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Think New Mexico's Open Reporting Pleasant Exception

It's quite shocking in this day and age for a 501c3 non-profit organization to mail their financial statement to you.

The normal procedure is a citizen requests it, the non-profit group says, "Go soak your head. We're not a public entity. We don't have to tell you anything about how we run our show." The citizen writes a letter to the Attorney General's office. She thinks about it awhile then does little or nothing. It's election year.

The citizen makes some calls and requests IRS Tax Form 990 from Salt Lake City, Utah. With that in hand the citizen goes back to the non-profit entity and asks questions that force them to reveal facts about their expenses and revenue.

Then there's Think New Mexico.

The politicians in Santa Fe spending your money should step lightly around these Think New Mexico folks. They're organized, serious, relentless and worst of

all—above board.

The group mailed their 2001 Annual Report and it included financials. There are non-profit agencies in this county that have to make up their financials before they're forced to hand them over. Included in the Think New Mexico report are names of donors and supporters.

Think New Mexico is preparing to tackle the food tax issue again battling legislators in the upcoming 60 day session. Politicians won't have the short session in which to reroute legislation to many committees, thereby dooming the bill. They have probably read enough editorials and news stories around the state to know their constituents want the tax repealed.

While they know they may have to relent and actually do something the voters want, you never know with those crafty folks in the round house.

It's not over until the gavel drops on the last day.