

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

FORM NSAR-B

Annual report for management companies filed on Form N-SAR

Filing Date: **1996-12-30** | Period of Report: **1996-10-31**
SEC Accession No. **000005506-96-00017**

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FILER

AMERICAN MUTUAL FUND INC

CIK: **5506** | IRS No.: **956006886** | State of Incorpor.: **MD** | Fiscal Year End: **1031**
Type: **NSAR-B** | Act: **40** | File No.: **811-00572** | Film No.: **96687717**

Business Address
333 S HOPE ST - 52ND FLOOR
LOS ANGELES CA 90071
2134869200

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PAGE 2

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PAGE 3

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PAGE 8

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PAGE 9

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PAGE 10

SIGNATURE VINCENT P. CORTI
TITLE SECRETARY

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT
American Mutual Fund, Inc.:

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of American Mutual Fund, Inc. (the "Fund") for the year ended October 31, 1996, we considered its internal control structure, including procedures for safeguarding securities, in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and to comply with the requirements of Form N-SAR, not to provide assurance on the internal control structure.

The management of the Fund is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of internal control structure policies and procedures. Two of the objectives of an internal control structure are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Because of inherent limitations in any internal control structure, errors or irregularities may occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of the structure to future periods is subject to the risk that it may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of the design and operation may deteriorate.

Our consideration of the internal control structure would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control structure that might be material weaknesses under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of the specific internal control structure elements does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that errors and irregularities in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. However, we noted no matters involving the internal control structure, including procedures for safeguarding securities, that we consider to be material weaknesses as defined above as of October 31, 1996.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

November 22, 1996

Los Angeles, California

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