

summer of 1995 concerning long term fund-raising prospects for the Party at which Mercer indicated that he had spoken with Patrick O'Connor and learned that the Indians with whom Fowler and Mercer had met about Hudson were pleased with what was done for them, or being done for them, and that there would be contributions from them in the fall. Sullivan understood that it was Mercer's task to follow-up with those tribes and pursue contributions from them.

Mercer testified that he did continue working with O'Connor on fund-raising efforts, and it is possible that he remarked to his Finance colleagues about prospects from O'Connor's clients. Mercer acknowledged that there were occasions when he and O'Connor discussed both the Hudson matter and O'Connor's fund-raising efforts in the same conversation, but Mercer said he never received any contributions from the tribes. Indeed, he had no recollection of knowing that those same tribes had contributed to the DNC until the Hudson investigation began. Mercer went so far as to note that he should have received some credit for those contributions (which he did not in internal DNC records) because of his role in the cultivation of those constituents.

3. Other DNC Native American Fund-Raising Efforts in 1995

Determining the precise motivation and cause for the DNC's heightened interest in Indian affairs, and its sudden expansion of Indian fund-raising, is not a simple matter. As noted above in Section II.F.2.c., Fowler and Mercer's efforts with O'Connor and Kitto were not the only DNC attempts to forge stronger relations and improve fund-raising with the Indian community in the spring of 1995. By early May of that year, DNC National Finance Council (NFC) Director Adam Crain had begun efforts to increase the DNC's Native American outreach. Crain was aware of the enormous financial contributions the Mashantucket Pequots had made previously to the DNC. Crain recalled working extensively since at least May 1995 with NFC volunteer Co-