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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 24, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: ROBERT HARTMANN
FROM: WILLIAM E. TIMMONS *WET*
SUBJECT: SBA

I talked to SBA Director Tom Kleppe today. He advised me that GAO would be conducting a "pre-audit" on October 1st. I gather this is just an interview with Kleppe and his top aides. GAO then will audit about 30 of the 80 SBA field offices.

Kleppe says this audit is required by an amendment to the recently passed SBA Authorization bill. Members of Congress needed to take some action to counter the criticisms over the Richmond office scandal of some months ago.

Kleppe feels this is a routine check-up resulting from the legislation and is not overly concerned. In fact, Tom welcomes the investigation because he is always looking for tips on making the agency more responsive.