

096205

3-17-13
73-0283

36



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

B-130961



DEC 26 1972

4
R

Dear Senator Chiles:

In a letter dated August 31, 1972, you requested the General Accounting Office to review the comments of one of your constituents, Mr. Daniel J. McCarthy, concerning payment for the use of military aircraft for political purposes. Specifically, Mr. McCarthy wanted to know (1) whether the Republican National Committee had reimbursed the Department of Defense for the Vice President's use of Air Force Two for a trip to Oregon, Alaska, and Washington and (2) whether the Republican National Committee had actually reimbursed the Department for these flights in all cases.

D 1594

The 89th Military Airlift Wing, Andrews Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., is responsible for fulfilling the air transportation requirements of the President and other key Government officials. Our examination of payment records for flights of the 89th Airlift Wing showed that the Committee to Re-elect the President had reimbursed the Government for the Vice President's flight to Alaska in July 1972.

D 1592

D 1591

We cannot fully answer Mr. McCarthy's second question concerning reimbursement for all political flights made by the Vice President. Flight manifests needed to determine the total number of flights actually made by the Vice President are maintained by the White House staff. We have been informed by the Counsel to the President that such records have been traditionally considered personal to the President and thus not the proper subject of inquiry by the Congress. We did find, however, that various Republican committees had reimbursed the Government for 25 additional flights made on military aircraft between April and August 1972. Twelve of these additional flights involved the Vice President.

We trust this information will enable you to reply to Mr. McCarthy. We will be glad to discuss this matter in detail with you or members of your staff.

Sincerely yours,

Comptroller General
of the United States

The Honorable Lawton Chiles
United States Senate

~~701361~~

096205

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE