, only made me to admire her more. My eyes filled with tears, when she said that her parents were her role model; because I only had an alcoholic father and an abusive mother ever since my birth. Now I am struggling desperately to continue with my education.

The 43rd President of the 'United States' is undoubtedly Mr. Clinton. It is my greatest desire and my dream to meet the Clintons personally at the White House and to have a picture. Madam, you can easily fulfill my desire during their next inauguration at the White House. I wish to meet Mrs. Clinton personally.

Mrs. Williams, please give me some affection;
I know that you can help me. Please recommend for
me.

Yours Sincerely,

(b)(6)

N.B.

with a letter for the First Lady.
to her.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001b. letter	To Mrs. Clinton from constituent re: second term (partial) (1 page)	08/14/96	b(6)

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Maggie Williams (Correspondence)
OA/Box Number: 12630

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[0016]

Mrs. CLINTON,
1600 Pennsylvania Ave,
Washington . D C.

(b)(6)

14th Aug'96.

Dear Madan,

I am a 24 year old B.com student. I admire you so much that I want you to continue an other term at the White House.

There is a very holy church nearby, which was established by St. Thomas; a disciple of christ. All my prayers were answered except my own wants; even before I reached back home. I had prayed for you and I am sure that you would serve an other term.

Would you take me there, to see your inauguration if you are elected for an other term. I am a poor fellow adversely affected by an alcoholic father and an abusive mother.

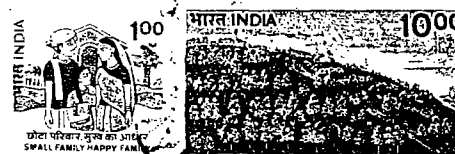
I know you can help me. Please do; I am desperate. I want to see you.

Yours Sincerely,

(b)(6)



DIPLOMATIC



To,

MRS. Maggie Williams,
First Lady's chief of staff,
White House,
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue,
Washington D.C
U. S. A

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 7, 1996

Walther Leisler Kiep
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
4645 Reservoir Road, N.W.
Washington, DC 20007-1998

Dear Mr. Kiep,

Thank you very much for your invitation for the First Lady to to attend the next Youth for Understanding Gala Benefit Dinner. Your kind invitation is appreciated.

I have forwarded your request to the First Lady's Scheduling Office. Again, thank you for your invitation.

Sincerely,


Margaret A. Williams
Chief of Staff
to the First Lady

Evan -
Please send
letter saying we're
passing on to
scheduling

Thengine
to Park -
Follow up -
Maggie -

Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany

Washington, April 02, 1996
4645 Reservoir Road, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007-1998
USA

Phone: (202) 298-4000
Fax: (202) 298-4249

FAX

Priority: RTE	Serial No.:	No. of pages: 3
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(including front page)

From: Office of the Minister (Political), Dr. Gerd Wagner

FAX-No.: (202) 456-6244

Fax-No.: (202) 456-6235

To: The Honorable
Margaret A. Williams
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff
to the First Lady
The White House / 2/WW

The Honorable
Ann Stock
Special Assistant to the President and
Social Secretary to the First Lady
The White House / 2/EW

Ref.No.:

Subject:

Ref:

Please find enclosed a letter from Mr. Walther Leisler Kiep, Chairman of the "Atlantik-Brücke", to the First Lady, Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton.

We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.
(Tel. (202) 298-4240, Fax (202) 298-4391)

Sincerely,

Meggie

Atlantik-Brücke e.V.

DER VORSITZENDE

COPY

ADENAUERALLEE 131
53113 BONN
TELEFON (0228) 21 41 66/21 42 60
TELEFAX (0228) 21 46 59

MAGNUS-HAUS
AM KUPFERGRABEN 7
10117 BERLIN
TELEFON (030) 2 01 01 06
TELEFAX (030) 2 01 01 07

The Honorable
Hillary Clinton
First Lady of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500
U S A

Bonn, February 22, 1996

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

Over the past few years I have admired your courage and determination to do good wherever and however possible. I am especially impressed by your work in advocating for women's and children's rights. Your mottoes „We are all here to help someone else“ and „There is no such thing as other people's children“ are basic creeds that are central in your message for the world.

Would you be interested in yet another opportunity to promote your message by speaking at our next Youth for Understanding Gala Benefit Dinner in New York this coming December? The Youth for Understanding Foundation was established by me as a response to the fall of the Berlin wall. The money raised by this foundation sponsors one year scholarships in the United States for eastern German high school students and likewise, since 1995, for American minority high school students in Germany. Since 1990 over 1,000 eastern German students have benefited from this incredible opportunity to experience other peoples, nations, and cultures while making lasting relationships and unforgettable memories. These experiences are invaluable for the cultivation of our youth's futures.

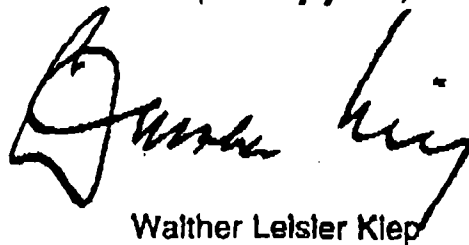
Over the past several years your husband, President Clinton, has been gracious enough to extend support and encouragement to us through his patronage of our gala events. The endorsement by both him and Chancellor Helmut Kohl has greatly contributed to the continued success of the Foundation. It is heartening to know that the President and the First Lady of the United States share the goal of promoting the

Bankverbindung: M. M. Warburg Bank, Hamburg. BLZ 201 201 00. Konto Nr. 219 045
Sitz des Vereins: Hamburg
Büro Hamburg: Perlbergweg 66, 22392 Hamburg. Telefon (040) 600 70 22

As chairman of the Youth for Understanding Foundation as well as of the Atlantik-Brücke, I would be greatly honored if you would be the speaker at our 1996 Gala Benefit. Last year I had suggested to Vernon Jordan, Jr. how ideal you would have been as a speaker for our 1995 gala, but, unfortunately, due to scheduling conflicts you were unavailable. I am asking you now to consider once again to spend an evening with us this December. The date can be scheduled according to your availability.

I look forward to hearing from you soon, and I truly hope that your response will be positive.

With best personal regards
Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Walther Kiep', written in a cursive style.

Walther Leisler Kiep

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

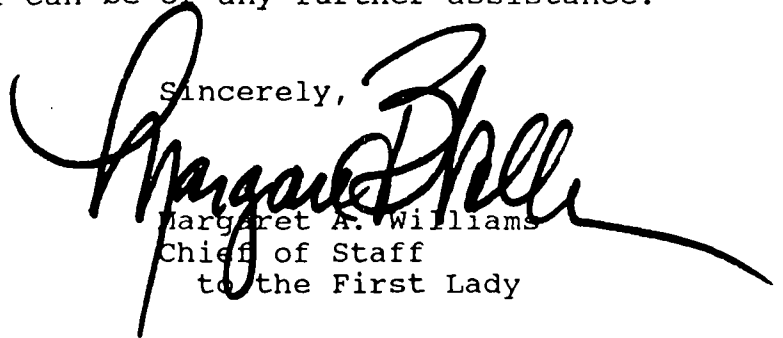
January 25, 1996

Dr. P. Kloepfer
3702 Motor Avenue # 8
Palms, CA 90034

Dear Dr. Kloepfer:

Enclosed please find my signed
business card per your request. Thank you
for your interest in adding it to your
collection. Please feel free to contact
me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

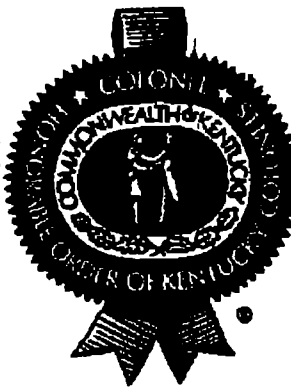
A large, elegant handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Margaret Williams". The signature is written over the typed name and title.

Margaret A. Williams
Chief of Staff
to the First Lady

WANTS AN AUTOGRAPHED
BUSINESS OR CALLING
CARD

|

The Honorable Order of



Kentucky Colonels
INCORPORATED

A Non-Profit Charitable Organization

KENTUCKY COLONEL
Dr. P. M. Kloepfer

3702 Motor Ave. # 8
Palms, CA. 90034
(310) 838-2017.

January 08, 1996

DEAR Margaret Williams - Chief of Staff - Mrs. Hillary Clinton THE FIRST LADY
=====

Please be so kind as not to set this letter and request aside; since it is very important to me. As a hobby I enthusiastically collect autographed business and/or calling cards. Yours would be most appreciated to add to my collection.

Looking forward to hearing from you personally, with any positive response in earnest anticipation. Thank you ever-so-much for valuable time and promptness in this matter.

Quite sincerely,
A Kentucky Colonel

P. M. Kloepfer, Ph.D., Esq., (Econ.) & (O.T.) (Am.) P.S.A., (Eng.) C.C.P.R., (TX.)
Adm., (TX.) Hon., (ARK.) Amb., (San Francisco) Award of Merit, (Australia) Royal
Patronage, Hutt River Principality.

If it is possible I would
appreciate any other members
of your staff's autograph
business cards. Thanks. Doc.

DR. P. KLOEPFER

3702 Motor Ave. #8
Palms, CA. 90034

CERTIFIED

Z 706 809 269

MAIL



0000

\$2.52

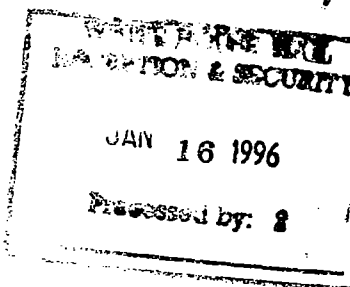
00053392-15

MARGARET WILLIAMS

=====

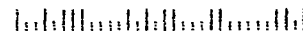
CHIEF OF STAFF to the First Lady
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D. C. 20500

**RETURN RECEIPT
REQUESTED**

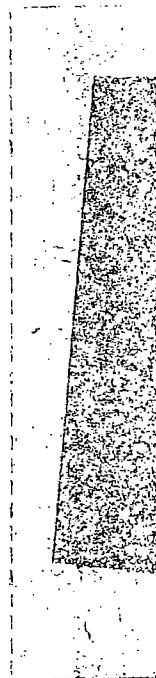


JAN 16 1996

Processed by: 2



PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



Fold at line over top of envelope to the
right of the return address

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 17, 1995

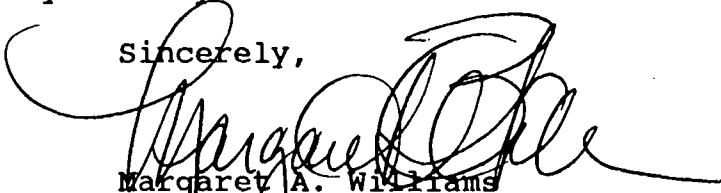
Congressman Kanjorski
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kanjorski:

I am sending your letter and Mr. Oschal's recording to Ann Stock, the White House Social Secretary, for review.

Thank you for your recommendation.

Sincerely,



Margaret A. Williams
Chief of Staff to the
First Lady

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 14, 1995

Mollee Kruger
619 Warfield Drive
Rockville, MD 20850-1921

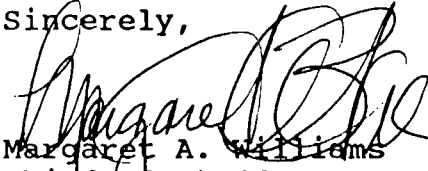
Dear Ms. Kruger:

Thank you for sending me a copy of
LADIES FIRST: Rhymes and Times of the
President's Wives and Other Female
Fantasies.

On behalf of Mrs. Clinton, I would
also like to thank you for the thoughtful
letter of support and encouragement.

Best wishes on the success of your
book.

Sincerely,



Margaret A. Williams
Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady

619 Warfield Drive
Rockville, MD 20850-1921

February 7, 1995
Maggie Williams, Chief of Staff for Mrs. Clinton
Old Executive Office Building
Washington DC

Dear Ms. Williams:

Yours is a formidable job as a behind-the-scenes person, and I commend you for your loyalty and devotion to Mrs. Clinton. Now more than ever she needs your support and the encouragement of all of us until the country comes to its senses again. Meanwhile, you and your crew deserve our thanks for your untiring work in the trenches.

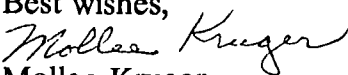
In a Washington Post article January 15, you were quoted as saying Mrs. Clinton "is a litigator", and when she loses, "she files an appeal". In keeping with that, I am sending you a little paperback that also files an appeal, seeking equal justice for the First Lady and more compassion from the electorate. As someone over 65, I've learned that a little humor goes a long way, and so I'm sending you my LADIES FIRST: Rhymes and Times of the Presidents' Wives and Other Female Fantasies. I hope it brightens your day.

It's highly unlikely that you will even see this letter much less the enclosed book, but as I approach still another birthday, I have a sense of optimism in tossing overboard the bottle with the message inside and hoping that it washes ashore somewhere for someone to find. Democrats are like that, optimistic. We shall prevail. We always have.

LADIES FIRST, one of only 1000 copies printed by a grassroots publisher, is concerned with the ambivalence that the American public has always felt toward their First Ladies. In your tough job, I know you realize that laughter helps soothe the savage beast of politics. You may especially enjoy the tongue-in-cheek humor behind "Vacancy for Caesar's Wife on Page 103 and the nugget of truth behind "South Portico" on page 110.

Let the record show that I'm a grandmother who applauds your office's efforts on behalf of young mothers and their children. They must never be deserted. I also appreciate your stand on behalf of older women's health issues in publicizing mammography Medicare benefits. The federal government should not abdicate responsibility for such vital social programs because the states will never be able to pick up the slack.

Please take a moment off to smile over LADIES FIRST. It may help relieve the tension. And I hope the staff member who first opens and reads this letter will have fun with the little book, too, before passing it on to you. Perhaps it will be a welcome break on a bleak wintery day in Washington. Hang in there, all of you.

Best wishes,

Mollee Kruger

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 22, 1995

Mr. Walther Klep
Adenauerallee 131
53113 Bonn
Germany

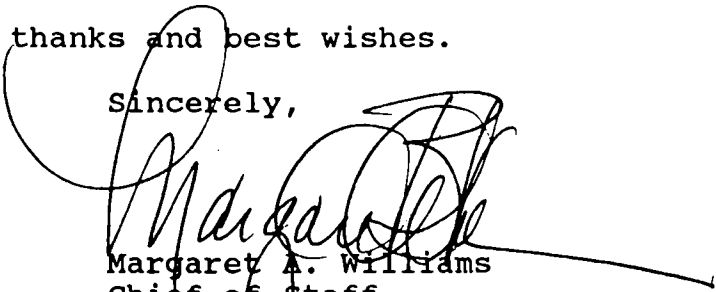
Dear Mr. Klep:

Vernon Jordan has relayed your kind words about Mrs. Clinton's Atlanta speech as well as your suggestion that she speak at the Youth for Understanding fundraising dinner in December.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Clinton's schedule is such that it would not be possible for her to accept the invitation. Please know, however, how much we appreciate the thought that prompted your offer.

With thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,



Margaret A. Williams
Chief of Staff
to the First Lady

draft for MAW signature

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Unfortunately, Mrs. Clinton's schedule is such that it would not be possible for her to accept the invitation. Please know, however, how much we appreciate the thought that prompted your offer.

With thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Send copy of outgoing ltr to Vernon Jordan. Address is on incoming correspondence.

OKay
Sencyl

Date: 5-14-95

From:

Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

Maggie Williams - White House

Please answer this NO
as soon as possible and send
me a copy of the letter of
declination

N
+
↓
—

Atlantik-Brücke e.V.
DER VORSITZENDE

ADENAUERALLEE 131
53113 BONN
TELEFON (0228) 21 41 60/21 42 60
TELEFAX (0228) 21 46 59

POSTANSCHRIFT:
POSTFACH 1147
53001 BONN

Mr. Vernon E. Jordan, Jr
Senior Partner
Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld
1333 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036
U S A

Fax: 001-202-416-5260

Bonn, 10.05.1995

*Wants HRC
for Dec 13
Youth for Under-
standing dinner
in NY. If no US
women*

Dear Vernon,

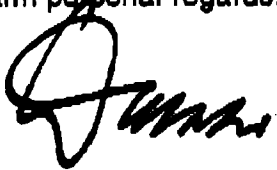
On my way back to Germany after the memorable evening for Jim Wolfensohn, I was fortunate enough to catch a bit of Hillary Clinton's speech in Atlanta regarding international womanhood. I was so impressed! Not only was she an articulate and compelling speaker but her sense of caring and commitment enveloped the entire address into a feeling of true dedication for women all over the world.

Although I have never had the pleasure of meeting the First Lady and I am certain that her time is very precious, ~~I was wondering if she would be interested in speaking at our next Youth for Understanding fundraising dinner in New York on December 13, 1995.~~ To commemorate the fifth anniversary of the organization's inception after the fall of the Berlin wall, we would like this year's event to really stand out. Since 1990, over 1000 high school students from the former German Democratic Republic have had the incredible opportunity to spend a year in the United States thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the foundation and its sponsors. To have visited not only an entirely new land but to have lived a year with families who, during the time of the Cold War, were described as the enemy, has made an impact on the lives, dreams, and choices of these young adults. Returning to Germany as ambassadors of their „adopted“ country, they have spread the goodwill about not only the United States but of different lands themselves.

A new facet to the foundation was initiated in 1994. Half of the year's proceeds allowed American minority high school students to spend a year in Germany. This effort is included in the 1995 gala event and is slowly but surely becoming a tradition.

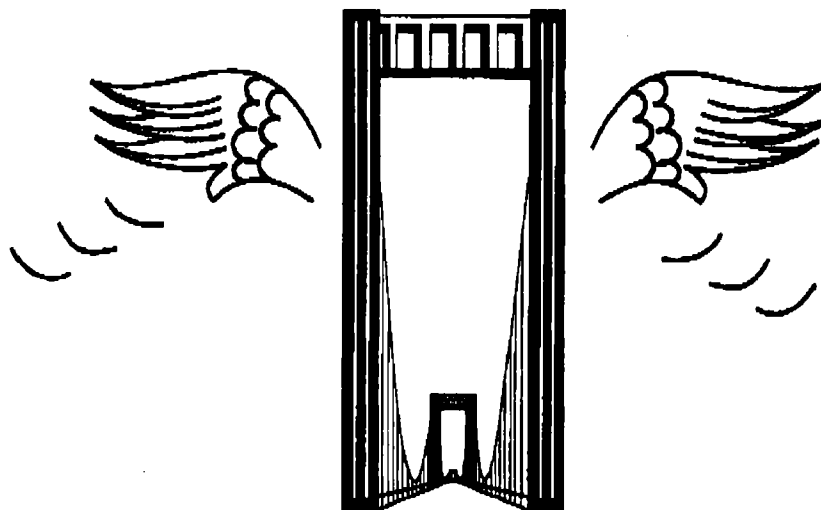
Mrs. Clinton's moving address convinced me that she is such a person who would value this experience and support our efforts. Do you think that she would give us the honor and join us on December 13? Please let me know what you think and how I should proceed. Any help or advice would be greatly appreciated.

With warm personal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Walther Leisler Klop', written in a cursive style.

Walther Leisler Klop

ATLANTIK



BRÜCKE

☆☆

TELEFAX

To	Mr. Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.
Company	Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld
Telefax n°	001-202-416-5260
Telefon n°	
Sent by	Walther Leisler Kiep
Date	May 10, 1995 n° of pages (Including cover): 3

AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER & FELD, L.L.P.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

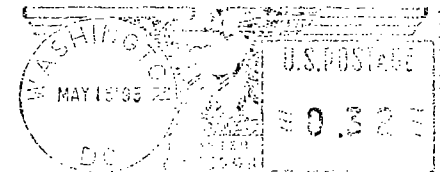
A REGISTERED LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP
INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS

1333 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, N.W.

SUITE 400

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

Maggie Williams
Chief of Staff for the First Lady
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500



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Clinton Library

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First Lady's Office
Maggie Williams (Correspondence)
OA/Box Number: 12630

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[Maggie Williams mail 1995-1996]: K

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2201(3).

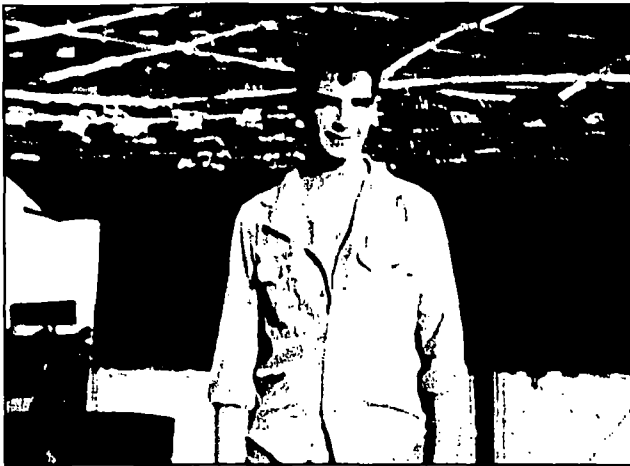
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of
an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial
information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of
personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement
purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of
financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information
concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

VA Changes Tune on Mustard Gas Claim

A young Clyde O. Priddy poses for photo at a U.S. airbase in Shamshernagar, India, July 1945.



Clyde O. Priddy was frustrated. He was angry. And the World War II veteran had a right to be. The VA had refused to reopen his case because the federal government steadfastly denied what the former toxic gas handler knew to be fact: Priddy suffered from the ill effects of his long exposure to mustard gas while serving in India from 1945 to 1946.

But thanks to Priddy's dogged determination and the efforts of DAV National Service Officers (NSOs) in Dallas and Waco, Texas, the VA in March 1994 instructed its regional adjudication office to proceed with the veteran's claim for service-connected disability secondary to exposure to mustard gas.

The 68-year-old veteran, praised the efforts of the DAV's Dennis R. Nixon, supervisory NSO, and Donald Sampson, assistant supervisory NSO, Waco, Texas. "They've been able to help me a lot," Priddy said. "They know the rules that the VA goes by."

"I must admit that I wasn't sure the VA would ever go along with it [reopening the claim originally filed in March 1993]," Priddy said.

Priddy, who already is receiving service-connected compensation for having lost an eye, sought redress for respiratory problems and other ailments he said stemmed from breathing and handling mustard gas. In denying the claim, the VA said there was nothing in Priddy's service record to indicate that he was exposed to the highly dangerous toxic agent.

The Arlington, Texas, veteran said that without the DAV's help he would never have penetrated the Department of Defense's (DoD) veil of secrecy about chemical warfare that he blames for the lack of information in his service record.

"I knew I had to give it everything I had to get the VA to recognize the validity of my claim," Priddy said. "And DAV's NSOs helped me an awful lot."

In support of his claim, Priddy produced, from among his wartime memorabilia, photographs of mustard gas canisters he and his comrades handled at a chemical storage site near Ondal, India, where he had been stationed. He also indicated on a map the locations of other chemical storage sites where he had been assigned. These, coupled with collaborating statements from other toxic gas handlers, who recounted how they and others were put at risk during their wartime service, convinced the VA to reconsider its earlier decision that denied Priddy's claim.

"I cannot stress enough the importance of being able to fully develop a claim for service-connected disability," said DAV Deputy National Service Director Kenneth D. Wolfe. "One of

the most important aspects is finding the right person who has access to the necessary information."

In this case, not only was the DAV able to assist Priddy in his claim, but it is apparent that the DAV can help a lot of other veterans with the information that the DoD has released on chemical weapons units in World War II, Wolfe noted.

DAV NSOs then presented the evidence to VA officials, who have since been very cooperative in helping develop the case and locating others in Priddy's unit, said Wolfe.

"One of the main problems with Priddy's claim, and others like it," Wolfe said, "is that because there was nothing about mustard gas in the veteran's service record, the VA didn't know where to start. But the information our NSOs got from Priddy gave them the right lead to present the issue."

VA Assistant Director for Policy, Compensation, and Pension Service Quinton Kinderman then sent the information to the DoD, which verified that Priddy's unit was active in India. In addition, a munitions expert at the U.S. Army's Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland confirmed that the canisters in Priddy's photographs were "consistent with those used for mustard agent and phosgene gas transported and stored in the China, India, and Burma Theater of Operations during World War II." The munitions expert also noted that the canisters "were notorious leakers due to the wartime manufacturing quality and the damp climate of the Indian continent [sic]."

According to reports released by the DoD, storing and handling chemical weapons during the war presented a number of problems that were left unsolved. With wartime production of mustard gas and other toxic chemicals in high gear, there wasn't time to construct completely leakproof containers.

Safety Measures Were Lacking

Likewise, in the rush to deploy supplies of mustard gas for possible use against the enemy, little was done to provide for the safety of personnel who handled those dangerous chemicals. Nor was it possible to develop sophisticated detection devices. Instead, toxic gas handlers were given only the most rudimentary safety training and learned to distinguish various chemicals by their odor.

Consequently, Priddy and his comrades in the 816th Chemical Company were in constant danger and had virtually no protection from the toxic substances they handled.

One unexpected outcome of developing his claim, Priddy said is that he "learned much more about mustard gas and the dangers it poses" than the meager training he received as a toxic gas handler.

"Nobody [in the Army] seemed to care about our safety," Priddy said. "From what I've learned on my own [about the harmful effects of mustard gas], the only thing that saved us is that we worked in the open air. I hate to think what might have happened to us if we had been in an enclosed area."

But even in the open, the chemical storage dump was a dangerous place to work.

In the sweltering heat of the tropics, pressure built up in the containers; ruptures were a constant threat. All the while, the highly corrosive gas silently ate away at the seals in a persistent attempt to escape. The toxic gas handlers had to be always on the alert for leaks.

"We had to see or smell the leak," wrote Curtis Hewlett, a veteran of Priddy's chemical weapons unit. "We had no other equipment for detecting leaks; it was sight and sniffing."

Hewlett also told how a comrade, who "was sniffing to find a leaker," had just turned his head away from a container as a stream of mustard gas sprayed his left ear.

When a leaker was found, Hewlett said, "it was picked up by hooks and a pole, which we laid on our shoulder and walked it to the pit to bury....One end of the trench was sloped so we could walk down into the trench and gently lay the bomb down."

The leakers were then covered with a few inches of dirt, then chloride of lime and another layer of dirt. And, as Hewlett noted, when the leaking mustard gas came in contact with the chloride of lime, the chemical reaction released more dangerous fumes.

For Priddy, his nearly daily exposure to the dangers of mustard gas lasted from the spring of 1945 to May of 1946.

When the war ended, the toxic gas handlers were then faced with the problem of what to do with the thousands of tons of dangerous chemicals amassed throughout China, Burma, and India.

Hyman Simms, another veteran of the 816th recounted how he and others were ordered to dispose of mustard gas stocks "as best as we could."

"We generally buried the leakers....doing most of the labor,

shoveling, lifting by hand," Simms said.

"We dug trenches for miles, buried what we could, and dumped what we could into the Bay of Bengal. We had casualties all through my tour. How bad they were, we never knew since most of them were sent back to the States," Simms said.

As Wolfe noted, "While there may never be a full accounting of those exposed to mustard gas during their military service, the VA, with the help of the DoD, has pledged to assist veterans all they can, including help in developing their cases.

"The VA is trying to identify as many affected veterans as possible," Wolfe noted, "and has taken steps to extend eligibility for compensation for disability and death resulting from the chronic effects of in-service exposure to mustard gas." (See related article on proposed VA regulations on this page.)

Veterans who believe they were exposed to mustard gas as a result of their military service are urged to contact their DAV National Service Officer.

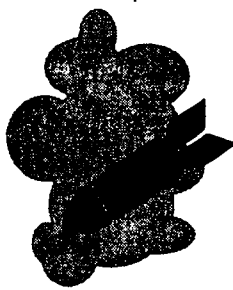


At far left, railroad cars loaded with mustard gas canisters roll through India, November 1945. Left, mustard gas canisters are dumped in Bay of Bengal, also in November 1945.

DAV Urges Liberalizing Rules on Mustard Gas Compensation

To help ensure just compensation for veterans exposed to mustard gas and other vesicant (blistering) agents, the DAV has urged the Department of Veterans Affairs to revise proposed regulations that would place an additional burden of proof on veterans filing claims.

The proposed rule published for comment in the *Federal Register* sought to extend compensation eligibility to "cover any verified full-body exposure during military service." This would include veterans exposed to mustard gas under battlefield conditions in World War I, those present at the German air raid on the harbor of Bari, Italy, during World War II, and those engaged in manufacturing and handling vesicant agents during their military service. Under current regulations eligibility is limited to veterans who participated in secret tests of such chemical agents during World War II.



National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson told the VA that even though this appears to extend eligibility for service-connected disability, the DAV is "unconvinced that the indicated liberalism is real." At the heart of the matter is the requirement that full-body exposure be verified. "This obviously is a higher standard of proof than currently required," Wilson said. "It would place a greater burden of proof on veterans before they could prevail in future claims."

Wilson noted that meeting the verification requirement would be most difficult "since the VA, and the United States government both agree that available service medical records are sparse to non-existent because much of the mustard gas research and experiments were conducted under rigorous secrecy to prevent disclosure of the activities."

The proposed changes in the VA's adjudication regulations were prompted, in part, by a National Academy of Sciences study of the long-term health effects of exposure to vesicant agents. The study, commissioned by the

VA, confirmed a link between in-service exposure to mustard gas and the subsequent development of certain conditions, some of which are covered under current regulations.

Verified full-body exposure to vesicant agents would make veterans eligible for service-connected compensation for the following chronic forms of cancer: nasopharyngeal, laryngeal, lung (except mesothelioma, which is typically linked to asbestos exposure), and squamous cell carcinoma of the skin.

The VA would grant service-connection for acute non-lymphocytic leukemia, as well as chronic forms of laryngitis, bronchitis, emphysema, asthma, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease resulting from full-body exposure to mustard gas.

The VA expects to finalize the new regulations in late summer.

In realistic terms, Wilson said, "much of the regulatory proposal gives with one hand, but takes away with the other. The language is strikingly familiar to overly restrictive provisions that were previously, and to some extent still are, so troublesome for veterans seeking to establish service connection for residuals of radiation exposure and Agent Orange exposure."

the same on the opening statement of David Rall

OPENING STATEMENT

David Rall, M.D., Ph.D.

**Retired Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences,
and Chair,
Committee to Survey the Health Effects of Mustard Gas and Lewisite,
Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences**

Press conference to release the committee's report

Veterans at Risk: The Health Effects of Mustard Gas and Lewisite

**January 6, 1993
National Academy of Sciences Building
Washington, D.C.**

In 1941, the U.S. began an intensive research program on poison gases because it was expected that such gases would be used in World War II. The White House organized these research programs to test a variety of protective measures, including clothing, against gas injuries. In experiments with the blistering agents -- mustard gas (or sulfur mustard) and Lewisite -- thousands of military personnel were used as test subjects. It is important to add that the vast majority of them received a drop of the agents on their arms. While this exposure is unlikely to have any but local effects, more than 4,000 experienced much more severe exposures in tests conducted under field conditions or in gas chambers.

Field and chamber tests were designed to test the effectiveness of protective clothing. In chamber tests, the men were outfitted with various amounts of protective clothing and gas masks. They entered gas chambers like the ones shown on pages 38 and 39 of your preprinted report copies for an hour at a time, repeatedly over a period of days, until

of January 15, 1992 (57 FR 1099-1700). Interested persons were invited to submit written comments, suggestions or objections on or before February 14, 1992. We received three comments, one from a Member of Congress, one from the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and one from a private individual.

One commenter suggested that the rule should require that the listed conditions be manifested within a specified period following exposure to mustard gas, and that the rule as proposed discriminates against World War I veterans who were exposed to mustard gas under combat conditions.

The available English language literature dealing with the effects of exposure to mustard gas includes British and American reports of World War I mustard gas casualties, a 1933 VA study of both living and dead veterans who had been exposed to mustard gas during the war, and a 1960 study of U.S. Army and VA records of 2,718 men who had been hospitalized for mustard gas poisoning in 1918. A review of this literature by Veterans Health Administration (VHA) personnel indicated that for individuals who survive acute poisoning with mustard gas, the chronic, long-term effects (those lasting longer than one year) which have been noted include laryngitis, bronchitis, emphysema, asthma, conjunctivitis, keratitis, and corneal opacities. That review further indicated that any chronic effects begin shortly after exposure; onset of symptoms is not delayed.

If a World War I veteran files a claim based on residual disability due to mustard gas exposure, service medical records should show evidence of the acute effects of the exposure, and VA develops for evidence establishing that the long-term, chronic effects for which compensation is claimed first appeared shortly after exposure and have existed continually since that time. While it certainly becomes more difficult to establish continuity of a chronic disability with the passage of time, in the case of World War I veterans there was no government-imposed condition which would have discouraged or prevented them from filing claims based on exposure to mustard gas at an earlier date.

Veterans who were exposed to mustard gas during experimental tests of protective clothing and equipment during World War II, however, face a potentially insurmountable disadvantage when attempting to establish entitlement to compensation. Those tests were conducted behind a strictly enforced veil of secrecy; medical

records associated with the tests are generally unavailable, and no long-term follow-up examinations were conducted. As a result, service medical records for individuals who participated in those tests may not show evidence of the acute effects of mustard gas exposure. Furthermore, it is likely that participants who developed chronic effects of exposure did not previously file compensation claims with VA solely because they had been instructed not to discuss their involvement in the tests. Physicians who may have treated these veterans for chronic effects more than 40 years ago have almost certainly retired from private practice, making it impossible for a veteran to establish that a chronic form of one of the specified disabilities has existed continually since exposure to mustard gas. For these reasons, VA believes that requiring a chronic form of one of the specified conditions, rather than establishing a manifestation requirement, better serves the purpose of this rulemaking.

Another commenter suggested that rather than naming specific conditions, this regulation should provide service connection for all diseases of the eyes, ears, nose and throat, as well as any damage to the respiratory, cardiovascular, renal and cutaneous systems. The third commenter suggested a specific list of additional conditions for inclusion.

VA does not concur. As discussed above, the proposed rule was based upon a review by VHA personnel of the available English language literature regarding the effects of exposure to mustard gas. That review identified the conditions specified in the regulation as the long-term effects of exposure. The information contained in those studies, however, is not sufficient to expand the list as suggested by either commenter. VA has contracted with the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct a review of the world medical and scientific literature, including that published in languages other than English, to determine the long-term health effects of exposure to mustard gas. The report is due in December 1992. After reviewing the NAS findings, VA will determine what, if any, change is warranted in our determination regarding the long-term effects of mustard gas exposure, and the regulation will be amended accordingly. In the meantime, we find no good cause to delay payment to those claimants who will be entitled under this rule while we attempt to determine whether the rule should cover a broader range of conditions.

One commenter noted that another agent, Lewisite, was also used during the secret testing of equipment and clothing during World War II, and suggested that the regulation also address the long-term effects of Lewisite exposure.

The literature VA has reviewed does not contain sufficient information regarding Lewisite to warrant a rule on its long-term effects. NAS will address the issue of exposure to other chemical agents, however, and we are deferring a decision as to whether rulemaking is warranted on other agents until more information is available to us.

Another commenter, because he did not find an effective date specified for the proposed rule, assumed that the liberalizing regulation rule found at 38 U.S.C. 5110(g) (formerly 3010(g)) applies.

The preamble to the proposed rule stated that the amendment was proposed to be, and in fact it is, effective the date of publication of the final rule (57 FR 1699). The Secretary finds good cause for doing so since this amendment relieves a restriction and will not work to the detriment of any claimant. This decision is fully consistent with VA's longstanding policy to administer the law under a broad interpretation for the benefit of veterans and their dependents (38 CFR 3.102). The commenter is correct in assuming that benefits cannot be payable under this regulation earlier than its effective date.

VA appreciates the comments submitted in response to the proposed rule, which is now adopted without amendment.

The Secretary hereby certifies that this regulatory amendment will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as they are defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), 5 U.S.C. 601-612. The reason for this certification is that this amendment would not directly affect any small entities. Only VA beneficiaries could be directly affected. Therefore, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(b), this amendment is exempt from the initial and final regulatory flexibility analysis requirements of sections 603 and 604.

In accordance with Executive Order 12291, Federal Regulation, the secretary has determined that this regulatory amendment is non-major for the following reasons:

- (1) It will not have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more.
- (2) It will not cause a major increase in costs or prices.
- (3) It will not have significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or

Jan. 6, 1993

Mustard Gas - page 5

CATEGORIES SHOWING THE RELATIONSHIP OF EXPOSURE TO MUSTARD AGENTS AND LEWISITE TO LONG-TERM HEALTH CONSEQUENCES

The evidence studied by the committee **INDICATED** a causal relationship between exposure to mustard agents (and Lewisite, where noted) and the following health conditions:

- Respiratory cancers
nasopharyngeal, laryngeal, lung
- Skin cancer
- Pigmentation abnormalities of the skin
- Chronic skin ulceration and scar formation
- Leukemia (typically acute nonlymphocytic type, from exposure to nitrogen mustard)
- Chronic respiratory diseases (also Lewisite)
asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema,
chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, chronic laryngitis
- Recurrent corneal ulcerative disease
(includes corneal opacities; acute severe injuries to the eye from Lewisite will also persist)
- Delayed recurrent keratitis of the eye
- Chronic conjunctivitis
- Bone marrow depression and (resulting) immunosuppression
- Psychological disorders
mood disorders, anxiety disorders, including post-traumatic
stress disorder, other traumatic stress disorder responses
- Sexual dysfunction

The evidence studied by the committee **SUGGESTED** a causal relationship between exposure and the following health conditions:

- Leukemia (acute nonlymphocytic type related to exposure to sulfur mustard)
- Reproductive dysfunction

There was **INSUFFICIENT** evidence to demonstrate a causal relationship between exposure and the following health conditions:

- Gastrointestinal diseases
- Hematologic diseases
- Neurologic diseases
- Reproductive dysfunction (Lewisite)
- Cardiovascular diseases

their skin showed evidence of burns. The men were told never to reveal their participation in these secret testing programs -- and most never did until the 1980s, when a few came forward to claim compensation for serious health problems that they believed were caused by their exposure.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in response to the men's claims, agreed to cover asthma, chronic conjunctivitis, and five other diseases. But it wanted scientific advice on whether to add any other health problems to their list and came to the Institute of Medicine for that advice. Our committee was asked by the VA to survey the scientific and medical literature and assess the strength of association between exposure to mustard gas and Lewisite and the development of specific diseases. Our committee reviewed nearly 2,000 scientific papers and other documents, and spoke with numerous outside experts. Much of the data were of very poor quality, where they existed at all. In addition, we talked to over 260 veterans and reviewed the historical records of the Chemical Warfare Service. It became clear that many chamber and field test subjects suffered skin, laryngeal, and lung damage. Overall, the levels of exposure by the human subjects may have been much higher than previously believed, perhaps as high as battlefield exposures. The military's failure to document this, or to track the men in later life, was disturbing and limited the information available to us.

Nonetheless, we were able to reach certain conclusions about the long-term health effects. In some cases, the evidence indicated a causal relationship between exposure and a particular disease. For a few diseases, the data were suggestive but not completely clear. For others, there was insufficient evidence to demonstrate a causal relationship.

The breakdown is given in the chart at the end of the press release. We include the seven diseases on the VA's list and add other, new health consequences associated with exposure.

Large gaps still exist in the knowledge base, and our committee suggests that the VA carry out epidemiological studies, comparing the human subjects of gas chamber, field, and skin tests with appropriate control groups. This would help clear up some of our questions about long-term health effects.

The VA, along with the Department of Defense, also needs to reach out to the men who took part in these tests, as well as to their families and physicians. There are thousands of these veterans still alive across the United States. Most took a vow of secrecy at the time of the experiments and have never broken it. The military should have released them from this vow long ago and provided them with medical follow-up, if for no other reason than to gather data that could shed light on a host of medical problems. The veterans were left to wonder in silence about possible long-term health effects.

The government needs to reach out to these men, offer medical evaluations, and treat any possible exposure-related health problems. Similar outreach is needed with former weapons production workers who were exposed to these chemicals and veterans exposed after the bombing of a munitions ship in Bari harbor, Italy. Long-term follow-up studies of the health status of those exposed would be important. Mustard gas reportedly has been used in the recent Armenian-Azerbaijan and Iraq-Kurdish conflicts, and it is likely that its use will continue. Information derived from long-term follow-up studies will be increasingly

important.

The chamber and field tests were conducted before the Nuremberg Code of 1947 established formal principles to govern the proper treatment of human subjects, so perhaps it is possible to understand them historically. But we cannot excuse the fact that test subjects, particularly those who suffered severe burns and inhalation injuries, were neglected so long after the war ended.

These volunteers served our country with honor and at great personal cost. They were mistreated twice -- first, in the secret testing and then by the official denials that lasted for decades. Now, years later, it's time to set things right.

At this time, my colleagues and I will be happy to answer your questions. Please state your name and affiliation when asking a question.

* * *



YOUR TAXES THEIR ADS

Millions of dollars go to large companies to promote products worldwide. . .

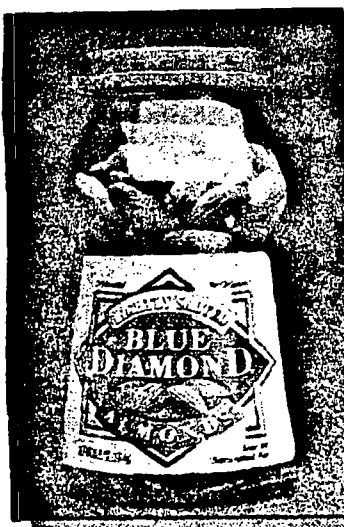
What taxpayers are selling

BLUE DIAMOND
(almonds)
\$7,587,000

DOLE (fruits, nuts
and raisins)
\$4,323,043

SUN-MAID
(raisins)
\$2,680,750

E&J GALLO
(wines)
\$2,330,000



The Agriculture Department paid to advertise these and other brands overseas during the 1990 budget year*

OTHER COMPANIES

Company	Tax money spent
Sunkist Growers.....	\$9,234,667
Sunsweet Growers.....	3,272,000
American Legend Mink Cooperative.....	1,370,000
Pillsbury Co.....	1,239,500
Rockingham Poultry Marketing Cooperative.....	1,210,000
Hudson's Bay Fur Sales Inc.....	880,000
Welch's.....	648,145
Heublein (wines).....	510,000
Vininer's (wines).....	480,000
Ralston Purina.....	380,000
Seagram's.....	310,000
Riceland (rice).....	230,000

Company	Tax money spent
Manning Beef.....	\$200,000
Campbell Soup.....	180,000
Kal Kan pet foods.....	180,000
Tree Top Inc. (fruit drink).....	180,000
Decoster Egg Farms.....	150,000
Colonial meats.....	114,875
Weaver Popcorn.....	100,000
K-Paul's (Cajun foods).....	60,000
Newman's Own.....	50,000
Celestial Seasonings.....	30,000
Boston Beer.....	25,000

*Latest figure available

by: USDA/GAO

The Star

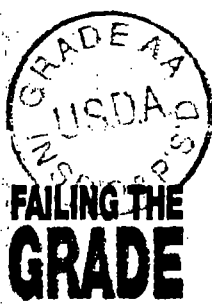
Program lines pockets of food giants

By JEFF TAYLOR
and MIKE MCGRAW
Special Projects
© 1991, The Kansas City Star Co.

WASHINGTON —
Food giants don't come much bigger than Dole, one of the world's largest fruit companies.

Among its many ventures, the conglomerate raises its own pineapples and bananas on 50,000 acres of plantations from Hawaii to Thailand.

At \$3 billion, its sales last year nearly matched the sales of all crops grown in Missouri and



Betrays and blunders at the Department of Agriculture

export promotion money to the company last year.

"That's a drop in the bucket to us," concedes company spokesman Carol Klein.

And it's also just one small part of a \$200 million-a-year government venture called the Market Promotion Program. Better known among industry recipients by its old name,

Kansas.

But the U.S. Department of Agriculture thinks Dole needs help from American taxpayers to advertise its products overseas. On your behalf, the department gave \$4 million in

Targeted Export Assistance, the program has spent about \$1 billion since 1986 for foreign television commercials, grocery displays, wine tastings and other promotions in markets around the world.

It's supposed to help shore up America's sagging exports by promoting the labor of American farmers.

But often, according to an examination by *The Kansas City Star*, your money merely becomes advertising pocket

change for some of the world's biggest food companies, like Sunkist growers (\$9 million), Tyson Foods (\$4.6 million), E&J Gallo Wines (\$2.3 million) and Pillsbury Foods (\$1.2 million).

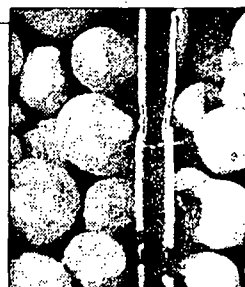
How do those giants spend your money? Many would not say.

Even some USDA employees who oversee the program for the Foreign Agricultural Service say they have no idea exactly how the money was spent. They say

See **EXPORT, A-22**, Col. 1

Inside

Rebellious farmers say Sunkist and other industry giants use a USDA-backed marketing system to keep food prices high and competitors in line/A-23



James C. Kimble
6430 Walrond Avenue
Kansas City, Missouri
64132-1260



\$2.98

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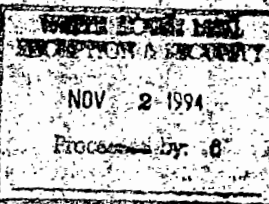
Fold at line over top of envelope to the
right of the return address

CERTIFIED

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MAIL

Ms. Maggie Williams
Office of First Lady
White House
Room 10000 EOB
Washington, D.C. 20515



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Linda Kaufman

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Veterans
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