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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4501

September 10, 2003

The Honorable John W. Snow
Secretary
United States Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Room 3330
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Snow:

I appreciate the opportunity during today's Financial Services Committee we had to discuss, however briefly, the very distressing revelation that it appears "doctored" Treasury Department documents were used to lobby Members of Congress in opposition to the cash balance amendment which the House overwhelmingly adopted yesterday. Combating this type of fraud, in my view, goes beyond any partisan differences people may have in general or more specific differences you or I or any one else may have with respect to cash balance pensions. What is at stake here is the integrity of your Department and the legislative process.

No one is surprised when important issues involving billions and billions of dollars such as cash balance conversions are hotly contested or that many corporate lobbyists and other corporate resources are brought to bear. But the distribution of phony documents purporting to be from the Treasury Department goes beyond even the very loose ethical rules that lobbyists too often seem to follow in Washington. Therefore, I was gratified when you committed to looking into this matter personally.

If your investigation reveals that documents were fraudulently put forward as being from the Treasury Department, I want to reiterate my view that this issue should be referred to the Justice Department so that all applicable criminal and civil remedies could be sought against any individuals and corporations involved. I also ask that you keep me updated on the progress of your investigation and the results thereof.

Again, I thank you for looking into this important matter. Regardless of our views on the underlying issues, I am confident that our mutual concern about this apparent fraud will guarantee that the parties involved are properly sanctioned so that the message goes out this type of conduct will not be tolerated.

Sincerely,



Bernard Sanders
Member of Congress

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