

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20550



Office of
Inspector General

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 9, 1994 [REDACTED]
FROM: [REDACTED] SAC, Investigation Section
THRU: Counsel to the Inspector General [REDACTED]
SUBJECT: Closeout Memorandum
TO: Case No. I93120053

On December 17, 1993, OIG was notified by DAS that ten \$100.00 American Express travelers cheques in route to the NSF Credit Union had been stolen. The travelers cheques were shipped by Federal Express to the NSF Credit Union. The Fed Ex box carrying the cheques was delivered to the NSF Mail Room on 12/15/93. The Fed Ex box of cheques was accidentally routed by the Mail Room to the Proposal Processing Unit with other proposals received that day.

On 12/16/93, the Fed Ex box was opened by Proposal Processing employees. When the Proposal Processing employees discovered the travelers cheques, they immediately returned the Fed Ex box and travelers cheques to the NSF Mail Room. DCI employee [REDACTED] was identified as the Mail Room employee who received the box from the Proposal Processing employees. [REDACTED] was also told that the box contained travelers cheques for the NSF Credit Union. [REDACTED] was also identified by NSF Credit Union employees as the Mail Room employee who delivered the Fed Ex box to the Credit Union.

During an inventory of the travelers cheques on 12/16/93, the Director of the Credit Union discovered that some of the travelers cheques were missing. The Credit Union Director reported the missing cheques to American Express, who confirmed that all of the travelers cheques had been included in the shipment. On 12/17/93, the Credit Union Director notified DAS and the Arlington County Police of the missing travelers cheques. DAS notified this office. SAC [REDACTED] and Arlington County Police Officer [REDACTED] interviewed the Credit Union employees, Proposal Processing employees, and the manager of the NSF Mail Room. Officer [REDACTED] stated that she would turn the case over to a Detective for further investigation. Arlington County Detective [REDACTED] was assigned to the case.

On 1/4/94 American Express verified that 3 of the 10 missing cheques had been cashed and agreed to forward the original cheques to NSF-OIG. Cheque [REDACTED] was negotiated on 12/16/93 at Circuit City, [REDACTED], signed [REDACTED]. Cheque [REDACTED] was negotiated on 12/17/93 at [REDACTED] Restaurant, [REDACTED] Md, signed [REDACTED]. Cheque [REDACTED] was negotiated on 12/17/93 at [REDACTED] signed by [REDACTED].

Samples of [REDACTED] handwriting, which were provided by DCI, and the signatures on the original cheques were not similar. Management at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] stated that they could not trace the travelers cheques because they are handled as cash. Because of the limited evidence linking [REDACTED] to the travelers cheques, Detective [REDACTED] requested that NSF-OIG interview [REDACTED]. Detective [REDACTED] stated that Arlington County would consider having [REDACTED] take a polygraph if [REDACTED] denied involvement in the theft of the travelers cheques.

On 2/28/94, SA [REDACTED] and SAC [REDACTED] interviewed [REDACTED] about the stolen travelers cheques. At first, [REDACTED] denied having any knowledge of the travelers cheques then later stated that others in the mail room handled the Fed Ex box containing the cheques. [REDACTED] stated that he would take a polygraph test. However, [REDACTED] became very agitated during the interview and claimed that he was being "set up." [REDACTED] then made threats that [REDACTED] then walked out of the interview.

Shortly after the conclusion of the interview, [REDACTED] returned to the Mail Room and loudly threatened the manager and assistant manager of the Mail Room. Building Security was notified of the disturbance and [REDACTED] was removed from the Building. After reviewing [REDACTED] actions, DCI terminated [REDACTED] employment and [REDACTED] was barred from the NSF work sites.

After being briefed on the [REDACTED] interview and his actions after the interview, Detective [REDACTED] stated that Arlington County was not interested in pursuing this matter further for the following reasons: (1) [REDACTED] the only suspect, does not live or work in Arlington County; and (2) None of the stolen cheques was negotiated in Arlington County.

Because no other suspects have been identified and because [REDACTED] employment was terminated, this case is closed.