UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT





NITED STATES OF AMERICA

NOV 2 2 2004

ERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT ERN DISTRICT OF CALIFOR

OSEPH BANISTER

WARRANT FOR ARREST

Case Number: CR.S- 0 4 _ 0 4 3 5 WBS

o: The United States Marshal and any Authorized United States Officer YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to arrest JOSEPH BANISTER nd bring him or her forthwith to the nearest magistrate judge to answer a(n) Indictment Information Violation Petition Other targing him or her with (brief description of offense). Conspiracy to Defraud the United States violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section(s) Mena-Sanchez Deputy Clerk Name of Isating Officer Title of Issuing Officer November 17, 2004 - Sacramento, CA Date and Location all fixed at \$ No Bail Magistrate Judge Dale A. Drozd RETURN is warrant was received and executed with the arrest of the above-named defendant.

McGREGOR W. SCOTT United States Attorney ROBERT M. TWISS CAROLYN K. DELANEY Assistant United States Attorneys 501 I Street, 10th Floor Sacramento, California 95814 Telephone: (916) 554-2767



HOV 1 8 2004 PER PRINTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

WALTER A. THOMPSON, JOSEPH BANISTER,

Defendants.

CR. No. S-04-435 WBS

GOVERNMENT'S MOTION TO UNSEAL INDICTMENT

The United States, by and through its undersigned counsel, hereby moves to unseal the above captioned indictment. The indictment was returned on November 17, 2004 and ordered sealed by the Honorable Peter A. Nowinski until either the arrest of both defendants, or the initial court appearance of the first defendant, whichever should occur first.

Defendant JOSEPH BANISTER was arrested this morning, and will make his initial appearance this afternoon at 2:00 pm. It is necessary to provide copies of the indictment to the pre-trial services office and the Federal Defender in advance of the 2:00 calendar.

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Accordingly, the United States now moves to unseal the indictment for all purposes.

Dated: November 18, 2004

McGREGOR W. SCOTT United States Attorney

By:

ROBERT M. TWISS CAROLYN K. DELANEY Assistant U.S. Attorneys

ORDER

IT IS SO ORDERED. The indiciment is UNSEALED for all

purposes.

Dated: November 18, 2004

PETER A. NOWINSKI

United States Magistrate Judge

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

V.

JOSEPH BANISTER

WARRANT FOR ARREST

Case Number CR.S- 0 4 - 0 4 3 5 WBS

To: The United States Marshal and any Authorized United States Officer

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to arrest JOSEPH BANISTER



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and bring him or her forthwit	h to the nearest magistrate	judge	to answer a(n)	
Indictment Information	n C Violation Petition	r ot	her	
charging him or her with (brief de	scription of offense)			
		G		
Conspir	acy to Defraud the United	States		
in violation of Title	8 United States	Code.	Section(s)	371
			_	5/1
L Mena-Sanchez		_	Deputy Clerk	
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Original signed by L Mena-S. Signature of Issuing Officer	anchez	į.	November 17 Date and Loca	, 2004 - Sacramento, CA
Bail fixed at \$ No Bail		by	Magistrate In	dge Dale A. Drozd
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his warrant was received and	executed with the arrest of	f the a	bove-named de	fendant
Date Received	Name and Title of Arresting Of	ficer		
Date of Arrest	Signature of Arresting Officer			
		/		

McGREGOR W. SCOTT United States Attorney ROBERT M. TWISS CAROLYN K. DELANEY Assistant United States Attorneys 501 I Street, 10th Floor Sacramento, California 95814 Telephone: (916) 554-2767



IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

WALTER A. THOMPSON, JOSEPH BANISTER,

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Defendants.

CR. No. CR.S-04_0435 WBS

GOVERNMENT'S MOTION TO FILE INDICTMENT UNDER SEAL

The United States, by and through its undersigned counsel, hereby moves to file the indictment in the above captioned case under seal until the arrest of both defendants, or the first court appearance of either defendant, whichever comes first.

Defendant JOSEPH BANISTER was employed as a Special Agent in the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service from 1993 until February of 1999, at which time BANISTER was asked by the Internal Revenue Service to resign his position. Since that time, BANISTER has repeatedly challenged the authority of IRS Special Agents to investigate criminal tax cases and their right to exercise federal law enforcement authority.

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Special Agent Paul Howard of the Internal Revenue Service has advised the undersigned attorney for the United States that BANISTER received extensive training in the use of firearms while he was employed as an IRS Special Agent. Special Agent Howard also has advised the undersigned the BANISTER was a firearms instructor for the IRS while he was employed as a Special Agent. Based upon BANISTER's training and his experience as a firearms instructor, it is reasonable to assume that BANISTER is very comfortable with firearms, and is an expert in their use.

If convicted of the offenses charge in the indictment, defendant BANISTER is facing imprisonment for several years. As a former federal law enforcement officer facing the possibility of going to federal prison for an extended time, there is a possibility that BANISTER might not exercise the best judgment when confronted with arrest if he is aware of it in advance. Accordingly, the United States moves to file the indictment under seal until the arrest of defendant BANISTER, or the first appearance of co-defendant THOMPSON if that should occur first.

Defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON was the respondent in case number CIV S-03-1532 FCD which was a petition to enjoin him from failing to deduct, collect, account for, and turn over to the United States Treasury the correct amount of income tax, social security tax (FICA) and Medicare taxes from the employees of his sole proprietorship business known as CENCAL SALES in Redding, California.

On or about September 12, 2003, THOMPSON was ordered by the Honorable Frank C. Damrell, Jr. to file the required Employers' Quarterly Tax Returns, Forms 941, with the Internal Revenue

Service, and to deduct, collect, account for, and turn over the correct amount of income tax, social security tax (FICA) and Medicare taxes from the employees of his business.

THOMPSON failed to comply with the Court's order, and on or about January 26, 2004, the United States filed a petition to hold THOMPSON in contempt. On or about March 5, 2004, an arrest warrant was issued for THOMPSON and he ultimately was arrested and brought before the Court. On or about April 16, 2004, THOMPSON refused to comply with the court order, and he was imprisoned for civil contempt.

On or about April 20, 2004, the Honorable Frank C. Damrell, Jr. ordered THOMPSON released based upon his promise to comply with the order. After release, THOMPSON gave notice of his intent to not comply with the court order, and on or about May 7, 2004, the United States filed a motion to have THOMPSON arrested again and brought back before the Court. The order issued on or about June 25, 2004, and THOMPSON was returned to Court, and on or about August 11, 2004, he again refused to comply with the court order and was jailed for contempt.

THOMPSON remained in custody until in or about October 28, 2004, at which time the Honorable Frank C. Damrell, Jr. found that further incarceration would not cause THOMPSON to comply with the court order, and ordered that he be released.

Special Agent Shawn Breslin of the Internal Revenue Service has advised the undersigned attorney for the United States that he was advised by the United States Marshal who arrested defendant THOMPSON on the second instance discussed above that THOMPSON was very animated during the arrest, and that the

Marshal had to consider using pepper spray to subdue him. As a result, defendant THOMPSON can be expected to resist being arrested pursuant to the indictment if he is aware of the arrest in advance. Accordingly, the United States moves to file the indictment under seal until the arrest of both defendants or the initial appearance in court of the first defendant.

Dated: November 17, 2004

McGREGOR W. SCOTT United States Attorney

By: Koleuton IM

CAROLYN K. DELANEY Assistant U.S. Attorneys

ORDER

IT IS SO ORDERED. The indictment is filed under seal, and shall remain under seal until the arrest of both defendants or the initial appearance in court of the first defendant, whichever

should occur first.

Dated: November 17, 2004

RALE A. IDROED

United States Magistrate Judge

McGREGOR W. SCOTT United States Attorney ROBERT M. TWISS CAROLYN K. DELANEY Assistant United States Attorneys 501 I Street, Suite 10-100 Sacramento, California 95814 Telephone: (916) 554-2767

FILED

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CLERK, U.S. EISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DEPOTY STERK

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE

EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

ν.

JOSEPH BANISTER, and WALTER A. THOMPSON,

Defendants.

CR. No. CRS-04-0435 WBS

VIOLATIONS: 18 U.S.C. § 371-Conspiracy; 18 U.S.C. § 287-False Claims Against United States (Two Counts); 26 U.S.C. § 7206(1) - Filing False Tax Returns; 26 U.S.C. § 7206(2)-Aiding and Assisting the Filing Of False Tax Returns (Three Counts); 26 U.S.C. § 7202-Willful Failure to Withhold and Pay Taxes (10 Counts)

INDICTMENT

JOSEPH BANISTER and

COUNT ONE: [18 U.S.C. § 371 - Conspiracy to Defraud the United States]

The Grand Jury charges:

SEALED

WALTER A. THOMPSON,

defendants herein, as follows:

PARTIES, PERSONS AND ENTITIES

At all relevant times,

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1. Defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON has been a resident of Shasta County, California, and has operated a sole proprietorship business known as Cencal Sales, which has conducted business in the State and Eastern District of California and elsewhere.

- 2. Defendant JOSEPH BANISTER has been a resident of Santa Clara County, California, and has been engaged in business as a certified public accountant ("CPA"), conducting business in the Northern and Eastern District of California and elsewhere.

 Defendant JOSEPH BANISTER was employed as a Special Agent in the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service between November, 1993 and February, 1999.
- 3. Cencal Sales ("CENCAL") was a sole proprietorship
 business owned and operated by defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON.

 CENCAL was engaged in the manufacturing and sales of aviation
 flight bags. At all times material to this case, CENCAL had a
 number of employees who worked for CENCAL in return for wages
 paid on an hourly basis. Most of the employees who worked for
 CENCAL were seamstresses, production managers, or office workers.

II. INCOME SUBJECT TO TAXATION

4. Gross income subject to taxation is defined in the Internal Revenue Code, Title 26, United States Code, to include all income from whatever source derived, including, but not limited to, several listed items, including, but not limited to: compensation for services, including fees, commissions, fringe benefits, and similar items; gross income derived from business; gains derived from dealings in property; interest; rents; royalties; dividends; annuities; distributive shares of partnership gross income; and income from an interest in an estate or trust.

5. Income is taxed to the party who earns it. The entity which earns income, either an individual, partnership or other entity, cannot avoid taxation by entering into a contractual arrangement whereby the income is diverted to some other person or entity. The income tax consequences under the Internal Revenue Code depend upon the substance of the transaction, not the form.

III. EMPLOYMENT TAXES

- 6. Employers, including the owners of sole proprietorships, are required to file U.S. Employers' Quarterly Tax Returns, Form 941, reporting the names and social security numbers of the employees who received salary and wages during the tax period, and the amount of wages and salary which each employee received. Employers are required to deduct, collect, account for and pay over to the United States Treasury the proper amount of income, Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) (Social Security) and Medicare taxes.
- 7. Employers are required to calculate the correct amount of income tax to withhold from the employees' pay based upon the amount of money earned, the exemptions claimed and the tax rate which is applicable. In addition, employers must withhold FICA tax in the amount of 6.2% of wages and salary, and Medicare tax in the amount of 1.45% of wages and salary.
- 8. In addition, there are FICA taxes of 6.2% of wages and salary and Medicare taxes of 1.45% of wages and salary imposed upon the employer. Accordingly, each fiscal quarter, an employer

is required to file a U.S. Employers' Quarterly Tax Return, Form 941, reporting to the U.S. Treasury the total amount of wages and salary paid, and paying to the Treasury the total amount of income taxes withheld from the employees' pay, plus both the employees' portion of FICA taxes and the employer's portion of FICA taxes, in the total amount of 12.4% of wages and salary, as well as employees' and employer's shares of Medicare taxes in the total amount of 2.90% of wages and salary.

IV. THE CONSPIRACY

- 9. Between on or about January 1, 2000, and continuing thereafter until on or about January 15, 2003, in the State and Eastern District of California, and elsewhere, defendants JOSEPH BANISTER and WALTER A. THOMPSON did unlawfully, willfully and knowingly conspire, combine, confederate and agree with each other, and with divers other persons, both known and unknown to the grand jury, to defraud the United States by impeding, impairing, obstructing and defeating the lawful Government functions of the Internal Revenue Service of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, in the ascertainment, computation, assessment and collection of the revenue, to wit: income, social security and Medicare taxes. There were two objectives to the conspiracy to defraud the United States:
- a. To impede, impair, obstruct and defeat the Internal Revenue Service in the ascertainment, computation, assessment and collection of the income, social security and Medicare taxes which were due and owing from the employees of CENCAL for the period July 1, 2000, through December 31, 2002; and
 - b. To impede, impair, obstruct and defeat the Internal

Revenue Service in the ascertainment, computation, assessment and collection of the income, social security and Medicare taxes which were due and owing from the owner and operator of CENCAL, to wit, defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON for the tax years ending December 31, 1996, 1997 and 1998.

V. THE SCHEME TO DEFRAUD

10. The nature of the scheme to defraud the United States was to remove the employees of CENCAL from the taxpayer rolls by no longer withholding any income tax, FICA tax or Medicare taxes from their wages and salaries; by not filing Employers' Quarterly Tax Returns, Form 941, reporting the payment of wages and salary to the employees; and by not providing the employees or the Internal Revenue Service with annual wage and/or other income statements, Forms W-2 or 1099. As a result of the actions of the defendants, dozens of taxpayers who were required to file tax returns and report their income either failed to file returns, or filed returns but failed to report a substantial amount of their income.

In addition, defendant JOSEPH BANISTER prepared and defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON signed and filed with the Internal Revenue Service false and fraudulent Amended Individual Income Tax Returns, Forms 1040X, for WALTER A. THOMPSON and his spouse for the tax years ending December 31, 1996, 1997 and 1998, on which returns defendants BANISTER and THOMPSON reduced to 0 dollars the information on the original returns on which defendant THOMPSON had reported substantial gross income, taxable income and income taxes.

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VI. MANNER AND MEANS BY WHICH THE CONSPIRACY WAS CARRIED OUT

The manner and means by which the conspiracy was sought to be accomplished included, among others, the following:

- 11. Defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON operated CENCAL, a sole proprietorship located in the vicinity of Redding, California. CENCAL manufactured and sold aviation flight bags. There were approximately 25 employees of CENCAL, most of whom were seamstresses who manufactured the bags. In addition, there were a number of production managers who oversaw the work of the seamstresses, and a small number of office workers. All of the employees were hourly wage employees.
- 12. Prior to July 1, 2000, all of the employees of CENCAL had their personal income taxes withheld from their pay, along with their share of the FICA and Medicare taxes. At the end of each calendar year, each employee of CENCAL received a Form W-2 reporting the total amount of income which he/she earned, and how much federal and state income tax, FICA tax and Medicare tax had been withheld from his/her pay. A copy of the W-2's were provided to the Internal Revenue Service by CENCAL.
- 13. On or about July 21, 2000, defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON called an "all hands" meeting for all the employees of CENCAL. At that meeting, defendant THOMPSON advised the employees of CENCAL that it was his opinion that the money which he paid to them as compen-sation for their labor on behalf of CENCAL was not "income" within the meaning of the internal revenue laws and that no federal income taxes were due and owing as a result of his payment of the compensation to them. Defendant THOMPSON advised

the employees that effective immediately as of that meeting, no federal income taxes or FICA and Medicare taxes would be withheld from their pay.

14. On or before July 21, 2000, defendant WALTER THOMPSON instructed his bookkeeping, accounting and other office personnel to stop withholding federal income taxes, FICA taxes and Medicare taxes from the compensation paid to the employees of CENCAL. Defendant THOMPSON also told the bookkeeping, accounting and other office personnel to stop filing U.S. Employers' Quarterly Tax Returns, Form 941, with the Internal Revenue Service. At the same time, defendant THOMPSON told his bookkeeping, accounting and other office personnel not to provide any annual wage statements, Forms W-2, to the employees of CENCAL to account for the compensation paid to those employees, nor to provide Forms W-2 to the Internal Revenue Service.

- 15. On or about October 11, 2000, defendant THOMPSON had a second "all hands" meeting for the employees of CENCAL. At the October 11th meeting, defendant THOMPSON repeated that he would not with-hold federal taxes from the compensation paid to the employees nor file the Employers' Quarterly Tax Returns.

 Defendant THOMPSON advised the employees that the compensation which they received was not "income" within the meaning of the internal revenue laws, and that they did not have to pay taxes on it. Defendant THOMPSON outlined in detail his reasons for not withholding federal taxes from the employees.
- 16. Defendant JOSEPH BANISTER attended the October 11, 2000 "all hands" meeting and participated in the discussion.
 Defendant THOMPSON introduced defendant BANISTER as a certified

public accountant that defendant THOMPSON had known since 1999, and that defendant BANISTER was a former Special Agent with the Internal Revenue Service.

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Defendant BANISTER advised the employees that he was a certified public accountant and former Special Agent with the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service. Defendant BANISTER was present during defendant THOMPSON's extended explanation of defendant THOMPSON'S position on the tax issues to the employees. At the end of defendant THOMPSON's presentation, defendant BANISTER outlined for the employees the nature of the research he had done on the tax issues, and advised the CENCAL employees about the circumstances leading up to the end of his employment with the Internal Revenue Service. Defendant BANISTER told the employees that he could not find any authority in his research which established that people such as the employees had to pay federal income taxes on the wages which they made at CENCAL. Defendant BANISTER advised the employees that defendant THOMPSON was an honorable man who would not lie to them.

- 17. Beginning in July of 2000, and continuing through at least December 31, 2002, no income taxes, FICA taxes or Medicare taxes were withheld from the compensation paid to employees of CENCAL, nor were these taxes collected, accounted for and paid over to the United States Treasury.
- 18. Beginning in July of 2000, and continuing through at least January 15, 2003, no U.S. Employers' Quarterly Tax Returns, Form 941, were filed with the Internal Revenue Service accounting for compensation paid to the employees of CENCAL during the

period between July 1, 2000, and December 31, 2002.

Thompson's Individual Taxes

- prepared an Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form
 1040X, for defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON and Thompson's wife for
 the tax year ending December 31, 1998. The amended tax return
 eliminated all of the adjusted gross income, itemized deductions,
 exemptions, and taxes which defendant THOMPSON had reported to
 the Internal Revenue Service when defendant THOMPSON originally
 had filed the 1998 tax return.
- 20. Defendant THOMPSON originally had reported that in 1998, he and his wife had adjusted gross income of \$66,192, itemized deductions of \$14,141, taxable income of \$41,251, and total taxes due and owing of \$15,582. The amended return for 1998 prepared by defendant BANISTER reduced all those amounts to \$0. At the time, defendant THOMPSON owed a huge tax bill to the Internal Revenue Service for the 1998 tax year. The amended return would have eliminated the tax liability in its entirety.
- 21. On or about February 7, 2000, defendant WALTER A.
 THOMPSON signed and filed with the Internal Revenue Service the
 Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040X, for
 himself and his wife for the tax year ending December 31, 1998,
 which defendant JOSEPH BANISTER had prepared.
- 22. On or about February 29, 2000, defendant JOSEPH
 BANISTER prepared an Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return,
 Form 1040X, for defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON and Thompson's wife
 for the tax year ending December 31, 1996. The amended tax
 return eliminated all of the adjusted gross income, itemized

deductions, exemptions, and taxes which defendant THOMPSON had reported to the Internal Revenue Service when defendant THOMPSON originally had filed the 1996 tax return.

- 23. Defendant THOMPSON originally had reported that in 1996, he and his wife had adjusted gross income of \$102,076, itemized deductions of \$15,119, taxable income of \$76,757, and total taxes due and owing of \$26,943. The amended return for 1996 prepared by defendant BANISTER reduced all those amounts to \$0, and sought a tax refund of \$28,161.
- 24. On or about March 16, 2000, defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON signed and filed with the Internal Revenue Service an Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040X, for himself and his wife for the tax year ending December 31, 1996, which defendant JOSEPH BANISTER had prepared.
- 25. On or about February 29, 2000, defendant JOSEPH BANISTER prepared an Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040X, for defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON and Thompson's wife for the tax year ending December 31, 1997. The amended tax return eliminated all of the adjusted gross income, itemized deductions, exemptions, and taxes which defendant THOMPSON had reported to the Internal Revenue Service when defendant THOMPSON originally had filed the 1997 tax return.
- 26. Defendant THOMPSON originally had reported that in 1997, he and his wife had adjusted gross income of \$136,476, itemized deductions of \$14,581, taxable income of \$111,295, and total taxes due and owing of \$38,098. The amended return for 1997 prepared by defendant BANISTER reduced all those amounts to \$0, and sought a tax refund of \$39,711.

27. On or about March 16, 2000, defendant WALTER A.

THOMPSON signed and filed with the Internal Revenue Service an

Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040X, for

himself and his wife for the tax year ending December 31, 1997,

which defendant JOSEPH BANISTER had prepared.

- 28. As a result of the foregoing, defendants BANISTER and THOMPSON defrauded the United States in the amount of approximately \$83,454 with regard to the amended individual income tax returns of defendant THOMPSON for the tax years ending December 31, 1996, 1997 and 1998.
- THOMPSON defrauded the United States in the amount of approximately \$176,215 with regard to the income taxes, FICA taxes and Medicare taxes which should have been deducted, collected, accounted for and paid over to the United States Treasury through the Internal Revenue Service from the wages and salaries of the employees of CENCAL between July 1, 2000 and December 31, 2002.
- 30. The total tax loss from both objectives of the conspiracy was approximately \$259,669.

VII. OVERT ACTS

In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to effect the object thereof, the following overt acts were committed in the Eastern District of California and elsewhere:

31. On or about January 11, 2000, defendant WALTER A.

THOMPSON sent an email to defendant JOSEPH BANISTER advising
defendant BANISTER that defendant THOMPSON had acquired copies of
defendant THOMPSON's 1996, 1997 and 1998 tax returns from his
preparer, and was sending them to defendant BANISTER via UPS.

32. On or about January 11, 2000, defendant JOSEPH BANISTER sent an email to defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON advising defendant THOMPSON that defendant BANISTER had just about finished preparing defendant THOMPSON's amended individual income tax return, Form 1040X, for the 1998 tax year.

- 33. On or about January 31, 2000, in the State and Eastern District of California, defendant JOSEPH BANISTER prepared an amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040X, of taxpayers WALTER and Denise THOMPSON for the period ending December 31, 1998.
- 34. On or about February 29, 2000, in the State and Eastern District of California, defendant JOSEPH BANISTER prepared an amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040X, of taxpayers WALTER and Denise THOMPSON for the period ending December 31, 1997.
- 35. On or about February 29, 2000, in the State and Eastern District of California, defendant JOSEPH BANISTER prepared an amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040X, of taxpayers WALTER and Denise THOMPSON for the period ending December 31, 1996.
- 36. On or about February 7, 2000, in the State and Eastern District of California, defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON made and subscribed an Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040X, for the calendar year ending December 31, 1998.
- 37. On or about February 7, 2000, in the State and Eastern District of California, defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON filed an Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040X, for the calendar year ending December 31, 1998, with the Internal Revenue

service.

- 38. On or about March 16, 2000, in the State and Eastern pistrict of California, defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON made and subscribed an Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040X, for the calendar year ending December 31, 1996.
- 39. On or about March 16, 2000, in the State and Eastern District of California, defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON filed an Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040X, for the calendar year ending December 31, 1996, with the Internal Revenue Service.
- 40. On or about March 21, 2000, in the State and Eastern District of California, defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON made and subscribed an Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040X, for the calendar year ending December 31, 1997.
- 41. On or about March 21, 2000, in the State and Eastern
 District of California, defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON filed an
 Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040X, for the
 calendar year ending December 31, 1997, with the Internal Revenue
 Service.
- 42. On or about April 30, 2000, in the State and Eastern District of California, defendant JOSEPH BANISTER sent a letter to the Chief, Collection Branch, Internal Revenue Service Center at Fresno, California, regarding the disallowance of defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON'S Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return for the calendar year ending December 31, 1998.
- 43. On or about May 25, 2000, in the State and Eastern
 District of California, defendant JOSEPH BANISTER sent a letter
 to the Director of Customer Service, Internal Revenue Service

Center at Fresno, California, regarding the disallowance of defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON'S Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return for the calendar year ending December 31, 1996.

44. On or about May 25, 2000, in the State and Eastern
District of California, defendant JOSEPH BANISTER sent a letter
to the Director of Customer Service, Internal Revenue Service
Center at Fresno, California, regarding the disallowance of
defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON'S Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax
Return for the calendar year ending December 31, 1998.

- 45. On or about July 21, 2000, defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON conducted an "all hands" meeting for all the employees of CENCAL.
- 46. On or about July 21, 2000, defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON instructed the employees of CENCAL that he would no longer withhold federal income and employment taxes from their pay.
- 47. On or about July 1, 2000, defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON instructed the bookkeeping, accounting and other office employees of CENCAL to not withhold federal income taxes, FICA taxes and Medicare taxes from the pay of the employees of CENCAL.
- 48. On or about July 1, 2000, defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON instructed the bookkeeping, accounting and other office employees of CENCAL to not provide year ending wage and income statements, Forms W-2, to the employees of CENCAL to account for the wages and salary paid to the employees by CENCAL.
- 49. On or about July 1, 2000, defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON instructed the bookkeeping, accounting and other office employees of CENCAL to not provide year ending wage and income statements, Forms W-2, to the Internal Revenue Service to account for the wages and salary paid to the employees by CENCAL.

50. On or about August 22, 2000, defendant JOSEPH BANISTER sent an email to defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON regarding the disallowance of defendant THOMPSON's claim for refund filed with regard to the 1997 tax year.

- 51. On or about August 22, 2000, defendant WALTER A.

 THOMPSON sent an email to defendant JOSEPH BANISTER giving
 defendant BANISTER instructions regarding what to say to the
 Internal Revenue Service regarding defendant THOMPSON's claim for
 refund for the 1997 tax year.
- 52. On or about August 27, 2000, defendant JOSEPH BANISTER sent a letter to the Chief, Automated Collection Branch of the Internal Revenue Service Center at Fresno, California, regarding a due process hearing for defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON.
- 53. On or about September 7, 2000, defendant WALTER A.

 THOMPSON sent an email to defendant JOSEPH BANISTER asking
 defendant BANISTER to review a memo which defendant THOMPSON was
 planning to distribute to his employees explaining why he was not
 going to withhold federal taxes from the employees' compensation.
- 54. On or about October 11, 2000, defendant WALTER A.

 THOMPSON had an "all hands" meeting of the employees of CENCAL,
 at which he repeated that he was not going to withhold federal
 taxes from their compensation.
- 55. On or about October 11, 2000, defendant WALTER A.

 THOMPSON explained in detail to the employees of CENCAL exactly
 why he was not going to withhold federal taxes from their
 compensation.
- 56. On or about October 11, 2000, defendant JOSEPH BANISTER attended an "all hands" meeting of the employees of CENCAL in

Redding, California, at which time defendant BANISTER advised the employees that he was a certified public accountant and former Special Agent with the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service.

- 57. On or about October 11, 2000, defendant JOSEPH BANISTER was an active participant in the discussion about why defendant WALTER A. THOMPSON, dba Cencal Sales Anister was not going to withhold federal taxes from the compensation paid to the employees.
- 58. On or about October 11, 2000, defendant JOSEPH BANISTER outlined for the employees the nature of the research he had done on the tax issues, and that he could not find any authority in his research which established that people such as the employees had to pay federal income taxes on the wages which they made at CENCAL.
- 59. On or about October 11, 2000, defendant JOSEPH BANISTER advised the employees of CENCAL that defendant THOMPSON was an honorable man who would not lie to them.
- 60. On or about October 15, 2000, defendant WALTER A.

 THOMPSON sent an email to defendant JOSEPH BANISTER thanking
 defendant BANISTER for his participation in the October 11th
 meeting.
- All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.
- COUNT TWO: [18 U.S.C. § 287 Filing False Claim with United States]

The Grand Jury further charges: T H A T WALTER A. THOMPSON, defendant herein, on or about March 16, 2000, in the County of Shasta, State and Eastern District of California, did make and present to the United States Treasury a claim against the United States for payment, which he knew to be false, fictitious and fraudulent, by preparing and causing to be prepared an Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040X, for the calendar year ending December 31, 1996, which was presented to the United States Treasury Department, through the Internal Revenue Service, wherein he claimed a refund in taxes in the amount of \$28,161, knowing such claim to be false, fictitious and fraudulent, all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 287.

COUNT THREE: [18 U.S.C. § 287 - Filing False Claim with United States]

The Grand Jury further charges: T H A T WALTER A. THOMPSON,

defendant herein, on or about March 21, 2000, in the County of Shasta, State and Eastern District of California, did make and present to the United States Treasury a claim against the United States for payment, which he knew to be false, fictitious and fraudulent, by preparing and causing to be prepared a U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040X, for the calendar year ending December 31, 1997, which was presented to the United States Treasury Department, through the Internal Revenue Service, wherein he claimed a refund in taxes in the amount of \$39,711, knowing such claim to be false, fictitious and fraudulent, all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 287.

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COUNT FOUR: [26 U.S.C. § 7206(1) - Willfully Filing False Tax Returns]

The Grand Jury further charges: T H A T

WALTER A. THOMPSON,

defendant herein, on or about February 7, 2000, in the County of Shasta, Eastern District of California, did willfully make and subscribe an Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040X, for the calendar year ending December 31, 1998, which was verified by a written statement that it was made under penalties of perjury and was filed with the Internal Revenue Service, which said amended individual income tax return he did not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter in that said return reported \$0 in adjusted gross income on line 1, \$0 taxable income on line 5, and \$0 tax due on lines 6 and 10, whereas, as he then and there well knew and believed, he received adjusted gross income of approximately \$66,192, and had taxable income of approximately \$41,251, and taxes due and owing of approximately \$15,582,

All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1).

COUNT FIVE: [26 U.S.C. § 7206(2) - Willfully Aiding and Assisting the Filing of False Tax Returns]

The Grand Jury further charges: T H A T

JOSEPH BANISTER,

defendant herein, on or about February 29, 2000, in the State and Eastern District of California, did willfully aid and assist in, and procure, counsel and advise the preparation and presentation to the Internal Revenue Service of an Amended U.S. Individual

Income Tax Return, Form 1040X, of taxpayers WALTER and Denise
THOMPSON for the period ending December 31, 1996, which was false
and fraudulent as to a material matter in that it represented
that adjusted gross income received by taxpayers WALTER and
Denise THOMPSON was \$0, and that taxable income and taxes due and
owing both were \$0, whereas as the defendant then and there well
knew and believed, the total amount of adjusted gross income,
taxable income and tax due and owing were substantially in excess
thereof,

All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(2).

COUNT SIX: [26 U.S.C. § 7206(2) - Willfully Aiding and Assisting the Filing of False Tax Returns]

The Grand Jury further charges: T H A T JOSEPH BANISTER,

defendant herein, on or about February 29, 2000, in the State and Eastern District of California, did willfully aid and assist in, and procure, counsel and advise the preparation and presentation to the Internal Revenue Service of an Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040X, of taxpayers WALTER and Denise THOMPSON for the period ending December 31, 1997, which was false and fraudulent as to a material matter in that it represented that adjusted gross income received by taxpayers WALTER and Denise THOMPSON was \$0, and that taxable income and taxes due and owing both were \$0, whereas as the defendant then and there well knew and believed, the total amount of adjusted gross income, taxable income and tax due and owing were substantially in excess thereof.

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All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(2).
COUNT SEVEN: [26 U.S.C. § 7206(2) - Willfully Aiding and

Assisting the Filing of False Tax Returns)

The Grand Jury further charges: T H A T

JOSEPH BANISTER,

defendant herein, on or about January 31, 2000, in the State and Eastern District of California, did willfully aid and assist in, and procure, counsel and advise the preparation and presentation to the Internal Revenue Service of an Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040X, of taxpayers WALTER and Denise THOMPSON for the period ending December 31, 1998, which was false and fraudulent as to a material matter in that it represented that adjusted gross income received by taxpayers WALTER and Denise THOMPSON was \$0, and that taxable income and taxes due and owing both were \$0, whereas as the defendant then and there well knew and believed, the total amount of adjusted gross income, taxable income and tax due and owing were substantially in excess thereof,

All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(2).

COUNT EIGHT: [26 U.S.C. § 7202 - Willful Failure to Withhold and Pay Taxes]

The Grand Jury further charges: T H A T WALTER A. THOMPSON,

defendant herein, on or about October 15, 2000, in the County of Shasta, State and Eastern District of California, who conducted a business as a sole proprietorship under the name and style of Cencal Sales, with its principal place of business in Redding, California, did willfully fail to truthfully deduct, collect, account for, and pay over to the Internal Revenue Service those federal income taxes and Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) and Medicare taxes due and owing to the United States of America for the fiscal quarter ending September 30, 2000, in the amount of approximately \$14,965.90,

All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7202.

<u>COUNT NINE</u>: [26 U.S.C. § 7202 ~ Willful Failure to Withhold and Pay Taxes]

The Grand Jury further charges: T H A T

WALTER A. THOMPSON,

defendant herein, on or about January 15, 2001, in the County of Shasta, State and Eastern District of California, who conducted a business as a sole proprietorship under the name and style of Cencal Sales, with its principal place of business in Redding, California, did willfully fail to truthfully deduct, collect, account for, and pay over to the Internal Revenue Service those federal income taxes and Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) and Medicare taxes due and owing to the United States of America for the fiscal quarter ending December 31, 2000, in the amount of approximately \$20,930.77,

All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7202.

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[26 U.S.C. § 7202 - Willful Failure to Withhold and COUNT TEN: Pay Taxes)

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The Grand Jury further charges: THAT

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WALTER A. THOMPSON, 5

defendant herein, on or about April 15, 2001, in the County of Shasta, State and Eastern District of California, who conducted a business as a sole proprietorship under the name and style of Cencal Sales, with its principal place of business in Redding, California, did willfully fail to truthfully deduct, collect, account for, and pay over to the Internal Revenue Service those federal income taxes and Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) and Medicare taxes due and owing to the United States of America for the fiscal quarter ending March 31, 2001, in the amount of approximately \$20,378.04,

All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7202.

[26 U.S.C. § 7202 - Willful Failure to Withhold COUNT ELEVEN: and Pay Taxes]

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THAT The Grand Jury further charges:

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defendant herein, on or about July 15, 2001, in the County of Shasta, State and Eastern District of California, who conducted a business as a sole proprietorship under the name and style of Cencal Sales, with its principal place of business in Redding, California, did willfully fail to truthfully deduct, collect, account for, and pay over to the Internal Revenue Service those federal income taxes and Federal Insurance Contributions Act

WALTER A. THOMPSON,

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(FICA) and Medicare taxes due and owing to the United States of

America for the fiscal quarter ending June 30, 2001, in the
amount of approximately \$16,724.61,

All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section
7202.

COUNT TWELVE: [26 U.S.C. § 7202 - Willful Failure to Withhold and Pay Taxes]

The Grand Jury further charges: T H A T

WALTER A. THOMPSON,

defendant herein, on or about October 15, 2001, in the County of Shasta, State and Eastern District of California, who conducted a business as a sole proprietorship under the name and style of Cencal Sales, with its principal place of business in Redding, California, did willfully fail to truthfully deduct, collect, account for and pay over to the Internal Revenue Service those federal income taxes and Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) and Medicare taxes due and owing to the United States of America for the fiscal quarter ending September 30, 2001, in the amount of approximately \$17,898.96,

All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7202.

COUNT THIRTEEN: [26 U.S.C. § 7202 - Willful Failure to Withhold and Pay Taxes]

The Grand Jury further charges: T H A T

WALTER A. THOMPSON,

defendant herein, on or about January 15, 2002, in the County of Shasta, State and Eastern District of California, who conducted a business as a sole proprietorship under the name and style of Cencal Sales, with its principal place of business in Redding, California, did willfully fail to truthfully deduct, collect, account for and pay over to the Internal Revenue Service those federal income taxes and Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) and Medicare taxes due and owing to the United States of America for the fiscal quarter ending December 31, 2001, in the amount of approximately \$12,857.95,

All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7202.

COUNT FOURTEEN: [26 U.S.C. § 7202 - Willful Failure to Withhold and Pay Taxes]

The Grand Jury further charges: T H A T

WALTER A. THOMPSON,

defendant herein, on or about April 15, 2002, in the County of Shasta, State and Eastern District of California, who conducted a business as a sole proprietorship under the name and style of Cencal Sales, with its principal place of business in Redding, California, did willfully fail to truthfully deduct, collect, account for and pay over to the Internal Revenue Service those federal income taxes and Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) and Medicare taxes due and owing to the United States of America for the fiscal quarter ending March 31, 2002, in the amount of approximately \$16,788.30,

All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7202.

COUNT FIFTEEN: [26 U.S.C. § 7202 - Willful Failure to Withhold and Pay Taxes]

The Grand Jury further charges: T H A T WALTER A. THOMPSON,

defendant herein, on or about July 15, 2002, in the County of Shasta, State and Eastern District of California, who conducted a business as a sole proprietorship under the name and style of Cencal Sales, with its principal place of business in Redding, California, did willfully fail to truthfully deduct, collect, account for and pay over to the Internal Revenue Service those federal income taxes and Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) and Medicare taxes due and owing to the United States of America for the fiscal quarter ending June 30, 2002, in the amount of approximately \$16,902.17,

All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7202.

COUNT SIXTEEN: [26 U.S.C. § 7202 - Willful Failure to Withhold and Pay Taxes]

The Grand Jury further charges: T H A T WALTER A. THOMPSON,

defendant herein, on or about October 15, 2002, in the County of Shasta, State and Eastern District of California, who conducted a business as a sole proprietorship under the name and style of Cencal Sales, with its principal place of business in Redding, California, did willfully fail to truthfully deduct, collect, account for and pay over to the Internal Revenue Service those federal income taxes and Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) and Medicare taxes due and owing to the United States of America for the fiscal quarter ending September 30, 2002, in the amount of approximately \$16,890.52,

All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7202.

COUNT SEVENTEEN: [26 U.S.C. § 7202 - Willful Failure to Withhold and Pay Taxes]

McGREGOR W. SCOTT United States Attorney

The Grand Jury further charges: T H A T

WALTER A. THOMPSON,

defendant herein, on or about January 15, 2003, in the County of Shasta, State and Eastern District of California, who conducted a business as a sole proprietorship under the name and style of Cencal Sales, with its principal place of business in Redding, California, did willfully fail to truthfully deduct, collect, account for and pay over to the Internal Revenue Service those federal income taxes and Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) and Medicare taxes due and owing to the United States of America for the fiscal quarter ending December 31, 2002, in the amount of approximately \$21,883.06,

All in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7202.

SENTENCING ALLEGATIONS

- The tax loss for which defendant JOSEPH BANISTER is responsible in Count Five is approximately \$26,943.
- The tax loss for which defendant JOSEPH BANISTER is responsible in Count Six is approximately \$38,098.
- The tax loss for which defendant JOSEPH BANISTER is responsible in Count Seven is approximately \$15,582.

A TRUE BILL.

FOREPERSON

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Eastern District of California

Criminal Division

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VS

JOSEPH BANISTER and WALTER A. THOMPSON SEALED

INDICTMENT

VIOLATION(S): 18 U.S.C. § 371 - Conspiracy to Defraud The United States; 18 U.S.C. § 287 - Filing False Claim with United States (2 Counts); 26 U.S.C. § 7206(1) - Willfully Filing False Tax Returns; 26 U.S.C. § 7206(2) - Willfully Aiding and Assisting the Filing of False Tax Returns (3 Counts); 26 U.S.C. § 7202 - Willful Failure to Withhold and Pay Taxes (10 Counts)

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