

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802
specter.senate.gov

March 6, 2008

Mr. Roger Goodell
Commissioner
National Football League
280 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Commissioner Goodell:

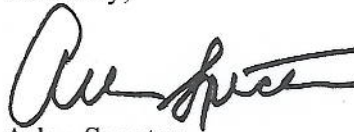
I write to inform you personally about the results of my inquiries into the Patriots' videotaping practices.

The Patriots and Jets have refused to allow interviews with their personnel.

I urge you to examine the extensive exchange of correspondence between your counsel and counsel for Mr. Walsh. In my judgment, an objective and accurate reading of that correspondence demonstrates that it is the NFL's intent to discourage Mr. Walsh from publicly stating what he knows on this subject. Michael N. Levy, counsel for Mr. Walsh, has it exactly right when he wrote to your counsel the NFL "has not assuaged my client's concerns about coming forward with the truth; it has exacerbated them" and that the "NFL has no such intent...to encourage Mr. Walsh to come forward with what he knows."

After the NFL's experience destroying evidence, I am surprised about your counsel's proposal for Mr. Walsh to turn over all materials to the NFL which would then be destroyed. I want you to be on specific notice that such destruction may obstruct a Congressional inquiry. 18 U.S.C. §1505(2006); 18 U.S.C. §1512(b)(2006); and 18 U.S.C. §1512(c)(2006).

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter

AS/ph

Via Facsimile (212) 681-7574

cc: Michael N. Levy, Esquire

Walsh 3/11



NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

ROGER GOODELL
Commissioner

March 7, 2008

Hon. Arlen Specter
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Specter:

I write in response to your letter of March 6, 2008.

We have not proposed to destroy evidence or obstruct any inquiry. Our counsel's February 21 proposal to Michael Levy, counsel for Mr. Walsh, included the provision that, after Mr. Walsh returns any materials that he may have improperly taken from the Patriots during the period of his employment, "the League will deposit with a mutually agreeable escrow agent a *copy* of any returned materials that [Mr. Walsh's attorney] may designate so that those *copies* will be available to Mr. Walsh and his counsel." The letter went on to state that "the escrow agent will be instructed to destroy *those copies*" after they are no longer needed by Mr. Walsh or his counsel. There was no suggestion that the materials turned over by Mr. Walsh would be destroyed. I would be pleased to have our counsel discuss this further with your staff if that would be helpful.

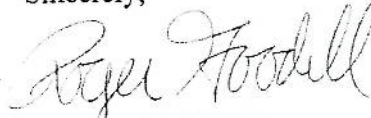
I would also respectfully disagree that the NFL is seeking to discourage Mr. Walsh from saying what he knows about the Patriots' videotaping practices. Our counsel advised your office on March 5 that the NFL remains determined to learn what Mr. Walsh may know about these issues. Consistent with that view, our lawyer contacted Mr. Walsh's lawyer on Monday to bring a fresh start to the discussions. As your office was also informed on March 5, those discussions appear promising and are continuing. I am told that additional progress has been made in the last two days and that the lawyers are exploring some different approaches that would address the concerns of both parties. I have emphasized to our counsel my personal desire to hear from Mr. Walsh. I will ensure that your office is informed when those discussions conclude, hopefully with assurances that will make Mr. Walsh comfortable sharing what he knows with League representatives and with you.

League investigators have conducted interviews of every Jets or Patriots employee with whom they have asked to speak. I am prepared to have my staff brief your staff on the substance of those interviews if you would like. It also bears mention

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that when we met last month, you correctly noted that the League Office does not control team employees. I confirmed during our meeting that we had no objection to team employees speaking to you or your staff. That remains true, and we have done nothing inconsistent with that statement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger Goodell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

ROGER GOODELL

ROGER GOODELL
Commissioner