

Consumer warning issued

Residents of the Northwest are receiving what may be "too good to be true" offers for free gifts. Mass mailings are presently being sent to selected areas of the Western United States. These promotions involve completing a television viewing questionnaire with high value gifts "as bait."

Participants are asked to pay a fee for handling and processing the questionnaire. Those responding are guaranteed to be awarded one of an

array of merchandise and/or cash valued from \$250 to \$2,000.

Companies running these promotions are currently under investigation at the points of mailing by the Postal Inspection Service for possible violations of the mail fraud, lottery and false representation statutes. Eric G. Larson, Postal Inspector in Charge at Seattle, emphasizes the time tested adage, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."