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May 21, 1999

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

April Sands, Esq.
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20463

Re: MUR 4748

Dear Ms. Sands:

Enclosed please find the Responses to Interrogatories and Document Requests of respondent WPXI, Inc. ("WPXI") in connection with the above-referenced matter. Respondents WPXI and Pamela Spagnol previously have requested pre-probable cause conciliation pursuant to 11 C.F.R. § 111.18 (d). Please do hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions regarding the enclosed Responses.

Sincerely,


Michael Kovaka

MK/igh
Enclosures

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL
MAY 26 3 14 PM '99

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BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
) MUR 4748
)
)

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL
MAY 26 3 14 PM '99

TO: Office of the General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
Room 659
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

RESPONSES TO INTERROGATORIES AND DOCUMENT REQUESTS

INTERROGATORY NO. 1(a):

identify the name(s), title(s), position(s) of employment, and area(s) of responsibility of the person(s) who generated the idea of the plan, and state when it was generated;

RESPONSE TO INTERROGATORY NO. 1(a):

In late October 1997, personnel at WPXI first considered preparing a news report comparing the responses of congressional representatives to constituent letters which included campaign contributions with their responses to letters without donations (hereinafter "the Congressional Response News Story"). Around that time, WPXI News Director Robert Morford forwarded a memo from Lloyd Siegel of NBC entitled "Dateline Idea Exchange" to WPXI Special Projects Unit Executive Producer Carrie Moniot. The Dateline Idea Exchange memo, dated October 21, 1997, was addressed to "Affiliate News Directors," and suggested news story ideas that had been tried by other news organizations. The Dateline Idea Exchange memo included a news story suggestion entitled "Members of Congress may be twice as likely to answer your letter when you enclose a check" which was based on a report published in the *New York Daily News*.

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The WPXI News Department conducts regular meetings to develop and follow-up on story ideas. The ideas set forth in the Dateline Idea Exchange memo, including the Congressional Response News Story, were discussed at one of these meetings in January 1998 (hereinafter "the January 1998 Meeting"). Based on the description of the *New York Daily News* story in the Dateline Idea Exchange memo, it was generally agreed that WPXI should pursue the Congressional Response News Story. All of the individuals identified below participated in the January 1998 Meeting:

1. Ms. Carrie Moniot, Executive Producer, WPXI News Special Projects Unit. The Executive Producer of the Special Projects Unit is responsible for the medical, consumer and investigative units and also oversees news specials, election coverage, and special events.
2. Mr. Robert Morford, WPXI News Director. The News Director is responsible for all news operations at WPXI.
3. Ms. Tracye Fox, WPXI Assistant News Director. The Assistant News Director assists the News Director in supervising news operations.
4. Mr. Steve Riley, WPXI Creative Services Director. The Creative Services Director is responsible for the art, graphics, and creative services departments and supervises the marketing of the television station.
5. Ms. Karen Lah, WPXI Creative Services Manager. The Creative Services Manager reports to the Creative Services Director and oversees the production of promotions for news programs and other station events.

John Howell, WPXI General Manager, may have attended at least a portion of the meeting. Although Mr. Howell sometimes attends such meetings, neither Mr. Howell nor the

above-listed attendees recall whether Mr. Howell attended this particular meeting. The General Manager oversees all aspects of the station's operations.

Sometime after WPXI decided to pursue the Congressional Response News Story, Carrie Moniot telephoned Eric Koli, a Dateline NBC investigative producer, for more information on the general story idea as outlined in the Dateline Idea Exchange memo. On January 21, 1998, Mr. Koli faxed Ms. Moniot a Nexis copy of the *New York Daily News* article. Mr. Koli also gave Ms. Moniot the phone number of the *New York Daily News* reporter on the story's byline. Ms. Moniot left a message for this reporter in hopes of learning more about how the *New York Daily News* had prepared its report, but never received a return call from him.

INTERROGATORY NO. 1(b):

identify the name(s), title(s), position(s) of employment, and area(s) of responsibility of the person(s) who decided the dollar amount, the number of contributions to be made, to whom the contributions were to be made, and why the recipients of the contributions were chosen;

RESPONSE TO INTERROGATORY NO. 1(b):

The attendees of the January 1998 Meeting (identified in Response to Interrogatory 1(a)) agreed to pattern the Congressional Response News Story after the story featured in the *New York Daily News*. In the *Daily News* investigation, members of Congress in New York City received one constituent letter with a \$50 check and another similar constituent letter without a check. The congressmen's responses to the two sets of letters were then compared to determine if the presence of a check has an impact on the sort of response generated by a constituent letter. Accordingly, each of the five congressmen representing districts in the WPXI viewing area was sent one constituent letter with a \$50 check enclosed and another letter without a check.

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INTERROGATORY NO. 1(c):

list the total number of all contributions sent as part of the plan, the names of all recipients of contributions, the amount of each contribution sent as part of the plan, and describe why each person was chosen to receive a contribution;

RESPONSE TO INTERROGATORY NO. 1(c):

One \$50 check was sent to each of the five congressmen representing western Pennsylvania -- William L. Coyne, Mike Doyle, Philip S. English, Ron Klink, and Frank R. Mascara -- for a total of five checks. These congressmen were chosen because they represent the congressional districts in the viewing area served by WPXI.

INTERROGATORY NO. 1(d):

identify the name(s), title(s), position(s) of employment, and area(s) of responsibility of the person(s) who approved the plan, drafted the letters accompanying the contributions, and approved the letters accompanying the contributions;

RESPONSE TO INTERROGATORY NO. 1(d):

WPXI News Director Robert Morford generally had the final authority to decide whether the News Department would pursue a particular story. However, the attendees of the January 1998 Meeting (identified in Response to Interrogatory 1(a)) agreed that WPXI should pursue the Congressional Response News Story. As Executive Producer for the WPXI News Special Projects Unit, Carrie Moniot drafted and approved both the letters accompanying the checks and the letters sent without a check.

INTERROGATORY NO. 1(e):

identify the name(s), title(s), position(s) of employment, and area(s) of responsibility of the person(s) who approved the use of corporate funds for the contributions;

RESPONSE TO INTERROGATORY NO. 1(e):

It was understood by the individuals involved that the objectivity of the Congressional Response News Story depended upon the letters and checks coming from people who would not

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easily be associated with WPXI. Otherwise, the report would measure the typical response of congressional offices to press requests, rather than constituent requests. The unspoken assumption was that the cost of the checks would be treated like any other reimbursable news story expense incurred by any employee.

Ms. Pamela Spagnol who, at Ms. Moniot's request, sent the five letters containing \$50 checks to the congressmen, followed the station's regular procedure for the advance and reimbursement of news story-related expenses. On February 11, 1998, Ms. Spagnol, the News Department Business Manager, submitted a routine check request for \$250 to WPXI's Accounting Department to cover the cost of the five checks to be sent. The requested \$250 check was issued to Ms. Spagnol two days later. Then, on March 3, 1998, the date the checks were mailed, Ms. Spagnol submitted a routine expense voucher form to the Accounting Department providing documentation that she had written the five \$50 checks from her personal account on March 2 and requesting reimbursement of an additional \$1.60 in postage. Also in keeping with the station's regular procedures, the News Department head, WPXI News Director Robert Morford, (identified in response to interrogatory 1(a)) approved both the check request and expense forms.

None of the WPXI personnel involved in the approval of the Congressional Response News Story or the advance of Ms. Spagnol's expenses knew of any laws that might prohibit such donations. The possibility that enclosing checks for the congressmen's campaign funds as part of the Congressional Response News Story might be prohibited was never raised or discussed. The checks were not sent for the purpose of influencing the outcome of any election, but were seen as a cost to be incurred in the course of covering a news story.

INTERROGATORY NO. 1(f):

identify and describe any officers or directors of WPXI, Inc., or its parent corporation, who were involved in the plan, when they became involved in the plan, how they became involved in the plan, and state whether they participated in the authorization of the use of corporate funds for the plan;

RESPONSE TO INTERROGATORY NO. 1(f):

WPXI General Manager John Howell is Vice President of WPXI, Inc. Although it is not clear whether Mr. Howell attended the January 1998 meeting at which the decision was made to pursue the Congressional Response News Story, Mr. Howell was generally aware that WPXI was pursuing the Congressional Response News Story. Mr. Howell did not participate in any authorization for the use of corporate funds, but assumed the cost incurred in sending the donations would be reimbursed by the station.

INTERROGATORY NO. 1(g):

state the name(s), title(s), position(s) of employment, and area(s) of responsibility of all WPXI, Inc. employees who played a role in the plan not otherwise mentioned in this question, and the nature of their role;

RESPONSE TO INTERROGATORY NO. 1(g):

1. Mr. Alan Jennings, Reporter, prepares news stories for WPXI. Mr. Jennings was the reporter assigned to the Congressional Response News Story. Mr. Jennings played no role in approving the plan to send checks to the congressmen and did not participate in preparing or sending the letters accompanying the checks. Mr. Jennings was responsible for reporting on the congressmen's responses.

2. Mr. Jim Chiappelli is WPXI's Morning Executive Producer, responsible for the production of stories featured on WPXI's morning news shows. At the request of Ms. Moniot, Mr. Chiappelli signed, and used his home address as the return address for, the set of letters

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without checks that was sent to the congressmen. He also forwarded the single response he received from the congressmen to Ms. Moniot.

INTERROGATORY NO. 1(h):

describe the content and nature of all communications with the persons who received contributions as part of the plan, and produce all documents received from the recipients or their representatives;

RESPONSE TO INTERROGATORY NO. 1(h):

The following is a chronological description of all communications with the congressmen or their representatives:

On or about March 2, 1998, two letters, both dated February 24, 1998, were sent to each of the five congressmen. Both letters expressed concern about the Social Security system and asked the recipient congressman for help in determining the amount of Social Security benefits that would be available to the sender upon retirement. One set of letters, signed by Ms. Pamela Spagnol, included a \$50 check, dated March 2, 1998, made payable to the recipient congressman. The other set, signed by Mr. Jim Chiappelli, did not include a check.

Ms. Spagnol received the following initial responses in the mail from the congressmen and forwarded all responses to Ms. Moniot:

1. An undated letter from Ron Klink, on "Ron Klink, your citizen in Congress" stationery, thanking Ms. Spagnol for her donation. Ms. Spagnol's check to Rep. Klink was cashed on or about March 18, 1998. Rep. Klink's letter did not address the Social Security concerns raised by Ms. Spagnol.
2. A two-page letter dated March 16, 1998 from Congressman Frank Mascara, on House of Representatives stationery explaining how Ms. Spagnol could obtain the requested information regarding benefits from the Social Security Administration. Congressman Mascara also returned Ms. Spagnol's check to her and explained that

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because she resides in Rep. Mike Doyle's District, "I just do not feel it is appropriate for me to keep it."

3. A one-page letter, dated March 30, 1998, from Phil English on "English for Congress" stationery, thanking Ms. Spagnol for her check. Rep. English did not address the Social Security concerns raised by Ms. Spagnol in her letter. Ms. Spagnol's check to Congressman English was cashed on or about March 31, 1998.

4. A one-page letter, dated March 30, 1998, from Rep. Mike Doyle on House of Representatives stationery, responding to Ms. Spagnol's question about retirement benefits and referring her to the Social Social Security Administration for more information. The letter did not mention the \$50 check. Ms. Spagnol's check was cashed on or about April 3, 1998.

Sometime in early April 1998, WPXI Reporter Alan Jennings telephoned Rep. Mascara's office and arranged an interview with the congressman on the subject of his office's process for responding to constituent letters. Sometime during that same week, Mr. Jennings or some other representative of WPXI called the office of Rep. Phil English to arrange an interview. Ms. Moniot also left messages with the offices of Reps. Klink and Doyle requesting interviews on the same subject.

Mr. Jennings interviewed Rep. Mascara in his Mon Valley, Pennsylvania office on or about April 20, 1998. During the interview Mr. Jennings asked Rep. Mascara about his procedures for responding to constituent mail generally, and about the letter sent by Ms. Spagnol in particular. Rep. Mascara described his procedures for responding to constituent mail, and stated that he specifically remembered dictating the March 16 letter to Ms. Spagnol. He also recalled deciding to return her \$50 check since she was not on his constituent list.

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Mr. Jennings also interviewed Rep. Phil English at his office in Butler, Pennsylvania on or about April 20, 1998. During the interview, Mr. Jennings asked Rep. English about his procedures for responding to constituent mail generally, and about the letter sent by Ms. Spagnol in particular. Rep. English indicated that he did not remember receiving or answering Ms. Spagnol's letter. Rep. English also stated that he would follow-up with his Washington office on the handling of the letter and the check.

Several days after Mr. Jennings' interview with Rep. English, Ms. Spagnol received a one-page letter, dated April 22, 1998, from Phil English on House of Representatives stationery, addressing Ms. Spagnol's concerns about retirement benefits and referring her to the Social Security Administration. The letter did not mention the \$50 check sent by Ms. Spagnol.

Soon after these interviews, staff at the offices of Reps. Klink and Doyle returned Ms. Moniot's earlier calls to their offices. First, Ms. Mary Kiernan, Administrative Assistant for Rep. Klink, and later, Mr. David Lucas, Press Secretary for Rep. Mike Doyle, called Ms. Moniot to ask for more specific information about the proposed interview. Ms. Moniot explained the premise of the Congressional Response News Story to each of them. Both Ms. Kiernan and Mr. Lucas declined to arrange interviews on the subject with the congressmen.

Following Ms. Moniot's conversations with Ms. Kiernan and Mr. Lucas, Ms. Spagnol received the following letters:

1. A one-page letter dated May 6, 1998, from Joe Brimmeier, Campaign Treasurer, on "Ron Klink, your citizen in Congress" stationery, advising Ms. Spagnol that because of questions about the origins of her \$50 contribution, her donation was being refunded in accordance with Federal Election Commission guidelines. Enclosed was a \$50 check to

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Ms. Spagnol dated May 7, 1998, from "Citizens for Ron Klink" signed by Mr. Brimmeier.

2. A one-page letter dated May 9, 1998, from Karen S. Oleyar, Treasurer, on "Doyle for Congress Committee" stationery, also advising Ms. Spagnol that because of questions about the origins of her \$50 contribution, her donation was being refunded in accordance with Federal Election Commission guidelines. The letter stated that because Ms. Spagnol had written identical letters to several members of the Pennsylvania delegation, apparently in conjunction with a WPXI news story, "we must assume that you may not be the person actually making the contribution." Enclosed was a \$50 check to Ms. Spagnol dated May 3, 1998, from "Doyle for Congress Committee."

In approximately mid-May 1998, several weeks after Ms. Moniot's conversation with Ms. Kiernan, Mr. Chiappelli received an undated letter from Rep. Klink in an undated House of Representatives envelope thanking him for his inquiry and enclosing a pamphlet on Social Security. Rep. Klink's May letter is the only response received by Mr. Chiappelli to any of the five letters he mailed to the congressmen.

On June 3, 1998, Ms. Spagnol sent a letter to Rep. English advising him that her \$50 check had been sent as part of a WPXI news story and that it had been suggested that sending the check may have violated federal campaign laws. Ms. Spagnol's letter stated that she was bringing the donation to Rep. English's attention in order to provide him with the opportunity to refund her already-cashed check.

Also on June 3, 1998, Ms. Spagnol sent a similar letter to Rep. Coyne advising him that her \$50 check had been sent as part of a WPXI news story and that it had been suggested that sending the check may have violated federal campaign laws. Ms. Spagnol's letter stated that she

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had stopped payment on the check and was bringing the donation to Rep. Coyne's attention because he had not yet cashed her check.

Sometime in mid-June 1998, Ms. Spagnol received a letter from Bruce P. Mehlman, Chief Counsel of the National Republican Congressional Committee, dated June 11, 1998. Mr. Mehlman indicated that Rep. English had forwarded Ms. Spagnol's June 3 letter to him and that the English campaign had refunded her \$50 contribution to the U.S. Treasury, rather than to Ms. Spagnol. The letter included copies of Ms. Spagnol's June 3 letter, the \$50 check from "People for English" to the U.S. Treasury, and the check and envelope included with Ms. Spagnol's original February 24 letter.

As requested, all documents received from the congressmen or their representatives are included with this submission.

INTERROGATORY NO. 1(i):

describe what actions have been taken by WPXI to inform the contribution recipients of the true nature of the contributions.

RESPONSE TO INTERROGATORY NO. 1(i):

Reps. Mascara and English were advised by Mr. Jennings during the April 20, 1998 interviews that the \$50 checks sent by Ms. Spagnol were part of WPXI's Congressional Response News Story.

As stated above, Ms. Moniot advised Ms. Mary Kiernan, Administrative Assistant for Rep. Klink, and Mr. David Lucas, Press Secretary for Rep. Doyle, by telephone that Ms. Spagnol's checks were sent as part of WPXI's Congressional Response News Story.

On June 3, 1998, Ms. Spagnol sent a letter to Rep. English advising him that her \$50 check had been sent as part of a WPXI news story and that it had been suggested that the sending of the check violated federal campaign laws. Mr. Spagnol's letter stated that she was bringing

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the donation to the attention of Rep. English in order to provide him with the opportunity to refund her already-cashed check to him.

Also on June 3, 1998, Ms. Spagnol sent a similar letter to Rep. Coyne advising him that her \$50 check had been sent as part of a news story and that it had been suggested that the sending of the check violated federal campaign laws. Mr. Spagnol's letter stated that she had stopped payment on the check and was bringing the donation to Rep. Coyne's attention because he had not yet cashed her check.

Partly as a result of these contacts, none of the donations were retained by the congressmen. As outlined above, after being advised by WPXI personnel that the \$50 checks were sent as part of the Congressional Response News Story, the campaign committees of Reps. Doyle and Klink refunded the money directly to Ms. Spagnol, while Rep. English's campaign refunded Ms. Spagnol's \$50 to the U.S. Treasury. Rep. Mascara, before learning of any connection to WPXI, returned the check he received to Ms. Spagnol because she lives outside of his district, and Ms. Spagnol stopped payment on her check to Rep. Coyne before it was ever cashed.

INTERROGATORY NO. 1(j):

produce all documents that were generated as part of the plan.

RESPONSE TO INTERROGATORY NO. 1(j):

All documents generated as part of the WPXI plan to send checks to members of Congress as part of the Congressional Response News Story are enclosed.

INTERROGATORY NO. 2(a):

list the title(s), position(s) of employment, and describe the area(s) of responsibility that Carrie Moniot has held at WPXI, Inc. since January 1998.

RESPONSE TO INTERROGATORY NO. 2(a):

Carrie Moniot is the Executive Producer for the WPXI News Special Projects Unit. She is responsible for the medical, consumer and investigative units of the News Department and also oversees news specials, election coverage, and special events. She has held this position at all times since January 1998.

INTERROGATORY NO. 2(b):

state whether Carrie Moniot is or has been an officer or director of WPXI, Inc.

RESPONSE TO INTERROGATORY NO. 2(b):

Carrie Moniot is not now, nor has she ever been, an officer or director of WPXI, Inc.

INTERROGATORY NO. 2(c):

describe the role of Carrie Moniot with respect to the plan.

RESPONSE TO INTERROGATORY NO. 2(c):

As stated above, Ms. Moniot came across the idea for the Congressional Response News Story in a memo from Lloyd Siegel of NBC which included a reference to the *New York Daily News* report. Ms. Moniot presented the idea during the January 1998 Meeting. Once the idea was approved, Ms. Moniot drafted the letters to be sent to the congressmen and asked two WPXI employees to send the letters under their names. Ms. Pam Spagnol, WPXI News Department Business Manager, agreed to send letters with \$50 personal checks from her own checking account. At the same time, Mr. Jim Chiappelli, WPXI Morning News Director, sent letters without checks.

Ms. Moniot also monitored the responses received by Ms. Spagnol and Mr. Chiappelli. Ms. Moniot then attempted to arrange interviews with Reps. Klink and Doyle regarding their responses. Ms. Moniot spoke with Mary Kiernan and David Lucas, and advised them of the

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Congressional Response News Story premise behind the \$50 donations. Both Ms. Kiernan and Mr. Lucas declined to make the congressmen available for an interview.

INTERROGATORY NO. 3(a):

list the title(s), position(s) of employment, and describe the area(s) of responsibility that Pamela Spagnol has held at WPXI, Inc. since January 1998;

RESPONSE TO INTERROGATORY NO. 3(a):

Pamela Spagnol is WPXI's News Department Business Manager and has held this position at all times since January 1998. Ms. Spagnol's areas of responsibility as News Department Business Manager include overseeing the financial management and budgeting for the News Department.

INTERROGATORY NO. 3(b):

state whether Pamela Spagnol is or has ever been an officer or director of WPXI, Inc.;

RESPONSE TO INTERROGATORY NO. 3(b):

Ms. Spagnol is not now, and has never been, an officer or director of WPXI, Inc.

INTERROGATORY NO. 3(c):

describe how Pamela Spagnol was reimbursed for the use of her personal funds for the contributions.

RESPONSE TO INTERROGATORY NO. 3(c):

Ms. Spagnol, WPXI News Department Business Manager, followed the station's regular procedure for expense advancement and reimbursement, as she would for any other expense related to the production of a news story. On February 11, 1998, Ms. Spagnol submitted a routine check request for \$250 to WPXI's Accounting Department to cover the cost of the five checks to be sent. The requested \$250 check was issued to Ms. Spagnol two days later. Then, on March 3, 1998, when the checks were mailed, Ms. Spagnol submitted a routine expense voucher to the Accounting Department providing documentation that she had written the five

\$50 checks from her personal account on March 2 and requesting reimbursement of an additional \$1.60 in postage. Also in keeping with the station's regular procedures, the News Department head, WPXI News Director Robert Morford, approved both the check request and expense forms. Ms. Spagnol also was reimbursed \$25 for the cost of stopping payment on the check to Rep. Coyne on June 3, 1998.

INTERROGATORY NO. 3(d):

describe the role of Pamela Spagnol with respect to the plan.

RESPONSE TO INTERROGATORY NO. 3(d):

Ms. Spagnol agreed, at Ms. Moniot's request, to send one letter enclosing a \$50 check from her personal account to each of the five congressmen. Ms. Spagnol signed the letters dated February 24, 1998, wrote a check to each congressman for \$50 from her personal account dated March 2, 1998, and used her home address as the return address on each envelope. Ms. Spagnol then forwarded every response that she received to Ms. Moniot. Ms. Spagnol submitted reimbursement forms for the checks and other expenses. Ms. Spagnol received a check from WPXI, Inc. reimbursing her \$250 for the checks, plus \$1.60 in postage. Ms. Spagnol was also later reimbursed for the \$25 charge incurred when she stopped payment on the check to Rep. Coyne on June 3, 1998.

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I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Carrie Moniot

Carrie Moniot
May 20, 1999.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Kovaka

Michael Kovaka
DOW, LOHNES & ALBERTSON, PLLC
1200 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 776-2000

DATED: May 21, 1999

2005-104-40-02



Affiliate News Directors

Lloyd Siegel

October 21, 1997

Dateline Idea Exchange

Here are some last-minute sweeps ideas for November...or some well-in-advance ideas for February.

The notes were prepared by Eric Koli, a Dateline investigative producer, who thought it might be helpful to provide some story ideas for your programs.

At least one, the cosmetic counter claims, worked for Dateline a couple of years ago. Most of the others are more recent...and may work in your market.

Eric has more information available. If you are interested in a specific topic and would like more help, you can reach him at 212 664-2126, or fax him at 212 664-4775.

You'll want to do your own research on these possible stories, rather than simply rely on the notes. These stories will work if they are based on your staff's own good journalism and have information relevant to your market.

Eric asks that you fax him a quick note to let him know whether any of these ideas led to stories for your own programs...or just didn't seem to work. That kind of feedback will be helpful in developing more lists of story tips for stations in the future.

....and, please let Eric know if you find a story in your area which might work for Dateline.

Good luck.

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From: Eric Koli
Dateline/Story Development Unit
Phone: 212-664-2126
Fax: 212-664-4775

Local Story Ideas - Nov 97 Sweeps

Here are nine local story ideas for NBC affiliates. I have more background on all of these stories - local producers should feel free to call me if I can be of any help.

Hundreds of babies suffer brain damage or die every year because state health departments won't spend pennies to test for easily treatable diseases

Every year in the U.S. about 100 babies die and about 300 suffer severe brain damage because state health departments ignore the American Academy of Pediatrics and don't test all newborns for four easily treatable diseases known as "metabolic disorders." The tests cost 50 cents to \$4 each. Lifetime care for a brain damaged infant can cost taxpayers \$1+ million.

For example, taxpayers will probably spend more than \$1.2 million caring for Sean Stewart. His disorder, called Biotinidase, could have been detected with a 50 cent test. Treatment would have cost about \$15 a month in protein supplements. Today, Sean is a profoundly retarded 5 year old living in Florida. He will require expensive care throughout his life.

Babies with metabolic disorders that go untreated suffer severe brain damage that can leave them deaf, blind, unable to talk, unable to walk, with the IQ of a five-year-old throughout their adult lives.

State health departments say it's too expensive to test. But a lifetime of care for a brain damaged infant costs even more. It would cost an additional \$31 million a year for all states to test for all four metabolic disorders. Instead, the lifetime care for brain damaged infants born every year is costing \$1.2+ billion. And taxpayers usually pick up the tab since most of these infants end up on Medicaid.

The four disorders are:

1. Biotinidase - 50 cent test/Up to \$1+ million for lifetime care for brain damaged newborn. 30 states don't test. About 75 newborns stricken every year across U.S.
2. Congenital adrenal hyperplasia - \$4 test/Up to \$2+ million for lifetime care. 33 states don't test, 187 a year stricken
3. Maple syrup urine disease - \$2.50 test/Up to \$2+ million for lifetime care. 30 states don't test, 23 a year stricken.
4. Homocystinuria -
38 states don't test, 9 newborns a year stricken.

According to the National Screening Status Report, there are 15

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states that do not test for any of the four:

AR, CA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MS, MO, MT, NJ, OK, SD, TN, UT, WV

There are 14 states that only test for one of the four:

AL, FL, IA, MN, NE, NM, NC, ND, OH, PN, SC, TX, WA, WY

Nine states and the District of Columbia only test for two:

DE, DC, ID, IL, IN, NV, NH, OR, WI

11 States test for three

AK, AZ, CO, CN, GA, HI, MD, MI, NY, VT, VA

Only two states test for all four:

MA, RI

Cheryl Volk at The Association of Neuro-Metabolic Disorders (419-885-1497) may know of local support groups for parents of children with metabolic disorders. Newborns with metabolic disorders are treated by pediatric neurologists or geneticists.

Battered high school sweethearts

Reporters can check with their local school system and battered women's shelters to see if they've started programs for battered teenage girlfriends.

In recent years, local high schools and women's shelters have started programs to counsel teen girls battered by their boyfriends. For example, in 1990, the battered women's shelter in Morris County, NJ, started getting calls from battered high school girls looking for help. The shelter set up counseling centers in every high school in the county and support groups where 25-30 battered girls meet regularly. There are also programs for teenage boyfriends to help them stop battering.

Battered teen girlfriends are going to the police and obtaining restraining orders to protect themselves from abusive teenage boyfriends. A reporter in Quincy, MA found 75 teenage girls from six high schools had obtained restraining orders in an 18 month period.

Lead paint cover-up

Internal corporate documents recently uncovered in lawsuits show that lead paint manufacturers knew since the 1920s that they were poisoning children. But instead of removing the lead from their paint, lawyers suing paint manufacturers say they lied to the public, lied to the government, and conducted bogus scientific studies showing lead paint was safe.

Several cities are suing paint companies for the cost of removing lead paint from public housing.

Cosmetic Counter Claims

Salespeople at department store cosmetic counters sometimes tell wild, exaggerated, and scientifically impossible claims about their products. For example, one saleswoman for a pineapple-oil wrinkle remover told customers that pineapple pickers had no fingerprints because pineapple oil dissolves fingerprints the same way it dissolves wrinkles.

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Local dermatologists can separate the facts from fiction.

Kiddie Suicide

Reporters can check with their local school system to see if they've started programs to prevent pre-teen suicide.

The number of children younger than 13 who have killed themselves has more than doubled in the past 15 years, increasing 133%. Nationwide, experts estimate that thousands of children consider suicide or attempt suicide every year. About 60 pre-teens kill themselves every year.

Mental health workers say in recent years they've been receiving requests from elementary school teachers to talk to 4th and 5th grade kids about suicide prevention. They have invited reporters along as they go to elementary schools and speak to teachers and students to help identify kids who might be at risk for committing suicide.

Psychologists have also started outpatient programs for suicidal children and their families.

Plumbers

When consumer protection officials mounted undercover stings they found that plumbers not only overcharged for necessary repairs, they fixed things that weren't broken and sometimes even broke things that worked.

When Los Angeles District Attorney Ira Reiner investigated plumbers in the mid-80s, he found plumbers breaking pipes and spilling water to make homeowners believe they had major plumbing problems.

The Detroit Department of Consumer Affairs suggests these honesty tests for plumbers:

- *Close the valve at the bottom a toilet to cut off the water flow.
- *Lower the water level in a toilet by bending the floater rod. The flush will be inadequate.
- *Disconnect the linkage in the bathtub drain so the drain will not open. Disconnect the chain in the toilet tank so the toilet won't flush

Will plumbers say major repairs are needed?

Young couples forced to care at home for dying parents

More and more young couples are being forced to care for their aged and dying parents at home. An increasing number of HMOs and insurance policies are limiting hospital stays, sending terminally ill patients home to die.

The effect on families can be devastating. Professionals are often forced to put their careers on hold and quit their jobs so that they can care full time for an ailing parent. They

8005 104 401 5008

also report a high incidence of severe depression, divorce, and other breakdowns of family life.

Reporters can check with The National Family Caregivers Association (301-942-6430) to find local examples. The NFCA helps couples care for ailing parents.

Animals shelters sending dead dogs and cats to pet food companies

Reporters can check with their local animal shelters to see if they are sending the bodies of euthanized dogs and cats to rendering companies where they are processed and sold to pet food and cosmetic companies.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported in 1990 that U.S. animal shelters sent 40 percent of the 13 million household pets they put to sleep every year to rendering factories.

The dead pets are listed as "meat or bone meal" on pet food labels.

Some veterinarians also send the bodies of pets they put to sleep to renderers.

This practice may pose a health threat - some veterinarians fear that the drugs used to euthanize pets may survive the rendering process and make their way into pet food.

Members of Congress may be twice as likely to answer your letter when you enclose a check.

The New York Daily News found that members of the city's congressional delegation were far more likely to respond to a constituent's request for assistance if it was accompanied by a campaign contribution.

The paper sent two constituent letters asking for information about social security benefits to each of 14 members of Congress. One letter was accompanied by a \$50 campaign contribution - and was twice as likely to get answered. Eleven representatives answered letters that contained checks - only five answered letters without checks. And letters were answered more quickly and helpfully if they included a donation.

2005-10-14 09:00

To -

CARRIE MONIOT

From -

KOL1

212-664-2126

4 PAGES

To Follow

Feb. 6

0105 104 40 02

3RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 Daily News, L.P.
Daily News (New York)

September 05, 1995, Tuesday

SECTION: News; Pg. 7

LENGTH: 955 words

HEADLINE: 'ENCLOSED IS A CONTRIBUTION' WANT ACTION IN D.C.? DON'T FORGET THE CHECK

BYLINE: By FRANK LOMBARDI

(800) 327-6397
(212) 210-2100

BODY:

If you live in New York City and want help from your congressional representative, it's a good idea to send along a check. Otherwise, you may well be ignored completely.

A Daily News investigation reveals that members of the city's congressional delegation are far more likely to respond to a constituent's request for assistance if it's accompanied by a campaign contribution. They're also more likely to answer more quickly and helpfully if they get a donation even of \$ 50.

Money does not always talk, however.

Some of the city's representatives treat their constituents with equal disregard: Whether a check is included or not, they don't respond at all to mail asking for help.

For the most part, though, the disparity in the service given to citizens who send money and to those who don't is so stark that only a distinct minority of the city's representatives two appears to respond with roughly equal speed and thoroughness whether they get a check or not.

Those are among the key findings of an unprecedented News sting that was designed to test the responsiveness of the 14 members of Congress who represent districts in the city.

Two letters asking for basic information about federal programs were sent to each of their Washington offices. One letter expressed concern about the status of the Social Security trust fund. The second stated that the writer's widowed mother might have to be placed in a nursing home and asked if Medicare would cover such care. A \$ 50 contribution was included with one of the letters.

The letters, using the names and return addresses of a variety of News employees, were mailed June 21. As of yesterday 74 days later the 28 missives had drawn 16 responses. Eleven of them answered letters that had contained checks meaning the chances of getting help doubled with a donation.

And, by and large, the response time was far longer than the two-week turnaround most of the congressional offices say they shoot for. Only one representative met that mark clearly: Carolyn Maloney (D-Manhattan), who answered both letters by July 6.

Daily News (New York) September 05, 1995, Tuesday

Here's the full scorecard:

Seven representatives Edolphus Towns (D-Brooklyn), Thomas Manton (D-Bronx), Eliot Engel (D-Bronx), Nita Lowey (D-Queens), Charles Rangel (D-Manhattan), Jose Serrano (D-Bronx) and Nydia Velazquez (D-Brooklyn) answered only the letter that came with a check.

However, Velazquez' response said only that the letter had been forwarded to her New York office, which did nothing further. Manton and Serrano insisted the letters that did not come with a check were not answered only because they were sent from addresses slightly outside their districts.

"It's not that we're ducking work, but we don't want to do someone else's," said Manton's chief of staff, Bill Driscoll.

On the other hand, Manton's constituent who sent a check received both a personal thank you from the congressman and a two-page packet of information.

Rangel and Towns said they had no record of receiving the letters that weren't answered.

Towns' district manager, Karen Johnson, said of the lost checkless letter: "It would have been answered as quickly as the other one." What she did not mention is that the letter that was sent by Towns bore little, if any, relation to the query sent by his constituent.

Rangel, who said he makes a near-religion out of answering letters, challenged anyone who has written or called him and not gotten a response to contact The News.

"This is so unusual," he said. "In my 25 years I've not received a complaint."

No letter that contained a check was reported lost.

Four representatives Gary Ackerman (D-Queens), Floyd Flake (D-Queens), Charles Schumer (D-Brooklyn) and Maloney answered both letters. But even then the responses were not always equal.

While Maloney and Schumer appeared to give roughly equal attention to their letters, Flake and Ackerman answered more quickly when money was involved. Additionally, in Flake's case the letter with a check elicited a two-page response. The letter without money earned two paragraphs directing the sender to a senior citizens hotline run by the New York State Office for the Aging.

As for the more detailed response, Flake's spokesman Marshall Mitchel said: "I venture to say that because of the complexity of the Medicare issue, it would take more time and thought to have that letter answered."

Four representatives returned the checks to their senders. Three Schumer, Serrano and Engel politely said it would be improper for them to take money for doing their jobs.

The fourth, Velazquez, mistakenly contended that accepting such contributions "is against the law."

Daily News (New York) September 05, 1995, Tuesday

Unsolicited contributions sent to a congressional office may be kept if they are "transferred within seven days of receipt" to an authorized campaign or political committee, the law states.

"I consider mail from my constituents very important," said Schumer, who was the only check returner who responded to both letters.

"It's important to answer quickly and directly. As to [returning] the check, I don't want anyone to think they have to send me a check to do my job," he said.

Two representatives did not respond at all: Major Owens (D-Brooklyn), who cashed the contribution check, and Susan Molinari (R-S.I.), who didn't. Both offices said they were backed up.

One congressman Jerrold Nadler (D-Manhattan) responded only to the letter that did not come with a check. However, the check in the other letter was cashed.

"Obviously, the research [on that matter] wasn't completed," said Amy Green, Nadler's Washington office manager. "It's still in the pipeline, I'm embarrassed to say."

LOAD-DATE: September 05, 1995

20 04 40 02
20 05 10 40 02

February 24, 1998

Congressman Ron Klink
125 Cannon House Office Building
1st and Independence Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Congressman Klink:

I am writing to you because I'm not sure where to turn.

I have great concerns about the Social Security system--and whether or not my benefits will be there when I'm ready to retire some 20 years from now.

Is there some way I can find out NOW what my benefits will be when I'm ready to retire? The money keeps coming out of my paycheck, but does anyone really keep track of where it going?

I hope you can help give me some answers.

Sincerely,

WPXI 0010

405.104.40.02

February 24, 1998

Congressman Mike Doyle
133 Cannon House Office Building
1st and Independence Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Congressman Doyle,

I am writing to you because I'm not sure where to turn. I have great concerns about the Social Security system -- and whether or not my benefits will be there when I'm ready to retire some 20 years from now.

Is there some way I can find out NOW what my benefits will be when I'm ready to retire? The money keeps coming out of my paycheck, but does anyone really keep track of where it's going?

I hope you can help give me some answers.

Sincerely,

WPXI 0011

5105 104 40 02

February 24, 1998

Congressman William Coyne
2455 Rayburn House Office Building
Independence Avenue & S. Capitol Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Congressman Coyne,

I am writing to you because I'm not sure where to turn. I have great concerns about the Social Security system -- and whether or not my benefits will be there when I'm ready to retire some 20 years from now.

Is there some way I can find out NOW what my benefits will be when I'm ready to retire? The money keeps coming out of my paycheck, but does anyone really keep track of where it's going?

I hope you can help give me some answers.

Sincerely,

WPXI 0012

49557 104 104 104 104

February 24, 1998

Congressman Philip English
1721 Longworth House Office Building
Independence & New Jersey Avenues SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Congressman English:

I am writing to you because I'm not sure where to turn. I have great concerns about the Social Security system--and whether or not my benefits will be there when I'm ready to retire some 20 years from now.

Is there some way I can find out NOW what my benefits will be when I'm ready to retire? The money keeps coming out of my paycheck, but does anyone really keep track of where it's going?

I hope you can help give me some answers.

Sincerely,

WPXI 0013

2005 FEB 24 10 02

February 24, 1998

Congressman Frank Mascara
314 Cannon House Office Building
1st and Independence Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Congressman Mascara:

I am writing to you because I'm not sure where to turn. I have great concerns about the Social Security system -- and whether or not my benefits will be there when I'm ready to retire some 20 years from now.

Is there some way I can find out NOW what my benefits will be when I'm ready to retire? The money keeps coming out of my paycheck, but does anyone really keep track of where it's going?

I hope you can help give me some answers.

Sincerely,

WPXI 0014

20-04-401-5018

February 24, 1998

Congressman Ron Klink
125 Cannon House Office Building
1st and Independence Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20003

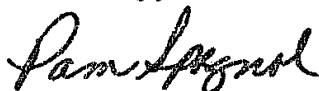
Dear Congressman Klink,

How can I make sure my Social Security benefits will be there when I'm ready to retire? Is there some kind of form I can fill out to make sure someone is keeping track of where my Social Security taxes are going?

Even though I'm at least 20 years from retirement, it's still a big concern of mine. I don't want to wait until I retire to find out that my Social Security benefits aren't what I think they are.

I have tried calling the Social Security Administration, but I've gotten the runaround. Please help!

Sincerely,



Pam Spagnol

87 Westminster Place
Pgh., PA 15209

P.S. I am enclosing a check for your campaign fund.

WPXI 0015

6105 104 40 02

February 24, 1998

Congressman Frank Mascara
314 Cannon House Office Building
1st and Independence Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Congressman Mascara:

How can I make sure my Social Security benefits will be there when I'm ready to retire? Is there some kind of form I can fill out to make sure someone is keeping track of where my Social Security taxes are going?

Even though I'm at least 20 years from retirement, it's still a big concern of mine. I don't want to wait until I retire to find out that my Social Security benefits aren't what I think they are.

I have tried calling the Social Security Administration, but I've gotten the runaround. Please help!

Sincerely,

Pam Spagnol 87 Westminister Pl.
Pgh., PA 15209

Pam Spagnol

P.S. I am enclosing a check for your campaign fund.

WPXI 0016

0205 104 49 02

February 24, 1998

Congressman William Coyne
2455 Rayburn House Office Building
Independence Avenue & S. Capitol Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

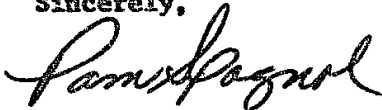
Dear Congressman Coyne,

How can I make sure my Social Security benefits will be there when I'm ready to retire? Is there some kind of form I can fill out to make sure someone is keeping track of where my Social Security taxes are going?

Even though I'm at least 20 years from retirement, it's still a big concern of mine. I don't want to wait until I retire to find out that my Social Security benefits aren't what I think they are.

I have tried calling the Social Security Administration, but I've gotten the runaround. Please help!

Sincerely,



Pam Spagnol

87 Westminster Place
Pgh., PA 15209

P.S. I am enclosing a check for your campaign fund.

WPXI 0017

2025 FEB 24 4 40 PM '98

February 24, 1998

Congressman Phillip English
1721 Longworth House Office Building
Independence & New Jersey Avenues SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Congressman English,

How can I make sure my Social Security benefits will be there when I'm ready to retire? Is there some kind of form I can fill out to make sure someone is keeping track of where my Social Security taxes are going?

Even though I'm at least 20 years from retirement, it's still a big concern of mine. I don't want to wait until I retire to find out that my Social Security benefits aren't what I think they are.

I have tried calling the Social Security Administration, but I've gotten the runaround. Please help!

Sincerely,

Pam Spagnol

87 Westminister Place
Pgh., PA 15209

Pam Spagnol

P.S. I am enclosing a check for your campaign fund.

WPXI 0018

2025-10-10 09:40:40

February 24, 1998

Congressman Mike Doyle
133 Cannon House Office Building
1st and Independence Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Congressman Doyle,

How can I make sure my Social Security benefits will be there when I'm ready to retire? Is there some kind of form I can fill out to make sure someone is keeping track of where my Social Security taxes are going?

Even though I'm at least 20 years from retirement, it's still a big concern of mine. I don't want to wait until I retire to find out that my Social Security benefits aren't what I think they are.

I have tried calling the Social Security Administration, but I've gotten the runaround. Please help!

Sincerely,



Pam Spagnol

P.S. I am enclosing a check for your campaign fund,

87 Westminister Place
Pgh PA 15209

2004-04-23 10:40:02

WPXI-TV/COX BROADCASTING CORP.
CHECK REQUEST FORM

AMOUNT: \$250 00/100

PAYABLE TO: ^{\$957}
Pamela Spagnol

DEPT/ACCT: 1202-03

Pay by Petty Cash

Issue Check

PURPOSE FOR CHECK:

Campaign Contributions to PA Representative
for D-Team Story

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Submitted by: [Signature]
Approved by: [Signature]
Dept. Head Signature

Date: 2-11-98

Please allow 2 work days for processing

Cash received by: _____

4205 "COX" 40.02

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Request
for
Earnings
and
Benefit
Estimate
Statement

Form SSA-7004-SM-OP1 (4-95) Destroy Prior Editions

WPXI 0047

20.04.401.5025

**COX ENTERPRISES, INC.
TRAVEL & EXPENSE VOUCHER**

LOCATION _____

NAME Pamela Spagnol DATE(S) OF DEPARTURE _____ RETURN _____ NO. DAYS _____

LOCATION(S) VISITED _____ PURPOSE OF TRIP(S) _____

DATE	TRANSPORTATION	HOTEL ROOM	MEALS	TAXI CAB	TELEPHONE	TIPS	MILEAGE & PARKING	ENTERTAINMENT
3-3-98								
Stamps							1 60	
Contributions							250 00	250 00

DATE	PERSON(S) AND COMPANY	PLACE	BUSINESS PURPOSE

REMARKS: *5-350 checks written as Campaign donations to 5 local representatives with attached letters for series to air in May. Stamps purchased to mail letters and checks.*

TOTAL	251 60
LESS - TRAVEL CHARGED TO COMPANY	—
TOTAL	251 60
LESS - ADVANCE	250 00
NET AMOUNT DUE (EMPLOYEE) / COMPANY	1 60

1. Submit at end of each trip or weekly if entertainment only.
2. Only travel to be charged to company.
3. Each advance to be cleared before new advance is made.
4. Describe incidentals.

WPXI 0021

9205 104 10 02

\$

**** U.S. POSTAL SERVICE ****
FOURTH AV ST 071 15222-2006
416600 34.00
JACK # 02
03-03-98 13:57:29

CUSTOMER RECEIPT

090 POSTAGE STAMPS	1.60
(\$.32 x 5)	
TOTAL	1.60
CASH T	1.60
CHANGE	.00

*** THANK YOU ***

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
MAY 12 1998
FBI - NEW YORK

20.04.401.5027

THOMAS A. SPAGNOL
PAMELA F. SPAGNOL
87 WESTMINSTER PLACE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15209

6728

8-12/430

3-2 1998

Pay to the
order of

Congressman Frank Mascara
Biftz and 00/100

\$ 50.00

dollars

Security Features
on back.
Details on back.

NATIONAL CITY BANK OF PA
PITTSBURGH, PA

for

Pamela F. Spagnol

THOMAS A. SPAGNOL
PAMELA F. SPAGNOL
87 WESTMINSTER PLACE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15209

6727

8-12/430

3-2 1998

Pay to the
order of

Congressman Ron Klink
Biftz and 00/100

\$ 50.00

dollars

Security Features
on back.
Details on back.

NATIONAL CITY BANK OF PA
PITTSBURGH, PA

THOMAS A. SPAGNOL
PAMELA F. SPAGNOL
87 WESTMINSTER PLACE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15209

6726

8-12/430

3-2 1998

Pay to the
order of

Congressman William Coyne
Biftz and 00/100

\$ 50.00

dollars

Security Features
on back.
Details on back.

NATIONAL CITY BANK OF PA
PITTSBURGH, PA

for

Pamela F. Spagnol

THOMAS A. SPAGNOL
PAMELA F. SPAGNOL
87 WESTMINSTER PLACE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15209

6725

8-12/430

3-2 1998

Pay to the
order of

*Congressman Phil...
Biftz and 00/100*

\$ 50.00

dollars

Security Features
on back.
Details on back.

NATIONAL CITY BANK OF PA
PITTSBURGH, PA

THOMAS A. SPAGNOL
PAMELA F. SPAGNOL
87 WESTMINSTER PLACE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15209

6725

8-12/430

3-2 1998

Pay to the
order of

Congressman Mike Doyle
Biftz and 00/100

\$ 50.00

dollars

Security Features
on back.
Details on back.

NATIONAL CITY BANK OF PA
PITTSBURGH, PA

WPXI 0023

4

20 "04" 401 "5028

WPXI-TV/COX BROADCASTING CORP.
CHECK REQUEST FORM

AMOUNT: \$25.00

PAYABLE TO: 2457

DEPT/ACCT: 04014037.01

Pamela Spagnol

Pay by Petty Cash

Issue Check

PURPOSE FOR CHECK:

Fee for stop payment on \$50 check made as part of a
campaign contribution to Rep. Wm. Coyne for May Series
Check was lost-not cashed - stop payment issued 6-3-98.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Submitted by: _____

Date: 6-8-98

Approved by: [Signature]
Dept. Head Signature

Please allow 2 work days for processing

Cash received by: _____

6205 104 40 02

NATIONAL CITY BANK OF PENNSYLVANIA 46 95

DATE	ACCOUNT NO.
06/03/98	

Stop Payment Acknowledgment and Notice

AS REQUESTED, WE HAVE PLACED A STOP PAYMENT ORDER ON YOUR ACCOUNT FOR THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED ITEM.

Item Date	Amount	Serial Number
03/02/98	50.00	6724
Remarks/Payee DB LST WACOYNE NODUP SHSJ1. MSJ1		

THOMAS A SPAGNOL, AND/OR
 MRS PAMELA F SPAGNOL
 67 WESTMINSTER PL
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15209

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO DEPOSITOR-READ CAREFULLY
 YOUR STOP PAYMENT ORDER IS ACCEPTED BY BANK SUBJECT TO BANK'S RULES GOVERNING CHECKED ACCOUNTS.
 YOUR STOP PAYMENT ORDER IS NOT EFFECTIVE AGAINST BANK UNLESS IT ACCURATELY DESCRIBES THE DATE, NUMBER, AMOUNT, PAYEE, AND YOUR NAME AND ACCOUNT NUMBER FOR THE ITEM OR ENTRY YOU WISH TO BE STOPPED.

AN ORAL OR WRITTEN STOP PAYMENT ORDER REMAINS EFFECTIVE FOR 60 DAYS FROM THE DATE BANK RECEIVES NOTICE OF THE ORDER AGAINST AN ITEM OR ENTRY FOR LESS THAN \$1,000 AND FOR ONE YEAR FOR AN ITEM OR ENTRY OF \$1,000 OR MORE. A STOP PAYMENT ORDER MAY BE CANCELED FOR SUCCESSIVE PERIODS EQUAL TO ITS ORIGINAL PERIOD OF EFFECTIVENESS IF BANK RECEIVES AN ORAL OR WRITTEN NOTICE PRIOR TO THE ORDER BECOMING EFFECTIVE.

IF, FOR ANY REASON, THIS FORM DOES NOT ACCURATELY DESCRIBE THE ITEM OR ENTRY ON WHICH YOU WANT PAYMENT STOPPED, YOU HAVE TEN (10) CALENDAR DAYS FROM THE DATE PRINTED AT THE TOP OF THIS FORM TO NOTIFY BANK IN WRITING AT BANK'S CHECKING ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT. PLEASE MAKE ALL CORRECTIONS ON THE ATTACHED COPY, SIGN IT, AND RETURN IT TO BANK'S CHECKING ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT. BANK SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY UNPAID PAYMENT OR UNDEPOSITED DEPOSIT OCCURRING AFTER THE TEN (10) DAY PERIOD, UNLESS REPORTED OR RECORRECTED AND SO REPORTED TO BANK'S CHECKING ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE TEN (10) DAY PERIOD.

IF YOU DESIRE A REPLACEMENT ITEM, DO NOT MAKE A DUPLICATE, BUT MAKE A NEW ITEM WITH A DIFFERENT DATE AND NUMBER AND REPORT US PROMPTLY IN WRITING IF THE ITEM IS RECOVERED. IF YOU SIGN THE ITEM PAID, YOU OBLIGATE THE BANK'S CHECKING ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT IN WRITING SO THAT WE MAY REMOVE THE STOP PAYMENT ORDER.

CUSTOMER'S NOTICE

20000101 10:03:00



Ron Klink

your citizen in Congress

Ms. Pamela F. Spagnol
87 Westminster Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15209

Dear Pamela,

Words cannot express my gratitude for your generous donation toward my re-election. Fund-raising, for me, is the most difficult and humbling part of being a Congressman. It is, however, personally gratifying to know that individuals like you have enough trust and faith in me to contribute your hard-earned money.

As always, I will continue to work very hard and to make the best possible decisions for the citizens of the 4th Congressional District.

Again, thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Ron Klink

WPXI 0026

Paid for and authorized by Citizens for Ron Klink Committee. Not printed at tax payers expense. Contributions to the Citizens for Ron Klink Committee are not deductible for federal tax purposes. According to federal law, corporate checks cannot be accepted.

FRANK MASCARA
20TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

314 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4366

TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3820

March 16, 1998

Mrs. Pamela Spagnol
87 Westminster Place
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15209-1259

Dear Pam:

I read with great concern your letter asking how you can make sure your Social Security benefits will be there when its time to retire. Knowing that many citizens believe in UFO's more than they do the permanency of the Social Security System, I want to assure you at the outset that I understand and respect your concerns.

On a practical level, if you are trying to determine what your anticipated benefits might be or how much you have contributed to the System to date, you should be able to easily obtain that information within several weeks by filling out a post card provided by the Social Security Administration. In fact, in recent years the Administration has begun to automatically periodically send a report to citizens showing them that information plus whether they are entitled to receive disability benefits should they become disabled. If you are having problems getting the Social Security Administration to send you such a card, please do not hesitate to call my office and one of my caseworkers will be glad to assist you.

On a more universal level, I also want to assure you that Congress is not going to shirk its duties to see that the Social Security System remains strong and viable and able to pay benefits to both current and future retirees. It is not secret that when "Baby Boomers" begin to retire after 2010, it is predicted that the Social Security System will begin to face potential financial strains. Importantly, in his State of the Union Address, the President made clear his position that any surplus achieved as a result of balancing the budget, should be put aside to save Social Security. Further, he has indicated he will soon be appointing a national commission to review the System and to recommend to Congress possible corrective actions. My own prediction is that over the next several years, the House and Senate will spend a great deal of time examining the problems facing the Social Security System and deciding what is the best route to follow.

DISTRICT OFFICES
(800) 213-6570

Greene Co. Ofc. Bldg.
63 E. High St. Rm. 303
Wbyndburg, PA 15370
(724) 823-2182

47 East Penn Street
Uniontown, PA 15401
(724) 437-5078

Professional Plaza
Suite 210
625 Lincoln Avenue
North Charleroi, PA 15022
(724) 483-8018

25 North Main Street
Washington, PA 15301
(724) 228-4328

Greensburg City Hall
418 South Main Street
Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 834-8441

WPXI 0027

20.04.401.5032

No matter what happens, you can be sure Congress will never let the System go bankrupt! Many of my constituents rely upon their monthly Social Security benefits to make ends meet and I would never abandon them.

Finally, while I am flattered that you support my reelection efforts, I am returning the check you enclosed. Since you are a resident of Representative Mike Doyle's District, I just do not feel it is appropriate for me to keep it.

Again, I am pleased you contacted my office and hope my reply answers you concerns.

Very truly yours,



Frank Mascara
Member of Congress

FM:bml

2004.04.14.10.03

ENGLISH

For Congress

March 30, 1998

Mrs. Pamela Spagnol
87 Westminster Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15209

Pamela,

I would like to thank you for your recent contribution to my campaign committee. I am deeply honored to have your support.

My opponent made clear in his announcement press conference that he would seek as much of Washington's Big Labor money as possible to finance his campaign. I know of at least one trip he has made to Washington to solicit funds in recent weeks. It is only a matter of time before the Washington Labor Bosses and my opponent are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on negative advertisements.

You sent me to Washington because you wanted change. You wanted a balanced budget, welfare reform, IRS reform and a new tax code. Together we have made progress on these issues, but there is still a great deal of work to do.

I appreciate your contribution to my campaign and I pledge to you that I will continue working as hard as I can to be the kind of Congressman you expect me to be.

Sincerely,



Phil English,
Member of Congress

tlc

WPXI 0029

4305 104 40 02
20 04 401 5034

MIKE DOYLE
18TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
TECHNOLOGY

COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE:
HEALTH

DEMOCRATIC WHIP,
SOPHOMORE CLASS

Ms. Pamela F. Spagnol
87 Westminster Place
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15209-1259

Dear Ms. Spagnol:

Thank you for taking the time to contact me to inquire about your Social Security earnings record. I appreciate hearing from you.

According to the Social Security Administration (SSA) you should check the status of your earnings at least once every three years to ensure that earnings are properly credited. To verify your earnings record, you should obtain and complete form SSA-7004 PC, Request for Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement, which can be obtained at the following location:

Social Security Administration
East Liberty Office
6117 Penn Circle North
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

You may also obtain a copy of this form by calling 1-800-772-1213. The Personal Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement will include, among other things, the estimated amount of Social Security and Medicare contributions made by an individual, and an estimate of benefits payable at ages 62, 65, and 70 based on anticipated earnings and projected wage growth for future years.

I would also like you to know that protecting and ensuring the integrity of the Social Security system is one of my chief priorities as a Member of Congress. I believe that Congress should take steps to ensure that benefits can be guaranteed for current beneficiaries and future recipients.

Once again thank you for contacting me. Please keep in touch.

Sincerely,



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

MD:jj



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 30, 1998

133 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2135

DISTRICT OFFICES:

11 DUFF ROAD
PENN HILLS, PA 15235
(412) 241-6055

541 FIFTH AVENUE
MCKEESPORT, PA 15132
(412) 664-4049

E-MAIL:
rep.doyle@mail.house.gov

WEB SITE:
<http://www.house.gov/doyle>

WPXI 0030

2004.04.14.01.5035

PHIL ENGLISH
21ST DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
HUMAN RESOURCES
OVERSIGHT

SMALL BUSINESS
COMMITTEE

April 22, 1998

Ms. Pam Spagnol
87 Westminster Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15209



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3821

PLEASE REPLY TO:

- 1721 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3821
(202) 225-5406
- MODERN TOOL SQUARE
310 FRENCH STREET, SUITE 107
ERE, PA 16507-1543
(814) 450-2038
- CITY ANNEX BUILDING
900 N. HERMITAGE ROAD, SUITE 6
HERMITAGE, PA 16148-3243
(412) 342-6132
- 312 CHESTNUT STREET, SUITE 114
MEADVILLE, PA 16335-3200
(814) 724-8414
- THE BUTLER MALL
310 NEW CASTLE ROAD, SUITE 140
BUTLER, PA 16001-2428
(412) 285-7005

Dear Ms. Spagnol:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the solvency of the Social Security system. I appreciate your taking the time to make your views known and I apologize for taking so long to respond.

I agree with your concerns. In anticipation of the retirement of the baby-boom generation, policymakers have been analyzing the financial pressures on Social Security and devising new ways Americans could prepare for retirement. One proposal – loosely called "privatization" – would prefund retirement income in personal accounts that workers could invest in the financial market and then spend down during retirement.

Supporters of privatization point to the flexibility and choice that the owners of these accounts would have. Opponents of privatization fear the elimination of the government entitlement.

Another more recent proposal would allow for a new personal retirement account called a "Social Security Plus" account. These new accounts would be in addition to the existing Social Security system which would remain in place. Unlike current law where all investing decisions are made by the government, this proposal would allow individuals to choose from several investment options. Money could be invested in government securities, a bond fund, a stock fund or any combination of the three.

While I have not endorsed a specific reform proposal, as a Member of the House Ways and Means Committee – the committee with jurisdiction over Social Security – I will be reviewing all of the proposals as well as recommendations from advisory groups throughout this process. Be assured that protecting Social Security for future generations is a top priority.

Regarding your desire to receive detailed information on the status of your payments, I contacted the Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee on your behalf. You will need to request a "Personal Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement" from the Social Security Administration (SSA). You can call them at 1-800-SSA-1213. I hope this information is helpful.

Again, thank you for contacting me. Please feel free to do so in the future with any other matters of importance to you.

Best wishes,

Phil English
Member of Congress

WPXI 0031

PSE/kj

20.04.401.5036

THOMAS A. SPAGNOL
PAMELA F. SPAGNOL
67 WESTMINSTER PLACE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15209

6725

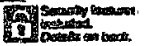
8-12/430

3-2 19 98

Pay to the order of Congressman Phil Doyle \$ 50.00

Fifty and 00/100

dollars



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PITTSBURGH, PA 15209

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THOMAS A. SPAGNOL
PAMELA F. SPAGNOL
67 WESTMINSTER PLACE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15209

6726

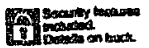
8-12/430

3-2 19 98

Pay to the order of Congressman Phil \$ 50.00

Fifty and 00/100

dollars



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PITTSBURGH, PA 15209

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THOMAS A. SPAGNOL
PAMELA F. SPAGNOL
67 WESTMINSTER PLACE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15209

6727

8-12/430

3-2 19 98

Pay to the order of Congressman Ron Klink \$ 50.00

Fifty and 00/100

dollars



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PITTSBURGH, PA 15209

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WPXI 0032

20 "04" 401 "5037

FOR DEPOSIT ONLY
DOLLAR BANK
JOINT FOR CONGRESS CITIZENS



2660286529
10000005542

FOR
deposit only
0123 54924

DO NOT WRITE, STAMP OR SIGN BELOW
POST OFFICE BOX 7334
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

MAR 31 98

AP '98' 01

PROCESSED

AP 4 01

10000005542

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK REGULATION CC

FOR DEPOSIT ONLY
Pay PNC BANK, N.A.
PITTSBURGH, PA. OR ORDER
CITIZENS FOR RON KLING
029100005542

DO NOT WRITE, STAMP OR SIGN BELOW
6020
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

PROCESSED
POST OFFICE BOX 7334
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

MAR 18 98

AP 4 01

PROCESSED

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK REGULATION CC

8205 104 40 02

WPXI 0033



Ron Klink

your citizen in Congress

May 6, 1998

Ms. Pamela F. Spagnol
87 Westminster Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15209

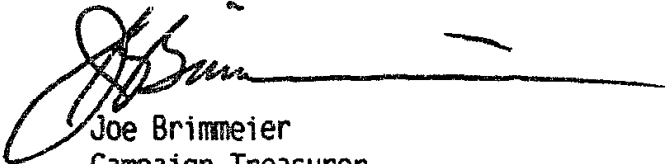
Dear Ms. Spagnol:

It has come to our attention that a contribution recently sent to this campaign in your name may not have been, in fact, made by you. We have reason to believe that the contribution originated with someone else.

Under Federal Election Commission regulations and advisory opinions, when a campaign obtains information that calls into question the legality of a contribution, they must refund the contribution within 30 days. (11C.F.R. # 103.3(b)). Accordingly, please find enclosed a refund of your contribution.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,



Joe Brimmeier
Campaign Treasurer

Enclosure

20.04.401.5040

CITIZENS FOR RON KLING

3040

8-0130 20

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

Pamela F. Spagnol

5-7 19 *28*

\$ *50.00*

DOLLARS Five and No/100

PNC BANK

PNC Bank, N.A.
Pittsburgh, PA 15201

Refund

[Signature]

FOR

⑈0030⑈ ⑆043000096⑆ ⑆00095542⑈

WPXI 0035

DOYLE for Congress
Committee

May 09, 1998

Ms. Pamela F. Spagnol
87 Westminister Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15209-1259

Dear Ms. Spagnol:

It has come to our attention that a contribution recently sent to the Doyle for Congress Campaign Committee may not have been, in fact, made by you. Information has come to us that indicates the contribution may have originated with reporter Alan Jennings and/or WPXI TV in Pittsburgh.

It is perfectly legal for you to send a campaign contribution from your personal funds and for this committee to receive, record and deposit that contribution into our campaign account. However, if someone else has given you the money to contribute or has re-imbursed you, then the contribution is not legal. Given the fact that you have written identical letters and enclosed campaign contributions to several members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation, apparently in conjunction with a story that reporter Alan Jennings of Station WPXI is working on, we must assume that you may not be the person actually making the contribution.

Under Federal Election Commission regulations and advisory opinions, when a campaign obtains information that calls into question the legality of a contribution, they must refund the contribution within 30 days, 11 C.F.R. § 103.3 (b). Accordingly, please find enclosed a refund of your contribution.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Oleyar
Treasurer

KSO/dm

WPXI 0036

Enclosure: Check #1123



1705" 104" 40" 504" 20" 04" 40" 1" 504" 20" 04" 40" 1" 504"

2405-104-40-02

DOYLE FOR CONGRESS COMMITTEE 2227 HAMPTON ST. PITTSBURGH, PA 15218		1123 6/18/2008 R
PAY TO THE ORDER OF <u>PAUELA F. SPAGNOL</u>		<u>May 3, 19 98</u>
22 Standard Note Form Dollar Bank <small>Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania</small>		<u>NO/100</u>
FOR <u>REFUND</u>		} \$ <u>50.⁰⁰</u> DOLLARS
@: 243076385@ 2660286529# 1123		<u>[Signature]</u>

WPXI 0037



11 Television Hill
Pittsburgh, PA 15214-1400
412 237-1100
FAX 412 323-8097

June 3, 1998

Congressman Philip English
1721 Longworth House Office Building
1st and Independence Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Congressman English:

In early March of this year, I sent you a letter with a contribution check for \$50 enclosed. The check was sent as part of a news story that was being prepared for WPXI-TV. Since that time, it has been suggested that the making of the contribution may have violated federal campaign laws. In particular, it has been suggested that the contribution may have violated 2 U.S.C. & 441b and 2 U.S.C. & 441f.

I am bringing this to your attention because you have cashed the check and I wanted to provide you with an opportunity to address the situation. If you feel you should do so, you may make a reimbursement of the contribution by sending me a check at the above address.

Sincerely,

Pamela Spagnol

WPXI 0038

405 104 40 02



11 Television Hill
Pittsburgh, PA 15214-1400
412 237-1100
FAX 412 323-8097

June 3, 1998

Congressman William Coyne
2455 Rayburn House Office Building
Independence Avenue & S. Capitol Street SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Congress Coyne:

In early March of this year, I sent you a letter with a contribution check for \$50 enclosed. The check was sent as part of a news story that was being prepared for WPXI-TV. Since that time, it has been suggested that the making of the contribution may have violated federal campaign laws. In particular, it has been suggested that the contribution may have violated 2 U.S.C. & 441b and 2 U.S.C. & 441f.

I am bringing this to your attention because you have not yet cashed the check. In order to address any possible violation of federal law, I am putting a stop payment on the check. Should you find the letter and check at some time in the future, the check should not be cashed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Pamela Spagnol'.

Pamela Spagnol

WPXI 0039

4405 104 40 02



National Republican Congressional Committee

John Linder, M.C.
Chairman

Ted Maness
Executive Director

Bruce P. Mehlman
Chief Counsel

June 11, 1998

Ms. Pamela Spagnol
WPXI Television
11 Television Hill
Pittsburgh, PA 15214-1400

Dear Ms. Spagnol:

I write in reply to your June 3, 1998, certified letter to Congressman Phil English. In that letter you request a refund of a \$50 contribution which your incorporated television station illegally made in your name "as part of a news story that was being prepared for WPXI-TV." That unsolicited donation was received by the Congressman's staff in his official office and promptly forwarded to his campaign office, in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 607(b). Congressman English's administrative assistant confirmed your admission that the contribution was indeed from WPXI-TV, and he forwarded your letter to me for prompt and appropriate action.

Federal election regulations require campaign committees to disgorge illegal contributions within thirty days of the date on which the illegality is discovered. 11 C.F.R. § 103.3(b)(2). Illegal contributions can be refunded either to the actual donor (WPXI) or to the United States Treasury. See *Federal Election Commission Advisory Opinion 1996-5*; see also *FEC Enforcement Action MUR 3460*. People for English has elected to refund your illegal contribution to the United States Treasury.

Congressman English takes federal election laws very seriously. He does not and will not countenance knowing wrongdoing, even in the name of journalism. As there is no "news exception" that allows broadcasters to violate federal contribution laws in pursuit of a story, your actions violated 2 U.S.C. § 441b and 2 U.S.C. § 441f. If found knowing and willful, your actions could subject you and/or your station to a civil penalty of up to \$10,000. 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(5)(B).

I have forwarded this letter, along with your June 3 correspondence, to the authorities named below for whatever action they deem appropriate.

Sincerely,

Bruce P. Mehlman
Chief Counsel

WPXI 0040

320 First Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003
(202) 479-7020
www.nrcc.org

5405-104-10-02

CC:

Larry Noble, Esq.
General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Attorney General Janet Reno
U. S. Department of Justice
Election Crimes Division
Constitution Ave. & 10th St, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Linda L. Kelly, Esq.
U.S. Attorney for the Western
District of Pennsylvania
633 U.S. Post Office & Courthouse
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Walter DeForest, Esq.
General Counsel, WPXI-TV
300 Koppers Bldg
436 7th Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Congressman Phil English
People for English
P.O. Box 1940
Erie, PA 16507

9405 104 40 02

WPXI 0041



11 Television Hill
Pittsburgh, PA 15214-1400
412 237-1100
FAX 412 323-8097

June 3, 1998

Congressman Philip English
1721 Longworth House Office Building
1st and Independence Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Congressman English:

In early March of this year, I sent you a letter with a contribution check for \$50 enclosed. The check was sent as part of a news story that was being prepared for WPXI-TV. Since that time, it has been suggested that the making of the contribution may have violated federal campaign laws. In particular, it has been suggested that the contribution may have violated 2 U.S.C. & 441b and 2 U.S.C. & 441f.

I am bringing this to your attention because you have cashed the check and I wanted to provide you with an opportunity to address the situation. If you feel you should do so, you may make a reimbursement of the contribution by sending me a check at the above address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Pamela Spagnol'.

Pamela Spagnol

WPXI 0042

20.04.404.5047

20.04.401.5048

3242

60-73/433 1

PEOPLE FOR ENGLISH

6-9-78

DATE

\$ 50.00

DOLLARS

PAY TO THE ORDER OF United States of America

Fifty and 00/100

PNC BANK

PNC Bank, N.A.
Northwest PA 010

Edward Spin

FOR excess contribution refund/BH

⑆003242⑆ ⑆043300738⑆ 643027593⑆

WPXI 0043

THOMAS A. SPAGNOL
PAMELA F. SPAGNOL
87 WESTMINSTER PLACE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15209

6726

8-12/430

3-7 1998

Pay to the Congressman Phillip English \$ 50.00
ORDER of Thifty and 1/100 dollars

NATIONAL CITY BANK OF PA
PITTSBURGH, PA
23

for

Pamela F. Spagnol

X
LACE
209

Thomas A. Spagnol
Pamela F. Spagnol
87 Westminister Place
Pittsburgh PA 15209

Congressman Phillip English
1721 Longworth House Office Building
Independence & New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20003

RECEIVED MAR 9 1 1998

20003/9999



WPXI 0044

6405 "104" 40" 02

20 . 04 . 401 . 5050

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3804

PUBLIC DOCUMENT
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Ron Kind
M.C.

Mr. James Chiappelli
711 BEIGAL PATH DRIVE
WEXFORD, PA. 15090-6817

WPXI 0045

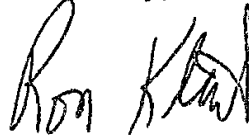


RON KLINK
4TH DISTRICT PENNSYLVANIA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Thank you for your request to my office.
I am pleased to send you the enclosed material.
If I can provide you with additional information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



RON KLINK
Member of Congress

WPXI 0046

1505-104-40-5051