## In The Matter Of:

Committee on Senate Governmental Affairs Special Investigation - 1996 Campaign Funds

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investigation of iliegal or mproper activites (2) CONNECTION WITH THE 1996 FEDERAL ELECTIONCAMPAIGN
(4) FRIDAY,JULY 25, 1997

United States Senate,
Committee on Governmental Affairs,
Washington, D.C.
[日] The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:11 a.m.,
in Room SH-216, Hars Senate Office Building, Hon. Fred
[10] Thompson, Chairman of the Committee, presiding
(11) Present: Senators Thompson, Collins, Cochran, Specter, Smith, Bennett, Glenn, Levin, Lieberman, and Durbin.

Chairman Thompson. Let's come to order. please.
Our first witness this morning will be Mr. Donald K
Stern, United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts.

Mr. Stern, would you stand and raise your right hand, please? Do you sojemniy swear that the testimony you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you, God?

Mr. Stern. Yes, sir.
Chairman Thompson. Thank you very much.
Do you have a preliminary statement to give, Mr. Stern?
Mr. Stern. I do, Mr. Chairman, a very brief statement.
With the Chairman's permission, I would like to read it.
3) Mr. Stern. Mr. Chairman, 1 am here today at the
4) Committee's request to provide testimony in connection with
(5) the 1996 criminal convictions obtained by the U.S.
(0) Attorney's Office in Massachusetts against Simon Fireman,
$\pi$ Aqua-Leisure Industries, Inc., and Carol Nichols
I will briefly outline the charges filed against these
defendants, their guilty pleas, and the sentences imposed by
(10) the Court. Before doing so, however, I would like to make
(11) explicit certain constraints on my testimony.
$\left[1{ }^{2}\right]$ First, 1 intend to restrict my comments to the
(13) information available on the public record-for example, in
[14] the charging document or in other court alings-in part, so
[15) that I do not violate the legal prohibition against
[16] disclosing confidential grand jury material.
In addition, so there is no confusion among the Committee members, I should make clear that I have absolutely no involvement in the ongoing investigation by
(19) absolutely no involvement in the ongoing investigation by
(20) the Department of Justice task force of alleged campaign
[21] finance abuses and, as a result, am unable to provide
[27] information or answer any questions about that matter.
In July 1996, Simon Fireman, a Massachuserts
[24] businessman who controls Aqua-Leisure Industries, which is
(25) an Avon, Massachuserts, company, was charged with conspiracy

## man Thompson. Certainly 3

TESTIMONY OF DONALD K. STERN, U.S.ATTORNEY FOR
THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Page 2
to defraud the United States by impeding and obstructing the
Federal Election Commission, causing campaign contributions
to be made in the name of others, in other words through
conduits, and making contributions over the $\$ 1,000$ statutory
limit to individual campaigns and in excess of the $\$ 25,000$ annual statutory ceiling.

The corporation, Aqua-Leisure, was charged with making
contributions in the name of others through conduits and making illegal campaign contributions.

Carol Nichols, Mr. Fireman's special assistant at
Aqua-Leisure, was charged with participating as part of the conspiracy with Mr. Fireman in the criminal activities to defraud the FEC.
(14) Between 1991 and 1995, Mr. Fireman and Aqua-Leisure

15] funneled more than $\$ 120,000$ to the Republican National
[16] Committee, the Citizens for Joe Kennedy Committee, the
17 Bush-Quayte '92, and the Dole Presidential campaigns.
During the conspiracy, Mr. Fireman, with the
19) participation of Carol Nichols, his assistant, had money
[zo Pire-transferred from a Hong Kong trust to a bank account in
[R1] the United States. Funds were then converted into cash and 22] provided to employees of Mr. Fireman's company,
[23) Aqua-Leisure, and others, so that the individuals could then
24) write out checks of $\$ 100,000$ to the various campaigns or

351 , \$4,000 to the Republican National Committee. This scheme
caused the committees to file false reports with the FEC
since the true source of the money was not revealed.
In another part of the conspiracy, Mr. Fireman caused another individual to make illegal contributions to both the
Bush-Quayle '92 and Dole for President campaigns. Mr.
Fireman caused these contributions to be disguised so that the campaigns filed further false reports with the FEC.

The U.S. Atrorney's office, after the investigation began, promptly entered into plea agreements with the three
defendants. Mr. Fireman pleaded guilty, and the judge
sentenced him to 6 months home detention and 1 year probation. In addition, he was fined $\$ 1$ million.

Ms. Nichots was sentenced to 4 months home detection,
fined $\$ 7,500$, and placed on 1 million [sic] probation.
The corporation, Aqua-Leisure, was fined $\$ 5$ million and placed on 4 years probation.

That, Mr. Chairman, is a thumb-rail outline of the
case, but if I can, before responding to questions, I would like to make three additional points.

First, there was no evidence disclosed as part of our investigation that any of the campaign committees were aware of this illegal activity. I made that cleas publicly at
(23) that the charges were announced in July of 1996, and that $24]$ statement was repeated at the sentencing hearings.
in the scheme to funnel money to the Dole campaign was to obtain a position with the U.S. Government, Mr. Fireman [3] denied that charge. Again, we have made clear that there is (4) absolutely no evidence that this objective or this claimed [5] objective of Mr. Fireman was ever made known to the Dole (G) campaign.

IT Third, and finally, all of the money involved in these
${ }^{(8)}$ charges were funds that Mr. Fireman controlled, which
in accounted for about $\$ 100,000$ of the some $\$ 120,000$. The
(10) balance consisted of contributions which he caused another
(il) individual to make.
(14) With that, Mr. Chairman, brief summary, I would be
(13) happy to answer any questions that I can.
(if) The prepared statement of Mr. Stern follows:]
(il Chairman Thompson. All right, sir. Thank you very (2) much, Mr. Stern.
(3) I will defer my questioning and turn to Senator Glenn.
[1] Senator Glenn. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one
[s] minute of comment here, and then I will turn this over to (I) Senator Levin, coday.

In We are building a background of information that we (iv) hope will lead to real campaign finance reform. Onc part of in that process is the area of foreign money, and we are
[10] looking into all examples of foreign money. This happens to
(ii) be a case that has already been through the courts where we
[12] know what happened, but this can show us a lot as to how
(13) these schemes work and how they are executed, and we (14) apprecizte your being here.
(19) Foreign money is one area. Taxerempts, third-party

ItG transfers of money, soft money, all fit into this whole
[1] pattern here, but I think your testimony today can be a
(114] major help to us in this area in showing us how one of these
nig things work that has already been through the course, and we
(in appreciate having that on the Committee record here for R1] consideration at the end of the year.
I I yield such time out of my 30 minutes as Senator Levin (x) may feel he needs.

RM Senator Levin. Thank you.
29 Thank you for being here today, Mr. Stern.
[1] chronological order.
(2] To the Bth-Quayie committees, and this was in the 1991-1992 period, there was about $\$ 21,000$ of illegal (4) contributions.

To the RNC, there were actually two separate funds in
the RNC, I believe. That is my recollection. In 1992, that totaled about \$24,000.

To the Joe Kennedy Committee, which I think technically
it was probably-I think it was called the Citizens for Joe
Kennedy Committee-that occurred in 1993, and that whs in
the sange of $\$ 6,000$.
And then, the Dole committees, and I believe it was the
Dole for President Committee and then I think there was a
compliance committee, a Dole Compliance Committee, that was
in 1995, and that approximated $\$ 69,000$.
Senator Levin. So the four figures, $\$ 21,000$ into the
Bush campaign, $\$ 24,000$ to the RNC, $\$ 6,000$ to the Joe Kennedy
campaign, and $\$ 69,000$ to the Dole campaign in 1995 total
approximately how much?
Mr. Stern. Well. I think it is in the range of 120.1
have not done the math, Senator, but it is in the 120.80-123
range, I think
Senator Levin. All right. About how many individuals
were used by Mr. Fireman in this scheme?
25] Mr. Stern. Well, you know, I meant this morning,
(ri) In your opening sutement, I think it is very helping 17 and lays out very concisely for us the history of this case, mand so I will just be asking you to flesh out some of the 4J details.
0 Can you get into some or the conduct thet Mr. Freman engaged in, in order to implement this scheme? How was it (a) iroplemented?

Mr. Stern. Well, it, first of all, extended over a
period of some years, from 1991 to 1995. As I said, it
ioi involved four different campaigns, and essentially, what was
(ii) happening was Mr. Fireman's money was being funneled through
(12) conduits, straws, if you will, who purported, based upon
(i3) filings made with the FEC, were, in fact, the true donors to
(14) the campaigns, or in the case of the RNC, to the committee, $[15]$ when, in fact, it was not their money. It was money that
[16] was owned or controlled by Mr. Fireman which had been paid
[17] back to them, basically, once they made their contribution.
(19) Much of the money sat in a trust created in Hong Kong,
(19) much earlier, in 1985, and I want to make clear that
[20] although the trust was created, so far as we know in 1985,
[21] the use of that at all for campaign purposes did not begin [2] uncil 1991 and extended from 1991 to 1995.

Money from the Hong Kong trust, again, the trust
[2d] concrolled by Mr. Fireman, was wire-cransferred to a bank in Boston. Those funds were typically withdrawn in cash by
agents of Mr. Fireman, principally Carol Nichols, and then [a] distributed to conduits.

Sentor Levin. Could you be a little more precise as (1) to how that distribution took place? How were those checks
(5) obtained from those people? How many people were involved
(if in the campaigns, approximately? How were they reimbursed
0 by Fireman for their checks?
Mr. Stern. Well, by and large, they were reimbursed in cash, and again, I want to be cureful not to go outside of
[19) the public record, either court filings or statements made (11) at the various sentencing hearings, but at least one
[12] scenario would be employees of Aqua-Leisure in Massachusetts
[13] would be called into Carol Nichols' office, be asked to make
[14] contributions, be told that they would be reimbursed in (i5) cash. Those contributions would be made.
(19) It would result, unknowingly, we believe, in false
(17) filings by the commitrees to the FEC, and it was not, in

IIM fact, the true donor. They were not the true donors. They
(199) were, if you will, the nominal donors to the various
(oof cacopaigns. The true donor was either Mr. Fireman or [21] Aqua-Leisure.
[2] Senator Levin. Could you tell us the amounts of money
[2]) which went to each of the four campaigns?
Mr. Stern. Well, I am going to give you a very good
E2s approximation, Senator, and chis is pretty much in

I believe it or not, to go back to the information and to add them up because, in some cases, people were used more than once.

My best memory, it was in the range of 40 individuals,
I think, but that is-you know, anybody, I suppose, could go
back and look.
We list, indivicual by individual, the conduits in the
Dole campaign by person. We name who they are, and I would
have to go back and try to eliminate double-counting, but I think about 40 is right.

Senator Levin. Was Mr. Fireman, by the way, one of the
vice chairs of the Finance Committee in the Dole campaign? Mr. Stern. I believe that is true.
Senator Levin. We have got an exhibit which summarizes
these convictions of the two individuals and the corporation
in Exhibit No. 398, and it is up on that chart. I am
7 wondering if you can look at that chart. I do not fonow
in whether copies could be made available for members and for (19) the witness as well.

Is that chart an accurate depiction of these
convictions?
Mr. Stern. Well, it is, with one qualification, which
is I said the 40 because I think that is about right.
Again, I have not compared name for name, but certainly, my best memory is the 40 is right.

The other-and this is not a change so much in the
a accuracy of the chart, which I think is accurate. I guess I
[3] do want to say that although Mr. Fireman pled guilty in
(A) October of 1996 and Carol Nichols-as did the company-and

19 Carol Nichols pled guilty on November 4, 1996, the criminal
(f) charges themselves were brought in early July, at which time
in we made public and filed with the court the respective plea
on agreements.
There was a prompt hearing sometime, I believe, in
July, end of July before Judge Young, Federal District
Court. So that, the pleas were tendered as early as July.
Judge Young decided that he did not want to make 2
determination as to whether to accept the pleas or not until
a full presentence report was prepared by the Probation.
So the pleas were actually tendered in July. The
formal acceptance by the court and the sentencing did not
occur until the dates that are reflected on the chart.
Senator Levin. Now, this scheme had gone on for 4
years at least?
Mr. Stern. Yes.
Senator Levin. It involved the transfer of money from
a Hong Kong trust; is that correct?
Mr. Stern. Yes, that is correct.
Senator Levin. Was that money that you believe was earned abroad?
[1] (2) with all due respect. I do not want to go outside of the [3] public record.

What we have said in the charging document and in court, it was money that was either owned by or controlled by Mr. Fireman. It was basically Mr. Fireman's money, and I should say that Aqua-Leisure at that time, I believe, was 100-percent owned by Mr. Fíreman.

I believe at some point perhaps during this period, but certainly now, it is owned, 85 percent, by Mr. Fireman, and 15 percent of the stick is held in trust for one of his sons.

Senator Levin. Why was money wired in from Hong Kong and then distributed rather than just his using his wholly owned domestic corporation for that purpose?

Mr. Stern. I do not have the answer to that, Senator. Senator Levin. Do you know whether or not if he had been charged-excuse me-whether or not this transfer of moncy from Hong Kong and then its distribution in the way you have described violates the prohibition on the use of foreign money?

Mr. Stern. All I can say in response to that, Senator, is he was not charged with that, and I leave to others, I suppose in particular to the Committee, to the extent that (2s) it is relevant to the Committec's determination, to make its
own legal judgment. All I can say is that he was not (2) charged with that.

Mr. Stern. Well, the background is actually relatively straightforward. We became aware of it first as a result of an article in the Kansas City newspaper. I think it is the Kansas City Smr.

Senator Levin. Did that article publicly set forth a patrern of multiple contributions from Aqua-Leisure employees and family members, including $\$ 1,000$ contributions from secretaries and a warehouse manager? Do you remember that?
(14) Mr. Stern. I do remember the general contours of the 5] article, and, you know, as in any instance where a criminal
16 investigation is on the heels of a newspaper article, our
7 task is not to determine whether each particular fact in the
aj article is accurate. Once we commence an investigation, we
9) obviously make our own determination and have our own tools
available, but I certainly made reference, as I recall, to
the contours of the scheme and certainly initially pointed
us in the direction of the FEC and publicly available documents at the FEC.

Senator Levin. If we could put Exhibit 401 on the screen.
4) time and actualiy re-read it last nime It is the first
(5) time I had seen it, probably since April, soon after it was

6] published, but this certainly appears to be the same article.

Senator Levin. This articie salks abour Aqua-Leisure's
employees and families sending the Dole campaign 40
Individual checics totalling $\$ 40,000$ ? Is that what this

1) article says in paragraph 2?

Mr. Stern. It does say that, Semator, right.
Senator Levin. Now, when your criminal investigation
4) was prompted by this article, it was able to wrap up your
(15) case fairly promptly, like 6 months. Can you tell us how
(16) that was able to be accomplished?
[17] Mr. Stern. Well, I can, I suppose, with two general [18] observations.

First off, I should say we had no particular time table or timing. We treated this case as any other, which is we put in the resources necessary to do a prompt and thorough [22] investigation. That is what happened her.

I guess I can say that once the outlines of the scheme [24] became apparent to us, that, in some respects, was not that 125) complicated because we were able to both trace the money and

Page 14
(1) estabish that the bulk of the straws, the conduits, were
(z) either working at Aqua-Leisure or were known to people at (3) Aqua-Leisure.
(4) Secondly, early on, to its credit, both Mr. Fireman and
( 5 ) the company indicated a wrillingness to acknowledge their
(f) Criminal responsibility, and early on, there were plea
in discussions, and probably, more than anything else, as Mr.
[f] Fireman's lawyer said at the sentencing hearing, that drove (o) the timing.
if makes a big difference, obviously, when defendants
(i1) are prepared to step up to the plate, own up to their
(17) responsibility and to plead guilty.
(13) Senator Levin. On July 11 th, the New York Times
(114] reported you as saying that a 6 -month prison term for Mr.
(15) Fireman was warranted, and here, they are quoting you in

IIG part, because of the elaborate lengths to which Mr. Fireman
(11) had gone to keep his scheme from being traced, steps that
fief included wiring from Hong Kong, the money that was to be
(19) distributed in cash, to participating employees."
(Ro: Can you tell us what elaborate lengths you referred to? [R1] Mr. Stern. Well, I really meant nothing more than,
rad perhaps as your eartier question, Senator, suggested, which
[23] is this was not money which came from your neighborhood
[24] bank, where you walk down the street and make a withdrawal; (25) that initially, the money came, albeit from a trust
(i) controlled by Mr. Fireman, from Hong Kong, and certainly, a
(z) least initially, it presented separate issues and probiems
for investigations in being able to trace back the money.
We were able to overcome that, clearly, but that is
really what I had in mind, coupled with the fact that this
1 was a scheme which existed over some 4 years that involved
four different and separate campaigns and involved many, many conduits.

Senator Levin. You said before that Mr. Fireman was
not charged with the use of foreign funds in a campaign or
giving foreign funds to candidates. Did you determine that
there were no foreign funds, or did you decide not to pursue
13] that issue since you already had clearly illegal
(14] contributions made in the name of another?
[15] Mr. Stern. All I can do, Senator, with all due
(10] respect, is repeat that we determine that the ownership and
(11) source-the ownership of the funds was Mr. Fireman, as an
[18] American citizen and an American businessman, and that we
[19] did not charge him. There were no charges of the company or
[20) of Mr. Fireman, which related to contributions by foreign
(21) entities.
$[2]$ Senator Levin. Is the reason you are not able to say
23) there was a determination relative to the source of the
(24) funds because that would go beyond the public record?
[29] Mr. Stern. Yes, that is correct, Senator.

(1) Senator Levin. All right. On page 7 of the
indictment, it said that Mr. Fireman "caused an entity known
as 'Rickwood, Ltd'....to be formed in Hong Kong." Is that
[4] the secret Hong Kong trust referred to on page 2 of your
(5) indicturent?

Mr. Stern. Yes, it is, Senator.
Senator Levin. Do you know about on how many
$\left.{ }^{18}\right)$ dates-let me refer you to page 10 of the indictment. The
on indictment says that the trust was formed in Hong Kong, and
(10) it uses the phrase "Rickwood, Ltd."
(11) Mr. Stern. Uh-huh. [Nodding head up and down.]
(II) Senator Levin. Was that an entity formed under Hong
(13) Kong law?
(14) Mr. Stern. I believe so.
${ }^{115}$ S Senator Levin. Then, you say on page 10 that on
[16] various dates in mid 1995, that Ms. Nichols and Mr. Fireman
(17) caused funds to be wire-transfered from Hong Kong to a bank
119) account of Rickwood.
(19) Do you know approximately how manty dates that might be?
(20) Was that a frequent occurrence?
(21) Mr. Stern. With respect to the reference in paragraph
([2]) 10 -rather, page 10?
(23) Senator Levin. Yes:
(24] Mr. Stern. I believe at some point during the
25] sentencing hearing, there was a reference to probably four
in or five, and my memory is a little fuzzy on that, but four (2) or five separate wire transfers.

Senator Levin. All right.
4 Mr . Stern. During that time period, that is.
[5] Senator Levin. Did Ms. Nichois testify that
b] Aqua-Leisure had a foreign subsidiary called Aqua-Asia?
n Mr. Stern. Ms. Nichols did not testify as part of our
$\left.{ }^{1}\right)$ investigation.
Senator Levin. All right. I wonder if we could pur on
(10) Exhibit 400.
[11] This is an interview by the Committee of Ms. Nichols, [12] and on page 1 of that interview, it says that Aqua-Leisure
(13) has a foreign subsidiary called Aqua-Asia and that
[14] Aqua-Asia, in turn, had a subsidiary called Grayland Trading
(IS) Company, and that Aqua-Asia paid Grayland an annual fee of
[rg $\$ 120,000$ for its work, and that it was this $\$ 120,000$ fee
in that Mr. Fireman would transfer to the Rickwood bank fin account.
[ + 搨 So, if those facts are true, that the money went from im Aqua-Asia to Grayland to Rickwood, would that make it
Pit clearer in your mind that foreign funds were used to pay for
[2] the illegal contributions, if that statement is true in
(23) that?
[24) Mr. Stern. Well, you know, again, Senator, with all due respect, I am hoping I do not have to offer a legal

If opinion to the Committee on that point.
Senator Levin. You did not get into that issue, in any
event?
Mr. Stern. Well, to respond to the particular facts in that paragraph, and I have not seen this interview before, on it would require me, again, to rely upon information which I
I learned only by grand jury, and as you know, it would be 1 improper and probably illegal for me to disclose any of that. So I hope I am able to beg off in responding directly iof to you, Senator.
(ii) Senator Levin. All right. No, we do not want you to [12] get into grand jury information.
(13) Are you able to tell us whether-to confirm that [14] Aqua-Asia is a foreign subsidiary of a U.S. parent [15] corporation? Are you able to confirm it?
(19) Mr. Stern. The only way I would be able to confirm or [17 deny in some way, it would be to, again, rely upon grand [19] jury information.
(19) Senator Levin. All right. Now, you have indicated [20) that to the best of your information that you have conciuded [21] that none of the campaigns, nor did the RNC themselves, know [23] of these illegal contributions. Is that correct?
[2] Mr. Stern. That is correct.
(24) Senator Levin. So that, even though this was a 5 -year

25] scheme and even though in one case Mr. Fireman was actually
(II) a vice chair of the Finance Committee of the Dole campaign,
(27) that neither Mr. Dole nor Mr. Bush earlier, Mr. Quayle, Mr.
[3] Kennedy, nor the RNC chairman, or the officials of the RNC
(4) knew when these many checks came in that, in fact, those
(5) checks were illegal. Is that correct?

Mr. Stern. That is correct.
Senator Levin. All right. Were these checks in the
in amounts that were legal to be contributed by individuals to
M a campaign? in other words, the $\$ 1,000$, for instance, is
[10] that a logal amount to be contributed?
Mr. Stern. Yes, yes.
(14) Senator Levin. Do you know the hard money and soft (13) money lingo?

Mr. Stern. I am not well versed in it, Senator.
[15] Senator Levin. All right. Do you know whether this
[10] was intended to be hard dollars, legal amounts of
[17] contributions in terms of the amount, not the source?
(114) Mr. Stern. Most of it, to the various committees, were
(19) in $\$ 1,000$ amounts. I believe the $\$ 24,000$ to the RNC in 1992
[20] were from six individuals who paid $\$ 4,000$ each, and my
(21) recoliection of the indictment is chat that may, in fact, be
[2c] what is commonly referred to as soft money, but the chart
(23) there was not that the campaign limit was exceeded, but that
[24] it was done illegally chrough a straw. Even as I understand
[25 it in the case of sof money, you have to disclose who the

Pape 21
(1) referred toa 2255 filing, essentially a Federal habeas
(x) corpus petition, challenging the constitutionatity of the
[n Federal election law, he wants a declaration as to whether
(4) that would violate his plea agreement.

We have taken the position that the plea agreement
( 0 in intended that there would be a firal resolution of the cases
in and that a collateral challenge like this at this point does
( $B$ ) violate the plea agreement.
(D) Mr. Fireman obviously wants some assurance before he (10] files his 2255 as to whether we are right or he is right, [II and that matter is now pending in the Federal court in (12) Boston.
(15) Senator Levin. Do you know anything about Mr.
[14] Fireman's background in Government? Had he ever been in the
(15) Federal Government in any position, do you know?
[10] Mr. Stern. My memory, Senator, is he was appointed to (II) several honorary positions. By that, I mean on various [18] committees; initially, I think by President Carter, then by
i19 President Reagan, and then I believe by President Bush.
(20) Then, as some point-I am a littic fuzzy on the years-as [R1] some point, he was a member of, I believe it is, the (22] Import-Export Commission or Board and served officially in [a3] that capacity for a couple of years.
[24] Senator Levin. That would have been as a director of [2s] the U.S. Export-Import Bank, appointed by President Bush?
(1) Mr. Stern. I am not sure of the tille, but it was
(2) certainly-the Import-Export Bank sounds right. Whether it [3] is a director, 1 do not know.
(3) is a director, 1 do not know.

เร 1996, Senator Dole's campaign press secretary, Mr. Nelson
(6] Warfield, was quoted as saying that, "If a person chooses to
In break the law, there is not much that we can do to stop it,"
(If) referring to the difficulty of their campaign in
(0) ascertaining the kind of illegality that was finally
(if) ascertained here by you.
(i1) Do you have any comment on that?
(12) Mr. Stern. I really don't, Senator. I will say that
(13) these are-you know, we have done a number of campaign
[14] finance cases, not just this one, and they can be very
(15) time-consuming, difficult cases to investigate. They are,

1107 by design, intended to be secret conspiracies. The very
(17) nature of the crime, typically, is to shield from the public
(19) view. That is, the heart of the crime is to shield from the
(1) public view the true source of the funds, and so it does
(20) present challenges both to prosecutor and law enforcement.
(21) in general.

Senator Levin. And also to campaigns?
[(2) Mr. Stern. And to campaigns. I think that is fair.
(24) Senator Levin. You use the term in your indictment
[25] repeatedly that because of that shielding by Mr. Fireman
that the campaigns, all three, and the RNC were caused to
file false reports; that those reports that were filed were
false, but that he caused it to be false, rather than the campaigns. Is that correct?

Mr. Stern. That is correct. He put in motion the
filing of reports, the flling of information with the
campaign, which in turn caused them, and that is probably
language right out of the Federal statute, caused them to
file false reports and, therefore, to impede and impair the
lawful functioning of the Federal Election Commission.
Senator Levin. And you did not charge them with any impropricties or wrongdoings?

Mr. Stern. That is correct.
Senator Levin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Chairman Thompson. Thank you.
Mr. Stern, thank you for being here with us today.
I do not know how much more blood we can squeeze out of
this particular turnip. This is something that has been
known for some time, and the Fireman transaction was among
the first subpoenas that the majority issued when we started
our investigation, and you have provided some more interesting details.

It seems like it is a fairly typical contributions in the name of another scheme that we have come to know about, and this is a case where justice was done. Peopie were
prosecured, and people were convicted, and that is the way
that it is supposed to happen. It is an indication that
things worked out well, but there are a couple of
interesting things here.
I noticed in the indictment-do you have the indictment there before you?

Mr. Stern. Yes. Yes, I do, Senator.
Chairman Thompson. I would refer to page 12 of the indictment.

Before you start, the list of conduits-
Mr. Stern. Yes.
Chairman Thompson. -and there appear to be oves
several pages here. There appear to be a total of 70 or
maybe 69 conduits. Is that-
Mr. Stern. I think that is right.
Chairman Thompson. These conduits, of course, are
individuals who were used, whose names were used. I
日f understand they were given cash by Mr. Fireman or Mr.
19 Nichols, and they were given cash, and they, in turn, wrote
[20] out a check. Is that basically-
Mr. Stern. That is basically how it operated.
Chairman Thompson. - the way it works?
[23) Were any of these conduits prosecuted?
(24) Mr. Stern. No.
[25] Chairman Thompson. They were all for $\$ 1,000$, as I see
(il it here. So you prosecuted Mr. Fireman. You came up with a
(2)
(3)
(4) Chai Stern. Yes.
(5)
(i1) Mr. Stern. That is right.
2) Chairman Thompson. -and got everybody in, doled out
13) the cash, told them what to do, and that sort of thing, but

4] these 70 conduits were not prosecuted.
(15) Let's refer back to the exhibit that Senator Levin

16] referred to a minute ago, the newspaper article. If we can
7 put that back up on the screen, that is Exhibit 401 .
(17) put that back up on the screen, that is Exhibit 401.
(18) This is the Kansas City Star, April 21, 1996. I think
[19] it is the fifth paragraph, where it says, and I quote, "I
[20] knew it was illegal, especially when they gave me cash," one
(21) contributor said, "You just don't see people with that kind
[2] of cash." Now, that apparently was referting to one of the
[23) conduits. Is that right?
(24) Mr. Stern. As I read the article, I read the article (25) the same way, Senator.
cheme, and you prosecuted his corporation.
Mr. Stern. Yes.
Chairman Thompson. And you prosecuted his-it sounds
like she was more like a top assistant who really
rchestrated the thing, Ms. Nichols.
Mr. Stern. Well, I would not say orchestrate as much
she carried out his requests.
Chairman Thompson. She handied the cash for
verybody-

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(1] Chairman Thompson. Yes. Well, my point is, and you
[ 2 ] may tiot have direct knowledge of that, it is clear that you
(3) had 69 or 70 conduits, at least one of them admitting they
[4] knew it was illegal and they were not prosecuted. I
(s) understand why they were not prosecuted. I think that was a -1 proper decision.

The analogy to our nuns out in California, I think,
(8) kind of reaches out and grabs you, but that is not your
dispute.
(10) All I can say is that Senator Glenn wrote the Attorney
[11] General on July 18 requesting your appearance here, and from
12 the time it took that letter to get there and you were
3) contacted and you traveled here-what is today? The 25th?
[14] All that happened within one week, and I am giad you are
(15) here, but that is a pretty rapid turnaround.

Now we have been waiting for 3 days to see whether or 7 not the Attorney General is going to wive a 10 day period
(18) to object to the immunities that we have given for the nuns
or out there. It is 3 days and counting now. I assume that
(20) within that 10-day period, we will find if she is going to
(21) find out whether or not she is going to waive that 10-day
[2]) period, but it is clear that quick and responsive action can
[z] take place over there when it is needed.
Mr. Stern. Senator, can I make just oneChairman Thompson. Yes.

Mr. Stern. I certainly do not want to get in the
7 middle of issues larger than the United States Attorney for
in Massachusetts, but the judgments as to what to do with
(4) conduits are really individualized judgments, and it is the

F kind of judgments, as you know, Senator, that prosecutors
of make all the time in cases which have nothing to do with
$\pi$ campaign finance, and we make those at various times as an
( 8 investigation proceeds.
Certainly, in this particular case, a judgment was made
[i0] that the people writing the $\$ 1,000$ checks were what I would
(ii) refer to as pure conduits, who were basically passthroughs.
[12] Chairman Thompson. Is there not a Justice Department
[13) guideline that basically says you do not prosecute conduits
(14) in that situation?
(15) Mr. Stern. There is a general rule, absolutely. The
(19] general rule is that pure conduits, people whose only
(17) criminal responsibility is that they were the conduit, but
[18] 2gain, those are, you know-
Chairman Thompson. I understand.
(20) Mr. Stern. These are not cookie-cutter judgments.
21) These are made individually, based upon the facts-
(2] Chairman Thompson. I understand.
[2] Mr. Stern. -and that is what we did here-
[24] Chairman Thompson. 1 understand that.
(22) Mr. Stern. -and I trust that is what is being done
(1) around the country.
(1) Chairman Thompson. I understand that.

Now, I understand that the charges were brought in July.
(5) Mr. Stern. Yes.
(G) Chairman Thompson. The newspaper article appeared on
$\pi$ April 21 st , and the charges were brought within 3 months.
(i) Mr. Stern. Yes, that is correct.

Chairman Thompson. And this scheme involving 69 or 70
(10) conduits, that is pretty rapid. I think your office is to
(ii) be congratulated.
${ }_{(12)}$ You first found out about the scheme on April 21 st and (13) charges were brought the following July and you got your pleas in October and November. Now, that is good work. Mr. Stern. Thank you.
${ }_{118)}$ Chairman Thompson. That is good work. I will not
(in belabor the obvious analogies with regard to that.
it9) So, with that, the rest of my time. I am going to refer
(19) to Senator Cochran.
(20) Senator Cochran. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(21) Mr. Stern, my information is that when you began your
[22] work investigating this allegation of illegal conduct that
[2] the Dole campaign cooperated with your office in the
[24] investigation in providing facts that you requested from the (25) campaign. Is that correct?

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## (1) Mr. Stern. That is correct.

(a) Senator Cochran. The Dole campaign also was not (3) prosecuted by your office or no official in the employment (4) of the Dole campaign was prosecuted. Isn't that correct?

Mr. Stern. That is correct.
Senator Cochran. Do you also know that the Dole
71 campaign terminated any relationship that they had with this
( $\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{I}}$ Mr. Fireman when they learned of the wrongdoing that was
M being investigated by your office?
[ic) Mr. Stern. I think I know that from newspaper [if] accounts, Senator, at the time.
[12] Senator Cochran. Your office also had undertaken a [13 series of prosecutions, as I understand, from a PR news wire
(14] story dated October 23, 1996. While this is not designated
IIS as any exhibit, I notice-and you can confirm this if it is
[if] true-that this case was one of a series of prosecutions of
(in campaign contribution crimes by your office in Massachuserts
(ief during the last 3 years. Isn't that correct?
(ig)
Mr. Stern. That is correct.
Senator Cochran. That series included a prosecution of
(0) the national fund-raising chairman for the Tsongas for
in President campaign?
Mr. Stern. Yes.
[24 Senator Cochran. The treasurer of the Haig for
Ea President campaign?
Page 32
in Mr. Stern. Yes.
Tif Senator Cochran. And others prosecuted by your office
iv for illegally making excess contributions in State and
. 4 Federal campaigns included a Tsongas campaign operative,
(1) another Hig campaign operative, and someone from the Silber
in for Governor campaign. Isn't that correct?
if Mr. Stern. That is correct.
m Senator Cochran. Your office also prosecuted this same

- person, Mr. Fireman, for funnelling cash to individuals who
iti were conduits for contributions to the Citizens for Joe
(ii) Kennedy Committee?
[19) Mr. Stern. That is correct.
(13) Senator Cochran. And this is the Joe Kennedy who is
(14] the Democratic Congressman from Massachusetts; is that (1s) correct?
(199) Mr. Stern. Yes, it is.
iti) Senator Cochran. Mr. Chairman, those are all the
(19) questions 1 have.
(19) Chairman Thompson. All right. Senator Lieberman?
(eg) Senator Lieberman. Thanks, Mr. Chairman.
[iy Mr. Stern, thanks for being here. The Chairman has
[2] made an interesting comparison of this case, if you will, to
[2s] the Hsi Lai Temple with the Buddhist nuns, and I think there
[24] are parallels, and the parailels on the face of it, although
peg there is a bis difference here, which is that this case has
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II been successfully concluded with a plea bargnin and
(2) punishment has been applied to both Mr. Fireman and Ms.
(3) Nichols, in that case, the investigation is ongoing, but you
if have got at least allegations there that are quite similar
(s) of peaple writing checks, being reimbursed. Source of
(GA funds, we are not sure of yet in the Hai Lai Temple case.
IT We do not know whether they came from within the temple's
In own resources or from some other source. In this case, we
in know that it came from this Hong Kong account
(19) In both cases, cestainly by your testimony, none of the
(11) recipients here, either Bush-Quayle, Senator Dole, or Joe
[12] Kennedy knew of the tainted source, and I presume, though we (13) do not know for sure yet, that that is true of the
(14] recipients of the money raised at the Hsi Lai Temple, did
(IS) not know it was hundered, but let me ask you this because I
('G) think it is important, and in some sense, we are continuing
In a discussion that began earlier in the week on the immunity
(109) question.
(19) Am I correct in assuming in this case that you had
p2] testimony from the socalled conduits, which is to say the
(21) people who wrote the checks and were reimbursed in cash by
[as Mr. Fireman and Ms. Nichols, of what had happened? In other
(23) words, did the conduits provide evidence to you of the
(ay) wrongdoing here?
Mr. Stern. I think I can safely say that the conduits
[1] did provide evidence.
[i] Senator Keberman. Again, I know this may be
[3] difficult, but I presume that when you interviewed the
(4) Conduits, they were not clear. They had no guarantee that
in they themselves were not going to be prosecuted.
in Mr. Stern. Well, if I can, Senator, with permission,
(1) perhaps to answer the question more generally?

Senator Licberman. Sure.
if Mr. Stern. You know, people speak to law enforcement
$[10]$ in a variety of different conterts. Sometimes they come in.
[11] They want to talk. They want to compliin about something.
[12) Sometimes people come in wanting to talk, and we need to
[13) make a determination in due course as to whether they are
[14] telling the truth or not, and that is very important to us, is obviously.
(19) Some people come in and talk only if and when we make a
in] judgment that immunity is approprinte.
(19) Senator Lieberman. Right.
(19) Mr. Stern. And some people will spenk and testify
(20) before the grand jury, and some people will be comfortable
(21) in relying upon interviews by an agent. So there is a menu,
[2] if you will, of difterent possibilities, all of which we
(20) try-I know my office tries-to calibrate that choice
(24) Consistent with the state of the investigation and the

2s) facts.
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(1) Senator Lieberman. Okay. I mean, in a sense, Senator
(i) Thompson and I are continuing our respectul dialogue on the
(3) question of immunity that we started earlier in the week,
(4) and I guess my feeling was-I know my feeling then was, and
(5) I would guess it was at least implicit in this case, that
m the conduits are more likely to cooperate in helping to
In build a case against the principals if they fear that the
(II) prosecutor may prosecute them, but I do want to make one
(m Other comparison here, without asking you, just for the
(IIG record, that at least one of the people we gave immunity to
(11) on Tuesday is exactly comparable to Ms. Nichols, which is to
(12) say one of the people is the person who had the-at the Hsi
(13) Lai Temple, had the connection to John Huang and Maria Hsia
[14] and then went out and arranged with the other nuns to write
(19) the checks and promise them they would be reimbursed, which

IIG is very comparable to the role that Ms. Nichols played here, IIn and Ms. Nichols, of course, was successfulity prosecuted and
IIE presumably was helpful in prosecuting Mr. Fireman.
(19) The same is true of Keshi Zhan in the Charlie Trie
[20] Case, who we gave immunity to the other day, but more
(21) generally, I do think that this shows that you lonow when the
[2] quest is on for money and people are under pressure and
res people have motivations here to give, to try to gain access
(24) or influence or whatever, they will skirt the law, and I
appreciate the fact that you successfully prosecuted these
Page 30
cases.
Can I ask you about Mr. Fireman's motivation? I have
seen somewhere in the material that somebody said-perhaps
it was Ms. Nichols-that Mr. Fireman's motivation in giving
this large amount of money was the hope that he would
receive an ambassadorship. Was that part of the record that
you recall?
Mr. Stern. It is, in part. In che criminal charges,
we alleged that his goal, his objective was at least in
part-and I emphasize in part-at least in part to obtain a
position in the-in a future administration, and I know we
have said publicly in the past that his objective had keyed
in on a possibility of an ambassadorship.
We did not find-and I tried to make this clear in the
(15) opening statement-pre did not find any evidence that that
[10] goal, at least partial goal, was ever communicated either to
[17] Senator Dole or to the Dole campaign.
ries Senator Lieberman. Right.
(11) And there were no other indications of what motivation
ron might have been here beyond that for Mr. Fireman?
(21) Mr. Stern. Well, the prosecutor, Joe Savage, who did
[2] this-presented this case at the sentencing hearing made
[2M reference to one of two possibilities; one, that Mr. Fireman
[2] was interested-hope for a future Government position.
les Senator Lieberman. Righs.

II Mr. Stern. The other possibility, that he was a lousy 2) fund-raiser, and since he was a lousy fund-raiser-

Senator Lieberman. Yes.
a] Mr. Stern. -and since he could dip into this own
(1) pocket-

Senator Lieberman. Right.
Mr. Stern. -and pay for it that he would do that.
Senator Lieberman. Yes, okay. This wouldn't be the
first time in American history that somebody tried to buy an
If ambassadorship, but obviously as part of the system, or more
) broadly investigating, the more the amount of money that
2] grows that is spent in political campaigns, the more
temptation there is for people who have big money to try to do exactly that, and the more I fear it occurs.

One of things that puzzied me and intrigues me about 8] this campaign, about this case, is why Mr. Fireman didn't do
this legally, which is to say much of the testimony before
(1) the Committee in the preceding hearings has focused around
the evil of soft money. Mr. Fireman was a wealthy man. He 20) could have legally given the large amounts that he did, and I am curious as to whether the record shows at all what motivated him to do it in this particular way?

Mr. Stern. It doesn't. Senator, and even apart from the record, I don't have the answer to that question.

Senator Lieberman. I want to suggest-and I don't know

Mr. Fireman, so I may be being unfair here. I want to
suggest one of two possibilities. One is that he was badiy
advised and he didn't know that he could have done this
legally. The second is he was cheap or greedy, and if he
had given it himseif, he would have had to-if you will, if
he had had the money transferred from the Hong Kong account
to himself, presumably, and did it legally, he would have
had to pay income tax on it and then given it as soft money
to the campaign. I don't expect you to comment on that, but
it is an-when we see these enormous contributions coming in in soft money to both parties, actually much larger than the total amount he gave, it puzzied me.

A final question is this. Based on the election law cases you have done, how many others would you say havebeen done in your jurisdiction since you have been U.S. attorney?

Mr. Stern. Since I've been U.S. attorney, probably one, two, threc-probably four or five. The Tsongas for President national fund-raising chairman actually preceded me by several months.

Senator Lieberman. Yes.
Mr. Stern. So that began under the prior U.S. attorney.

Senator Lieberman. That was a case-I remember that in [24] the press-where he embezzled money from campaign funds. (25] Mr. Stern. That's right, on the-not the eve of the

Connecticut primary, butSenator Licberman. On the eve of the Connecticut
primary. I remernber that one particularly. I have scars from that.

My question-if I may, Mr. Chairman, just briefly, I
was going to asik you, based on the work that you have done
prosecuting these cases, do you have any suggestions as to how this Committee might recommend changes in the criminal aspects of election laws?

Mr. Stern. Well, I'd like to give that some thought,
(11) if I could. I'd be happy, if the Attorney General wants me
[12] to do that, to supply some thoughts. I haven't really
[13] focused on that question before, Senator, but if-at some
(14) point, if the Committee wanted me or other U.S. attorneys or [15] prosecutors to make suggestions, and if the Attorney General [16] authorized me to do it, I would certainly do that.
in Senator Lieberman. Well, I personally would welcome [19] it, and I would guess that members of both parties on the
(19) Committee would, from you and from the U.S. attorneys
(20) generally, or folks at the Justice Department here in
[21] Washington who may have prosecuted these cases, because
[22] while we are talking about altering and perhaps banning soft
[23] money, et cetera, et cetera, the criminal law still has an
[24] important role to play here and you may be abie to heip us
[25) from the field in doing that.
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(1] Thaniks very much, Mr. Stern.
(2] Mr. Sexrn. Thank you, Senator.
3) Chairman Thompson. Thank you, Senator Lieberman.
(4) Very briefly, Senator Lieberman and I have a bit of a

51 different view on some of these things, and he stated as a
${ }^{6}$ fact something that I respectfully disagree with. I think
(n) the facts will show that we did not seek immunity for the
(8) person who is comparable to Ms. Nichols. I think that is
m just a different view that we have of the facts and we will
(10) just have to wait and see how that pans out, but that is my (11) view of it.
(12) Semator Lieberman. We definitely do have a different
(13) view of that because I think both in the Buddhist temple
[14] case and in the Charlic Tric case, on Tuesday, we gave
(15) immunity to the person who is exactly compasable to Ms.

(i7) Chairman Thompson. Well, that is just not accurate
Senator, in my view. I mean, we are going to have to wait and say that.

Senator Lieberman. Okay.
(21] Chairman Thompson. But the person who orchestrated
[22] this thing and put it together and was the primary agent is
[23] someone who we did not even seek immunity for. We have
[24] agreed not to talk about names in public and it will all
$[25]$ come out in the wash, but I just think that, you know, the
(1) record ought to reflect that we disagree on that factually.
(x) Senator Lieberman. Okny. We will continue this in
[3] private when we can, then.
(4) Chairman Thompson. All right.
(5) Senator Specter?
(i) Senator Specter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(7) Thank you for coming in, Mr. Stern. The purpose of

测 this inquiry and the purpose of your being called in, Mr.
Is Stern, is to determine if there was any illegal foreign
(10) contribution involved here. Had the United States
[11] Government had the evidence for a prosecution for illegal
[12] foreign contributions, would that prosecution have been
(13) pursued?
[14] Mr. Stern. Well, Senator, I just want to, I guess,
(19) repeat, and I don't mean to be cute about this, that we
(t'f) determined that the ownership of the money that eventually
[17] was wired from Hong Kong to Boston was owned by Mr. Fireman,
it8] that it was basically-or controlled by Mr. Fireman, and
(10) that there were no charges. I don't think I frankly ought
(z0) to be speculating as to why there-in hindsight, charges
(21] could have, should have, maybe, ought to have been brought.
(22) But as a factual matter, there were no such charges brought.
[23] Senator Specter. Well, Mr. Stern, my question is a
[24] very simple one. You are in the business of prosecuting
ras criminal cases where there is evidence to warrant a
(1] prosecution. Those prosecutions are brought, correct?
(i) Mr. Stern. Well, I think that's probably a fair
(3) statement to make.
(d) Senator Specter. Okay. Well, had chere heen evidence
[5] to bring such a prosecution, wouldn't it have been brought? Mr. Stern. We did not think that any such charge in
in this case was appropriate.
[s] Senator Specter. Thank you.
ig Senator Cochran. Mr. Chairman, can I ask another
(10) question?
(it) Chairman Thompson. Certainly, Senator Cochran.
i!2 Senator Cochran. Senator Lieberman suggested in a
(13) comment that he made-he said this is not the first time
[14] that an ambassadorship has tried to be bought, or words to
(15) that effect.
(16) You didn't find any evidence of the fact that the Dole
(in campaign was orying to sell an ambassadorship in this case,
(18) did you?
[19] Mr. Stern. No, none, whatsoever.
(20) Senator Cochran. That is all.
(21) Senator Lieberman. Oh, no. Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.
[23] Let me make clear that I did not mean to imply that that was
[23] the intention of the Dole campaign at all. I think the
(2a) record is very clear here that this was totally in Mr.
[25) Fireman's mind, and that is the problem. The more money we
have to raise, the more people like this decide they can buy (2) something even if nobody is selling
(3) Chairman Thompson. All right.

Senator Akalca?
Senator Akaka. I yield my time, Mr. Chairman.
Chairman Thompson. Senator Durbin?
Senator Durbin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr.
Chairman, may I ask a question of you before we proceed so I understand?
(10) Chairman Thompson. Yes.

Senator Durbin. Have we publicly disclosed the names
[17] of all the individuals who were granted immunity the other
( ${ }^{13}$ day, the five-
(14i) Chairman Thompson. No, we did not.
Senator Dubbin. We have not disclosed those?
(19) Chairman Thompson. No.
in Senator Durbin. Thank you.
II M I would like wask-thank you, Mr. Stern, for being
In here. The Chairman described this case in his remarks as,
*in quote, "fairly typical," close quote, in terms of
pol laundering. Bus I hope it is not fairly typical and I hope
pan that hindering is an exception rather than a rule.
irvin I would like, if you would, if you could explore your
[ai] statement, Mr. Stern, about how difficult these cases are to
[5] investigate and prosecute. Wherein lies the difficulty?
(1) Mr. Stern. Well, first off, I'm not sure in my
2) experience I've found any of these cases typical of
in anything. I mean, each case sort of stands on its own facts
M) and each case has its twists and turns and peculiarities, so

In I'm not sure there's anything particular about a particular blase.

You know, as I said before, these are conspiracies,
typically, and frankly it's not peculiar to campaign finance
violations. It applies to other white collar cases, in
fol general, intended by design to be committed in secret. If
[11] someone goes into a bank and robbed a bank, we may not know
(12) who they are, but the crime has been committed. It's there
$[13]$ for the public to see. People low about it.
(14) The first mask in investigating any kind of case live
(15) this is first determining whether there has been a crime,
(10) and then, of course, you have to find out who, if anyone,
(17) has committed a crime. So theyre complicated and they can
[10] be resource-intense. This one, as I said, came together
(19) fairly quickly, at least in part because of the cooperation
$[20]$ of the defendants. That helps a lot when a defendant is
[21] willing to plead guilty, but they can be-they can be
(22) complicated.
(23) Senator Durbin. Now, in this case it appears to be (24) something other than a garden-variety bundering case where [25) some American citizen might, in his exuberance to support a

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[1] candidate, decide to give money to another person to (2) contribute in their name, at least complicated by the fact (3) that we are dealing with a Hong Kong trust created by Mr. (4) Fireman-

Mr. Stern. That's correct.
of Senator Durbin. -and transfers of funds from overseas
In to the United States. And that really is what this first
if phase of the hearing is supposed to be all about, the
M involvement of foreign money illegally or improperly into
[10] our process, and that appears to be a very poignant fact in
(It) this case, the way Mr. Fireman set up this elaborate scheme
[14] to bring in $\$ 120,000$ over 5 years for a variety of
[13] candidates, mainly Republican, but even some Democrats.
[14] What I am driving at is this. We have had
[15] representatives now sit at that cable from the Democratic
[19 National Committee and yesterday the former chairman of the
[17) Republican National Committee talk about their efforts in
(i)] receiving funds to determine whether or not they are legal,
(19) and they have many times bragged about their abilities to
[20] determine them as to their legality and at other times
[21] apologized because they weren't as good as they should be.
[ 24 The point I am trying to get to is this. There you sit
[23] in a prosecutor's role, with extraordinary authority, and
[24] you tell us under oath today that many times you have
[25. struggle with these cases to determine whether or not a law
(1] has been broken. I will say this and you can accept it for [2] a fact. Thosetof us who are in the political business don't [3] have your resources at our disposal. We receive checks with [4] a very scant disclosure of the identity and occupation of (s) the contributor and we don't even inquire as a matter of (6) course as to the source of these funds unless there is (n) something suspicious that comes to mind.
[8 I think it raises questions that maybe Senator
D Lieberman alluded to that perhaps the Department of Justice
(Io) and maybe you personally could be helpful to this Committee
[11] in suggesting ways of amending our disclosure forms that
[14] might at least raise some suspicion where it should be
[13] raised when these contributions are made. And as a
(tui consequence, I hope that this hearing doesn't result just in (15) investigating, but also in legislating.
tie I would like to talk to you a moment about the immunity
$[t 7]$ question because this is one that we struggle with, and
(in) since you are here today I don't know if you what to be case
Ifs in the role as an expert on the question, but I agree with
(zeal Senator Lieberman. I think that one of the persons who was
[21] immunized by this Comanittee this week really falls right
Tai into the same category as Carol Nichols did in the Fireman
[xs) case, and that is why I didn't join the majority of the
(24) Committee on that one particular request for immunity and,

9 with Senator Akalo and Senator Lieberman, voted against it.
(1) I would like you to just, if you could, give me your
(2) feelings. What would have been the impact in this
[5] prosecution if Carol Nichols had received immunity by this
(4) Committee prior to any active investigation and prosecution
is by the U.S. attorney's office?
Mr. Stern. I don't have anything to be helpful to the
1 Committee with respect to the granting of congressional
in immunity and what impact that has on potential future
criminal prosecutions. I just-l just haven't faced it in
(10) my private practice or now as U.S. attorney. I can say that
(ti) if we had decided to grant Ms. Nichols immunity, then she
[12] would not have been prosecuted, obviously. And, in my
(ri judgment, an individual who had some criminal culpability,
(14) albeit not as serious as Mr. Fireman, would not have been
(is) prosecuted.
(19) Senator Dubbin. That is clear and understood that she
[17) may not have paid a price that she should have paid for (10) wrongdoing. I am hoping that-
(19) Mr. Stern. I think-I think-I think Ms. Nichols paid (20) the price that was appropriate in-
[21] Senator Dubbin. No, but I am saying had she been
(aa) granted immunity.
Mr. Stern. I see, yes.
[(a) Senator Dubbin. Now, the point I am trying to get to
es is beyond that, and forget the fact if you can for a moment
(1) that you are here before the Senate under oath and talking
(1) about congressional immunity. But in this type of case when
(3) you were trying to construct a prosecution, if you have a
(4] witness like Ms. Nichols who is given immunity in the case,
is how does that make your life more difficult, or does it make
it more difficult as prosecutor?
(I) Mr. Stern. You know, again, I don't want to, if I can,
(in not refer to Carol Nichols, in particular, and perhaps
[id answer the question more generally. Judgments are-these
(in) are dicey judgments, critical judgments, very important
[11] judgments that get made in virtually every case, and you
(12) worry about-l'II be honest with you-the grant-the
(13) premature granting of immunity before you know the facts,
[14] before the full texture and context of the case becomes

## (15) important.

(19) A witness comes in and says, I'll only talk to you if
(in) you give me immunity. You need to be careful about that
(10] judgment because, again, I'm not referring, Mr. Chairman, to
(19) congressional immunity and what impact, if any, that has.
(Vo) But a Federal prosecutor, either by letter immunity or
(21] court-granted immunity, essentially gives someone a pass
[2]) from crioninal prosecution. That's a serious decision,
(2) that's a serious judgment.
(24) Senator Durbin. Is the prospect or possibility of
[24 immunity-I think. I know the answer to this, but I am going
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if to ask you your opinion-the prospect of possibility of an 2] immunity the type of thing that is used by a prosecutor to (13) that the granting of immunity in these five cases would (14) compromise a prosecution, and they didn't do it. And I do [15] not want to gainsay any of my colleagues here who voted fo ['0] immunity. I thought in this one case where immunity was [17 granted, there was a virtual parallel to the Carol Nichols [18) situation and I don't think we should have granted immunity (19) in that case.
(1)
[ 0$]$ (7) no

Chairman Thompson. And, of course, number one, you
[10] can't speak of the individual case, as you have said. And,
[i1] secondly, every case is different and it is really fruitless
[ta] to be trying to draw too many immunity-type parallel and
[13] identify one factual situation to another, I suppose. But
[14] as a general proposition, is it not true that you weigh the
[15] forgoing of prosecution, on the one hand, with what that
[16] witness can give you in terms of assistance and help and [17] testimony on the other hand?
18) Mr. Stern. That's-that's part of the calculus, you (19] know, but there are certainly situations where if you want (20) the witness to be helpful and to testify truthfully down the 2if road before a jury, the jury may not like-if a person has [22] scrious criminal culpability, a jury may not like the fact [23] that immunity has been granted and may find the witness' [24] testimony more credible if, in addition to testifying, the 22I person is testifying having themselves been brought to

I think that is all I have at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Thompson. Just a minute or so of my time. Your office apparently was able to make a decision within about three months not to prosecuce these conduits, was it not?

Mr. Stern. That's correct.
ustice so to speat.
[1]

25]
(13) Mr. Stern. That's-that's absolutely-that's correct.
[14] Chairman Thompson. Even though apparently one of them
[1s] is quoted here saying, "Of course, I knew it was illegal.
(16] You don't see that much cash."
(17) I don't want to belabor the point. The prosecuting
[19] 2uthority, whether it be the Attorney General or as in most
(19) situations like this an independent counsel, has their job
[20) to do, and we have our job to do and we should not make our
[21] decision based upon what the Attorney General's job is any
[27] more than they should base their decision based upon what
[23) our job is. So we will continue to weigh these cases on an
24) individual basis, I assume.

So, again, there are a variety of-of-of situations, but there are cimes when, um, you know, we will insist, yes, we'll-we war't prosecute you for certain things or we'll give you " $x$ " sentence, but when you're before the jury, we want the jury to know that you also committed a crime and that-and that you're paying for it.

Chairman Thompson. Right, but in chese cases, these 70 conduits, you were able to decide within 3 months-

Mr. Stern. That's-that's correct.
Chairman Thompson. -that they did not deserve prosecution.

Me Stern. That's-that's absolutely-that's correct. individual basis, 1 assume.
Senator Smith?

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(1) Senater Smith. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have
(2) one question. I remember the details of this case when it
[3] came out, Mr. Stern, but refresh my memory on how did the-
(4) what was the genesis of this? How did this come out? I
(5) know there was a newspaper report. I mean, did one of the
[ 6 ] straw donors say something, or how did this-
In Mr. Stern. Well, we became aware-l became aware of it
[ $\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{B}}$ as a result of the Kansas City Star article.
Senator Smith. And did it say in there whether one of
in those people talked? I was just curious as to-
(11) Mr. Stern. The article itself actually has been made
(I2) an exhibit, um, this morning, and I believe that in some
[13) cases some people identify themselves by name to the [14] reporter.
(t5) Senator Smith. As having given the $\$ 1,000$ and been isf told that they were reimbursed. So that is whereMr. Stern. Right, I believe that's-
[to] Semator Smith. So it came from the employees, then?
[19] Mr. Stern. Well, I-you'd have to ask the reporter
( 201 that. The reporter quotes by name cerain individuals and
(21) then makes reference to other, um, conduit straw donors who
(22) were unnamed.
(z3) Senator Smith. Maybe some of us who are involved in
24) politics are probably too close to it, but it is incredulous
[25] to me that people would not lonow that that was Wrong, and
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[1] yet they did talk to the media afterwards. But it just
[द] seems incredible that that many people would do something
(3) like that and not lnow that it was wrong, either Mr. Fireman
[4] himself or the employces. It is so obvious. I mean, maybe
[5] it is too obvious because we are close to it.
if Mr. Stern. Well, you know, Mr. Fireman pled guilty to
[ 7 knowing it was illegal. That was part-
Senator Smith. Yes.
ig Mr. Stern. -part and parcel of his guilty plea, as
[10] well as Ms. Nichols was, that they knowingly and
(1i) intentionally viohted Federvl criminal law. So, that much [12] is the case. And, you know, at the time of the-when we
[13] announced the information and the, wh-and the plea
(14) agreements, I think I said in response to probably a
(15) reporter's question that I thought it was troubling, in
[10] part, that this took place in the worlpplace, that individual
(17) employees were essentially brought in. And, you know, I
(18) don't think it takes too much of imagination to conceive of
[19] the coercive effect on its face of people being brought into
ra0) your employer's office and being asked to do this.
[21] Senator Smith. Let me add to the comments that have
[20] already been made to congratulate you on the-
[23] Mr. Stern. Thank you, Senator.
[24] Senator Smith. on the timely and prompt way that you
(25) handled the case.
(1) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(2) Chairman Thompson. Senator Glenn?
(3] Senator Glenn. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A couple
(4) things I wanted to point here that I think are pertinent.
(5) The successful prosecution did not result from politicians
[0] accusing each other or political pressures being brought, as
n I understand it, or it wasn't from what we in the trade call
(0) opposition research, which means you are watching tike a
(I) hawk the other person's campaign to see whether there was
(ion wrongdoing or wrong filings. Or you go over the other
(ii) person's donor list to see where the money was coming from.
(12) As I understand it from you said, this was discovered
[13] because an enterprising reporter was covering this and got
[14] into some of this and published it in the Kansas City Star.
[15] Was that correct?
(19) Mr. Stern. That's-that's correct.
i1n Semator Glenn. Well, I think it points out the
(18) importance of the roie of the press in things like this and
(19] that we don't operate in a vacuum in this country. It has
(20) been called the fourth estate, and I guess it probably is.
[21] But I think it points up, too, how hidden this can be and
[27] how insidious the whole process can be, because here we had
(23) things that were absolutely illegal being done, but none of
(24) the four campaigns that you mentioned in your statement-
(25) none of the four campaigns that were involved with this knew

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## the first thing about it．

Mr．Stern．That＇s correct．
（3）Senator Glenn．And so they were completely innocent of （A）any－and it was bipartisan．
［5］Mr．Stern．Well，I should say more accurately we－we－ TV We discovered no evidence that they did．
（n）Senator Glenn．Yes，okay，right，which could lead to a m whole tine of questioning that I wont go down at the in moment．
（10）Mr．Stern．Well，it＇s the kind of answer you＇ll get （ii）from a prosecutor，uh．
（tad）Senator Glenn．Yes．Well，no，all right．That is
（13）fair enough．I am just pointing out how insidious this is （ 14 ）in our whole system．I might add one other item to this，
［is］too．You have prosecuted both Democrats and Republicans．
（19 One of the prominent examples was one of my close friends
［17］and a friend of many of us here，Senator Paul Tsongas，when
ti h his fundraising chief，I believe，was prosecuted．
in And Paul Tsongas，who was as fine a man as has ever
fri come to Washington，in my opinion，had no knowledge of that，
［ii］and that fits in with the points about these other four \＃campaigns．So when these have been alluded to，there was no
pain intention here whatsoever to point across party lines and
［an］say that one party does it and the other doesn＇t．
2－The important thing here is that under existing law，
（1）this is illegal，and so a lot of people are going to say，
well，if we just enforce the law，then that mikes care；we
in don＇t need any campaign finance reform．What I hope we are
［3］adding to by you being here and by pointing out what
If happened in this case that has been successfully prosecuted
in is the fact that here we had foreign money coming in．We
in had chird－party transfers of money，which are two of the
in areas that I have continually stressed we should be dealing
with，in addition to tox exempt misuse and sot t money
fig misuse，as the four points that I hope we are able to get
［11］into over the course of the next few months．
（11）And here in this one case，we had two of those
（13）elements－foreign money and third－party transfers，and
［14］contributions disguised so that campaigns filed further
［15］false reports with the FEC unknowingly．Is this analogous
［18］to the Buddhist temple situation？I don＇t know，but we are
（17）sure going to find out．And is it analogous in that did the
（19）campaigns know about this？I don＇t know，but we are going
（In to find out．And I don＇t know whether they will wind up as
［20］similar cases or not．I have no idea at this point．
［21］But to come back to my first point，I think，obviously，
［2］］we have to deal with illegalities，but if we are not to ［23］correct the system that breeds those illegalities by folding （24）into these four areas of tax exempts and soft money and
（25）foreign money and third party transfers，then we will not

## have done our job．

And I don＇t know the answer to this．What is needed？
${ }_{31}$ What needs to be changed？Do we need rougher penalties？I
（1）don＇t know．Would that stop anything or are our haws
（5）adequate？Do we need change in reporting at either the
If local level or the campaign level，or do we need somebody
In monitoring campaigns closer from outside the campaigns as
in they are in progress to try and ferret out some of these
m things？Or do we need the internal reporting of campaigns
（II）more available to the press？That is a bis one to take on （ill）around here，I will tellilyou that
（12）Do we need changes in FEC procedures or changes in what
［13）availability there might be of bark accounts to monitor
（14）political contributions and expenditures，more reporting
［15］cartier on？I don＇t know．These are all things that I
IIG think we should be thinking about and that I hope we are
（17）building an information base on through this year to maybe
（If）take some action on in real，meaningful campaign finance （19）reform at the end of the year．
FRO I just think that is the important thing for us to keep
［2I）in the background of our minds here，or the back of our
［aa］minds．And what it is is a general political problem，and I
（z）am not trying to say just everybody does it，but it is a
［24 general political problem across the whole spectrum of
es things．And just to say that existing have are
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（1］Mr．Stern．I＇m sorry．I missed the beginning．
（i）Senator Akalca．What factors brought Carol Nichols to ar prosecution？
44］Mr．Stern．Well，she was an active， 1 would say
in indispensable part of the conspiracy．She was the one who国 in some cases withdrew money from the Boston bank in cash
in and handed out cash payments，essentially reimbursement to
（0）those people who were straw donors．So she wasn＇t herself－
in and maybe－I can＇t even remember，Senator，whether she may
（19）have served at least in one or two instances as a straw
（iI）herself，but that＇s part of the example．She may have been
III 2 a straw with respect to perhaps one $\$ 1,000$ payment， $2 s$ well
［13］as perhaps members of her family．But her criminal
（14）culpability，in our judgment－and she pled guilty to it－
（15）extended well beyond that．
（119 Senator Azalea．Thank you，Mr．Chairman．
（17）Chairman Thompson．Thank you very much．
tied Just one brief comment．I think the point is well made II 9 that these things are hard to catch up with．There is
［eon probably not anybody here that hasn＇t inadvertently taken an
（R1］improper donation of some kind．But I think that what has
［aa）changed now is this whole soft money situation．It is one
res thing to try to catch a $\$ 1,000$ donation，but it something
（24）else again when you are dealing with $\$ 100,000$ or $\$ 200,000$ ，
25）and you are dealing with an individual who has already
［1］proven themselves to be untrustwor
（2）are dealing with in this investigation．
［3］So I don＇t think we can just say that these things are
（4）tough to catch up with and we can＇t follow them．I think
［B］that used to be the case more than it is now，but with these
（f）tremendously large sums of money coming in in the soft money
in situation to both parties，then I think it is incumbent on
n us to be even more careful．
io Senator Bennett？
（iq Senator Bennett．Thank you，Mr．Chairman．I don＇t
（ii）want to prolong this because I think this one has been
（127 examined about as much as it needs to be．But I can＇t help
${ }_{(113)}$ but reflect the comment that Senator Glenn．He said this
（14）was not turned up as a result of opposition research．It
（15）was an enterprising reporter．
（119）Just for my historic curiosity，I would like to know
（in）why an enterprising report from the Kansas City Star is the
（10）one who uncovered activity in the State of Massachusetts．
（19）And I am not a conspiracy theorist．
ri Senator Glenn．Ask the U．S．attorney，not me．
（21）Senator Bennett．You don＇t－
［ra Mr．Stern．I don＇t know．I can－you know，it may be
（23）that－you know，the article quotes，in some cases by name
（24）and in some cases not by name，people，you know，straw
res donors．I can＇c speculate as to why those donors might have
1）proven themselves to be untrustworthy．And that is what we

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II automatically okay if we just enforce them－I think we have
［2］to evaluate nat after all the testimony of the next six
（3）months or so comes out and see what kind of campaign finance
（4）reform we need．
A nance reform proposed by
nance reform proposed by senator McCain and Senator
$\pi$ Feingold，and I amin hoping we can have a vote on that one of
I these days．I think that is a start．It is just a start．
（1）I think we need to go fir beyond what is provided there．So
（10）I think these are all things that you are adding to our
（11）background of information on．We appreciate very much you （14）being here this morning．

I will yield the rest of my time to Senator Akaka．I think he had a question he wanted to ask．

Senator Akaka．Thank you very much．I have a remark to make and a question to Mr．Stern．

Thank you for being here．After hearing Senator
Dubbin，I want to say that I agree with him that there are
similarities between the level of involvement of Carol
Nichols and at least one of the individuals for whom the
Committee granted immunity this week．
My question to you，Mr．Stern，is－you stated that the
Department of Justice does not prosecute mere conduits，and
bay question to you is：What factors brought Carol Nichols to prosecution？



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$\qquad$ －

II knocked on the door, if that's what they did, of a reporter
[2] for the Kansas City Star rather than the Boston Globe or the
[3] Boston Herald. It's probably a question that the local
[4] reporters have asked themselves more often than I've asked
(5) myself.
(6) Senator Bennett. If I were John Grisham or some other Mn novelist, I could draw a circumstance where someone in a
(a) campaign in Massachusetts becomes aware of the fact that
[3) this activity is going on, becomes fearful that if it is
[10] exposed in Massachusetts, his campaign might be subject to
[11] some unfavorable publicity, discovers that Senator Dole is a
[12] beneficiary as well of this illegal activity, and says, you
[13] know, it would really help a whole lot if this were
[14] uncovered in Kansas, where Senator Dole is from, instead of
(is) Massachusetts, where I am from, and I will see to it that
[16] somehow somebody gets tipped off.
(17) The budding novelists-
(is) Mr. Stern. You are out of my league, Senator. I
19; can't-l have no experience with that.
Senator Bennett. The budding novelists in the crowd
(2) are free to use that without attribution.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Chairman Thompson. Senator Collins?
Senator Collins. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Si Mr. Stern. I first want to congratulate you on your
successful and expeditious prosecution in this case. I also want to tell you that it is very refreshing but,
unfortunately, surprising for us to have someone from the Department of Justice come before us and actually be willing to share some information.

While much of what you have to say has been widely reported, it is such a novel experience for this Committee that I think it was probably worth the minority having you miss a day or part of a day of work and spend taxpayers' dollars to fly you down here to be with us.

I do want to ask you one question, and I would like to have Exhibit 400 put on the monitor, if I could, and provided to Mr. Stern if he doesn't have it.

Mr. Stern. I have it.
Senator Collins. You do have it.
I want to direct your attention to the second
paragraph, the last sentence. It says that Fireman
established Rickwood, Ltd., in 1987 or 1988 in Hong Kong as
a means to purchase real estate in Florida which would not
be discovered by his first wife. In other words, he set it
up in fong Kong to conceal financial transactions from his first wife.

Is that your understanding as well?
Mr. Stern. Senator, I'm just going to, with your
permission, read just from the charge, because I think the
charge was that he-that it was established in-in 1985.
Senator Collins. 1985.
[3] Mr. Stern. In 1985.
a) Senator Collins. Yes, but the purpose-
[5] Mr. Stern. The purpose was to make certain
6] expenditures for the benefit of Simon C. Fireman that Simon
n C. Fireman wished to conceal. And for me to go beyond that
p) and respond directly to your question would-l'd be relying
ig upon information that I only know by virtue of the grand
!(10) jury, and I don't think I should do that.
(i1) Senator Collins. I will not ask you to do that. I
(12] will point out that in the staff interview of Carol Nichols
[13] that that is the information uncovered. So it tells me that
(14] this was set up to-thac Mr. Fireman set this up essentially
[15] to cheat his wife rather than to cheat his Government.
[16] Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(17) Chairman Thompson. Anything further?
(1a) Senator Lieberman. Mr. Chairman?
(19) Chairman Thompson. Yes, Senator Lieberman?
(20) Senator Lieberman. Well, Mr. Chairman, I just want to
(21) leave my friend and colleague, Senator Collins, with some
(22) optimism, which is that I am confident that when the Public
[23) Integrity Section of the Justice Department successfully
[24] completes its prosecution of the people that they are
[25) investigating now, as Mr. Stern has in this case, that they
[1] will come before this or some other congressional committee [ 2 ] and tistify with equal complereness.
(3) Thank you.
4) Chairmin Thompson. Anything further?
${ }^{5}$ ) No response.]
(1) Chairman Thompson. Mr. Stern, thank you for being with 7 us very much.
(8) Mr. Stern. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Phairman Thompson. You are excused.
[1] Chairman Thompson. We are going to have a vote
[i] momentarily, I believe, but shall we swear the next witness (3) in?

I Senator Glenn. Yes.
(5) Chairman Thompson. Mr. Richards, how are you? Would
is you raise your right hand, please? Do you solemnly swear
[7] that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth,
[8] the whole cruth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?
Mr. Richards. I do.
[10] Chairman Thompson. Thank you very much.
(11) I think rather than get started we would best just
(12) break now, anticipating a vote momentarily, and we will
[13] resume as soon as we return. It shouldn't be long, so let's (14) stay close by.
(15) [Recess.]
[16] Chairman Thompson. Let's come back to order. (17] All right, sir. Mr. Richards, you have been sworn in.
(18) Do you have a statement to make?
(1) TESTIMONY OF RICHARD RICHARDS, PRESIDENT, YOUNG
(2) BROTHERS DEVELOPMENT (USA), AND FORMER CHARMAN,
[3] REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE
[4] Mr. Richards. No, sir. I read the opening statement
(s) of Mr. Benton Becker, and that pretty well expresses what I
[ $\theta$ ] would say. So I won't bother with that, and I'm simply
n prepared to respond to questions.
[ 8 ] Chairman Thompson.All right. I will reserve my time,
Senator Glenn, and call upon you.
Senator Glenn. Mr. Chairmon, let me just express our
11] appreciation. I know Mr. Becker was on a boat in Alasica on
[12] a little vacation, and-I mean Mr. Richards. I am very
(13) sorry. We had to get him off a boat and bring him back
[14] here, and we appreciate his coming back very, very much.
(15) Mr. Richards. Does that mean the Committee owes me
(16] another trip to Alasica?
(17) Senator Glenn. The Committee owes you something. I am
(19) not sure I could promise a trip to Nlaska. But thank you

19 for being here.
(20) I will turn it over to Mr. Baron.
(21) Mr. Baron. Thank you, Senator Glenn.
[22] Well, it just noon. I will say good morning, Mr.
(23) Richard. Thank you for being here.
[24] Mr. Richards, I would like very briefly to run through
25) your background. As l understand it, you are an attorney

II presently engaged in private practice?

## (k] Mr. Richards. Yes, sir.

(3) Mr. Baron. And you served as an employee of the

H] Republican National Committee from 1965 through 1968; am I (s) correct?
(0) Mr. Richards. That's correct.

M Mr. Baron. And in 1975 and 1976, you were a member of
m the RNC by virtue of being chairman of the Utah Republican
M Party?
(10) Mr. Richards. That's correct.
[i1] Mr. Baron. Is that where you reside, in Utah?
(12) Mr. Richands. Yes.
(13) Mr. Baron. And from January 1981 through January 1983.
(14) you were actually chairman of the RNC?
(19) Mr. Richards. That's correct.
[16] Mr. Baron. And you now conduct your law practice out [17 of Ogden, Utah, and that is where you live?
[18 Mr. Richards, Yes, sir. Incidentally, I was also a
(19) member of the Republican National Committee for the years
inin 1965, '66, '67, and '68 by virtue of my chairmanship of the
[p] Republican Party in Utah. I served as party chairman for 6
Fen years, and that put me on the National Committee. So
(Fig rogether with the time that I worked for the National
(ai) Committee and my own tenure as chairman, I had 10 years at (Ey) the National Committee.

III Mr. Baron. And, also, at some point, and particularty in in 1991 to the present, you have served as an officer of
m Young Brothers Development (USA); am I correct?

## H) Mr. Richards. That's correct.

Fi Mr. Baron. Olay. Do you recall, sir, that in June-
mactually, specifically on June 10th of chis year-your
In deposition was taken?
m Mr. Richands. Yes, sir.
10 Mr . Baron. And both majority and minority counsel were
tion present, and you were under oath; correct?
(ii) Mr. Richards. That's correct.
${ }^{[12]} \mathrm{Mr}$. Baron. Do you have a copy of that?
[13) Mr. Richards. Yes, I do.
[14] Mr. Baron. All right. First, let me direct your
(1s) attention to page 19 of your deposition. Do you see that?
[16] Mr. Richards. Yes.
[in Mr. Baron. And beginning at line 22-do you see that?
(19) Mr. Richards. Yes.
(19) Mr. Baron. Olay. You were being asked about 2
$[20]$ telephone conversation that you had with Mr. Haley Berbour
[21] in the-I guess it would be the summer of 1994. Do you
(22) recall that?
[2]) Mr. Richards. Yes, 1 do.
[2] Mr. Baron. Could you relate for us the content of that
2s) telephone conversation with Mr. Barbour in the summer of

## (i) 1994?

Mr. Richards. Olay. I'm not certain, Mr. Baron,
(3) whether I knew in advance that Chairman Barbour was going to
(4) call me. I might have been advised of that fact by Fred
(5) Volcansek, or it might have been a cold call. I'm not B 10 certain.
in But, anyway, Chairman Barbour spoke to me on the phone
( 1 ) and told me that he felt like the Republican Party had an
IG opportunity to gain control of the House of Representatives
(19) for the first time in decades, and public opinion surveys
(i1) showed him that that was a realistic goal. Frankly, I never
${ }^{[12]}$ thought I would see the time in my lifetime that Republicans
[13) won the House majority. But he told me that was the case (14] and said: We have a problern; we at the National Committee (is) have loaned the forum $\$ 3$ million, $\$ 3.3$ million, some amount (11) in excess of $\$ 3$ million, of money that we can use in the (in campaign, but we have got a problem; we need to be able to (If]) take it out of the forum for our purposes, and we can't cake (19) it out unless we replace it with something because the fornon [(20) has overhead and other expenses. And I understand you [21] represent a well-codo Chinese fellow in Hong Kong who has [2] previously been a beneficiary to the Republican Party. [23] Would you be willing to calk to him about loaning us $\$ 3$ [24] million for that purpose?
(25) Mr. Baron. And what was your response?
(1) Mr. Richards. I responded that I would certainly be [7] glad to heariny of the details of his proposal and meet [3] With him or someone of his choosing, get further (4) information, and the I would look at the possibility of (5) reviewing that with Mr. Young.
(10) Mr. Baron. Let me-you have your deposition transcript $\pi$ in front of you, do you not?
if Mr. Richards. Yes.
i9 Mr. Baron. Let me direct your attention to your
(19] testimony beginning at line 25 on page 19 and then carrying (i1) over onto page 20.And you are responding to my question,
(ty in which I was asking you then to describe the conversation.
[13 Here is your answer, and I'm quoting: "Here, again, it
(114) would be in July, August, September, sometime in that

I1s period, I received a telephone call from Hiley Barbour to my
119 office in Ogden, Utah. Chairman Barbour identifed himself
(II7 and said, we have taken some political surveys, public
(18) opinion polls and it appears that we have an opportunity to
(190) pick up as many as 60 seats in the House of Representatives
(209 that we did not anticipate months back. We need money to do
(21) that. And we find ourselves in the position where we at the
[ial RNC have loaned the National Policy Forum $\$ 3$ million of hard
[(2)] money that we could use in those campaigns; but if we pull
[24] that money away from the Policy Forum, they won't be able to
res pay their overhead and other things and, therefore, we need

$$
\text { Page } 71
$$

[i] to borrow money for the forum so that we can free up our
(r) hard dollars. We need to put some soft dollars in the Forum
an so we can free up hard dollars."
(4) I read that accurately, I take it?
is) Mr. Richards. Yes, sir, and that-
(a) Mr. Baron. Is that your accurate-your recollection of

I7 the content of that telephone conversation?
(if) Mr. Richards. That is as close to verbatim as I can or recall.

Mr. Baron. Now, subsequent to that telephone
[11) conversation, which you put in the summer of 1994, I think
(12) the evidence is clear that the loan which ultimately was
(13) guaranteed through YBD (USA) was consummated on October 13,
(14) 1994. My question is: Between the time of this
(15) conversation and the time-October 13 when the loan was
(1G) consummated, did you have any discussions with Mr. Barbour
(17] as to the source of the money that would be used to
(18) collateralize what ultimately was a loan guarantee?
(19) Mr. Richards. I don't think we had a discussion as to

ROM the source of the funds until Mr. Young agreed to do it, and
(R1] at that time I told him how the transaction would be RA handied.
[xa Mr. Baron. Mr. Young agreed to do it, that is, to
(24) guarantee the loan?

25 Mr. Richards.Yes.
III Mr. Baron. And you say you told him. Who is "him"?
in] Mr. Richards. I told Haley.
${ }^{13}$ Mr. Baron. And can you recount that conversation?
[f) Mr. Richards. Let me clarify something here. When I
is discussed with Chairman Barbour the loan, it was to be a
in loan, and I always characterized it as a loan. However, at
in some later time it became a loan guarantee. So as I talk
in about the loan, that was the designation of the transaction
M prior to the actual funding of the money.
(iof But atter Mr. Young agreed to be helpful-and he did
(1t) not agree to the $\$ 3.3$ million but agreed to $\$ 2.1$ million-I
(12) notified Chairman Barbour that Mr. Young had agreed to it.
(IM) Mr. Young's son, Stephen Young, also came to the United
(11) States and was present at an activity and told Chairman (15) Bartour that Mr. Young had agreed to it.

116] At that time I told him that the transaction would be (1n handied through Young Brothers (USA), which was a (18) corporation organized in the State of Florida; I was the (to) chairman of the corporation; Mr. Benton Becker was the R2M secretary-rreasurer, and he was also our legal counsel; and [2] that the transaction would be handted by Mr. Becker, that he [2] would first have to do his due diligence. He would have to [r] make sure that the Joan whs legal and ethical and do all of (21) the preliminary work so that we could assure Mr. Young of E5 two things: number one, that it was a legal Eransaction.
隹
(4) source of the money would come from that would be posted as
n money would be transferred from Young Brothers (Hong Kong)
8) to Young Brothers (USA) for that purpose.

Mr. Baron. This was after Mr. Young had agreed that he [10) would support what was being asked of him, at least to the [11] tune of $\mathbf{\$ 2 . 1}$ million; correct?

## Mr. Richards. That's correct.

3) Mr. Baron. And this is in 1994, prior to the
[14] consummation of all the paperwork it would take to carry out (15) the loan arrangement?
(16) Mr. Richards. That is correct.
[17 Mr. Baron. Now, at that time-there has been testimony
(18) from Mr. Barbour to the effect that sometime prior to the
i19) Consummation of the loan arrangement, he was advised, I
[20) believe he said from Steve Young, Mr. Ambrous Young's son,
[21) that. a forgiveness or either all or part of the loan was
[22] Contemplated at some point.
[23) Let me first ask you this: Did you ever hear of that
[24] based on-you know, in your relationship with Mr. Steve
(2s) Young, with Mr. Ambrous Young? Was that ever brought to
Page 74
(i) your attention at that time?
(z) Mr. Richards. No. No, it was not.
[3] Mr. Baron. I also want to go back for a moment. Am I
(4) Correct that Young Brothers (USA), while it was an existing
(5) legal entity incorporated in Florida, to your knowledge, did

Mr. Richards. At that time we had only one assec. I
was a condominium in Georgetown Park.
Mr. Baron. Was it owned by YBD (USA)?
[10] Mr. Richards. I don't know if-I presume it was. I'm [ii] not certain, but I presume it was.
[12! Mr. Baron. Okay. How about its revenues in a year, if (13] you can approximate?
(14) Mr. Richards. There were no revenues with the
(15) exception of the rent from the unit, and-however, at one
[16] time, during the conversations a few years earlier with Mr.
[17) Courtelis, $\$ 2$ or $\$ 2.5$ million was transferred to that
[18) account to make a down payment on a strip mall someplace in
(19) Florida. But Mr. Young backed away from the transaction,
$[20]$ and the monies were returned to Hong Kong.
Mr. Baron. I think the evidence earlier is that that (22! was in 1991.

Mr. Richards. Yes, sir.
4] Mr. Baron. Now, you've said that you were not aware of
25) any conversations concerning possible forgiveness of this

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(1) loan around the time or prior to the time that it was made.
(2] Did there come a time when you first were advised that some ] effort was made to get Mr. Young to forgive all or part of
the loan arrangement subsequent to when the lonn arrangement had been consummated?

Mr. Richards. Yes. I received a telephone call from Mr. Fred Voicansek-I don't recall the date-and he told me
that Chairman Barbour was going to Hong Kong, he was going
to visit with Mr. Young, and at that time he was going to ask Mr. Young to forgive the loan.

I told him, Don't do that, that would be offensive to
(13) myself. You haven't even made any payments on it yet.
(14] Mr. Baron. Do you know whether Mr. Barbour
(15] nevertheiess went to Hong Kong to meet with Mr. Young and [16] whether that topic was-arose?
(17)
. Richards. Yes. I called Mr. Young to give him a
inf headsup that this may occur, and he called me after he met
(19) with Chairman Barbour and told me that Chairman Barbour had
(20) indeed asked him to forgive the loan.
[21] [ZC] ad been asked?
Mr. Richards. He told me that he couldn't do that. He
[24] told me that he explained to Mr. Barbour that he couldn't do
(25) that, and-but he wanted to be helpful to the Republican

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(1] Party, and that he would give some thought to how he might
( 2 ) be helpful to the party, but he could not forgive the ioan.
(3) Mr. Baron. Mr. Richards, let me direct your attention
14) to a letter that you sent to Mr. Haley Barbour on September
[5] 17th. Your letter is dated September 17, 1996. I believe
(6) it is Exhibit 349. Do you have that in front of you?
(7) Mr. Richards. Yes, sir.
(0) Mr. Baron. On the first page, the paragraph beginning,
[8] "Just prior..." do you see that?
(101 Mr. Richards. Yes.
(11] Mr. Baron. Is it fair to say that the letter was your
[12] effort to recount the history of the transaction to Mr.
[13] Barbour as you understood it?
(14) Mr. Richards. Yes, sir. That was the purpose of the
nis letter.
[16] Mr. Baron. Okay. Let me read into the record that
(17) paragraph I just alluded to. Just prior to the elections
tti of 1994, I was asked by Fred Volcansele to help facilitate a
(19\% loan in excess of $\$ 2$ million to assist you"-in this
(20) instance, you're writing to Mr. Barbour; correct?
(21) Mr. Richards. Yes.
(2n] Mr. Baron. "...to assist you in replacing hard money
(20] at the forum with soft money so that the hand dollars could
(24) be used to help pick up 60 targeted House seats."

Am I correct that that statement relates back to and
(i) refers to the conversation you had with Mr. Barbour sometime (2) in the summer of 1994?
[3] Mr. Richards. Yes. What I indicated eartier, Mr.
(4) Baron, is I'm not certain that Haley called me first or
[s] Volcansek called me first. If I had to guess, I would guess
(fi that Mr. Volcansek called tre first because he obviously is
m the one that told Mr. Barbour about my client. I had not
in had a discussion with him, and I would surmise that Mr.
in Volcansek called me and told me that Haley would in turn be
IM in touch with me. But that's-l'm not positive about that,
(iv) but that's my best guess.
(12) Mr. Baron. I understand that.
i13 Could you look at Exhibit 350 , please? And could we
[14] put Slide 350A up, however that is done?
[15] Mr. Richards. Yes.
(119) Mr. Baron. Do you see that? In the first sentence of

IIn your letter-this is a letter dated October 16, 1996, from
(id) you to Mr. Barbour; is that correct?
[19] Mr. Richards. That's correct.
(zv) Mr. Baron. In the first sentence of it, you say, "I am
(21) a little surprise"-I think you left a "d" off-"and
(2x) somewhat disappointed that you haven't seen fit to respond
[23] to my letter of Seprember 17, 1996." That was 349?
(24) Mr. Richards. Yes.
5) Mr. Baron. Okay. And have you ever gotten a response
( 1$]$ to that letter?
(2] Mr. Richards. No.
(3) Mr. Baron. Did you ever get a response to this letter.
(4) that is, the one of October 16th?
[5] Mr. Richards. No. Mr. Baron, let me explain a little
(6) bit what preceded this letter to Chairman Barbour.

Mr. Baron. Please.
(4) Mr. Richards. You'll note that this is after the 1994
(of election, the election for which we provided the funds. I
(10) had heard that Chairman Barbour had told someone that he was
(11] not going to repay the loan, that I had told him he didn't
(iz) have to pay the loan, and I wanted to correct that. And
[13) that was the purpose of the 17 th letter to recapitulate the
(14) entire transaction. And I tried to call Chairman Barbour
[15] and was able to get a hold of him on one occasion, and he
(16) said to me, Dick, 1 am not going to pay a soft money loan
(17) with hard money. And I said, Mr. Chairman, I don't care
(18) what you pay it with, we simply want you to pay the foan.
(19) And then I heard-and I don't recall the source of it,
[RO but obviously it came from someone at the forum-that
(21) Chairman Barbour had indicated to him that I said go ahead
(22) and default, we won't do anything about it. And I wanted to
[23] make sure that that was not the case.
(2a) And then Chairman Barbour had previously written a
[55) letter to Mr. Benton Becker and said in the event the loan
[1] is not repaid by the forum, I will go before the Republican
[2] National Committee budget committee and get permission to
[3] borrow the moncy to pay the loan 50 it'll be paid off before (4) I leave my chairmanship.
(5) And by this time, I had found out that he did not go (f) before the budget committee and someone else went before the [ 7 budget committee, and they tabled the concept. And so now (is) it appeared that the loan was not going to be repaid, and I
[8] was quite disappointed in that.
(10] Frankly, it's my opinion that Mr. Young would not have (11) made this loan had I not personally told him, Look, the [14] National Committee is a reliable committee, I've had 10 [13 years dealing with them, I've never known them to default, (14) Chairman Barbour's an honorable guy, he's given us his word [15] that the money would be repaid, you have no risk. You know. [16] And now I'm sceing that we do have a risk, and I was-l was [17) quite concerned about it.
(18) Mr. Baron. That was the prelude to the September and iff October letters, I take it?

Mr. Richards. Yes. And, frankly, I was reading in the (21) press about Chairman Barbour and Senator Dole criticizing [24 the Democrats for their Indonesia money, and I wrote to him, [2x] as you see here, "I believe it's significant that Bob Dole [24] and the Republican Party are now challenging contributions (2) made to the Clinton campaign by Indonesian citizens through

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(1) an American contact. Obviously there are some differences

14 between that situation and ours. However, I think we stand
明 the same risk of some very adverse publicity if the loan
14 were forgiven and it therefore became a gift. This is
[5] something you ought to consider." And he did not respond to
in that.
(H) Mr. Baron. Mr. Richards, some time ago you were quoted
in in the newspaper-well, let me back up. Ulimately the
in matter was settied, was it not?
(10) Mr. Richards. Yes, but-some hard feelings, but it was [in] settied.
[12] Mr. Baron. And I believe the evidence is that Young
(13) Brothers (USA) received a check in the amount of
(14] approximately $\$ 750,000$. I could be off by a little bit, but (15) that's about right?
16) Mr. Richards. Yes. The balance on the loan was (17) roughly a million and a half, and it was sort of divided (18) down the middle.
(19) Mr. Baron. Right. You were quoted in, I believe, the
20) Boston press, after the story broke, that in your opinion

21] the RNC should give-at that point, I believe you used the (22] number $\$ 500,000$, but 1 think you were referring to the 23) amount of money that Young Brothers had lost, that it ought [24] to be given back. Do you recall that?

Mr. Richards. Yes.

## Mr. Baron. And did you make that statement to the press?

Mr. Richards. Yes. I still think they ought to give (4) it back.

Mr. Baron. Let me direct your attention in your deposition-that's Volume I. Would you look at page 82. please?

Mr. Richards. Of what?
Mr. Baron. I'm sorry. Volume I of your deposition on June 10, 1997

Mr. Richards. 82, yes, sir.
12 Mr. Baron. Okay.Acrually, I realiy want to give the
(13) whole context, so I wonder if you could-well, let me read
(14) it and then you follow along to make sure l'm reading it
[15 accurately. I don't want to leave out part of it. I want
(16) to put it in context.
(17) The question so you at line 7 on page 81: "You were (18) quoted in a news article in the Boston Globe that in your (19) view the RNC should pay back, I think the figure was used, (20] the $\$ 500,000$ that had been lost as a result. As we now know [21) it was closer to over 700,000 . Was that an accurate quote?" And your answer was: "Yes. The writer of the story (23) talked about the $\mathbf{5 0 0 , 0 0 0}$ and I didn't correct him because I [24] wasn't sure what it was. But the writer called me and told 25) me, did you know that the RNC has now paid back $\$ 120,000$ to

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(1) Chairman Thompson. Thank you, Mr. Richards. I am not [z] going to belabor the payback point. I made my feelings (3) clear yesterday with Mr. Barbour when he was here, and I regret that he is not here to address specific comments that you or anybody else might make. I think it would have probably been better to have him last so the could address anything in fairness to him.

But, basically, my position was if it wasn't felt that there was an obligation, they shouldn't have paid back half in of it. And if it was felt that there was an obligation,
II they should have paid all of it.
121 Mr. Madigan?
Mr. Madigan. Good afternoon, Mr. Richards. I think unfortunately we are now into the afternoon.

You and I have never met before this morning; is that right?
Mr. Richards. That's correct.
al Mr. Madigan. 1 appreciate your being here as well.
9) Let me see if I can just understand what this
of transaction was and wasn't one more time at the risk of If beating a dead horse, as we say.

The discussion with Mr. Baron about it being a loan that you had-these discussions you had with Mr. Barbour early on, the transaction that ultimately occurred was not a loan of any kind. Am I right about that?

## Mr. Richards. It was a loan guarar!ee.

(a) Mr. Madigan. And let's talk a bit juct ':, a few
(3) minutes about the Young Brothers (USA). That was a company
(4) that was set up back in 1991.
[5] Mr. Richards. That's correct.
(6) Mr. Madigan. And it's an American subsidiary; is that $\pi$ right?
Mr. Richards. Yes.
(9) Mr. Madigan. And you became the president?
(10) Mr. Richards. Yes.
[11] Mr. Madigan. And it was in existence for a number of 2 years prior to 1994?

Mr. Richards. Three years.
[14] Mr. Madigan. And as I understood from what Mr. Baron
[15] asked you, in the early days, I believe in 1991, the YBD
(1B] (USA), as it is called, became a Team 100 member and made
(in) these contributions?
(18) Mr. Richards. That's correct.
[ 19 M Mr. Madigan. And we've heard a bit of testimony about
(20) that over the last several days. You were involved in that
[21] as well; is that right?
[22] Mr. Richards. I was involved after Mr. Courtelis had
[23] sole Mr. Young a Team 100 membership because the money had [2a] to be transferred from Hong Kong to us, and then Mr. Becker
[RS) and I had to sign the check that paid the money over to the
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(I) National Committee. And that's the point at which I became (2) involved.
[3) Mr. Madigan. And you understood at the time that it
(4) was perfectly legal?

Mr. Richards. Yes, sir.
(8) Mr. Madigan. And that's your position today?

I7 Mr. Richards. Yes, sir.
(ia Mr. Madigan. And that's why you told Mr. Baron that
9) you didn't understand why it was recurned?

Mr. Richards. That's correct.
[i1] Mr. Madigan. All right. Let's talk a bit about the
[12] loan guarantee. As I understand it from the various
(13) witnesses, it was a business transaction, not a
(14] contribution; right?
['s] Mr. Richards. That's correct.
[16] Mr. Madigan. And the business transaction was that YBD
in7 (USA) agreed to guarantee the loan that was going to be made
(18) by the Signet Bank here in Washington, D.C., for the amount
( 10 ) of $\$ 2.1$ million.
(20) Mr. Richards. Yes.
(211 Mr. Madigan. And that loan was to be made to the NPF:
[2] Mr. Richards. That's correct.
[23] Mr. Madigan. And as I understand it from reading your
[24] deposition and from listening to you today, it was your
2ss expectation, and from listening to Me. Becker's testimony,
it was your expectation that this loan guarantee would never be drawn upon?

Mr. Richards. That's correct.
Mr. Madigan. You didn't intend somehow to make some
sort of secret contribution to anybody?
Mr. Richards. No. No, we did not.
Mr. Madigan. And your expectation was that the NPF
would ultimately fully pay off the loan to the Signet Bank
and that the collateral that you put up would ultimately be returned to Young Brothers?

Mr. Richards. That's right. Our collateral was
17) earning interest in the bank. We were losing nothing. We
${ }^{13 /}$ were taking no risk as long as NPF made their quarterly
(14) payments.

Mr. Madigan. And Mr. Becker I think told me it was
IG making about 8 percent interest or something during the
period of the loan; is that right?
Mr. Richards. That's correct.
Mr. Madigan. And so you fully expected to make the 8
or percent interest during the loan period, and then when the
11 loan was paid off, you get the CDs back and go on about your
business?
Mr. Richards. That's correct.
Mr. Madigan. Now, it has been stated a number of times
that the YBD (USA) wns a shell corporation set up for the
purpose of funneling illegal foreign money into the
Republican National Committee. Is that true?
Mr. Richards. No, no, no. YBD (USA) was set up
(4) initially after Mr. Courtelis had contacted Mr. Young to

If invest with him in the mall down in Florida. And so Mr.
(6) Young wanted to set up an American corporation for those

7 purposes, and they transferred some $\$ 2.5$ million to the
(in American corporation and set upon looking at properties to
il purchase in America. We looked at properties in California,
109 Texas, and Florida and in Washington, D.C. And Mr. Young
(11] and Young Brothers were going to buy American real estate.
(12) That was the purpose of the corporation.
[13] Mr. Madigan. I believe that you testified in your
[14] deposition and Mr. Young himself testified that the company
(195) would-was intended to operate as a business in the United
$\left.{ }^{1} 10\right)$ States and retain its U.S. earnings here in this country; is
(in that right?
(10) Mr. Richards. That's correct.
[199 Mr. Madigan. Let me ask you a bit about some other
(20) testimony that we have heard about whether there was any
(21) kind of quid pro quo suggested or discussed at any time.
[z]] Was there ever anything that was promised to Mr. Young in
[r3] return for his making this loan guarantee that you're aware (24) of

Mr. Richards. No, 1-
Man_Ron_
(1) Mr. Madigan. Other than that he would get his money
(7) back.
(3) Mr. Richards. There was discussion with Mr. Young that
(4) we would like to him make a-write an article for
(5) Commonsense and so on, things of that nature, but there was
${ }^{(6)}$ no quid pro quo. And, unfortunately, Mr. Madigan, my letter
0 of September 17 th was written in such a way that it may
(e) appear that there was a quid pro quo, particularly with
of Chairman Barbour, and that's not true. We did not ask
(19) Chairman Barbour to do anything to generate business, to
(Ii) talk business, of do anything. That is-and when Chairman
(12) Barbour says that's true, I mean, he's a hundred percent
(13) correct. We did not ask anything of him.
[y4) Mr. Madigan. And I was going to ask you a bit about
[15] the letter. You were very agitated and understandably upset
(18] at the time you wrote it. I believe you testified in your
(17) deposition that there were a number of things in there that, (is) upon reflection, were not-
(19) Mr. Richards. It's not a very good letter. I mean,
(20) and when you write a letter and you're mad and you send it
(21) off before you have time to really contemplate it, you say
(2) some things maybe you wish you hadn't said. And it wasn't
(23) very artfully written. But it's true.
(24) Mr. Madigan. But there are parts of it that are not
(25) true, for example, the reference to seeking any business in
(i) Hong Kong and all that, that's not accurate; right? Mr. Richards. That would be Mr. Young's interest but [3] not Mr. Barbour's interest, and no request was made of him.

Mr. Madigan. Right. Now, I saw marked as an exhibit
is an affidavit that I think is-l'm not sure exactly what (6) number it is. Is that some affidavit that you had executed in at some point in time? No. 402, Ithink it is.
(f) Mr. Richards. Yes, it was probably a couple of weeks If ago. The attorneys that represent the Republican National
(tol) Committee asked if they could see me, and they flew out to
(11) Ogden, Utah, where I live and presented me with an afficavit
(11) that they had previously prepared consistent with some
(13) telephone conversations I had with them. We went over the
[14] affidavit. There were some things that I felt were not
(15) accurate. We made the changes. I signed the afficavit and
[10] it appears here today.
[17 Mr. Madigan. And you didn't discuss that with me, I (14) cake it?
[19) Mr. Richards. No, I-in fact, unfortunately, I didn't
my discuss it with Mr. Becker, and he didn't like it either.
[2f) Mr. Madigan. Well, perhaps you should have done that.
[2n But, in any event, you've now looked at this No. 401, and
[2i) does it accurately reflect the facts as far as you know
[24) them?
Mr. Mr. Richards. I think so. I don't know of anything
(I) that is not true.
( ${ }^{1}$ Mr. Madigan. Now, the loan guarantee transaction,
a going back to that, as president of YBD (USN), did you take
4) steps to ensure that this transaction was completely legal
in all respects?
Mr. Richards. Yes, sir. As a matter of fact, when Mr.
Y Young agreed to do it, he said, Dick, you've got to protect
( 0 ) me.And I said I will get Mr. Benton Becker to represent us
in and do that, and Mr. Becker has been around a long time,
frof knows a lot about politics and law, and very meticulous, and
[i1] 50 I called Mr. Becker and told him that we wanted him to
[12] look into the transaction, make sure it was legal, and not
[13] only that, to make sure it was ethical. We were not simply
(14] looking to abide by the letter of the law, but we waned to
[is] abide by the spirit of the law, and that was one thing; and,
[19] secondly, to make sure that we were safe, that we were not [1] taking a risk here.
(10) And prior to that time, I honestly a'ways thought this (i) was a loan. I mean, loan guarantee was not in my vocabulary
[20) at that time, and when the lawyers got together and they [24] worked out the details, they came out with the guarantee as [22] the vehicle to do it.
$\left.{ }^{23}\right)$ Mr. Madigan. I won't belabor that. We have had a lot [24] of testimony here about the number of Washington lawyers and [25] other lawyers that looked at that transaction. There were
(1) quite a few of them.
[7] Mr. Baron also asiced you a bit about this question of
(3) where-well, let me back up a bit. When the loan was
[4] defaulted, what happened apparently, according to the
[5] testimony we have received-or let me back up even further.
(0) When the Signet Bank loan was consummated, the testimony we

In have received indicates that the $\$ 2.1$ million went to the
(II) National Policy Forum-
(I) Mr. Richards. That's correct.
frof Mr. Madigan. -and that they had prior debts to the
(11) RNC and that they had transferred-they then transferred (' 2 ) about $\$ 1.6$ miltion to the RNC. Is that generally your [13] understanding?
[14] Mr. Richards. I don't know what they did. All I know (IS] is that we made the loan guarantee, and how they handfed the [16] money, we don't know.
In Mr. Madigan. And I was going to ask you a bit about
(18) that. I take it that you can't help us with respect to this
(19) question of what exactly happened to the money after it got (20) over to the RNC?
(21) Mr. Richards. No. No, I can't.
(2]) Mr. Madigan. And you testified a bit about that in
(23) your deposition. Let me read you that and see if that is
(24) right. You were being asked about this-this is page 114 of zes your deposition. You said, "Ambrous Young's money did not
[i] AFIERNOON SESSION [1:36 p.m.]
(2) Chairman Thompson. Let us come to order, please.
(3) Senator Glenn?
(4) Senator Glenn. Carl?
if Chairman Thompson. Senator Levin?
(0) Senator Levin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(7) Mr. Richards, first, welcome and thank you for coming
(i) to testify. I would like just to refer to a page in your

M deposition, page 55.
(10) Mr. Richards. Yes, sir, I have that.
[it] Senator Levin. All right, and then you are being asked
(12) a question there by Mr. Baron about a telephone conversation
(13) that you had with Mr. Barber, and then you are read a
(14) paragraph from your September 17, 1996, letter, and I am
(15) going to just pick up from there. So it is really on page
(110) 56, where you wrote in the letter, "Just prior to the
(17] elections of 1994, I was asked by Fred Volcansek to help
(ta) facilitate a foan in excess of $\$ 2$ million to assist you in
II replacing hard money at the Forum with soft money so that
(20) the hard dollars could be used to help pick up 60 targeted
[21] House seats," close quote.
[2] And then Mr. Baron asks you this question about that
gray letter from you to Mr. Barbour. "Is that statement in your
[24] letter consistent with what you were told by Mr. Barbour in
res your telephone conversation with him that you described
Page 96
Page 93
III earlier?" And your answer was, "It is precisely the same."
(2) Did I read that accurately?
(3) Mr. Richards. Yes, sir.
14) Senator Levin. Now, the next question is where I want
(5) to pick up. Mr. Baron then asks you this question, "My next
(1) question is you make reference to Fred Volcansek in that

In paragraph. Did Volcansek make that same representation to
if you or was Volcansek simply referring to the money without
I getting into the purpose?" Answer-this is your answer now
(10) in the deposition, "I think Fred made this same reference to
(11) the purpose.As we talked, we all knew what the purpose
[12] was. I mean, that was the foundation of the whole deal."
(13) Did I read that accurately?
$[14]$ Mr. Richards. Yes, sir.
is) Senator Levin. And was that deposition statement of (18) yours accurate?
(17) Mr. Richards. Yes, sir.
(19) Senator Levin. That is all I have, Mr. Chairman.
[19] Thank you.
(20) Chairman Thompson. All right.
(21) Senator Cochran?
[22] Senator Cochran. Mr. Chairman, there was one statement
(23) made by Mr. Richards that I wanted to be sure I understood.
[24] When you were talking about Benton Becker's role in ess reviewing this loan guarantee, I think you made a comment to

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the effect that you wanted him to conduct the due diligence
that was required to satisfy two goals. One was to
ascertain if the loan guarantee were legal and the other, secure, number two.

The fact of the matter is there was no security, though, for the loan guarantee, was there? There was no written document executed?

Mr. Richards. No, sir.
Senator Cochran. And no one purported to guarantee or advance something of value to be held as security so they couldn't suffer any loss on that loan?

Mr. Richards. That's correct. What-what I referred to there is our best guarantee was the Haley Barbour statement that he would go before the committee.

Senator Cochran. Right, and it was your assurance-you really were the one who assured Mr. Young that he had no risk. I think you used that it was a no-risk loan?

Mr. Richards. Yes, sir. Unfortunately, I'm the guy that did that.

Senator Cochran. And so everybody could understand when you said you were angry when you were writing this letter in September, laying it out as to why you thought
23) that that loan should be repaid because your reputation and your statement to your client had been that this loan is noSi risk-

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(1)

Mr. Richards. Yes, sir.
Senator Cochran. -is a no-risk loan.
[3] Mr. Richards. That's true.
Senator Cochras. I have no other questions, Mr.
(5) Chairman.

Chairman Thompson. Senator Licberman?
$\lambda$ Senator Lieberman.Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks,
(i) Mr. Richards, for your cooperation in this investigation.
is Sir, you have testified this morning about the course of
[10) deliberation about what you understood the purpose of the
[11] request for the foan to NPF was and about the effort that
[12] was made to make sure that this was a legal transaction.
[13] I wanted to ask you why so much effort was made to make
(14) sure it was a legal transaction. Let me just put it this
[15] way, and again you have indicated today that you were quite
[18] forthcoming, just as Mr. Volcansek said yesterday and Mr.
In Becker the day before, that the money was coming from Hong
(te) Kong, YBD (Hong Kong) to YBD, Young Brothers Development,
[i' USA, and then to the NPF. Why the concern?
I mean, for instance, if we lonow that it is legal for a
[21] foreign corporation or individual to give money to Amerionn
[22] 501 (c)(4)-you know, I presume if Mr. Young decided that he
(23) wanted to send money from YBD (Hong Kong) to YBD (USA), and
(24] then YBD (USA) would give a contribution to Georgetown
[25) University you wouldn't have gone to this extent to create
Page 99
[1] an assurance on your part and Mr. Young's that it was legel.
[z] So can you heip me understand what you were concerned about?
[3] 1 guess that is the question.
(1] Mr. Richards. That's a fhir question. Senator, if it
[5] was me making the loan, I wouldn't gone to all that expense,
(G) all that effort, but this was a client. This is a man who

In was very concerned about his reputation, and I didn't want
(i) him offended. I didn't want him to some way be embarrassed,
(n) 50 it was really a little-a little more than I would do for
[f0] myself, but a valuable client-I wanted to do that. I just [i1] wanted him to feel very comfortable.
(12] Senator Lieberman. Olay,l appreciate that. Let me [t3] ask the question, or another part of the question this way.
[14] You have testified this morning that the first inquiry you
[15] had about this, it was pretty clear to you that the purpose
(16) of the money-and, again, I am not alleging any illegality
(in) here-that the need for the loan to the NPF was to free up
(18) the money from NPF to 80 into the 1994 campaign.
[19] My question is this. Was the extra effort that was
(20) made to guarantee the legality of the transaction at at
[21] because you were concerned about the eventual movement of
(2) money, indirect as it was-1 mean, indirect in that Mr.
[23] Young's money was not going directly to the campaign, but to
(24) the NPF then frecing up money for the campaign? Werc you
[25] Worried about that?
il Mr_Richards. No, sir, becauselfelt the term "free up" was our protection. This was to free up other money that could be used in the campaign, rather than substitute.
So "free up" was a critical part of this conversation.
Senator tieberman. Olay, thank you. I am going to
move on to another part of this. One of the thing that has
$\pi$ intrigued me, and I suppose a lot of people on the Committee
if throughout the three weeks that we have had with the
(n testimony about people like Johnny Chung and Charlie Trie,
10j Yogesh Gandhi-and I suppose more comparable in a way, and I
(11) don't mean to be judgmental here to the Youngs or the lippo
12) family-or the Riady family, but the question is what

13 motivates people-an interesting question all along the way,
14] I suppose, is what motivates anybody to give enormous
[15] amounts of money to political campaigns, as is allowed by [10] the soft money provisions.
But what motivates people who live outside of the
iv] United States who don't have significant or maybe any real
in active business interests in the United States, who are not
(ZV) citizens, although I know Mr. Young's children, at least
(21) some of them, were citizens-what motives them to give these
[2K] substantial amounts of money to American political
(2) campaigns?

124 And I think you said some interesting things in your deposition which I want to read to you and give you an

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(1) opportunity if you want to expand on. At page 59-and I
( 4 believe this is the point at which Mr. Baron in the
(3) deposition is reading to you from that letter of September
(4) 17. 1996, but he says, There is some reference here about
[5] seeing if we could facilitate some business in China that
(6) Mr. Young had in mind. What does that refer to?"

And then you say-and this is not from the letter; this
[B] is your answer. "'m not sure what Mr. Young had in mind.
of He was quite private about his business, but my impression
(10) was that he wanted to bring Chairman Barbour there as a
[11] purpose of showing these people, business people, government
[12] people, that he had connections with the leadership of the
(13) Republican Party in the United Stntes. We did not discuss
(14] any business. He did not in my presence ever ask Haley to
(15) do anything. He didn't ask him to promote business. There
$[16]$ was absolutely no business discussion concerning that trip."
[17) And then the question is, "is it fair to say that Mr.
(ti) Young, regarding his ability to show to high officials in
(19) the People's Republic of China government, that he had what
(zo) appeared to be a close relationship with a high official in
(21) the Republican Party of the United States?" And your answer (2) is "yes."
[23] I take it that represents your views accurately.
(24) Mr. Richards, Yes.
(25) Senator Lieberman. Do you want to expand on that at
(n all?
[I] Mr. Richards. Well, I kind of think that, Senator, is
is like a lot of your constituents and other constituents that
(4) want to mect their Senator, want to have their picture taken
(5) with them, and they hang it in their office, and so on. It-

9 -it feels their ego a little bit, and as Mr. Young
7 commented, he said "this puts powder on my face.
Senator Lieberman. Right.
i) Mr. Richards. And that means he looks good to people,
and looking good to other people opens doors and provides
in opportunities for you. And it was only that in the general
(12] term.
(13) Senator Lieberman. Understood completely. In that
[14] sense, your translation or description of what it means to
(15) put powder on your face was a good one, but just to make one
${ }^{16} 16$ look good, and in that sense perhaps to lead to business
inh opportunities, but increase one's status in the country that
(t8) you are visiting?
(19) Mr. Richards. That's correct, and Haley was never
[20] asked to do anything, and as far as I know he never did
(21) anything quid pro quo. He never tried to promote Mr. Young
(2) or anything else. This was a kind of a social visit to
(23) China.
(24) Senator Lieberman. Right, okay, interesting and I
(2) think helpful. Let me ask about another part of this, and
(1) this goes to your September 17th letter and I will read in
(2) this case from the letter, if I may, bottom paragraph on the
[3] first page. Again, you say, "Funds were transferred from
(4) Hong Kong Young Brothers USA, a Florida corporation of which
is I am president." This was when you were restating to Haley
(6) Barbour your recollection of the transaction and your-

Mr. Richards. Senator, where are you reading?
Senator Lieberman. Sorry. In the letter of September-
Mr. Richards. On page 1?
Senator Lieberman. Page 1 at the bottom.
${ }^{12]}$ Mr. Richards. Yes, sir, okcy. Thank you.
(13) Senator Lieberman. "Shortly after the loan was made,
(14] you journey to Hong Kong, approach Mr. Young for the first
(15) time about the question of forgiveness of the loan." I am
[1E] getting to forgiveness here. "Mr. Young called me and told
(17) me of the discussion and informed me that he wanted to be as
(if) helpful to you as he could and he would take the request of in forgiveness under advisement."

Next paragraph, "Mr. Young began discussions with you about a trip to China. One was scheduled, then canceled. A second trip scheduled in which you, Mr. Young, and I were [23] all to go to China for the purpose of seeing if we could (24) facilitate some business in China that Mr. Young had in 25) mind."

I take that to be a reference to the conversation you (1] and I have just had.

Mr. Richards. Yes, sir, that's correct.
(i) discussions that the question of forgiveness became
(ii) seriously considered, and Mr. Young indicated to both you
[12] and me, and you and I also discussed the possibility of
[13] forgiveness if Mr. Young could get some business
[14] opportunities that would justify forgiveness of such a large
[15] indebtedness. Forgiveness was always, always underiined,
[10 concingent upon Mr. Young getting something in return that
(17) would justify this kind of generous gitt."
[19] And, of course, this is consistent with what you and, ${ }^{1} 19$ in fact, Mr. Becker have described this as an investment or,
[2G in a sense, a commercial transaction. Would you want to
[21] amplify that at all? I may have missed it, but I had not
[2a] understood that the discussions berween Mr. Barbour and Mr.
[23] Young did involve an understanding here that this would be
[24] more than a kind of charitable contribution.
Mr. Richards. 1 whs-I was not privy to a conversation
berween them that said that. I was privy to conversations
with Mr. Young and concluded that that might have been
discussed between him and Chairman Barbour, but I was not
there when Chairman Barbour and Mr. Young discussed that specifically.

Senator Lieberman. But it was your understanding that Mr . Young felt that forgiveness-forgiveness was such a substantial gesture by him, with grave financial consequences that presumably-

Senator Glenn. Do you want two minutes?
[11] Senator Lieberman. Just two minutes, thanks; three
(12] minutes is fine.
i(3) That he would expect something in return
[1a] Mr. Richards. Well, here again, Mr. Young didn't think
(15) he was going to lose his money either.
[10] Senator Lieberman. Absolutely.
IIT Mr. Richards. He thought this was a loan and so I
[10] don't know what Mr. Young had in mind, to be honest with
(19] you, but I do know that having worked with him over the
[20] years that this opportunity to present himself with Chairman
RI] Barbour was important to him.
[2] Senator Lieberman. Right.
(23) Mr. Richards. It would make him look important.
[24] Senator Lieberman. Right.
(25) Mr. Richards. And it would be beneficial to him in the

II Senator Durbin. All right. So he came to you and he [1] said, We need the loan guarantee so we can free up this (3) money out of the National Policy Forum and put it into (4) campaigns. 1994 looks promising. Some 60 races may be [5] winnable in the house." Is that a fir summary as to his (f) presentation to you?
(7) Mr. Richards. Yes, sir.
(H) Senator Durbin. Then, after that initial conversation,

M did you have follow-up conversations with Mr. Barbour or
10) people at the RNC where that plea was made again?
(11) Mr. Richards. Not many because after the initial
(12) discussion, we started talking with Fred Volcansek and other
(13) people rather than directly with the chairman.
$[14]$ Senator Durbin. But Mr. Volcansek, did he follow
(15) through on the same theme?
[10] Mr. Richards. Yes.
inf Senator Durbin. If it looked like things were bogging
(1m down in the negotiations, that, "We have to get this done.
(l) We have to move on it before the election"?

120 Mr . Richards. Not that particularly, but Mr. Volcansek
(21) seemed to have the duty to shepherd this thing through to a
(2a) conclusion, but he was not pressing us too hard, you know.
(2) Senator Durbin. But did you feel they needed this
[24] before the election?
Rog Mr. Richards. Oh, yes, Yes, obviously.

II Senator Durbin. Mr. Richards, the reason, obviously,
1 that I raise this is, after Mr. Barbour's testimony
(3) yesterday, he virtually dismissed this moncy and said it was
(f) not necessary, we were flushing our account in terms of soft
5) money, and people who were suggesting that we were hurrying
if this through to have money to pass through to State
7 organizations, soft money contributions have exaggerated this.

What you have told us today suggests a different approach for Mr. Barbour.
(iI) Mr. Richards. If we thought they were flush with (12) money, we probably would not have entered into the (13) discussion.
[14] Senator Durbin. I sce. Well, as we have analyzed the [15] balances in these accounts, particularly this one Republican ${ }^{16]}$ account, soft money account that went into State election (17) campaigns, it turns out that their actual cash balance was [19] in the $\$ 713,000$ range, and with this loan guarantee, freeing
(19) up money from the National Policy Forum, they were able to 20) distribute close to $\mathbf{\$ 2}$ miltion to various State [21] organizations. That part did come through.
(1) It is my understanding that Young Brothers (USA) was (2) created for the purpose of building a shopping mall. That
d une money that was invested by
refunded back to Hong Kong?

Mr. Richards. Yes. However, Senator, as a matter of fact, the money was transferred to Hong Kong-from Hong Kong to the USA office for the specific purpose of closing the transaction, and we were meeting with Mr. Courtelis in his
office when our independent appraisal came in and it was significantly under his, and we backed away from it at the closing table. So, I mean, we were ready-

Senator Durbin. As close as you could get.
Mr. Richards. -to do the transaction.
Senator Durbin. You were as close as you could get.
So the money was sent back to Hong Kong, but one of the
biggest elements that was not sent back was the money contributed to the Republican National Committee-

Mr. Richards. Yes.
22] Senator Durbin. -in various forms.
[23] Do you take issue with the decision of the Republican [24] National Committee so refund this money?
25] Mr. Richards. I am surprised they did. You know,
there was $\$ 120,000,1$ think, total, and most of it-I take
it back. It was $\$ 100,000$ in one check, and $\$ 75,000$ went to
the Republican National Committee State Election Fund. Now,
that is non-Federal funds. We could give all the money we
wanted to that fund.
Senator Durbin. Even foreign money?
Mr. Richards. Sure. That is a State election, and if
there is a State law that prohibits it, maybe, but there is
certainly no Federal law that does so.
So 1 saw nothing wrong with that, and then Courtelis,
(10)
(11) being a good Floridian, said, well, look, let's take 25 of
(12) that and give it to the State party in Florida. So that was
(13) given to the State party, and there is nothing wrong with
(14) that, and when the Committce looked at this and said, oh,
(15) gee, we took some Hong Kong money, and if we knew this was
[16] Hong Kong, we would not have taken it, so let's give it
in back, they turned around and gave it back to us. I say,
(19) well, if they are going to do that, then what about this
(190) other Hong Kong money that-you know, if this is tainted
(20) over here, then is this not tainted or doesn't it give you
(21) the same discomfort, therefore give it all back?
[22) But all of this money, Senator, I don't think we gave
[23] any money to anybody illegally. I don't think that even
[24] what we did was unethical. I mean, we did-we did our due
[25) diligence to make sure these things were done properly.
Senators that have given back money that came from a source
that they were spooked a little bit about. If you are
spooked, give it back.
Senator Durbin. You think it may be more because of
ol appearance-
Mr. Richards. Absolutely, appearance.
2] Senator Durbin. -than actual illegality?
I Mr. Richards. I don't think many of those
4) Contributions were illegal, but appearance is not good.
Senator Durbin. Can we speak to this issue of
If appearance? And I think in Mr. Barbour's words yesterday,
i'7 he said, "In politics, perception is reality," and I have
[18] heard that said many times.
We have asked many questions about Mr. Young's
citizenship and the fact that he apparently was a dual
cicizen of Taiwan and the United States, in December 1993,
121 renounced his United States citizenship. Suggestions were
[2]) made in memos at the Republican National Committee that he
(24) did it for tax purposes, and that after it was disclosed in
a memo, suggestions were made about how his sons, who are
Page 113
II U.S. citizens, as well as his wife, could contince to become
active contributors, direct contributors to the Republican
(3) National Party.
Did you ever have a conversation with Mr. Barbour about
the fact that Mr. Young had renounced his U.S. citizenship?
Mr. Richards. No, no. I did not.
Senator Durbin. It never came up?
Mr. Richards. No.
Senator Durbin. Any conversations with anyone else at
the Republican National Committee about that?
Mr. Richards. No.
Senator Durbin. You were fully aware of that fact,
were you not?
Mr. Richards. I was aware of it. To say "renounce,"
am not sure that is the correct word, but he quit coming to
the United States. He was doing more business in Asia. His
home was in Asia. His wife was in Asia. His business was
In in Asia, and he said, hey, 1 might as well stay here.
And his interest at the time appeared to me to be
unification, a reunification of China and the People's
Republic. That was an idea of importance in his mind, and
so he was there with the Chinese, more so than here.
Senator Durbin. So it is not misunderstood that I am
in any way characterizing what he did with his citizenship,
I believe the record would illustrate that renunciation is
Page 114
[1] the term used by the State Department.
(k) Mr. Richards. I don't quarrel about that.
(3) Senator Durbin. All right. Let me speak to you for a
(4) moment about this whole question concerning Mr. Young's
[5] interest in the Republican Party. It has been characterized
$\left.{ }^{19}\right]$ in various ways, and maybe you can help us understand it.
(7) At one point, Mr. Becker, who was one of the first
a) witnesses, said that he was a fierce champion-I think I
paraphrase this correctly-fierce champion of capitalism,
(10) but he went on to say that all this talk about publishing an
(11) article in Commonsense and the like really was not his idea
[12] and really was not something that he was that enthused
[13] about. Do you have another opinion on this?
(14) This would be my last question, Mr. Chairman.
(15) Do you have another opinion on this?
(ifg Mr. Richards. Well, I think at the luncheon or the
(tn) dinner that we had here, someone from the Forum suggested to
(18) him, would you not like to write something about this, put
[ig] it in Commonsense, and he liked the idea and agreed to do
(20) that.
[21] Senator Durbin. So it really was not a burning desire
(2]) on his part?
[23] Mr. Richards. No. I think it was an offer to him. I
[24] thought-1 regarded it as an effort to ingratiate the Forum with him, more so than anything else. (2) you have added today suggests that Mr. Barbour's testimony [3] yesterday, that this money was not that important, at least (4) we have scen that in a little different light, and the [5] suggestion that Mr. Young was dying to get in print on his (1) theories on China, both you and Mr. Becker have discounted In that rather dramatically.

Thank you very much.
Chairman Thompson. Senator Bennett?
of Senator Bennett. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(i1) I now know as much about the National Policy Forum as I
[1] ever want to know, and probably a little more. I will not
(13) repeat my summary of what I thinik it was and is, at least
(14) not here. Maybe over the weekend when Senator Durbin and I
(15) are back again on television, I will have occasion to repeat (10) that.
(17) I have only one issue I would like to ciear up with Mr.
(10) Richards, and by the way, Dick, I am delighted to see you.
tis As I have told some of my colleagues, you and I began our
pa serious political careers together in the 1962 Bennett for
(21) Senate compaign, and lest people think that I am really old
(i) that was my father's campaign.
[20] We must have done fairly well, because Dad trailed in a) every single poil taken throughout that campaign, except the last one, and we pulted out a victory. So we go back a long

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## (If way.

You have said that Haley said to you his concern was he
had to get hard dollars out of the NPF and get them replaced
with soft dollars, and Senator Durbin has raised that,
appropriately.
Holey said yesterday that the dollars that went in the
first instance to the NPF were, in fact, soft dollars. They
came out of soft dollars, and they went into a soft dollar
fund. So that is an area of conflict between the two of
y you.
Are you in any position to clear that up and get it resolved for us, one way or the other?

Mr. Richards. No, sir, I am not.
Senator Bennett. You do not know where the funds came from that went to NPF?

Mr. Richards. As a matter of fact, I did not even know
(17 about the NPF until Haley Barbour called me on the telephone and told me of the circumstance. So that was my first introduction to the Policy Forum.

Senator Bennett. And the dollars that went back from the NPF to the RNC as a result of the loan guarantee, you do not know the account into which they went?

Mr. Richards. I do not know. However, I heard that the Republican National Committee gave money to the Forum, and the Forum in turn paid it to the bank on the few
i) installments that were made. I do not know whether that is true or not.

Senator Bennert. Yes, but in terms of the money that
was released as a result of the lown guarantee coming back
to the RNC, you have no personal lonowledge as to the account into which it went?

Mr. Richards. No, sir. No, sir, I don't.
Senator Bennett. So you are not in a position to
dispute Mr. Barbour's stacement that it went to State
(iof campaigns and soft dollar area rather than to congressional
(ii) Campaigns?

Mr. Richards. No, I am not. No.
${ }_{[13]}^{121}$ Senator Bennett. Thank you.
(14) You have no reason to believe that Mr. Barbour
(15) committed perjury when he said under oath that that was the
(19) case?
(17) Mr. Richards. No, no.
(181) Senator Bennett. I see. I have no reason to believe (19) that either.
frop Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
[R1] Chairman Thompson. Senator Levin?
[2]) Senator Levin. I just have one quescion.
[r3] Mr. Richards, I read Mr. Young's deposition, and I find
(24) it easy to follow. I am just wondering, is his English

ESL pretty easy to understand?

Mr. Richards. Oh, yes. He is a bright man. He is a
$[2]$ very articulte fellow. He has some Chinese idioms that he
(3) uses and all, but he is a bright man, and I do not have any
(4) difficulty conversing with him.

Senator Levin. Or understanding his English?
(G) Mr. Richards. Yes, sir.
in Senator Levin. Thank you.
(0) Chairman Thompson. Senator Glenn?
(1) Senator Glenn. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
[10] Mr. Chairman, I sort of wanted to sum up the last
(i1) couple of days here, the last 3 days. We have had now five
(12] people under cath who have given their statements. Mr.
${ }^{113}$ Volcansek told us that Mr. Barbour-he told Mr. Barbour that
(14) the money was of Hong Kong origin, and that was prior to the
ins time when the loan was consummated.
(16])We have Mr. Young's deposition which says he talked to
(1才 Mr. Barbour on two occasions about it being Hong Kong money
(119) chat would be used, once at dinner here in Washington in

1199 August of 1994 and then the summer of 1995 in Hong Kong on
(20) the boat when Mr. Barbour asked forgiveness for the money
(21) and Mr. Young said no because it was Hong Kong money and (2x] subject to Hong Kong law.
(23) Mr. Richards has testified today here about his
(24) knowledge of the funds being transferred, and I will not
25) reiterate all of that once again.

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(1] Mr. Becker said that he told the RNC general counsel it
[x] was Hong Kong money, even though it was coming through the
(I) Ambrous Young corporation here,Ambrous Young Development
(A) here.
${ }_{51}$ Mr. Barbour, all the way through, has said it does not
(0) make any difference whether it was or not. It was academic
(7) because these are 501(c)(4)-it was a 501(c)(4)
${ }^{[8]}$ organization, and he emphasized that over and over again
in yesterday, but it is difficull to buy that, 1 must say,
(10] because Mr. Baroody, who was the president of the NPF,
[11] served a year in that position and resigned as president
[12] because of the lack of separation between the NPF and the
(13) RNC. He said it was a fiction of separation, and he said
(14) that Mr. Barbour, in his words, said it was a fascination
[15) with foreign money and said that the NPF and the RNC-the
IV9 employees felt it was run like a division of RNC. That was (11) shared by staff, according to him.
(189 The Baroody concerns that he resigned over was because.
${ }^{119} 9$ in effect, he said, they were not operating in accordance
[20) with the law, in accordance with the S01(c)(4) charter that
[21] he thought they should be operating under, and he felt so
(22] strongly about it, that the violations were so great, that
[23] he wrote a letter, and he resigned and gave that as his
[24] major reason for resigning.
2T1 Now, that was not just all fictitious because the
(1) $\operatorname{s01}(\mathrm{c})(4)$ that had been applied for was being considered (A) along, as these things drag out sometimes with the IRS and (3) being considered. The organization could operate as a
(4) 501 (c)(4), but what Mr. Baroody resigned over was it was not
is being operated as a 501 (c)(4). It was violating it even if
of they had had that the actual designation. They would have In been violating at the time, and the IRS came along, albeit Fin much later, and said their analysis of this whole time (1) period was that it was not being operated as a sol(c)(4). ('9) So it seems to me they said it was being operated as a (i1) partisan political organization. (12) It was stressed all day yesterday that this was nothing (139 but a think tank and it was completely separate and all of [14] that, but first, the president of the organization resigns, its and then the IRS comes along and says he was absolutely (1G right, and they do this in a 13-paged analysis, very, very (in thorough, and I have read that whole thing, and they said IIG that he was not operating in a 501 (c)-type operation.
(19) Now, it seems to me it is obvious there were a lot of (20) other things going on, even though they were claiming all (21) the while that it was a sol(c)(4), but not operating as a raz $501(\mathrm{c})(4)$ organization.
(23) Mr. Baroody referred to the separation as a "fiction of [24] separation," to use his words. What we have been looking izs into the last coupie of days are all the difficulties of

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getting foreign money or having foreign money brought into
(2) the American political system, and what we have run into in
[3] the testimony, it seems to me, can be summarized out of what
(4) I have just recounted here, the fact that there were two
(5) very basic inconsistencies.

First, the one that Mr. Barbour did not know that it was Hong Kong money until last year, we have five different peopie here who testified that at one time or another they told him, he met in Hong Kong with the people, and to say that after all that, there just was no recall of it-I
forget things, too, as we all do, but with five different people and all of these different occasions, it is just very difficult to reconcile that kind of an inconsistency.

The purpose of the money, it was testified yesterday with charts and all the-I think we had slides, we had charts, we had the whole presentation here yesterday to justify that the money was not needed. Yet, Mr. Richards has testified in his deposition-and I am reading just in part from this, but reading the whole statement would not change anything. So I am not taking something out of context and proving something I should not, but it says in one part-this is Mr. Richards' recounting of what he was told by Mr. Barbour, "...we have an opportunity to pick up as many as 60 seats in the House of Representatives that we did not anticipate months back. We need money to do that."

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## (15) I think anyo reconcile.

I think anybody that is reporting on this or the
${ }^{(66)}$ American public that is reading about it or watching it on
int TV or portions of it on TV will look at it, perhaps out of
(18) the testimony of the last 3 weeks, the couple of weeks that
(19) the Chairman controlled and this week that I basically
${ }_{[20]}$ controlled with who the witnesses were going to be, that, I
[21] think to use the Chairman's words, most of the public will
[22] probably look at this, oh, they are just squabbling again,
[23) they are in Washington, and the public may look at it that
(24) way, but one thing is very, very clear. All the polling
(22) indicates the American people are very, very interested in

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(1] campaign finance reform.
(1) For the last 3 weeks now, we have dealt in one forum or
(3) another with campaign finance reform in the area of foreign
(a) money that worked its way back into the campaign, and we can
(5) say there are technicalities or whatever, and at least up to
(b) now, I do not think anybody is going to go to jail over any
in of these inconsistencies or even be fined or anything else,
[a] but these are inconsistencies, and I think we are beginning
[g] to show the difficulties in our whole political system of
(10) the pernicious influence of foreign money, and whether it
(i1) was considered legal or illegal or whatever, there was
[12] foreign money that came back into the system, and I am sure
(13) we are going to be getting more in subsequent weeks here
(14) about foreign money that may have come back in on the
(15) Democratic side. I do not know what the testimony is going
(16] to bring out here, but I know one thing. I know that we
(17) have got to not only look into the foreign money. We have
[18] to look into the tax exempt situation. We have to look into
(19) the third-party transfer of money, which we covered this
[20) morning, to some extent, with what happened in the Fireman
[21] case. So we are already covering a couple of these areas,
${ }^{[22]}$ and then the soft money, the soft money that we have not
[23] gotten into yet that probably was the biggest, the fastest-
[24] growing exponential growth in that area in this last
i25] election, and one that we really do have to get into
il sometime
(2) 1 höpe at the end of the day we will not have just (3) dealt with illegalities, and I repeat what I said last

4 night, being challenged on this, that the illegalities do
5) have to be dealt with, whether we do it on this Committee or
of whether other law enforcement. We are not a law enforcement
$\pi$ agency, but whether other law enforcement agencies of
al Government do this, we have to deal with the illegalities.
(1) Otherwise, it just makes a mockery out of the law, but I
(19) hope that in this year, the rest of this year that we are
[11] going to be on this, that we can really get into all of
(12] these different areas of abuses of campaign finance reform
(13) and come up with some good advice, maybe even out of this
(14) Committee, come up with a good campaige reform law.
(19) I am hoping we can pass the McCain-Feingold, but I
(16) think that will be just the start-I yield to myself another
(17) couple of minutes-so that we can really deal with some of
${ }^{(18)}$ these things and make a substantial contribution toward
(19) really curing the ills that we see in our political system,
[roj and going through all this and all the unpleasantness we
[21] experience going through all this, if we can do that at the
(2]) end of this year, then we will have done a great service for
(23) this country: If we do not do that and we spend the whole
[24] year just looking at the illegalities-and I repeat again, I
[25) want to deal with those, but I would hate very much to see
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(i) us just at the end of the year to have dealt with those and [1] not having corrected the system that will only sit there to
[3] spawn more illegalities in the funure if we do not deal with
[4] it. That is the big opportunity we have this year, and that
( 5 ) is the reason I point out some of these inconsistencies and
(f) some of the things that we have learned over the last three
m days.
(if Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
if Chairman Thompson. Thank you, Senator Glenn.
(19I I would hope that as we proceed over these next few
(i1) months that we could avoid taking our socalled witnesses
(12) and giving them the benefit of every doubt and seeing no
[13] problem with anything, no matter how blaring the abuse, and
[14] then take their witnesses and find everything wrong, after
[15] every possible inference that you can, possibly against
[19] everything that they say, and point out any and all
( 177 inconsistencies.
(18) The fact of the matter is there are pros and cons that
(19) can be pointed out with regard to any of these witnesses,
(rop) and it makes a sham, I think, of our attempts for
(21) bipartisanship when we view everything, every day, in those
(22) lights, and I do not think it gives any credibility to our
[23) efforts, and it does not give any credibility to call for
[24] Campaign finance reform when things are looked in such (23) partisan terms on everything occasion.

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(II We have looked over these last 3 days essentially at (i) one transaction-there have been a couple of others-and
(3) properly so. The majority issues the subpoena for Mr.
[4] Fireman, in the first batch that we looked at, but Mr.
is Fireman was not 2 victim of the system. It was not our
10) currenf catopaign finance system that caused Mr. Fireman to

If decide to launder several thousand dollars of money into
(8) these various campaigns.

Im We know that we can never devise a system or pass a
(iog bill. We are always passing legistation up here that is
[11] going to cure all the world's ills, and they never do, but
(12] we do the best we can. I, for one, think we can do much [13] better in campaign finance reform.
(14) The McCain-Feingold bill is the McCain-Feingold-
(15) Thompson bill. I feel like that is a good first step, but I
(16]) hope we are not to the point that we can give short shrift
in to some of these things that we are seeing and that we get
(19] to a point where we equate some old Dole campaign violation
(19 that everybody has known about forever with such massive
[20] wholesale systematic efforts to pour in illegal money by the
(21) millions of dollars. Millions have already been returned.
[22] With regard to not some private individual, like Haley
[23] Barbour is or Mr. Richards or Mr. Fireman or somebody like
[24] that, but with regard to our Government, that is what we are its dealing with here, our Government.

Il Now, we have had to deal with our Government in times [2] past when Republicans were our Government, and it does not of matter whose party happens to be in control of the executive if branch. These are very, very serious matters of serious (5) criminal allegations that go to the basic integrity of our IM Government.

So I join with Senator Glenn in saying that, hopefully,
1] at the end of the day, we can look at a systematic
mesolution of this thing and understand that these serious
(10) matters are a part of a system that at the end of the day I
(i1) think needs to be scrutinized again, but, number one, if we
[12] in any way give short shrift to our major focus here in the
(13) first phase of this inquiry, then, of course, it is going to
(14) ironically wind up defeating calls for campaign finance
(15] reform because it will only be looked at as a partisan cry
(1G] and will never rally anyone else around it besides the
In relatively few, quite frankly, that are rallying around it
(10) right now. We need to expand our numbers. We need to reach
[19] out to each other across the aisle and not try to drive the
pin wedge even deeper.
pil I have my own problems with some of the chings with Mr. (23) Barbour, who I think did a great job as chairman of the [23] party, but we have got some differences on a couple of
[24] things. For those who are concerned about someone being
[0] tried in absentia, I do not lnow anybody who was tried in
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II absentia more than Haley Barbour, and now he was called
(2] Thursday instead of Friday and we have another witness and
P1 we have a summation against Mr. Barbour, and he is not here
(u) to defend himself. So I am cast in the role here of 5) pointing out these things that someone has got to point out.

Senator Gienn makes, I think, some very valid points in ITerass of inconsistencies in terms of the testimony, but it
in must also be said that Mr. Scott Reed, who was on our
D witness list, who was not called, says-in some detail
(10) points out-his characterization would be that the monies
[11] that were paid back to the RNSEC, RNC account, did not go
(11) into campaigns. That is a big issue here. I do not know
(13) why he was called, but in all fairness, he sent us a
[14] statement, and when his statement arrived, he was not
[15] called.
[10] I think, in all fairness, it should be pointed out
(17) again that Mr. Denning in his deposition said that his
${ }^{[19]}$ recollection was not the same as Mr. Volcansek; that is,
[19] that he did not remember a conversation about Hong Kons
(20]) being the origin of the funds, and that is what Mr. Barbour [21] said.
[2] So we can have these things back and forth and back and [23] forth. What concerns me is our attitude fowards one [24] another. We had a rather acrimonious session yesterday, and [25] that is regrertable, but I would hope as we go forward that

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[1] we could try to do it together and not try to put the worst
(a) possible cast on the other party's witness and justify
(3) anything and everything that our own party's witnesses come
(4) up with, and just try to call them 25 we see them, as we go
[5] along, and then, at the end of the day, the mood will be
(0) such that, hopefully, we can tozether agree to have some

I7 reforms, but if we are at each other all the time, we will
[a] never find out the facts and we will never have any reforms.
iof That is all I have.
(io) Senator Glenn. Mr. Chairman?
[i1) Chairman Thompson. Senator Glenn?
['z] Senator Glenn. Mr. Chairman, just a comment. We were
[13) allocated 3 days for the hearings, and we have certainly
[14] filled up our 3 days with witnesses. We did not have time [15] to put everybody on. There was no deceifful purpose in not (16) bringing some of the witnesses on that we had thought we in might be able to use, but we filled up our 3 days.
(18) I just wondered what our schedule is for next week and (199 what the subject will be and who our witnesses may be so we [20] can prepare for it.
[21) Chairman Thompson. Well, Senator Glenn, we did not [22] know, until about 30 minutes before our hearing today, [23] exaculy who was going to be called here. We will get that [24] to you in a timely fashion, but it will not be right at this 25. moment, and we will come back at $100^{\prime}$ clock, next Tuesday.
il Senator Glenn. Okay, une.
(2) Chairman Tyompson. Thank you very much.
(3) Mr. Richards, thank you very much for being here.
(4) We will recess. Our next public session will be at 10
[5] o'clock on Tuesday.
Whereupon, at 2:25 p.m., the Committee was recessed,
On to reconvene at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday. July 29, 1997.]


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October 13, 1994

Mr. Kevin Killorea<br>Signet Bank<br>Tax-Exempt Banking<br>8330 Boone Boulevard<br>Vienna, VA 22182

VIA FAX

Dear Kevin:
$\therefore$ Following is a disbursement plan for our $\$ 2,100,000$ loan.

- 1) As agreed, we will be using $\$ 500,000$ to pay all our outstanding bills and retain the ?difference for working capital purposes. Our checking account number is 667-0065025. B

2) The remaining $\$ 1,600,000$ will be used to retire loans from the RNC: However, they would like to receive payment on October 20, 1994. We would like to hold those funds in our savings account until the 20th. Our savings account number is
$\because$ If you would prefer to transfer whole $\$ 2,100,000$ to our checking account, we will make the transfer to savings ourselves. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Exhibit


Sincerely,


Comptroller

Intemal Revenue Serrice

National Policr Eorum
229 1/2 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E. Washington, D.C. 20003

Cecarment of the Treasury
Wasining:en, 20224

Person to Consac::

Telephone Numieer: | Michael Seto |
| :--- |
| $(202)$ s22-6477 |

Refer Reply to:
CD:E:EO:T:3
Date: FeO 21 ICO7

| Employer Identification Number: | $52-1827887$. |
| ---: | :--- |
| Key District: Southeast (Baltimore, MD) |  |

Dear Applicant:
We have considered your application for recognition of exemption from federal income tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue code as an organization described in section 501(c)(4). Based on the information submitted, we have concluded. that you do not qualify for exemption under that section. The basis for our conclusion is set forth below.
\%. The information submitted indicates that you were incorporated on May 24, 1993 under the non-profit corporation laws of the District of Columbia. In your Articles of Incorporation, you describe your purposes as follows:
[t]o encourage the involvement of citizens in free and open. debate, the public exchange and development of ideas, discussions, dialogues, conferences, and discourses, to promote public forums, seminars and colloquia and information dissemination to the general porulace, to develop a national Requblican policy acenda and to serve as a clearinghouse for the collection and review of research and ideas on issues affecting foreign affairs, national security, economy, enviromment, energy, government lands, commerce, labos, federal budget, . . and other issues of concerr to or affecting the citizens of the united states of fnerica ${ }^{\text {unghasis adaejl. }}$

As stated in your newsletter, Ideas Matter (May 1995 Issue), you are "[a] Republican Center for the Exchange of Ideas." "That exchange will be open and inclusive -- not exclusively for Republicans but an exchange that invites serious commentary from Democrats, Independents, and the heretofore apolitical as well[,]" according to your publication, common Sense (Volume 1 , Winter 1994, Number 1).- You were founded, according to your brochure and prospectus, on three premises, 1) "that fundamentally, ideas make the difference in politics," 2) "that traditionally, ideas that make a difference have been assoc̄iated

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with political parties," 3) "that curaentiy, workable ideas are more likely to be found at the gassroots tian in Fasinngton."

Your organization, as descriked in your news release of December 8, 1993, $n$ is composed of civic, communiey and business leaders, Republican elected officials, fomer office-holders, and other prominent Americans Erom all walks of life." You are not a membership organization, but your bylaws pertit the board of directors to create classes of "membership" - contributing membership and honorary membership. These memberships do not cazzy voting rights or other organizational rights.

Your bylaws provide that a board of directors governs and directs your operations. The bcard of directors is invested with the power to appoint or remove bcard members. The initial board of directors incluced Mr. Ealey Barbour, the former chaiman of the Republican National Commi=こae, tre political arm of the Repujlican Party, The inEozanion in our administrative files shows that your board members include Mr. Barbcur and other prominent Republican Rarty members, including Senator Nickles of ;Oklahoma, former Republican Minority fouse Leader Bob Michel, former Secretary of Labor and former Maryland Senatorial candidate Willian E. Brock, Governor George V. Voinovich of ohio, John Bolton, United States Represantative John Boehner, forner Republican grbernatorial candidata Jeb Bush and Teresa Lubbers (a member of an organization called Republican Professional Homen's Roundtable). Mr. Bolton also serves as presicent of your organization.

One major activity you concuct in furtherance of the above described purposes is policy councils. The purpose of the policy councils is to "search for ideas by holding public and intensely participatory grassroots forms across the country." Each council has two co-chairs and members that include congressional members, state legislators, and individuals. froio the private sectors. Each council addresses a specific policy area such as "Reforming Health Care," "Improving Schools and Education," "Reducing the Size and Scope of Government," or "Reforming-the Legal and Regulatory Systems" (see page 5 of your prospectus). Each policy council holes public grassroots forums. that address issues relating to that council's public policy area.

Your policy councils thus far have heldseveral forums on -topics such as education reform (December 7, 1993), violent crimes (December 8, 1993), and federal land use (December 15, 1993). The forums featured three parels, a panel of your representatives, a panel of expert witnesses and a panel of Congressmen -- whose-purpose was to listen to viewpoints of other panelists and audience and provide their perspective. The forums

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were conducted in question and answer fomat and were hosted by your officers. The forms began with oeening remarks by your president and chainan, followed by testimony of your expert witnesses, and other grests and paricipants. Discussion with the general audience then followed. Each policy council then reported its findings and policy reconmendations to your board of directors.

Many prominent Republican Party politicians served as speakers or panelists at your forums. For example, Republican Senator Hank Brown, Earmer Republican Senator Malcolm Walloo (also served as a chaizean of a policy council), Republican House of Representatives members Dan Schaefer, Joel Eeiley, Wayne Allard, and forner House Representative Craig Thomas participated at your February 14, 1994 forum (see NEF news release of February 8, 1994). The pazicipants in your December 11, 1953 forum included Republican Senator Orrin Hatch, forner Republican Senator Malcolm Wallog, fornez Comodity Futures Trading Comission Chairwoman Wendy Grama, and Republican Congressman James Hansen (see December 7, 1993 News Media Advisory release). The panelists in your September 19, 1995 form included Republican Senators Kay Bailey Eutchinson, Thad Cochran, Téd Stevens, Rod Grams and Requblican House of Repzesentatives member Mark Souder, Jennifer Durn and sue Myrick, and other individuals from private industries. The keynote speaker at this forum was former Republican House Representative and vice-presidential candidate Jack Kemp. Other forums you have had also featured prominent Republican Party politicians such as Governor Todd Whitman of New Jersey, Governor William Weld of Massachusetts (see April 12, 1994 NPE news release), House Speaker Newt
: Gingrich (see october 18, 1995 news release), Fouse Majcrity Whip Tom DeLay (see July 24, 1995 NPF news release); Marilyn Tucker Quayle (see April 26, 1994 news media advisory release) and other well known Republican Party politicians or persons affiliated with the Republican Party.

You produce a monthly televised poliey-oriented program called "Listening to America: A Neighborhood Meeting." The purpose of this program is to communicate ideas and to allow the public to participate in policy discussion. Many prominent Republican Party politicians were speakers at these monthly programs (such as Republican Senators Hank Bown and Malcolm Wallop, see February Io, 1994 news media advisory release).

You hold "mega-conferences" whose purpose is to focus on long-range policy issues (i.e. Trade and the Economy, Health Care) and to allow interested members of the public to participate in the discussion of these policy issues. Many prominent Republican Party politicians were speakers at your

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mega-canferences, and they included Rezublican Senators Richard Lugar, Charles Grassley, Raye Bailey Eutchinson and Republican Govemor Temy Branstad of Iowa.

You publish quazterly a journal called Common Sense, and the purpese of this journal, as stated in your pamphlet, is to enhance "the policy debate by providing a source for provocative thinking and lively debate about the parties, politics, and public policy." The cover of Volume 1 Winter 1994 Number 1 of Common Sense stated that it was "a Republican Journal of Thought and opinion." The journal was distributad to forum participants, elected officials and policy makers and all other incerested persons. The authors of the anticles in each edition of the journal were selected by your bcard of directors. The authors included politicians (e.e. Mike Leavitt, Republican Governor of Utah; Tomy G. Thompson, Republican Govezor of Wisconsin), academicians (e.a. Andrew E. Busih, assistant professor, Oniversity of Denver) and individuals in the private sector (e.a. Charles J. Cooper, a law firn ganener; Linda DiVall, vicepresident of a survey research fira). The tooics of the articles included fareign policy (e, o. "The United States and Greater Clina", "Nato and U.S. Interests") and domestic policy (e.a. "Unfunded Federal Mandates And The Need For a New Federalism", "Remembering The Question or, A Brief fistory of the Regublican Paこty").

You have been operating with funds supglied by contrikutors -and the Republican National Committee. The Republican National Comittee, from May of 1993 to December of 1995, provided you thirty seven loans totalling $\$ 2,595,000$. The interest rate on these loans ranged from 7.5 percent to 10.5 percent. Thera were fo indications that the terms of the loans were negotiated at arms length. You have used services provided by the Republican National Committee. These services included duplicating and printing materials, office furniture, moving services, etc. You stated that you were billed for these services at fair market value. You have raised $\$ 690,000$ in contributions from sources other than the Republican National Committee.

Section 501 (c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code (hereinafter "Code") provides for the exemption from federal income tax of organizations not organized for profit but operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare.

Section 2.501 (c) (4)-1(a)(2) (i) of the Income Tax Regulations (hereinafter "Regulations") provides that an organization is operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare if it is primarily engaged in promoting in some way the common good and general welfare of the people of the comannity.

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Section 1.501(c)(4)-1 (a) (2) (ii) of the Regulations provides that the promotion of social weltara dees nct inciude direct or incirect participation or intevrention in political campaigns on behalf of or in orposition to any candidate for public office.

Rev. Rul. 60-193, 1960-1 C.B. 195, concludes that an organization created to encourage greater participation in governmental and political affairs qualifies for recognition of exemption under section 501 (c) (4) of the Code. Activities of the organization included seminars and workshops held on campuses of colleges and universities. The subject matter of these seminars relates to the American political system. All lecturers, including academic political scientists and political leaders from the local and national levels; were requized to maintain certain technicai standaris and were not allowed to adrocate for any particular political s=ociz. Seminars and workshops were moderated by permanent stafi cersonnel of the organization in order to prevent the pročam E=am becoming partisan in character.

Rev. Rul. 73-306, 1973-2 C.3. 179, provides that an organization formed for the ru=sose of promoting the comion interest of tenants who reside in an agartment complex did not qualify for exemption uncer secEion 501 (c)(4) of the code. Any person regularly living in the complex is eligible for membership. The organization represented its member-tenants in negotiations with the management of the complex in order to secure better maintenance anc services, and reasonäble rentals. This revenue ruling concludes that this organization was operated to benefit its members and was not primarily engaged in activities that promote the coman good and general welfare of the community.

In contrast, Rev. RūI. 80-206, 1980-2 C.B. 185, provides that an organization formed to promote the legal rights of all tenants in a community qualifies for exemption under section 501(c) (4) of the code.

Rev. Rul. 73-349, 1973-2 C.日. 179, holds that an organization formed to purchase groceries for its members at the lowest possible prices on a cooperative basis is not exempt under section $501(c)(4)$ of the code. Each member paid for the cost of lood ordered plus a monthiy service charge which defrayed the organization's expenses. The organization was a cooperative enterprise for the economic benefit or convenience of its members. This revenue ruling states that the organization was - operated primarily for the bene it of members and not to promote the common good and genezal welEaze of the commnity.

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Rev. Rul. 75-286, 1975-2 C.B. 210, describes an arganization that was formed by the residents of a civy block to proserre and beautify that block, to impsove all pulic facilities within the block, and to prevent physical deterioration of the block. Its activities consisted of paying the-ciey government to plant trees an public property within the block, organizing resicents to pick up litter and refuse in the public streets and on public si swalks within the block, and encouraging residents to take an ac ive part in beautifying the block by placing shrubbery in puilic areas. Much of the public area improved by the organization was part of the public roadway lying between the sidewalk and the street in front of private property owned by members of the organization. Membership in the organization-was restricted to residents of the block and those owning progerty or operating businesses there.

This revenue ruling concludes that the organization did not qualify for exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the code but did qualify for exemption under section 501 (c) (4). It states that because the activities enhanced the value of the members' property rights, the organization served the private interests of its members and did not qualify for exemption under section 501(c)(3). It states also states that while the organization's activities were benefiting its members there was sufficient benefit conferred upon the community as a whole. Although private benefit did exist to the members, the primary benefit was to the community. Therefore, the organization was not operated primarily for the benefit of members, but primarily to promote social welfare.

In Commissioner v. Lake Forest, Inc., 305 F .2 a 814 (4th cir. 2962), a corporation was organized for the purpose of purchasing a government housing project and converting it to a cooperative, nonprofit housing for its members. Membership in the corporation was established by the purchase of a corporate share which entitled the purchaser to an apartment unit. The court held that the organization was not described in section 501(c)(4) of the Code because the operation was a private self help enterprise with only inciciental benefit to the community.

In Contractina Rlumbers cooperative Restoration Coro. V. United States, 488 F.2d 684 (2d Cir. 1973), cest. denied, 419 U.S. 827 (1974), plumbers working in New York City were responsible for the cuts they made in the city streets. Prior to the organization's existonce, the city had repaired the cuts and billed the plumbers individually. This system proved to be highly inefficient. The organization was formed as a cooperative in order to restore the city streets. - It only repaired cuts made by its members. The joint effors of the plumbers reduced their

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liability and thein expenses. mhile the court found the program to be highly bemeficial, it concluded that the organization principally sezsed the grivate economic interests of its memieers and, thus, could not be considezed exempt under section 501(c) (4) of the Code.

Rev. Rul. 66-256, 1966-2 C.B. 210, describes an organizaition that was formed to bring about a fair and openminded consideration of social, political, and international questions by the promotion and sponsorship of a public forum at which debates and lectures were conducted. The organization invited prominent individuals to discuss varying political and social matters of national and community interest. The speakers, in addition to delivering their prepared taxt, answered questions of those attending. The other part of the organization's program involved the sponsorship of deiates. Individuals representing opeosing viewpoints were inviミat to debate particular topics. The debates were conductad in accordance with carefully drawn rules. Frequently, the perscrs invited to lecture or debate were controversial and occasionally there was opposition to their appearance. None of the prog=ans or activities of the organization involved the paz=icipation or intervention in any political campaigns of candidates for public office.

The revenue ruling states that the presentation of public lectures, forums, or debates was a recognized method of educating the public. The fact that the presence of the invited speaker or his opinions may precipitate controversy within the community died not adversely affect the status of an organization whose primary purpose was to provide a forum for speakers. Consequently, the organization qualified for exemption under section 501 (c)(3).

Rev. Rul. 76-456, .1976-2 C.B. 151, describes an organization that was formed for the purpose of elevating the standards of ethics and morality that prevail in the conduct of campaigns for election to public office at the national, state, and local levels. On a nompartisan basis the organization collected, collated, and disseminated information concerning general campaign practices through the press, radio, television, mail, and public speeches. In addition, the organization furnished 'teaching aids' to political science and civics teachers to help stress the need for ethical conduct in political campaigns. The organization proposed a code of fair campaign practices. Although need for the code was extensively - publicized, the organization did not solicit the signing or endorsement of the code by candidates for political office.

- The revenue ruling states that the organization was instructing the public on subjects useful to the individual and

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beneficial to the comannity within the meaning of saction 1.501(c) (3)-I(d) (3) of the zegulations by encouracing voters to concern themselves with fair as well as unfair practices encouncared in political campaigns. This was done, on a nonpartisan basis, so that citizens could increase their knowledge and understanding of our election processes and participate more effectively in their selection of government officials. Consequently, the organization was operated exclusively for educational purposes and thus qualified for exemption under section $501(c)(3)$ of the code.

Rev. Rul. 80-282, 1930-2 C.B. 178, describes an organization wnose activities incluced the publication of Congressional incumbents' voting records on selected issues in a non-pareisan newsletter. The revenue ruling observes that tie format and content of the publication were not neutwal because the publication reported each incumbent's votes and hislher views on selected legislative issues and indicatae whether that incumient sucported or opposed tre crganization's view. Howeve=, the voting records of all incumbents wera presanted and candidates for reelection were not identizied. No coment was made on an individual's overall qualifications for public office, no statements expressly or impliediy endorsed or rejected any incumbent as a candidate for public office, and no comparison of incumbents with other candidates were made. The organizations noted the inherent limitations of juesing the qualifications of an incumbent on the basis of certain selected votes by stating the need to consider such unrecorded matters as pezformance on subcommittees and constituent sarvices. Fu=thermore, the organization did not widely distribute its compilation of incumbents' voting records. The publication was distributed to the organization's normal readership, numering only a few thousand nationwide. This resulted in a very small distribution in any particular state or Congressional district. No attempt was made to target the publication toward particular areas in which elections are occurring nor to time the date of publication to coincide with an election. The revenue ruling conciudes that the organization was not engaged in prohibited political campaign activity.

In American Campaicn Academv v. Commissioner, 92 T.C. 1053 (1939), an organization was formed for charitable' and educational purposes. The organization's primary activity was to operate a school. The school-trained incividuals for careers as political campaign professionals. The school maintained a regularly scheduted curriculum, a regular faculty and a full-time enrolled student body. prior to the formation of the organization, the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) sponsored programs designed to train candidates and to train and

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subsequently place cameaign professionals in Republican campaigns. The organization stated that it was an outgrowth of the programs operated by the NRCC. NRCC contributed the physical assets, such as furniture and computer hariware, to the organization. Two of the organization's six full-time faculty were previously involved in the NRCC's training program. One the of the organization's three initials directors was the executive director of the NRCC. The organization did not train candidates or participate in, or intervene in, any political campaign on behalf of any candidate. Neither did the organization engage in any activities tending to influence legislation. Apolicants were required to provide the organization with professional references. While applicants were not required to formally declare their political affiliation to attend the organization's school, such aftiliation could be deduced from the campaign experiences and political references contained in the applications. Graduates of the school were employed by various Republican organizations. No graduate was known to have aftiliated with any domestic political perty other than the Republican Party.
$\therefore$ The Court concluced that the organization's activities benefited the private interests of Republican entities and candidates more than incidentally. The organization, thus, served a substantial nonexempt purpose. Although the school had a legitimate educational program, the Court held that the school conducted its educational activities with the partisan objective of benefiting the interests of the Republican party as evidenced by:

1) the composition of the school's board of directors
2) the failure of the school to counterbalance the Repub:.ican party focus of its curriculum with comparable studies of the Democratic or other political parties,
3) the incorporation of the school by the General Counsel of the National Republican Congressional Committee, an unincorporated association comprised of Republican members of the House of Representatives; and,
4) a lack of showing by the school that its graduates served in Congressional and Senatorial campaigns of candidates from both major political parties in substantial numbers.

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## ANAEYS:S

## A. Dromotinc Social WelEaze

In order to qualify for recoçition oz exemption undez section $501(c)(4)$ of the Code, an organiza=ion must be primarily engaged in activities that gromote social welfare. The promotion of social welfare may include activities that educate the public or lobby public officials or both. Exemption is not dependent on the point of view of the educational material or the issue being lobbied. In contrast to lobbying and educational activities, partisan political activity does not promote social welfare as defined in section 501(c)(4). Such activity promotes the interests of one political faction.. An organization engaging in such activity is engaged not meraly in the clash of ideas, but in a contest for power.

Based on the inforaation you submiたこad, it appears that you are_a partisan issues-orientad creanization. specifically, your activities are designed to promote the Requblican Party and politicians affiliated with the Republican party. This partisanship is exhibited in tie key officers and personnel that founded and operate your organization. For example, an initial board member was Kr . Haley Barbour, the former chairman of the Republican National Comittee. Nost members of your current board of directors are afifiliated or icentified with the Republican Party. These members include Mz. Barbour, Republican Senator Don Nickles, former Republican Consmessman Bob Michel, former Republican senatorial candidate william Brock, anc Republican Governor George C. Voinovich. Although you have members -- honorary and contributing members -- they do not have fan organizational voice (or voting rights) in your operations.

This partisanship is also exhibited in your operation. The speakers or participants that you invited to your forums usually were identified or affiliated with the Republican Party. For example, the speakers or participants at your February 14, 1994 and December 15, 1993 forms are former or current Republican party public office holders (i.e. Senator orrin Hatch, Senator Hank Brown, Wendy Gramm, Congressiman James Hansen, Congressman Dan Schaefer, Congressman JoeI He\&ley, Congressman Hayne Allazd, and so forth). Other speakers include Governor Weld of Massachusetts and Governor Whitman of New Jersey. You have not indicated whether you have invited to your forums speakers or paneIists who are affiliated or identified with other political parties.

Your publications reflect a political paxtisanship toward the Republican Party. For example, the word "Republican" is used

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in your press releases, journals and newsletters. you have published sceeches of prominent Republican Party politicians such as Newt Gingrich (Sceaker of the House), Richard Lugaz
(Republican senator), Casper Feinberger (former cabinet member in the Reagan administration), Fete du pont and formez Repubican party presidential nomination candidate Malcolm "Steve" Forbes. You also have published anticles about the Republican Farty (e.a. "Remembering The Question or, a Brief History of the Republican Party", Common Sense, Volure 1 Finter 1. 34 Number 1).

Your financial support also reflects this Republican Party parkisanship. You have received substantial financial suppost from the Republican National Comittee. The Republican National committee lent you more than 2.5 million dollars since your formation. You,also purchased supplies and services from the Republican National Committes. Although the financial support was in the form of loans, there was no indication that the tens of the loans reflect commercial markat rates.
: You claim to be a noneartisan issues-oriented organization, and we acknowledge that you are issiues-oriented. However, your activities are no less partisan as demonstrated by the manner in which you operate your organization and conduct your activities. Unlike the organization described in Rev. Rul. 60-193, sunga, which encouraged participation in the political process by explaining the process on a nonpartisan basis, you were created for the partisan objective of promoting a particular political party. Based on the above facts and circumstances, we conclude that, because of your partisan nature, you are not engaged in activities that promote social welfare.
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## B. Ooerating Exclusivelv to Benefit the Whole community

An organization exempt under section 501(c)(4) of the code must be promoting the conmon good and general welfare of the whole community. Benefitting select individuals or groups, instead of the community as a whole, is contrary to this requirement. See Rev. Rul. 75-286, supra. For example, the tenants' organization described in Rev. Rul. 73-306, suora, is distinguishable from the one described in Rev. Rul. 80-206, supra, in that its activities are directed primarily toward benefitting its member-tenants rather than all tenants in the communty. See e.g. Rev. Rul. 73-349; Lake Forest. Inc.; and Contracting Plumbers Coonerative; Restoration Coro., supra. Therefore, a sufficient amount of benefit to select individuals will preciude an organization that would otherwise qualify for exemption from being described in section 501(c) (4).

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This private benefit standard is aisc demonstrated in the American Camcaicm Academv, sucra, and is relevant here. In that case, the court held that an crganization craated to serve a particular faction in the political spectrim was not exempt under section 501 (c)(3) of the code because its activities benefited the private interest of that particular faction. The private benefit standard used in American Campaion Academv is similar under section $501(c)(4)$. The difference is in the weighing of the private benefits (i.e. the amount of pivate benefits), not the standard. See e.g. Rev. Rul. 75-286, supra.

- The information you submitted clearly incicates that you, like the organization described in American campaion Academu, are operated primarily for the benefit of a select group. This select group consists of the Republican pa=ty and politicians affiliated with the Republican Rarty, specifically, your activities benefited the Remubiican party anc its affiliated politicians by enhancing the electoral and political fortunes of the aforementioned. These ac=ivities generated public support and enthusiasm for your policies and positions. In turn, the public support and enthusiasm could enhance the election or feelection prospects of Repubilican politicians (i.e. their political careers) and, theraby, the fortunes of the Republican party. Also, political identification with the Republican Party was strengthened when individuals participated in your forms and mega-conferences. Your publications, the journals and newsletters, also served to enhance the electoral prospect of Republican politicians because they could generate party identification with and political support for the Repubiican party and politicians.

This conclusion is supported by your orientation toward the Republican party, which is demonstrated in the history, creation, control, and operation of your organization. As illustrated in your press releases, journal, newsletters, and prospactus, the word "kepublican" is used throughout these publications. The speakers or participants that you invited to your forums usually were identified or affiliated with the Republican Party. For example, many speakers or participants (Senator Orrin katch, Senator Hank Brown, Wendy Gram, Congressman James Hansen, Congressman Dan Schaefer, Congressman Joel kefley, Congressiman Wayne Allard, and so forth) at your forums were former or current Republican Party office holders. You have not indicated whether individuals affiliated with other political parties were invited to be speakers at your forums. Control of your organization resides with individuals who are members of or affiliated with the Republican party.

## CONCLOSION

In sumary, we canciuce that you are not operated primarily to promote social welfare because you are a partisan issuesoriented organization and your activities are partisan. In addition, we conclude that your activities also substantially benefitted the Republican party and politicians affiliated with the Republican party. Accordingly, you do not qualify for recognition of exenption under section $501(c)(4)$ of the Code, and you must file federal incone tax returns.

You have the right to protest this ruling if you believe it is incorrect. To protest, you should submit a statement of your views, with a full explanation of your reasoning. This statement, signed by one of your officers, must be submitted within 30 days from the date of this letter. You also have a right to a conference in this office after your statement is submitted. You must request the conference, if you want one, when you file your protest statement: If you are to be represented by someone who is not one of your officers, that person will need to file a proper power of attorney and otherwise qualify under our Conference and practices Requirements.

If we do not hear f=om you within 30 days, this fuling will become final and copies will be forwarded to your key district office. Thereafter, any questions about your federal income tax status should be addressed to that office.

When sending additional letters to us with respect to this case, you will expedite their receipt by using the following address:

Internal Revenue Service
Attr: CD:E:EO:T:3, Room 6137
1111 Constitution Ave, N.K.
washiṇgton, D.C. 20224
If you have any questions, please contact the person whose name and telephone number are shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincereiy,


Edward K. Karcher Chief, Exempt Organizations -Technical granch 3

