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Porter Blasts English for Lack of Ethics

Dr. Steven Porter, Democratic candidate for Congress in the 3rd District of Pennsylvania, today blasted his Republican opponent, Congressman Phil English, for his lack of ethics in failing to return \$5,000 of tainted Abramoff money.

“I am appalled at the greed and insensitivity of Congressman English,” Porter said. “So many people in Washington, including President Bush, have chosen to give back the money they got from Abramoff’s clients. For our Congressman to choose to keep the money, is a slap in the face to every citizen in the district. It is shameful.”

Porter referred to a comment by one of English’s staff members that \$5,000 was only “small potatoes,” and thus not even worthy of returning.

“Maybe in the land of big political payoffs, \$5,000 is ‘small potatoes’ to Mr. English,” Porter said, “but in the world the people of this district and I live in, \$5,000 is a big chunk of change. It buys a heck of a lot of potatoes for our families. It pays our doctor bills and prescription drug costs. It heats our homes. It sends our kids to college.”

When asked if he was surprised by English’s refusal to send the tainted money back, Porter responded, “I am disgusted, but, to tell you the truth, not really surprised. Mr. English has taken thousands from indicted House member Tom DeLay, and thousands from corporations like Abbott Pharmaceuticals which has paid hundreds of millions of dollars to resolve civil and criminal charges for price-fixing cancer drugs.

“It is part of the atmosphere of corruption in Washington, an atmosphere in which Mr. English has been a gleeful participant during his tenure in office. I hope that the voters of our district and those throughout the nation will finally turn these scoundrels out next November so that new voices will change the way government conducts itself. Restoring the people’s trust in their representatives will be a tremendously important step in moving our nation forward. If we continue to elect politicians who are content to be paid lackeys of special interest groups, we will never deal effectively with the monumental challenges which face us in the areas of national security, energy, job-retention, social security, health care, and the environment.

“The hope of change really rests in the hands of the voters.”