

media campaign, the Administration would do anything it could to help Bernie Schwartz (and Loral) if the need arose.

If in fact there is anything to investigate involving the Loral "allegations," it is—as set out in the Task Force's draft investigative plan—an investigation of the President. The President is the one who signed the waiver, the President is the one who has the relationship with Schwartz; and it was the President's media campaign that was the beneficiary of Schwartz' largess by virtue of his own substantial contributions and those which he was able to solicit. We do not yet know the extent of Schwartz solicitation efforts in connection with the media fund. However, if the matter is sufficiently serious to commence a criminal investigation, it is sufficiently serious to commence a preliminary inquiry under the ICA since it is the President who is at the center of the investigation.

For all these reasons, the Loral matter is something which, if it is to be investigated, should be handled pursuant to the provisions of the ICA.

CONCLUSION

We have been reviewing the facts and the evidence for the last ten months. During that time we have gained a familiarity with the cases, the documents and the characters sufficient to draw some solid conclusions. It seems that everyone has been waiting for that single document, witness, or event that will establish, with clarity, action by a covered person (or someone within the discretionary provision) that is violative of a federal law. Everyone can understand the implications of a smoking gun. However, these cases have not presented a single event, document or witness. Rather, there are bits of information (and evidence) which must be pieced together in order to put seemingly innocent actions in perspective. While this may take more work to accomplish, in our view it is no less compelling than the proverbial smoking gun in the end. As is evident from the items detailed above, when that is done, there is much information (and evidence) that is specific and from credible sources. Indeed, were this quantum of information amassed during a preliminary inquiry under the ICA, we would have to conclude that there are reasonable grounds to believe that further investigation is warranted. As suggested throughout this memo, there are many as yet unanswered questions. However, the information suggesting these questions is more than sufficient to commence a criminal investigation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). Members are reminded not to make personal references toward the President or Vice President of the United States.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, this month is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This month is devoted to increasing the awareness of breast cancer and to promote a nationwide education effort for the love of life.

Breast cancer is a tragedy that we must fight to eliminate. A pink ribbon that I am wearing and many other individuals will be wearing this month

means more than awareness. It stands for the love of your wife, your sister, your mother, your grandmother, your daughter, and your colleagues.

We must do everything to stop this disease. About 182,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in the United States this year alone, not to mention how many currently have breast cancer now or how many have died because of breast cancer.

Breast cancer prevention and treatment is an issue fought in the State legislature. It is one that I fought and I carried the legislation for the breast cancer stamp, the license plate for treatment and prevention. We must raise the awareness that the best protection is early detection and action.

There are measures women and their doctors can take to catch this disease early, including clinical exam, self-examination, and mammograms. During this month, I encourage all Members to spread the message about the importance of prevention and treatment. I encourage the Members to speak to their friends, co-workers, their families, and their communities. Some of the locations that we can speak at are hospitals, mammography centers, the health centers, and breast cancer awareness presentations.

This week I spoke at Loma Linda on behalf of a nonprofit organization named the Candlelight Research for Children that received treatment for cancer. And just this last week alone I spoke at Fontana Kaiser Permanente where they actually had the pink ribbon highlighted at the hospital for many individuals to see.

Congress should continue to support legislation such as H.R. 4386, the Breast Cancer and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act. This bill, supported by a bipartisan majority of Congress, would provide the treatment to low-income women who currently receive screening under the Federal program.

We should also support legislation pending in Congress to extend the Federal breast cancer stamp which would fund breast cancer research. We must also fund Federal agency research efforts, such as the Department of Defense peer-reviewed breast cancer research program.

We must not stop. We must not quit. We must continue to fight. This is an important national priority. We need to encourage everyone to be aware of this issue and encourage them to pass information on to those that they love. It just might save their life or the life of someone they love.

To touch a life is to save a life.

AMERICA DEMANDS STRONG ENERGY POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, recently Governor Bush proposed a comprehensive energy policy which I believe will

go a long way towards increasing our Nation's energy self-sufficiency and strikes the proper balance between energy production and protecting the environment.

Last week, the Subcommittee on Energy and Power, on which I serve, held a hearing to examine the United States' energy concerns. Most of the hearing focused on the President's decision to release 30 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to supposedly help Americans in the Northeast who may face a dwindling supply of home heating oil for the upcoming winter.

While no one would argue that we must ensure that Americans' heating needs are met, I seriously question the motivation and the reason for releasing this oil.

First, the key word here is "strategic." The reserve was created in the wake of the 1973 oil embargo, and Presidential authority to draw down the reserve is contingent only upon the finding of a severe energy supply disruption. In fact, the Energy Information Administration, in a letter to the chairman of the Committee on Commerce, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), in February, stated: "The SPR is intended for release only in the event of a major oil supply disruption, not for trying to manage the world market of nearly 74 million barrels per day."

Last month, Treasury Secretary Summers and the Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan sent a memo to the President opposing the release of oil from the reserve based in part "it would be seen as a radical departure from past practice and as an attempt to manipulate prices."

Furthermore, Vice President Gore himself opposed the release of oil from the SPR earlier this year but suddenly had a change of heart with both winter and the elections looming ahead.

Upon announcing the release of 30 million barrels from the SPR, the President also announced the release of \$400 million of taxpayers' money in low-income home energy assistance program funding. However, these funds will have to be replaced by Congress, most likely through emergency supplemental appropriations, and the oil will have to be replaced, hopefully, when oil is at a lower price per barrel.

Mr. Speaker, this action is indicative of the administration's lack of leadership, I believe, on energy policy. This 30-million-barrel release amounts to only about a 36-hour supply. Instead of tackling our energy problems head-on with a coherent policy, the administration chooses to run in a circle throwing money at the problem or proposing politically expedient policies which fail to address the long-term solution.

Since the Clinton-Gore administration took office, America's oil consumption has increased by 14 percent, while domestic production has decreased by 18 percent. America is the world's only superpower, and we are 56