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August 17, 2000

Director  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20463

Dear Sir or Madam:

According to records available from the Federal Election Commission, Winchester (Mass.) residents Dennis and Bernadette Kearney have contributed at least \$18,500 in 33 separate contributions so far to federal candidates and committees in the 2000 election year cycle. The bulk of those contributions (\$15,250) went to Massachusetts incumbent Democrats. In fact, every member of the state's Congressional delegation (both US Senators and all 10 Representatives) received contributions from either or both Mr. and Mrs. Kearney.

Mr. Kearney may have exceeded federal election laws against contributing in excess of \$1,000 to individual candidates per election cycle, specifically \$2,000 to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy in 1999 and \$1,500 to U.S. Rep. Edward Markey, also in 1999. About two-thirds of the couple's contributions were made in Mr. Kearney's name.

The numbers were reported and are readily available on line at Open Secrets.Org, a web site of the Center for Responsive Politics (<http://www.opensecrets.org/home/index.asp>). The web site reports only those contributions of \$200 or more.

I discovered this while casually perusing the site. I do not know Mr. Kearney or his wife, though I do reside in Winchester. My perusal of the contributors within my ZIP Code is what led to my discovery of the unusually high number of contributions made by this couple.

According to the reports, Mr. Kearney is employed by the Boston law firm of Choate Hall & Stewart (<http://www.choate.com>) and, according to its web site, is one of three leaders of the firm's "The Choate Group" (<http://www.choate.com/group/choate.html>). The Choate Group is a self-described provider of comprehensive political and public strategies for clients in business, energy and telecommunications, health care, real estate, intellectual property and education.

In addition to contributions to Massachusetts Democratic incumbents, the pair also contributed to Rhode Island Democrats Patrick Kennedy (\$500) and Robert Weygand (\$1,000). Other recipients of the Kearney's largesse include Republican New Hampshire Representative Charles

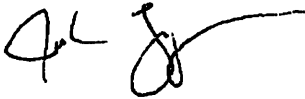
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Bass, erstwhile Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley, the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee and DNC Services Corp., a "soft money" account of the Democratic National Committee. Failed Republican presidential candidate John McCain also received a \$250 contribution from Mr. Kearney in the midst of the New Hampshire primary.

According to the web site, the contributions were made between February 1999 and June of this year.

Mr. Kearney may well be a wealthy individual and is certainly free to give money within legal limits to whatever political candidate he chooses. But it struck me that \$18,500 is an awful lot of money for an individual to contribute to such an array of incumbents in such a short period of time. And since his employer is so clearly directly involved in the business of government. I can't help but wonder if he might not be receiving some kind of reimbursement for his political munificence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jack LeMenager', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jack LeMenager

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