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4 Billings, Montana 59101  
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LOU ALEKSICH, JR., CLERK  
By *[Signature]*  
Deputy Clerk

6 Attorney for Defendant

7 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
8 FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA  
9 BILLINGS DIVISION

10 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )  
11 ) CR 86-31-BLG-JFB  
12 Plaintiff, )  
13 vs. ) DEFENDANT'S SUPPLEMENTAL  
14 DENNIS MERLE HUSTON, ) STATEMENT ON MITIGATION  
15 Defendant. )

16 COMES NOW the Defendant, and for his Supplemental Statement  
17 on Mitigation of sentence and in support of his Motion for Leave  
18 to Enter a Plea of Nolo Contendre, respectfully submits the  
19 following summary of statements, the complete text of which are  
20 attached hereto as Exhibits.

21 A. May 23, 1986 letter from Veterans' Administration  
22 Medical Center confirming Dennis' successful completion of 28 day  
23 inpatient treatment program for substance abuse.

24 B. October 7, 1986 letter from James R. Dalley, Chief,  
25 Review and Analysis Section, Division of Finance, Bureau of  
Reclamation, a former co-worker of Dennis Huston who observed

1 Dennis both on and off the job and found his conscientious,  
2 caring and helpful. Mr. Dalley indicates that Dennis did an  
3 extraordinary job as Regional Finance Officer for the Bureau of  
4 Reclamation in spite of some major obstacles, including shortage  
5 of trained personnel, lack of space, unfamiliar workload and an  
6 inordinate amount of over time.

7 C. November 3, 1986 letter from Blaine Wickel, Jr.,  
8 Regional Training Officer, Bureau of Reclamation. Mr. Wickel was  
9 likewise a friend and former co-worker with Dennis and found him  
10 to be a person sensitive to needs of others who would always take  
11 the time and effort to help other people, even at some  
12 inconvenience to himself. Mr. Wickel recognizes the drug related  
13 aspects of the current offense with which Dennis is charged and  
14 feels that the actions of Dennis were in total opposition to his  
15 true value system. Mr. Wickel requests leniency in sentencing  
16 and observes that restitution would be better served without a  
17 prison record.

18 D. November 17, 1986 letter from Andrew P. Rosenberger,  
19 Auditor, Office of the Inspector General, Department of the  
20 Interior. Mr. Rosenberger has worked with Dennis for  
21 approximately five years in the Office of the Inspector General  
22 and was acquainted with Dennis both on a professional as well as  
23 a personal level. During the 12 years that he has known Dennis,  
24 he has found him to be conscientious and compassionate. Mr.  
25 Rosenberger observes that Dennis has suffered great anguish and

1 pain as a result of his own conduct and clearly feels that the  
2 influence of drugs distorted Dennis' normal character and was a  
3 prime causative factor in his current legal difficulties.

4 E. November 5, 1986 letter from Gerald W. Hicks, CPA,  
5 Formerly Regional Audit Manager (Ret.), Western Region, Office of  
6 Inspector General, Department of the Interior. Mr. Hicks  
7 originally hired Dennis as an Auditor trainee in the Office of  
8 Inspector General and observed that Dennis' abilities and  
9 desirable personnel characteristics allowed him to rapidly  
10 advance in that organization. He felt that, both on a  
11 professional and personal basis, Dennis was conscientious, family  
12 oriented, compassionate and a highly valued employee. He feels  
13 quite strongly that the current legal difficulties are completely  
14 out of character and that Dennis is truly remorseful. Mr. Hicks  
15 requests leniency for Dennis.

16 F. November 5, 1986 letter from Robert L. Schroeder,  
17 Regional Environmental Affairs Officer, Bureau of Reclamation.  
18 Mr. Schroeder has known Dennis for approximately eight years and  
19 he believes him to be an honest and caring human being. Mr.  
20 Schroeder states that the chemical dependency problem experienced  
21 by Dennis prevented him from exercising control over his thoughts  
22 or actions and feels that Dennis is a decent human being who  
23 should be considered for leniency based upon his disease of  
24 chemical dependency.

25 G. October 23, 1986 letter from Reta Smith, Finance Branch,

1 Bureau of Reclamation. Ms. Smith has worked for the Federal  
2 Government in finance for 25 years and found Dennis as a  
3 financial officer a remarkable leader. She feels that the  
4 current charges were a result of the chemical dependency and that  
5 Dennis' actions were not prompted by personal greed but rather  
6 temporary need based upon his illness. Ms. Smith concludes that  
7 Dennis has earned the support, respect and trust of his co-  
8 workers and requests leniency on his behalf.

9 H. November 7, 1986 letter from James M. Dalley (note prior  
10 letter of October 7, 1986, supra). Mr. Dalley, in his individual  
11 capacity writes specifically in connection with a plea for  
12 leniency on behalf of Dennis and states that Dennis is extremely  
13 remorseful for the wrongdoing. He observes that he has never  
14 seen a person suffer such mental anguish and that the impact on  
15 the family has been devastating.

16 I. November 10, 1986 letter from William O. Brown. Mr.  
17 Brown has known Dennis and his family since the 1970's when they  
18 were fellow employees at the Bureau of Reclamation in Sacramento,  
19 California. Mr. Brown has 30 years of government service and  
20 retired as a GS-14. He notes Dennis for his honest, integrity  
21 and ability to "get along" with people and feels that the current  
22 circumstances are the result of an extreme amount of stress and  
23 feels that leniency is appropriate.

24 J. October 25, 1986 letter from Gary R. Meyer. Mr. Meyer  
25 has known Dennis for approximately 2 1/2 years and states that

1 Dennis was the best supervisor he has had in 15 years of  
2 government service. He observes that Dennis was always sensitive  
3 to the needs of others and was always honest and generous in  
4 dealings with them. Mr. Meyer, along with his co-workers, was  
5 shocked at the charges against Dennis, since he was highly  
6 regarded in the Bureau. Mr. Meyer feels that leniency is  
7 appropriate and that this would be consistent with both the  
8 interests of justice and the interests of the government in  
9 securing restitution.

10 K. November 4, 1986 letter from Shelley Ruff. Ms. Ruff has  
11 known Dennis for 2 1/2 years, both socially and in working  
12 environment. She states that he was definitely the best  
13 supervisor that she had ever worked under and was knowledgeable,  
14 helpful and extremely understanding. She feels that Dennis has  
15 suffered deep sorrow and pain for what he has done and how he has  
16 let his friends and family down. She feels that his drug  
17 dependency is responsible for the criminal conduct and that  
18 Dennis has punished himself a thousand times over for what has  
19 happened. She pleads for leniency, stating that Dennis is an  
20 asset to society and if given the opportunity would repay all  
21 sums of money taken from the government.

22 L. October 27, 1986 letter from James E. Turner. Mr.  
23 Turner is an Attorney in the Office of the Regional Solicitor,  
24 Pacific Southwest Region for the U. S. Department of Interior in  
25 Sacramento, California. During the time that Dennis was employed

1 in the Sacramento Office, Mr. Turner has worked with him on a  
2 professional basis and also became close friends. He observes  
3 that Dennis is a dedicated husband and father and a good  
4 friend. He knows that Dennis sincerely regrets his involvement  
5 in the use of addictive drugs and that this involvement clearly  
6 effected Dennis' ability to function rationally. Mr. Turner  
7 believes that imprisonment would undermine Dennis' renewed  
8 commitment to regain the respect of his family and friends and  
9 would threaten his rehabilitation.

10 M. October 22, 1986 letter from Charles L. Winn,  
11 Supervisor, Division of Finance, Mid-Pacific Region, Bureau of  
12 Reclamation, Sacramento, California. Mr. Winn has known Dennis  
13 since December, 1978 and directly supervised Dennis for a period  
14 of five years with the Division of Finance, Bureau of  
15 Reclamation. Mr. Winn observes that he became very knowledgeable  
16 of Dennis' character, job proficiency, personal interests and  
17 concern for his fellow human beings. He notes that Dennis was  
18 always professional, dependable and accomplished a heavy, often  
19 complex, workload in a timely and competent fashion. He feels  
20 that the current charges against Dennis are fully related to  
21 causes that are completely out of character and that Dennis has  
22 the moral and character qualities "to make and keep things  
23 right".

24 N. September 29, 1986 letter from Randy Howard and Loretta  
25 R. Howard. Mr. Howard is a CPA and Professor of Accounting at

1 Eastern Montana College. Mrs. Howard was a co-worker and worked  
2 under Dennis' supervision at the Bureau of Reclamation. The  
3 Howards believe that Dennis is an honest, sincere person who made  
4 a once in a lifetime mistake. They feel that his successful  
5 completion of the drug rehabilitation program has gone a long  
6 ways towards his rehabilitation and that he is now working with  
7 others who may have similar problems. The Howards conclude by  
8 asking the Court to consider Dennis' long history of positive law  
9 abiding behavior, family devotion and professional development  
10 and ask for leniency on his behalf.

11 O. Undated letter from Roger Masters. Mr. Masters is a co-  
12 worker and a personal friend of Dennis. He observes that Dennis  
13 is honest, fair and sincere and that he had the total support of  
14 his co-workers and office staff. In retrospect, Mr. Masters  
15 recognizes the slow personality changes attendant upon Dennis'  
16 drug use and feels that drugs clearly took control of Dennis'  
17 life. Mr. Masters concludes that Dennis is a good person and can  
18 be a great asset to our society. He knows that Dennis wants to  
19 make restitution and will do so and asks for a second chance on  
20 Dennis' behalf.


21 P. Undated letter from Richard L. Blaskovich. Mr.  
22 Blaskovich has known Dennis for two years as a co-worker at the  
23 Bureau of Reclamation. He observes that the attitude of all of  
24 the people in the office regarding Dennis' difficulties was one  
25 of disbelief. Mr. Blaskovich feels that in Dennis' instance just

1 would be served by showing leniency. He recognizes that Dennis  
2 feels extreme remorse for his actions and knows that Dennis is  
3 committed to making restitution. Mr. Blaskovich feels that the  
4 only real victims in this case are Dennis and his family.

5 The preceding summaries are counsel's impression of the  
6 salient features of the attached letters and no editorial license  
7 is intended. The full text of each of the letters is available  
8 with his Supplemental Statement on Mitigation and it is  
9 respectfully submitted that the Defendant, Dennis Huston, should  
10 be entitled to enter a plea of nolo contendere.

11 DONE and DATED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1986.

12 STEPHENS LAW FIRM, P.C.  
13 Attorney for Defendant

14   
15 Robert L. Stephens Jr.  
16 316 North 25th Street  
17 Billings, Montana 59101



May 23, 1986

In Reply Refer To:

Mr. Dennis M. Huston  


Dear Mr. Huston:

Congratulations on your successful completion of the initial phase of substance abuse treatment, our 28-day inpatient program! You have been in the program for the past four weeks (May 1 - May 23, 1986) and during that time you have begun to identify problems and begun working hard on correcting them. You have successfully completed the required classes in Assertion, Mood Control, Self-Esteem, Relaxation, Social Skills, and group therapy. You have accepted responsibility by fulfilling program offices and positions. You have earned trust by verifying activities, friends, and remaining drug and alcohol free. You have tried new activities and made some appropriate lifestyle changes. As you leave the program, you will now be able to strengthen these skills through daily practice.

Completing this program is only the first step to a brighter future. Actual completion of the Substance Abuse Program will occur with six months to one year of aftercare support and therapy. You and your counselor have discussed aftercare alternatives either through the V.A. Medical Center or in your local community. We offer you our best wishes for your continued growth.

Sincerely,

Dale Sterner, R. T.  
AdvocateRex W. Turner, Ph. D.  
Chief, Inpatient Substance Abuse UnitSteven M. Ross, Ph. D.  
Chief, Substance Abuse Treatment Units



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Missouri Basin Region

P.O. Box 36900

Billings, Montana 59107-6900

IN REPLY  
REFER TO: MB-370

October 7, 1986

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with pleasure that this character reference for Dennis M. Huston is prepared. I have known Dennis for 1 year. Although that is relatively a short period of time, I have found him to be an extraordinary individual. I worked for Dennis and reported to him directly. I observed Dennis, both off and on the job, as a very conscientious, caring and helpful person. He constantly went the extra mile to help people. These qualities were evident in practically all of my dealings with him, more so than any boss I've had while employed by the Bureau of Reclamation. I know these feelings were shared by many of his friends and colleagues.

In July of 1985, the announcement was made to consolidate regions. Since Dennis was the Regional Finance Officer, he had to shoulder more than his share of responsibilities. His main job was to assure a smooth transition with little or no interruption in the payment of bills to the new region's vendors. Dennis did an extraordinary job in accomplishing this feat. He accomplished this task while contending with some major obstacles, i.e., shortage of trained personnel, lack of space, unfamiliar workload, and an inordinate amount of overtime.

All in all, I have a great deal of respect for Dennis, both as a professional and as a person.

Chief, Review and Analysis Section  
Division of Finance

November 3, 1986

Honorable James F. Battin  
United States District Court  
Federal Building  
Billings, Montana 59101

Dear Sir:

I am offering this request for leniency for Mr. Dennis M. Huston as a friend and former co-worker. I met Mr. Huston shortly after his arrival in Billings in February 1984. Since that time, I have come to know him as a person who is sensitive to others needs and one who would always take the time and effort to help other people even when to do so was an inconvenience to himself.

As a supervisor, he was took the time to listen to his employees and did his best to help them perform their jobs better and advance in the organization. I recall at one point, he offered to babysit for one single mother so she could attend night classes at Eastern Montana College. He was both well liked and respected by his employees.

On a personal level, I found Mr. Huston to be consistently pleasant and friendly. He could be relied upon to provide a friendly ear if you needed someone to talk with and to provide whatever help he could if such was necessary. He is also a person who does not gossip and could be relied upon to be a friend even when others may not have had a positive opinion about an individual. Mr. Huston is, in my opinion, a giver to others in relationships and not a taker.

I have talked with Mr. Huston since his arrest and subsequent removal from the Bureau of Recleamation and I feel that I can say without reservation that he is sorry for his actions and is well on his way to rehabilitation. I understand that the people at the Veterans Administration Hospital where he went for drug rehabilitation treatment were concerned enough about the possibility of suicide when he arrived to place him in a protected environment. I think that his actions while under the influence of the drugs were totally opposed to his true value system and I think that he fully realizes this now.

I consider imprisonment to be inappropriate in Mr. Huston's case because he is most definitely not a threat or danger to those around him or to society. He has a wife and two young daughters who would be far better served to have him at home than in prison. If the purpose of prison is to rehabilitate, he doesn't need it. If the purpose is punishment, then it would punish not only Mr. Huston, but also the innocents around him. I think that Mr. Huston would gladly pay back the money he took as best he could and he would be much better able to pay it back if he did not have a prison record.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and I hope that you see fit to be lenient in this case.

Sincerely yours,



Blaine Wickel, Jr.  
Regional Training Officer  
Bureau of Reclamation

November 17, 1986

Honorable James F. Battin  
United States District Court  
Federal Building  
Billings, Montana 59101

Dear Sir:

I have known Dennis Huston since 1974 when I was hired as an auditor for what is now the Office of Inspector General (OIG), Department of the Interior. During the approximately 5 years we worked together at OIG, I became acquainted with Dennis on a professional as well as a personal basis, and we developed a lasting friendship. During that period, I had the privilege of working, as staff, with Dennis on two audits. The professional and technical abilities Dennis exhibited on those audits helped him advance rapidly to the position of auditor-in-charge with our office. I also learned that Dennis was a conscientious family man and a compassionate individual. This was exhibited in his transferring to the Bureau of Reclamation, in order to reduce the pressure on his family resulting from the extensive travel required by OIG.

I was shocked to learn of Dennis' current problems. Dennis' purported actions are completely out of line with his normal character. Except for the influence of drugs, Dennis would not have inflicted the anguish and pain that his family and friends are now experiencing.

Having known Dennis for over 12 years, I am sure he has and is now suffering greatly for the anguish, pain, and disappointment he has caused his family, friends, and himself. Based on discussions with Dennis, I am sure this suffering has taught him a hard learned lesson.

In my opinion, the additional suffering that would be caused, to his family and himself, by his imprisonment would not produce a greater degree of remorse or rehabilitation. Therefore, I hope and pray that you can find it within the law to treat Dennis with compassion and leniency.

Sincerely,



Andrew P. Rosenberger  
Auditor  
Office of Inspector General  
Department of the Interior

NOV 03 1986

November 5, 1986

Honorable James F. Battin  
U.S. District Court  
Federal Building  
Billings, Montana 59101

Dear Sir:

In 1971, I hired Dennis Huston as an auditor trainee for what is now the Office of Inspector General (OIG), Department of the Interior. His abilities and desirable personal characteristics enabled him to rapidly advance in this organization. Undoubtedly, he would have advanced further had he not elected to transfer to the Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior, in order to eliminate the extensive travel required by OIG. Thus, he elected to forego probable expeditious personal gain in order to maintain a closer family relationship.

During his employment with OIG, I became acquainted with Dennis on a personal, as well as a professional, basis. In this relationship, I learned that Dennis was a conscientious, family-oriented, and compassionate individual as well as a highly valued employee.

Needless to say, I was quite shocked to learn of Dennis' current problem. Unfortunately, there are pervasive influences in society that can temporarily change a person's character. For I know that Dennis' problem is completely out of character for the individual I knew. He would not, without a pervasive influence, have caused the anguish and pain that his family and friends are experiencing.

I am sure that Dennis is suffering greatly for this pain and suffering he has caused to his family and himself and the disappointment of his friends. Undoubtedly, this experience has taught Dennis a hard-learned lesson that will not be forgotten. So, in my opinion, further suffering caused by incarceration will not produce a greater degree of remorse or rehabilitation. In fact, incarceration could "break" the spirits of this sensitive, compassionate man.

In summary, I hope and pray that you will treat Dennis with compassion and leniency in your resolution of his case.

Sincerely,



Gerald W. Hicks, CPA  
Formerly Regional Audit Manager (Ret.)  
Western Region  
Office of Inspector General  
Department of the Interior

GWH/jp

November 5, 1986

Honorable James F. Battin  
United States District Court  
Federal Building  
316 N. 26th. Street  
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Judge Battin:

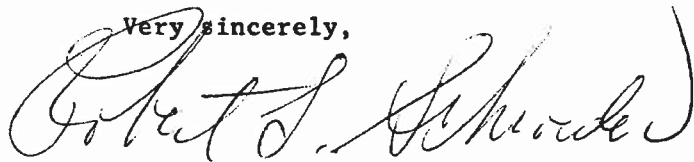
I am hopeful that you may show leniency on Mr. Dennis Huston's behalf. I have known Dennis for seven or eight years and he has always proven to be an honest and caring human being. Our children have shared social functions through Bureau of Reclamation functions in Sacramento, California, and Dennis and I have been teammates on the Bureau's softball teams where Dennis has always shown to be forthright and conscientious in his dealings with others.

I sincerely feel the problems that Dennis now faces are not his alone, but one that our society must face up to and resolve. Chemical dependency, in our complex society, is an easy crevasse to fall into and one that is extremely hard to get out of. There is no doubt that what Dennis did was wrong, but chemical dependent people before wanting to change, before entering into the ever present dogma of rehabilitation, have little control over their thoughts or actions, and in many cases, never do regain control.

Chemical dependency is a disease and should be treated as such. All the years that Dennis has conducted himself as a decent human being cannot be overlooked in weighing the facts. Dennis and his family have already suffered greatly and in many respects will never recover. It would seem a sentence of imprisonment would be adding only injury on top of harm.

In sharing these thoughts with you it is my hope that you may show leniency on arriving at your decision for Dennis and his family.

Very sincerely,



Robert L. Schroeder  
Regional Environmental Affairs  
Officer  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Missouri Basin Region  
Billings, Montana

October 23, 1986  
Billings, Montana

Honorable James F. Battin  
United States District Court  
Federal Building  
Billings, Montana

Dear Sir,

I would appreciate your consideration of this request for leniency in deciding the plea of Dennis Huston.

I am an employee in the Finance Branch, Bureau of Reclamation. I have worked in Finance for twenty five years and over the years have worked for several finance officers. During the time Dennis Huston was our Finance Officer this division experienced remarkable accomplishments under his leadership. As we now realize, the successful consolidation of finance regions was too high a personal price for Mr. Huston to pay.

I am certain that Mr. Huston was driven to chemical dependency by too much pressure and too much concern for the welfare of others. He was responsive and responsible. He helped his workers learn and improve. He was a good companion to his family and contributed to his neighborhood and community. His actions were prompted by temporary need, not by personal greed. If dedication is a fault, we are all at a loss.

Mr. Huston has earned our support, respect and trust. I feel his salvation will be using his ability. I do believe in his ultimate integrity.

Sincerely,

*Reta Smith*

Reta Smith

November 7, 1986

Honorable James F. Battin  
United States District Court  
Federal Building  
Billings, Montana 59101

Dear Judge Battin:

The purpose of this letter is to ask the court for leniency in the case involving Dennis M. Huston. Although, I have only known Dennis for just over one year, I feel I must speak out in his behalf.

I worked for Dennis and reported to him directly until he was dismissed in May, 1986. My family also associated with the Hustons until they recently moved to Spokane, Washington. I observed Dennis, both on and off the job, as a very competent, conscientious, and unselfish person. He excelled in going the extra mile to help his fellow workers, friends, and family. He was always aware of individual circumstances and needs.

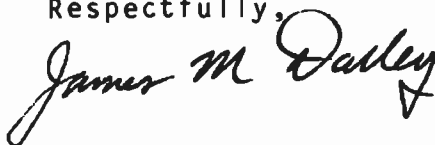
Although I do not know all of the details involved in this court matter I do know Dennis is extremely remorseful for any wrong doing. I have never seen a person suffer such mental anguish as Dennis, nor have I seen a family suffer and lose so much, as the Huston's. It's something you read about, not experience.

In my opinion, imprisonment of Dennis would be of no value to him or society. He's suffered and lost enough already. As for rehabilitated, I'm confident that Dennis' stay in the VA Medical Hospital for drug treatment coupled with this tragic experience, has taught him a life long lesson.

Dennis and [REDACTED] have lost just about everything they had except each other, please don't let this unfortunate mistake cost them anymore.

Thank you for your time regarding this matter.

Respectfully,



James M. Dalley



Nov 10, 1986

Honorable James F. Battin  
United States District Court  
Federal Building

Your Honor,

I am writing this letter for the purpose of recommending leniency in the case of Mr. Dennis Huston.

I became acquainted with Mr. Huston in the 1970's and over the course of about six years became very close to him as a friend. We not only socialized together on the golf course and racket ball court but also as fellow employees of the Bureau of Reclamation, Sacramento. I believe I knew him as well as any friend I have ever had.

I retired from the Bureau of Reclamation in 1984 as Project Superintendent (GS 14), Folsom Dam, Central River Projects, California. At the time of my retirement I had a total of 30 years of service with the Bureau, 16 in Nebraska, 2 in Thailand, 8 in Sacramento and the remaining at Folsom Dam. In April 1984 I went to work as an irrigation engineering consultant for a firm that had a contract with the U.S. Agency for International Development in Pakistan. I did not return to the U.S. until late October 1986. As a result I did not know of the dilemma that Mr. Huston had gotten himself into until a few days ago. To say the least, I was absolutely shocked to hear what he had done.


As stated above, I am a very close friend of his. I believe that he had a very good repore with every one that knew him. I do not recall anyone who did not like and respect him for his honesty, integrity and ability to "get along" with people. Also he was a very caring father and husband to his children and wife. He had to have been under an extreme amount of stress to have done what he is accused of. He must be going through hell right now, not for himself, but for the feeling of shame that he believes he has brought to his family and friends.

I believe that a sentence of imprisonment would be too harsh in his case. I feel confident that Mr. Huston, if given the opportunity, can still be an assett to society and is capable of providing recovery to the government of the funds he is supposed to have misappropriated.

Sincerely,



William O. Brown



October 25, 1986

Honorable James F. Battin  
United States District Court  
Federal Building  
Billings, Montana 59101

Dear Judge Battin:

I have known Dennis Huston for approximately two and a half years. Dennis was my immediate supervisor. Dennis was the best supervisor I have had in my fifteen years with the Federal Government. Dennis was always sensitive to the needs and desires of the employees who worked with and for him. After the announcement of Dennis's suspension and the circumstances, a collection was taken in the finance branch to try to help out Dennis and his family and over three hundred dollars was collected from less than twenty people. One of the employees made a separate donation of her entire paycheck. The employees were in a state of shock for several weeks because they couldn't believe that Dennis would have stolen money because he was always honest and generous in his dealings with them.

Our branch hired an Indian woman who was the sole support for herself and her children. Several times when her car wouldn't start, Dennis would make a special trip to bring the lady to work. When she went out to buy another car and couldn't because she didn't have a credit rating, Dennis co-signed the note for her so she could get the car. When she had trouble with the car Dennis intervened with the dealer to try to get the dealer to fix the problem. Dennis made special efforts above and beyond what

was necessary to accommodate the needs of the employees such as single parents by allowing them to do work at home or allowing them to change their schedules to meet the needs of their families. Dennis was always very generous with the office staff and if a collection for a retirement gift wasn't enough for the type of gift Dennis felt the employee deserved, he made up the difference himself. Dennis has a daughter by a former marriage and has always made timely child support payments, he also provided his daughter with a separate allowance above and beyond the child support which was sent directly to her for her own use.

I talked to Dennis a couple of weeks after his suspension and he was extremely upset that he had let his friends and family down. He had already been off of drugs for two weeks "Cold Turkey" and had made arrangements with the VA hospital in Salt Lake to attend their drug rehabilitation course.

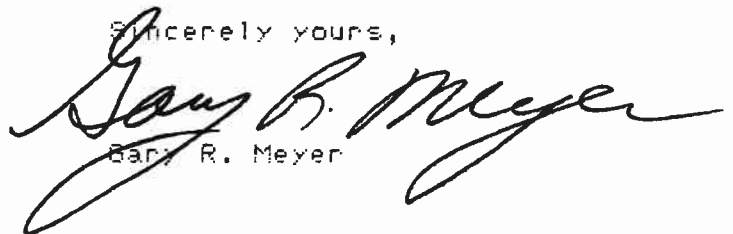
I feel that Dennis has punished himself sufficiently in his own mind and incarceration would only be vindictive and would not be beneficial to either Dennis or the Government. I feel that Dennis is the type of person who will try to make up what he took from the Government and prison will only serve to make it harder for him to keep his family together and make reimbursement more difficult or impossible to accomplish. Dennis has destroyed a career that paid over forty thousand dollars a year and which will be almost impossible to restore. He was highly regarded in the Bureau and could have advanced even further if he was willing to go to Denver Colorado or Washington D.C. He chose to stay in

Billings because he felt Montana was a better place to raise his children. Dennis's wife [REDACTED] has stayed with Dennis through his troubles and incarceration will only create an additional cost to society by forcing his family on welfare and make it more difficult for him to get on with his life.

Dennis made a serious mistake which has already cost him his career because he could not deal with the pressures of his job. I would ask you to consider the adverse effect on both the Government and on Dennis before you consider any incarceration. You will be further reducing the chance of the government recovering the money that was taken, and you will be reducing the chances for a man who has made a mistake to ever rebuild a career.

If I can answer any additional questions or be of any further assistance please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,



Gary R. Meyer

Date: 11/4/86

The Honorable James F. Battin  
United States District Court  
Federal Building  
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Judge Battin:

I have known Dennis Huston for over 2 1/2 years. I have gotten to know him quite well in both a working and a social environment.

I first came to know Dennis while working for him at the Bureau of Reclamation. He was definitely the best supervisor I have ever worked under. He was very knowledgeable, helpful and extremely understanding. He took special efforts to help his employees. He was not only a great manager, but a true friend and his employees worked very hard for him. He has a way of giving one a feeling of self-worth. He gave the office a positive attitude which helped ease all the pressures of the terribly tense and busy days we were experiencing with the consolidation of our Region with another.

Dennis strongly supported the Equal Opportunity Employment Program while employed with Bureau of Reclamation at the Billings office. During the 2 years he was here, he hired 2 handicapped individuals and one Indian woman. Dennis is highly thought of by all who know him.

My husband and I also have come to know Dennis, his wife [REDACTED], and their 2 daughters, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], outside the work environment. We are very close friends and enjoy spending time with them. I have been around them quite often and know what a close family they are. There is great communication among them. Dennis is a wonderful father. He is so patient with his daughters and their many questions. He takes time to help them with their school problems, to read them stories, or just listen to them. The Huston family holds a lot of love and trust within each other.

I feel that Dennis has suffered deep sorrow and pain for what he has done. How he let his friends and family down. Yet, all have loved, cared, and supported him through this traumatic ordeal. In my opinion, I also feel that his drug-dependency is responsible for leading up to the crime. Dennis would not have compromised all he has ever worked for, had he been in his right state of mind.

Dennis attended a drug rehabilitation program at the Salt Lake City Veterans Administration Hospital after being off drugs for 2 weeks. I saw him in such sorrow and pain for what he had done. The pain of withdrawal he was going through and all his tears for what he was putting his family through. It is really incredible how the drug addiction had changed him. His wife and some of his closer friends could notice a considerable change in his personality and behavior patterns approximately 10 - 12 months before the crime he committed was discovered. But we had blamed it on his job and all the extreme pressure he was under. Too bad we were so ignorant to the signs of drug addiction. Perhaps if people were more aware of the signs, Dennis could've been helped before the drug dependency took total control of his life.

I honestly feel that Dennis has punished himself a thousand times over in his mind. I have talked with Dennis frequently, and know what great remorse and sorrow he feels.

I strongly feel Dennis would be, once again, an asset to society if granted a second chance. He is highly intelligent and motivated, and incarceration would serve no purpose. I know for a fact that Dennis wishes to pay back what he has taken and imprisonment would only delay any action necessary to repay the amount of money taken from the Government.

If I can answer any further questions or be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call me. My home phone is [REDACTED] and my work phone is [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



Shelley Ruff

October 27, 1986

Honorable James F. Batten  
United States District Court  
Federal Building  
Billings, Montana 59101

Dear Sir:

I am an attorney in the office of the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, Sacramento, California. I have held that position since February, 1976. Throughout my tenure in that office I have provided legal advice & assistance primarily to the Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, Bureau of Reclamation, Sacramento, California. On various occasions I needed detailed financial information & analyses of Bureau of Reclamation activities & was referred to Dennis Winters. On all such occasions, I was impressed with his knowledge and his professional expertise. I was also impressed with the productive & friendly relationship he had with his superiors & his associates as well as his continuing offers to provide me with any & all further information & assistance that I desired. As a result, we our families became very close friends. In fact, for approximately 5 years, we were together more often than we were apart during our free time.

Dennis is a dedicated husband, father & friend. I have never seen him do or plan anything that would embarrass or offend his wife, his children or his friends unless it was done in jest, in which case it was appreciated by all. Since he & his family moved to Billings, he have remained in touch with one another & I have met many of his new friends & business associates. Without exception, each of these people respect Dennis & enjoy his company much as I do.

Dennis sincerely regrets that he engaged in the use of addictive drugs, thereby affecting his ability to function rationally. But, he did so only because the drugs initially permitted him to work 16 to 20 hours every day which he found to be necessary to enable him to handle his extraordinary workload. He no longer uses any such drugs and will never do so again because he now recognizes the detrimental effect such use has on him, his family & his friends. Since these relationships have always been extremely important to Dennis, he will not jeopardize them again.

I fear that these relationships could be destroyed or seriously threatened if he is sentenced to prison. I further fear that a prison sentence would undermine his commitment to regain the respect of his family & friends, thereby threatening his rehabilitation. I sincerely hope that you will consider these comments in your deliberation of the criminal charges filed against Mr. Huston.

Respectfully submitted,  
James E. Turner

October 22, 1986

Honorable James F. Battin  
United States District Court  
Federal Bldg.  
Billings, Montana 59101

I have been closely acquainted with Dennis Hurston since December 1978. At that time Dennis accepted a position of Staff Accountant with the Division of Finance, Mid-Pacific Region, Bureau of Reclamation in Sacramento, California. During the entire 5 year period of employment with this office, he worked under my direct supervision (Regional Finance Officer) and consequently I became very knowledgeable of his character, job proficiency, personal interests and concern for his fellow human beings. Although most of our acquaintanceship is job related, there were a number of occasions where we participated in out of office activities such as golf games, holiday parties and other social functions.

As an employee, Dennis always maintained a professional image, was always dependable and accomplished a heavy, often complex workload in a timely and extremely competent manner. His judgment, reliability, and capacity to accomplish difficult and critical work assignments made him a key employee of the Division. His work materially contributed to the successful financial management operations of the

## Mid-Pacific Region.

Very early in our acquaintanceship I recognized that Dennis had a genuine interest in the welfare of his fellow employees, friends, and those who were less fortunate than he. He was always ready to lend a helping hand to help someone with a problem or to lend assistance for such things as moving household furniture or repairing a fence. His sincere friendliness and interest in people are reflected by the many individuals who consider Dennis as a close personal friend. I have never heard a comment critical of Dennis or his treatment of others.

I am not fully aware of the causes which may have contributed to the acts with which Dennis is charged. I can say, however, that these charges and my understanding of the contributing causes thereof are completely out of character for the Dennis I know. My understanding is that drugs were a root cause of the problem and, further, that any use thereof has now been totally eradicated.

Dennis is a very proud man who has consistently demonstrated to me his belief in human and moral values. I believe Dennis will do everything reasonably possible within his present and future resources to repay any financial obligations he has incurred. Because I am confident Dennis has the moral

Character and an unwavering determination to make and keep things right, I believe justice would best be served by allowing him to begin this effort without a period of incarceration.

Respectfully yours,

Charles L. Winn



September 29, 1986

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to offer our perspective of Mr. Dennis Huston and his family. We believe Mr. Huston is an honest, sincere person who made a once in a lifetime mistake. We believe he will be a positive, productive member of society.

Loretta served as an immediate subordinate of Mr. Huston with the Bureau of Reclamation and currently holds the position of Regional Finance Officer which Mr. Huston held. Randy is a CPA, professor of accounting at Eastern Montana College. In addition to our professional contacts with Mr. Huston, we have had personal contacts with him, his wife [REDACTED] and daughters [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

Mr. Huston has a history of being a devoted father and husband. This fact is reflected in how supportive his wife and daughters have been after they were devastated by his telling them of his misdeeds. His family as well as friends realize that Mr. Huston's illegal actions were completely contrary to his personality and character.

We are not writing because we think Mr. Huston cannot cope with prison. Instead, we do not believe his incarceration will benefit society and will serve to derail his process of rehabilitation. Once he admitted his wrongdoings to himself and the government, he entered a drug rehabilitation program in Salt Lake City. During the last few months Mr. Huston has undergone extensive drug rehabilitation, soul searching and spiritual growth with himself and his family. The result can be observed in Mr. Huston's resolve and humble determination to straighten out his life.

An example of Mr. Huston's evolution was his recent participation in having one of his former subordinates voluntarily admitted for treatment for alcoholism at Rimrock Foundation. We were both at the intervention meeting and it was evident to everyone at the meeting that Mr. Huston is clear about the danger and damage of drugs and resolved to get his own life back in order as well as to help others.

Randy has served with the Deferred Prosecution Program in Yellowstone County for the past six years. While not purporting to have the expertise of someone involved full-time in the judicial system, he has seen numerous successful and unsuccessful candidates who were given leniency in first offense circumstances. Mr. Huston and his supportive family have all the ingredients necessary to successfully turn his life around. He has professional managerial and accounting expertise and personal experiences to offer society if he is involved in community service activities.

We ask you to consider Mr. Huston's long history of positive, law-abiding behavior, family devotion and professional development. We believe his incarceration would create extensive damage to the well-being of his wife and children as well as debilitate Mr. Huston's process of restructuring his and his family's lives.

Sincerely yours,

*Loretta R. Howard*

Loretta R. Howard

*Randy Howard*

Randy Howard



The Honorable James F. Battin  
United States District Court  
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Judge Battin:

My family and I have known Dennis Huston and his family since they moved to Billings about two years ago. Dennis was referred to me by a very good friend who worked with Dennis when he lived in Sacramento, California. Dennis became very close to our family, including our three teenage children. He attended most of their sporting events, and they babysat for his two daughters on many occasions. Dennis was very well liked by many people I know. He was honest, fair and sincere to all the people he dealt with, in fact I am unaware of anyone who had anything but good things to say about him. He had the total support of his staff, even under the extreme pressure that existed during the reorganization of our office last December. It was such a shock to all of us when this happened.

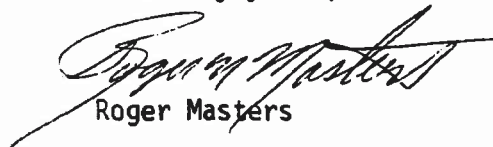
One afternoon I heard that Dennis had picked up his things in the office and gone home. I immediately went over to his house to find him in tears. He grabbed me and held me for quite a long time telling me how sorry he was for what he had done and asking my forgiveness. I did not know what he had done, but he finally was able to tell me about the drugs and the money.

As I look back now, I can see personality changes that had occurred over a period of time in Dennis, which I realize now must have been drug related. He had become very quiet and wanted to be alone which was so unlike the person I had known. I feel bad that we all were so blind not to realize what was happening to him.

Dennis had everything going for him; friends, good job, great family. This is so typical of what can happen as a result of drugs taking control of a person. I doubt that there has been a moment since this happened that Dennis has not felt remorse for what he has done, especially for his family, parents and friends. He feels that he has let them all down.

Dennis is a good person and I believe that with proper drug rehabilitation he can again be a great asset to our society. I know that he wants to pay the money back and given a chance, he will. I believe he should be given the chance for his sake, and the sake of his family.

Sincerely yours,

  
Roger Masters

Honorable James F. Battin  
United States District Court  
Federal Bldg.  
Billings, Montana 59101

Judge James F. Battin:

I have known Dennis Huston for about 2 years. During that time I found Dennis to be a very sincere and caring individual. I will always remain impressed with how highly he was and still is regarded by his former employees, coworkers, and supervisors. One might expect to hear comments made such as, I knew he was dishonest all along, or I sensed something bad about him all along; however, to Dennis's credit I am not aware of anyone making statements of that nature. In fact, the mood around the office remains one of disbelief, and hopes by all who come into contact with Dennis that there has been a big mistake and everything will revert back to the way it was.

I feel that in this instance justice could be served through means other than incarceration. The first thing Dennis said

me, when I visited him upon his return from treatment at Salt Lake, was Rick. I'm very sorry for letting you down. I think that this is evidence that he feels extreme remorse for his actions. Further, I feel that Dennis would like nothing more than to be able to use his talents to make amends for his actions. Dennis has on several occasions said that he would like to make restitution.

I ask that because the only real victims in this case are Dennis and his family that he be given the opportunity to make amends without being incarcerated. In addition to paying back the money he took there are numerous low income, senior citizen or other groups that could put Dennis's talents to good use.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my feelings on behalf of Dennis Heston and his family.

Richard J. Blaskovich

