medical authorities and accumulated annual leave. Subsequent to his indictment, he was suspended without pay and denied further use of leave. He entered a conditional guilty plea in March 1996 and was sentenced in June 1996.

During this time period I was involved in a variety of administrative matters in which SA Hollingsworth contested actions proposed by his supervisor. I, as Director, DCIS, at the time was his second level supervisor and acted as deciding official in each of these matters. These administrative actions were separate and distinct from the investigation by the DoS and prosecution by the Department of Justice.

My next involvement with this matter began when SA Hollingsworth appealed a Notice of Proposed Removal issued by his supervisor. On August 23, 1996, his attorney requested an extension until September 13, 1996, to file a written response and notified us of his intent to make a subsequent oral presentation. As deciding official, I granted this request consistent with past DCIS practice and, to preclude further delay, I simultaneously scheduled the oral presentation for September 23, 1996. However, four days prior to his scheduled oral presentation, SA Hollingsworth retired.

SA Hollingsworth was provided the same due process afforded to all other DCIS special agents in the form of a review by the Special Agents Administrative Review Board and reasonable time to prepare a written and oral response to a Notice of Proposed Removal. Variation from past practice would have been unwarranted and inconsistent with my experience as a deciding official in dozens of disciplinary proceedings.

SA Hollingsworth's criminal conduct was both inexcusable and inexplicable. His violation of law was totally out of character and inconsistent with his job performance and lengthy career. I noted this same observation in a letter to the sentencing judge as I went on record describing SA Hollingsworth's job performance.

Throughout this process, the OIG was provided advice by personnel and legal experts. The course of action taken in this case was one of the several available options permitted by Federal personnel guidelines.

SA Gary Steakley: SA Steakley began his employment with DCIS in December 1987. From that time until he entered the Worker's Compensation program in February 1993 as a result of a traffic accident involving a Government vehicle, he worked in a variety of positions within DCIS. As Director, DCIS, I selected him for several positions and promoted him to his last job as manager of a DCIS investigative office in California.

Subsequent to his vehicle accident, SA Steakley was the subject of several adverse personnel and disciplinary actions. With the exception of ensuring that internal reviews proceeded in due course, my actions with respect to SA Steakley were taken as the deciding official in these cases. In addition, as Director, I proposed to involuntarily transfer him in order to ''backfill'' his management billet after his accident. In this case, the then Deputy Inspector General acted as deciding official.

SA Steakley was treated fairly by DCIS, although he has repeatedly alleged that he was subjected to prohibited personnel practices. His allegations have been reviewed in various venues, including the Office of Special Counsel who, in December 1998, closed their file and declined to pursue the case further.

SA Matthew Walinski: SA Walinski held a variety of positions in DCIS from his initial hiring in August 1987, until his transfer to the Office of Inspector General, Department of the Treasury, earlier this year. Your staff has questioned the accuracy of several reports of interview prepared by SA Walinski to include a report dealing with SA Steakley. It is my understanding that your staff perceives that allegations concerning SA Walinski were not pursued with the same tenacity shown in the SA Steakley investigations.

I was not aware of many of the facts alleged in this matter until reviewing documents in response to the inquiry of your Subcommittee. I did, however, have a general concern at the time regarding the handling of internal investigations. As a result, I directed that the internal review process be restructured so as to ensure that all future interviews be taped and transcribed to preclude any further dispute as to reporting. I was also appraised by my deputy that SA Walinski was being transferred from his duties to a position in the DCIS Training Branch. It is my understanding that SA Walinski received a downgraded appraisal as a result of his poor performance as well as a written letter cautioning him as to the importance of accuracy in his reporting.

In closing, I hope that my insights have provided you the information you need to accurately assess these cases. I appreciate your assurance that this letter will be included in any report that may be issued on this topic and look forward to an opportunity to review your draft report.

Sincerely,

DONALD MANCUSO,
Acting Inspector General.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I think it is imperative that Congress continue to send the strongest possible signal only that the highest standards and integrity are acceptable among our law enforcement and watchdog communities, the more we will ensure that outcome. I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:30 p.m. having arrived, the Senate will now stand in recess until 2:15 p.m. today.

Thereupon, at 12:30 p.m., the Senate recessed until 2:15 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. GRAMS).

AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

AMENDMENT NO. 2379

(Purpose: To require the negotiation, and submission to Congress, of side agreements concerning labor before benefits are received)

Mr. HOLLINGS. I call up my amendment No. 2379 and ask the clerk to report it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Carolina [Mr. HOLLINGS] proposes an amendment numbered 2379:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . LABOR AGREEMENT REQUIRED.

The benefits provided by the amendments made by this Act shall not become available to any country until—

(1) the President has negotiated with that country a side agreement concerning labor standards, similar to the North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation (as defined in section 532(b)(2) of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (19 U.S.C. 3471(b)(2)); and

(2) submitted that agreement to the Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, the amendment has been read in its entirety. It is very brief and much to the point. It is similar to the North American agreement on labor. When we debated NAFTA at length, there was a great deal more participation and attention given. In these closing days, everyone is anxious to get out of town. Most of the attention has been given, of course, to the appropriations bills and the budget, and avoiding, as they say, spending Social Security after they have already spent at least $17 billion, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

I ask for the yeas and nays on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is not a sufficient second.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I had a very interesting experience with respect to labor conditions in Mexico prior to the NAFTA agreement. I wanted to see with my own eyes exactly what was going on. I visited Tijuana, which is right across the line from southern California.

I was being led around a valley. There were some 200,000 people living in the valley, with beautiful plants, mowed lawns, flags outside. But the 200,000 living in the valley were living in veritable hovels; the living conditions were miserable.

I was in the middle of the tour when the mayor came up to me and asked if I would meet with 12 of the residents of that valley. I told him I would be glad to. He was very courteous and generous.

I met with that group. In a few sentences, summing up what occurred, the Christmas before—actually around New Year's—they had a heavy rain in southern California and in the Tijuana area. With that rain, the hardened and crusted soil became mushy and muddy and boggy, and the little hovels made with garage doors and other such items started slipping and sliding. In those streets, there are no light poles and there are no water lines. There is nothing, just bare existence.

They were all trying to hold on to their houses and put them back in order. These particular workers missed a day of work. Under the work rules in Mexico, if you miss a day of work, you are docked 3 days. So they lost 4 days' pay.

Around February, one of the workers was making plastic coat hangers—the industry had moved from San Angelo to Tijuana. They had no eye protection whatsoever. The machines were stamping out the plastic, and a flick of plastic went into the worker's eye. The