

HOW TO READ THE CHART

The chart gives a fairly comprehensive picture of Rep. Ron Paul's ticket expenses assessed to TLC or to the Liberty Study Committee (LSC, as TLC was known before the name change) between the 4th Quarter of 1998 and the first Quarter of 2005. Using the folders and documents supplied, I reviewed the TLC assessments presented and preserved only those that were, or appeared to be, related to the purchase of airline tickets. Over the period, there were 61 such instances – all reflected in the chart.

Owing to the inadequate, inconsistent, and partial information available from the RP's Clute enterprise presented as an alleged justification of TLC's assessments, the chart also includes other indicators for each instance that appeared pertinent.¹

Purchase Date: In almost all cases, the fragmentary records received from the Clute enterprise included the purchase date of the original ticket. I assumed that each instance reflected travel after the date of original purchase. When possible, these cells also include the date or dates of official travel as recorded in the Clerk's Statement of Disbursements (SOD) from the Member Representational Allowance (MRA).

Price: This cell includes the price of the ticket at the time of purchase and the itinerary, if available, from the credit card statement or the SOD.²

LSC/TLC Ck#/Date: This column records the date on which the check was generated to pay for the subject ticket. Given the poor quality of documentation presented and the way ticket costs are assessed, this information appears to be reliable.

MRA?: Yes means that a ticket assessed to TLC was later disbursed to RP from the MRA (double billed/double paid). Yes? is in doubt. No means no obvious record of disbursement.

TKT # First Purchase: During the course of the research, these numbers were recorded in case the SOD might have contained ticket numbers, thereby making the match much easier. Extracting ticket numbers from Clute's choppy, inconsistent documentation led to the discovery of "off-loading," by which a number of tickets for the same amount and itinerary were purchased on or about the same date for the same price. Some were assessed to TLC or Congressman Paul's dependencies or, on occasion, to him personally. For example, ticket #1 could have been assessed to TLC as an apparently unique instance, but the actual ticket showing up in the SOD might have been a different ticket. In each case, comparison of date of purchase and date of departure, particularly as reflected in the SOD often was solid documentation.

House Page # or note: When TLC was assessed a ticket that was also submitted to the House for disbursement to RP, this cell includes the fiscal quarter in which the duplicate appears, and the page number. In such cases, there was usually very strong congruity between the ticket cost assessed to TLC and the House records. However, when there was no obvious match between SOD and TLC, the activity in the House on or around the date of purchase is noted. This information is not necessarily reliable because a ticket date could have been changed or it could have been used as a credit.

1 The numbers to the left of the purchase date were for internal reference only.

2 It is not always obvious that the initial purchase price of a ticket is firm or whether, in some cases, a ticket cost assessed to TLC might have later been used as a credit against a higher price ticket.