



OPERATION CLEAN GOVERNMENT

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Why No Evidence of Fraud at the Traffic Court

by William H. Clay

THE TRAFFIC COURT AUDIT determined there was substantial risk that fraud could have occurred, but found no evidence that fraud had occurred. Taxpayers' \$180,000 was spent to learn what the public already knew. Chief Justice Weisberger had promised more but the audit results were assured by the limits imposed on the auditors by the Chief Justice's audit committee. The auditors found no evidence because they were not instructed to look for it.

Background—Chief Justice Weisberger's order 98-06 of 8 July 1998 established an audit committee to be chaired by Auditor General Ernest A. Almonte. The order called for, "...a comprehensive financial and performance audit of the Administrative Adjudication Court, including examination for fraud and impropriety." His order was authorized by the 1998 Rhode Island Traffic Safety and Accountability Act.

The audit committee drafted a request for proposals that weasel worded the fraud examination provisions. They specified that the auditors agreed upon procedures "...may include procedures to determine the likelihood that fraud had occurred..." They also omitted standards for the fraud examination. Operation Clean Government insisted that the word "may" be changed to "shall" and that the fraud examination be conducted in accordance with the standards of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. The audit committee resisted these amendments, but did agree when at the bidders conference OCG Chairman Robert Arruda read a letter from the Chief Justice to Mr. John Hazen White (founder of Red Alert) affirming that the OCG amendments would be included in the request for proposals.

Traffic Court Audit—The auditing firm selected by Chief Justice Weisberger's audit committee was KPMG. Their contract called for the audit to be conducted in accordance with "agreed upon procedures" developed by KPMG and the audit committee. However, the procedures that were produced were void of any investigatory tools to develop evidence. Auditors were limited to activities such as:

- Review of cash handling
- Look at security management policies
- Identify possible indicators of misappropriations
- Determine information system integrity
- For a period of time, match tickets processed as paid to actual cash deposits.

This benign fraud examination process approved by the audit committee is inconsistent with the Chief Justice's executive order and his authorization by the 1998 legislation. It is also inconsistent with the standards employed by Certified Fraud Examiners. No public review of the agreed upon procedures was permitted. We requested review, but were told by the audit committee that public access to the procedures would compromise the on sight

investigations at the AAC. In view of results, how ironic!

Completed in January 1999, KPMG's audit only confirmed the earlier findings of the State Bureau of Audits and the National Center for State Courts. They all found that the AAC internal controls and

records were inadequate to even determine why the court computers showed \$39 million in unpaid fines. Sample testing by KPMG showed some fines were paid and verified by bank deposits but were not recorded in AAC computers.

The KPMG auditors listed the following inap-

propriate activities that could go undetected by AAC personnel.

- tickets could be deleted or stolen
- ticket values could be altered
- cash and checks not recorded could be stolen
- unpaid fines could be recorded as paid

Accountability—Operation Clean Government continues to demand accountability. On March 27 we ran a full page advertisement in the Providence Journal asking anyone with evidence of inappropriate recording of fines paid or not paid to bring the evidence to OCG. The same ad appears on page 4 of this newsletter. We promise complete anonymity. There have been several good responses to our ad. We intend to evaluate the responses and turn any evidence over to proper law enforcement officers.

Officialdom is now blaming the problems at the traffic court on the thousands of Rhode Islanders who have not paid their fines and on the courts outdated accounting practices. Before the audit, Judges Weisberger and DeRobbio were both saying, "if there is fraud and I don't believe there is..." Now these Judges along with Attorney General Whitehouse and Auditor General Almonte, form a quartet to convince the public "there is no evidence of fraud."

Senators Patterson and Cote have called for further investigation of the traffic court. Senators Patterson and Breene came out condemning the provision in the new legislation that keeps court administrator Leo Skenyon in office. Hopefully, this may gather more supporters in the general assembly now that these senators have spoken.

Throughout the entire traffic court scandal the Almond Administration has remained silent. The governor's inattentive attitude towards this scandal is catching on with the rest of officialdom. They want it to go away. As they see it, the court's practices have been studied and condemned. The Commission on Judicial Tenure and Discipline has dismissed complaints against four of six AAC Judges and has remained mute for more than a year on complaints against AAC Judges Pallozzi and Lallo. The auditors have concluded that they cannot tell if there is missing money—just \$39 million of unpaid fines and accounting errors.

Legislation has been drafted and is on the fast track (see story on left). The court will be renamed the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal. AAC Judges and administrators will be retained. But to make sure they run an efficient operation this time, another set of judges and administrators from District Court will supervise the AAC cadre. There will also be twenty new employees. Judge DeRobbio estimates the additional cost for the first year to be more than \$500,000. This includes a \$8,500 raise for himself, one of his conditions to accept the added responsibilities. These are their answers to restoring the public's confidence in the Rhode Island Judiciary.

OPERATION CLEAN GOVERNMENT IS PRESENTING A

Forum and Breakfast

Sunday, May 16, 1999 — 9:30AM-12:30PM

Chello's (banquet room), Warwick

Airport Exit 13 off of I-95, South on Post Road, 1/4 mile on the right

- 9:30 Breakfast Buffet
- 10:45 OCG Chairman Robert P. Arruda, Update on OCG activities
- 11:00 **Forum - Instant Runoff Voting** (Majority Preference) and **Proportional Representation** — (New Mexico and Vermont may have Majority Preference by the date of our forum)

BRUCE LANG, Moderator

PANELISTS

ROBERT RICHIE, Executive Director of the Center for Voting and Democracy, Washington, D.C.

MARSHA PRIPSTEIN-POSUSNEY, Associate Professor of Political Science, Bryant College

Reserve early, seating limited to 200, Public is invited. \$12.00 per ticket
Reserve a table for 10, \$120. Reservations must be paid by May 7, 1999
Send check to: Operation Clean Government, P.O. Box 8683, Warwick, RI 02888

For more information, call: 1-877-SWEEP-RI

The "All New" Traffic Court

by Alan F. Clarke

SENATOR PAIVA-WEED'S 99-S 0932, co-sponsored by Senators Kelly, Gibbs, Oster, Walsh, et al., establishes the Traffic Tribunal within the District Court. The legislation is supposed to fix the court's problems and restore public confidence in the judiciary system. Since the accountability issue is totally omitted, Operation Clean Government believes that it will certainly not restore public confidence.

Traffic Tribunal is intimidating. The word tribunal seems fitting to trials of war criminals or heads of state for their capital crimes. Why not call it "Rhode Island Traffic Court?" admittedly, tribunal may fit when Senator Paiva-Weed refers to the arrest and jail provisions by stating "We certainly want to put some teeth into it." Then there is Chief Judge Albert DeRobbio preparing the jail cells in the Harris Avenue facility. Does this restore your confidence? It gets worse. These ominous powers are being given to the same presiding judges and administrators who brought on the traffic court scandal.

The legislation takes no sanctions against any AAC personnel. The 12-year appointment (1992-2004) of court administrator Leo Skenyon is specifically continued. Additional clerical and recorder personnel are authorized. These personnel will be appointed by Chief Judge DeRobbio who maintains he needs 20 new full time

employees to work down the years of backlog in the courts. Additional security guards will also be needed.

The legislation also provides that court judges and magistrates will be empowered to order arrest of motorists who they find in contempt for not paying fines. An additional fine up to \$500 and jail term up to 48 hours may be imposed. The state intends to use these new powers to coerce motorists to pay. Some motorists either cannot afford to pay or have already paid. In many of these cases, the court will not be able to verify what fines are owed. The KPMG auditors advised the state that many of these fines are uncollectable; yet, the legislation has no amnesty provisions.

Then there is Chief Judge Albert DeRobbio preparing the jail cells in the Harris Ave. facility.

Neither does the legislation address the major problem of license suspensions. Numbered at 88,000 this represents 13.3 percent of all Rhode Island drivers. Court records—such as they are—show the suspensions are mostly those of uninsured drivers. When 1 in 8 drivers have license suspensions mostly due to the mandatory insurance law, it is time that responsible government address the state's automobile insurance policy. For starters, where are the insurance alternatives that other states have to protect all drivers? Why are our premiums so high compared to other states and why are insurance companies permitted to increase the premiums for non-moving offenses?

Letters to the Editor

Increase Participation— Streamline State Government

I was very intrigued by Marsha Posusney's article in the OCG Oct/Nov 98 newsletter, concerning the reconfiguration of the RI legislature. Her concept of a unicameral legislature composed of 30 senators is definitely an idea whose time has come. This would allow for a diversity of candidates, as the senators would be paid an income to serve as full-time legislators. (She suggests \$30,000 to start, but \$45,000 to \$50,000 would still be affordable if it meant more capable people would find the compensation adequate.) Although their districts would be much larger, they would be able to devote their full energies to serving their constituents, giving them greater visibility and far more autonomy than our current representatives have. This, in turn, would hold them more accountable to the public, and would also afford new candidates an opportunity to challenge their records as incumbents. A greater pool of candidates is imperative if we are to clean up the present system of special interests and back-room politics.

I also applaud her ideas on proportional representation. Any system that encourages a greater participation by independent parties opens up government to more dynamic solutions to the state's problems. As it stands, the present House and Senate majority leaders represent small districts; yet, they virtually control the whole state through a one party system. This is a system ripe for abuse and designed to discourage citizens from running for reelection against people like John Harwood and Paul Kelly, whose war chests are so large by now as to make them unbeatable. Such devices as Majority Preference Voting and Proportional Representation as a way of selecting legislators is much fairer and more inclusive than the present "winner take all" system that is currently employed. It is hard to fathom why at this stage of our history and development as a state, we can still conceive of such an infantile practice as "one" winner. Its flaws are obvious, for it is not unusual for a constituent to find he cannot trust his elected representatives to take stands against an entrenched bureaucracy.

Ms. Posusney asks us to consider changing the way we run our state. In my view, she has provided a blueprint that bears our immediate consideration and attention, and certainly an agenda for addressing at our next constitutional convention.

Stephanie Rivera,
Richmond, OCG member

Seeking Family Court Data

I am a member of OCG and I am conducting an independent study of the RI Family Court. I am particularly interested in the Commission on Judicial Tenure and Discipline. My goal is to gather as much information as possible and then to apply my findings to bring some positive changes to the Family Court. I am hopeful that the information will also be useful to the entire state court system in an effort to seek the true administration of justice and to restore public confidence in the courts. I would respectfully request that your readers contact me in any of the following ways: Ingrid Campbell, P.O. Box 1152, West Warwick, RI 02893; Tel: 826-7966; or e-mail: ingrid57@worldnet.att.net

We invite letters commenting on our articles and positions. We reserve the right to determine the appropriateness for use in our newsletter. Mail letters to: Operation Clean Government, PO Box 8683, Warwick, RI 02888 or e-mail to wnhclay@aol.com.

OTHER STATES DISCIPLINE THEIR JUDGES

by Robert P. Arruda

RHODE ISLANDERS MAY NOT be surprised to hear that in many states, judges can expect to receive severe discipline for misconduct such as has been alleged of our traffic court judges. Yet, in Rhode Island, after more than a year investigating the complaints filed against six traffic court judges, the Commission on Judicial Tenure and Discipline has dismissed complaints against four of the judges, which were filed by Arlene Violet and Operation Clean Government. Given the nature of the charges and the evidence made public by a series of investigative reports by the Providence Journal, the dismissal of the charges against the four judges seems inexplicable.

Among the allegations substantiated in the Providence Journal series against the traffic court judges were excessive absenteeism and neglect of duties, incompetent patronage appointments, chronic case backlogs, millions of dollars in missing fines, inadequate or non-existent record-keeping and financial controls, arbitrary and unfair treatment of motorists, disregard of due process standards and procedures, and personal conduct bringing the judicial office disrepute.

Rhode Island's Commission on Judicial Tenure and Discipline functions in the same way as its counterparts in the other forty-nine states. All fifty state commissions apply nearly identical rules of judicial ethics modeled on a code drafted by the American Bar Association.

Commissions in California, Kentucky and Missouri have removed judges. Minnesota, New York and West Virginia have disciplined judges for arriving late or leaving work early, and for inconveniencing litigants and leaving paperwork undone after all their court cases were heard.

In recent years, Maine, Vermont, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, Minnesota, Washington, and Wisconsin disciplined judges for excessive delays in processing cases, finding that such neglect violates the ethical requirement that judges should carry out their administrative duties promptly and fairly. Punishments ranged from public admonishment to suspension. (American Judicature Society Judicial Conduct reporter, Vol. 19. No. 4 - Vol. 20. No.1, Winter-Spring, 1998). How many Rhode Island citizens have missed days of work waiting for their cases to be heard or have been deprived of their right to drive for lengthy periods because our traffic court judges failed to put in a full day on the job?

Judges in Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri,

Michigan, North Dakota, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina, and New York have been removed from office for failing to keep or make sure their subordinates kept proper case records and/or records of fines and fees paid into court. ("Removal or Discipline of State Judges for Neglect of, or Failure to Perform Judicial Duties," 87 ALR4th 727.) There is no such accountability in Rhode Island. Our traffic court judges and court personnel cannot account for thirty-nine million dollars in traffic fines, and their poor record keeping has caused untold numbers of citizens to be charged for fines already paid.

To protect their independence, Rhode Island's judges have traditionally been insulated from the forces that work to regulate the performance and conduct of elected officials and non-elected public employees. The elected officials can be voted out of office and public employees can be disciplined or fired for just cause. In contrast, our state judges have life tenure and can only be disciplined for abuses or incompetence by the cumbersome process of impeachment or by the Supreme Court on the recommendation of the Com-

mission on Judicial Tenure and Discipline. Impeachment is a severe, cumbersome and costly process, and therefore is rarely invoked. The Commission on Judicial Tenure and Discipline is, for all practical purposes, the only body with the authority to regulate the conduct of our judges. This commission is made up of 14 individuals, all of whom are lawyers and five of which are judges. The investigative process is conducted in total secrecy. And if a complaint is found to be substantiated, the commission may decide whether to mete out a private reprimand, or to recommend to the Supreme Court a public remedy ranging from censure to suspension or removal from office. The Supreme Court ultimately decides whether a commission recommendation of public sanction will be carried out.

The commission's resolution of the complaints against the remaining two traffic court judges, including the chief judge, has not yet been made public. Perhaps there is still time for someone to be held accountable for the traffic court mess before the legislature creates a new traffic court, but with the same old faces.

"Not a Dime's Worth of Difference Between Republicans and Democrats"

AT A BREAKFAST FORUM on "Open Primaries" hosted by Operation Clean Government Sunday February 21 at Chelo's in Warwick, there seemed to be a consensus that there's not a dime's worth of difference between Republican and Democratic politicians in Rhode Island.

The sellout crowd of more than 200 people listened intently to panelists Secretary of State James Langevin (Democrat), Representative Aram Garabedian (Independent), Senator Mary Parella (Republican), and June Spink (USA Reform Party) as they each gave their versions of what reforms are needed for the primary election process. The discussion led by Arlene Violet raised many questions. Why did less than 14% of registered voters vote in the last primary? Why are 62% of Rhode Island voters unaffiliated? Does the platform of the two major parties differ significantly? Do we want to go to some form of open primary that may cause candidates to take a more moderate position or do we want the ideological

differences that come from a closed system where party members select their candidates?

The panel discussed the following five different types of primaries used in the United States.

- **Closed** - voters must declare their party affiliation a specified period prior to the primary. No one else can vote. (15 states)
- **Semi-closed** - new registrants and/or independents are allowed to choose their party on the day of the primary. Those registered with a party that does not have primary candidates cannot vote. (8 states, including Rhode Island)
- **Open** - all voters may vote, but in only one party primary, which they can select on the primary election day. (23 states)
- **Blanket** - (or wide-open) voters may vote across party lines, one vote per office. (3 states—Washington, Alaska, California in 1998)
- **Non-partisan** - voters may vote across party lines, one vote per office. The top two vote getters from the primary go on to the general election. This assures that the winner at the general election will have a majority vote. It is possible that the top two vote getters could be from the same party. (Louisiana since 1978)

OCG Website

<http://members.aol.com/ocgov>

OUR WEBMASTER Richard Wayne is doing an excellent job keeping our website current. The site now has sections for "Online Discussions," "Reporting Abuses" and will soon have a live chat room. Watch for our updates with OCG press releases, newsletters, and commentaries. Also new links are constantly being added to the many existing links. If you would like to be on our e-mail list for updates to the website and OCG activities, register with us at our site.

Announcing New Internet Website Specializing in RI Politics

by Darrell M. West, Dept. of Political Science, Brown University

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW the status of bills pending in the General Assembly and Congress? Or information on the ethics filings of public officials? Or how your representatives voted? Or who is funding the activities of leading politicians? Or in-depth research reports on policy matters facing the country?

If so, we have a new website: www.INSIDEPOLITICS.org which is dedicated to putting the latest information on-line for students, researchers, journalists, and the general public. In conjunction with The Genesis Institute, a non-profit, non-partisan, tax-exempt organization, I have developed a website that serves as a clearinghouse for up-to-date information on politics and public policy. Among the regular features are a listing of lectures and events in the area, a "Heard on College Hill" segment that brings you the latest news on current issues, and lively commentary on state and national events.

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GOLDEN BROOM AWARDED TO SENATOR MARC A. COTE

SENATOR MARC COTE WAS AWARDED an Operation Clean Government Golden Broom on February 21, 1999 at our breakfast forum on Open Primaries. Our board recognized Senator Cote for his dedication to the principles of honest, responsible and responsive government. When first running for the Senate in 1994, Marc made a promise to his constituents to bring voter initiative to Rhode Island. He has never stopped working towards this goal. In the past five years he has continued to introduce and improve voter initiative legislation to the point where the California Commission on Campaign Financing now recognizes it as "the best voter initiative legislation" in the country.

It was Senator Cote, working with the Voter Initiative Alliance, who urged the Governor to place the voter initiative question on the November 1996 ballot. He regards voter passage of this question as an even broader mandate than his campaign promise and has labored tirelessly to pursue this legislation through years of General Assembly committee hearings.

In addition to advocating voter initiative, Senator Cote can be heard at Senate floor sessions, speaking eloquently on other issues that he believes in strongly. He can politely, but strongly disagree with the leadership. His colleagues in the Senate have genuine respect for the way he operates at the state house. He does his own thinking and speaks and votes for what he thinks is morally right, best for his constituents and best for this state. We greatly appreciate having such a dedicated, tenacious and ethical senator and were proud to award a Golden Broom to Senator Cote. At the ceremony there was a tribute from Sandra Mellen, who chaired the Voter Initiative Alliance.

The Golden Broom is a prestigious award and the seventh since 1993 when Operation Clean Government was formed. Former recipients are:

- **Treasurer Nancy Mayer**, November 1993, for her work in cleaning up the pension system and eliminating lists of so-called "favored" bond brokers.
- **State Senator J. Michael Lenihan**, March 1994, for his courage to stand up to the Bevilacqua leadership opposing legislation, which was not in the best interest of Rhode Islanders.
- **Bruce Lang** (Operation Clean Government's co-founder and first chairperson), November 1994, for his far-reaching vision and unrelenting fight for honest, responsible and responsive state government.



OCG Chairman Robert P. Arruda, left, presents the Golden Broom Award to Senator Marc Cote at February 21st OCG forum

- **Thomas and Barbara McHugh** (former Executive Directors of the Government Accountability Project) August 1995. They spent four years of full time volunteer work to make research available to citizens of Rhode Island.
- **Richard Morsilli**, October 1997. For his exemplary five years of unpaid service as Chairman of the Ethics Commission and his courage in drafting and adopting new ethics codes and regulations for Separation of Powers for the legislative branch of government.
- **Secretary of State James R. Langevin**, February 1998, for making governmental information more accessible through his Public Information Center and for his "Access Denied" report.

Solving the Tobacco Money Dilemma

If you had \$1.4 BILLION, what would you do with it? That's the amount that Rhode Island is getting from the tobacco companies. Would you spend it or invest it?

by Bruce Lang

THE FORTHCOMING tobacco money is the biggest windfall in Rhode Island history. It will never happen again. It's special, and we should do something special with all this money.

Some have said that we should use some or all of the tobacco money for our state general fund or to pay down state debt. I don't think that any of the tobacco funds should be used for this purpose. Even though Rhode Island has the fourth highest ratio of per capita debt of any state, it is coming down, especially as the DEPCO debt is paid off. Unfortunately, in Rhode Island it is too easy to add big projects to state debt without voter approval. The best way we can forestall piling on more debt is not to pay down big amounts of debt all at once.

I believe that 100 per cent of the \$1.4 billion received over 25 years should be invested as an endowment, in other words we should invest the principal and spend only the income from the investment. With the annual earnings of that endowment, the state can then fund meaningful

anti-smoking and other appropriate health care programs that never would be possible without substantial new money. A "blue ribbon citizens commission" should be established to develop a mission for the money's use and to oversee the development of meaningful and creative programs that would have some relation to honoring the reasons the states will receive this massive bounty from the tobacco companies. The fund could be administered and managed by the highly regarded and effective Rhode Island Foundation.

This endowment fund, on average, should earn 10 per cent per year. At that rate, over 25 years, \$1.4 billion would generate more money each year, and for the first 25 years should average about \$56 million per year for our state. The kind of money we would have for health programs at different points over the 25-year period of windfall would be about as follows:

- At the end of year one, we'd have \$6 million for programs.
- At the end of year five, we'd have \$34

million for programs.

- At the end of year ten, we'd have \$56 million for programs.
- At the end of year 15, we'd have \$84 million for programs.
- At the end of year 20, we'd have \$112 million for programs.
- At the end of year 25, we'd have \$140 million for programs.

With this method, in 25 years, instead of having a hangover and no money left, we'd still own the \$1.4 billion, and own it forever! At the same time, we would be generating about \$140 million every single year for meaningful health programs that citizens probably would not have otherwise! This truly would be a great use of this special windfall, probably make Rhode Island unique, and be a very positive legacy for the future of health care for all Rhode Islanders.

Editor's note: This is an opinion piece. Operation Clean Government has not yet taken a position on the tobacco money issue.

Two Senate Genies for Board of Elections

by Beverly Clay

AFTER LOSING THEIR MEDICAL and retirement benefits in January 1998 for not working anywhere near the required 20 hours per week, the Board of Elections has two genies stepping forward to make up these lost benefits. **Senate Majority Whip William Enos** and **Senate Pro Tempore Charles Walton** have introduced legislation to increase annual compensation to members of the Board of Elections from \$7,000 to \$15,000. This board meets infrequently to conduct election business. With 14-year appointments, it is considered to be the state's supreme repository of political patronage.

In the fall of 1997, Operation Clean Government researched the part time board members' eligibility for state paid health insurance and participation in the retirement system. Our data showed the board's work schedule was far short of the *required 20 hours per week minimum* to receive the medical insurance benefit. For example:

- in 1995 a total of 20 hours **for the year** was recorded for their time at board meetings.
- in the 1996 election year, 117 hours of meetings **for the year** was recorded
- in 1997 through September 24 (the last day of our inquiry), the board met **23 hours**.

The hours above average out to about 70 a year. Even then, some board members do not attend all board meetings. At \$7,000 per year, board members are compensated at an average rate of about \$100 per hour. Senators Enos and Walton seek to raise members to \$15,000 or over \$200 per hour.

Based on our research data, *Providence Journal* reporter Katherine Gregg wrote eight articles during the fall of 1997, which aroused public anger and resulted in the removal of board members from the state's health insurance and retirement programs.

Aware of board members' political connections, we were not surprised that during the 1998 legislative session, Senator Enos disregarded public sentiment and introduced 98-S 2755 to raise annual compensation for these part time board members to \$14,000. Fortunately, that bill quietly died in Senator Lenihan's Finance Committee. However, this year's bill (99-S 0697) although having a financial impact is assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee where both Enos and Walton sit.

OCG believes this fleecing of the taxpayers is but a thinly veiled attempt to compensate seven politically appointed board members for their loss of state paid health insurance, to which they were never entitled. We see no reason why Board of Election members should receive any compensation. Members of most other state boards and commissions do not. If Board of Election members are unhappy without compensation, they should resign. We believe that the state can recruit board members who are not politically connected, who are capable and who would be willing to serve effectively in the spirit of good citizenship.

OCG BOARD MEETINGS
 First Thursday of every month - 7:00 PM
 Bickford's Restaurant meeting room
 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick
 For more information, call 1-877-SWEEP-RI
 OCG members are invited to attend

Have you seen the OCG Website?
 Check it out at
<http://members.aol.com/ocgov>
 for current and past newsletters,
 press releases, and our extensive
 research links.

OCG MEMBERSHIP FORM

YES, I want to join other Rhode Island citizens and help to promote Honest, Responsible and Responsive State Government.

NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

My membership contribution to OPERATION CLEAN GOVERNMENT is enclosed:

\$12 INDIVIDUAL \$15 FAMILY \$25 \$50 \$100 \$_____ Other

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Street _____ Business Phone _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

OCG is a non-profit organization, however contributions are not tax deductible because our activities include lobbying.

Yes, I would like to volunteer some time or participate on one or more of the OCG committees. Please call me.

I heard about OCG from _____

Send this form to:
Operation Clean Government, PO Box 8683, Warwick, RI 02888 • 1-877-SWEEP-RI

WHO WE ARE...

OPERATION CLEAN GOVERNMENT is a grassroots organization working to bring about positive changes in Rhode Island state government. We advocate the passage of legislation which will provide Honest, Responsible and Responsive state government. We file ethics complaints and alert the public to government wrongdoing via OCG newsletters, press releases and appearances in the electronic media.

Dues are \$12 for an individual membership and \$15 for a family membership. Donations of any amount are also welcome. As an all volunteer organization, there are no salaries or compensation other than the satisfaction that we are giving our best effort to make a positive difference in Rhode Island. Our costs include newsletters, mailings, office materials and supplies, publicity and public forums.

Where's the Beef?



Who's really been getting a \$39,000,000 Free Lunch at the Traffic Court?

**Operation Clean Government wants to
know what happened to *your* money?**

Auditors can't tell us.
OCG has called for an
investigation, but with no response.

Maybe you know.

- \$ Have you paid a ticket and been asked to pay the same ticket again?
- \$ Are you unable to register your vehicle even though you paid your ticket?
- \$ Do you have evidence that you paid your fine but your license is still suspended?
- \$ Have you witnessed any wrongdoing at the traffic court?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then share with us what you know and together we will work to hold our government officials accountable.

Please contact **Operation Clean Government**

Toll Free: 1-877-SWEEP-RI

Website: <http://www.members.aol.com/ocgov>
click on Report Abuses

P0 Box 8683, Warwick, RI 02888