



STATE OF MICHIGAN
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

August 24, 2016

Michael Farage
226 Youell Avenue SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

Dear Mr. Farage:

The Department of State received a response to the complaint you filed against Michelle Hoitenga, which concerns an alleged violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA), 1976 P.A. 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.* A copy of the response is provided as an enclosure with this letter.

If you elect to file a rebuttal statement, you are required to send it within 10 business days of the date of this letter to the Bureau of Elections, Richard H. Austin Building, 1st Floor, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan 48918.

Sincerely,

Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Michele Hoitenga

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2016

Volume 2, Number 97

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EDITORIAL

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WHY AMERICANS DON'T RESPOND TO REALITY

The Power of Truth Can Overthrow the Russellite Dictatorship!

by David Christie and Robert Ingraham

June 12—Those engaged in the political battle to stop the current NATO war drive, face a serious problem when they attempt to mobilize Americans around a perspective for war avoidance and global economic recovery. The organizers often despair over the apparent refusal of citizens to engage in rational dialogue, citizens who seem to cling ferociously to their “personal opinions,” no matter what contrary evidence is presented to them.

The frustrated political organizer may not realize that the problem lies not with a phenomenon of individual opinions, but rather with carefully developed methods of social control that have their origins in the years before World War II and that have now achieved sophisticated deployment in the age of Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. What vast numbers of people insist are their own personal opinions, their own personal beliefs, are in fact, the product of carefully orchestrated techniques of group control, networking and manipulation.

In his book, *The Impact of Science on Society*, Bertrand Russell stated,

I think the subject which will be of most importance politically is Mass Psychology ... Education should aim at destroying free will, so that, after pupils have left school, they shall be incapable, throughout the rest of their lives, of think-



youtube grab from Will Durant
Humor: creative thought was the enemy for Lord Bertrand Russell, above.

ing or acting otherwise than as their schoolmasters would have wished ...

The social psychologists of the future will have a number of classes of school children on whom they will try different methods of producing an unshakable conviction that snow is black ... The opinion that snow is white must be held to show a morbid taste for eccentricity ... It is for future scientists to make these maxims precise and discover exactly how much it costs per head to make children believe that snow is black, and how much less it would cost to make them believe it is dark gray. The populace will not be allowed to know how its convictions were generated. When the technique has been perfected,

every government that has been in charge of education for more than one generation will be able to control its subjects securely without the need of armies or policemen.

Today, the implementation of Russell's recipe for an oligarchical state is far advanced within the culture of the trans-Atlantic world as a result of the now almost universal use of techniques known as *Social Network Analysis* and *Sociomapping*. Such social control mechanisms have several separate but related goals. Among these are the broad manipulation of popular opinion



President Obama (left) conferring with Ben Rhodes, Deputy National Security Adviser for Strategic Communications, in the Oval Office.

White House/Pete Souza

and “accepted” ways of thinking; the political deployment of such methods, including through “color revolutions” and the recent overthrow of Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff; and the identification of those individuals and leaders who represent a threat to the trans-Atlantic Empire. Those individuals and leaders, who are labeled *Cognitive Generators*—that is, those who are able to “deploy others around ideas”—are then targeted as threats to be discredited and destroyed.

I. Obama’s Echo Chamber

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Lyndon LaRouche was virtually the only figure of prominence in the United States to state the truth about what had happened, having forecast the events of September 11 nine months earlier when he warned that the Bush Administration would orchestrate a “Reichstag Fire.” LaRouche was also one of the very few voices within the institution of the Presidency to take on the ensuing war drive, which he had also forecast in 1999 in his “Storm over Asia” video presentation. That video described how the launching of small wars—as called

for by the Wolfowitz Doctrine and the related Project for a New American Century—under the banner of fighting Muslim Terrorists, would lead to regional wars and an eventual global nuclear confrontation with Russia, China, and India.

The post-9/11 coup was then used to shift towards a “unitary executive,” systematically icing out the institution of the Presidency—especially the influence of LaRouche. The use of the press, and increasingly the use of social media, has been instrumental in bypassing the institution of the Presidency. Under Obama, the British Empire has consolidated the use of these tools in a way that has never been done before and has also fundamentally altered the nature of the U.S. government itself.

Much of the story of what was done, first under George W. Bush but then far more extensively under Barack Obama, was described by

Ben Rhodes, Obama’s Deputy National Security Adviser for Strategic Communications, in a May 5 *New York Times Magazine* article by David Samuels titled, “The Aspiring Novelist Who Became Obama’s Foreign-Policy Guru: How Ben Rhodes rewrote the rules of diplomacy for the digital age.” In the article, Rhodes describes the modern, integrated use of a variety of media outlets and social media to enforce Obama’s fascist agenda through coercion and manipulation, or “nudging” in the words of the behaviorist Cass Sunstein.

In the *New York Times Magazine* article, Samuels points to an exchange with Leon Panetta, who was Secretary of Defense in Obama’s first term, to demonstrate how this process functioned:

In Panetta’s telling, his own experience at the Pentagon under Obama sometimes resembled being installed in the driver’s seat of a car and finding that the steering wheel and brakes had been disconnected from the engine. Obama and his aides used political elders like him, Robert Gates, and Hillary Clinton as cover to end the Iraq war, and then decided to steer their own course.



DOD/R.D. Ward

Former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta found that Obama did not care what foreign policy professionals thought.

While Panetta pointedly never mentions Rhodes's name, it is clear whom he is talking about.

"There were staff people who put themselves in a position where they kind of assumed where the president's head was on a particular issue, and they thought their job was not to go through this open process of having people present all these different options, but to try to force the process to where they thought the president wanted to be," he says. "They'd say, 'Well, this is where we want you to come out.' And I'd say '[expletive], that's not the way it works. We'll present a plan, and then the president can make a decision.' I mean, Jesus Christ, it is the president of the United States; you're making some big decisions here; he ought to be entitled to hear all of those viewpoints and not to be driven down a certain path."

Whether Panetta believes Obama was responsible for a reckless approach to deliberation on foreign policy or not, is irrelevant. Panetta's account of the process indicates that Obama does not care what professionals from the foreign policy establishment, and the institution of the Presidency more generally, actually think. This has also been corroborated by many other accounts. Obama doesn't care, because Obama's policies are determined by the British Crown and its lackeys.

The echo chamber of press and social media is then used to bypass the institutions and generate support from the *vox populi*. Again, from the Samuels article:

"We created an echo chamber," Ben Rhodes admitted, when I asked him to explain the onslaught of freshly minted experts cheer-leading for the Iran nuclear deal. "*They were saying things that validated what we had given them to say.*" Rhodes goes on to further elaborate the policy of Obama to confuse the American people. He discusses the fact that most of the newspapers no longer have foreign bureaus, and that the young reporters in their late 20s call the White House to get an explanation of "what's happening in Moscow and Cairo." "*They literally know nothing.*"

"And we're going to map it onto what we know about the different audiences we're dealing with: the public, pundits, experts, the right wing, Congress." By applying 21st-century data and networking tools to the white-glove world of foreign affairs, the White House was able to track what United States senators and the people who worked for them, and influenced them, were seeing online—and make sure that no potential negative comment passed without a tweet.

Narratives

In addition to using these tools to bypass the institution of the Presidency, these modern mind-benders also use tools to create the "narrative" for Barack Obama that allows him to escape any penalty for his crimes, and gain "support" from the American people to justify his agenda.

One narrative is that it is Vladimir Putin who is "insane," a dictator who is leading the world to World War III. Social scientists, such as Ben Rhodes, other social networkers, mathematicians, and psychologists carefully create a "narrative" that validates such an analysis. Articles are placed in newspapers, websites, blogs, and social media. Then a stable of "commentators" responds to the original postings, and then others respond to them. An artificially created "dialogue" suddenly appears in hundreds of locations. It is fine-tuned for each targeted group. It is carefully monitored, and the responses and number of "hits" logged and studied.

The process is tweaked; “nodal points” of difficulty are identified, and suddenly the narrative is treated as reality.

The end result is that every action taken by Obama to lead the world closer and closer to nuclear war is justified by the “evidence” manufactured in the “evil Putin” narrative.

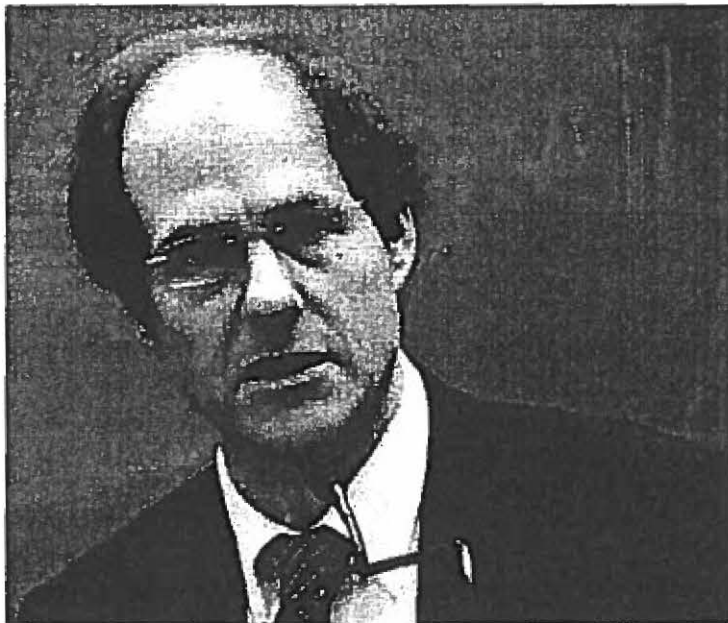
Methods of attack are devised to ridicule or isolate those who disagree with the narrative. For example, those who point out the lack of evidence for manmade “global warming” are labeled as “deniers,” that is, practically pro-Nazi criminals; or those who identify the Saudi-British authorship of the 9/11 attacks are threatened that they may be fingered as “9/11 truthers” or “conspiracy nuts.” Again, such slanders are scrupulously placed in key locations on the Internet and in social media for maximum effect. Thousands, even millions, of people repeat these mantras without realizing that they are victims of a system that enforces a conformity of thought.

One such narrative is that it is impossible to remove Obama from office, even though word of his participation in the ongoing coverup of the British-Saudi role in 9/11 is breaking out around the world and the evidence of Obama’s backing for terrorists in Syria is now a matter of public record. People simply accept the conclusion that Obama cannot be removed because “that’s what everyone says.”

Consensus is maintained through group dynamics and people’s fear of being alienated from their peer group. Those who do not submit to the “democracy” of consensus will be targeted and infiltrated with tactics to sow cognitive dissonance. A prime tactic is the use of fear—fear of social alienation, fear of reprisal through loss of income or job opportunities, or simply physical fear for one’s safety.

Cognitive Infiltration

In an April 2009 webcast, LaRouche delivered his psychological assessment of Barack Obama, warning that he suffered from clinical narcissism like the Emperor Nero. He explained that like Nero, Obama would eliminate all of his advisers except a small inner core known as the “behaviorists.” Cass Sunstein, a leading behaviorist, and his wife Samantha Power, the Ambassador to the United Nations, were in that inner core. Sunstein’s book *Nudge* makes the case for manipulating



creative commons/Mathew W. Hutchins, Harvard Law Review

In 2009 Lyndon LaRouche said that narcissist Obama would eliminate all his advisers except for a small inner core of “behaviorists.” Cass Sunstein, above, is part of that inner behaviorist core.

people based on their base motives—their fear of pain and their pursuit of pleasure. However, those who could not be manipulated into conformity or who could not accept the consensus, would be targeted. In a 2008 paper entitled “Conspiracy Theories,” which Sunstein coauthored with Adrian Vermeule, discusses the danger that the pursuit of truth poses to a fascist police state. This is stated fairly clearly in the final paragraph of the paper:

Some conspiracy theories create serious risks. They do not merely undermine democratic debate; in extreme cases, they create or fuel violence. If government can dispel such theories, it should do so. One problem is that its efforts might be counterproductive, because efforts to rebut conspiracy theories also legitimate them. We have suggested, however, that government can minimize this effect by rebutting more rather than fewer theories, by enlisting independent groups to supply rebuttals, and by *cognitive infiltration* designed to break up the crippled epistemology of conspiracy minded groups and informationally isolated social networks.

Sunstein discusses those organizations with “crippled” epistemology, and the need to cognitively infil-

trate them and spread *cognitive diversity*. A key example of cognitive infiltration and cognitive diversity is to be found in the ongoing efforts of the Obama administration to cover up the truth of what actually occurred in the attacks on September 11, 2001—the political Achilles' heel of the British Monarchy that stands behind Obama.

Recently, the danger of an “infectious” idea was demonstrated by the recent activities of former U.S. Senator Bob Graham, in his campaign to reveal the truth about the Saudi authorship of the 9/11 attacks. His recent interview in the widely viewed German WDR TV program “Monitor” has sparked a slew of articles in Germany and beyond.

Sunstein and his ilk attempt to counteract the impact of what Senator Graham is doing by inundating conspiracy blogs and so-called “patriot” websites with alternate “narratives” that “Israel was responsible for 9/11,” or that the U.S. government brought down the towers in Manhattan with “shaped explosives,” or that “a missile hit the Pentagon”—all of this designed to confuse and demoralize people as part of Sunstein’s “cognitive diversity” infiltration. In this way, anyone who disagrees with the official Bush/Obama fairy tale can be labeled as a kook, and all discussion of the strategic implications of the attacks, or how to situate them within the larger domain of what LaRouche discussed in his “Storm over Asia” video, is effectively neutralized.

Sunstein even has the chutzpah to quote Philip Zelikow on the 9/11 “conspiracies.” Zelikow was the Bush Administration plant as executive director of the 9/11 Commission, and worked to prevent people on the commission from gaining access to the 28 Pages of the Joint Congressional Inquiry. Zelikow centralized everything around himself, forbade any direct contact between the staff and the ten Commissioners, and reduced the latter almost to the status of figureheads. Worse, Zelikow was later found to be maintaining a secret back channel to the Bush White House, with fre-

quent calls with Karl Rove and Condoleezza Rice. Sunstein writes,

Philip Zelikow, the Executive Director of the 9/11 commission, says that “the hardcore conspiracy theorists are totally committed. They’d have to repudiate much of their life identity in order not to accept some of that stuff. That’s not our worry. Our worry is when things become infectious ...

then this stuff can be deeply corrosive to public understanding. You can get where the bacteria can sicken the larger body.”



Kurt Lewin of the London Tavistock Institute was one of the theorists of cognitive confusion.

II. From Sociometry to Social Network Analysis

The tactic of “cognitive diversity” is not a new concept. The London Tavistock Institute’s Kurt Lewin, later the father of the concept of *Group Dynamics*, discusses how to create mental paralysis with this cognitive dissonance. Lewin wrote in 1942,

One of the main techniques for breaking morale through a ‘strategy of terror’ consists in

exactly this tactic—keep the person hazy as to where he stands and just what he may expect. If in addition frequent vacillations between severe disciplinary measures and promises of good treatment together with spreading of contradictory news, make the ‘cognitive structure’ of this situation utterly unclear, then the individual may cease to even know when a particular plan would lead toward or away from his goal. Under these conditions even those who have definite goals and are ready to take risks, will be paralyzed by severe inner conflicts in regard to what to do.¹

1. Kurt Lewin, “Time Perspective and Morale,” in Goodwin Watson (ed.), *Civilian Morale*, second yearbook of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1942.

When someone is “paralyzed by severe inner conflicts in regard to what to do,” he or she is extremely susceptible to behavior modification, or “brainwashing.” The Tavistock Institute is one of the key agencies used by the British Monarchy to consciously deploy techniques to induce this paralysis on a mass scale.

In 1937 Jacob Moreno, later the originator of the psychodrama method, founded *Sociometry: A Journal of Interpersonal Relations*. Over the next decades it published articles by John Dewey of Columbia University, George Gallup of the American Institute of Public Opinion (known for its Gallup Poll), Frank Stanton (later of CBS), anthropologist Margaret Mead, Kurt Lewin, Paul Lazarsfeld, Gordon Allport, and Theodore Adorno of the Frankfurt School, among others.

Moreno’s psychodrama method is often described as therapy through play-acting, although Moreno would push the limits of the concept. For example, he organized a psychodrama session in which a suicidal woman went through the steps of acting out her own suicide, with other actors playing the part of nurses, all the way up to the moment before her final step.

The core group around *Sociometry* made up the bulk of the staff of the Radio Research Project, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, supposedly to look into the effects of mass media on society, but actually to run experiments in large-scale behavior modification. Paul Lazarsfeld was the director. Gordon Allport, one of Tavistock’s top operatives in the United States, was Lazarsfeld’s assistant. Theodore Adorno was music director. Frank Stanton, who went on to become the head of CBS after World War II, was also part of the project.

In 1938, the Radio Research Project carried out one of its most famous operations, Orson Welles narrating H.G. Wells’ “War of the Worlds” on Halloween. Given the growing threat of fascism, and the rumblings of war, it is not surprising that many Americans who heard that broadcast did not immediately think there was the invasion of aliens—they thought there was an invasion of Nazis. In an important way they were right. The heirs of *Sociometry* would ultimately provide the foundation for the present, integrated front of modern fascism that deploys opinion research polls, mass media, academia, and eventually social media.

The intellectual heirs of Jacob Moreno and others at

Sociometry would eventually form the core of the International Network of Social Network Analysis (INSNA) in 1977. INSNA created the social network analysis software that would be used to monitor and profile today’s social media sites such as Facebook.

INSNA’s current website states:

Network analysis is based on the intuitive notion that these patterns are important features of the lives of the individuals who display them. Network analysts believe that how an individual lives depends in large part on how that individual is tied into the larger web of social connections. Many believe, moreover, that the success or failure of societies and organizations often depends on the patterning of their internal structure.

That kind of intuition is probably as old as humankind. It is implied, for example, by the relative stress put on descent lists in the Bible. And, beginning in the 1930s, a systematic approach to theory and research, based on that notion, began to emerge. In 1934 Jacob Moreno introduced the ideas and tools of sociometry. And at the end of World War II, Alex Bavelas founded the Group Networks Laboratory at M.I.T.

In addition to the seasoned veterans of the Radio Research Project associated with *Sociometry*, INSNA also drew on veterans of the British Empire’s colonial program in Africa, namely sociologists and anthropologists around the Rhodes-Livingstone Institute (RLI, founded 1938), whose key informal patron was Lord Malcolm Hailey of the “Milner Group” that had originated with Lord Milner’s Round Table. The anthropologists and sociologists of the RLI mapped out the social networks and relationships of the “natives,” using Moreno’s sociograms, to manipulate them into a democratic consensus suitable for the colonial operations of the British Empire. INSNA became a kind of clearing house that included elements of the British colonial operations of the RLI, Jacob Moreno’s *Sociometry*, and the Tavistock Institute. Key individuals associated with INSNA have included Linton C. Freeman and Barry Wellman.

Along the way, INSNA developed the concepts and technology for what are now known as “social media.”

Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg and other profiteers of the police state were simply graduate students of some of the initial leaders at INSNA. At the height of the East German police state, a former colonel suggested that about one person in eight was an informer; with Facebook and other social media, nearly everyone is an informer.

III. Genius as the Enemy

There is one final, overarching issue to settle concerning the oligarchy's top-down manipulation using the methods described here. It is not merely a matter of large-scale manipulation of the population, nor the use of such methods to overthrow legitimate governments and push the world closer to war. There is also the paramount concern of the British Empire, as emphasized by Bertrand Russell, that "after pupils have left school, they shall be incapable, throughout the rest of their lives, of thinking or acting otherwise than as their schoolmasters would have wished."

Bluntly stated, the enemy for Russell is creative individual human thought.

Again, from that standpoint, it not surprising to see a convergence of psychologists and mathematicians on the field of social networking theory. The Tavistock Institute, *Sociometry*, and related institutions such as the Frankfurt School, have devoted great effort to the eradication of individual human genius. In social networking analysis, individuals are classified according to their animal appetites. And sub-networks are created to service different offshoots from the main branches. Statistical studies are performed to predict—and ultimately to manipulate—how groups of people will respond to certain stimuli or possible changes. It is all herd dynamics, dressed up in fancy language.

Early on, those who don't fit the pattern, those with a penchant for independent thought, those who have the courage to fight back, are identified. They are targeted

to be culled from the herd—not necessarily killed, unless they rise to the threat level of a Martin Luther King or a Lyndon LaRouche, but minimally to be ostracized and "broken."

Such targeting is more pervasive than you might think. With personal histories gleaned from Facebook and other sources, the means to carry it out are now very sophisticated. During the hey-day of the FBI terror, in the 1940s and 1950s, many key individuals of courage and creativity were attacked in this manner, including Albert Einstein, Paul Robeson, and Wilhelm Furtwängler. The methods employed by the FBI were effective, but they were incredibly crude compared to what is available today to isolate and destroy the enemies of Empire.



Gordon Allport was one of Tavistock's top operatives in the United States.

As Lyndon LaRouche has repeatedly insisted, it is human creativity—real individual moral genius—that changes history, that is responsible for all that has been positive in the development of the human species. It is the intent of the British Empire and its shallow puppets like Barack Obama to snuff it out, to enforce conformity and mediocrity everywhere. In the field of social network analysis, where every mouse click, every blog post, every "friend" is analyzed by mathematicians, sociologists, and psychologists, such creative individuals are identified

as "cognitive generators"—potential leaders who develop original thought and inspire others. These are individuals who, at a key "nodal point," might disrupt and ruin the functioning of the social network, who might lead it in an undesired direction.

The social control witch-doctors for the oligarchy are right to worry. We have witnessed their inability—except for escalating further toward war—to deal with Vladimir Putin. And they are certainly incapable of dealing with the creative force that Lyndon LaRouche has unleashed through his Manhattan Project. The approach of the Manhattan Project is to *speak the truth* to falsehood and inspire citizens through *beauty*—the one method against which today's descendants of Bertrand Russell are helpless.

**Campaign Finance Complaint Form
Michigan Department of State**

1

This complaint form may be used to file a complaint alleging that someone violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (the MCFA, 1976 PA 388, as amended; MCL 169.201 *et seq.*). All information on this form must be provided along with an original signature and evidence. Please print or type all information.

2016 JUN 20 PM 9:57
CLERK

I allege that the MCFA was violated as follows:

Section 1. Complainant		
Your Name	Michael Farago	
Daytime Telephone Number	616-634-0418	
Mailing Address	226 Youell ave (se)	
City	State	Zip
Grand Rapids	MI	49506

Section 2. Alleged Violator		
Name	Michele Haitenga	
Mailing Address	226 Roberts Street	
City	State	Zip
Manton	MI	49663

Section 3. Alleged Violations (Use additional sheet if more space is needed)

Section(s) of the MCFA violated:

169.226 Section 26 (1)(b), Section 26 (1)(j), Section 169.233(1)(a)

Explain how those sections were violated:

On August 31, 2015, Michele sent a Financial Fund raising mailer out. This includes Envelope the mailer was mailed in, Stamps to mail the mailer, letter requesting funds, Business card for campaign, Return envelope for donation or volunteer, colored brochure about candidate - None of these items show up on her expenditures on her October Quarterly CS or Annual 2015 CS. Two committees are used on her literature that are not filed with the Secretary of State to verify if expenses show up on those committees.

Copies of Envelope used in mailer, Business card in mailer, return envelope in mailer, Letter to potential donors titled, "A New Voice In the Right Direction, Brochure included in mailer, Stamp on envelope showing local First class stamps, and letter to Michigan Department of State Bureau of Elections referencing Page 3, Violation #1, violations #5-11, on Pages 3-4

Section 4. Certification (Required)

I certify that to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, formed after a reasonable inquiry under the circumstances, each factual contention of this complaint is supported by evidence.

X

Signature of Complainant

Date

Section 5. Certification without Evidence (Supplemental to Section 4)

Section 15(6) of the MCFA (MCL 169.215) requires that the signed certification found in section 4 of this form be included in every complaint. However, if, after a reasonable inquiry under the circumstances, you are unable to certify that certain factual contentions are supported by evidence, you may also make the following certification:

I certify that to the best of my knowledge, information, or belief, there are grounds to conclude that the following specifically identified factual contentions are likely to be supported by evidence after a reasonable opportunity for further inquiry. Those specific contentions are:

X

Signature of Complainant

Date

Section 15(8) of the MCFA provides that a person who files a complaint with a false certification is responsible for a civil violation of the MCFA. The person may be required to pay a civil fine of up to \$1,000.00 and some or all of the expenses incurred by the Michigan Department of State and the alleged violator as a direct result of the filing of the complaint.

Mail or deliver the completed complaint form with an original signature and evidence to the following address:

Michigan Department of State
Bureau of Elections
Richard H. Austin Building – 1st Floor
430 West Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan 48918

Campaign Finance Complaint Form
Michigan Department of State

This complaint form may be used to file a complaint alleging that someone violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (the MCFA, 1976 PA 388, as amended; MCL 169.201 et seq.). All information on the form must be provided along with a original signature and evidence. Please print or type all information. #2

2016 JUL 20 AM 9:57

I allege that the MCFA was violated as follows:

Section 1. Complainant		
Your Name	Mike Michael Farage	
Daytime Telephone Number	616-634-0418	
Mailing Address	226 Youell ave (se)	
City	State	Zip
Grand Rapids	MI	49506

Section 2. Alleged Violator		
Name	Michele Hontenga	
Mailing Address	226 Roberts St.	
City	State	Zip
Manton	MI	49663

Section 3. Alleged Violations (Use additional sheet if more space is needed.)

Section(s) of the MCFA violated:

Multiple parts of 169.224 Section 27, 169.225, 169.226 section 26(1), 169.266 sec 66

Explain how those sections were violated:

The only committee that has filed with the Secretary of State is the committee named, "Friends to Elect Michele Hontenga for State Rep." Three other committees are being used as well on her campaign materials. They are "Friends to Elect Michele Hontenga", "Committee to Elect Michele Hontenga" and "Friends to Elect Michele Hontenga for State Representation". These three committees have not filed statements of organizations with the Secretary of State and have also not filed any campaign statements. How can there be any verification of contributions (maximum amounts) and in kind contributions, expenditures, etc. The other question is if a campaign committee could even have multiple committees established.

Evidence that supports these allegations (attach copies of pertinent documents and other information)

Interesting point is in August 31, 2015 there was a mailing for Michele that had items in it with 3 different committee names.

By the way, all these pieces have the wrong disclaimer as well. Evidence: Multiple pieces that show different names on the materials.

Letter to Michigan Department of State Bureau of Elections, referencing Page 2, #3 and on Page 3, violations #1, #2, and #3.

Website Name - "micheleformichigan.com" Video on this has disclaimer "Committee to Elect Michele Hontenga". Also youtube video "M I L L E R - State Representative".

I certify that to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, formed after a reasonable inquiry under the circumstances, each factual contention of this complaint is supported by evidence.

X

Signature of Complainant

Date

July 20, 2016

Section 5. Certification without Evidence (Supplemental to Section 4)

Section 15(6) of the MCFA (MCL 169.215) requires that the signed certification found in section 4 of this form be included in every complaint. However, if, after a reasonable inquiry under the circumstances, you are unable to certify that certain factual contentions are supported by evidence, you may also make the following certification:

I certify that to the best of my knowledge, information, or belief, there are grounds to conclude that the following specifically identified factual contentions are likely to be supported by evidence after a reasonable opportunity for further inquiry. Those specific contentions are:

X

Signature of Complainant

Date

July 20, 2016

Section 15(8) of the MCFA provides that a person who files a complaint with a false certification is responsible for a civil violation of the MCFA. The person may be required to pay a civil fine of up to \$1,000.00 and some or all of the expenses incurred by the Michigan Department of State and the alleged violator as a direct result of the filing of the complaint.

Mail or deliver the completed complaint form with an original signature and evidence to the following address:

Michigan Department of State
Bureau of Elections
Richard H. Austin Building - 1st Floor
450 West Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan 48918

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Michigan Campaign Statement Expenditure Search

- Committee Name: FRIENDS TO ELECT MICHELE HOITE
- Statement Type: AMENDED JULY QUARTERLY CS
- Statement Year: 2015
- Schedule: ITEMIZED DIRECT EXPENDITURES

Matches 1-6 of 6

Committee Making Expenditure Sched Type Committee ID-Type	Payee Name Address City, State Zip Exp Type-Purpose	Exp Date or Value	Support/Oppose Candidate or BQ Office Sought
<u>FRIENDS TO ELECT MICHELE HOITENGA</u> 517242-CAN	<i>KEL GRAPHICS</i> 110 RIVER ST DIRECT CADILLAC, MI 49601-0000 PA-LOAN TO CAMPAIGN BY CANDIDATE	06/25/15 \$226.35	
<u>FRIENDS TO ELECT MICHELE HOITENGA</u> 517242-CAN	<i>ALPHA PRESS</i> 4333 SILVERSTAR RD DIRECT ORLANDO, FL 32808-0000 PA-LOAN TO CAMPAIGN BY CANDIDATE	03/27/15 \$89.22	
<u>FRIENDS TO ELECT MICHELE HOITENGA</u> 517242-CAN	<i>UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE</i> 128 W. MAIN DIRECT MANTON, MI 49663-0000 MA-LOAN TO CAMPAIGN BY CANDIDATE	06/27/15 \$49.00	
<u>FRIENDS TO ELECT MICHELE HOITENGA</u> 517242-CAN	<i>CHEMICAL BANK</i> 1408 MITCHELL ST DIRECT CADILLAC, MI 49601-0000 BK-BANK SERVICE CHARGES	03/31/15 \$9.86	
<u>FRIENDS TO ELECT MICHELE HOITENGA</u> 517242-CAN	<i>CHEMICAL BANK</i> 1408 MITCHELL ST DIRECT CADILLAC, MI 49601-0000 BK-BANK SERVICE CHARGES	04/30/15 \$9.82	
<u>FRIENDS TO ELECT MICHELE HOITENGA</u> 517242-CAN	<i>CHEMICAL BANK</i> 1408 MITCHELL ST DIRECT CADILLAC, MI 49601-0000 BK-BANK SERVICE CHARGES	05/29/15 \$9.82	

Matches 1-6 of 6

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***NEW Educational Opportunity Last Year**
2015 Golf Outing Sponsors



We extend a very special thank-you to the many volunteers who continue to help us in the important task of promoting the sanctity of life from the moment of conception until natural death.

*Wexford/Missaukee Right to Life
meets the first Tuesday of every month.
Please call 231-839-2743 for information.*

Wexford/Missaukee Right to Life

Twenty Fourth Annual “Focus on Life”

Benefit Dinner

**Monday, April 18, 2016
Timber Wolf Lake
Lake City, Michigan**

A benefit for the Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund

in your packet attached to this letter I have included the following items:

1. Friends to Elect Michele Hoytenga campaign statements for each statement she has been required to report since she opened her committee
2. Wexford/ Missaukee Right to Life Dinner Program dated April 18,2016(on the back this shows the paid sponsors from their golf outing in 2015 which includes Michele Hoytenga for State representative)
3. Red Envelope with stamp date of August 31, 2015(mailed in red envelope in August)
4. Michele Hoytenga For State Representative colored brochure(mailed in red envelope in August)
5. Return envelope for campaign contribution to Friends to Elect Michele Hoytenga for State Rep(mailed in Red envelope in August)
6. Letter to donors which at top says" A new voice in the Right Direction"(mailed in red envelope in August)
7. Business card for Michele Hoytenga(mailed in red envelope in August)
8. Post card mailer(mailed in June 2016)
9. Not in this packet but will get you pictures of her Yard signs, both small and large
10. Print out of Michele's site at smore.com(no disclaimer at all)
11. Print out of website disclaimer
12. Print out of you tube video of high production, with incorrect disclaimer

SUMMARY OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE VIOLATIONS

There are a couple of areas to address in the violation category:

1. Every expense has to be recorded on the campaign finance statements. Either under Schedule: ITEMIZED EXPENSE EXPENDITURES OR IN-KIND EXPENDITURES(which includes

any in-kind donation that a person gives) or FUNDRAISER. If a donation is given as an in-kind contribution they have to put that under the in-kind contribution schedule. these are important because individuals can only give a \$1,000.00 a piece so they have to record every in-kind contribution and direct contribution to make sure that they do not go over the maximum contribution amount

2. The other area of major violations is in the disclaimer that is required on each piece of literature, envelopes, yard signs etc....they require this disclaimer so that everyone knows who paid for the item and again so that they have a detailed recording of each expense to prevent from illegal funds being used or someone giving an in-kind donation. The disclaimer must include 3 things: Paid for by, committee name, committee address. You will find that her campaign committee has not put the proper disclaimer on any of her items. **Matter of fact, she has items with 4 different campaign committee names: They are:**

- a) Friends to Elect Michele Hoitenga
- b) Friends to Elect Michele Hoitenga for State Representative
- c) Friends to Elect Michele Hoitenga for State Rep
- d) Committee to Elect Michele Hoitenga

Interesting point to make is that in on August 31, 2015 she sends out a fund raising letter with items 3-7(listed above) all included in that mailer. In the same envelope, she contains items that have all three committee names on them. This is important because she has only filed one committee with the Secretary of State office. That committee name is "Friends to Elect Michele Hoitenga for State Rep".

For clarification on the August 31, 2015 mailer, Michele mailed out in a red envelope(#3) the following items: Colored Brochure(#4), return envelope for donations(#5), letter to donors(#6), campaign business card(#7). The purpose of the mailer was for donations. I should note that not one of these items, as well as the stamps, shows up on her finance statements(which is required). We will discuss each of these in detail. Who paid for these items and where are the other committee's statement of organization as quarterly statements?

VIOLATIONS OF MICHIGAN CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACT

Lets now go over each violation of Michigan Campaign Finance Act, Act 388 of 1976.

1. The committee named, "Friends to Elect Michele Hoitenga", has not been submitted to the Secretary of State, no statement of organization and have not had any quarterly

statements submitted. Both of these are requirements of the Michigan campaign finance act. Who has funded this committee. This committee is used on her business card(#7) and mailer from June 2016(#8).

2. The committee named, "Friends to Elect Michele for State Representative", has also not been submitted to the Secretary of State, as required. By the way if it was submitted and approved it would show up on their website like her one committee does. This committee name is used on her Fundraising letter(#6).
3. The committee named "Committee to Elect Michele Hoitenga", has also not been submitted to the Secretary of State, as required. This committee name is used on her you tube video and her website video(12). She spent a lot of money on this per the quality of the video and uses a 4th committee name.
4. The Right to Life donation that was made as a sponsorship, evidenced by the Right to Life program for the dinner(#2), on the back gives the names of all of the 2015 Golf Outing Sponsors for Right to Life. This would have been a minimum of \$100.00 donation. Under her Michigan Campaign Statement(#1), her quarterly statement for July 2015 should show this expenditure, but it does not show up in the schedules: Itemized Direct Expenditure or In-Kind contributions. It doesn't show up anywhere. Giving them the benefit of the doubt that they missed it in that quarter, they did not report it in the October 2015 quarterly statement or the 2015 annual statement. Who paid for this or did the Wexford/Missaukee Right to Life give a gift in kind, which was not reported.
5. For items 4 through 10 , these all have the same scenario and were all part of the mailer that went out in August 2015. The expense for each item should individually be showing up on her campaign finance statement for October 2015 quarterly statements either under schedule "Itemized Direct Expenditures" or "In-Kind Expenditures" or "In-Kind Contributions", "FUNDRAISER" or in any other schedule. They do not show up in any of them as well as not showing up in the 2015 annual campaign statement submitted in January 2016. The Red envelope(#3), that she used for her August 31, 2015 mailer, does not show up in her expense anywhere. Or was this from one of the committees that she has not reported to the state. This is violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance act where it states in more than one place, "The committee treasurer or designated record keeper must record all expenditures by the amount, date made, purpose, and the name and address of the individual or business that received the funds." This is common knowledge that is emphasized in multiple publications and packets that the candidate gets. This did not happen with the envelopes.
6. The printing costs of the color brochure that was used in the August 2015 mailer(#4), also does not show up on her campaign finance report on the committee that she submitted to the State or by the committee on the brochure that she did not report to

the Secretary of State. See Violation #4 above for the specifics that relate to this brochure.

7. The printing costs of the return envelope(#5) that was used in the August 2015 mailer for people to send back donations also was not reported on her campaign expense which should be a printing cost. See violation #4 for the specifics that relate to the return envelope.
8. The costs of the stationary or printing costs of the fundraising letter(#6) that went out in her August 2015 mailer asking for donations also was not reported as an expenditure for her campaign expense. This does not show on the committee that she has filed with the Secretary of State and it is one of the committees that was not filed with the State which again emphasizes why all committee's have to be filed with the State. Please see Violation #4 for the specifics that relate to this letter.
9. The Campaign Business cards(#7), that was included in the August 2015 mailer, also was not reported as required in her campaign expense report. These business cards are also being given out through out the campaign. This again is a committee that she has not even filed with the State and doesn't show up on the committee that she has filed with the Secretary of State. Please see violation #4 for the specifics related to the business card. Who paid for the printing of these cards?
10. Another thing that was not reported on the Campaign expense reports that does not show up on the original list of items at the beginning of this letter, is the **stamps that were used to mail this fund raiser envelope**. As noted on the red envelope, regular first class stamps were used. Of course it will take an honor system to determine how much was spent. She initially told me that month that she was sending out thousands of mailers, whether she did or not is another question, but the cost of the stamps would definitely have to show up on the campaign finance reports with the same rules as stated in violation #4.
11. Another missing item on the campaign expense report that does not show up on the original list of items on page 1, is the large labels that were used to put her address and the address of the person receiving the envelope. As everyone knows even these items have to be added and it could definitely be a large cost as there were a lot of labels to be used. Please see violation #4 for the specifics that relate to these labels.
12. Section 47 of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act provides that certain political communications, including printed materials, envelopes, business cards, yard signs, etc..., or paid political advertisements must identify the person or persons paying for the communication. **The Disclaimer must include: Paid for by, Committee Name, Committee Address**. This is extremely important to identify who paid for the item and the correct address and name of the committee. This is emphasized and mentioned in multiple places and should be known by all committees. In violations 11 through 22 ,

the issue of the correct disclaimer is being addressed. The Red Envelope(#3) that was used for the August 2015 mailer does not have a disclaimer at all. There is no "Paid for by", no committee name, and no committee address that is registered with the Secretary of State. It has Michele Hoitenga as the name. The proper way for this to be done is Michele to donate to the campaign and since it is a campaign expense, then it should have who it is paid for by on the return address. This has to be on there to let everyone know who paid for the postage for the mailer.

13. The colored brochure(#4), that was included in the August 2015 mailer, does not have the correct disclaimer on it as it **does not include the address on it**. Violation 11 lays out the requirements for correct disclaimers and the reason they have to be on the brochure.
14. The return envelope(#5), that was included in the August 2015 mailer, does not have the correct disclaimer on it as it **does not include the address of the committee**. Violation 11 lays out the requirements for the correct disclaimers and the reason they have to be on the envelopes.
15. The fundraising letter(#6) that was included in the August 2015 mailer, does not have the correct disclaimer on it for two reasons: **It has a committee name on it that is not registered with the Secretary of State and does not include the address of the committee**. Violation 11 lays out the requirements for the correct disclaimers and the reason they have to be on the fundraising letter. Additionally, we previously discussed that 2 of the committees used in her disclaimers were not registered with the Secretary of State.
16. The business cards(#7) that were included in the August 2015 mailer and have been handed out since then, also does not have the correct disclaimer on it for two reasons: **It has a committee name on it that is not registered with the Secretary of State and does not include the address of the committee**. Violation 11 lays out the requirements for the correct disclaimers and the reason they have to be on the business card. Though it was a different committee name as in violation 14, this committee name is not registered with the Secretary of State.
17. The post card mailer(#8), that was mailed in June 2016, to potentially 14,000 homes, also does not have the correct disclaimer on it for two reasons: **It does not include the required words "Paid for by" on it and it has a committee name(same committee name as violation 15) that is not registered with the Secretary of State**. Violation 11 lays out the requirements for the correct disclaimers and the reason for it having to be on the post card mailer. Additionally, this committee is not registered with the Secretary of State.
18. The small yard signs that have been placed out in all three counties do not have the correct disclaimer on it because at a minimum it **does not have the address of the**

committee on the sign and may have the wrong committee name on the signs.

Violation 11 lays out the requirements for the correct disclaimer and the reason for it having to be on the yard signs.

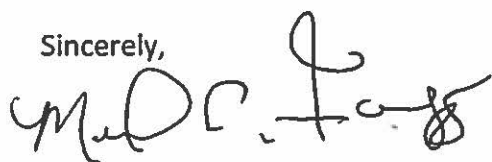
19. The large signs that she has put out(estimated at 4 feet long) have been placed in all three counties and do not have the correct disclaimer on them because it **does not have the address of the committee on the sign and may have the wrong committee name on the signs.** Violation 11 lays out the requirements for the correct disclaimer and the reason for it having to be on the large signs.
20. Michele has a Smore account(10) at www.smores.com. I have attached the 4 pages from this which also includes other documents in it. None of them have the Disclaimer on it at all. This needs to be on the bottom of the site page and the documents you click on should have it on at least one of them as it is about her campaign. This is a violation because no disclaimer at all shows up.
21. Michele has a campaign website(11)which does not have the right disclaimer on it for two reasons: **has a committee name that is not registered with the Secretary of State and does not include the address of the committee on the disclaimer.** Violation 11 lays out all the requirements for a proper disclaimer and the reasons for it having to be on her website.
22. Michele has a you tube video(12), that shows up on you tube and also on her website. The committee of the day for this one is the committee to elect Michele Hoitenga. This is her fourth committee and has not registered this committee with the Secretary of State office. In addition, the you tube video has the wrong disclaimer on it for two reasons: **has a committee name that is not registered with the Secretary of State and does not have the address of the committee on the disclaimer.** Violation 11 lays out all the requirements for a proper disclaimer and the reasons for it having to be on the website.

At this time these are all of the violations that I have noticed. I can't emphasize enough how usually one of these violations is a "big deal", and 22 is a "really really big deal". These are very important factors to a campaign. The Secretary of State has to use these campaign finance reports and disclaimers to assure the public that all campaign donors are only giving the amount that is allowed by law. Failure to disclose this, as in having three different campaign names, not recording expenses, and not putting the address on these items, opens the door to election fraud as one person could give to 4 different campaigns, or to three addresses of the same campaign, or could have pieces get mailed that were paid by someone else.

As you all know, these mailers and printing jobs can add up in expense. I was told by Michele that her June 2016 piece was going to 14,000 homes at a cost of \$8,000. Without knowing who paid for it, a donor could donate the mailer but the maximum amount a donor can give in-kind or direct contribution combined is \$1,000.00. Failing to disclose this information can allow a person to violate the election law and donate more.

Please do not hesitate to call me at [REDACTED] if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele", with a stylized flourish at the end.

616-634-0418