



Corporation  
for Public  
Broadcasting

Office of Inspector General

November 29, 2005

Honorable David Obey  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building

Honorable John D. Dingell  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2322 Rayburn House Office Building

House of Representatives  
Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Obey and Dingell:

When we issued our investigative report on November 15, 2005, outlining violations of the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967, I announced that we would not release the investigative report. Because we received several Congressional and press requests for release of that report or associated e-mail correspondence contained therein, I decided to carefully re-examine our original decision. After further review, I still conclude that no public interest would be served by disclosing this information but that further elaboration of my decision would be appropriate.

Our overall conclusions on issues examined during our review were fully reported in our public report. In preparing this report, we relied on interviews and other documentation which showed the pattern of behavior by the former Chairman and other CPB executives. In order to reach conclusions regarding corrective actions needed, Board members reviewed underlying documentation to provide full understanding of the nature and extent of actions taken by various officials. This enabled the Board to agree to initiate appropriate corrective actions.

Since there has been speculation concerning the former Chairman's correspondence with Karl Rove, I can state that this correspondence showed Mr. Rove made no attempt to influence programming decisions or the hiring of the President/CEO. As with other


documentation, we are not releasing this correspondence because of privacy concerns and ongoing CPB business matters.

I know that most requests for release of the documents are based on a genuine concern for the welfare of public broadcasting. The OIG report was prepared to advise Congressional staff and the public regarding the improprieties identified during our review of the allegations. It is because of my concern that individual's privacy rights could be violated and CPB business interests compromised, I am resisting requests to release this information.

I am pleased by the positive response that the CPB Chairman, Board and President have initially given to our report. My office plans to actively monitor the Board's progress in bringing greater transparency to CPB governance and improvements in contract management, internal communications, and compensation policies. In this regard, we will be working with CPB Board and management in reviewing the specific corrective actions taken and providing advice and assistance during their implementation of corrective actions. In addition, we will be periodically reporting to Congressional staff on the progress being made by CPB.

Thank you for your interest in these matters.

Sincerely,

  
Kenneth A. Konz  
Inspector General