

I am responding to your August 25, 2006, letter, which seeks additional information about a disbursement of \$4,014.84 by the Committee to its connected organization, UNITE HERE, on June 6, 2006. This payment was included on Schedule E on the July Monthly report because it paid for rental cars that were used in connection with independent expenditures in support of Democratic primary congressional candidate Bennie Thompson. The rental cars were used in the course of door-to-door canvassing among the general public during May and early June. The Committee also reported other independent expenditures in connection with this election on Schedule E and in 24/48 hour reports. This disbursement was not a contribution because the activity was not coordinated with the Thompson campaign, and the Committee neither facilitated contributions to the campaign nor otherwise raised funds for the campaign.

The Committee made advance payment of these expenses to UNITE HERE. The disbursement covers the relevant portion of a larger invoice to UNITE HERE from a regular UNITE HERE vendor, National Car Rental; that invoice also includes transactions that were unrelated to federal elections. UNITE HERE paid that invoice, including the portion previously covered by the Committee's advance reimbursement, in August 2006, two months after that disbursement.

In light of these facts, we do not believe that it is necessary for the Committee to amend its July Monthly Report. Please advise if you disagree with that position.

Laurence E. Gold
Legal Counsel
Lichtman, Trister & Ross, PLLC
Suite 500
1666 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 328-1666, ext. 1352 (tel)
