

January 16, 2006 PRESS RELEASE

Porter to English: “Give up the rest of your dirty money.”

Responding in a press release today to the donation of \$5000 of tainted Abramoff money to charity by Congressman Phil English, Democratic challenger, Dr. Steven Porter, stated that English’s flip-flop on the issue was only further evidence of the shame and greed which pervades Washington politics, a shame and greed of which Mr. English is a part.

“Having been roundly criticized in the media for keeping what his campaign cynically referred to as ‘small potatoes’,” said Porter, “Mr. English now decides to give back the money in order to avoid what he calls a ‘campaign distraction.’ As if donating the money would make us forget the shame of taking it in the first place. Sorry, but that doesn’t pass the ‘smell test’. English thinks the \$5000 is a distraction. It is *not* a distraction. It is the very point of the corruption investigations now underway in Washington.

“And I don’t think the voters of this district will forget,” Porter continued. “The people of this nation know all too well how corrupt Congress has become, and the people of this district know all too well how neatly Mr. English has fit into that atmosphere. From the ridiculous number of paid trips he’s taken to the millions he’s gotten from the PACs of corporations, many of which have been convicted of crimes, Mr. English’s method of doing the public’s business is all too clear.

“Mr. English says that he takes pride in his ethics of fundraising--that his fundraising places ‘a special burden...to set an example which rises above any reproach.’ His comment is laughable when one looks at many of the contributors from whom he has been happy to take thousands and thousands of dollars.”

Porter went on to produce a partial list of corporate contributors to English’s various campaigns which have been found guilty of--or paid fines to avoid prosecution for--crimes which include price-fixing, kickbacks, obstruction of justice, and fraud. The list appears below along with the amounts contributed to English over the years. (Source: The False Claims Act Legal Center. www.taf.org/top100fca.htm)

\$5000 from Abbott Labs—pled guilty July 2003--\$400,000,000 settlement
\$22,000 from GlaxoSmithKline—ordered February 1997 to pay \$325,000,000 settlement
\$4,000 from AstraZeneca—pled guilty June 2003--\$266,000,000 settlement
\$18,500 from Bayer Corp—settled charges April 2003 for \$257,000,000
\$6,500 from BankAmerica—settled charges October 1998 for 187,000,000
\$3,000 from Beverly Enterprises—agreed February 2000 to pay fine of \$170,000,000
\$8,000 from Pfizer—paid May 2004 settlement of \$152,000,000

“Not only has Mr. English taken over \$106,000 from *these kinds* of companies, he has also taken over \$319,000 more from companies which have outsourced American jobs,” Porter continued. “The list is a long one. It includes, among others, **Halliburton, and yes--even International Paper which abandoned his own district.**” (Sources: Open

Secrets, www.opensecrets.org/pacs/memberprofile and Lou Dobbs, www.cnn.com/CNN/Programs/lou.dobbs.tonight/popups/exporting.america).

“The American government has been for sale too long,” Porter said. “It is impossible for members of Congress to work on behalf of their constituents when they stay in office because of the contributions of those whose interests are in conflict with the average voter. Phil English’s brand of representation has to go. It may work well for him, but it hasn’t done a hoot for this district, and it never will. Mr. ‘small potatoes’ English has lost touch with the people. He just doesn’t get it, and I hope come next November that they turn him out of office.”