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RELEASED

74-0526

# Alleged Irregularities At The Weber Basin Job Corps Center, Utah

B-130515

Department of Labor  
Department of the Interior

**BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

90466  
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JUNE 10, 1974



COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

B-130515

The Honorable Gunn McKay  
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. McKay:

Your May 3, 1973, letter requested that we inquire into alleged management irregularities at the Weber Basin Job Corps Center, Ogden, Utah. We reviewed each of the 13 allegations provided to us and discussed these allegations with current and former Center personnel and with regional office officials of the Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior. The Bureau operates the Center under an interagency agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Department of Labor, which is responsible for carrying out the Job Corps program.

The results of our review are in appendix I. In general, we found some substance to many of the allegations. However, most of the alleged activities took place several years ago and personnel changes have been made to improve Center operations. Because of reported low morale and dissension among the staff, the Center's administration came under Bureau scrutiny late in 1970. As a result, the Director of the Collbran Job Corps Center in Colorado was transferred and became the Director of the Weber Basin Job Corps Center on July 10, 1971. In September 1971 a new Assistant Center Director for Weber Basin was also appointed from the Collbran staff. A new administrative officer had been appointed in January 1971.

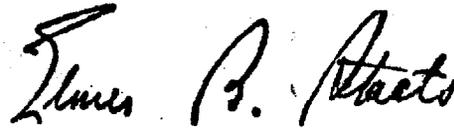
Bureau officials assured us that corrective action would be taken when practices and procedures needed strengthening. According to the Center Director, he is improving administrative operations as quickly as possible but delays have resulted from staff shortages caused by budget restraints.

The Departments of the Interior and Labor were given an opportunity to comment on the contents of this report and their views have been considered in preparing the report. (App. II and III.)

B-130515

We are providing copies of this report to the Secretary of the Interior and to the Secretary of Labor. We plan no further distribution of this report.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James B. Stewart". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Comptroller General  
of the United States

## INFORMATION ON ALLEGATIONS

## CONCERNING THE WEBER BASIN JOB CORPS CENTER

ALLEGATION 1

The employee union secretary has an affidavit signed by the operator of the county dump near Hill Air Force Base, Utah, stating that in the summer of 1970 the Weber Basin Job Corps Center disposed of new clothing valued at about \$12,000. The dump operator later sold some of these articles. The warehousemen at the Center had been ordered to get rid of the clothing to make room for other materials.

Findings

On June 6, 1970, several loads of new and used clothing and other property were hauled from the Center to a county dump near Hill Air Force Base. We were unable to obtain or make a reasonable estimate of the materials' value. On October 20, 1970, the dump operator made a written statement about the incident, including the observation that the clothing consisted of foul weather gear, boots, socks, and other assorted gear and that the two men unloading the truck had stated they were under instructions from their supervisor to throw the items away.

Agreeing that he wrote this statement, the dump operator said that several people picked up some of this material and that he also had picked up some of the items and sold them. He said the dumped items included 30 to 40 pairs of rubber boots, about 20 pairs of leather boots, new socks, new and used raincoats, heavy winter parkas, and wet-weather overalls. He showed us some items that he said had been dumped and that he had saved. These items included a leather boot which had little evidence of wear, a rubber arctic-type boot which had no evidence of wear, a parka which was still in serviceable condition, a new plastic raincoat, and new wet-weather overalls.

The administrative officer for the Center at the time of this incident said most of the material sent to the dump had been received from the Castle Valley Job Corps Center, Price, Utah, after it closed in 1969. He said that the material had occupied space in the Weber Basin Center's warehouse which was needed for the union-operated bricklaying program for training corpsmen that had been started at the Center in June 1970.

## APPENDIX I

The former administrative officer gave us his office memorandum dated June 8, 1970, regarding this incident. The memorandum stated that on June 4 he had informed the Assistant Center Director of his intention to dispose of the material. The memorandum listed some of the material that was disposed of, including raincoats, extra-large and extra-small leather boots, tennis shoes, firefighters' pants and jackets, rubber boots, and assorted supply and equipment items. According to the memorandum, about one-third of the material was new, such as the raincoats, rubber boots, and tennis shoes; one-third had been used but was still usable; and about one-third was junk.

The memorandum also stated that the former administrative officer and a supply officer went through all the material and determined what was to be disposed of. At that time, instructions were given to two warehouse personnel--one responsible for procurement and the other for warehousing--to dump the material and to keep a record of what was disposed of. According to the supply officer, the warehouse personnel had been instructed not to load anything on the truck without permission, but the warehouse personnel said they had merely been instructed to dispose of the warehouse items and that no records were kept. Neither of the warehouse personnel is currently employed by the Center.

Bureau of Reclamation instructions provide that usable property excess to the needs of a center be offered to other Job Corps centers and then to other agencies for their use. If the material is not disposed of in this manner, it should be donated for education, public health, or civil defense purposes; sold; or destroyed. Clothing that cannot be reissued to corpsmen because of shrinkage, or that is considered to be of no commercial value, should be donated to Indian tribes. Before donation or destruction, a Report of Survey should be made.

The former administrative officer said none of these actions was taken for the material that went to the dump because of the urgency to clean out the storage area. He also said that a Report of Survey was not made because a record was not made of exactly what was disposed of.

Officials of the Bureau of Reclamation regional office in Salt Lake City told us that, under normal circumstances,

the clothing would have been put in the regular store inventory. Although not condoning what happened, they said that the material was not inventoried because some items were used and the majority of the items were either extra-large or extra-small sizes.

## ALLEGATION 2

A load of doors and casings for remodeling was lost or misplaced.

## Findings

The Center had some building materials which the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America used in the carpentry training program and which were under the control of the union coordinator who took a quarterly inventory resulting in adjustments as needed to the cost records. Detailed records showing how much of a particular item of building material was in the training program's stock at a given time were not maintained.

The principal alleged could not identify any specific load of doors that was lost or misplaced. However, the Center Director said the union coordinator had complained about the doors being stored in an open area and that he had had the area enclosed so that it would be under the control of the union coordinator.

In March 1972 the carpenters, as part of their training program, remodeled the Center's administration building. The union coordinator for the carpentry program said that a union carpenter had delivered casings to the worksite but that they were missing the following morning. He showed us a memorandum dated March 17, 1972, that he had prepared and addressed to the Center Work Director and the Assistant Center Director, which stated:

"On March 16, 1972, \*\*\* [the union carpenter] took 1 bundle of 7' Birch Casing and 1 bundle of 12' Birch casing to the administration building work site. It was on the job when he finished the days work, yesterday. When he started working this a.m., we were unable to locate the bundle of 12' and part of the 7'."

## APPENDIX I

counseled about travel without proper authorization and about his responsibilities relating to Government vehicles. The Center Director had no knowledge about whether drinking was involved in either of the incidents.

In July 1973 this same employee received a 30-day suspension without pay for an incident that occurred because he used a Government-leased vehicle for personal use in October 1972 while on temporary training duty with other Center employees. The person in charge of the group attending this training session and the Center Director both informed us that drinking was not a factor in this incident.

### ALLEGATION 12

The Director received six awards for no time lost due to accidents on the job. However, there have been many corpsmen injured on the job and many injuries have not been reported.

### Findings

A lost-time accident is defined as "one that results in an injury causing the individual to be unable to return to work the following day." An injury to a corpsman is not chargeable as a lost-time accident unless it occurs during supervised activity. The Center received six safety awards from the Department of the Interior for no lost-time accidents in supervised activity for all but about 15 months of the 72 months from January 1966 to December 1971.

We reviewed the Center nurse's log and identified 11 injuries to corpsmen between August 1969 and September 1972 that resulted in lost time due to confinement in the Center dispensary or local hospital. Only four of these were reported to the Bureau's regional office. One of the remaining seven could have affected an award if reported, but information was not available regarding whether this injury occurred during supervised activity. The other six unreported injuries occurred outside award periods.

The Center Director said that he knew the reporting procedures needed strengthening and that he had taken steps to correct the problem.

Findings

Center officials told us that, in the past, clothing and boots unserviceable to the Job Corps were slashed to prevent the general public from using them after disposal. By January 1971 this practice had been discontinued. After January 1971 such clothing and boots were donated to Indian organizations. However, we learned that about May 1972 some clothing items were buried on Center grounds. At our request, Center officials had the area excavated and we found some used underwear and boots, along with some outdated foodstuffs and old metal wall lockers.

The Center Director told us that burying clothing had never been authorized. He said that, after considerable investigation, it was concluded that this clothing was inadvertently picked up at the overflow warehouse near the Center along with some items that were authorized for burying. He said clothing that is no longer of use to the Job Corps is accumulated in this warehouse until a Report of Survey is made and the material is disposed of. We inspected this warehouse and noted that a large quantity of used boots, shoes, and other clothing had been accumulated. The Center was donating this clothing to Indian tribes.

It is the Job Corps' policy not to reissue used underwear, socks, and handkerchiefs. Also, shoes or boots that have taken on physical characteristics of the previous wearer's foot are not reissued because orthopedic damage could occur to another wearer. Other clothing may be reissued, but preferably only as replacement items to the original issue.

ALLEGATION 5

An employee was asked to take three men to town to purchase boots. The clerk in charge of the supply unit protested because he could not understand why used boots could not be used.

Findings

Job Corps centers stock shoes, boots, and other clothing only in normal sizes. Unusual sizes must be purchased locally as needed. In addition, steel-toed boots are necessary

## APPENDIX I

for work crews and must be purchased locally if the incoming corpsman's size is not in stock. Used boots which have not taken on the physical characteristics of the previous wearer's foot are reissued as stated above.

### ALLEGATION 6

A load of plywood and bricks was reported to be missing.

#### Findings

None of the people interviewed could identify any situation when such materials were definitely missing. However, the Center Work Director told us that about December 1971 one of the union carpenters thought he was missing a large amount of plywood. The Center Work Director said he was able to account for all of the plywood believed to be missing.

He said that most material is ordered for specific projects but that circumstances, such as inclement weather, require shifting materials among projects in progress. The result is that accountability for materials is sometimes difficult to maintain.

### ALLEGATION 7

Two employees were sent to San Francisco to examine beds reported available to the Center. These men stated the beds were not serviceable but they were shipped anyway, at the expense of \$2,000 to the Center, and subsequently were thrown in the dump.

#### Findings

In March 1972 the Bureau of Reclamation's Salt Lake City regional office sent two employees--one of whom was the regional chief for property management--to Fort Ord, California, to examine surplus material, including clothing, beds, and blankets. The regional property chief told us that all of the 120 folding beds and 500 steel tubular beds were serviceable and that they were shipped to the Center at a cost of \$2,154. Many of the beds were obtained because of

Bureau plans to establish a training facility at a Navajo Indian reservation in New Mexico.

The folding beds were subsequently transferred to two youth conservation centers operated by the Bureau under contracts with a State college and a local nonprofit organization. The Weber Basin Center's warehouse supervisor told us that 10 of the steel tubular beds were on loan to the U.S. Forest Service and that the remainder were at the Center. We found that the Center used 8 of the tubular beds and that the 482 other beds were stored there. Tarpaulin covered the stored beds which appeared to be in useable condition. The Center Director said that the beds only required painting to be ready for service.

#### ALLEGATION 8

When the Castle Valley Job Corps Center closed, much of the equipment was moved to the Weber Basin Center. One piece of heavy equipment was en route for 2-1/2 years and it was seen on a farm during that time. Several tape recorders never arrived at the Center.

#### Findings

The Castle Valley Center was closed in 1969. Equipment was transferred to the Weber Basin Center, including a tractor with backhoe attachment which was not recorded on the Weber Basin Center's inventory records until May 1971 after being found during a physical inventory. Two employees of Weber Basin, on July 22, 1969, transported this tractor from Castle Valley. Both individuals assured us that the tractor had arrived at Weber Basin on July 22.

The principal allegor referred us to a staff member who had told him that another staff member had seen a piece of Job Corps heavy equipment on a farm in central Utah. The first staff member's understanding was that the piece of equipment was the tractor with the backhoe. The second staff member told us that he had only heard rumors about the tractor being on a farm. We could not determine whether the tractor was ever used on a farm.

The Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, operated the Castle Valley Center and supplied

## APPENDIX I

listings of the equipment available for transfer, from which the Weber Basin Center made transfer orders. Records show that small equipment items were picked up in June 1969 and the heavy equipment was transported to Weber Basin in June and July 1969. Transferred items were recorded on the Weber Basin Center's property records in August 1969.

We verified that all pieces of heavy equipment, except the tractor in question and a forklift, were recorded on the Weber Basin Center's property records at that time. An administrative officer told us that the forklift was found at the Center in 1971, about the time the tractor with the backhoe was found. However, the forklift was not properly identified on the Center's inventory records until April 1972.

From Bureau of Land Management records on transferred equipment, we prepared a list of all heavy equipment items, all tape recorders, and about 10 percent of the other items on the records. We physically inspected or otherwise accounted for all of these items, except for three tape recorders, a television set, and two movie projectors. Center records showed that these items had been received on June 27, 1969. The listing used to record the transferred equipment in August 1969 showed that the two movie projectors and one tape recorder were broken and of no value. No later records could be located on the six items. Center personnel searched for these items but could not locate them.

### ALLEGATION 9

It was reported to the Bureau of Reclamation's regional office in Salt Lake City that an employee took a load of cement. The Director of the Weber Basin Center purportedly remarked to another employee that if the incident had been reported to him it would have been hushed up.

### Findings

In August 1971, a Center employee told the Bureau Regional Chief for Property Management that an employee had taken 12 sacks of cement and had had corpsmen load it into his personal truck. At the direction of the Assistant to

the Regional Director, the Chief, Property Management, started an investigation.

According to a memorandum dated September 29, 1971, from the Center Director to the Regional Director, the incident occurred about August 5, 1971, and the Center Director became aware of it about August 11. When he confronted the employee on August 12, the employee denied having taken the cement, but on August 20 he admitted taking it for his personal use. The Regional Director was advised of this situation on August 20 and he and the Center Director decided to allow the employee to resign in the face of an investigation. The employee resigned and returned the cement.

Regional personnel could not verify receiving the September 29, 1971, memorandum but they were aware of the situation.

According to Bureau of Reclamation instructions, the Office of the Secretary of the Interior reserves jurisdiction to investigate all serious complaints against employees. These instructions provide that, when information, allegations, complaints, or other communications involving Bureau employees indicate that these matters are serious, all pertinent facts are to be reported through channels to the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation for referral to the Secretary.

The Assistant to the Regional Director told us that on Friday, August 20, 1971, a regional official tried to telephone this incident to the Commissioner's Office in Washington, D.C., but could not get through because it was late in the day. No further attempt to report the incident was made. The Regional Chief for Property Management said the incident was investigated before referral because of the belief that the employee would not have had corpsmen load cement into his personal truck unless he was taking it to a worksite.

A Notification of Personnel Action form with an effective date of August 20, 1971, showed that the employee resigned due to working conditions and the nature of the work. The region's personnel officer said that, if the Office of the Secretary had initiated a formal investigation

## APPENDIX I

and the employee had resigned during such an investigation, this fact would have been recorded on the personnel form. He stated that, since the incident was not reported to, or investigated by, the Office of the Secretary, such a notation would have been improper.

The individual has been working in the maintenance department at Hill Air Force Base since September 22, 1971. His personnel folder included the personnel form prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation in August 1971, but we found no evidence that his new employer was aware of the Weber Basin incident.

The Center Director told us that, if the incident had been reported directly to him at the time it was discovered, it would have been handled through channels in a quieter manner. Regional officials told us that, if similar incidents occurred in the future, they would be handled according to Bureau of Reclamation instructions.

### ALLEGATION 10

The Center hired about 10 people without following civil service regulations of advertising through a register.

### Findings

The principal allegor questioned six employees' appointments to the Center's staff. The American Federation of Government Employees, Local 3284, also requested information on these six appointments from the Bureau of Reclamation regional office. In his reply to the union, the regional personnel officer pointed out that all six positions were filled without advertising because they did not involve promotions and that none of these actions were contrary to the provisions of the Bureau's Merit Promotion Plan approved by the Civil Service Commission.

We found that the appointment actions had been handled according to the Merit Promotion Plan, which under certain circumstances allows positions in which no promotions are involved to be filled by reassignment or some other action. The six employees were reassigned to positions at or below their former grade levels and their personnel folders showed they were qualified for the positions to which they were

reassigned. The regional personnel officer said that the region had retained the authority to appoint personnel to fill positions at the Center; therefore, the region, not Center personnel, approved all final actions on these reassignments.

We randomly selected files for 5 of the remaining 44 Center employees and found that they had been listed on a civil service register at the time of their employment and had been hired in accordance with civil service regulations.

#### ALLEGATION 11

One employee was caught drinking while driving on two separate occasions and nothing was done.

#### Findings

The principal allegor identified the employee and told us that in 1972 the employee had been involved in an unreported accident with a Government-owned vehicle. On another occasion the employee had misappropriated a Government-leased vehicle for his personal use. The allegor could not refer us to anyone who had actually seen the employee drinking while driving, but the employee was allegedly drunk during these incidents. The allegor also mentioned that corpsmen who allegedly saw this employee drinking while driving were no longer at the Center.

The employee in question was involved in an accident while driving a Government-owned vehicle in September 1972, but did not submit an accident report to proper authorities until November 1972. According to personnel at the General Services Administration (GSA) motor pool in Ogden, Utah, the accident was not reported until after they informed the Center that a vehicle turned in for routine maintenance had been in an accident that caused about \$50 worth of damage. Accidents involving GSA vehicles are required to be reported promptly to the local GSA motor pool.

Shortly after the September 1972 incident, the employee took a busload of corpsmen to Jackson, Wyoming, without proper authorization. At the time he was in charge of the group at a worksite which was away from the Center. The Center Director stated that as a result the employee was

## APPENDIX I

counseled about travel without proper authorization and about his responsibilities relating to Government vehicles. The Center Director had no knowledge about whether drinking was involved in either of the incidents.

In July 1973 this same employee received a 30-day suspension without pay for an incident that occurred because he used a Government-leased vehicle for personal use in October 1972 while on temporary training duty with other Center employees. The person in charge of the group attending this training session and the Center Director both informed us that drinking was not a factor in this incident.

### ALLEGATION 12

The Director received six awards for no time lost due to accidents on the job. However, there have been many corpsmen injured on the job and many injuries have not been reported.

### Findings

A lost-time accident is defined as "one that results in an injury causing the individual to be unable to return to work the following day." An injury to a corpsman is not chargeable as a lost-time accident unless it occurs during supervised activity. The Center received six safety awards from the Department of the Interior for no lost-time accidents in supervised activity for all but about 15 months of the 72 months from January 1966 to December 1971.

We reviewed the Center nurse's log and identified 11 injuries to corpsmen between August 1969 and September 1972 that resulted in lost time due to confinement in the Center dispensary or local hospital. Only four of these were reported to the Bureau's regional office. One of the remaining seven could have affected an award if reported, but information was not available regarding whether this injury occurred during supervised activity. The other six unreported injuries occurred outside award periods.

The Center Director said that he knew the reporting procedures needed strengthening and that he had taken steps to correct the problem.

ALLEGATION 13

Staff members were angry about the inaccuracy of an April 18, 1973, newspaper article which stated that the job placement rate of terminating corpsmen was 89 percent. Employees believed that the rate was closer to 5 percent.

Findings

State employment service offices, rather than individual Job Corps centers, are responsible for placing terminating corpsmen. Upon termination, each center categorizes corpsmen as follows:

Category I--corpsmembers who depart from a center after 3 months or longer and have:

1. Satisfactorily completed an authorized vocational skills training program in full.
2. Received a high school diploma or passed the General Education Development tests and have been accepted by a college, an apprenticeship program, technical school, or other educational program.
3. Entered the Armed Forces.

Category II--corpsmembers who depart from a center after 3 months or longer and have satisfactorily completed an authorized vocational skills training program at an identifiable stepoff level at which they qualify for employment.

Category III--corpsmembers who remain in the Job Corps less than 3 months.

The Department of Labor's Job Corps placement summary for fiscal year 1973, which we did not independently verify, shows the following placements from the Weber Basin Center.

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	<u>Cate- gory I</u>	<u>Cate- gory II</u>	<u>Cate- gory III</u>	<u>All Cate- gories</u>
Total terminees fiscal year 1973	169	120	174	463
Less:				
Reentered Job Corps, ill or confined, and not located	<u>3</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>44</u>
Available for placement	<u>166</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>146</u>	<u>419</u>
Placed:				
Employed	129	71	93	293
Entered and/or accepted into school	6	11	26	43
Entered and/or accepted into Armed Forces	<u>28</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>39</u>
Total placed	<u>163</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>375</u>
Placement percentage of terminees available for placement	98.2	81.3	85.6	89.5

A Department official explained that the overall placement rate was in line with the 85.1 percent national Job Corps average for that year. He said a corpsman is counted as a placement if, within 3 months after leaving, he becomes employed, is accepted into or enters an educational program, or is accepted into or enters the military.



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

MAR 19 1974

Mr. Henry Eschwege  
Director, Resource and Economic  
Development Division  
U.S. General Accounting Office  
Washington, D. C. 20548

Dear Mr. Eschwege:

Your proposed report to Congressman Gunn McKay on your inquiry into alleged irregularities at the Weber Basin Job Corps Center, Utah has been reviewed by the Bureau of Reclamation, which operates the Center. As the report states, most of the alleged activities took place several years ago; and changes in personnel and management techniques were made to improve Center operations.

The Bureau has provided the following comments on some of the Allegations and Findings and has stated that allegations, if properly reported to Center officials, would have been acted upon in accordance with established reporting procedures and regulations.

1. Allegations Nos. 2 and 6. One area of concern is the safeguarding of work project materials once they have been delivered to the worksite. Precautions to protect materials have always been taken and, under current staff ceiling and budget limitations, the Bureau believes it is doing all that is possible. If lost or stolen items are reported to responsible staff officials, a report is made in accordance with Bureau and Department regulations.

(See GAO note)

2. Allegation No. 3. On occasion, nonstandard safety hose has been mixed with the Center's standard firefighting equipment. From a safety standpoint, it is essential to remove the nonstandard hose before a critical situation develops, and this is being done.
3. Allegation No. 12. The Center has implemented a daily log procedure for all accidents reported during each 24-hour period to assure that corpsman injuries are properly documented. The log is prepared by the Nurse and is distributed to the Safety Officer and the Administrative Officer by the close of business each day. In addition,

GAO note: Material deleted pertains to a matter contained in the draft report but deleted from the final report.

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the Safety Officer's responsibilities have been changed to allow more time for followup on Safety items.

(See GAO note)

We believe the draft report is a fair review of the allegations and appreciate the opportunity afforded us to comment on it.

Sincerely yours,

  
Allan L. Reynolds  
Director of Audit  
and Investigation

GAO note: Material deleted pertains to a matter contained in the draft report but deleted from the final report.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210



APR 1 1974

Mr. Gregory J. Ahart  
Director  
Manpower and Welfare  
Division  
U. S. General Accounting  
Office  
Washington, D. C. 20548

Dear Mr. Ahart:

We have reviewed your draft report of inquiry into alleged irregularities at the Weber Basin Job Corps Center, Utah, and submit the following comments.

The passage of time (4 years) and the change of key supervisory personnel since the alleged commission of most of the allegations tend to diminish the need for any further action on these matters. The overall performance of Weber Basin for the past 3 years is considered excellent and the expenditure of any additional funds or personnel resources in pursuit of an indictable offense does not appear justifiable.

Admittedly, there appears to have been an abundance of poor judgement and loose administration by the former senior staff; however, your investigation also supports our findings that the allegeders were not aware of the circumstances in many instances.

Appropriate corrective action appears to have been taken to prevent the recurrence of similar problems in the future.

Specific response to each allegation follows:

1. By his own written admission the administrative officer states that considerable excess clothing and equipment were disposed of at the county dump. His justification for this action was the urgency to clean out the storage area in preparation for occupancy of a union program. Since the property was obtained from a closed center without inventory, much of it used or unsalvageable, it is understandable why it was

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disposed of in this manner. Ideally, however, the property should have been donated to a worthy agency.

2. No concrete evidence that doors or casings were, in fact, missing. Positive steps have been taken to protect issued materials from loss in the future.

3. Perhaps the reason for disposing of the new fire hose was justified. It follows, however, that poor judgement was used in the manner in which it was discarded. This property should have been reported on a Federal excess property list.

4. Disposal of unserviceable clothing is normally surveyed or donated to a deserving agency. There is some question here as to the definition of serviceable. Used shoes, boots and undergarments are not reissued to Job Corpsmen. These questionable practices (method of disposal) appear to have ceased and proper procedures are now being followed.

5. The purchase of new boots on the local market is authorized when proper sizes are not available in center inventory.

6. There is no evidence to support the allegation that any plywood or bricks were unlawfully removed from the center.

7. The allegation that 120 folding beds and 500 steel tubular beds were unserviceable is without supporting evidence. Contrary to the allegations, it appears that many of the beds were put to use or are being stored for future use.

8. Your investigation adequately accounts for the equipment inherited from Castle Valley.

9. Official administrative action should have been taken against the employee who took and later returned the cement. The omission of any action at the time of the incident is inexcusable but moot at this time since the individual did resign and returned the materials in question. Provisions have been made to follow proper procedures in any future situation of this kind.

10. No substance to the allegation that ten persons were hired outside of Civil Service regulations.

11. The allegation that "one individual" was caught drinking while driving on two separate occasions apparently cannot be supported. It appears, however, that this "individual" is suspect in the performance of his duties. Reportedly, disciplinary action has been taken.

12. Reporting procedures for accidents and injuries on the job must be strengthened. Perhaps the Bureau of Reclamation should review the Weber Basin record for the period 1969 to 1972 and determine whether the center was eligible for the safety awards.

13. This allegation is without foundation. The official placement record speaks for itself.

We trust that these comments will provide you with an adequate basis for your reply for Congressman McKay.

Sincerely,

*Fred G. Clark*

FRED G. CLARK  
Assistant Secretary for  
Administration and Management