

This responds to the notice dated January 23, 2009, from Jodi Winship of Reports Analysis Division of the FEC regarding a disbursement of \$100,000 that was included in the October Monthly Report filed by AFT Committee on Political Education ("AFT COPE"). The disbursement was made to AFL-CIO COPE PCC ACCOUNT ("AFL PCC") on September 29, 2008.

AFT is a collecting agent for both AFT COPE and AFL PCC. AFT COPE is also a collecting agent for AFL PCC. AFT COPE and AFL PCC have longstanding, joint fundraising policy and procedural agreements that rely upon the FEC rules governing collecting agent activity and the underlying legislative and regulatory history of those rules.

(See AFT COPE response of October 16, 2006, to a similar inquiry made by FEC which sets forth the relevant legislative and regulatory history of the rules for joint fundraising by collecting agents of separate segregated funds:  
<http://query.nictusa.com/cgi-bin/dcdev/forms/C00028860/244992/> )

This combined joint fundraising and collecting agent activity occurs within time periods that are agreed upon by the above entities and according to a mutually agreed distribution schedule for the transmittal of collecting agent proceeds by AFT COPE to AFL PCC. Each such transmittal consists of contributions that are fully reported by AFT COPE and that were received via employer-administered, voluntary payroll deduction systems from AFT members and others, who may be lawfully solicited by AFT and its state/local affiliates.

With only minimal exceptions, each contribution within the September 29, 2008, transfer (\$100,000) cited in the FEC inquiry was \$50 (or less), and was received by AFT COPE within 30 days of that date. (Eight donors made total contributions of \$760 on September 19 and thus within 10 days of the transfer date.) Total contribution receipts of AFT COPE, acting as collecting agent, in this period were \$429,050. Furthermore, if traced to the original donors using a uniform accounting method, no contribution within the transfer to AFL PCC would exceed \$200 for the calendar year from each such donor. This is because during the period between September 1 and 29, AFT COPE received \$2190 of itemized contributions from 41 donors. These contributors are AFT officials, and their itemized contributions in that period represented approximately 0.51% of the total contributions received by AFT COPE between September 1 and 30, 2008. Thus, such contributions could represent only a very minute \$510 of the \$100,000 transfer to AFL PCC, or an average of \$12.44 per contributor and far below the \$200 itemization threshold for contributor reporting by AFL PCC.

Lastly, as an FEC filer and collecting agent for AFL PCC, AFT COPE obtains all contributor records that are required by FEC rules and retains them for the time period specified in FEC rules. This response is made pursuant to advice of AFT COPE election law counsel: Oldaker, Belair & Wittie, LLP, by Bradley Litchfield, Attorney Partner.