

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,            )  
  )  
Plaintiff,                                 )  
  ) NO.  
  )  
  )  
  )  
NICK J. TORPEA,                         )  
  )  
  )  
Defendant.                                )

**PLEA AGREEMENT, GUIDELINES  
RECOMMENDATIONS AND STIPULATIONS**

Come now the parties pursuant to Section 6B1.4, Sentencing Guidelines and Policy Statements (October 1987), and the Administrative Order of this Court (January 2, 1991) and hereby stipulate and agree that the following are the parties' agreements, recommendations and stipulations:

**1. THE PARTIES:**

The parties to the agreements, recommendations and stipulations contained herein are the defendant NICK J. TORPEA, defense counsel PAUL J. D'AGROSA, and the Office of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri (hereinafter "the government"). This document and the agreements, recommendations and stipulations contained herein do not, and are not intended to, bind any governmental office or agency other than the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri. It is understood by the parties that the Court is neither a party to nor bound by these agreements, recommendations and stipulations.

## **2. THE PLEA AGREEMENT:**

### **A. The Plea:**

Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(A), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, in exchange for the defendant's voluntary plea of guilty to Count I of the charge, the government agrees that no further federal prosecution will be brought in this District relative to the defendant's false statements to the government on or about January 17, 2003, of which the Office of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri is aware at this time.

Pursuant to Rule 11(c) and (d), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the defendant fully understands that there will be no right to withdraw the plea entered under this agreement, except where the Court rejects those portions of the plea agreement which deal with charges the government agrees to dismiss or not to bring.

### **B. Waiver of Post-Conviction Rights:**

(1) **Appeal:** The defendant has been fully apprised by defense counsel of the defendant's rights to appeal and fully understands the right to appeal the sentence under Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742. However, in the event the Court accepts the plea, as part of this agreement, both the defendant and the government hereby waive all rights to appeal all non-jurisdictional issues including, but not limited to: any issues relating to pre-trial motions, hearings and discovery; any issues relating to the negotiation, taking or acceptance of the guilty plea or the factual basis for the plea; and, whatever sentence is imposed, any issues relating to the establishment of the Total Offense Level or Criminal History Category determined by the Court, except that the parties reserve the right to appeal from any Chapter 5 upward or downward departure from the Guidelines range if such departure is not agreed to in this document. The

parties understand that the District Court is neither a party to nor bound by the Guidelines recommendations agreed to in this document. The Guidelines range will be determined by the District Court and shall not be subject to appeal.

(2) **Habeas Corpus:** The defendant acknowledges being guilty of the crime(s) to which a plea is being entered, and further states that neither defense counsel nor the government have made representations which are not included in this document as to the sentence to be imposed. The defendant further agrees to waive all rights to contest the conviction or sentence in any post-conviction proceeding, including one pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255, except for claims of prosecutorial misconduct or ineffective assistance of counsel.

**C. Financial Disclosure:**

The defendant agrees to complete and sign financial forms as required by the United States Probation Office prior to sentencing, including a Net Worth Statement (Probation Form 48); or a Net Worth Short Form Statement (Probation Form 48 EZ); a Cash Flow Statement (Probation Form 48B); a Declaration of Defendant or Offender Net Worth and Cash Flow Statements (Probation Form 48D); and a Customer Consent and Authorization for Access to Financial Records (Probation Form 48E). The defendant agrees to provide complete, truthful and accurate information on these forms and consents to the release of these forms and any supporting documentation by the United States Probation Office to the government. The defendant also agrees to complete and sign financial forms, including a Customer Consent Authorization for Access to Financial Records During Supervision (Probation Form 48I), as required by the United States Probation Office during the defendant's term of supervised release or probation. The defendant agrees to provide complete, truthful and accurate information on

these forms and consents to the release of these forms and any supporting documentation by the United States Probation Office to the government.

**D. Civil or Administrative Actions not Barred; Effect on Other Governmental Agencies:**

The defendant has discussed with defense counsel and understands that nothing contained in this document is meant to limit the rights and authority of the United States of America to take any civil, tax or administrative action against the defendant including, but not limited to, asset forfeiture, deportation and any listing and debarment proceedings to restrict rights and opportunities of the defendant to contract with government agencies. Further, any recommendation in this document as to the amount of loss or restitution is not binding upon the parties in any civil or administrative action by the government against the defendant.

e disposed of by law enforcement officials in accordance with the established practices and policies of the respective law enforcement agency.

**3. GUIDELINES RECOMMENDATIONS (NOT BINDING ON THE COURT):**

**A. Manual to be Used:** The parties recommend that the 2002 version of the Guidelines Manual applies.

**B. Offense Conduct:**

(1) **Base Offense Level:** The parties recommend that the base offense level is 6 as found in Section 2B1.1.

(2) **Chapter 2 Specific Offense Characteristics:** The parties recommend that the following Specific Offense Characteristics apply: none

**C. Chapter 3 Adjustments:** The parties recommend that the following adjustments,

other than acceptance of responsibility, apply: none

**D. Acceptance of Responsibility:** The parties recommend that two levels should be deducted pursuant to Section 3E1.1(a) because the defendant has clearly demonstrated acceptance of responsibility.

The parties agree that if the defendant does not abide by all of the agreements made within this document, the defendant's failure to comply is grounds for the loss of acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Section 3E1.1. The parties further agree that the defendant's eligibility for a reduction pursuant to Section 3E1.1 is based upon the information known at the present time and that any actions of the defendant which occur or which become known to the government subsequent to this agreement and are inconsistent with the defendant's acceptance of responsibility including, but not limited to criminal conduct, are grounds for the loss of acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Section 3E1.1. In any event, the parties agree that all of the remaining provisions of this agreement remain valid and in full force and effect.

**E. Estimated Total Offense Level:** Based on these recommendations, the parties estimate that the Total Offense Level is 4.

**F. Criminal History:** The determination of the defendant's Criminal History Category shall be left to the Court after it reviews the Presentence Report. The Criminal History Category determination will be made only after the United States Probation Office obtains and evaluates the records it can find of the defendant's criminal history. Prior convictions can affect the sentence and usually result in a harsher sentence. Both parties retain their right to challenge the finding of the Presentence Report as to the defendant's criminal history and the applicable category; however, all decisions as to the appropriate Criminal History Category by the Court are

final and not subject to appeal.

Both parties are aware that the results of a preliminary criminal record check are available for review in the Pretrial Services Report.

**G. Acknowledgment of Effect of Recommendations:** These recommendations have been made pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(B), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. The parties have addressed United States Sentencing Guidelines applications to this case and have agreed to these recommendations. The parties agree that these recommendations fairly and accurately set forth the Guidelines levels and calculations which the parties believe the Court should use in determining the defendant's sentence.

The parties acknowledge that the Guidelines application recommendations set forth herein are the result of negotiations between the parties as to the Guidelines applications they address; that these negotiated recommendations led to the guilty plea in this case; and that each party has a right to rely upon and hold the other party to the recommendations at the time of sentencing. The parties further agree that neither party shall request a departure pursuant to any chapter of the Guidelines unless that departure or facts which support that departure are addressed in this document or the request is made with the consent of both parties.

The parties recognize that they may not have addressed or foreseen all the Guidelines provisions applicable in this case. Guidelines applications not expressly addressed by the parties' recommendations, but which are addressed by the Presentence Report or the Court, may be presented to the Court for consideration. The parties agree and understand that the Court, in its discretion, may apply any Guidelines not addressed in this document.

Furthermore, this Court is not bound by these recommendations. The refusal of this

Court to follow the recommendations of the parties shall not serve as a basis to withdraw the plea. The parties acknowledge that the Court's decision as to the appropriate Guidelines levels and calculations will govern at sentencing and could vary upward or downward from the parties' recommendations stated in this document and that the Court's decision is not subject to appeal.

#### **4. STIPULATION OF FACTS RELEVANT TO SENTENCING:**

The parties stipulate and agree that the facts in this case are as follows and that the government would prove these facts beyond a reasonable doubt:

In or around October 2002, the Department of Labor received a complaint that Nick Torpea, President of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 655 was using union staff to do personal business while that staff was on union time. As a part of the investigation Department of Labor staff began surveillance of Local 655 staff. On or about December 12, 2002, Department of Labor watched Nick J. Torpea and eight staff members of Local 655 move Torpea's belongings from 9106 Desmond, Crestwood, Missouri 63126 to 10275 Hartshill Dr., St. Louis, Missouri 63128 his new residence.

On or about January 17, 2003, Department of Labor Investigator Dennis Eckert visited Torpea at the Local's office. Torpea was advised that DOL was initiating an investigation on the Local based upon allegations brought forward by several Local 655 members. Torpea was advised that one of the allegations concerned his use of union staff to assist with his personal move while the staff was on union time being paid with union funds. Torpea told Eckert that he did use union staff to help with his move, however, those staff members took vacation time for the time they helped him move. Torpea made these statements knowing they were false.

In violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2).

The defendant and the government agree that the facts set forth above are true and may be considered as "relevant conduct" pursuant to Section 1B1.3.

**5. ELEMENTS OF THE OFFENSE:**

As to Count I the defendant admits to knowingly violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001, and admits there is a factual basis for the plea and further fully understands that the elements of the crime are:

One, the defendant knowingly made a false statement to an agent of the Department of Labor investigating misuse of union resources,

Two, the statement was material, and

Three, the investigation was a matter within the jurisdiction of the Department of Labor.

**6. PENALTIES:**

**A. Statutory Penalties:** The defendant fully understands that the maximum possible penalty provided by law for the crime to which the defendant is pleading guilty is imprisonment of not more than 5 years, a fine of not more than \$250,000, or both such imprisonment and fine. The Court may also impose a period of supervised release of 3 years.

**B. Sentencing Guidelines Effect on Penalties:** The defendant understands that this offense is subject to the provisions and Guidelines of the "Sentencing Reform Act of 1984," Title 18, United States Code, Sections 3661 *et. seq.* and Title 28, United States Code, Section 994.

**C. Supervised Release:** The defendant understands that the Court may impose a term of "supervised release" to follow incarceration pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3583 (Sentencing Guidelines, Chap. 5, Part D). The defendant further understands that pursuant to the supervised release term, the Court will impose standard conditions upon the defendant and



may impose special conditions upon the defendant which relate to the crime the defendant committed. These conditions will be restrictions on the defendant to which the defendant will be required to adhere. The defendant further understands that violation of the conditions of the term of supervised release resulting in revocation may require the defendant to serve a term of imprisonment equal to the length of the term of supervised release, but not greater than the term set forth in Title 18, United States Code, Section 3583(e)(3), without credit for the time served after release. The defendant understands that parole has been abolished.

**D. Mandatory Special Assessment:** The defendant further acknowledges that this offense is subject to the provisions of the Criminal Fines Improvement Act of 1987 and that the Court is required to impose a mandatory special assessment of \$100.00 per count for a total of \$100.00, which the defendant agrees to pay at the time of sentencing. The defendant further agrees that if the mandatory special assessment imposed by the Court is not paid at the time of sentencing, until the full amount of the mandatory special assessment is paid, money paid by the defendant toward any restitution or fine imposed by the Court shall be first used to pay the mandatory special assessment.

**E. Possibility of Detention:** The defendant acknowledges that upon entering the plea of guilty as contemplated in this document, the defendant may be subject to immediate detention pursuant to the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3143.

#### **7. FINES, RESTITUTION AND COSTS:**

The defendant understands that the Court may impose a fine, restitution (in addition to any penalty authorized by law), costs of incarceration and costs of supervision. The defendant agrees that any fine or restitution imposed by the Court will be due and payable immediately.

**A. Restitution:** The defendant further acknowledges that pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3663A, an order of restitution is mandatory in this case for all crimes listed in Section 3663A(c) committed after April 24, 1996. The defendant agrees that regardless of the particular counts of conviction, the amount of mandatory restitution imposed shall include all amounts allowed by Section 3663A(b) and the amount of loss agreed to by the parties, including all relevant conduct loss. The defendant agrees to provide full restitution to all victims of all charges in the indictment without regard to the count or counts to which the defendant has agreed to plead guilty.

**B. Effect of Bankruptcy on Fines or Restitution:** The defendant hereby stipulates that any fine or restitution obligation imposed by the Court is not dischargeable in any case commenced by the defendant or the defendant's creditors pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code. The defendant agrees not to attempt to avoid paying any fine or restitution imposed by the Court through any proceeding pursuant to the United States Bankruptcy Code, and stipulates that enforcement of any fine or restitution obligation by the United States or a victim is not barred or affected by the automatic stay provisions of the United States Bankruptcy Code (Title 11, United States Code, Section 362).

#### **8. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND WAIVER OF THE DEFENDANT'S RIGHTS:**

The defendant acknowledges and fully understands the following rights: the right to plead not guilty to the charges; the right to be tried by a jury in a public and speedy trial; the right to file pre-trial motions, including motions to suppress evidence; the right at such trial to a presumption of innocence; the right to require the government to prove the entire case against the defendant beyond a reasonable doubt; the right not to testify; the right not to present any evidence; the right

to be protected from compelled self-incrimination; the right at trial to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses; the right to testify and present evidence; and the right to compel the attendance of witnesses. The defendant further understands that by this guilty plea, the defendant expressly waives all the rights set forth in this paragraph. The defendant fully understands that the defendant has the right to be represented by counsel, and if necessary, to have the Court appoint counsel at trial and at every other stage of the proceeding. The defendant's counsel has explained these rights and the consequences of the waiver of these rights. The defendant fully understands that, as a result of the guilty plea, no trial will, in fact, occur and that the only action remaining to be taken in this case is the imposition of the sentence.

The defendant is fully satisfied with the representation received from defense counsel. The defendant has reviewed the government's evidence and discussed the government's case and all possible defenses and defense witnesses with defense counsel. Defense counsel has completely and satisfactorily explored all areas which the defendant has requested relative to the government's case and any defenses.

#### **9. PRESENTENCE REPORT AND SENTENCING:**

Following defendant's guilty plea, a Presentence Report will be prepared. At the time of sentencing, the parties reserve the right to allocution regarding the appropriate sentence to be imposed. Each party also reserves the right to bring any misstatements of fact made either by the other party or on that party's behalf to the attention of the Court at the time of sentencing.

#### **10. STANDARD OF INTERPRETATION:**

In interpreting this document, any drafting errors or ambiguities shall not automatically be construed against any party, whether or not the party was involved in drafting this document.

**11. VOLUNTARY NATURE OF THE PLEA AND THE PLEA AGREEMENT, RECOMMENDATIONS AND STIPULATIONS:**

This document constitutes the entire agreement between the defendant and the government, and no other promises or inducements have been made, directly or indirectly, by any agent of the government, including any Department of Justice attorney, concerning any plea to be entered in this case or the agreements, recommendations or stipulations contained herein. In addition, the defendant states that no person has, directly or indirectly, threatened or coerced the defendant to do or refrain from doing anything in connection with any aspect of this case, including entering a plea of guilty. The defendant's agreements, recommendations and stipulations as set forth above are made in exchange for the United States' agreements, recommendations and stipulations set forth in this document.

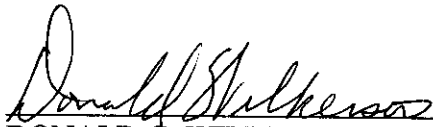
The defendant acknowledges that the defendant has voluntarily entered both this plea and into these agreements, recommendations and stipulations voluntarily. The defendant further acknowledges that this guilty plea is made voluntarily and of the defendant's own free will because the defendant is, in fact, guilty of the conduct specified in sections four and five above.

**12. CONSEQUENCES OF FURTHER CRIMINAL CONDUCT OR WITHDRAWAL OF PLEA BY DEFENDANT:**

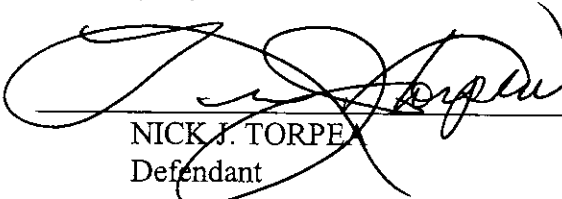
The defendant is aware that if the defendant engages in any criminal activity between the time of signing this document and the sentencing or should the defendant withdraw from this plea agreement, the government shall be released from any obligation or limits on its power to prosecute the defendant created by this document; all testimony and other information the defendant has provided at any time to attorneys, employees or law enforcement officers of the government, to the court including at the guilty plea or to the federal grand jury, may and will be

used against the defendant in any prosecution or proceeding. Further, by this plea, the defendant waives the protection of Rule 11(f), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and Rule 410, Federal Rules of Evidence, should the defendant engage in any criminal activity between the time the defendant signs this document and the time of sentencing or should the defendant withdraw from this plea agreement, any such conduct shall be grounds for the loss of acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Section 3E1.1.


7/1/03  
Date

  
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(314) 539-2200

7/1/03  
Date

  
NICK J. TORPE  
Defendant

7-1-03  
Date

  
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