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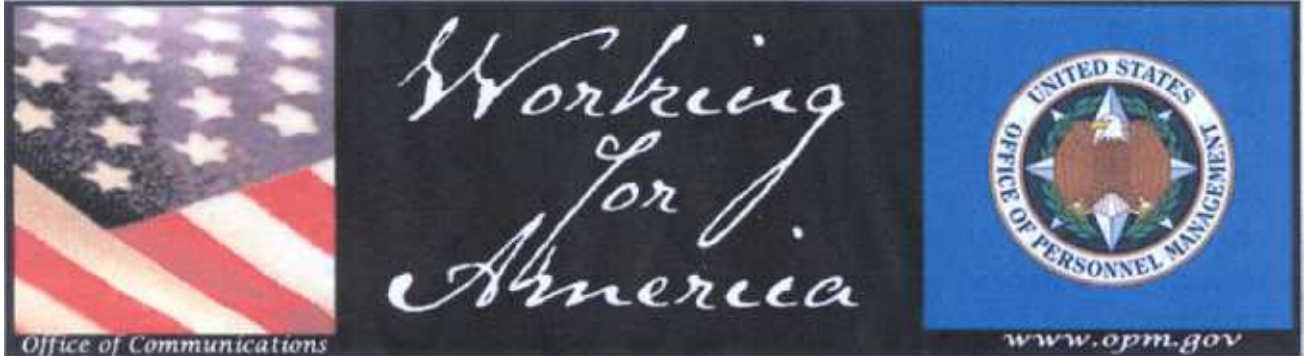
From: Orenstein, Michael W

Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2005 11:18 AM

To: MEDIA@LISTSERV.OPM.GOV

Subject: OPM Inspector General to Investigate Allegations of Prohibited Personnel Practices at the Office of Special Counsel

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT



NEWS FROM OPM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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October 20, 2005

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OPM Inspector General to Investigate Allegations of Prohibited Personnel Practices at the Office of Special Counsel

Washington, D.C. — In his capacity as Chair of the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency Clay Johnson III has referred a complaint of prohibited personnel practices against U.S. Special Counsel Scott J. Bloch to Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Inspector General Patrick E. McFarland for investigation and appropriate action.

The complaint, filed by a group of career employees at the Office of Special Counsel and four public interest organizations, was originally referred to the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency (PCIE) by the Special Counsel citing a conflict of interest. The Integrity Committee of the PCIE subsequently found it lacked jurisdiction to investigate because the allegations do not concern an Inspector General or the staff of an Inspector General.

Inspector General McFarland has agreed to promptly conduct a thorough investigation and report his findings along with recommended remedial actions, if appropriate, to OPM Director Linda M. Springer and Deputy U.S. Special Counsel Jim Renne.

OPM will have no further comment on this matter until its Inspector General has reported his findings.

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