



POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

1612 K Street, NW, Suite 1200, Washington, DC 20006-2802
Tel.: (202) 296-6955 ♦ Fax: (202) 835-1565 ♦ E-mail: pacwash@pac1944.org
WWW.PAC1944.ORG

Direct email: frank.spula@pna-znp.org

November 7, 2017

Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Steve Burke
NBC Studio
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112
Via: FedEx

Dear Mr. Burke,

During the Saturday Night Live episode of November 4th, 2017, I, as well as many members of our community, heard a distasteful, derogatory and unfortunate "Polish joke" on the NBC network.

The remark, made by the character of Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the White House Press Secretary, portrayed by Ms. Aldy Bryant, was as follows; "Ten people have a bar tab of a \$100.00, right?....But the eighth man was a Polack, OK? So, he's as dumb as a box of rocks....."

Since the airing, our office has been inundated with countless calls and e-mails expressing outrage, and concern over this remark.

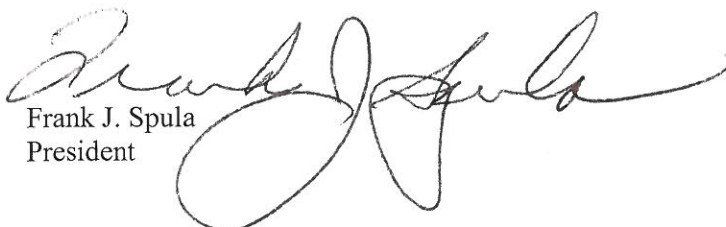
Ethnic and racial jokes are necessarily scathing and do great damage, both by perpetuating ugly stereotypes and by demeaning a large number of citizens on the basis of their background and other innate characteristics. These types of remarks are offensive for all communities, not just ours.

I am hopeful that the writers, executives or hosts who permitted such defamatory, anti-Polish comments to be aired did not do so with malice, as a finding of deliberate ethnic slander over public airwaves could result in a Federal Communications Commission investigation and fine.

I, as well as the Polish American Congress, expect that NBC will issue a written public apology for this insulting incident which can be reprinted in the various Polish American media, as well as a commitment to educate and council writers and production staff about preventing racial and cultural stereotypes that mock an entire community representing a large portion of the American populous.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,


Frank J. Spula
President

*S*ERVING THE INTERESTS OF POLISH AMERICANS SINCE 1944