

# The Great IPP Scandal

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### Washington

THE CAPITOL is talking about little else these days than The Great IPP Scandal. On the theory that the rest of the country, as usual, doesn't know what Washington is talking about, here is a brief outline of the plot:

It begins with the President deciding he'd like to have the GOP Convention this summer in San Diego, it being nearby to the White House in San Clemente and handy to Tijuana.

Unfortunately, San Diego is always jammed to the rafters with tourists in August anyway and why didn't the Republicans go have their convention in Appalachia or someplace, thank you.

That's where the giant International Peanuts & Popcorn conglomerate stepped in. As a gesture of good will toward the local community, IPP offered the Republicans \$400,000 in cash and popcorn (which isn't peanuts) if they'd hold their convention in San Diego, which didn't want it in the first place.

But that was okay because IPP explained it would make the \$400,000 back selling peanuts (which isn't popcorn) to the delegates during the three-day convention. So it was strictly a business deal.

A week later, the Republicans' Justice Department approved a merger between IPP and the Sure Fire Fire Insurance Company.

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SO MUCH for the unrelated facts. The scandal broke when Andy Jackerson, a known columnist, leaked a memo from IPP's tough, widely-respected female lobbyist, Dowdee Whiskers, to her bosses.

"Don't worry, gang," wrote Mrs. Whiskers, "the deal's in the bag. In return for our \$400,000 the President, the old Attorney General and the new Attorney General have promised us six more mergers,

the Washington Monument and two utility infielders. Please eat this memo."

The moment the story was published, Mrs. Whiskers vanished on a long-planned vacation to Denver where she had a long-planned heart attack.

Immediately Republican leaders from coast-to-coast began issuing statements — two or three per leader. In their final statements all agreed they hadn't bothered to inform top GOP officials of the \$400,000 contribution because if the party knew how rich it was it might get overconfident.

Meanwhile, the new Attorney General, taking bold action in the crisis, wrote an incriminating letter to, of all people, the Democratic National Committee and then demanded a Senate investigation to clear his name.

He hadn't read the incriminating letter to the Democratic National Committee before he signed it, he explained, because he was a very busy man and didn't have time to read all the incriminating letters he sent to the Democratic National Committee.

From her hospital bed, Mrs. Whiskers issued a statement firmly denying that what her memo said had any relation to what her memo said.

To clinch the matter, IPP officials said Mrs. Whiskers wasn't a tough, widely-respected lobbyist at all but really a zany, drunken crackpot, whom they'd retained as their top Washington representative for years because they believed in hiring the handicapped.

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SO THE SCANDAL, of course, involves the management of IPP. Imagine a huge corporation that would hire drunken crackpots, alienate San Diego and pay \$400,000 for what the Republicans wanted to give them for nothing.

It's unbelievable.