

March 18, 2002

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Joe Rogers)
and)
Friends of Joe Rogers Exploratory Committee)

MUR # 5251

COMPLAINT

Colorado elector Steven J. Durham ("Durham") brings this complaint pursuant to 2 USC § 437g. Steven J. Durham may be reached at 2550 Hill Circle, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 80904.

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OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
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I. SUMMARY

Durham alleges that Joe Rogers ("Rogers") and his principal campaign committee, Friends of Joe Rogers Exploratory Committee ("Rogers Committee"), are in violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 ("Act"). Rogers is a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives. Rogers, who is Lieutenant Governor of Colorado, and the Rogers Committee appear to have accepted prohibited contributions and Rogers appears to have failed to register with the Commission as a candidate in a timely fashion.

II. DISCUSSION

On January 31, 2002, the Rogers Committee reported raising \$186,000 for a possible campaign in the 7th Congressional District of Colorado. Rogers stated that the funds were raised in 2001. On numerous occasions Rogers has declared that he was a candidate for Congress in 2002 and even stated in a November 19, 2001 fund-raising letter: "I want to be your Congressman and need your help to win the seat." However, Rogers did not file a Statement of Organization until January 22, 2002.

The Year-end FEC report of the Rogers Committee included \$104,295 in un-itemized contributions for 2001 - about 56 percent of his total campaign contributions. Rogers' Treasurer, Theodore Sell, stated that the Rogers Committee had attempted to file all of the names of its donors, including the small ones, but said the Commission's computer system had kicked out all small contributions. However, Commission spokesman Kelly Huff said that candidates can opt to show all their donors, including smaller ones but that Rogers didn't submit a list of donors, just the lump sum of \$104,295 in unspecified donations. When The Denver Post requested that Rogers allow them to view the names privately, he refused.

In the spring of 2000, Rogers collected \$65,000 in contributions from various businesses to pay for part of his April 2000 Lieutenant Governor's Conference on Youth Education.

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According to recent press articles, Rogers has also been unable to account for how that money was spent, including what happened to the \$26,000 in leftover funds. These same press accounts indicate that nearly \$12,000 of the money went directly to Rogers himself to pay for travel, photo equipment and meals.

On January 24, 2002, Rogers acknowledged that he violated the law when he allowed taxpayers to pay for a videotape of his potential opponent for U.S. Congress and for a phone for political calls. The Associated Press reported on January 23, 2002, that Rogers' office spent \$55,000 on "unconventional items," including – among other things – campaign items. Subsequently, the State Auditors office has opened an audit of the Lieutenant Governor's office.

These probable violations are part of a disturbing pattern of skirting the Act. In Rogers' 1996 campaign for the 1st Congressional District of Colorado, the Commission found that Rogers accepted \$21,085 in excessive contributions and failed to maintain any records for \$37,547 of in-kind contributions.

III. CONCLUSION

Publicly available press reports and other evidence provide reason to believe that Rogers and the Rogers Committee have violated the Act and Commission regulations. The current evidence is unfortunately consistent with Rogers' past history of campaign finance violations.

Specifically:

1. The Rogers Committee failed to file a Statement of Organization until January of 2002, despite the fact that Rogers had declared himself a candidate and had raised \$186,000 in 2001.
2. Rogers acknowledged that he inappropriately spent state taxpayer dollars to pay for campaign related expenses.
3. Rogers failure/refusal to disclosed the names of his unusually large amount of un-itemized contributions, combined with his failure/refusal to account for the corporate contributions to his Youth Summit on Education, indicates a possibility that those corporate funds may have been transferred into his campaign account.

Therefore, Durham respectfully requests that the Commission investigate Rogers and the Rogers Committee to determine whether funds for a campaign subject to the Act have been illegally raised; whether said campaign failed to file a timely registration; and/or whether said campaign has failed to file timely, accurate and complete reports of its receipts and expenditures.

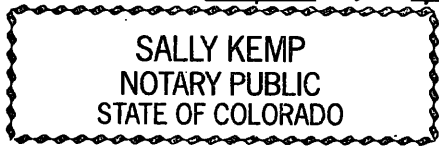
Respectfully submitted,

Steven J. Durham

Steven J. Durham
2550 Hill Circle
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

State of Colorado)
County of _____)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18th day of MARCH 2002



Notary Public

My Commission Expires 01/05/03

Sally Kemp

My Commission Expires: Jan. 5, 2003

24 04 407 2047

Presented by the Federal Election Commission

Committee ID: C00371963

FRIENDS OF JOE ROGERS EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE

PO BOX 17287
DENVER, CO 80217

Treasurer Name: THEODORE W SELL
 Committee Designation: P (PRINCIPAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE OF A CANDIDATE)
 Committee Type: H (HOUSE)
 Candidate State: CO (Colorado)

CANDIDATE:
 ROGERS, JOSEPH BERNARD ID: H2CO00027

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beltway notebook

Rogers' 'testing' gets pretty deep

By _____
Denver Post Washington Bureau Chief

Sunday, January 06, 2002 - WASHINGTON - So, Colorado Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers finally declared last week he wants to run for Congress. It's about time, some of his fellow Republicans said.

Sometimes Rogers said he was running. Other times he said he was just looking - "testing the waters."

In a Nov. 19 fundraising letter, Rogers said: "I want to be your congressman and need your help to win the seat."

Later, he added: "Your generous contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250 or whatever you can afford will go a long way toward guaranteeing our values are represented in Washington."

He's raising money to run for the new 7th Congressional District, which the GOP wants to be created in the Republican-rich Denver suburbs. A judge has given the legislature until Jan. 25 to draw lines for the district, or he'll do it himself.

Ted Sell, who works in Rogers' state office and for his exploratory committee, said Rogers is really just "testing the waters."

"As long as he is not advertising himself as a candidate, then it is not campaign activity," Sell said. "That's part of the exploratory process."

The distinction is important, because if he's a candidate, Rogers should have filed with the Federal Election Commission. But the FEC's guidebook for candidates says that those who are testing the waters need not file. It does not set a limit on how much they can raise while doing their toe-dipping.

State Treasurer Mike Coffman is also running for the uncreated seat, and he filed with the FEC months ago. He says Rogers is violating the campaign law. "He's gone way beyond the testing the waters stage," Coffman said.

It's a rather small point, an exercise in paperwork, but Rogers has played around the edges of campaign finance law in the past. In his unsuccessful 1996 congressional run against Diana DeGette in the Denver-based 1st District, the FEC found that he got \$21,085 in excessive contributions and failed to maintain any records for \$37,547 of in-kind contributions. But the FEC took no action.

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"He really should have been extra careful this time around," Coffman said.

But Sell said the campaign will file campaign finance disclosure reports at the end of this month. Coffman says he's raised more than \$140,000. Sell would say only that Rogers has probably raised more than \$5,000.

Delegation split on reform

Speaking of money and politics, as the backers of campaign finance reform gear up for a vote on the issue, the Colorado delegation is split along party lines. Democratic Reps. Diana DeGette and Mark Udall have signed a "discharge petition" to bring the measure to the House floor. None of the Republicans, Reps. Joel Hefley, Scott McInnis, Bob Schaffer or Tom Tancredo, have signed it.

Denver lawyer going east

Denver lawyer Robert D. Comer, one of the original lawyers at Snell & Wilmer, is going to work for Interior Secretary Gale Norton. He will be an associate solicitor for land and water. That makes him responsible for Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and other waste issues.

Pass conservative baton

Correction: In a recent column, I mistakenly suggested that no state's Republicans were more hostile to President Bush's education program than the Colorado delegation. Three of the four Colorado House members had voted against the measure twice, several despite being wooed by the president well before he took office.

Dale E. Deines of Minneapolis says I overlooked the Minnesota House delegation. All three GOP House members from Minnesota voted against the White House program, a 100 percent rejection for the president, Deines notes. Five Minnesota Democratic representatives, with the exception of Rep. James Oberstar, also rejected the plan.

Bottom line: Colorado must pass its conservative rating to Minnesota, that Midwestern bastion of the conservative movement.

Staff writer Mike Soraghan contributed to this column. His e-mail address is

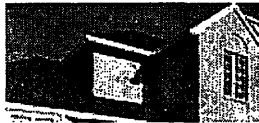
msoraghan@denverpost.com. Bill McAllister's e-mail address is bmcallister@denverpost.com.

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NEWS

Regional briefs: State will audit Rogers' expenses

By News staff and wire reports

The state auditor's office said Thursday it will audit expenditures made by Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers to determine whether he might have violated state or federal law.

The announcement came a day after media reported Rogers had spent \$55,000 of state money on "a range of unconventional items"

"It's an audit, not an investigation," said chief deputy auditor Larry Gupton.

Rogers admitted his office erred in expenditures of about \$200 and would repay those. All others were legitimate, he said.

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Springs man faces fed charges

COLORADO SPRINGS -- A man with a history of mental illness faces federal charges of mailing nine threatening letters to Colorado Springs police in October.

The final two contained a white powder which wasn't anthrax, according to court documents.

Thanh Ha Nguyen, 33, allegedly used friends' and relatives' names on the letters.

Special reports

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UNC sets deadline for search

GREELEY -- University of Northern Colorado trustees have set March 31 as the deadline to find finalists to replace president Hank Brown.

Multimedia

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Brown, 61, announced this week he would step down to head the Daniels Fund.

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If no satisfactory finalists are found by March 31, a search firm will be hired.

Federal court hears fee protest

Denver Square

See Colorado life through the pen of News editorial cartoonist Ed Stein. Stein also draws "Stein's View" for the opinion page.



GRAND JUNCTION -- Twenty-six people are in federal court to fight \$25 fines for their refusal to pay a "recreation user fee" in Yankee Boy Basin near Ouray on July 7.

The defendants contend the fee is prohibited by the Land and Water Conservation Act and that they were protesting the fee when they were ticketed, making the citation a violation of their First Amendment rights.

Dean probes changed grades

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GREELEY -- A University of Northern Colorado dean is investigating accusations that students' grades were wrongly changed.

College of Arts and Science Dean Sandra Flake launched the probe after a speech communication instructor complained grades had been changed without his knowledge, UNC spokesman Ken McConnellogue said Thursday.

Speech communication department chair Idahlynn Karre retired the day the investigation was launched Jan. 17.

McConnellogue said Karre would have to answer any questions about whether her departure was related to the investigation. Karre could not be reached for comment.

January 25, 2002



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editorial

The Rogers matter

Monday, January 28, 2002 - The four-year term of Joe Rogers as Colorado lieutenant governor is ending as it began, under a cloud of controversy.

Rogers, according to documents obtained by the Associated Press, has some serious explaining to do for expenditures totaling \$55,000, some of which appear to be in violation of the law.

News accounts of these expenses have tended to emphasize issues that, in comparison with others, seem petty, like expenses for candy and cellphones.

We don't mean to suggest that these are worth closer inspection by the state auditor's office, but what strikes us are two much bigger items, the almost \$5,000 spent on a video clipping service designed to track the activities of the lieutenant governor's office and the \$34,000 spent on consultants.

The question that comes to mind is, "What activities in that office are worth tracking?" The office has practically no official purpose and nearly every prior occupant has used it as a way station to bigger things. In that sense, Rogers fit the pattern. Almost from day one his actions seemed to be those of a man seeking higher office, greater visibility and a larger profile. Most of his function was ceremonial as evidenced by the fruits of the video clipping service. This service captured a clip of Rogers taking part in a National Prayer Day while another bore the headline, "Rogers stays in Colorado." Now, thanks to the state expenditure of \$5,000, those unforgettable stories have been preserved.

We don't think it far off the mark to suggest there is no valid basis for hiring a consultant in the lieutenant governor's office and certainly not one, as here, who didn't bother to submit invoices or time cards. Silly us, we thought it was an established principle that the state wouldn't simply write a check to someone on the mere sayso of an office holder.

We suspect Roger's problems will grow once the state auditor finishes looking at his history in office. Even without the audit, however, it's possible to conclude that Rogers failed to exercise good judgment. He has recently said he should have paid closer attention to his office's expenditures. That, we think, is especially true given that he has so little else to do.

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Rogers defends spending, denies misdeeds

By _____
Denver Post Staff Writer

Thursday, January 24, 2002 - Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers acknowledged Wednesday that he inadvertently violated the law when he allowed taxpayers to pay for a videotape of his potential opponent for U.S. Congress and for a phone line for political calls.

QUESTIONED EXPENSES

Among Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers' expenses questioned by The Associated Press:

* Money for two new telephone lines installed in his office in 1999, four months after he took office. Rogers says they cost \$110. The telephones were originally billed to "Coloradans for Joe Rogers," but the state paid for them.

* A video of a news story, which cost about \$90, focusing on a fine that state Treasurer Mike Coffman paid for violating state election laws. Coffman, a possible future political opponent of Rogers, could not be reached for comment.

* \$701 in books, including "The Guinness Book of World Records" and "Muhammad Ali." Rogers said the books were given to dignitaries from China and Taiwan because he was told they admired American sports figures.

He said he will reimburse the state for about \$200 plus interest for the campaign items and put a system in place to ensure similar problems do not happen.

"I wish I would have had a chance to see the invoices personally," Rogers said at an evening news conference.

The Associated Press reported Wednesday that Rogers' office spent \$55,000 on "unconventional items," including the campaign items, a cellphone for Rogers' wife and about \$600 in candy over an 18-month period.

Except for the campaign items, Rogers said all the other spending was within his discretion and appropriate.

"How do you make a big deal out of candy for children?" asked Rogers, adding that the candy was for visitors and school groups. "In my judgment, it was what is best for this office to meet the needs of taxpayers."

Rogers, with his wife in the room, defended the cellphone, saying Gov. Bill Owens' wife has her own staff while he paid only for a cellphone and airtime so his wife would be informed about official functions.

The Associated Press story quotes state Auditor Joanne Hill as saying some of the spending might have violated the law and that she will audit his office soon.

Hill could not be reached for comment late Wednesday.

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* \$650 for candy.

Rogers said he is glad to work with Hill to go over his books and that he now will personally review every expenditure that comes through his office.

* \$50 for a cellular telephone for his wife.

* \$33.92 for a package sent to his uncle, Johnny Rogers, in Omaha from Rogers' office. Rogers said he did not know why the state was billed for it or what was in the package.

Rogers also defended the other items he bought. He said he bought books as gifts for trade trips. Rogers also paid \$4,956 for a video-clipping service he said was necessary for the office to review how its message is getting around.

He said about \$34,000 in consulting was legitimate because it paid for schedulers. He said it was cheaper to pay people as consultants than to hire them full time, but the AP story said there were no

timecards with the invoices.

Rogers said he thinks the story was prompted by political opponents, but he didn't name anyone.

The AP story did not tally every expense it questioned.

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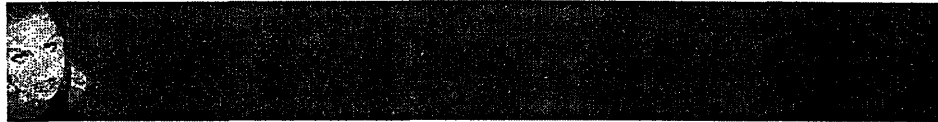
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Rogers won't reveal small donors

Expert: Unitemized figure unusually high

By _____
Denver Post Washington Bureau

Monday, March 04, 2002 - WASHINGTON - Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers is refusing to explain where he got most of the money he's using to run for Congress.

Rogers reported \$104,295 in "unitemized" contributions for 2001 - about 56 percent of his total campaign contributions reported to the Federal Election Commission on Jan. 31. A former FEC official called that an "unusually high percentage."

The unitemized category is for small contributions of less than \$200. While candidates must disclose the source of larger contributors, candidates aren't required to give out the names of small donors. Many do anyway, to demonstrate full disclosure or prove grassroots support.

Ted Sell, Rogers' treasurer and campaign spokesman, said Rogers raised the money in an aggressive campaign to seek out small donors.

"We took a page out of the book of President Bush's early campaign," Sell said. "We asked for small donations."

The Bush campaign opted to disclose the names and hometowns of all its donors. Rogers won't.

"He just doesn't want to release it," Sell said. "We don't have anything to hide, but we don't want to divert our attention away from our efforts."

Larry Noble, former general counsel for the FEC, said Rogers should have an explanation as to how he raised the money.

"It could reflect that his donor base is small contributors," said Noble, who is now executive director of the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics, a money and politics watchdog group in Washington. "The concern is whether this is hiding larger contributions that should have been reported."

Rogers, who didn't respond to requests for an interview, is one of six likely candidates in the newly created 7th Congressional District in Denver's northern suburbs, but the only one to have filed a campaign finance report. State Treasurer Mike Coffman raised \$157,879 as he considered a race in the 7th, but has since dropped out of contention.

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On his report, 16 percent of his contributions were unitemized.

Rogers' handling of campaign money has been questioned in previous campaigns. His 1996 bid in the 1st Congressional District triggered an audit by the FEC, which found that Rogers received \$21,085 in excessive contributions and failed to maintain any records for \$37,547 of in-kind contributions, but took no action.

In his 1998 campaign on the ticket with Gov. Bill Owens, Rogers' Democratic opponent, Bernie Buescher, criticized him for turning in reports late.

More recently, Coffman criticized him for not registering his campaign when he was actively fundraising.

On Sunday, The Denver Post reported that thousands of dollars donated to Rogers for youth education was actually spent on travel, photo equipment and meals.

According to research done for the Denver Post by the Center for Responsive Politics, only 17 out of 720 serious candidates for the House in 2000 raised more than 56 percent in small contributions.

Sell initially said that the campaign had tried to file all the names of its donors, including the small ones, but said the FEC's computer system had kicked out all small contributions.

"We tried to file it with them," Sell said on the day the report was filed, Jan. 31. "You cannot itemize contributions of \$200 or less."

When they file electronically, candidates can opt to show all their donors, including smaller ones. And FEC spokesman Kelly Huff said that Rogers didn't submit a list of his donors, just the lump sum of \$104,295 in unspecified donations.

When The Denver Post asked to see the list of small contributors last month, Rogers, through Sell, said he didn't want to disclose the list, even though he'd said he wanted to make them public with the FEC.

He cited "research efforts, the size of the file, and some people purposely donate less than \$200 so their name won't be disclosed. It's all on the up and up, I guarantee you," Sell said.

Rogers also refused a request to allow The Denver Post to view them privately. Asked for the number of contributors, Sell said that the number 2,812 "comes to mind." Deducting the 162 named donors, that's 2,650 small donors.

The contributions came mostly from about 4,000 fundraising letters sent out by the campaign. The rest were the result of mailings done by six other politicians on Rogers' behalf. Sell declined to name them.

Those mailings should have been accounted for as "in-kind"

contributions, Noble said, if there was contact between the campaign and the politicians. Sell said there was contact, but they didn't need to be reported because they weren't done on Rogers' campaign materials.

Reporter Art Kane contributed to this story. Mike Soraghan can be reached at 202-662-8730.

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24.04.07.2008



NEWS

Rogers keeping small donors' names private

More than half the money Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers is using to run for Congress comes from donors he is refusing to name.

Rogers reported \$104,295 in "unitemized" contributions for 2001 — about 56 percent of his total campaign contributions reported to the Federal Election Commission on Jan. 31.

The unitemized category is for contributions of less than \$200. Candidates aren't required to give out the names of small donors.

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, only 17 out of 720 serious candidates for the House in 2000 raised more than 56 percent in small contributions.

Larry Noble, executive director of the nonpartisan center, said, "The concern is whether this is hiding larger contributions that should have been reported."

Rogers did not respond to requests for an interview.

Rogers' treasurer and campaign spokesman Ted Sell said, "We don't have anything to hide, but we don't want to divert our attention away from our efforts."

Sell said Rogers did not want to disclose his list of donors, citing research efforts and the size of the file. He also said some donors purposely gave less than \$200 so their names wouldn't be disclosed.

Rogers is the only one of six likely candidates in the newly created 7th Congressional District to have filed a campaign finance report. State Treasurer Mike Coffman raised \$157,879 as he considered running but has since dropped out of contention. On his report, 16 percent of his contributions were unitemized.

In 1996, Rogers' bid for Congress triggered an audit in which the FEC found that Rogers received \$21,085 in excessive contributions and failed to maintain records for \$37,547 of in-kind contributions. No action was taken.

In his 1998 campaign on the ticket with Gov. Bill Owens, Rogers' Democratic opponent criticized him for turning in reports late.

More recently, Coffman criticized him for not registering his campaign when he was actively raising funds.

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Asked for the number of contributors this time around, Sell said that the number 2,812 "comes to mind." Of those, 162 were named.

Some of the contributions resulted from mailings by six other politicians on Rogers' behalf. Sell said those mailings did not have to be reported as "in-kind" contributions because they weren't done on Rogers' campaign materials.

Rogers' handling of finances has come under scrutiny before.

On Sunday, The Denver Post reported that thousands of dollars donated to Rogers for youth education was actually spent on travel, photo equipment and meals.

In January, The Associated Press reported that Rogers spent more than \$55,000 in state money on unconventional items, including nearly \$5,000 for a service to provide television news clips of his appearances.

Information from: The Denver Post

March 4, 2002

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24.04.437.2000



Rogers used cash from youth event

Food, travel, other expenses near \$12,000

By _____
Denver Post Capitol Bureau

Sunday, March 03, 2002 - Thousands of dollars donated to Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers for youth education was actually spent on travel, photo equipment and meals, documents show.

Rogers collected \$65,000 in cash from various businesses to pay for part of his April 2000 Lieutenant Governor's Conference on Youth Education, dubbed "Uncensored."

Nearly \$12,000 of that money went directly to Rogers.

Rogers, who is running for election in the new 7th Congressional District, also has not accounted for more than \$26,000 left over from the event, according to the documents.

Documents examined by The Denver Post include copies of checks written to Rogers on the account of the nonprofit he set up to run the conference, and receipts he provided to justify the checks.

The receipts showed part of the nearly \$12,000 was spent for dinners months after the event, photo equipment and trips to Chicago and Nevada.

Rogers' actions are not illegal. But businesses that contributed the money said they intended it to better youth education.

"We would expect the money we donated to be used for the conference," said Cristie Drumm, spokeswoman for Norwest, Wells-Fargo, which gave \$10,000 to a nonprofit Rogers set up to run the conference.

Rogers spokesman Ted Sell said the \$12,000 in reimbursements to Rogers were all for legitimate expenses relating to the conference.

Sell said he didn't know what happened to the \$26,000 in leftover money, but he reiterated that the conference was a great success.

Reimbursement cited

Rogers, who declined to be interviewed for this report, issued a statement praising the conference's achievements and his ability to be reimbursed for it: "I am pleased that I was able to be reimbursed for

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the money I spent out of my own pocket to make this conference so successful."

In 1999 and 2000, businesses contributed as much as \$250,000 in cash and goods to Rogers' Uncensored conference, which brought together about 1,000 Colorado youths to discuss ways to improve education.

Money trail

Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers collected \$250,000 in cash and in-kind support for the Governor's Conference on Youth Education, dubbed "Uncensored."

That included:

\$65,000 that went into a nonprofit formed by Rogers.

\$100,000 from two groups that went directly to the University of Denver to run the conference.

Of the \$65,000 that went to Rogers' nonprofit:

\$26,000 is unaccounted for.

\$11,742 was reimbursed to Rogers for expenses. Rogers provided The Post with receipts for \$5,900.

Two groups contributed \$100,000 total for the conference, but gave it directly to the University of Denver, which ran and hosted Uncensored.

Several other businesses gave \$65,000 in cash to the nonprofit Rogers set up for the conference. Of the money spent, Rogers took \$11,742.26, or roughly a fifth of the money raised, as reimbursement for expenses, documents show.

Rogers took all but \$1,700 of that amount months - in some cases longer than a year - after the conference ended. Rogers provided about \$5,900 worth of receipts to justify the checks, leaving another \$5,900 still unaccounted for. With the receipts, Rogers provided a letter from Jerry Browne, a former employee and the conference's executive director, who said he approved all the expenses but couldn't find some receipts.

The letter said that "each and every reimbursement provided to the lieutenant governor was in direct payment for expenses he incurred on behalf of the conference."

Browne did not return calls seeking comment.

The receipts included thousands of dollars for dinners, two of which cost about \$370 each, and \$563 at a photo shop for a camera.

A credit card bill showed a \$332 purchase for a ticket to Las Vegas, but Sell said the Internet site where Rogers bought the ticket from was based in Vegas.

Sell said the trip was to New York to talk to a TV network personality about the conference, but he could not provide the actual ticket.

The receipts provided to The Post were bunched together to show which receipts the reimbursement check paid for, but the amounts and dates didn't match.

For example, check 1031 for \$958.10 that was issued to Rogers in

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June 2000 had receipts dating from June 2000 to June 2001. They totaled \$1887.61.

Check 1049, written to Rogers eight months after the conference for \$1228.44, had receipts totaling \$1396.69.

Sell said Rogers is spending donated money so he can fulfill one of the conference's main goals - sending an 18-page report of its conclusions to every student, parent, educator, administrator and politician in the state.

DU still awaiting report

Donna Warner Wilson, executive director for special programs at the University of Denver, administered the conference and would like to see that document. "Our students did all the facilitating and out of courtesy, I thought we would get one," Wilson said.

U S West and the El Pomar Foundation gave DU \$100,000 that paid for staffing, meeting-room space, food, security and parking for the roughly 1,000 students who attended. DU provided The Denver Post with receipts of expenses, which totaled about \$90,000 for the conference and more than \$9,000 to Rogers' nonprofit for T-shirts.

Wilson said the majority of the money went to DU to ensure it would be spent on the conference.

"I believe in my heart that El Pomar and U S West thought the smartest way was to get us to run it," Wilson said. "And that other piece (Rogers' nonprofit), I'm glad someone is looking at it."

Denver Post staff writer Mike Soraghan contributed to this story. Arthur Kane can be reached at akane@denverpost.com or 303-820-1663.

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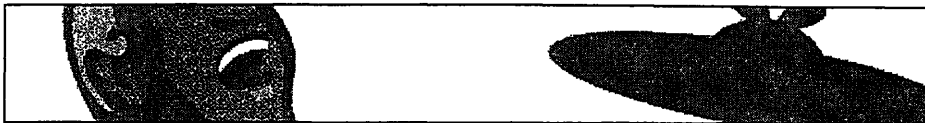
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DPO A to Z 

24.04.07.2003



Rogers eyes race with fistful of cash

By _____
Denver Post Washington Bureau

Monday, February 11, 2002 - WASHINGTON - He doesn't live in the district, at least not yet, but Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers already has a big advantage over other contenders for the new 7th Congressional District - lots of cash.

Rogers raised about \$186,000 for the campaign last year, according to documents he filed with the Federal Election Commission.

That gives the Republican a big fundraising lead over some Democrats who just found themselves in the new district.

Republicans had been hoping the new district would be drawn in Denver's south suburbs, rich with GOP voters. But District Judge John Coughlin picked a 7th District in the north suburbs, evenly split among Democrats, Republicans and independents.

But Rogers would have had to move anyway; he lives in the 1st Congressional District in Denver, and says his house is too small for his wife and three children.

Treasurer Mike Coffman, a Republican, once seemed a solid candidate and even reported raising nearly \$158,000. But Thursday, he announced he won't seek the seat because he doesn't want to move.

Candidates don't need to live in the district to run, but it can be politically damaging not to.

In other congressional races:

1st Congressional District: U.S. Rep. Diana DeGette, D-Denver, retained her large fundraising lead over Democratic primary opponent Ramona Martinez. DeGette raised about \$110,000 in the last six months of 2001 and has about \$360,000 in the bank, while Martinez raised about \$29,000 and has about \$77,000 on hand.

2nd: U.S. Rep. Mark Udall, D-Boulder, who just got a large batch of new voters in redistricting, raised about \$196,000, giving him \$278,443 to introduce himself.

3rd: U.S. Rep. Scott McInnis, R-Grand Junction, who is known to be looking for higher office, continues to have the biggest bank account of any Colorado House members. He has \$1.4 million in the bank after

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raising about \$185,000 in the past six months.

4th: The seat will be left open by the retirement of U.S. Rep. Bob Schaffer. The only candidate to file a report was Greeley lawyer Jeff Bedingfield, a Republican, who raised about \$27,000. Schaffer, R-Fort Collins, filed a report showing he'd raised \$6,000 in the past six months, leaving him with \$45,000 in the bank.

5th: U.S. Rep. Joel Hefley, R-Colorado Springs, raised about \$22,000 in the past six months, leaving him with \$93,000.

6th: U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Littleton, raised \$161,000, leaving him with \$333,000 cash on hand as he seeks a third term. Tancredo got an even more safely Republican district out of redistricting.

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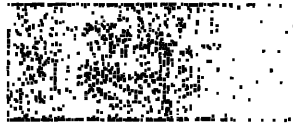
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NEWS

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Rogers raises \$186,000 for congressional campaign

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Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers, who is considering running for the Republican nomination for the state's new 7th Congressional District, said today he has raised \$186,000 for a possible campaign.

Rogers said he has not made a final decision on running.

"The money I've raised is extremely encouraging. It represents very broad support and that's what I would need to be successful in a race for Congress," Rogers said.

Rogers told the Federal Election Commission he raised the money in 2001.

The lieutenant governor said he does not live in the district and could consider moving. He and his wife, Juanita, have three young children.

"Juanita and I have been talking about needing a bigger house for the kids for a long time," Rogers said.

Rogers announced in January that he would not be running again with Gov. Bill Owens after Owens indicated he wanted another running mate.

A feud between Rogers and Owens prompted the Legislature to pass a law that allowed the governor to pick his own running mate. Until then, governors and lieutenant governors ran on separate tickets in the primary, then joined together for the November election.

January 31, 2002

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NEWS

Rogers' style: Financial sloppiness in high state office

THE ISSUE: State official's spending habits

OUR VIEW: There's a pattern of sloppiness

You've got to wonder what the problem is with Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers. Why does he have such a cavalier attitude toward money that isn't his?

It's little things, admittedly, that tend to trip up Rogers. Little things that he straightens out when someone brings them to his attention.

Did I spend state money on *that*, he will react in consternation? Or, did I forget the documentation for *that* expenditure? Whoa! Didn't mean to. I'll set things right.

And so he does, more or less.

Most of his individual miscues don't amount to much (well, there was that rather extravagant \$6,000 invoice that Rogers submitted to the state back in 1999 for balloons and flowers for the funeral of secretary of State Vikki Buckley; the governor's office had to absorb that bill.) Indeed, Rogers' loosey-goosey approach to finance is most starkly revealed in such minor expenses as those that came to light last week, thanks to the Associated Press.

It seems Rogers has spent a small bundle of state dollars on such curious items as campaign telephones in his Capitol office, a cellular

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READER'S COMMENTS

"Owen's better dump the loser before re-election or..."

"Sounds like a republican."

"Yeah he needs a bean counter....a jelly bean.."

"Maybe he needs his own accountant. The state..."

"What a creep."

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Stein's view

See current events through the pen of News editorial cartoonist Ed Stein.

telephone for his wife and a news videotape of a potential rival within the Republican Party.

On the not-so-minor side, he's also paid \$4,956 to a video-monitoring service for television news clips -- although how that relates to his actual duties as lieutenant governor is rather difficult to see. And the AP reports that he also spent \$34,000 on consultants, which may of course be legitimate, although it would be nice if the invoices mentioned the services performed and the numbers of hours worked. They don't.

Are we mortified that Rogers spent \$650 on candy for his office, which he insists was given away to children who dropped by the Capitol? Of course not -- any more than we were distraught when we heard back in '99 that he'd billed the state for \$600 worth of cufflinks that would be distributed as gifts. Nor were we horrified when we learned that he committed six violations of federal campaign finance laws in 1996 when he ran for Congress, according to the Federal Election Commission, including using \$15,709 in campaign cash to pay off his own credit card.

After all, the FEC described Rogers' violations as fairly routine -- and perhaps they were. In retrospect, however, the campaign violations fit a now-familiar pattern of financial sloppiness, in this case because he reportedly didn't have the documentation to show whether the credit-card expenditures were personal or for campaign expenses.

In fact, the FCC pointed out, such sloppiness extended to a total \$345,000 in money collected or spent by the Rogers campaign.

Individually, as we say, most of these infractions don't amount to much -- any more than does the fact that Rogers at one point forgot to make payments on a student loan, blaming the state for sending notices to the wrong address. Yet isn't it funny how most people seem to remember their debts without any official prompting?

Last week, Rogers was quoted as saying the state needs to set up a system of checks and balances to catch more errant spending. Perhaps it does, but we believe the best kind of defense is the oldest one around: a public official with ethics as inflexible as Gibraltar -- someone who knows, for example, that if his wife needs a cell phone, she darn well should go buy the thing herself.

January 27, 2002





NEWS

Lieutenant governor's spending under fire again

Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers spent nearly \$12,000 donated to a youth conference on dinners, photo equipment and trips, The Denver Post reported Sunday.

Rogers, a Republican candidate for the new 7th Congressional District, also hasn't accounted for more than \$26,000 left over from the event, according to documents the newspaper reviewed.

Rogers declined to comment Sunday, saying he had not seen the Post report.

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This is the second time in less than two months that Rogers' spending has come under scrutiny. In January, state auditors began looking into his finances when records showed he spent more than \$55,000 on unconventional items, including \$96 for a news videotape about a rival politician and nearly \$5,000 for a service to provide television news clips of his own appearances.

The earlier records were obtained by The Associated Press under Colorado's Freedom of Information Act.

Rogers' spokesman Ted Sell said the \$12,000 was reimbursement for legitimate expenses from the 2000 Lieutenant Gov.'s Conference on Youth Education.

Sell said he didn't know what happened to the \$26,000 in leftover money.

Rogers declined to be interviewed, but said in a written statement that: "I am pleased that I was able to be reimbursed for the money I spent out of my own pocket to make this conference so successful."

Sell said Rogers is spending the donated money so he can fulfill one of the conference's main goals: sending an 18-page report of its conclusions to every student, parent, educator and administrator in the state.

Receipts showed that part of the \$11,742 was spent for dinners months after the conference, photo equipment and trips to Chicago and Nevada, according to documents obtained by The Post. Rogers collected nearly \$65,000 in cash from various businesses to pay for part of the youth conference, called "Uncensored."

The Post said Rogers provided about \$5,900 worth of receipts to

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justify checks he wrote on the account of the nonprofit organization he formed to run the conference.

Another \$100,000 from two groups went directly to the University of Denver to run the conference.

Businesses that contributed to the event said they intended the money to be used to improve youth education.

"We would expect the money we donated to be used for the conference," said Christie Drumm, spokeswoman for Norwest, Wells-Fargo, which gave \$10,000 to the nonprofit organization.

In 1999 and 2000, businesses contributed as much as \$250,000 in money and goods to the conference, which brought together about 1,000 Colorado youths to discuss improvements to education.

Information from: The Denver Post

March 3, 2002

Denver Square

See Colorado life through the pen of *News* editorial cartoonist Ed Stein. Stein also draws "Stein's View" for the opinion page.



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editorial

Rough neighborhood

Tuesday, March 05, 2002 - It's been anything but a beautiful few days in Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers' neighborhood, what with slipshod accounting for thousands of dollars raised for a youth education conference and minimal disclosure on campaign contributions received.

Last week, Rogers told members of The Post's editorial board that he did nothing wrong in handling the \$65,000 he raised from various businesses to pay for part of the April 2000 Lieutenant Governor's Conference on Youth Education, but was afraid that the raw data might be misinterpreted.

Rogers has been figuratively beaten over the head so often and grumbled so much since the Republicans swept into the governor's office in 1998 that he's beginning to sound like comedian Rodney Dangerfield who constantly kvetches "I get no respect."

Except in Rogers' case, it isn't funny, and he brings a large part of it on himself.

For example, Rogers told The Post editorial board last week that nearly \$12,000 in money raised for the youth conference was paid to him to reimburse expenses he paid out of his own pocket while raising money for the event. But receipts produced for Post reporter Arthur Kane accounted for only about half the amount; some receipts were dated after the conference.

k Rogers' press spokesman, Ted Sell, says the later amounts were spent after the youth conference in an effort to raise money for such things as printing additional copies of a report on the gathering.

Additionally, Sell said there's no unaccounted-for \$26,000 in leftover funds. At least another \$7,100 was reimbursed to Rogers in 2001 from the amount left in the conference account at year-end 2000. A good chunk - \$15,000 - also was used to settle a lawsuit by an ad agency hired to promote the conference.

Rogers, a likable man, could avoid such tempests by insisting on a receipt for every last paper clip, especially considering flaps over late campaign finance filings in 1998 and for his failed 1996 congressional campaign.

That's why Rogers' refusal to disclose who gave \$104,295 to his congressional campaign in the new 7th District is such a misstep, even if the law doesn't require listing donors under \$200. Other candidates routinely identify such contributors and avoid controversy.

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Joe Rogers could do himself a big favor by being more up-front and punctilious (and filing punctually) where money is concerned.

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NEWS

Lieutenant governor defends spending

Story questioning items prompts news conference

By John Sanko, News Capitol Bureau

- » Election
- » Legislature

Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers called a hurried news conference Wednesday to respond to revelations he spent \$55,000 in state tax dollars on items ranging from a boombox for his Capitol office to candy for staff and visitors.

There were a couple of spending mistakes during the past 18 months, said Rogers, who added that he's correcting them. One was for a phone installed in his office for political purposes and the other was for a videotape of State Treasurer Mike Coffman, his potential rival for Congress in November.

But the rest of the money was spent for legitimate reasons, Rogers said.

Rogers called the news conference after Associated Press Statehouse reporter Steven Paulson wrote a story questioning a wide range of expenditures for "unconventional items," including \$50 for a cellular phone for Rogers' wife, Juanita, and \$701 in books, which Rogers said he gave to dignitaries in China and Taiwan.

The Associated Press story also identified \$4,956 spent on a video-monitoring service for television news clips, including "National Prayer Day with Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers" and "Joe Rogers Speaks at GOP Convention." There also were thousands of dollars spent in consulting fees.

It's not the first time Rogers has been involved in a dispute over money. He and Gov. Bill Owens have been at odds since shortly after taking office in 1999. One dispute was over Rogers' expenditure of more than \$6,000 for balloons, flowers and other items for funeral expenses for Secretary of State Vikki Buckley.

Owens already has said he will pick a different running mate for lieutenant governor in November.

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Rogers said he will reimburse the state for the separate phone line for party-related functions, including the Republican Lieutenant Governors Association, and the videotape involving a news story about a \$355 fine against Coffman for violating state election laws -- a fine that is being appealed.

Rogers said he didn't personally submit those invoices, but he would take responsibility for them. The total cost of those two items, he said, included \$110 for installation of the phone and \$89 for the videotape.

"All of those will be reimbursed in full to the state, with interest, to make sure everything is taken care of and there is no expense whatsoever to the taxpayers," Rogers said.

But he bristled at suggestions that he shouldn't have spent tax dollars on a cellular phone for his wife or money for a candy supply for his office. He noted Colorado first lady Frances Owens gets her own press secretary, space in the governor's office and a staff to help her.

"Colorado's 'second first lady' -- all we provide her with is a cell phone, that's it," Rogers said.

"How do you make a big deal out of candy?" he asked when someone sought an explanation on his candy expenses.

"We have hundreds and hundreds of children who come through this office. I want to be gracious. For an 18-month period of time, it's about \$600 spent on candy.

"That works out to be about \$30 per month that we spend on candy for kids and for others that visit our office. I think that's a perfectly reasonable expenditure."


January 24, 2002



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NEWS

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Rogers promises to repay questionable spending

By **Steven K. Paulson, Associated Press**

- » Election
- » Legislature

Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers spent \$55,000 of state money on a range of unconventional items, including a cellular telephone for his wife, a boombox and campaign telephones for his Capitol office, according to state records.

He also spent \$96 for a news videotape of state Treasurer Mike Coffman, a rival within his own Republican party.

Other state-paid expenses included \$4,956 to a video monitoring service for television news clips, including "National Prayer Day with Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers," "Joe Rogers Speaks at GOP Convention" and "Rogers Stays in Colorado," according to the records.

Rogers on Wednesday accepted responsibility for some of the spending and said he would repay inappropriate charges. He said former aide Jerry Brown was in charge of spending state money from his office.

"At the end of the day, I'm ultimately responsible for everything that goes on here," Rogers said.

"I guarantee that from this point forward, I will review every single invoice submitted from this office to see that no mistakes are made."

The Associated Press obtained records of Rogers' office under the state Freedom of Information Act.

State Auditor Joanne Hill said some of Rogers' spending was questionable and will be closely examined in an audit soon.

She said state and federal laws may have been broken.

During much of a hour-long interview, Rogers seemed surprised by the records and questioned an aide in detail. Rogers said someone should have brought questionable spending to his attention.

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Rogers' bills included:

- Money for two new telephone lines installed in his office in 1999, four months after he took office. The telephones were originally billed to "Coloradans for Joe Rogers," but the state paid for them. Rogers said he was told all elected officials needed separate lines for political business. On Wednesday, Rogers picked up the telephone and dialed it to confirm it was connected to his campaign.
- \$701 in books, including "The Guinness Book of World Records" and "Muhammad Ali." Rogers' records do not show who may have received them. Rogers said the books were given to dignitaries from China and Taiwan because he was told they admired American sports figures.
- \$650 for candy. Rogers' staff said they paid for Mountain Man candy for visitors out of their own pockets until Rogers offered to reimburse them.
- \$50 for a cellular telephone for his wife. Rogers defended the purchase by saying Gov. Bill Owens has a staff member help First Lady Frances Owens with her social appointments and his wife, Juanita, attends two or three state functions a week.

"That's crazy to me....she's the second lady of the state," he said.

"It's a key tool by which she can coordinate everything, including, you know, we have a family -- the kids, we have to make arrangements on everything," he said.

--\$33.92 for a package sent to his uncle, Johnny Rogers, in Omaha from Rogers' office. Rogers said he did not know why the state was billed for it nor what was in the package.

In addition, Rogers hired nine consultants from May 2000 to December 2001, paying them fees ranging from \$245 to \$5,000 a month. But the consultants were paid from invoices that did not indicate the services performed nor the number of hours worked.

Rogers said he saved state money by not putting the consultants on the state payroll. He said they were considered salaried workers and that's why no records were kept of hours worked.

Among those expenses was a \$600 consulting fee to Brown after he resigned last December to take a job with a recreation center.

Brown said he billed the state because he helped around Rogers' office after his state salary ended. Rogers said the charge was for services rendered, including staff training.

Coffman, who may run against Rogers for the GOP nomination for a congressional seat, said he was shocked that Rogers used state money to pay \$89.25 for a news video and \$7.14 in broadcast royalties.

24.04.407.2076

The video, entitled "State Treasurer Mike Coffman Fined" and originally aired by KUSA-TV, concerned a \$335 fine levied on Coffman for violating state election laws.

Coffman said the spending was inexcusable.

"I just cannot see any rationale for it. I don't understand why the taxpayers should be paying for it," Coffman said.

"That was clearly in error," Rogers said.

The company, VMS, sent a letter Wednesday apologizing for billing the state instead of Rogers' personal account. It repaid the state.

Under state law, Rogers submits bills to the chief financial officer in the governor's office, who reviews and pays them.

The governor and the lieutenant governor, both Republicans, have been feuding since 1999 when they clashed over \$6,000 for funeral expenses for Secretary of State Vikki Buckley.

Rogers said Wednesday he went to state Attorney General Ken Salazar last year and Salazar ruled his budget was separate from the governor's.

Sources in the governor's office who asked they not be identified told The Associated Press that Owens then washed his hands of any further questions over spending by the lieutenant governor.

Associated Press Writer Jon Sarche contributed to this report.

January 23, 2002

