

“Did Gifts Affect Oliveira’s Votes?”

- The Brownsville Herald , 9/27/07

Recently my opponent was criticized by the Fort Worth-Star Telegram for accepting controversial gifts.

The gifts we’re talking about here: **up to \$1000 for San Antonio Spurs playoff tickets for Representative Rene Oliveira** and his chief of staff.

That in itself isn’t too bad; until you consider the source of these gifts- the Fort Worth-based equity investment firm TPG Capital. Now, here’s where it gets real interesting. TPG hoped to purchase TXU, a privately run energy company.

“But it (this buyout) has been dogged by controversy from the beginning with major consumer groups saying it could lead to higher electric rates.”

- The Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 8/22/07

You see, Rene **opposed** utility legislation favored by consumer groups*, such as Texans for Public Justice, that would prevent electric rates from being increased and would have spoiled the buyout of TXU by TPG.

We can only hope that Rene’s acceptance of the Spurs Playoff tickets from a powerful investment firm seeking to increase our

electricity rates had nothing to do with the way he voted. However, watch your pocketbook when your electric rates go up in the future due to his opposition to proposed legislation designed to help the average consumer and middle class. **By the way, Rene also received a \$2,500 political contribution from the TXU Pac, the political action committee for the utility company. ****

This is important because I’m basing my platform on **ethics**, consumer protection, education and quality of life. I will not accept gifts from special interest groups or their lobbyists; **Rene does.**

It’s time for a change.

*Fort Worth Star-Telegram – 8/22/2007

** Official Candidate Report of Political Contributions for Rene Oliveira

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