

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

2821 Route 22, Patterson, NY 12563-2237 Phone: (845) 306-1100

April 2, 2003

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS IN THE UNITED STATES

Dear Brothers:

We are writing you at this time in regard to a fund-raising program operated by Electronic Scrip Incorporated (*eScrip*) wherein participating business partners contribute a percentage of the value of an individual's purchases made using merchant loyalty cards, credit cards, or debit/ATM cards to an organization of an individual's choice.

It is our understanding that Electronic Scrip Incorporated has listed on their Web site over 324 congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses across the United States. Some of the grocery stores that promote this program have provided "scan cards" that are to be given to members of the congregation, primarily through the elders. We do not recommend that congregations participate in such arrangements because of the appearance that such may give not only to our brothers but also to the community in general.

Further, such participation may subject the congregation to state or local charitable-solicitation or fundraising statutes. This is an area we have historically avoided. Therefore, if your congregation has become involved in a program of this nature, you should cease participation in the program. To those congregations who have not yet become involved, please keep the foregoing in mind should the question arise in the future.

We are confident that you brothers will follow through and make certain that the congregation does not become involved in such programs in the future. What individuals do about making a donation of this nature on their own, without involving the congregation, is a personal matter.

Please be assured of our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

cc: Traveling overseers

PS to circuit overseers:

It would be most helpful if you could discuss this letter with the body of elders in each congregation during your next visit to the congregation.