Dear Candidate,

As you know, the Speaker of the House of Representatives is one of the major legislative offices in the government of the State of Texas, comparable to the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor. While all candidates for election to state, as well as local, offices file reports on campaign contributions, loans, and expenses, candidates for the Speaker of the House of Representatives do not file such reports regarding Speakership campaigns.

It is a basic requirement of representative government that campaigns for public office be conducted openly, in order that the accountability of the Speaker to the House membership, and of the Speaker and House members to their constituents throughout the State may be at a maximum. In light of this, and the current controversy regarding the Speaker of the House of Representatives and certain members of the Legislature, I call upon you and all candidates for the Speakership, as men of good faith, to voluntarily file financial reports of all campaign contributions and funds with the Chief Clerk. This report would include gifts, contributions, loans, expenses and the sources and purposes thereof verified by the oath or affirmation of the person filing the report.

The following details regarding the Speakership campaign are among those to be included in the report, along with a report on the sources of funds, whether funded or not from the Legislative Contingency Expense:

"(1) Traveling expenses of the Speaker candidate and his staff;"
"(2) The hiring of a staff, including attorneys;

"(3) Telegraph and telephone tolls, postage, freight and express charges;

"(4) Printing and stationery;

"(5) Rentals for offices, headquarters, or any meeting place;

"(6) Newspaper and other advertising and publicity;

"(7) Receptions, dinners, and other events, whether money-making or for the purpose of contacting House members, House candidates, and any other persons interested in the Speakership campaign.

The first report should be filed no later than November 1, 1971, and should be a cumulative record covering the period since the end of the 62nd Legislative Session. Following reports should be filed quarterly, with the final one being filed on December 31, 1972. These reports should be kept in the office of the Chief Clerk and should be available for public inspection.

I call upon you as an individual of good faith to make this voluntary disclosure, in order that public confidence be restored to State government.

Sincerely,

Farenthold
T. Bass
Z. Holmes
T. Moore
W. Mengden
R. C. Nichols
Bigham
Denton
Reed
Grant