

Fortis' Stanley Marshall questions Chalillo opponents'

"30,000 petitions from around the world"

The Fortis Building, Suite 1201
PO Box 8837, 139 Water Street
St. John's, Newfoundland, tel: (709) 737-2800

April 8, 2002

Mr. Greg Malone
12 Sycamore Place
St. John's, NF
A1B 2S3

Dear Sir:

On March 1, you presented me with six boxes of documents from the Natural Resource Defence Council (see two of NRDC's letters of transmittal attached as Appendix A). You indicated to the media that these boxes contained "about 30,000 petitions from people around the world" who wanted to stop the Chalillo dam and requested that I give these "petitions" due consideration.

I have reviewed the contents of all the boxes you delivered to me. The contents are bundles of "Letters of Protest" consisting of coupons from NRDC publications generally stamped with the name of its members with a space for signature and address. These seem to have accompanied requests for donations from the NRDC (see Appendix B for examples).

The instructions which accompanied the letters of protest in Appendix B indicate that they would be delivered "along with a million others in a collective show of continent-wide opposition". As petitions in the boxes, I assume that this is another of NRDC's exaggerations.

My particular interest was to ascertain whether there were any letters of protest from residents outside the U.S. For this purpose all letters were examined. We found one from Belize, Ms. Susanne Giattina, who indicates that she is an American Peace Corp worker. In addition we found four letters from two American addresses who gave Belize addresses as well (see Appendix C).

As shown by Appendix C, we encountered a number of examples where one individual had multiple letters of protest in the name of themselves and others. The NRDC obviously ran the campaign in a number of its publications over more than a year.

As a matter of interest there were no letters of protest in the boxes from Newfoundland and only three from all of Canada. The only other letters from outside the U.S. were one from Mexico and one from Chile.

In the course of our examination, we found hundreds of NRDC coupons with no addresses. There were almost one hundred which had no signature or address.

Also in the boxes from the NRDC, were numerous letters of protest and petitions addressed to other individuals protesting issues other than the Chalillo dam. I have provided a sampling in Appendix D. These include letters of protest and petitions to President George Bush and various US senators protesting oil exploration in Alaska. There are also letters of protest to the Canadian Embassy and lumber distributors

concerning logging in B.C. and to Mitsubishi about whale hunting in Mexico. NRDC members are obviously an unhappy lot.

Some NRDC members are obviously unhappy with the NRDC rather than Fortis, as we encountered a number of forms which indicated that people wanted their names taken off the mailing list and from individuals who were not prepared to give the NRDC any more money (see Appendix E for examples).

It is obvious that neither you nor the NRDC paid much attention to the contents of the boxes you provided to me. The money that was sent to the NRDC with the letters was obviously more important.

A number of individuals attempted to convey to the NRDC their opposition to the NRDC protest (see Appendix F).

Mr. Michael Avery writes:

"Build the dam ... and take me off your mailing list."

An anonymous writer says:

"If a Kennedy is against it, it must be a good thing."

James Williams is confused by the NRDC form which refers to the Chalillo project being in a "neighbouring country" and says:

"I am staying out of Mexico's affairs."

Carroll O'Connor points out that:

"The neighbouring countries of the United States are Mexico & Canada."

Ms. V. Brown says:

"No Deal" to the protest letter and goes on to write:

"It seems to me the people of Belize could use affordable electric power and that this dam is needed ... I say build the dam". Don't mail me any more of this one-sided crap."

Ms. Margaret L. Hudson simply refuses

to sign the form and says:

"No."

Ms. Gladys G. Kocurek writes:

"Let Belize solve its own problems. I don't want them coming to US to tell us how to solve our problems."

Mr. Pete Stasz writes:

"I call on you to continue your plans for the Chalillo dam ... there is a trade off for necessary electric energy, especially non-oil based energy."

I suggest that before you deliver letters of protest in a public relations exercise, you and the NRDC should first take the time to review them yourselves.

Yours truly,

H. Stanley Marshall

President and Chief Executive Officer

HSM/ajc

Encls.