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345 Harvard Street, 3F  
Cambridge, Mass 02138  
August 18, 1990

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CAMBRIDGE MA.

Cambridge City Council  
Cambridge Mass 01239

Honorable Council Members:

I think the Rent Control Board is out of contact with reality.

A case pending (SCZ 90 049) can be summarized as follows:

Fact: tenants in a rent controlled apartment building were, by the Rent Control Board's findings, overcharged from 1985 to March 1990.

Allegation: the overcharge was due to an error by the Rent Control Board.

Proposed Solution: allow the landlord to raise rents approximately \$80 a month, to make up for the overcharge.

Doesn't that sound like something out of Through the Looking Glass? Well, that's what the Rent Control Board's Mr Packer would do, if he hasn't done it already.

What makes sense, and would only be doing what is right, is to adjust the rents down by some amount, for some number of months, until the overpayment has been balanced out.

Mr Packer brings in all sorts of extraneous contentions and issues; in fact, he has all but invited the landlord to submit back claims for prior years' expenses and capitalization, to the amount of the overcharge, so "the whole amount can even out."

If these are Mr. Packer's positions, and I understand they are, then Mr. Packer is as nutty as a fruitcake, and needs to be reigned in.

Perhaps you, individually and as the Council, can look into this situation, and give me your assessment of Mr. Packer's positions.

Thank you

*Eugene McManus*  
Eugene McManus

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Comm. from Eugene McManus, 345  
Harvard Street, relative to a rent  
control issue.

In City Council,

Sept. 10, 1990

*Referred to the  
City manager and  
Rent Control*

*Committee*

*Copy sent to City Manager*

*9/12/90 De*

*Copy sent to Rent. Control*

*Comm. 9/12/90 De.*