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**APRIL 25, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LAUREL MAN SENTENCED FOR FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS
AS A RESULT OF RECEIVING ILLEGAL GRATUITIES**

Greenbelt, Maryland - United States Attorney Thomas M. DiBiagio announced today that Thomas C. Clark, age 59, of Old Line Avenue, Laurel, Maryland was sentenced today by the Honorable Alexander Williams, Jr. to seven months in prison and seven months home detention followed by one year of supervised release for filing false income tax returns. Clark was also ordered to pay restitution of \$35,675 for back taxes owed to the IRS.

According to the plea agreement presented to the court, Clark, a maintenance mechanic/general foreman of the Department of Energy (DOE) pled guilty in September, 2002 to four counts of filing false income tax returns stemming from his failure to report approximately \$90,000 in cash receipts between 1995 and 1998. As part of his plea agreement, Clark further admitted that the cash received was the result of gratuities paid to him by various DOE subcontractors with whom he did business during his tenure as a government employee.

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation and the Department of Energy-Office of Inspector General and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sandra Wilkinson.