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ONE HUNDRED SIXTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074  
MINORITY (202) 225-5051  
TTY (202) 225-6852

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April 19, 2000

The Honorable Dan Burton  
Chairman  
Committee on Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Burton:

I am writing to bring to your attention recent articles that have appeared in the April 15 issue of National Journal and the April 17 issue of Roll Call about Robert Mills, who served as campaign manager for Rep. Tom DeLay in 1996. These articles reveal that Mr. Mills admitted in 1995 to embezzling more than \$35,000 from the nonprofit group Council for Government Reform and to manipulating computer records in order to cover up the theft. According to Roll Call, Mr. Mills was also the subject of two enforcement actions by the FEC relating to his service as treasurer of the United Conservatives of America PAC, with the FEC twice voting that probable cause existed that Mr. Mills had violated federal election law. Most recently, Mr. Mills served as Executive Director of U.S. Family Network, which has faced questions for spending large sums of money on a skybox at the MCI Center and a Capitol Hill townhouse.

You will recall that, in a sworn affidavit, a Republican businessman named Peter Cloeren alleged that Mr. Mills -- at the express direction of Rep. DeLay -- instructed him to make illegal conduit contributions during the 1996 election. There has been no evidence to date to refute Mr. Cloeren's sworn evidence. Indeed, there is substantial evidence to corroborate it. Now, particularly in light of the new and credible allegations involving Mr. Mills, Mr. Cloeren's evidence demands to be seriously investigated.

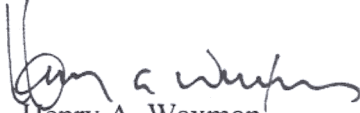
For some time, I have asked you to investigate these charges involving Rep. DeLay. I have pointed out that they constitute the only allegations thus far that a prominent, elected official actually directed conduit campaign contributions. During the recent hearing involving Charlie Trie, you finally responded to my repeated requests by indicating that there was no need to look into these charges as the FEC had already investigated them and cleared Rep. DeLay.

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This response was not compelling, given that the Committee has investigated countless allegations of Democratic campaign finance abuses that have already been thoroughly investigated by the Justice Department and the FEC.

In light of these new revelations about Mr. Mills' apparent misconduct, I ask you to reconsider your refusal to look into Mr. Cloeren's serious allegations.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Minority Member

cc: Members of the Committee on Government Reform