

3422 Knox Place - Apt. 3A
Bronx, N.Y. 10467
January 16, 1998

JAN 21 1998

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

MUR 4711

Dear Sir/Madam:

I wish to bring to your attention a violation of the Federal Election Law that **definitely** involves (A) A "Contribution Made in the Name of Another" for which I have proof, and (B) **possibly** involves an attempt to intentionally "exceed contribution limits" which can be reasonably inferred from the facts of this case, but which only an investigation by your office can truly determine.

I am a member of the Benjamin Franklin Reform Democratic Club which is located at 304 West 231st Street, Bronx, New York 10463. While I was researching the financial records of the club looking for information pertaining to another matter, I came across Check #96 dated Nov. 3, 1996 for \$1,000 made out by the club to "Fricano for Congress." The check stub had the notation "This check was an accommodation to the Co-op City club which immediately repaid it" — which they did. Thomas Fricano was the Democratic opponent of Republican Congressman Bill Paxon (27 C.D.-N.Y.).

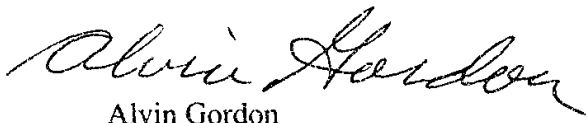
On its face, this concealment of the true source of the contribution is a clear violation of item (A) and requires the imposition of appropriate penalties.

More serious, however (and raising the possibility of criminal intent) might be the fact that according to the attached letter dated Dec. 4, 1997, your Office of Public Records has received no report of this contribution. I quote, "After reviewing all the reports covering November 1996 for Thomas Fricano; no contributions made by the Benjamin Franklin Reform Democratic Club was discovered. We only hold information reported to us by Fricano's committee."

If this Ben Franklin contribution wasn't reported, then perhaps a possible Co-op City Club contribution wasn't reported either? If so, then the Ben Franklin contribution could have been a subterfuge on the part of both the Co-op City Club and the Ben Franklin Club to evade the legal limit on campaign contributions to Mr. Fricano. My attached letter to the editor of the *Riverdale Press* titled, "Did Franklin Club 'Launder' Money?" (1/15/98) will give you a more detailed analysis.

I think the facts I have presented certainly warrant an in-depth investigation by your office. If you need any clarification or further information, I can be reached at (718) 231-5791.

Very truly yours,


Alvin Gordon

Copy to:
Congressman Bill Paxon (27 C.D.-N.Y.)

SIGNED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME
Margaret M. Walsh
January 16 1998.
MARGARET M. WALSH
Commissioner of Elections
City of New York, No. 25329
Certificate filed in New York County
Commission Expires Feb. 1, 1999



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

4 December, 1997


Mr. Alvin Gordon
3422 Knox Place, Apt. 3A
Bronx, NY 10467

Dear Mr. Gordon:

After reviewing all the reports covering November, 1996 for Thomas Fricano; no contribution made by the Benjamin Franklin Reform Democratic Club was discovered. We only hold information reported to us by Fricano's committee. My suggestion to you is to check with Fricano's committee.

If the Commission can be of further assistance, please contact the Office of Public Records at the above address or by telephoning toll free (800) 424-9530 or locally (202) 219-4140.

Sincerely,


Tanya Dotsey
Public Information Clerk

enc.

RIVERDALE PRESS (BRONX, N.Y.)

1-15-98

(Did Franklin Club 'launder' money?)

(RIVERDALE PRESS (BRONX, N.Y.))

To the editor:

1-15-98

Bill Paxton is the Republican Congressman who represents the 27th Congressional District in Erie County, which stretches from Seneca Falls to Rochester to the Buffalo suburbs—about 400 miles from the Bronx.

Mr. Paxton, besides being the husband of former Congresswoman Susan Molinari, was also involved in the abort attempt to overthrow House Speaker Newt Gingrich—and subsequently was fired from his leadership position.

So what has this got to do with the people of the 81st Assembly District? My answer is—plenty, because our local assemblyman, Jeffrey "The Sleaze" Dinowitz, in November, 1996 had the Benjamin Franklin Reform Democratic Club issue a check contributing \$1,000 to the "Fricano For Congress" Committee. Thomas Fricano was Bill Paxton's Democratic opponent in the 1996 election.

This check was drawn upon the special checking account set up by a \$15,000 contribution from CWA-COPE of Washington, D.C.—an account which has been the subject of previous letters from me that focused on the irregularities connected with the "Prime New York" check. To this date, I have been stonewalled by Assemblyman Dinowitz and prevented from getting answers to my legitimate questions.

But that's another matter. To continue: even though the Fricano contribution was made by the Ben Franklin Club, the check stub had the notation, "This check was an accommodation to the Co-op City club which immediately repaid it"—which it did. However, this kind of fiscal manipulation is considered "money laundering" and is illegal, since it hides the actual source of the contribution.

The Federal Election Campaign Act limits contributions of individuals and organizations like the Ben Franklin and Co-op City clubs to \$1,000. What Assemblyman Dinowitz had the Ben Franklin Club do was bad enough in itself, but suppose the Co-op City club had already contributed money to "Fricano For Congress." Then the additional Ben Franklin contribution (which was actually Co-op City money) would have exceeded the legal \$1000 limit; if so, concealing a Co-op City contribution as a Ben Franklin contribution would indicate the possibility of criminal intention on the part of the Co-op City club, with the good possibility that Jeffrey Dinowitz was a conspirator in the scheme.

I recently received a letter of response from the Federal Election Commission that reads: "After reviewing all the reports covering November 1996 for Thomas Fricano, no contributions made by the Benjamin Franklin Reform Democratic Club were discovered. We only hold information reported to us by Fricano's Committee."

The fact that the Ben Franklin Club check wasn't reported makes you wonder what other checks haven't been.

I am going to start the New Year right by filing a written complaint with the FEC, which in turn will initiate official action on its part. I am also going to send Congressman Bill Paxton a copy of this letter, which I am certain he will find of personal interest.

Assemblyman Dinowitz has been able to stonewall me (so far) regarding questions concerning the "Prime New York" check. Let's see how successful he is with the "Fricano For Congress" check and the FEC.

ALVIN GORDON