

29 JUN 1976

Mr. Edmond B. Thornton
Chairman and C. E. O.
Ottawa Silica Company
P. O. Box 577
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Re: MUR 167 (76)

Dear Mr. Thornton:

I have received your letter dated June 10, 1976 in which you allege that Senator Frank Church sent you a solicitation for contributions in which it is falsely stated that you made a \$50 campaign pledge to him. I have reviewed your allegation and concluded that the Federal Election Commission does not have authority over the matter set forth. Accordingly, upon my recommendation, the Commission has decided to close its files in this matter.

If information comes to your attention in the future which you believe establishes a violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, please do not hesitate to contact us. The attorney assigned to this matter was Victor Sterling (telephone no. 202/382-4055).

Sincerely yours,

Signed: John G. Murphy, Jr.

John G. Murphy, Jr.
General Counsel

VSterling:pjg:6/22/76

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
OFFICIAL FILE COPY
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

7704021057

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
)
Senator Frank Church)

MUR 167 (76)

CERTIFICATION

I, Marjorie W. Emmons, Secretary to the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on June 24, 1976, the Commission adopted the recommendation of the General Counsel that it finds no reason to believe that a violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act, as amended, had been committed in the above-captioned matter.

Accordingly, the file in this case has been closed.

Marjorie W. Emmons
Marjorie W. Emmons
Secretary to the Commission

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
OFFICIAL FILE COPY
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

770407:1053

DATE AND TIME OF TRANSMITTAL: JUN 24 1976

NO. MUR 167

REC'D: 6/14/76

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, D. C.

Complainant's Name: Edmond B. Thornton (unnotarized complaint)

Respondent's Name: Senator Frank Church

Relevant Statute: None

Internal Reports Checked: None

Federal Agencies Checked: None

SUMMARY OF ALLEGATION

Mr. Thornton alleges that the respondent sent him a solicitation which falsely indicates that he had made a \$50.00 campaign pledge.

PRELIMINARY LEGAL ANALYSIS

The allegations do not establish a violation of any statute over which the Commission has authority.

RECOMMENDATION

The file should be closed and the attached letter sent.

Date of Next Commission Review: _____

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
OFFICIAL FILE COPY
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL



OTTAWA SILICA COMPANY

Corporate Offices
P.O. Box 577, Ottawa, Illinois 61350
Telephone: 815/434-0188

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION

76 JUN 14 P 4: 24

CC # 220
167
MUR 165

FEC Correspondence Control # 76-470

Honorable Vernon Thomson
Chairman
Federal Election Commission
1325 K Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20013

June 10, 1976

Dear Mr. Thomson:

As Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, I should like to bring the following complaint to your attention together with a letter I have written to Senator Frank Church on the matter.

On June 7, 1976, I received an unsolicited Mailgram signed by Frank Church asking for payment of an alleged campaign pledge of \$50. As I indicated in my letter to Senator Church, I have never received a solicitation from him or his "Frank Church for President Committee," and I have never made a pledge to that committee for any monies whatsoever. Further, I am not a registered Democrat, and have absolutely no interest in supporting the candidacy of Senator Church.

While it is possible this incident represents an honest mistake on behalf of the Senator and his campaign committee, it is my personal opinion that this incident reflects a callous and brazen attempt by the Senator and his committee to extract campaign funds from innocent citizens with this Mailgram which implies the receiver has made some sort of a pledge to the Committee at an earlier date. I find these campaign tactics reprehensible, and I strongly urge that you and your Commission staff investigate this incident thoroughly. I am retaining the copy of the original Mailgram as evidence in this instance; however, I am enclosing a photocopy of the Mailgram together with a copy of my letter of response to Senator Church. I am anticipating a reply from you with respect to this incident, and look forward to learning of your disposition of the matter.

Sincerely,

OTTAWA SILICA COMPANY

Edmund B. Thornton
Chairman and C.E.O.

pp
enc
cc: Senator Charles H. Percy



OTTAWA SILICA COMPANY

Corporate Offices
P.O. Box 577, Ottawa, Illinois 61350
Telephone: 815/434-0188

76 JUN 14 P 4: 24

CC # 220

76-470

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Chairman
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1325 K Street, N.W.
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Sincerely,

OTTAWA SILICA COMPANY

Edmund B. Thornton
Chairman and C.E.O.

pp
enc

Exhibit A

OTTAWA SILICA COMPANY
OTTAWA, ILLINOIS 61350

EDMUND B. THORNTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Honorable Frank Church
Frank Church for President Committee
P. O. Box 2092
Washington DC 20013

June 7, 1976

Dear Senator Church:

I would like to acknowledge your Mailgram received in my office this date, Monday, June 7, 1976 referring to a purported pledge of \$50 allegedly made to your campaign.

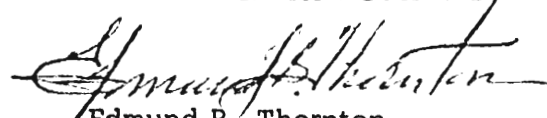
In your desperate bid to establish your creditability as a contender for the Democrat nomination for the presidency, I am sure you have a great deal more on your mind than to overview the solicitation of campaign funds. However, I assure you that at no time have I ever made a pledge of any monies to your campaign, and I categorically deny having made any pledge to the Frank Church for President Committee.

First of all, let me tell you that I am not a registered Democrat, and if I were, I certainly would not support your candidacy. I am a Republican dedicated to the candidacy of Ronald Reagan so that, as you can appreciate, our philosophies of government are at the opposite ends of the political spectrum.

I have been heavily involved with campaign fund raising for the Republican Party for many years and I have yet to run into such a brazen and unconscionable tactic as you are engaged in. The deceitful manner in which you infer that I have made a pledge to your campaign clearly indicates the irresponsible nature of your own candidacy and the total lack of professional ethics being employed by your fund raising committee. I am lodging an official complaint of this incident with the Federal Election Campaign Commission.

Sincerely,

OTTAWA SILICA COMPANY


Edmund B. Thornton
Chairman and C.E.O.

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CA 2GO
2-117115U156002 06/04/76
ICS WA11167
00235 MLTN VA 06/04/76



Mailgram®
western union



Exhibit B

EDMOND THORTON
C/O OTTAWA SILICA SAND CO
1022 BOYCE DR
OTTAWA, IL 61350



BUSINESS REPLY

DEAR FRIEND,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PLEDGE OF \$50.00. WITH YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT WE CAN CONTINUE TO TAKE OUR MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY.

PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK, PAYABLE TO "CHURCH FOR PRESIDENT COMMITTEE", TODAY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE BY REFOLDING THE MAILGRAM SO THAT THE RETURN ADDRESS APPEARS IN THE WINDOW. WE'RE SORRY, BUT WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT CORPORATE CHECKS OR PERSONAL CHECKS OVER \$1,000.

AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN.

SINCERELY,
FRANK CHURCH

"A COPY OF OUR REPORT IS FILED WITH THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION AND IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, D.C."

----- CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE -----



Mailgram



P.S. IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR MATCHING FEDERAL FUNDS WILL YOU PLEASE
FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AND RETURN THIS PAGE WITH YOUR CHECK.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE:

PHONE NUMBER AND AREA CODE:

BUSINESS OCCUPATION:

0219

FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 072395 WASHINGTON DC

RETURN TO:

FRANK CHURCH FOR PRESIDENT COMMITTEE
PO BOX 2092
WASHINGTON DC 20013

2244 EST

MGMCGCA CGO

1900



OTTAWA SILICA COMPANY

P.O. Box 577, Ottawa, Illinois 61350

76 JUN 14 4:08

Honorable Vernon Thomson
Chairman
Federal Election Commission
1325 K Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20013