

# Tom Haughey for Congress

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January 12, 1998

Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20463

MUR 4710

Gentlemen:

On Friday January 9th at 11 A.M. President Clinton was the featured speaker at a McAllen, Texas fundraiser for Rep. Ruben Hinojosa. The luncheon took place at the home of a Mr. Cantu, owner of Cantu Construction. According to the McAllen Monitor approximately \$480,000 was raised at this function for which 480 tickets were sold at a thousand dollars each.

It has come to my attention that at least two (and possibly many more) of these tickets were sold to Mexican nationals. Dan Bautista

1701 Edward, Edinburg, TX 78539), the head of the Hidalgo County chapter of the Republican National Hispanic Assembly, was contacted by two such nationals whom he knew and who claimed they had been pressured by employees of Texas Commerce Bank on bank premises into purchasing two such thousand dollar tickets. Other individuals with offices within the bank tower were also offered tickets by employees. Dan further indicated to me that Mr. Cantu was using the employees of his incorporated construction company to sell tickets.

In order to check on Dan's allegations I had one of our volunteer workers, Lorraine Owens (1015 W. 9th Street, Weslaco, TX 78596), call Cantu Construction to see if corporate employees there were involved in the ticket sales. They were. Mr. Cantu's secretary got him on a cell phone and acted as intermediary in the attempt to sell Lorraine tickets. She was told she could pick them up at the construction company but that being on the list was what mattered and that they would fax her the secret service questionnaire if she decided to make the purchase.

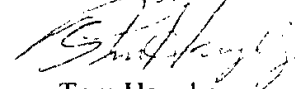
It is my understanding that it's a violation of federal law for corporations to engage in partisan fundraising for a congressional candidate. Thus every dollar raised in that event appears tainted. It is also my understanding that it's illegal for candidates to receive contributions from foreign nationals. (Since the fundraiser was held within ten miles of the Mexican border and since a bank would normally know the nationality of those with whom it does business, I conclude that a reasonable effort was not made to comply with the law.

I request, therefore, that the FEC take immediate steps to impound the money raised at the event (including those moneys designated for paying the charter cost of Air Force One and any other expenses for which the President and Executive Branch would normally be

reimbursed. I further request that your commission conduct a thorough investigation of the incident and have the FBI examine the list of donors to determine those who are not allowed under law to make political contributions. I further request that all moneys illegally collected (either by a corporation or from a Mexican national) be returned to the original donors. I further request that the FEC impose whatever sanctions or fines it deems appropriate upon those who have engaged in any illegalities which are determined to have taken place.

I would remind you that I wrote you last January about Mr. Hinojosa illegally paying his secretary with corporate funds to work on his political campaign. He used his corporate headquarters for that purpose. I understand that other employees were also involved in that illegal activity. Mr. Hinojosa has, therefore, shown a pattern of breaking federal laws which prohibit corporate funding of campaigns. Under those circumstances I believe he has some serious explaining to do about his current fundraising activities. I would also like to know how the President could have been unaware of the fundraising problems when he had an advance team in McAllen while tickets were being sold and had the secret service do background checks on everyone who attended the event. Please look into these matters.

Sincerely,

  
Tom Haughey

tbh

Subscribed and sworn to  
before me on this the  
12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1998.



