



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF MUR # 3771

DATE FILMED 7-26-96 CAMERA NO. 2

CAMERAMAN MRS

96043741903

MUR 3771

Edward Holmer  
3151 SE 27 AV.  
Gainesville FLA.  
32601 March 31, 1991

Office of General Counsel  
Federal Election Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20463

93 APR 12 PM 3:31

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

I would like to file a citizen complaint against Rep. Corrine Brown of District #3 in Florida. My complaint is based on newspaper accounts only. The newspaper sources were from the Gainesville Sun in Gainesville Florida, and the Florida Times Union located in Jacksonville Fla. I, Edward Holmer, ~~am~~ a registered voter in Congressional District #3. A copy of this complaint and other information I possess, will be forwarded to the US Justice Dept for the purpose of requesting an investigation into possible public corruption, and public integrity law violations. Enclosed are newspaper articles which illustrate alleged improprieties in her state and Federal elections. I have underlined what I consider worthy of investigation by the FEC. Please take note of the stories which relate to the following information:

- 1) Rep Brown raised monies in her state campaigns and transferred it to her congressional race.
- 2) Rep. Brown got donations from a consulting firm, Austin Sheintoff, which produced and bought air time for Brown's radio and TV ads totaling \$63,000. F.E.C. <sup>LOW</sup> permits a \$25,000 limit for persons or Pacs.

96043741904

Cont From Pg 1

- 3) Rep. allegedly accepted contributions from prohibited sources such as private corporations in excess of legal limits, and Rep Brown failed to identify donor's occupation and addressers.
- 4) Rep. Brown admits her F.E.C. reports were done incorrectly by volunteers unfamiliar with the form and done in a hurry.
- 5) Rep Brown's Campaign staff person, Ronnie Simmons, forged Rep. Brown's former treasurer, Kenneth Jones, name on campaign forms.
- 6) Finally, Representative Brown hired a friend, Ronnie Simmons, to work for "One Stop", a controversial business incubator funded by a \$425,000 grant obtained by Rep. Brown, the failure of "One Stop" cost the taxpayers of Jacksonville more than \$300,000 which had to be repayed to the Federal government. I believe that an audit should be conducted of "One Stop" to show whether Reverend Alvin Simmons and Ronnie Simmons diverted funds to the election campaign of Rep Brown.

Thank you for your attention  
Edward Holmes

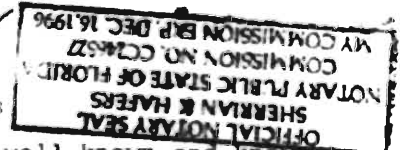
STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF ALACHUA

My commission expires

Before me personally appeared Edward Holmes to me well known and known to me to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to and before me that Edward Holmes executed said instrument for the purposes therein expressed.

WITNESS my and official seal, this 5th day of April A.D., 1993.

*Sheridan K. Hafers*  
Notary Public, State of Florida





FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

APRIL 15, 1993

Edward Holmes  
3151 SE 27 Av.  
Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Mr. Holmes:

This is to acknowledge receipt on April 12, 1993, of your letter dated March 31, 1993. The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act") and Commission Regulations require that the contents of a complaint meet certain specific requirements. One of these requirements is that a complaint be sworn to and signed in the presence of a notary public and notarized. Your letter was not properly sworn to.

In order to file a legally sufficient complaint, you must swear before a notary that the contents of your complaint are true to the best of your knowledge and the notary must represent as part of the jurat that such swearing occurred. The preferred form is "Subscribed and sworn to before me on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 19\_\_." A statement by the notary that the complaint was sworn to and subscribed before her also will be sufficient. We are sorry for the inconvenience that these requirements may cause you, but we are not statutorily empowered to proceed with the handling of a compliance action unless all the statutory requirements are fulfilled. See 2 U.S.C. § 437g.

Enclosed is a Commission brochure entitled "Filing a Complaint." I hope this material will be helpful to you should you wish to file a legally sufficient complaint with the Commission.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at (202) 219-3410.

Sincerely,

*Retha Dixon*

Retha Dixon  
Docket Chief

Enclosure

cc: Friends of Corrine Brown

96043741906

OGC 8426

RECEIVED  
F.E.C.  
SECRETARIAT

93 MAY -4 PM 4:15

Edward Holmer  
3151 SE 27 AV.  
Gainesville FLA.  
32601 March 31, 1991

COPY

93 APR 12 PM 3:31

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Office of General Counsel  
Federal Election Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20463

MUR 3771

**SENSITIVE**

I would like to file a citizen complaint against Rep. Corrine Brown of District #3 in Florida. My complaint is based on newspaper accounts only. The newspaper sources were from the Gainesville Sun in Gainesville Florida, and the Florida Times Union located in Jacksonville Fla. I, Edward Holmer, ~~am~~ a registered voter in Congressional District #3. A copy of this complaint and other information I possess, will be forwarded to the US Justice Dept for the purpose of requesting an investigation into possible public corruption, and public integrity law violations. Enclosed are newspaper articles which illustrate alleged improprieties in her state and Federal elections. I have underlined what I consider worthy of investigation by the FEC. Please take note of the stories which relate to the following information:

- 1) Rep Brown raised monies in her state campaigns and transferred it to her congressional race.
- 2) Rep Brown got donations from a consulting firm, Auction Shindoff, which produced and bought air time for Brown's radio and TV ads totaling \$63,000. FEC <sup>LOWS</sup> permits a \$25,000 limit for persons or Pers.

96043741907

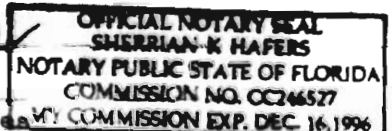
Cont From Pg 1

- 3) Rep allegedly accepted contributions from prohibited sources such as private corporations in excess of legal limits, and Rep Brown failed to identify donor's occupations and addresses.
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- 5) Rep Brown's Campaign staff person, Ronnie Simmons, forged Rep. Brown's former treasurer, Kenneth Jones, name on campaign forms.
- 6) Finally, Representative Brown hired a friend, Ronnie Simmons, to work for "One Stop", a controversial business incubator funded by a \$425,000 grant obtained by Rep. Brown. The failure of "One Stop" cost the taxpayers of Jacksonville more than \$300,000 which had to be repayed to the Federal government. I believe that an audit should be conducted of "One Stop" to show whether Reverend Alvin Simmons and Ronnie Simmons diverted funds to the election campaign of Rep Brown.

Thank you for your attention  
Edward Holmes

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF ALACHUA

My commission expires



Before me personally appeared Edward Holmes to me well known and known to me to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to and before me that Edward Holmes executed said instrument for the purposes therein expressed.

WITNESS my hand and official seal, this 5th day of April A.D., 1993.

*Sherrian K. Hafers*  
Notary Public, State of Florida

OAC 8567

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL ELECTION  
COMMISSION  
MAIL ROOM

Apr 29 9 28 AM '93

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
RETHA DIXON  
DOCKET CHIEF  
WASHINGTON D.C. 20463

Addendum to complaint letter on Corrine Brown, ~~supra~~<sup>Et</sup>, District 3,  
from Edward Holmes.

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF ALACHUA

Before me this day personally appeared Edward Holmes, who, being duly sworn,  
deposes and say that the contents of his letter are true to the best of his  
knowledge as based on enclosed newspaper articles.

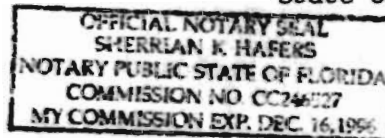
Edward Holmes

93 APR 29 AM 10:53

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th day of April A.D., 1993.

Sherrian K. Hafers  
Notary Public  
State of Florida



My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_

96043741909

# Officials widen look at Brown's 1992 campaign

■ U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown denies wrongdoing and hired an accountant to sort things out.

By KIMBERLY C. MOORE

States News Service

The campaign practices and finances of U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown, D-Jacksonville, are coming under the scrutiny of both state and federal officials.

Brown, who denies any wrongdoing, has hired both a Washington political consultant and accountant to sort out discrepancies that have brought charges from a former election opponent and questions from the Federal Election Commission.

In Florida, the state Commission on Ethics is following up on a complain about Brown's campaign practices during her bid for the Florida Senate in 1992. Brown dropped out of that race in July to run for Florida's 3rd Congressional District seat.

A letter obtained by States News Service dated March 23 shows that the commission will conduct a hearing April 22 regarding a number of complaints filed by controversial Jacksonville radio personality Andy Johnson. Johnson ran unsuccessfully against Brown for the congressional office in the Democratic primary.

The ethics commission would neither confirm nor deny that an investigation is underway. Under state law, such investigations are confidential until completed.

"Andy Johnson is a bitter little man who somehow has failed to realize or recognize that the people of Florida's 3rd Congressional District have utterly rejected him and his politics of nastiness and divisiveness," said David Heller, a spokesman for Brown.

Johnson filed the charges in July, shortly after signing up to run against Brown.

The Jacksonville radio personality has used his daily radio show as a soapbox for nearly a year to air complaints that Brown violated various campaign rules.

"Andy Johnson" had submitted a number of complaints with the ethics commission — maybe as many as 100 — and the commission has already dismissed virtually all of them," Heller quoted the congresswoman as saying Friday.

But Heller confirmed that the ethics commission had not cleared Brown of all of Johnson's allegations.

Johnson has charged that Brown used her state legislative staff for campaign and personal purposes, secured state employees and state contractors to purchase tickets from Gator Travel, her Gainesville travel agency, and violated state law by failing to refund money raised for her state Senate campaign, which was transferred to her congressional race.

She uses her state employees at state expense and on state time to make money for herself," Johnson wrote to the state commission on July 2. "It is illegal — and unethical, wicked, even reprehensible — that this representative uses her public office for private gain."

Heller said any campaign work done by Brown's state legislative staff was done after hours or on weekends, in compliance with state campaign regulations. He said he "would not even begin to guess" about the charge that Brown used her staff to conduct personal business for her travel agency.

Last month, Brown asked Heller to deal with the matter, but he refused regarding her campaign ethics complaints. Heller has since been speaking for Brown for free. His employer, political

Potential  
State Ethics  
Violations

96043741910

# Cont: Story Officials Widen look at Brown's 1992 Campaign

OVER 25,000  
Annual Limit  
Violation  
of Federal  
Election Law

~~consulting firm Austin Sheinkopf pro-  
duced and bought air time for Brown's  
radio and television ads during her con-  
gressional campaign at a cost of more  
than \$50,000.~~

In addition to the state-level inquiry, Brown has also come under federal scrutiny for apparent legal violations revealed in campaign finance reports from her 1992 race for Congress.

The Federal Election Commission in Washington has been asking Brown's campaign for five months to clear up discrepancies they found in her federal campaign finance reports.

Brown has repeatedly denied any intentional wrongdoing and recently hired a Washington certified public accountant to audit her federal campaign finances.

Since October, the FEC has sent nine letters to Brown's campaign treasurer, Kenneth Jones, asking for clarification about claims that the congresswoman has accepted contributions from prohibited sources, including private corporations; took money in excess of legal limits; and failed to identify donors' occupations and addresses.

The FEC official said letters are often sent to candidates asking for clarification of a matter. He added that, in the "overwhelming majority" of cases, campaign committees clear up the problems immediately.

As of March 26, the congresswoman's campaign has responded to only one of the 28 separate questions brought forth in FEC letters.

Brown said delays in clearing up the matter were the result of FEC mailing letters of inquiry to "an old post office box (in Jacksonville) that wasn't checked regularly."

Heller said the campaign has since been in touch with the FEC "to let them know that a report will be filed as soon as possible."

The congresswoman has said that a forthcoming report will answer all questions about her federal election finances. "I think we're pretty close" to seeing the finished report, Heller said this week.

In the letters, FEC officials questioned donations from private corporations, which are illegal under campaign finance laws.

In her one response to the FEC filed so far, Brown revealed that donations worth \$1,250 were refunded to three corporations, according to a letter received Dec. 21 by the Clerk of the House and then sent to the Federal Election Commission.

The congresswoman said most of the problems with her forms stem from their being filled out at the last minute by volunteer staff members who were unfamiliar with FEC regulations.

"Reports were done at 3 in the morning, or on the weekends in a hurry," she said.

Problems with Brown's campaign finances have already led to the resignation of her campaign treasurer and a formal complaint filed by a right-wing organization.

Former treasurer Jones, a Jacksonville surgeon, resigned from Brown's campaign staff following reports that his name was signed without his permission. Jones' signature was falsified by Brown's chief of staff, Ronnie Simmons, on at least one campaign finance form filed with the FEC.

Brown has maintained that Simmons signed the name in a rush to file the report on time. She has also removed Simmons from further campaign work.

In response to publicity about the falsified reports, Liberty and Justice For All filed a complaint last month with the FEC requesting that the commission investigate the matter. The Jacksonville-based group advocates the abolition of affirmative action hiring districts designed to elect minorities, Martin Luther King Day and the United Negro College Fund.

Fred Eiland, an FEC spokesman, acknowledged this week that the commission had received a "proper complaint" from the group and that Brown would be notified. She has 15 days to respond to the charges.

She, Ms. Brown, admits lacks filling standards

96043741911

Forged signature

# Brown's campaign funds don't add up

By KIMBERLY MOORE FRI FEB 19 1993  
States News Service

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown, D-Jacksonville, admitted this week that her chief of staff, Ronnie Simmons, forged a signature on her federal campaign-finance forms, an act the Federal Election Commission said could be a felony.

When asked early in the week if he had filled out the forms or signed someone else's name to them, Simmons denied having any knowledge about Brown's campaign finances and said he "did not know what was going on."

Brown, however, admitted Wednesday that Simmons "filled out the report and signed it."

The typewritten name and forged signature of Dr. Kenneth Jones, a Jacksonville vascular surgeon, appears on the form as the authorized campaign treasurer.

"That is not my signature," Jones said after reviewing the form. "I was surprised when you told me that a report had been filed."

been filed."

A source close to Jones, who did not want to be identified, said the doctor is very angry with Brown.

The congresswoman said Simmons thought he was allowed to sign Jones' name. "Clearly he found out he could not," she said. "There was no attempt at any time to deceive or mislead anyone."

Falsifying federal documents is considered a felony, according to Fred Eiland of the Federal Election Commission. He added that sending the document through the mail "for fraudulent" purposes could also be considered a felony, a relevant point because the report was sent by mail to the FEC.

Eiland made it clear he was speaking only in general terms and not about a specific case.

A Justice Department official, who asked not to be identified, said criminal intent must be present for the action to be considered criminal forgery.

"You don't have forgery until you have a level of criminal intent," the source said. "But both those statutes have potential applicability to this case."

In addition, federal campaign regulations forbid congressional staff members from working on a congressional campaign during regular office hours. Filling out FEC forms constitutes working on the campaign but is considered only a minor violation.

An aide with the House Select Committee on Ethics, who asked not to be identified, said that if Simmons



Brown

Gainesville Sun

Gainesville Sun  
Feb 19 1993

"As far as the gravity of the violation, I can't imagine we would ever think it was serious," the source said. "That's not to say that it's not wrong. You don't do campaign work on company time."

Brown said Simmons filled out the report after work hours. She did not explain why Simmons lied about the incident, and Simmons refused to comment further.

During a call Thursday to Simmons to ask why the incident took place, Brown picked up the phone and screamed at a States News Service reporter: "I don't want you calling my office and bothering my staff about this anymore! Now you hang up this phone!"

Questions about the reports began when it was discovered that the forms filed in November do not match the December forms filed this month with the FEC.

The Nov. 23 report, filed one month prior to the latest report, lists "total operating expenditures" this calendar year as \$296,896. The next report shows that \$8,623 was spent during December, which should have brought the total amount spent in 1992 to \$305,500. However, the total expenditures for 1992 were listed on the December report at \$263,457.

Simmons could not explain how the number went down, instead of up.

The December forms show that Brown is \$16,000 in debt. However, figures reveal that she took in \$23,000 more than she spent.

The December record lists campaign expenditures at \$263,400 on last year's election. Campaign contributions were \$286,500.

"That must be a mistake," she said. "I guarantee we didn't take more money than we spent."

The Figures  
Just don't  
add up!  
FEC  
Should  
investigate



96043741912

# Treasurer to Brown resigns

## Failure to fire chief aide cited

By Kimberly C. Moore

States News Service

WASHINGTON — The campaign treasurer for Rep. Corrine Brown of Jacksonville has quit following a report about improper handling of her campaign finance forms.

Kenneth Jones said yesterday he resigned because Rep. Brown failed to fire her chief of staff, Ronnie Simmons, after she learned Simmons had forged Jones' signature on her latest campaign finance report to the Federal Election Commission.



Brown

"The continued relationship of Mr. Simmons with your organization, after he finally acknowledged forging my signature on FEC returns, leaves me no choice but to sever all associations with your election or re-election campaign," Jones wrote to Rep. Brown on Monday.

The congresswoman refused through an aide to comment yesterday on Jones' resignation or her campaign account and did not return phone calls.

Jones, a vascular surgeon who performs kidney transplants in Jacksonville, said he was never given access to Rep. Brown's campaign checking account records.

"I resigned, in part, because I was not getting the cooperation I needed to do an adequate job as treasurer," Jones said.

After reviewing the six campaign finance documents filed by Rep. Brown's staff, Jones said he definitely did not sign two of the forms but probably signed the remaining four. He said, however, that he did not fill out any of the forms.

Rep. Brown said last week that Simmons filled out the final report and forged Jones' signature on it.

Jones said he regrets getting involved with Rep. Brown's campaign and is angry that Simmons remains on her staff.

"The guy is still employed," Jones said of Simmons. "Unbelievable."

Rep. Brown refused to even reprimand Simmons, saying last week that he acted as a campaign volunteer and "you can't discipline a volunteer."

The forged signature could be considered a crime if criminal intent was involved, according to the U.S. Justice Department.

Jones cited frustration at not being shown detailed copies of checks signed or written by the campaign.

Copies of three checks in Rep. Brown's files at the FEC were signed by a Gloria Simmons and identify her as campaign treasurer.

(See CAMPAIGN, Page B-4)

(From Page B-1)

Ms. Simmons is no relation to Ronnie Simmons.

Campaign law requires candidates to file records designating an authorized treasurer and assistant treasurer, but no records on file as of yesterday designated either Jones or Ms. Simmons for either position.

Ms. Simmons, who could not be reached for comment yesterday, served as campaign treasurer for Rep. Brown's state House races, as well as president of the One Stop Economic Development Center. One Stop was a controversial business incubator, funded by a \$425,000 federal grant and headed by a close friend of Rep. Brown, the Rev. Alvin Moore, who had no business experience. Ronnie Simmons also worked at One Stop, as an assistant to Moore.

The venture failed and the city of Jacksonville was forced to repay more than \$200,000 to the federal government. A state grand jury investigated the incident but found no wrongdoing.

To see if there was hidden monies in the 1st congressional race for Rep. Brown.

Note  
of Full  
Financial  
audit  
should be  
done on  
Alvin Moore  
and Ronnie  
Simmons

FEC  
Please  
Read whole  
Story

96043741913

Florida Times Union Feb 24, 1993

Gainesville FLA Sun

Jan 7 1993

# Brown picks ex-prisoner to run office

THU JAN 6 7 1993

By KIMBERLY MOORE  
States News Service

A former Lake City Council member who was convicted of second-degree murder in 1971 and admitted to cocaine use in the early 1980s has been chosen to run U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown's "mobile district office."

Glenel Bowden, 42, spent six years in prison after taking part in a 1971 Fort Lauderdale armed robbery in which one person was killed by another robber.

Brown, D-Jacksonville, said she did not know about either the murder conviction or the cocaine use, but said she would not change her mind about Bowden's selection.

In 1988, Bowden testified in a Jacksonville federal court that he used cocaine in 1983 and 1984 while serving as a city councilman. Political opponents tried to oust him from office but failed to do so in an October 1988 recall vote.

"Whatever happened, I'm sure he served his time," Brown said in Washington following her first full day as a member of Congress.

"He's a fine young man, and a lot of people make mistakes. I hired him because he will do a good job, he works good with the community and he's extremely popular."

"I have been forgiven and feel forgiven," said Bowden, who added that he is a born-again Christian. "Yesterday is not what I live."

Bowden, who served in Vietnam from 1968-69, said Wednesday that he has nothing to hide and has been "tremendously up front" about both the murder conviction and cocaine use.

It's been a matter of discussion

"He's a fine young man, and a lot of people make mistakes. I hired him because he will do a good job."

U.S. REP. CORRIE BROWN

over the years," he said. "It's old news a thousand times over."

Bowden served on the Lake City Council for 10 years and has been active in civic groups, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He said he is "the most qualified person for the job."

As Brown's 3rd Congressional District liaison, Bowden will travel from city to city to speak with constituents in the sprawling area from Ocala to Gainesville to Jacksonville, down through Palatka and then almost to Orlando.

On Dec. 31, Bowden stepped down from his job as an outdoor advertising inspector for the Florida Department of Transportation to work for the congresswoman.

He served as Brown's



Instead  
of hiring  
a college graduate  
to run one of her  
offices, she hired  
an ex-con?

96043741



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

May 6, 1993

Edward Holmer  
3151 SE 27th Ave.  
Gainesville, FL 32601

RE: MUR 3771

Dear Mr. Holmer:

This letter acknowledges receipt on April 29, 1993, of your complaint alleging possible violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), by Congresswoman Corrine Brown, Friends of Corrine Brown and Gloria Simmons, as treasurer, Austin Sheinkopf, Ltd., Ronnie Simmons, Alvin Moore, and the One Stop Economic Development Center. The respondents will be notified of this complaint within five days.

You will be notified as soon as the Federal Election Commission takes final action on your complaint. Should you receive any additional information in this matter, please forward it to the Office of the General Counsel. Such information must be sworn to in the same manner as the original complaint. We have numbered this matter MUR 3771. Please refer to this number in all future correspondence. For your information, we have attached a brief description of the Commission's procedures for handling complaints.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jonathan Bernstein".

Jonathan A. Bernstein  
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure  
Procedures

96043741915



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

May 6, 1993

Honorable Corrine Brown  
274 Tallulah Ave.  
Jacksonville, FL 32208

RE: MUR 3771

Dear Congresswoman Brown:

The Federal Election Commission received a complaint which indicates that you may have violated the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"). A copy of the complaint is enclosed. We have numbered this matter MUR 3771. Please refer to this number in all future correspondence.

Under the Act, you have the opportunity to demonstrate in writing that no action should be taken against you in this matter. Please submit any factual or legal materials which you believe are relevant to the Commission's analysis of this matter. Where appropriate, statements should be submitted under oath. Your response, which should be addressed to the General Counsel's Office, must be submitted within 15 days of receipt of this letter. If no response is received within 15 days, the Commission may take further action based on the available information.

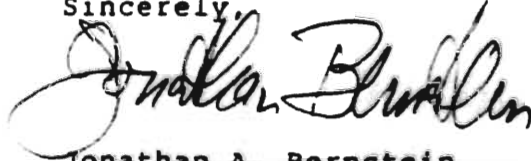
This matter will remain confidential in accordance with 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(4)(B) and § 437g(a)(12)(A) unless you notify the Commission in writing that you wish the matter to be made public. If you intend to be represented by counsel in this matter, please advise the Commission by completing the enclosed form stating the name, address and telephone number of such counsel, and authorizing such counsel to receive any notifications and other communications from the Commission.

96043741916

Congresswoman Corrine Brown  
Page 2

If you have any questions, please call (202) 219-3690 and ask to speak with a member of the Central Enforcement Docket (CED). For your information, we have enclosed a brief description of the Commission's procedures for handling complaints.

Sincerely,



Jonathan A. Bernstein  
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures

1. Complaint
2. Procedures
3. Designation of Counsel Statement

96043741917



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

May 6, 1993

David J. Heller, Vice President  
Austin Sheinkopf, Ltd.  
2701 Connecticut Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20008

RE: MUR 3771

Dear Mr. Heller:

The Federal Election Commission received a complaint which indicates that Austin Sheinkopf, Ltd. may have violated the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"). A copy of the complaint is enclosed. We have numbered this matter MUR 3771. Please refer to this number in all future correspondence.

Under the Act, you have the opportunity to demonstrate in writing that no action should be taken against Austin Sheinkopf, Ltd. in this matter. Please submit any factual or legal materials which you believe are relevant to the Commission's analysis of this matter. Where appropriate, statements should be submitted under oath. Your response, which should be addressed to the General Counsel's Office, must be submitted within 15 days of receipt of this letter. If no response is received within 15 days, the Commission may take further action based on the available information.

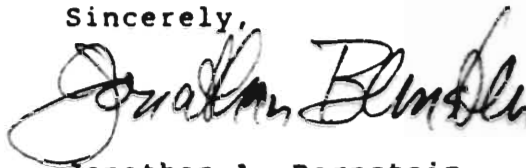
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96043741918

David J. Heller, Vice President  
Austin Sheinkopf, Ltd.  
Page 2

If you have any questions, please call (202) 219-3690 and ask to speak with a member of the Central Enforcement Docket (CED). For your information, we have enclosed a brief description of the Commission's procedures for handling complaints.

Sincerely,



Jonathan A. Bernstein  
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures

1. Complaint
2. Procedures
3. Designation of Counsel Statement

96043741919



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

May 6, 1993

Alvin Moore  
One Stop Economic Development Center  
7512 Lem Turner Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32208

RE: MUR 3771

Dear Mr. Moore:

The Federal Election Commission received a complaint which indicates that you and the One Stop Economic Development Center may have violated the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"). A copy of the complaint is enclosed. We have numbered this matter MUR 3771. Please refer to this number in all future correspondence.

Under the Act, you have the opportunity to demonstrate in writing that no action should be taken against you and the One Stop Economic Development Center in this matter. Please submit any factual or legal materials which you believe are relevant to the Commission's analysis of this matter. Where appropriate, statements should be submitted under oath. Your response, which should be addressed to the General Counsel's Office, must be submitted within 15 days of receipt of this letter. If no response is received within 15 days, the Commission may take further action based on the available information.

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96043741920

Alvin Moore  
One Stop Economic Development Center  
Page 2

If you have any questions, please call (202) 219-3690 and ask to speak with a member of the Central Enforcement Docket (CED). For your information, we have enclosed a brief description of the Commission's procedures for handling complaints.

Sincerely,



Jonathan A. Bernstein  
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures

1. Complaint
2. Procedures
3. Designation of Counsel Statement

96043741921



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON D.C. 20463

May 6, 1993

Ronnie Simmons  
c/o Friends of Corrine Brown  
3416 Nancy Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32209

RE: MUR 3771

Dear Mr. Simmons:

The Federal Election Commission received a complaint which indicates that you may have violated the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"). A copy of the complaint is enclosed. We have numbered this matter MUR 3771. Please refer to this number in all future correspondence.

Under the Act, you have the opportunity to demonstrate in writing that no action should be taken against you in this matter. Please submit any factual or legal materials which you believe are relevant to the Commission's analysis of this matter. Where appropriate, statements should be submitted under oath. Your response, which should be addressed to the General Counsel's Office, must be submitted within 15 days of receipt of this letter. If no response is received within 15 days, the Commission may take further action based on the available information.

This matter will remain confidential in accordance with 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(4)(B) and § 437g(a)(12)(A) unless you notify the Commission in writing that you wish the matter to be made public. If you intend to be represented by counsel in this matter, please advise the Commission by completing the enclosed form stating the name, address and telephone number of such counsel, and authorizing such counsel to receive any notifications and other communications from the Commission.

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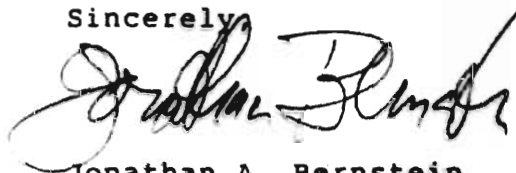
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Friends of Corrine Brown  
Gloria Simmons, Treasurer  
Page 2

If you have any questions, please call (202) 219-3690 and ask to speak with a member of the Central Enforcement Docket (CED). For your information, we have enclosed a brief description of the Commission's procedures for handling complaints.

Sincerely,



Jonathan A. Bernstein  
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures

1. Complaint
2. Procedures
3. Designation of Counsel Statement

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COMMISSION  
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OGC 7853

AUSTIN SHEINKOPF

Mr. Jonathan A. Bernstein  
Assistant General Counsel  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20463

May 19, 1993

Dear Mr. Bernstein:

I am responding to your letter dated May 6, 1993, in re: MUR 3771. According to the complaint filed against our firm and Rep. Corrine Brown, Mr. Holmes seems to believe that Austin Sheinkopf illegally contributed \$63,000 to Rep. Brown's congressional campaign.

In fact, Austin Sheinkopf did not make any monetary contribution to Rep. Brown's campaign. We are a political consulting firm specializing in media. We are regularly hired by candidates for Congress across the country to produce radio and TV commercials, a service for which we are appropriately compensated. In the case of Corrine Brown, her campaign committee, Friends of Corrine Brown, paid us money to produce commercials and buy air time.

The \$63,000 reflects the amount of money paid to Austin Sheinkopf for our services. A small portion of that money, \$7,500, was our retainer fee. The remainder was used to buy air time for Friends of Corrine Brown on TV and radio in the Third Congressional District. [Please find enclosed a copy of the contract between Austin Sheinkopf and Friends of Corrine Brown documenting this relationship.]

I hope this satisfies your inquiry in full.

Sincerely,



David J. Heller  
Vice President

Austin Sheinkopf  
2701 Connecticut Ave., N.W., #609  
Washington, D.C. 20008

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PERKINS COIE

A LAW PARTNERSHIP INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS  
607 FOURTEENTH STREET, N.W. • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-2011  
(202) 628-6000 • FACSIMILE (202) 434-1690

May 27, 1993

Lawrence M. Noble, Esq.  
Federal Election Commission  
Office of the General Counsel  
999 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20463

Re: MUR 3771 - Representative Corrine Brown; Friends  
of Corrine Brown, Gloria Simmons, as Treasurer;  
and Elias Ronnie Simmons

Dear Mr. Noble:

This letter constitutes the response to MUR 3771 on behalf of Representative Corrine Brown; Friends of Corrine Brown, Gloria Simmons, as Treasurer; and Elias Ronnie Simmons ("Respondents"). Because this complaint raises essentially identical issues to those raised in MURs 3750 and 3751, we request that the three matters be consolidated.

Reporting Matters

Complainant, Edward Holmer, has raised questions related to the preparation and filing of the FEC reports of Friends of Corrine Brown (the "Committee"). As the response to the other MURs stated, the Committee has retained a professional accountant to conduct a thorough review of all of its reports and prepare amendments, as necessary, to ensure that the reports accurately reflect the Committee's activities. State to federal campaign transfers, the sources of contributions, and all other issues raised by Complainant related to the reporting of contributions will be reviewed as part of this internal analysis.

Moreover, subsequent to initiating its review, the Committee received a letter notifying the Committee that the Commission had voted to audit the Committee's records. The Committee's review will be completed in June prior to the start of the audit on July 3.

The Committee has worked diligently to avoid any errors in its recordkeeping and reporting. As a first-time candidate in an extremely competitive race, Ms. Brown relied almost exclusively on volunteers to conduct her campaign. She had

severely limited resources to hire staff and consultants during the race.

She had three elections -- primary, runoff and general -- in just 64 days. These elections occurred after a prolonged court battle over the redistricting lines, resolved finally in June, 1992. Because her campaign could not afford the \$10,000 filing fee, Congresswoman Brown had to collect approximately 10,000 signatures to petition on to the ballot for the September 1 primary. This schedule taxed the Committee's staff and financial resources. Moreover, none of the campaign staff or volunteers had federal campaign experience and, therefore, they were unfamiliar with the requirements of federal election campaign laws.

While they made every effort to keep up with administrative matters, the Committee had no funds to retain an experienced bookkeeper or accountant to address recordkeeping and reporting duties. Thus, the Committee relied on accounting students and others to complete the reports. Even after the campaign, many of her staff continued on a volunteer basis. The Committee has now taken steps to better organize its recordkeeping and reporting procedures.

#### Signatures on FEC Reports

The Committee's letter in response to MURs 3750 and 3751 addressed the allegation that Mr. Ronnie Simmons forged two FEC reports filed by the Committee. Complainant also raises this issue related to the treasurer's signature. The Committee's response is the same here.

News articles alleged that the treasurer, Dr. Kenneth Jones, did not sign two of the six reports filed by the Committee. In fact, Dr. Jones signed four reports. Two amended reports were signed by Gloria Simmons, as Treasurer; and two reports were signed by Ronnie Simmons.

As noted above, the campaign was staffed by volunteers, operated on a short time table, and had little time to master the reporting requirements. Dr. Jones traveled between his office and the hospital where he practiced; like many doctors, he has irregular and extremely demanding hours. The Committee found it difficult to find him to sign priority reports. As a result, Committee representatives had experienced significant delays between the time the report was prepared and obtaining Dr. Jones' signature.

In the case of the Year-End report, the Committee was unaware, until Friday, January 29, that a report was due. See Simmons Affidavit. Notices from the Commission were sent to a

post office box in Florida that was not regularly checked because no staff person was available in the state to pick up the mail. On January 29, the Congresswoman received a notice in her office from the Clerk of the House alerting all Members that the Year-End report was due on Sunday. As a consequence, Mr. Simmons spent the weekend preparing the report and hand-delivered it on January 31. See Simmons Affidavit. The Committee did not have adequate time to send the report to Mr. Jones in Florida for his signature. Instead, Mr. Simmons signed it.

Mr. Simmons understood at the time that he was permitted to sign on the treasurer's behalf. See Simmons Affidavit. Mr. Simmons had served as staff Secretary to Congresswoman Brown while she was in the Florida legislature. He had volunteered significant amounts of time evenings and weekends during the campaign, served as her key assistant during her transition to federal office and is now her Chief of Staff. In these various capacities, the Congresswoman relied on him to oversee many administrative matters. Mr. Simmons even had some authority to sign other documents, including correspondence, on behalf of the Congresswoman.

In this case, Mr. Simmons simply misunderstood his authority to execute the documents. He was operating under exigent circumstances attempting to do the best job he could to complete and file the FEC report in a timely manner. There was no intention to somehow falsely represent Dr. Jones' signature. From past experience, he knew that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to secure Dr. Jones signature before the filing deadline. Moreover, because of his close association with the Congresswoman's campaign, he believed his role to permit him to sign the document.

In February, prior to the complaint in this matter, an amended Year-End report was filed with Gloria Simmons' signature. This was done as soon as the Committee understood that an issue had been raised relating to the original report. Ms. Simmons is now the treasurer of the Committee. This change will avoid any similar misunderstandings related to the signature on FEC reports in the future.

#### Austin Sheinkopf Consulting Agreement

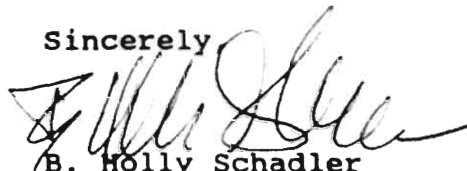
Complainant states that Representative Brown received \$63,000 in donations from Austin Sheinkopf, a consulting firm. This allegation is entirely unfounded and inaccurate. Austin Sheinkopf is a reputable political consulting firm that specializes in media relations. The Committee retained the firm to produce and purchase time for radio and television spots. The Committee paid the firm \$63,000 for these

services. It did not receive any contributions from the firm. Complainant clearly misunderstands both the law and the facts here.

One Stop

Complainant's allegations about One Stop are equally specious. First, the Florida State's Attorney for the Fourth Judicial District investigated charges against One Stop and subsequently dismissed them. Contrary to the newspaper report enclosed with the complaint, the charges were determined not even to warrant examination by a grand jury. Moreover, States News Service subsequently corrected its statement on the grand jury investigation. See Exhibit 1. Any suggestion of wrongdoing by complainant or the newspaper article is inaccurate. There is no evidence that One Stop or any related party diverted One Stop funds to Congresswoman Brown's campaign.

Sincerely



B. Holly Schadler  
Counsel to Respondents

Attachments

BHS:mah

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STATEMENT OF DESIGNATION OF COUNSELNUM 3771NAME OF COUNSEL: Judith L. Corley and B. Holly SchadlerADDRESS: Perkins Coie607 14th Street, NW, Suite 800Washington, DC 20005TELEPHONE: ( 202 ) 628-6600

The above-named individual is hereby designated as my  
counsel and is authorized to receive any notifications and other  
communications from the Commission and to act on my behalf  
before the Commission.

5/26/93  
Date  
SignatureRESPONDENT'S NAME: Corrine BrownADDRESS: 1037 Longworth House Office BuildingWashington, DC 20515-0903

TELEPHONE: HOME

BUSINESS ( 202 ) 225-0123

96043741929

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**STATEMENT OF DESIGNATION OF COUNSEL**

MUR 3771

NAME OF COUNSEL: Judith L. Corley and B. Holly Schadler

ADDRESS: Perkins Coie

607 14th Street, NW, Suite 800

Washington, DC 20005

TELEPHONE: ( 202 ) 628-6600

The above-named individual is hereby designated as my  
counsel and is authorized to receive any notifications and other  
communications from the Commission and to act on my behalf  
before the Commission.

5/20/93  
DATE

Gloria Simmons  
SIGNATURE

RESPONDENT'S NAME: Friends of Carrine Brown  
Gloria Simmons

ADDRESS: 3416 Nancy Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32209

TELEPHONE: HOME

BUSINESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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STATEMENT OF DESIGNATION OF COUNSEL

NOX 3771

NAME OF COUNSEL: Judith L. Corley and B. Holly Schadler

ADDRESS: Perkins Coie  
607 14th Street, NW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20005

TELEPHONE: 202 628-6600

The above-named individual is hereby designated as my  
counsel and is authorized to receive any notifications and other  
communications from the Commission and to act on my behalf  
before the Commission.

5/26/93  
Date

Elias Ronnie Simmons  
Signature

RESPONDENT'S NAME: Elias Ronnie Simmons

ADDRESS: 1037 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0903

TELEPHONE: HOME  
BUSINESS( 202 ) 225-0123

96043741931

**FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**  
**999 E Street, N.W.**  
**Washington, D.C. 20463**

**FIRST GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT**

**MURs 3750, 3751, 3771**  
**Staff Member: Matthew J. Tanielian**

**SOURCE:**

**COMPLAINT AND AUDIT REFERRAL**

**RESPONDENTS:**

**Friends of Corrine Brown and Gloria Simmons, as treasurer**  
**Corrine Brown**  
**Ronnie Simmons**  
**One Stop Economic Development Center, Inc.**  
**Austin-Sheinkopf, Ltd.**

**RELEVANT STATUTES: 2 U.S.C. § 431(8)(A)(i)**

**2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(1)**

**2 U.S.C. § 441a(a)(1)(A)**

**2 U.S.C. § 441a(f)**

**2 U.S.C. § 441b(a)**

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**COMPLAINANTS:** MUR 3750: Liberty and Justice for All, Susan M. Lamb,  
President  
MUR 3751: Winston R. Wood  
MUR 3771: Edward Holmer

**INTERNAL REPORTS CHECKED:** Disclosure Reports, Audit Documents

**FEDERAL AGENCIES CHECKED:** None

**I. GENERATION OF MATTER**

This General Counsel's Report addresses Matters Under Review ("MURs") regarding Friends of Corrine Brown ("Committee") that originated from Representative Corrine Brown's 1992 race for the House of Representatives, 3rd District for the State of Florida.<sup>1</sup>

MURs 3750, 3751, and 3771 were complaint generated. MURs 3750 and 3751 originated from complaints filed by Liberty and Justice for All and Winston R. Wood, respectively, and raised identical questions related to the Committee's preparation and filing of two reports of receipts and disbursements. MUR 3771 originated from a complaint filed by Edward Holmer alleging that a consulting firm, Austin-Sheinkopf, Ltd., made in-kind contributions to the Committee in the form of radio and television air time totaling \$63,000. Mr. Holmer also alleged a contribution of funds from One Stop Economic Development Center, Inc. to the Committee.

<sup>1</sup> Corrine Brown won the 1992 general election with 59% of the vote and won the 1994 election with 58% of the vote.

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As discussed herein, the Office of General Counsel believes that MURs 3750, 3751, and 3771 do not warrant further enforcement action. This Office recommends the Commission make reason to believe findings, but take no further action and close the files on MURs 3750 and 3751, and find no reason to believe that a violation occurred and close the file with respect to MUR 3771.

**NOTICE**

**PAGES 4 - 15  
CONTAIN INFORMATION PERTAINING TO MATTERS  
OTHER THAN MURS 3750, 3751 AND 3771.**

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### III. MURs 3750 and 3751

The FECA requires each treasurer of a political committee to file reports of receipts and disbursements and to sign each such report. 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(1).

On March 15, 1993, this Office received a complaint from Liberty and Justice for All, Susan M. Lamb, President, and on March 19, 1993, received a complaint from Winston R. Wood. Attachments 3 and 4. Both complaints were based on newspaper articles in the *Gainesville Sun* on February 19, 1993 and March 27, 1993, and the *Florida Times-Union* in Jacksonville on February 24, 1993.<sup>12</sup> The complainants alleged that staff person Ronnie Simmons forged the signature of the treasurer, Dr. Kenneth Jones, on two reports filed with the Commission in violation of 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(1).<sup>13</sup>

Dr. Kenneth Jones was the treasurer during the 1992 campaign, and Ronnie Simmons has been identified by the Committee as Representative Brown's key assistant.<sup>14</sup> The complaints were identical in that they both alleged that Ronnie Simmons "forged" disclosure reports by signing Dr. Jones's signature on two of the reports.

<sup>12</sup> According to the Committee, the newspaper articles relied on by the complainants were not entirely accurate. Representative Brown asked for, and received a correction from the States News Service. See Attachment 5 at 6-8.

<sup>13</sup> MUR 3771 alleged the identical violation, stemming from the same newspaper articles. See *infra* p. 18.

<sup>14</sup> Ronnie Simmons was Representative Brown's staff secretary while she was in the Florida legislature and served as Representative Brown's Chief of Staff in the House of Representatives.

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In its response to the complaints, the Committee admitted that Ronnie Simmons signed the two reports. However, the Committee explained that Mr. Simmons signed the report because it was difficult to locate Dr. Jones due to his medical practice, and as a result, the Committee frequently experienced significant delays between the time the report was prepared and the time Dr. Jones signed them. Attachment 5 at 2. The Committee also submitted an affidavit of Ronnie Simmons in which he addressed one of the instances in which he signed Dr. Jones's name. In that instance, a Year-End Report was due on January 31, 1993; however, it was only on January 29 that the Committee became aware of the requirement to file the report. Mr. Simmons stated he did not believe he could secure the treasurer's signature on the report on time and that he believed that he was permitted to sign the report in lieu of the treasurer. *Id.* at 9.

The Committee has admitted that it failed to obtain the treasurer's signature on two of the reports filed with the Commission. 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(1). However, given the lack of any evidence of an intentional scheme to commit fraud in the signing of the reports, the fact that the reports were filed on time, and the readiness of the Committee to explain the circumstances around which the mistakes occurred, this Office believes further enforcement action is not warranted.

Accordingly, the Office of the General Counsel recommends the Commission find reason to believe that Friends of Corrine Brown and Gloria Simmons, as treasurer, violated 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(1), but take no further action. This Office further recommends that the Commission find reason to believe the Ronnie Simmons violated 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(1), but take no further action.

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**IV. MUR 3771**

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An individual may not make any contributions to a candidate or his or her authorized committees, with respect to any election for federal office which, in the aggregate, exceed \$1,000. 2 U.S.C. § 441a(a)(1)(A). Political committees may not knowingly accept any contributions or make any expenditures in violation of this limitation. 2 U.S.C. § 441a(f). It is unlawful for any corporation to make a contribution or expenditure in connection with any federal election, or for any candidate, political committee, or other person knowingly to accept or receive any contribution prohibited by this section. 2 U.S.C. § 441b(a). The term "contribution" includes any gift, subscription, loan, advance, or deposit of money or anything of value made by any person for the purpose of influencing any election for federal office. 2 U.S.C. § 431(8)(A)(i).

On April 12, 1993, this Office received a complaint from Edward Holmer who, based on the same newspaper articles cited in the complaints in MURs 3750 and 3751, made allegations in addition to those discussed in MURs 3750 and 3751. Mr. Holmer alleged that the Committee received in-kind contributions worth \$63,000 from a consulting firm, Austin-Sheinkopf, Ltd., in the form of television and radio air time. See Attachment 6. The responses of both Austin-Sheinkopf and the Committee stated that the Committee was billed \$63,000 for the services of Austin-Sheinkopf, and the Committee paid in full.<sup>15</sup> Attachment 7 at 3-4. Thus, it does not appear that there was a violation of 2 U.S.C. § 441b(a) by either Austin-Sheinkopf or the Committee.

<sup>15</sup> The disbursement reports filed with the Commission show a total of \$94,862.10 in payments to Austin-Sheinkopf between July 7, 1992 and November 18, 1992 for consulting and television and radio air time.

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In his complaint, Mr. Holmer also referred to a newspaper article in the *Florida Times-Union* dated February 24, 1993, which identified Gloria Simmons, the Committee treasurer subsequent to Dr. Jones, as the president of the One Stop Economic Development Center, Inc. ("One Stop"). According to the newspaper article, One Stop was funded by a \$450,000 federal grant. When this venture failed, the city of Jacksonville was required to repay \$300,000 back to the federal government. Mr. Holmer alleged that the funds of One Stop may have been diverted to Ms. Brown's campaign. The basis for the allegation apparently stemmed from the relationship between One Stop and the Committee's treasurer, Gloria Simmons, and the fact that Ms. Brown was a friend of the director of One Stop, Reverend Alvin Moore. However, this Office searched the Commission's contributor records, as well as information provided to the Audit Division and found no evidence of contributions by One Stop to the campaign.<sup>16</sup>

Mr. Holmer also alleged that staff member Ronnie Simmons signed the treasurer's name on two FEC reports. This identical allegation was addressed in MURs 3750 and 3751.

Therefore, the Office of General Counsel recommends the Commission find no reason to believe that Friends of Corrine Brown and Gloria Simmons, as treasurer, violated 2 U.S.C. §§ 441b(a) or 441a(f). This Office also recommends the Commission find no reason to believe that Austin-Sheinkopf, Ltd., violated 2 U.S.C. § 441a(a)(1)(A). This Office also recommends

<sup>16</sup> Additionally, the Florida State's Attorney's Office investigated the charges with regards to the failure of One Stop unrelated to Representative Brown, and subsequently determined that the charges did not warrant examination by the grand jury. See Attachment 7.

the Commission find no reason to believe that One Stop Economic Development Center, Inc.  
violated 2 U.S.C. § 441b(a).

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**VI. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**MUR 3759 and MUR 3751**

1. Find reason to believe that Friends of Corrine Brown and Gloria Simmons, as treasurer, violated 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(1), but take no further action;
2. Find reason to believe that Ronnie Simmons violated 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(1), but take no further action;
3. Approve the appropriate letters; and
4. Close the files.

**MUR 3771**

1. Find no reason to believe that Friends of Corrine Brown and Gloria Simmons, as treasurer, violated 2 U.S.C. §§ 441b(a) or 441a(f);
2. Find no reason to believe that Austin-Sheinkopf, Ltd. violated 2 U.S.C. § 441a(a)(1)(A);
3. Find no reason to believe that One Stop Economic Development Center, Inc. violated 2 U.S.C. § 441b(a);
4. Approve the appropriate letters; and
5. Close the file.

96043741942

Lawrence M. Noble  
General Counsel

5/14/96  
Date

Kim Bright-Coleman  
BY: Kim Bright-Coleman  
Associate General Counsel

96043741943

(continued)

Federal Election Commission  
Certification: NUREs 3750,  
3751, AND 3771  
June 6, 1996

Page 2

96043741945

**Federal Election Commission  
Certification: MURs 3790,  
3751, and 3771  
June 6, 1996**

**Page 3**

**MUR 3750 and MUR 3751**

1. Find reason to believe that Friends of Corrine Brown and Gloria Simmons, as treasurer, violated 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(1), but take no further action;
2. Find reason to believe that Ronnie Simmons violated 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(1), but take no further action;
3. Approve the appropriate letters as recommended in the General Counsel's May 14, 1996 report; and
4. Close the files.

(continued)

96043741946

Federal Election Commission  
Certification: MURs 3750,  
3751, and 3771  
June 6, 1996

Page 4

~~MUR 3771~~

1. Find no reason to believe that Friends of Corrine Brown and Gloria Simmons, as treasurer, violated 2 U.S.C. §§ 441b(a) or 441a(f);
2. Find no reason to believe that Austin-Sheinkopf, Ltd. violated 2 U.S.C. § 441a(a)(1)(A);
3. Find no reason to believe that One Stop Economic Development Center, Inc. violated 2 U.S.C. § 441b(a);
4. Approve the appropriate letters as recommended in the General Counsel's May 14, 1996 report; and
5. Close the file.

Commissioners Elliott, McDonald, McGarry, and Thomas voted affirmatively for the decision; Commissioner Aikens was not present.

Attest:

6-13-96  
Date

Marjorie W. Emmons  
Marjorie W. Emmons  
Secretary of the Commission

96043741947



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

June 17, 1996

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. Edward Holmer  
3151 SE 27th Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32601

RE: MUR 3771

Dear Mr. Holmer:

On June 6, 1996, the Federal Election Commission reviewed the allegations of your complaint dated April 29, 1993, and found that on the basis of the information provided in your complaint and Commission disclosure reports, there is no reason to believe Friends of Corrine Brown and Gloria Simmons, as treasurer, violated 2 U.S.C. §§ 441b(a) or 441a(f), no reason to believe Austin-Sheinkopf, Ltd. violated 2 U.S.C. § 441a(a)(1)(A), and no reason to believe One Stop Economic Development Center, Inc. violated 2 U.S.C. § 441b(a). Accordingly, on June 6, 1996, the Commission closed the file in this matter.

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended allows a complainant to seek judicial review of the Commission's dismissal of this action. See 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(8).

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Noble  
General Counsel

BY: *Kim Bright-Coleman*  
Kim Bright-Coleman  
Associate General Counsel

Enclosure  
General Counsel's Report

96043741948



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

June 17, 1996

David J. Heller, Vice President  
Austin-Sheinkopf, Ltd.  
2701 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008

RE: MUR 3771

Dear Mr. Heller:

On May 6, 1993, the Federal Election Commission notified Austin-Sheinkopf, Ltd. of a complaint alleging violations of certain sections of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended.

On June 6, 1996, the Commission found, on the basis of the information in the complaint and the Commission's disclosure reports, that there is no reason to believe Austin-Sheinkopf, Ltd. violated 2 U.S.C. § 441a(a)(1)(A). Accordingly, the Commission closed its file in this matter.

The confidentiality provisions at 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(12) no longer apply and this matter is now public. In addition, although the complete file must be placed on the public record within 30 days, this could occur at any time following certification of the Commission's vote. If you wish to submit any factual or legal materials to appear on the public record, please do so as soon as possible. While the file may be placed on the public record before receiving your additional materials, any permissible submissions will be added to the public record upon receipt.

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Noble  
General Counsel

BY:

*Kim Bright-Coleman*  
Kim Bright-Coleman  
Associate General Counsel

Enclosure  
General Counsel's Report

Celebrating the Commission's 20th Anniversary

YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW  
DEDICATED TO KEEPING THE PUBLIC INFORMED

96043741949



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

June 17, 1996

Mr. Alvin Moore  
One Stop Economic Development Center, Inc.  
7512 Lem Turner Road  
Jacksonville, Florida 32208

RE: MUR 3771

Dear Mr. Moore:

On May 6, 1993, the Federal Election Commission notified One Stop Economic Development Center, Inc. of a complaint alleging violations of certain sections of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended.

On June 6, 1996, the Commission found, on the basis of the information in the complaint and the Commission's disclosure reports, that there is no reason to believe One Stop Economic Development Center, Inc. violated 2 U.S.C. § 441b(a). Accordingly, the Commission closed its file in this matter.

The confidentiality provisions at 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(12) no longer apply and this matter is now public. In addition, although the complete file must be placed on the public record within 30 days, this could occur at any time following certification of the Commission's vote. If you wish to submit any factual or legal materials to appear on the public record, please do so as soon as possible. While the file may be placed on the public record before receiving your additional materials, any permissible submissions will be added to the public record upon receipt.

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Noble  
General Counsel

BY:

*Kim Bright-Coleman*  
Kim Bright-Coleman  
Associate General Counsel

Enclosure  
General Counsel's Report

96043741950



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

June 17, 1996

Friends of Corrine Brown  
Gloria Simmons, Treasurer  
3109 River Bend Court, D-102  
Laurel, Maryland 20724

RE: MUR 3771

Dear Ms. Simmons:

On May 6, 1993, the Federal Election Commission notified Friends of Corrine Brown ("Committee") and you, as treasurer, of a complaint alleging violations of certain sections of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended.

On June 6, 1996, the Commission found, on the basis of the information in the complaint and Commission disclosure reports, that there is no reason to believe the Committee violated 2 U.S.C. §§ 441a(f) or 441b(a). Accordingly, the Commission closed its file in this matter.

The confidentiality provisions at 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(12) no longer apply and this matter is now public. In addition, although the complete file must be placed on the public record within 30 days, this could occur at any time following certification of the Commission's vote. If you wish to submit any factual or legal materials to appear on the public record, please do so as soon as possible. While the file may be placed on the public record before receiving your additional materials, any permissible submissions will be added to the public record upon receipt.

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Noble  
General Counsel

BY:

*Kim Bright-Coleman*

Kim Bright-Coleman  
Associate General Counsel

Enclosure  
General Counsel's Report

cc: Corrine Brown

Celebrating the Commission's 20th Anniversary

YESTERDAY. TODAY AND TOMORROW  
DEDICATED TO KEEPING THE PUBLIC INFORMED

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

THIS IS THE END OF MUR # 3771

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