

United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 220
SECOND AND CONSTITUTION AVENUE, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6425

November 20, 2008

Dear Colleague:

The Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act, 5 U.S.C. 7342, requires that no later than January 31 of each year, the Select Committee on Ethics shall compile a list of certain gifts which Members, officers, or employees of the Senate, or a spouse or dependent of any such person, have received from a foreign government or a multinational organization during the preceding calendar year. The Committee must send this list to the Secretary of State, who then is required to publish the data in the Federal Register.

Gifts which must be listed are: (1) tangible gifts with a value in excess of \$100, and (2) travel or expenses of travel with a value in excess of \$100, taking place entirely outside of the United States excluding travel or expenses of travel accepted under 108A of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961. The Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act places an obligation upon recipients of such gifts to report certain details to the Ethics Committee. The information that is required for each tangible gift is as follows:

- the name and position of the recipient;
- (B) a brief description of the gift and the circumstances justifying acceptance;
- (C) the identity of the foreign government and the name and position of the individual, if known, who presented the gift;
- (D) the date of acceptance of the gift;
- (E) the estimated value in the United States of the gift at the time of acceptance; and
- (F) disposition and current location of the gift.

Information which is required for gifts of travel or expenses of travel is as follows:

- (A) the name and position of the recipient;
- (B) a brief description of the gift and the circumstances justifying acceptance;
- (C) the identity, if known, of the foreign government and the name and position of the individual who presented the gift; and
- (D) the date travel took place.

Tangible gifts, deemed to have been accepted on behalf of the United States, are required to be deposited with the Secretary of the Senate within 60 days of acceptance. The recipient must make the report to the Ethics Committee at the time of deposit. Reports concerning gifts of travel or expenses of travel must be made to the Ethics Committee within 30 days of acceptance. If you or an officer or employee whom you supervise, or the spouse or dependent of

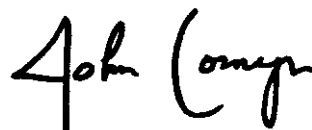
any of these persons, have accepted any gifts described above during calendar year 2008, and if you have not already reported the acceptance and required details in writing to the Ethics Committee, we request that each individual recipient complete a copy of the attached form and return it to the Ethics Committee no later than January 25, 2009.

The attached form should also be used to report details of foreign gifts, pursuant to the statute, as they might be received during calendar year 2009. For your guidance in the future, the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act does not permit acceptance from a foreign government of tangible gifts of more than \$100 in value unless accepted on behalf of the United States Government and the gift is deposited with the government within 60 days, nor does it permit acceptance of travel or expenses of travel (transportation, food, lodging, and entertainment) with a value of more than \$100 unless the travel takes place entirely outside of the United States, or is approved by the USIA under Section 108A of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
Chairman



John Cornyn
Vice Chairman

Enclosure: Foreign Gifts Report Form