

90-8



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

January 7, 1991

PRESS RELEASE

On September 10, 1990, Ethics Commission Staff Attorney Marianne D. Smith filed a complaint (Docket No. 90-8) against Senator George Gunther, a state legislator and public official, alleging that Senator Gunther violated the gift limit of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials in 1988, 1989 and 1990 by accepting from Linda Kowalski, a registered lobbyist, gifts exceeding the yearly limit, including numerous liquor, beer and soft drink deliveries over the three-year period.

Under the Code's gift provision, a public official may not accept any gift or gifts known to amount to \$50 or more in any calendar year from a person known to be a registered lobbyist. The total value of the gifts accepted by Senator Gunther from 1988 to 1990 exceeds \$1,000.00.

On January 7, 1991, the State Ethics Commission and the Respondent Senator George Gunther settled this matter by entering into a Stipulation and Order. Under the terms of the settlement, the Respondent agreed to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$2,000 and to make a charitable contribution in an amount approximately equal to the value of the illegal gifts, \$1,000. This represents the highest penalty ever assessed by the Commission against a public official for acceptance of illegal gifts. Copies of the Amended Complaint, dated November 8, 1990 and the Stipulation and order are attached.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:

Alan S. Plofsky
Executive Director and General Counsel
566-4472



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONFIDENTIAL

DOCKET NUMBER 90-8) STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
IN THE MATTER OF A) 97 ELM STREET (REAR)
COMPLAINT AGAINST) HARTFORD, CONN. 06106
SEN. GEORGE GUNTHER) JANUARY 7 , 1991

STIPULATION AND ORDER

The Commission finds that the Respondent violated the Code of Ethics for Public Officials as alleged in the attached Amended Complaint, dated November 8, 1990.

This Finding is made solely on the basis of the Commission's staff investigation into this matter, and is not admissible in, nor shall it be deemed to prejudice, any subsequent civil or criminal proceeding against the Respondent or any other person.

While the Respondent does not admit all of the allegations contained in the Complaint, the Respondent does not contest the Commission's Finding in this matter. Additionally, the Respondent admits that the Commission's staff investigation has produced evidence which, if believed, could lead a trier of facts to conclude that the violations alleged in the attached Complaint had, in fact, occurred.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-177(c), the State Ethics Commission and the Respondent, Senator George Gunther, agree to settle this matter in the manner described below:

Phone: (203) 566-4472

97 Elm Street (rear) • Hartford, Connecticut 06106

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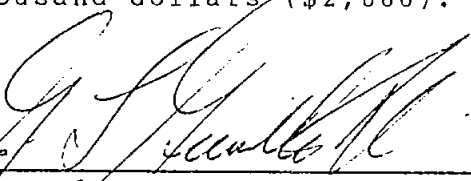
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1. The Respondent waives any rights he may have under Conn. Gen. Stat. §§1-93, 1-93a, 1-98 and 1-80, including the right to a hearing or appeal in this case, and agrees with the Commission to an informal disposition of this matter as authorized by Conn. Gen. Stat. §4-177(c).

2. The Commission agrees not to refer the Respondent to the Chief State's Attorney for any possible action pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-100 arising from this matter.

3. The Respondent agrees to make a contribution of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), within thirty days, to a charity of his choice, such choice being subject to approval by the Commission, (in addition to a civil penalty hereinafter described).

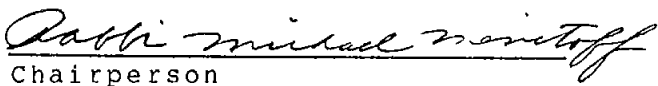
4. The Ethics Commission orders, and the Respondent agrees to pay to the Ethics Commission, within thirty (30) days of the signing of this Stipulation and Order, a civil penalty of two thousand dollars (\$2,000).



Respondent
George Gunther

11/7/90

Dated



Chairperson
State Ethics Commission

1-7-90

Dated



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

C O N F I D E N T I A L

DOCKET NUMBER 90-8) STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
IN THE MATTER OF A) 97 ELM STREET (REAR)
COMPLAINT AGAINST) HARTFORD, CT 06106
SEN. GEORGE GUNTHER) NOVEMBER 8, 1990

AMENDED COMPLAINT

COUNT ONE

1. At all times relevant to the complaint herein, George Gunther (hereinafter "the respondent") was a public official as that term is defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-79(k).

2. At all times relevant to the complaint herein, Linda Kowalski was a registrant as that term is defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-91(q).

3. Pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(j) no public official shall accept any gift or gifts known to amount to fifty dollars or more in value in any calendar year from a person known to be a registrant, as such term is defined in §1-91(q), or anyone known to be acting on behalf of a registrant.

4. On or about November 20, 1987 the respondent accepted from Ms. Linda Kowalski, a person known to him to be a registrant or to be acting on behalf of a registrant, a gift of beverages valued at a total of \$82.84.

5. On or about December 15, 1987 the respondent accepted from Linda Kowalski a gift of beer valued at a total of \$23.96.

6. The respondent's acceptance, from a person known to him to be a registrant or to be acting on behalf of a registrant, of a gift of beverages known to amount to fifty dollars or more in one calendar year violated Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(j).

7. The respondent's acceptance, from a person known to him to be a registrant or to be acting on behalf of a registrant, of a gift of beer which was given after the \$49.99 gift limitation had been exceeded for the calendar year 1987 violated Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-97(a).

000253

8. On January 20, 1988 the respondent accepted from Linda Kowalski a gift of a case of beer and two bottles of liquor valued at a total of \$62.28.

9. On February 10, 1988 the respondent accepted from Linda Kowalski a gift of a case of beer, three bottles of liquor and other beverages valued at a total of \$116.83.

10. On March 9, 1988 the respondent accepted from Linda Kowalski a gift of liquor, beer and/or other beverages valued at a total of approximately \$55.96.

11. On or about April 28, 1988 the respondent accepted from Linda Kowalski a gift of a case of beer and a bottle of liquor valued at a total of approximately \$43.27.

12. On or about June 16, 1988 the respondent accepted from Linda Kowalski a gift of four cases of soda, two bottles of liquor and one case of beer valued at a total of \$103.95.

13. On August 26, 1988 the respondent accepted from Linda Kowalski a gift of a case of beer and two bottles of liquor valued at a total of \$59.20.

14. On November 15, 1988 the respondent accepted from Linda Kowalski a gift of a case of beer, three bottles of liquor and other beverages valued at a total of \$117.18.

15. Each and every instance of the respondent's acceptance, from a person known to him to be a registrant or to be acting on behalf of a registrant, of gifts of beer, liquor and other beverages known to amount to fifty dollars or more in the calendar year 1988 violated Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(j).

16. Each and every instance of the respondent's acceptance, from a person known to him to be a registrant or to be acting on behalf of a registrant, of gifts which were given after the \$49.99 gift limitation had been exceeded for the calendar year 1988 violated Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(j).

17. On or about March 2, 1989 the respondent accepted from Linda Kowalski a gift of smoking materials valued at a total of \$38.70.

18. On March 16, 1989 the respondent accepted from Linda Kowalski a gift of a case of beer, two bottles of liquor and other beverages valued at a total of approximately \$71.00.

19. On April 12, 1989 the respondent accepted from Linda Kowalski a gift of two cases of beer, two cases of soda and a bottle of wine valued at a total of approximately \$78.53.

20. On October 11, 1989 the respondent accepted from Linda Kowalski a gift of two cases of beer, one case of soda, three bottles of liquor and a bottle of wine valued at a total of \$119.29.

21. On or about November 19, 1989 the respondent accepted from Linda Kowalski a gift of smoking materials valued at a total of \$49.95.

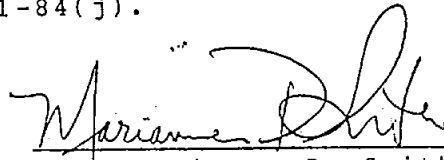
22. On November 21, 1989 the respondent accepted from Linda Kowalski a gift of a bottle of liquor and five bottles of wine valued at a total of \$75.08.

23. Each and every instance of the respondent's acceptance, from a person known to him to be a registrant or to be acting on behalf of a registrant, of gifts of beer, liquor and other beverages known to amount to fifty dollars or more in the calendar year 1989 violated Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(j).

24. Each and every instance of the respondent's acceptance, from a person known to him to be a registrant or to be acting on behalf of a registrant, of gifts of beverages or smoking materials which were given after the \$49.99 gift limitation had been exceeded for the calendar year 1989 violated Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(j).

25. On January 26, 1990 the respondent accepted from Linda Kowalski a gift of four cases of soda, three cases of beer and three bottles of liquor valued at a total of \$156.00.

27. The respondent's January 26, 1990 acceptance, from a person known to him to be a registrant or to be acting on behalf of a registrant, of a gift of beer, liquor and other beverages known to amount to fifty dollars or more in one calendar year violated Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-84(j).


Marianne D. Smith
Staff Attorney

Dated

11/8/90