

Inquiry Finds State Cars and Credit Cards Misused

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last September. In May, a three-page summary of preliminary findings was sent to Mr. Carey's office, urging immediate action.

A final audit is due for release in the fall, but Mr. Regan said the problem was too serious to delay action until then. At a news conference in Albany, Mr. Regan called on Governor Carey to begin a statewide criminal investigation or turn allegations over to district attorneys around the state.

Ron Tarwater, a spokesman for the Governor, said in response that "until

such time there is clear evidence, we will await the Comptroller's completed audit."

Mr. Regan said that there was an "almost total absence of management controls" in many agencies, and where there were controls, "insufficient checking to see whether those controls or standards were adhered to."

Temporary Controls Installed

Roger Quinby, deputy commissioner of the Office of General Services, said that temporary controls had already been adopted for a fleet of cars operated by the agency and that the state was

contracting with a consultant to develop a new credit card system. He attributed the abuses to a "small minority" of state employees.

Among other controls, he said, the agency limits gasoline purchases to \$25 and also limits repairs without prior authorization for its fleet of 487 cars.

Mr. Regan said he had taken the unusual step of releasing a copy of the summary sent to Mr. Carey's office while the investigation was still pending "in response to press inquiries" after a news account of the audit appeared in The Albany Times-Union.