

OCT. 9, 1980

D'AMATO CAMP LINKS HOLTZMAN TO VILLAGE VOICE ATTACK

Senate candidate Al D'Amato's brother, Armand, today issued a statement in New York City charging that Elizabeth Holtzman had helped engineer a Village Voice article which he called "a tapestry of innuendos, distortions and flimsy fabrications stitched together by a radical left-wing publication in a scurrilous smear of my brother and our family."

D'Amato, a Baldwin assemblyman, said that Holtzman would never have resorted to such malicious slander if she had any comprehension of family ties and relationships.

D'Amato said that he resents the implication that anyone who is of Italian extraction is automatically corrupt.

The full statement follows:

"It is apparent that the Holtzman campaign will stop at nothing to defeat someone who is speaking for the middle class, someone who represents the traditional middle-class values that are anathema to the Holtzman-Javits-Village Voice mentality. The Village Voice has long been a champion of all liberal causes, and it is opposed to everything that Al D'Amato stands for. Its article is a tapestry of innuendos, distortions and flimsy fabrications stitched together by a radical leftwing publication in a scurrilous smear of my brother and our family.

"There is a direct link between the Village Voice and the Holtzman campaign, which helped engineer the article in a desperate attempt to discredit Al D'Amato.

"A lawyer for the Village Voice is Victor Kovner of the law firm of Lanckenau, Kovner and Bickford of 30 Rockefeller Plaza. Kovner is married to Sara Kovner, a principal in a firm called Arts, Letters and Politics, which specializes in raising funds for ultra-left candidates.

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Arts, Letters and Politics was the consultant for at least one fund-raising event for Holtzman.

"Victor Kovner, as attorney for the Village Voice, clears controversial articles scheduled for publication, and thus had direct input, on Holtzman's behalf, to the article's contents.

"Such a blatant political smear, undertaken with the cooperation of an opposing candidate, could constitute an illegal corporate campaign contribution by the Village Voice. Our campaign committee is consulting with our attorney, and we may request an investigation by the Federal Election Commission, which oversees House and Senate campaigns.

"Sen. Javits tried to smear Al D'Amato during the Republican primary election, but the voters did not buy it. Now, Holtzman is resorting to the same tawdry tricks, even going so far as to make a vicious attack on my father. My father is eminently qualified for the job that he holds. He has worked in the Island Park community for many years. He is a past president and district governor of the Lions, a founder and past president of the Island Park Chamber of Commerce, and is a well-respected man with deep roots in his community. If Holtzman understood family ties and relationships better, she would never have resorted to such malicious slander. She should immediately fire members of her campaign staff who had anything to do with this attack, and should sever all ties to Arts, Letters and Politics, which is her direct link to the Village Voice.

"As an Italian, I particularly resent the implication that anyone of Italian extraction is automatically corrupt. My brother, Al, has had a long career in public service. Holtzman has resurrected stale, old charges that have already been aired, thoroughly investigated and found to be without any foundation."