

The Honorable Dennis Schindel
Acting Inspector General
United States Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Mr. Inspector General:

Thank you for agreeing to undertake a review of the use of Treasury Department employees for political purposes.

Attached is an additional document on this matter which has come to our attention. On the Republican National Committee's campaign website (www.rnc.org <<http://www.rnc.org>>) is a document dated April 19, 2004 which is a shortened version of Treasury's April 15th Tax Day press release (JS-13-15). Two issues are raised by this document for your consideration.

First, the RNC document contains the controversial language from Treasury's April 15th press releases: America has a choice: It can continue to grow the economy and create new jobs as the President's policies are doing; or it can raise taxes on American families and small businesses, hurting economic recovery and future job creation. This wording is classic campaign-developed phraseology. The fact that this same statement is being used by a government department and now by a political campaign committee raises the basic, underlying question of: Who developed the language and, if poll-tested, who paid for the survey? If Treasury employees came up with this political language on their own, then the question of civil servants developing political campaign materials remains. If the RNC came up with this language, then the question becomes why is Treasury using language developed and written by Republican political operatives.

Second, the tax date and analytical language of the RNC document mirrors that used in Treasury's press release. However, several key numbers on the RNC document are different from those released ten days ago by Treasury. It appears that the RNC has been privy to updated Treasury tax data at some time between April 9th (when Treasury issued its April 15th Tax Day analyses) and April 19th (when the RNC posted similar data on its webpage).

For example, the RNC document states that "42 million families with children will receive a average tax cut of \$2,067" (while the Treasury press release uses the figures 43 million and \$2,090) and that "13 million elderly individuals will see their taxes fall, on average by \$1,795" (while the Treasury press release uses the figures 14 million and \$1,883). There has to be some explanation for why the overall language of the two documents match, almost verbatim, but some of the numbers used by the RNC and still attributed Treasury have been changed.

Thank you for your attention to these issues. Leader Pelosi and I look forward to receiving the results of your investigation.

Sincerely,

Charles B. Rangel
Ranking Democrat