



PRESS NOTICE

W. WALTER WILKINS UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COLUMBIA MAN CHARGED WITH EMBEZZLING FROM STAGE WORKERS UNION

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney W. Walter Wilkins stated that Thomas L. Barnes, age 54, of Columbia, South Carolina, was charged in a federal Indictment with embezzling \$13,021.42 from the Columbia chapter of the Stage and Picture Operators Union, in violation of Title 29, United States Code, Section 501(c). He is also charged with two counts of filing false reports with the United States Department of Labor that concealed the alleged thefts, in violation of Title 29, United States Code, Section 439(b).

Investigators allege that Barnes embezzled the money while he served as President of the Columbia chapter between January 2004 and December 2006.

The maximum penalty Barnes could receive on the embezzlement count is

five years imprisonment plus a fine of \$250,000. He also faces fines of \$100,000 and up to one year in prison on each of the false report charges.

Mr. Wilkins stated that the case was investigated by the United States Department of Labor, Office of Labor and Management Standards, and that he has assigned the case to Assistant United States Attorney Dean A. Eichelberger of the Columbia office for prosecution.

The United States Attorney stated that all charges in this Indictment are merely accusations and that all defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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