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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-5301

March 12, 1996

Mr. N. Bradley Litchfield
Associate General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 - E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

Supplement To
AOR 1995-47

RE: AOR 1995-47

Dear Mr. Litchfield:

This is a follow-up to my inquiry regarding the use of campaign funds for my wife's travel expenses in connection with the 1996 Democratic National Convention.

While it is correct that I will attend the convention as a superdelegate, which relates to my status as a Member of Congress, the convention remains for me a political occasion with ramifications for reelection to my seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Political activists in the party, prominent consultants, supporters of the Democratic Party in the labor and business community, representatives of the political press, and active donors to Democratic campaigns will attend the convention and the hundreds of connected events held during the convention week.

In addition to my duties as a superdelegate at the convention, I will play a major role as a member of the Guam delegation. The Governor of Guam, the head of the Democratic Party of Guam, and prominent local party leaders from my district will join me in attending various party platform meetings and political events to bolster our status at the convention.

Throughout the week of the convention, I and my wife will attend meetings and attend functions for the purposes related to my pending reelection campaign. In some cases, when I am unable to attend, my wife will attend in my place; in others, my wife will accompany me and provide support for my efforts as is customary for spouses of candidates.

The schedule for the convention is not yet firmly set, but these are the categories of meetings and functions I am preparing to attend, along with my wife, to accomplish these campaign related goals:

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(1) Delegation meetings, which involve maintaining contacts with delegation members who are also prominent in the politics of the state and will assist in some cases directly with my campaign.

(2) Receptions to which I am invited, which will bring me into contact with individuals actively interested in Democratic congressional politics whom I am able to approach for contributions, fundraising assistance and other political support in my campaign.

(3) Media events, including occasions for interview with press in the course of which I can communicate on behalf of my campaign partisan Democratic messages helpful to my campaign.

(4) More private meetings with Democratic Party activists gathered in Chicago who may be approached for political and fundraising support for the campaign.

I trust that this clarifies the importance of having my wife present at the convention to assist me with my campaign. Her participation at the various events offered at this major political event will enhance my chances for reelection to the House of Representatives. After review of the above material information, I hope that the Commission will approve the use of my campaign funds for travel expenses for my wife's participation at the 1996 Democratic National Convention.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Underwood
Member of Congress