

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2014 1:49 PM
To: Lyn Odom; SC Senate Ethics Committee; [REDACTED]
Subject: Gas expenditures by Sen. John W. Matthews, Jr.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi dear Senate Ethics Committee and Mr. Odom,

Mr. Odom; Sir, is it an ethics violation to buy gas with campaign monies by candidates having no relation to the candidates campaign, as I feel you may be witness to in the data below? Also, I strongly suspect that gas purchases with campaign funds have been obfuscated by Mr. Matthews.

Anywhere below where you see the word '*incidental' needs to be investigated for obfuscation of gas purchases, credit card evidences would be good for this effort. I wish me and Happy Jack were such good friends as John Matthews, but no it isn't going to be that way. The word (gas) in 'District Incidentals (Gas)' under the field descriptor 'EOrdDetExpendDescription' was added by me for purposes of clarity for your review.

I am beginning to file so many of these types of 'Letters of Ignorance' that I may be losing track. If I have filed this 'Letter of Ignorance' earlier then please excuse me and disregard, if not then I would appreciate it Mr. Odom if you would accept my words as an official complaint of ethics violations against Sen. Matthews should you feel appropriate, if not Sir, and I am of the wrong, then please have a nice day and please excuse the intrusion.

I send this write also to the excellent writer of Ethics, Ms. Murguia also for her review.

[REDACTED]

ECandCustomerID	EOrdReportType	ECandCandidateName	EOrdDetVendor	EOrdDetExpendDescription	EOrdDetExpendAmount	EOrdDetExpendDate
JMATT	2008, April 10th	Matthews, John W Jr.	FastMart	Gas	39.03	1/10/2008
JMATT	2013, April 10th	Matthews, John W Jr.	Quick Pantry	Gas	37.03	1/10/2013
JMATT	2008, April 10th	Matthews, John W Jr.	FastMart	Gas	34.54	1/12/2008
JMATT	2009, Pre-Election	Matthews, John W Jr.	Happy Jacks	Gas	27.02	1/12/2009
JMATT	2011, April 10th	Matthews, John W Jr.	Quick Pantry	Gas	35	1/12/2011
JMATT	2010, April 10th	Matthews, John W Jr.	Happy Jacks	Gas	39.09	1/13/2010
JMATT	2009, Pre-Election	Matthews, John W Jr.	Quick Pantry	Gas	20.72	1/15/2009
JMATT	2011, April 10th	Matthews, John W Jr.	Quick Pantry	Gas	62.5	1/15/2011
JMATT	2012, April 10th	Matthews, John W Jr.	Quick Pantry	Gas	59.76	1/16/2012
JMATT	2013, April 10th	Matthews, John W Jr.	Happy Jacks	Gas	51.83	1/17/2013
JMATT	2008, April 10th	Matthews, John W Jr.	FastMart	Gas	44.36	1/19/2008
JMATT	2012, April 10th	Matthews, John W Jr.	Quick Pantry	Gas	44.03	1/19/2012
JMATT	2008, April 10th	Matthews, John W Jr.	FastMart	Gas	35.51	1/21/2008
JMATT	2013, April 10th	Matthews, John W Jr.	Happy Jacks	Gas	45.22	1/23/2013
JMATT	2012, April 10th	Matthews, John W Jr.	Quick Pantry	Gas	40.92	1/24/2012
JMATT	2008, April 10th	Matthews, John W Jr.	Quick Pantry	Gas	38.9	1/26/2008
JMATT	2011, April 10th	Matthews, John W Jr.	Happy Jacks	Gas	38.32	1/26/2011

JMATT	2009, Pre-Election	Matthews, John W Jr. Happy Jacks	Gas	22.66	1/28/2009	
JMATT	2010, April 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	Gas	42.92	1/28/2010	
JMATT	2012, April 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	Gas	52.51	1/3/2012	
JMATT	2009, Pre-Election	Matthews, John W Jr. Happy Jacks	Gas	25.02	1/30/2009	
JMATT	2013, April 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Happy Jacks	Gas	45.01	1/4/2013	
JMATT	2013, April 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Happy Jacks	Gas	60.22	1/7/2013	
JMATT	2008, April 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. FastMart	Gas	40.09	1/8/2008	
JMATT	2013, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	Gas	69.57	10/1/2012	
JMATT	2010, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	Gas	40.94	10/10/2009	
JMATT	2014, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	District Incidentals (Gas)			43.1
	10/10/2013					
JMATT	2014, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	District Incidentals (Gas)			43.16
	10/10/2013					
JMATT	2011, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Happy Jacks	Gas	50.04	10/11/2010	
JMATT	2012, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	Gas	53.03	10/11/2011	
JMATT	2011, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	Gas	49.69	10/14/2010	
JMATT	2014, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	District Incidentals (Gas)			42.9
	10/14/2013					
JMATT	2009, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Happy Jacks	Gas	59.8	10/15/2008	
JMATT	2014, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	District Incidentals (Gas)			68.06
	10/16/2013					
JMATT	2012, October 10th, Pre-Election	Matthews, John W Jr. Happy Jacks	Gas	58.86		
	10/17/2012					
JMATT	2012, October 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Happy Jacks	Gas	58.86	10/17/2012	
JMATT	2010, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Happy Jacks	Gas	41.18	10/19/2009	
JMATT	2009, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Happy Jacks	Gas	40.92	10/22/2008	
JMATT	2013, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Happy Jacks	Gas	53.19	10/22/2012	
JMATT	2014, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	District Incidentals (Gas)			72.28
	10/22/2013					
JMATT	2009, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Happy Jacks	Gas	32.95	10/29/2008	
JMATT	2009, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	Gas	33.95	10/29/2008	
JMATT	2013, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Happy Jacks	Gas	67.02	10/29/2012	
JMATT	2011, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	Gas	15.79	10/3/2010	
JMATT	2011, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	Gas	47.39	10/3/2010	
JMATT	2013, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	Gas	46.75	10/3/2012	
JMATT	2010, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Happy Jacks	Gas	41.15	10/30/2009	
JMATT	2012, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	Gas	56.99	10/31/2011	
JMATT	2014, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	District Incidentals (Gas)			62.06
	10/31/2013					
JMATT	2010, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Happy Jacks	Gas	33.28	10/6/2009	
JMATT	2011, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	Gas	48.16	10/7/2010	
JMATT	2014, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	District Incidentals (Gas)			69.36
	10/7/2013					
JMATT	2013, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Happy Jacks	Gas	31.74	10/8/2012	
JMATT	2009, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Happy Jacks	Gas	23.69	11/12/2008	
JMATT	2010, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Happy Jacks	Gas	40.66	11/12/2009	
JMATT	2012, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	Gas	44.82	11/15/2011	
JMATT	2009, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	Gas	31.9	11/19/2008	
JMATT	2014, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	District Incidentals (Gas)			46.27
	11/19/2013					
JMATT	2012, January 10th	Matthews, John W Jr. Quick Pantry	Gas	37.83	11/2/2011	

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2014 12:21 PM
To: Lyn Odom; SC Senate Ethics Committee; [REDACTED]
Subject: Potential Violations of Mr. Rankin. No complaining, just explaining.
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi Mr. Odom,

I hope your having a lovely morning. I have been reviewing Mr. Rankins expenditures and have found what I believe to be potential violations of the Ethics Act.

<http://ethics.sc.gov/Campaigns/Pages/index.aspx>

Expenditures

Expenditures must be related to the campaign or the office held. Use of campaign funds for personal expenses is prohibited. Candidates should maintain a mileage log for reimbursement of expenses related to travel. Candidates may not purchase gas with campaign funds.

Please find below a list of what I feel may be potential violations by Mr. Rankin. Mr. Odom, this is NOT a complaint against Mr. Rankin, it is for the Senate Ethics Committee to use as evidences against Mr. Rankin should they choose to act on their own against Mr. Rankin in deciding if these potential violations are in fact, violations of the Ethics Act. I send also to the people listed above to include AG Wilson and South Carolinas' Top Cop SA LaRosa of SLEDD should you choose to have me arrested please allow me to make it easier for you and Mr. Rankin to contact them to do so; they are so very good at it already (with a little help from their friends Betty Taylor and Lee Cossin). I am also sending this material to other email addys to include the General Assembly of South Carolina given I no longer am filing complaints with Senate Ethics, no complaining, just explaining is my new motto and therefore, I can send to whoever I want, correct? And anyway, its your job Mr. Odom and also Mr. Rankins' job to flank and attack potential ethics violators of the SC Senate, bad bad bad; damn lawbreakers. Here is some data ammo to help you given I support you in your efforts, Sir..

							1AllInOne
ECandCandidateName	EOrdPositionSot	EOrdReportType	EOrdDetVendor	EOrdReportTypeYear	EOrdDetExpendDescription	EOrdDetExpendAmou	
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2014, October 10th	Abundant Hope Church	2014	donation POTENTIAL VIOLATION	100	
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2013, October 10th	Art in a Nutshell	2013	Framing POTENTIAL VIOLATION	55	
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2014, October 10th	Aynor Athletic Association	2014	athletic booster POTENTIAL VIOLATION	250	
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2014, July 10th	Conway Chamber of Commerce	2014	membership POTENTIAL VIOLATION	250	
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2014, July 10th	Conway Downtown Alive	2014	membership POTENTIAL VIOLATION	250	
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2014, October 10th	Conway High School Booster	2014	athletic booster POTENTIAL VIOLATION	500	
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2013, July 10th	Don Clark Art in a Nutshell	2013	resolution framing POTENTIAL VIOLATION	70	

ECandCandidateName	EOrdPositionSot	EOrdReportType	EOrdDetVendor	EOrdReportTypeYear	EOrdDetExpendDescription	EOrdDetExpendAmou
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2014, January 10th	Fallon Emery	2014	Fallon Emery cancer treatment fundraiser-charitable contribution POTENTIAL VIOLATION	1000
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2014, January 10th	Feed A Family	2014	Feed A Family Myrtle Beach-charitable contribution POTENTIAL VIOLATION	1000
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2012, July 10th	Franklin G. Burroughs	2012	Charitable Contribution POTENTIAL VIOLATION	500
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2013, January 10th	Franklin G. Burroughs	2013	15th Anniversary Gala Sponsorship POTENTIAL VIOLATION	1000
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2013, July 10th	Global Community Fellowship	2013	Charity golf tournament POTENTIAL VIOLATION	1000
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2014, July 10th	Grand Strand Humane Society	2014	charitable contribution POTENTIAL VIOLATION	500
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2012, July 10th	Honor Flight of Myrtle Beach	2012	Charitable Contribution POTENTIAL VIOLATION	500
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2014, January 10th	Horry County GOP	2014	Golf Tournament Sponsorship POTENTIAL VIOLATION	1000
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2012, April 10th	Horry County Meals on Wheels	2012	Charitable Contribution POTENTIAL VIOLATION	200
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2014, July 10th	Jamestown Baptist Church/Golf Tournament	2014	charity golf tournament sponsorship POTENTIAL VIOLATION	200
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2011, July 10th	Marie Waller	2011	Organizational/Professional Fees POTENTIAL VIOLATION	2032.28
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2013, July 10th	Mentoring for Success	2013	charity golf tournament sponsorship POTENTIAL VIOLATION	100
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2014, July 10th	Mt. Olive AME Church	2014	sponsorship POTENTIAL VIOLATION	75
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2013, July 10th	Myrtle Beach Booster Club	2013	All-Sports Booster sponsor POTENTIAL VIOLATION	800
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2014, July 10th	Myrtle Beach Booster Club	2014	MB High school Booster Sponsorship/Membership POTENTIAL VIOLATION	800
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2014, October 10th	New Directions of Horry County	2014	charitable contribution POTENTIAL VIOLATION	250
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2013, April 10th	NROTC Alumni Assoc	2013	Charity Golf Tournament Sponsorship POTENTIAL VIOLATION	250
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2014, October 10th	Palmetto Medical Initiative	2014	medical mission contribution POTENTIAL VIOLATION	100
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2012, July 10th	Pilot Club of Anyor	2012	Charitable Contribution POTENTIAL VIOLATION	75
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2012, July 10th	SC Future Minds	2012	Charitable Contribution- 2012 Teacher of the Year POTENTIAL VIOLATION	1500
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2013, October 10th	SC Future Minds	2013	Teacher of the Year Sponsor POTENTIAL VIOLATION	1500
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2013, January 10th	Sea Captain's House	2013	Donation to David Brittain Foundation POTENTIAL VIOLATION	200
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2014, October 10th	South Strand Republican Club	2014	contribution POTENTIAL VIOLATION	100
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2013, April 10th	Waccamaw Sertoma	2013	Contribution POTENTIAL VIOLATION	504
Rankin, Luke A.	State Senate	2010, October 10th	Zachery Seymour	2010	Youth POTENTIAL VIOLATION	150

Senate Ethics Committee

LUKE A. RANKIN
CHAIRMAN



LEONARD P. ODOM
RESEARCH DIRECTOR

SUITE 205
GRESSETTE OFFICE BUILDING
TELEPHONE: (803) 212-6410
FAX: (803) 212-6499

LAURIE TRAYWICK
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

THE SENATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
P. O. BOX 142
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202

October 17, 2014

VIA EMAIL ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

Mr. [REDACTED]

RE: Senate Ethics Committee Complaint Procedures

Dear [REDACTED]

The Senate Ethics Committee (the "Committee") has received the complaint that you recently filed via email against Senator John Matthews. However, Senate Rule 44(A)(1) expressly states that "[o]nly sworn written complaints or charges may be considered." Therefore, the complaint that you submitted cannot be considered by the Committee, because it was not sworn and subscribed to in the presence of a Notary Public.

Additionally, you also may have violated Senate Rule 44(B) by sending your complaint to [REDACTED]. Senate Rule 44(B) states:

All papers, documents, complaints, charges, requests for advisory opinions, and any other material required to be filed with or received by the committee shall be strictly confidential prior to a finding of probable cause, or waiver of confidentiality by the respondent. No persons involved with a complaint before the committee, including complainant, respondent, counsel, counsel's secretaries, committee members and staff, and investigators shall mention the existence of any such proceeding nor disclose any information pertaining thereto, unless otherwise permitted by the Rules. Disclosure of confidential information must be punished in a manner provided by the Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act. If the Senate Ethics Committee finds that a person has violated the provisions of this item, it must report the findings to the Attorney General.

Accordingly, please be advised that ethics matters remain strictly confidential prior to a finding of probable cause by the Committee, if any, that an alleged violation may have occurred. Disclosure of confidential information pertaining to an ethics complaint can result in prosecution

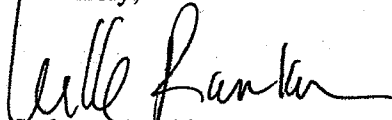
by the Attorney General. Therefore, please refrain from discussing this matter with anyone, including [REDACTED]

Purchases of gasoline for campaign travel and unreimbursed office related travel are permissible campaign expenditures. Therefore, if you desire to submit a sworn complaint against Senator Matthews for purchasing gasoline with campaign funds, please also include any evidence that you have suggesting that such funds were not utilized for gasoline purchases or that gasoline purchased on those dates were not utilized for campaign travel or unreimbursed office-related matters.

Please contact me or Lyn Odom at (803) 212-6410 if you have any questions.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,



Luke A. Rankin

Senate Ethics Committee

LUKE A. RANKIN
CHAIRMAN



LEONARD P. ODOM
RESEARCH DIRECTOR

SUITE 205
GRESSETTE OFFICE BUILDING
TELEPHONE: (803) 212-6410
FAX: (803) 212-6499

LAURIE TRAYWICK
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

THE SENATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
P. O. BOX 142
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202

October 27, 2014

VIA EMAIL ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

Mr. [REDACTED]

RE: Senator Luke Rankin; Senate Ethics Committee Complaint Procedures

Dear [REDACTED]

The Senate Ethics Committee (the "Committee") has received your email, dated Thursday, October 23, 2014, questioning whether certain campaign expenditures appearing on Senator Luke Rankin's campaign disclosure reports were a permissible use of campaign funds. I reviewed these expenditures, and, on their face, the expenditures you question appear to be an appropriate use of campaign funds.

It appears that the majority of the expenditures you questioned were charitable contributions. Senate Ethics Committee Opinion 1997-2 (June 3, 1997), a copy of which is herewith attached, states, in pertinent part:

Participating in fundraising activities for organizations, churches, schools, colleges, universities, communities, families in dire situations, political parties, protecting historical landmarks such as buildings and their surrounding property, as well as adding to them, and a whole range of charitable giving and charitable good works is a longstanding function of elected officials, especially Members of The Senate of South Carolina. The Public of this state expect, and in many cases demands, that Members participate in various functions that benefit the aforementioned groups. The Ethics Act does not prohibit these actions by Members.

(Emphasis in original). Therefore, Members of the South Carolina Senate are permitted to use campaign funds to make charitable donations. The other expenditures that you questioned were related to framing Senate Resolutions for constituents, membership/organizational dues, and fees for campaign-related services. All are permissible campaign or office-related expenditures.

Notwithstanding the disclaimer in your email that you did not intend for it to be treated as a "complaint" against Senator Rankin, there is no other way for the Committee to view such correspondence. Senate Rule 44(A)(1) expressly states that "[o]nly sworn written complaints or charges may be considered." Therefore, the Committee will not respond to any further correspondence from you alleging ethics violations that is not in the form of a sworn complaint.

Furthermore, please understand that the lack of filing a sworn complaint does not permit you to circumvent the confidentiality of ethics matters prior to a finding of probable cause. Senate Rule 44(B) states:

All papers, documents, complaints, charges, requests for advisory opinions, and any other material required to be filed with or received by the committee shall be strictly confidential prior to a finding of probable cause, or waiver of confidentiality by the respondent. No persons involved with a complaint before the committee, including complainant, respondent, counsel, counsel's secretaries, committee members and staff, and investigators shall mention the existence of any such proceeding nor disclose any information pertaining thereto, unless otherwise permitted by the Rules. Disclosure of confidential information must be punished in a manner provided by the Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act. If the Senate Ethics Committee finds that a person has violated the provisions of this item, it must report the findings to the Attorney General.

Therefore, please be advised that ethics matters (including informal inquiries) remain strictly confidential prior to a finding of probable cause by the Committee, if any, that an alleged violation may have occurred. Disclosure of confidential information pertaining to an ethics complaint can result in prosecution by the Attorney General.

If you disagree with my interpretation, the proper procedure is to file a sworn complaint with the Committee pursuant to Senate Rules 44 and 44.1, subject to the confidentiality provision herein referenced. The Senate Rules can be located online at the following weblink: <http://scstatehouse.gov/senatepage/senrule.php>.

Please contact me at (803) 212-6412 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Leonard P. Odom

Attachment via email (Opinion #1997-2)

OPINION 1997-2

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
FROM: THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS
RE: OPINION 1997-2
DATE: JUNE 3, 1997

The Committee on Ethics has received the following question which we feel should be answered through this Opinion:

Can a Member of The Senate use campaign funds to make donations to monument commissions created for the purpose of placing a monument on the Capitol Complex?

We will begin by quoting the following Section of *The Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act of 1991 With Amendments Effective January 12, 1995*:

Section 8-13-1348(A), No candidate, committee, public official, or political party may use campaign funds to defray personal expenses which are unrelated to the campaign or the office if the candidate is an officeholder nor may these funds be converted to personal use. The prohibition of this subsection does not extend to the incidental personal use of campaign materials or equipment nor to an expenditure used to defray any ordinary expenses incurred in connection with an individual's duties as a holder of elective office. [emphasis added]

This Committee has addressed many similar questions since the enactment of *The Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act of 1991*. Most notably are Opinions 1993-4 and 1993-7.

Opinion 1993-4, says in part:

The Committee believes that the phrase 'ordinary expenses incurred in connection with an individual's duties' as an officeholder is intentionally broad and that the determination whether a particular expense is permissible is by design left largely to the discretion of the Member.

In determining whether a particular expenditure is permissible, a Member should ask: (A) Is the expenditure "ordinary", that is, is the expense something "commonly encountered" or "usual" for a holder of public office in the Member's position?; (B) is the expense incurred in connection with the Member's duties as an office holder, that is, would the Member

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June 3, 1997
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make the expenditure if he or she were not a holder of public office?; and will the Member realize no personal gain, aside from any benefit received by the public at large, from making the expenditure?

As we can see from these quoted sections of Opinion 1993-4, Members are allowed to expend campaign funds on those expenses that would not be incurred were it not for their office. Many examples are given in the entire text of 1993-4 as well as other Opinions of the Committee.

This question is very timely in that there are several monument commissions currently meeting to design and erect monuments that the General Assembly has approved. It has been stated that the donation of funds for these monuments will be sought from sources other than public moneys. It is a relatively safe assumption that Members of The Senate of South Carolina will be among the first who are formally solicited by these various monument commissions for donations.

Opinion 1993-7 states in part:

Other related provisions within the same act can often provide meaning or insight when interpreting a vague provision. Section 8-13-70 expressly authorizes an expenditure of campaign funds for charitable and other purposes upon final disbursement. One could reason that the presence of such specific language in Section 8-13-70 and its omission from Section 8-13-1348 means that a contribution to a charitable organization prior to final disbursement is not appropriate. This reasoning, however, ignores the fact that Section 8-13-1370 expressly restricts disbursement to several specified items, while Section 8-13-1348 is devoid of such restrictions. Logic dictates that those acts that are not prohibited should be considered appropriate. [emphasis added]

This is clearly an example of donations being sought because of the position held; i.e., that of State Senator. Participating in fundraising activities for organizations, churches, schools, colleges, universities, communities, families in dire situations, political parties, protecting historical landmarks such as buildings and their surrounding property, as well as adding to them, and a whole range of charitable giving and charitable good works is a longstanding function of elected officials, especially Members of The Senate of South Carolina. The Public of this state expect, and in many cases demands, that Members participate in various functions that benefit the aforementioned groups.

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June 3, 1997
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The Ethics Act does not prohibit these actions by Members.

