



NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

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file

ROGER GOODELL
Commissioner

January 31, 2008

Hon. Arlen Specter
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Specter:

I saw today for the first time your letters inquiring about my investigation into the taping of defensive signals by the New England Patriots. I apologize for not having replied earlier. (I have instructed my staff to contact your office to make sure that you have my best phone and fax numbers for our future communications.)

With respect to the Patriots matter, senior members of my staff conducted detailed, individual interviews with Patriots' owner Robert Kraft, Coach Belichick, and other Patriots employees promptly after this matter came to our attention. They reviewed the videotapes and notes made by the Patriots employee who reviewed the tapes on behalf of the club. Following that review, the tapes and the notes were destroyed by our office in order to ensure that they could not be used for any purpose going forward. Our goal was to ensure that the Patriots would not secure any possible competitive advantage as a result of the misconduct that had been identified. The Patriots have separately certified to me in writing that we received all tapes, all notes, and that no other material exists relating to the taping of defensive signals.

Our investigation specifically disclosed nothing relating to the stealing of Eagles' signals during the Super Bowl game between the Patriots and the Philadelphia Eagles in 2005. (The two teams had only played one other game against each other in the current decade, a preseason game in the summer of 2003.) We have no reason to believe that the outcome of the 2005 Super Bowl was affected in any way by the improper taping of Eagles' defensive signals.

The discipline I imposed on both the Patriots and Coach Belichick was very substantial. No coach has ever been fined as much as Coach Belichick, and no club has been required to forfeit its first round selection in the college draft for such an on-field violation. I am confident that neither the Patriots, nor any other NFL team, will engage in this type of conduct again.

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I believe that I have no more significant responsibility than protecting the integrity of the game and promoting public confidence in the NFL, and that our actions in response to the Patriots' taping was entirely consistent with that responsibility.

Again, I regret not having seen and responded to your questions sooner. As always, I appreciate your interest in the NFL.

Sincerely,



Handwritten signature of Roger Goodell in cursive script.

ROGER GOODELL

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802
specter.senate.gov

November 15, 2007

Mr. Roger Goodell
Commissioner
National Football League
280 Park Avenue
New York, NY

Dear Commissioner Goodell:

With the New England Patriots about to play the Philadelphia Eagles again, as they did in the Superbowl in January 2005, I would appreciate your advising me what your investigation showed, if anything, on the question of the Patriots' stealing Eagles' signals during that Superbowl game.

I had thought there would be some additional disclosures following your initial sanction on the Patriots and Coach Belichick, but I did not see anything further so I would like a response on this specific question.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter

AS/ph

Via Facsimile (212) 681-7599

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802
specter.senate.gov

December 19, 2007

Mr. Roger Goodell
Commissioner
National Football League
280 Park Avenue
New York, NY

Dear Commissioner Goodell:

More than a month has passed since I wrote to you on November 15, 2007 concerning the issue of the New England Patriots spying on the Philadelphia Eagles on their 2005 Super Bowl game. I would appreciate a prompt response.

I was surprised to read in the New York Times on December 16th that the NFL had destroyed the tapes on the Patriots spying. Is that true?

The same New York Times story also contained the author's surmising that there was more than one copy because of the general practice of not having a single copy of anything. Was there a second copy? Is it possible to retrieve a copy?

Candidly, the destruction of the tapes is, in my opinion, highly suspicious. I would appreciate your reply as to the scope of your investigation and your findings on the number of times the Patriots spied and on whom.

I share the concern that your treatment of the Patriots and Coach Belichick was insufficient. I would like to know the specifics of the misconduct which you found and your reasons for imposing the penalties which you did.

As I have said on many occasions in the past, including legislation which I have introduced, the NFL has a special duty to the public in light of the antitrust exemption which the NFL enjoys.

I would appreciate a prompt response to the questions posed in this letter and in my prior letter to you.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter

AS/ph

Via Facsimile (212) 681-7599