

IVI-IPO 2004 CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE January 12, 2004 DISTRICT: 8th PARTY: Democratic

NAME: William C. Scheurer (“Bill Scheurer”)

VOTING ADDRESS: 387 Northgate Rd., Lindenhurst, IL 60046

HOME PHONE: 847-356-9636 BUSINESS PHONE: 847-370-3411

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS: P.O. Box 132, Antioch, IL 60002-0132

CAMPAIGN PHONE: 847-370-3411 FAX: _____

EMAIL: Campaign@CongressforPeace.com WEBSITE: www.CongressforPeace.com

CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Randi Scheurer

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 730 NUMBER REQUIRED: 495

A) Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates. *none*

B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate. *none*

C) Principal business, education, professional and civic activities of the past ten years. *President & CEO of two Illinois based technology companies: Welcome America; and PocketCard, Inc.*

D) What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek? *My education includes a B.A. in Religious Studies and a J.D. (law) degree. I have worked as a lay minister, a financial and business attorney, a small business owner and entrepreneur, and as a writer and publisher. I bring a tremendous breadth of relevant experience to represent our district in Congress. I also have an extensive background in nonprofit work, including youth athletic programs, civil rights, and peace activism. Our family sponsored an African family of political refugees in our home.*

E) Activities for other candidates. Please be specific. *My wife and I were early members if the Howard Dean campaign meetups.*

F) Please list all endorsements you have received so far. *NARAL; Peace-PAC (pending final interview). Other endorsements now pending include: Sierra Club; BIFEC; Citizen Action; IFT (AFT/AFL-CIO); SEIU; UFCW; IPACE (NEA/IEA);Planned Parenthood; Project VoteSmart; 21st Century Democrats; IAPC/MAPAC; Chicago Tribune; Chicago Sun Times; and Daily Herald. We respond to endorsement requests from all media, and from groups that share our progressive values.*

G) As concisely as possible, please state why you feel you should be endorsed over the other candidate(s). What goals for the office you seek are most important to you personally? *I am a progressive liberal candidate with a strong commitment to fiscal conservatism. This means that I can win the trust of my neighbors in our conservative district, and can be counted on to focus on the real needs of people when they send me to Congress. I am the only committed peace candidate, who publicly opposed, and demonstrated and lobbied against, all resolutions leading up to the war and occupation in Iraq, including the continued funding of the war. My first act will be to organize a new Congressional Peace Caucus, patterned after the successful Black and Progressive caucuses. I will support our new President in establishing a universal health coverage plan and in returning to balanced budgets in our fiscal policy.*

H) Please outline the place of patronage, personnel codes, race, gender, and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees. *They have no place, except for supporting affirmative action and seeking diversity.*

I) What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date? *Our budgets are: \$40K for the primary; and \$1M for the general election. We have not yet started fund raising, and have received approximately \$2,000 to date.*

J) How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list? *We have approximately 25 volunteers.*

IVI-IPO 2004 CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2

Foreign and Military

1.
 - a. What should be the US role in multi-national alliances such as the UN, NATO and the International Criminal Court? *The U.S. needs to rejoin the international community in a spirit of leadership, not domination. Our current government has destroyed years of patient work in building institutions to help bring greater peace, justice, and prosperity to the world. The reason this government so strongly opposes the International Criminal Court is because it is unwilling to be held to the same standards as everyone else in the world in the conduct of its international policy.*
 - b. What should be the policy of the IMF and World Bank toward countries that are essentially bankrupt? *These bodies must face the realities of debt relief for poorer countries that have suffered the legacies of colonialism and other modern forms of geopolitical manipulation. The debts of client governments to their sponsors are not binding on the people of those lands (who have not benefited from these funds). The reluctance to confront this reality equates to a government subsidy of large financial businesses.*
2. What should be Congress' role in formulating foreign policy? *Article 8 squarely places the war powers with Congress alone. This, plus Senate approval of treaties and Congressional control over the budget, should return us to a strong system of checks and balances, and a rejection of the imperial presidency.*
3. Should the US wage war without a declaration from Congress? *No, except for acts of immediate defense, while Congress assembles to consider a declaration of war. Sustained military action by a president without a Congressional declaration of war is an impeachable offense. We need a strong Congress to settle this doctrine.*
4.
 - a. Do you support funding to assist conversion of the defense industry to civilian applications? *Yes.*
 - b. Do you agree with the current proposed level of funding for the military? If you agree, explain. If you disagree, how would you distribute the funds? *No. First, we need a redirection of priorities within the defense budget to focus on true defense, rather than force projection for political ends. Second, we must face the reality that our domestic agenda needs to be funded in part by judicious reductions in the defense budget based on these principles. If we spend more on defense than all of the rest of the world combined, and conduct our military planning as if we had to take on the whole world ourselves, sooner or later our place in the world begins to conform to this posture. This is happening now. We must come to see that peaceful cooperation is the greatest pillar of national security, along with a strong defense.*
5. Do you support
 - a. continued funding for WHISC (the re-named Army School of the Americas)? *No. However, I would like to see an open debate on the current role of this program. Gen. Wesley Clark has asserted that it now trains foreign soldiers in human rights principles, the opposite of its former role. This offers a great opportunity to bring this little known institution to light for the general public.*
 - b. fast-track authority? *No, not unless representatives of labor, the environment and human rights are expressly included in the negotiating teams and processes.*

6. Do you support the way the drug war is being carried on, both abroad and at home? What would you change? *No. I oppose the so-called war on drugs. We should have a national policy against drug abuse that focuses on helping people, not on criminalizing them. It should be a public health issue led by the Surgeon General, not a public safety issue for the Attorney General to use as a political weapon. This is not a trivial issue. It seriously affects the humanity, fairness, and safety of our society. We divert vast financial and law enforcement resources without real benefit. The war on drugs increases crime, not reduces it. This is basic economics: when you make something illegal, you restrict supply, which increases price, which attracts an alternative source of supply (in this case, from criminals, since it is illegal). The criminals are the ones who benefit from this policy (along with politicians hired to prosecute them). The criminals who benefit include international terrorists, who derive huge chunks of their finances from illegal drug trafficking. Finally, it is clearly demonstrated that the criminalizing burden of the war on drugs unfairly discriminates against people with African-American ancestry, which represents a severe case of racial injustice. I support everything we have tried to do in the areas of public awareness, education, and treatment to help keep people (especially the young) away from the trials of drug abuse. We need to focus on this, and reserve our law enforcement and correctional capabilities for fighting crime.*

7. Do you support

- a. normalization of relations with Cuba? *Yes. Our unfriendly policies against Cuba are an unwise relic of the Cold War, that is kept alive by political pandering for the large exile vote. I recognize that human rights problems exist in that country. We should take a lesson from the fall of the Berlin Wall, and have full cultural exchange and trade relationships with these neighbors. This will do more than anything else to help bring greater freedom and prosperity, to them and the rest of our hemisphere.*
- b. the Helms-Burton Act? *No.*

Environment

8. Do you support the environmental policies of the current administration? *No. They clearly choose the avoidance of long-term environmental needs in favor of maintaining the short-term economic status quo.*

9. How do we balance the need to protect the environment with our need for economic development? Your comments should include water resources, air quality, wetlands, coastline development, deforestation, use of public lands, and pesticides and herbicides. *I reject the premise of this question. Protecting the environment is not opposed to economic development; it is another form of economic development. Environmental practice and technology can become a new and important growth sector in our economy, like computers, biotech, and nanotech. The only tradeoff is to balance the short term against the long term. Numerous studies, as well as common sense, tell us that a healthy environment is the basis of a healthy economy. We will develop this new economic sector by having and enforcing sound environmental standards, and supporting public research for technologies and practices that help us achieve these goals in our businesses and communities.*

10. Do you support oil drilling in Alaska and other protected wilderness? *No. You should be asking us somewhere about energy policy. Our lack of a sound energy policy affects the environment, our foreign relations (because the war is about oil), and the economy. We must have a comprehensive energy policy focused on non-polluting, renewable sources that free us from dependence on foreign oil.*

11. So you support pollution credit schemes? *No. I support full compliance with strict air and water quality requirements for all participants. However, I would be willing to consider trading/credit programs that are limited strictly to exchanges among parties for superfund cleanup obligations to help fund these programs.*

Transportation

12. What transportation policy do you favor regarding
- infrastructure improvements? *Public infrastructure repair and improvement is one area where the government can stimulate employment, and benefit our society and the economy at the same time.*
 - highways? *Our highway system has given us great mobility and economic and social advantage. However, times change. We must now also incorporate systems of safe bike and walking paths on local routes, and efficient mass transit alternatives for local and intercity routes. When it comes to highway policy, here again, we must look at energy policy. Funding of our roads should be closely tied with the goals of our energy and environment policies.*
 - mass transit? *Public mass transit is an important part of our social fabric, especially to those with low incomes who have no other transportation alternative. It also can be more efficient, if done correctly, and more environmentally safe. However, we must be vigilant on issues of performance quality and balancing supply and demand, since there is no free market to govern these factors.*
 - high-speed rail? *We are falling behind Europe in this important technology. It is crucial to provide a fast, safe, and environmentally clean alternative to highway and air transportation.*
 - Amtrak? *I support the goals behind Amtrak, but do not yet regard it as a successful program. Even with its government subsidy, Amtrak passenger prices are comparable to airline prices and higher than bus line prices. At least, that has been my observation in our family travels. The money might be better spent investing in high-speed rail. However, I am open to education on this program.*
 - Air transportation, particularly the proposed O'Hare expansion and third airport? *I oppose the airport expansion plans. Midway Airport and the low cost airlines that operate there have made great strides in demonstrating competitive alternatives to O'Hare and its carriers. I would like to see better mass transit offerings from the suburbs to make both of these airports more easily accessible. I favor high-speed rail alternatives in the long run to reduce unnecessary burdens on airport traffic.*

Taxes and Economic Policy

13. Do you favor
- a more progressive income tax? *Yes*
 - a flat tax? *No. A flat tax is regressive.*
 - a national sales tax? *No. A sales tax is regressive.*
 - reduction of the capital gains tax? *No. All income should be treated the same. Lower capital gains rates amount to a subsidy of passive investment income over earned income and is regressive.*
 - reduction or elimination of the estate tax? *No. Estate taxes are an important progressive part of our social and economic structure. However, I favor constant upward adjustments of exemptions to stop estate taxation from creeping down from the wealthy to the middle class.*
 - elimination of the corporate alternative tax? *No.*
 - tax cuts on stock dividends? *No. This is not "double" taxation. Businesses have many other ways to organize capital instead of corporations. Being a taxable entity is a price you pay for the privilege of becoming a big business, which seems to be worth the price to many investors and managers.*
 - any other changes in our tax structure? *Please explain. The social security tax is too regressive.*

14. Do you favor a roll-back of the Bush tax cuts? *Yes.*

15. Do you support total or partial privatization of the Social Security fund? *Please explain. No. The plan is established as a defined benefits plan, not a defined contributions plan. Exposing social security funds to the risks of stock market fluctuations is counter to the whole idea of a safety net. Switching from a defined benefits to a defined contributions plan shifts the financial risk from the plan to the beneficiary. We have already seen what happened when we did this in the private sector with disastrous results, one word: Enron.*

16. What is your position on federal deficit spending vs. balanced budget? *I strongly support a balanced budget, without exception. Fiscal irresponsibility is the greatest threat to the survival of our nation. This problem will not go away, as long as elected officials can buy votes on our grandchildren's credit cards.*

17. Do you support unfunded mandates to local government? *No.*

Consumer Rights

18. Do you support

- a. granting consumers the right to an annual free copy of their consolidated credit report, including credit score? *Yes.*
- b. banning the use of Social Security numbers as identification in consumer transactions? *Yes.*
- c. federal legislation to cap interest rates on consumer loans? *In clear cases of demonstrated abuse.*
- d. federal legislation to regulate ATM fees and service charges on credit cards and other consumer loans? *Again, in clear cases of demonstrated abuse.*
- e. federal legislation to give banks and finance companies priority over other unsecured lenders in bankruptcy proceedings? *No. This is a clear case of political lobbying.*
- f. allowing states to enact consumer laws which go beyond the protection of federal legislation? *Yes, so long as they do not overreach on the rights of citizens of other states.*

Government and Ethics

19. Do you support term limits? Describe briefly. *I accept term limits in principle, but do not think it is the most effective way to address the ethical problems of our government and electoral process.*

20. Do you support

- a. public financing of Congressional campaigns? *Yes.*
- b. spending limits? *Yes.*
- c. abolition of PACs? *Yes.*

21. Would you support increased Congressional oversight of federal contracting? Why or why not? *Yes. The question "why" can be answered in one word: Halliburton.*

Health & Human Services

22. Do you support comprehensive, universal, single-payer health care? If not, how would you address the need for healthcare for the uninsured and underinsured? *I support comprehensive, universal health care. I am willing to work with whichever model (single-payer or multi-insurer) prevails in achieving this. I am much more concerned that we change to a health care system that is comprehensive and universal than I am with the method that we choose to get there. Health care security for all is a main issue in my campaign, the third plank in my platform, along with national security through peace and financial security through balanced budgets.*

23. Do you favor funding changes for the following:

- a. supplemental food programs for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)?
- b. food stamp allowances?
- c. Head Start?
- d. school lunch programs?

I favor full funding of all these programs. Of course, we cannot achieve this financially (no matter what any politician or political candidate tells us) if we spend all our money on foreign wars to make up for our lack of a sound energy policy and our lack of a humane foreign policy based on cooperation.

24. Do you support
- increased funding to develop affordable housing? *Yes.*
 - restrictions to ensure development of low-income rather than market rate housing? *Yes.*
 - a National Affordable Housing Trust Fund to build, rehabilitate and preserve at least 1.5 million units of primarily rental, primarily deeply targeted housing? *Yes.*
 - Protection against housing discrimination based on source of income? *Yes.*
- Here again, how can any candidate who did not oppose the war fund these progressive promises?*
25. What services, if any, should be offered to those whose time on Welfare has run out and do not have adequate income to support themselves and their families? *I do not believe in fixed time limits as the best method to reduce welfare. The answers are earned income credits that increase incentives to leave welfare, economic reforms that create more jobs for workers of varying capabilities that meet real social needs.*
26. Do you favor
- increased federal aid to public education? *Yes, especially for students in disadvantaged areas.*
 - vouchers, tuition tax-credits or other any direct public support for parochial or private schools? *No, unless: i) the school has a needs-blind admissions policy, ii) the school agrees to accept the public voucher as full payment for all tuition and other fees, and iii) the voucher payments also are available to public schools as part of a program to support student choice and overall competition for educational services. I fully support public and equal funding of education, and oppose any measure that directly or indirectly subsidizes private education with public funds. I am not aware of any current or proposed voucher program that meets my criterion, and I view existing proposals as regressive attempts to undermine public education on behalf of the privileged few who can afford private schools.*
27. Are the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act the appropriate way to advance student achievement? *No. This unfounded mandate is another indirect attempt to undermine public support for public education.*
28. Do you support
- the Human Life Amendment? *No.*
 - parental or spousal notification or consent to obtain an abortion? *No.*
 - restoration of Medicaid coverage of abortion? *Yes.*
 - a ban on so-called partial birth abortions? *No. I opposed this law because it attempted to politicize this important and difficult moral and social issue and had no exception for the health of the mother.*
 - insurance coverage for abortions for federal and military employees and their dependents? *Yes.*
29. Do you support increased funding for HIV/AIDS research, education, prevention, and services? Please discuss compulsory licensing of essential drugs where needed, in the US, Africa, Asia and elsewhere. *Yes. Patent rights can and should be subjugated to public health concerns in dire circumstances such as these. The rights of patent holders are conferred by society for the benefit of society, and are not ends in themselves.*
30. Do you support
- federal funding for stem cell research? *Yes.*
 - legislation prohibiting stem cell research? *No.*

Law, Justice, and Correctional System

31. Do you support:
- admissibility of illegally obtained evidence? *No.*
 - electronic eavesdropping? *No, not without valid warrants obtained with due process.*
 - roving wiretaps? *No. Expedited warrant procedures with judicial oversight are a better answer.*

- d. capital punishment? *No.*
- e. criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults? *No.*
- f. mandatory sentencing? *No. However, we need to carefully monitor risks of judicial prejudice in sentencing, which existed before this change. There are better solutions to this problem.*
- g. criminalization of hate crimes? *Yes, as aggravated circumstances to existing criminal conduct, not as a new class of crime. We should not stigmatize a class of victims, we should protect them from crime.*

32. Do you support legislation prohibiting racial profiling in law enforcement? *Yes.*

33. Do you favor detention of suspects and material witnesses without charges and/or probable cause? Do you favor giving such detainees access to counsel? *No. Yes. I am a strong advocate of civil rights and due process, without exception. National security is no excuse. These are the times when our rights count the most.*

34. Would you support legislation authorizing or prohibiting secret military tribunals? Please explain your position. *I am opposed to secret tribunals of any sort. Fair and open trials are a pillar of our freedom. Secret arrests and trials are favorite tools of tyranny, and reflect a shocking degradation of American values.*

35. Do you support legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of

- a. handguns?
- b. assault weapons?
- c. ammunition for handguns and assault weapons?

I support bans on the public possession of these weapons as part of our civilized society. I also support a full ballistics-tested system of registration and accountability for all firearms (including arms of military and police personnel) at every point in the chain of production and distribution. However, I believe that an outright ban on these weapons deprives people of the right to defend themselves, from criminals who by definition will not obey these bans and from armed government agents who may violate the law. On a similar topic, I support banning all arms exports by the government outside of standing alliances. One of the greatest causes of war in the world is the flood of arms provided by the major powers.

36. Do you support legislation

- a. mandating background checks of purchasers of weapons at gun shows, through the internet and through print advertisements? *Yes, without exception. This does not violate the right to bear arms.*
- b. increasing penalties for illegal resale of weapons? *Yes, including sales by government agents.*

37. a. Should funding for the Legal Services Corporation be increased? *Yes.*

b. What restrictions, if any, should Congress enact or repeal regarding the scope of federally funded legal services for the poor? *I do not understand this question. These services should be available on an equal basis to anyone who meets the relevant needs requirements.*

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

38. a. Do you favor repeal of the Patriot Act or any of its provisions? *Yes, in its entirety. We can then pass a new law that addresses the limited need for law enforcement and intelligence to modernize and increase cooperation among themselves. We must repudiate the unpatriotic reaction that this act represents.*

b. Would you vote for Patriot Act II? *No.*

39. Do you support

- a. federal legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment and education? *Yes.*
- b. repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act? *Yes. This is a blatant act of discrimination.*

c. a Constitutional amendment prohibiting states from recognizing gay civil unions or same sex unions? *I oppose all such forms of discrimination as unpatriotic violations of American values and principles.*

40. What is your position on gays and lesbians in the military? *Military service is a right of citizenship that cannot be legally denied to any American on the basis of moral prejudice. This is America, not the Taliban.*

41. a. Do you support prior government restraint of the press? *No.*
b. Do you support State censorship of the arts? *No.*
c. What should be the guidelines in determining government support for the arts? *Demonstrated need and shared esthetic judgments and public sensibilities.*
d. Should funding for the NEA be increased, decreased or stay the same? *Increased. The arts promote community sharing and discussion of challenging ideas in a peaceful and civil environment.*

42. Do you support
a. prayer in public schools? *No, not established by the school.*
b. moment of silence? *Not as a religious practice, established by the school. We have complete freedom in this country to promote and follow our religions in our private lives. We do not need government help in this area. This is a bedrock American principle of individual freedom and conscience. Those who are so worried about involving God in our society should practice their faiths and lead by example. We do not need the government to force this on our kids. Again, this is America, not the Taliban.*

43. Do you support mandatory drug testing in private and public employment? Briefly state the reasons for your answers. *No, unless it is related to occupational safety or work performance issues for specific jobs.*

44. Do you support mandatory AIDS testing for insurance or employment? *No, unless the work involves a specific risk of transferring the disease. I lack the medical knowledge to know if this is ever the case.*

45. Do you support legislation to redress inequities in pension benefits for women? *Yes.*

46. Would you support the acceptance of completed ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment? *Yes.*

Labor

47. What changes, if any, in the Taft-Hartley Act would you work for? *Elimination of work type exclusions.*

48. Do you support a prohibition on permanent replacement of strikers? *Yes.*

49. Do you favor giving federal employees the right to strike? *Yes.*

50. What is your position on Affirmative Action with specific goals, targets and timetables for federal employment, grants and contracts and as a requirement for federal contractors and grantees? *I support it, where the size of the business can reasonably accommodate such measures.*

51. a. Do you support comparable worth legislation? *Yes, if framed in anti-discrimination terms. We need to preserve the ability of employers to reward good work with performance based pay.*
b. What steps, if any, should the government take to monitor pay equity between men and women? *I am not an expert in this area. Fair and sound tracking mechanisms must be part of any law.*

52. Do you support a federal living wage law? Please explain why or why not. *Yes. I also support a strong earned income credit tax program. No one who works hard in this country should be living in poverty.*