



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

1325 K STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

THIS IS THE END OF MUR # 643





FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

1325 K STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

August 10, 1978

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Roy G. (Gene) Kidwell
616 Northwest Avenue
El Dorado, Arkansas 71730

RE: MUR 643

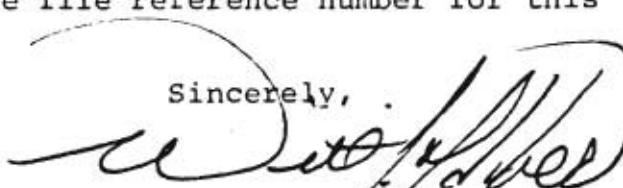
Dear Mr. Kidwell:

The Federal Election Commission has reviewed the allegations of your complaint dated July 4, 1978, and determined that on the basis of the information provided in your complaint, there is no reason to believe that a violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act") has been committed.

Accordingly, upon my recommendation the Commission has decided to close the file in this matter.

Should additional information come to your attention which you believe establishes a violation of the Act, please contact me. The file reference number for this matter is MUR 643.

Sincerely,


William C. Oldaker
General Counsel

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
)
Beryl Anthony)

MUR 643 (78)

CERTIFICATION

I, Marjorie W. Emmons, Secretary to the Federal
Election Commission, do hereby certify that on August 7,
1978, the Commission approved by a vote of 6-0 the
General Counsel's recommendation to take the following
actions in the above-captioned matter:

1. Find no reason to believe that a violation
of the Federal Election Campaign Act has
been committed.
2. Send the letter attached to the First
General Counsel's Report dated August 4,
1978.
3. Close the file.

Date: 8/7/78

Marjorie W. Emmons

Marjorie W. Emmons
Secretary to the Commission

Received in Office of Commission Secretary: 8-4-78, 11:35
Circulated on 48 hour vote basis: 8-4-78, 1:00

August 4, 1978

MEMORANDUM TO: Marge Simmons
FROM: Elissa T. Garr
SUBJECT: MUR 643

Please have the attached First General Counsel's Report on MUR 643 distributed to the Commission on a 48 hour tally basis.

Thank you.

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

FIRST GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

DATE AND TIME OF TRANSMITTAL
BY OGC TO COMMISSION AUG 4 1978

MUR NO. 643
DATE COMPLAINT RECEIVED
BY OGC 7/7/78

STAFF MEMBER(S) Donaldson

COMPLAINANT'S NAME: Roy G. (Gene) Kidwell

RESPONDENT'S NAME: Beryl Anthony

4 RELEVANT STATUTE: 2 U.S.C. §434

3

5 INTERNAL REPORTS CHECKED: Beryl Anthony Campaign Committee

1

7 FEDERAL AGENCIES CHECKED: N/A

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0 SUMMARY OF ALLEGATIONS

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4 The Commission received a notarized complaint from Roy G. (Gene)
Kidwell, a resident of El Dorado, Arkansas, on July 7, 1978. Mr. Kidwell
0 alleges that there is political corruption and electoral fraud in El Dorado,
Union County, and South Arkansas. He also alleges that Beryl Anthony, a
0 candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives from the 4th District of
Arkansas is (1) fundamentally corrupt; (2) not properly reporting receipts
7 9 and expenditures; (3) having a cozy relationship with the oil companies;
0 and (4) has put money into the pockets of black ministers to buy black
votes.

0 EVIDENCE

4 A review of Beryl Anthony's reports indicate that receipts and
expenditures have been reported properly.

Mr. Kidwell has not provided the Commission with any evidence to
support his allegations.

RECOMMENDATION

Find no reason to believe. Send attached letter. Close the file.

2616 Northwest Avenue
El Dorado, Arkansas
71730
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
July 4, 1973
501-363-3517

William C. Oldaker, General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
1325 "I" Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.
20463

7 AM 9:21

804270

Dear Mr. Oldaker:

I am taking advantage of the presence of some of my relatives in El Dorado this weekend to send you -- from a distant town -- this verification check upon my formal complaint of June 28, 1973 (unc 21, 1973 according to my records). The format of my letter then should have been similar to this one; it should have been typed upon the same typewriter; the paper should be identical; the regrettably slanty wording should be of the same nature.

In the first page of that six page letter I expressed my desire for the strictest confidence and said that the scope of my complaint concerned political corruption and electoral fraud in El Dorado, Union County, and south Arkansas. I said that I was acting on the "behalf" of Clinton Bryant only in the sense that I believed him to be the more honest candidate. For the sake of clarity I should have added, I realized later, that there has been no serious discussion of any job possibilities with either Mr. Bryant or his staff. I am acting alone in this matter.

On page two I discussed campaign receipts and expenditures -- and mentioned the traditional practice of contributors passing out \$100 bills down here, irony with my own worries about being "caught" on some technical "slip-up" regarding my own expenses...which did come, for the most part, from my immediate relatives. I mentioned some documentation concerning what I felt to be the unfair and unequal coverage of the Beryl Anthony campaign by the local news media.

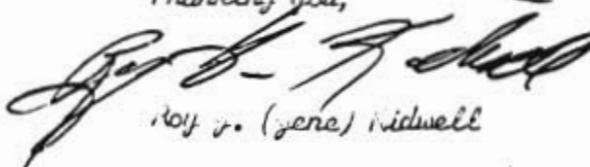
On page three I listed Thaddeus Payne and Tommy Miller as "Cooperative Informants" and requested that any communications with them be kept in confidence. I also listed Ron E. Wood and his wife Elizabeth as "semi-cooperative informants" (along with Nancy Ann on page four) and requested that they be protected.

On page four, I began my listing of "Uncooperative Informants" with Carl E. Connerton, Jr. -- a former Congressional and County judge candidate. And Marianne Sibley, Beryl Anthony's former press secretary.

On page five I named James J. (Joe) Calaway and Raiph (Shorty) Calaway along with some media and local government people. On page six I continued that naming (not being specific there) and wrote that I had no intention of misleading the Federal Election Commission.

If there are any substantial discrepancies, please inform me...and start an investigation of postal violation.

Thanking you,


Roy F. (Gene) Ridwell

4766-11
803991oylene Hillwell
2616 Northwest Avenue
El Dorado, Arkansas
71730June 21, 1978
501-363-3517

William C. Oldaker/General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
1325 K Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.
20463

Dear Mr. Oldaker:

After some delay I received your letter of June 1 regarding mine of May 26 (?? the copies within my files are dated May 15). I did not realize at that time that you were not empowered to act unless complaints are notarized. I am not sure that I would have registered such a formal complaint at that time because too much of my information was based upon rumor alone. I only wanted to bring them to your attention and to suggest some consideration.

However. The persistence of those and other rumors and some more concrete data since then forces me, as a citizen, to register a more formal complaint. I do request, however, that my complaint as well as any information which I provide be kept in the strictest confidence. There are too many "accidents" here in the "City of Pride and Progress" which do not gain their deserved coverage in the local media. I have heard, for instance, that an automobile was shot to pieces in the parking lot of a local company, apparently because of some kind of dispute involving narcotics, and that about \$3000 worth of damage was done to a \$4300 car — or something like that. This item was not covered by the local media and so I am forced to say that it is "only a rumor" and that I cannot provide "documentation." But at least that and some other "rumors" should illustrate my concerns for confidence. El Dorado is supposed to have more millionaires (mainly, I suppose, because of oil) than Little Rock and seems, indeed, to be run like something of a "company" town. Again, this is something of a "general feeling based upon rumor." But I honestly believe that any investigation will uncover a number of "irregularities."

I am trying to be as honest with you as possible and I swear that I am not, to the best of my knowledge, trying to give you any misleading information.... and that if something is "only a rumor" I will try to refer to it as such. So. I am making a formal complaint regarding political corruption and electoral fraud in El Dorado, Union County, and south Arkansas. I am swearing that I am being as truthful and honest as possible — and I am relying upon your own vows of confidence. I am also requesting that you cooperate and collaborate with Secretary of State Winston Bryant's office — even though he does not appear to have investigatory powers — rather than with the Arkansas Attorney General's office — if you do choose to conduct an investigation. There is something fishy — I can't put my finger on it — about that Attorney General's office. To the contrary, I have found -- by intuition, perhaps — that those associated with Winston Bryant are concerned, frank, honest, intelligent, and well-meaning. I do not think that this is merely "subjective" opinion.

Since Winston Bryant, as you know, was the loser to Beryl Anthony in this Fourth Congressional District election in Arkansas, it might be said that I am filing this complaint on his behalf. But. I am undertaking this action as a private individual — apart from the fact that I was a stranger and wonderfully big "loser" in my own bid for mayor here in El Dorado — and I swear that neither Winston Bryant nor any of his friends, associates, or relatives have any knowledge of this complaint and of its nature. I have met Mr. Bryant and some of his friends, associates, and relatives — but none of them more than twice to my knowledge, my telephone conversations being even more limited. I have not received, moreover, a single penny from him or any of his representatives.

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I am not, therefore, acting so much in the behalf of Winston Bryant as in firm antipathy to Congressman-Elect Beryl Anthony and virtually everything that he and his friends stand for. I do believe, in utmost sincerity (even if it is a "general feeling based upon rumor"), that he is a fundamentally corrupt and corrupting individual and that — should you decide to scrutinize his campaign receipts and expenditures — you will likely find something. Something pretty damn big. I do think that a few questions should be asked.

As for specifics, you do have your regulations regarding the proper reporting of campaign receipts and expenditures...and cash contribution limitations and so on. It is a tradition here, in El Dorado and Union County at least, to give political candidates (especially us small-frys) \$100 bills. I know: I got one myself from ENCO's Melvyn Bell and I did report that contribution as required ...whether or not he intended for me to do so. I have seen other \$100 bills being handed out and I do not know whether or not they were properly reported. But that's only peanuts. I think that if you look into the cozy relationship of Mr. Anthony with the oil companies you will find something most worthy, to put it mildly, of your fullest attentions.

I do have my own worries about filing a formal complaint. Worries about getting caught on some minor technical violation myself regarding my own campaign funds. But, I spent less than a thousand dollars on my campaign and all of that — with the exception of that \$100 bill from ENCO's Melvyn Bell — came from my immediate relatives: \$500 from my mother, \$250 from a brother in El Paso, and \$50 from a brother here in El Dorado. I spent \$400 on the filing fee and most of the rest on radio advertisements. So. You should not get distracted if I happened to make a "slip-up" regarding "chicken-iced" expenditures. My friend Anthony spent -- officially — something like \$250,000. He bought an election — whereas I did not go around "beating the bushes" for campaign funds because I did have my own "name recognition" (whether good or bad) and I wanted to see how the votes would go before I asked people for more support.

Furthermore. If you look into that traditional practice of politicians here in south Arkansas sticking money into the pockets of black ministers in order to buy the black vote — and pints of whiskey into other pockets — you will also find something interesting there. I do not have any specific documentation regarding these matters, of course, but those rumors do persist.

Documentation. I don't know how much I can provide. But I can say that the local media here did seem to bend over backwards with last-minute endorsements of Beryl Anthony. Now, it is the right of those organs — such as JVC-TV — to endorse candidates as they see fit. But it is wonderfully strange that the only endorsement which JVC-TV gave out was one by station manager James Tighe on the eve of the June 13 run-off election...in favor, naturally, of Beryl Anthony. And it is even more remarkable that the News-Times here saw fit to give a full-page spread to Sheila Anthony (the Congressman-Elect's wife) on June 11 — two days before the run-off election. I reasoned, since I had had to pay about .125 for a much smaller advertisement, that at \$3.12 per column inch — that such a "news" story of such an extent of 8 columns and about 22 inches must have been worth about .550. Of course, I can't complain in these matters too much since I did get quite a bit of coverage myself in my own candidacy — but I've got the darnedest feeling that I did say a few newsworthy things...whereas Sheila Anthony was talking about her "hobby" of gardening and how much it'd been interrupted by all the campaigning. And the Bill Sutley who wrote the article...well, I've been on his *** list ever since I said some bad things about Beryl Anthony on April 4 and 5. It would, indeed, be interesting to know if the Marion Daily Record gave a similar amount of favorable coverage to Winston Bryant and thereby complied with your own regulation, 100.4 (b), regarding a "general pattern of campaign-related news accounts which give reasonably equal coverage to all opposing candidates in the circulation or listening area." Huh? How about it?

As I've implied, I'm not too good on specific documentation. But I can provide you with the names of some who are...names which I'll have to divide up into "cooperative" and "uncooperative" witnesses. The "cooperative" ones will fill your ears full without any problem; the "uncooperative" ones might require some badge-flashing, verbal terrorism, and similar forms of arm-twisting.

CLOSERATIVE INFLUENTS:

The Reverend Thadis (or Thaddeus) Payne, 1120 Burnside, El Dorado — 862-3413. He's probably got the goods on Anthony sticking money into the pockets of the black ministers — since he's the head of the Union County NAACP — and he seems to also know something about those Anthony Forest Products sawmills passing down the "Vote for Anthony" words (in violation of your section 100.7 and some of its clauses) to hourly employees. (You'll also find that the Union County Sheriff's office and some other organizations did similar deeds.) But I make an especial request here that you keep in strictest confidence any of your communications with the Reverend Payne and any of his friends and associates. He and his people have suffered enough in this "City of Pride and Progress" — being blacklisted for years as far as gainful employment is concerned simply because they tried to exercise their elementary human rights...and to tie up Federal funds until our recent Affirmative Action Program was instituted. Reverend Payne can probably provide you with much information concerning the racial discriminatory practices of Beryl Anthony during his stint as the Prosecuting Attorney for this region and with much other data regarding political corruption down here. I wish to go on record as saying that the Reverend Payne is just about the most considerate, thoughtful, wonderful human being that I have ever known — even though this political machine in El Dorado regards him as somewhat "crazy" — and that he's yet to be protected...at all costs. He and his people, I repeat, have suffered enough in El Dorado.

Tommy Miller. As head of the Union County Labor Council, he is reflective of the deep resentment which organized labor harbors regarding Beryl Anthony... something to do with an extended sawmill strike at Urbana, Arkansas, an attempt to arrest union organizers, and the importation of immigrant labor. I cannot document these charges, of course, since I have only heard "rumors" — but the antipathy regarding Mr. Anthony is obvious and it is difficult to find any union man other than Porter Kelly who has good words for Beryl Anthony (in contrast, I spoke to Tommy Miller about some "unfair labor practices" at ENSI during a union organization drive — when I was considering asking Melvyn Bell for some support — and he said that they apparently had a rather poor lawyer and just "slipped-up." so. Tommy Miller's judgments seem to be both fair and well-balanced). Tommy Miller lives at 305 north Ruth here in El Dorado and his number is 863-3326. He is a CIO man (UAW) — whereas Porter Kelly is, I think, something more of an AFL critter. I do not know what hardships Tommy Miller has had as a labor union organizer in this "right to work" state — but I am sure that he has had some and, therefore, I request that you protect him to the best of your abilities. He seems to be an honest and decent man and I would hate to be responsible for bringing him any trouble.

SELF-COOPERATIVE INFLUENTS:

This one's a strange one. Roy E. Nodd and his wife -- 314 South Park, El Dorado; 862-5375 — are near and dear friends and they are two of the most intelligent people who I have met here in El Dorado. But. There are some problems. They are super-religious and are aspiring John Birchers (they ain't made the grade yet). Or, to use my expression, they sometimes turn a corner and meet themselves coming from the opposite direction. But Roy and Elizabeth Nodd have been closely associated with the school system here (he ran for school board seats a couple of times) and they can probably provide -- with only a little persuasion — some information about Mr. Anthony's forces passing "the word" down to school officials and teachers. But...do be nice to them. They're good people. just shake 'em up a little.

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Nancy Ann. Librarian at the local Barton Library (863-5447); she lives at 413 Wilson Place and her home phone is 862-3385. She is a nice and pleasant and intelligent young lady (I understand that she was in the Air Force at one time) — but she tends to be rather nervous. And that's a good thing in this case. She happens to have been one of the closest personal friends with another charming young lady by the name of Marianne Jolsby...Beryl Anthony's former Press Secretary. Now, as I gather, Marianne had some real problems fitting in with that Anthony crowd and is presently in Shreveport or Oregon or wherever waiting for Anthony to "assemble his staff"...a staff which probably won't include her (not because she's incompetent or anything — she was a damn good news reporter for IDIS before she went to work for Beryl Anthony — but because she just didn't fit in with that socialite crowd...so rumor has it.) Well, Mrs. Nancy Ann is probably the best source for discovering Marianne Jolsby's whereabouts and can provide you with some other information as well (she seems to enjoy the gossip trade). A little badge-flashing and some pointed questions will possibly unearth many riches there. As I said, she's kind of nervous. But be nice to her...a local dingbat of a banker's wife has been giving her a little trouble regarding books in the library and her pro-EPA positions. Ch. The dingbat is Mrs. H. C. (Miz Rachael) McInney and is a leftover from those anti-fluoridation and other Old South days. To her anybody to the left of Attila the Hun is on the "far left."

UNCOOPERATIVE INFORMANTS:

Carl E. Conneron, Jr. 509 East Block. His girlfriend Pam Shaw works at a local answering service (862-2922) and he can sometimes be reached there. I deeply regret having to list this former Congressional and County Judge candidate as a likely "uncooperative" informant since, as a former radio newsmen of marred talent, he has not just a taste for gathering the dirt — but a phenomenal competence. He probably knows enough about Beryl Anthony to send our current Congressman-Elect up the river for good. While Carl Conneron has had a historical antipathy to Beryl Anthony, he experienced a last-minute "conversion" and even publicly endorsed Anthony in the June 10 News-Times. I do not know the cause of that "conversion" — but, knowing Conneron quite well (I have spent far more time and effort helping him out in his campaign than anybody else save Pam Shaw), I can surmise that that "conversion" could have been brought about by (1) the failure of Winston Bryant to return some of Conneron's telephone calls, (2) the refusal of Winston Bryant to debate Beryl Anthony in the latter days, (3) something else equally silly, (4) a modest amount of support — running to a few hundred dollars — for his own County Judge campaign which he obtained from some Anthony boosters, or, (5), a possible romantic involvement (this one I don't want to believe since I do have so much respect for Pam Shaw) with some Anthony strumpet. Or there could have been some kind of factitious and meaningless "promise" of a job involved. In whatever. Conneron, adequately described by the Little Rock newspapers as "the El Dorado wild man" and as "a well-known eccentric," does have his peculiar charm. Actually, on a personal level, he is probably one of the most obnoxious human beings which I have ever encountered, having, as he does, a unique talent for disappointing and hurting those who come too close to him. As a radio newsmen and political candidate he has done a lot of good for a lot of people and is a great guy to admire...from a distance. But, I do believe, it is quite possible that on the morrow he will change his attitude about Anthony and will not only be willing to sing — but can and will do so quite well.

Marianne Jolsby. I do not now know anything about her whereabouts. She has a sense of more or less "professional" loyalty to Anthony and, having been a newswoman — with all the aggressiveness and strong-mindedness which that implies — will be hard to crack. But, she's probably got a lot of information and it might be well worth your while to ask her a few questions. You'll have to use quite a bit of badge-flashing and similar techniques here.

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James J. (Joe) Calloway. Attorney and former Deputy Prosecuting Attorney under Berl Anthony when Anthony was Prosecuting Attorney down here. His El Dorado office is at 522 North Jackson (3627949); his residence is in Smackover on Lewis Hill Road (?) (725-2306). Now, I really like Joe Calloway and regard him as a very close personal friend even if he does have his sympathies for Berl Anthony and even if he did suggest that I "get my head together" by smoking about a pound and a half of good marijuana. He is a very talented creative writer with a whole 'nother set of nicknames for the political figures down here (Anthony, for instance, is Rollo, the rich boy) and he is a very pleasant person in general...but he does have this strangely superficial loyalty to Anthony. I've got this strange feeling that he really doesn't like Anthony all that much — but that Anthony did something for him once upon a time (such as covering for him when he was supposedly selling pot to high school kids in Smackover or something?) which forces him into the center of a curious triangle between Anthony, Connerton, and me. Being a very close friend of Connerton's — having given him quite a bit of free legal assistance — he has probably collected quite a bit of dirt. I would hate to see, however, any harm come to Joe Calloway since I understand that he has already had a number of problems. He would be the kind of informant to approach only if a formal investigation were to be fashioning a pretty solid case. Then he'd probably talk.

Ralph ("Shorty") Calaway. A cousin or some other distant relative of Joe Calloway, Shorty Calaway ran for County Judge a couple of years ago on a shoestring budget and collected a surprising number of votes — simply because he is such a nice and well-liked guy. He is the sort of fellow who can walk into a room and charm everybody. But. Being fundamentally honest, he has still been around and knows a lot of information about political corruption down here. I am listing him as "uncooperative" solely because he will probably be reluctant to talk...simply because of his sense of discretion: he is the kind of guy who doesn't like to deal in "dirt." But he's a nice guy to talk to anyways. He has a residence on the south Jackson road near El Dorado (362-1449).

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The media people. Probably the most honest people going here are those associate with the radio station, KLS/RTL which is owned by the Lowery oil interests, a rather small oil company. The Lowerys are good to talk to (both Pappa and junior, — as are the Sumas (Station Manager), Roger Manning, and Jeorgette Kennedy. (Baronne Polkby, as I said, once worked here.) Almost as good are some of the KLS/RTL people — Bob Compton and Bert (or is it Chris) Reynolds. Mary McElrath is a nice gal — but she is so pro-Anthony (and wrapped up in that sociarite bay, as to consider Winston Bryant a crook. Now. There's something a little fishy about KVE-TV: the Station Manager James Tighe is also a Justice of the Peace and seems kind of nice on the surface — while being so-so in other respects. The other folks — Mike Tuttier, Skip Mandell, Alan Pettit, and John Fairston — seem to be rather nice even if they are most wonderfully pro-Anthony (?). But the News-Times folks — Dennis Byrd, Curtis Butterfield, and Bill Sutley — are something else. They were nice and friendly with me until I started jumping on Anthony and talking about political corruption. Then I started to see a level of "cuteness" and evasiveness since then which I have not seen since I tried to organize a labor union at Columbia University ...in opposition to a Mafia-infiltrated company union. Those News-Times folks are now, as I understand, passing around all sorts of rumors about me being a crazy and a Commie. Or whatever. Mike Mandell, let it be said, is the only writer who quoted me correctly (on April 5) and the others since then have not only persistently misquoted me — but refused to rectify the situation. So. I've got my decided doubts about the News-Times.

Local government officials. The City Hall folks seem to hang together pretty well — but there seems to be some confusion at the County Courthouse. So far, Mayor Rodman had supported my opponent Feaster Taylor in the Mayor's race — but the Anthony people were behind Larry Combs, the guy who won the run-off with a last-minute switch-around in the vote totals. It wouldn't hurt to ask

a few questions about that race. I did have a vested interest there — albeit somewhat limited — and I wouldn't exactly mind seeing things being straightened out there. Like, Did I really get only something like 3% of the vote?

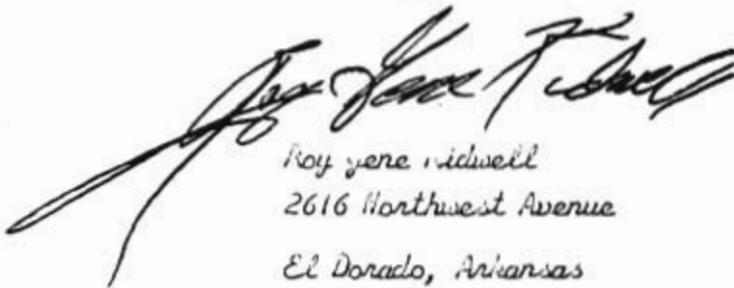
provided

As for the folks in the County Courthouse, there's probably something of a "falling out among thieves" in progress there — and that'll perchance/some good opportunities for information-gathering. There seems to be a number of different factions involved — as this Union County political machine tries to reorganize itself — and this presents a unique opportunity.

Well, In any event. I have done my best to tell my story in the most frank and honest fashion — and to tell as much of it as I could. Even if it might not be so "clear and concise" as you might have desired. I swear that my each and every statement is as truthful and as accurate as I could have made it and that none of my comments, observations, or rumors cited have been made with an intention of misleading the Federal Election Commission. I honestly think that you should look into this situation down here — and I have tried, to the best of my ability, to give you as much of a foothold as possible. Again, I swear, I have not — in deliberation — given you any false or otherwise misleading information...not to the best of my knowledge.

I look forward to the building of a better America — and I feel that honesty regarding our electoral process is a good place to start. Let's put our crooks behind bars and try to give our citizens — all of them — a fair share. Even if that does involve something akin to a rather drastic "change."

Sincerely,



Roy Eugene Ridwell
2616 Northwest Avenue
El Dorado, Arkansas

71730

June 21, 1975

501-363-3517

State of Ark
County of Union
Subscribed & sworn to before me
on 22nd June 1978 - G. D. Thompson
My affis for witness Sept 16th 1980



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

1325 K STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Roy G. (Gene) Kidwell
616 Northwest Avenue
El Dorado, Arkansas 71730

RE: MUR 643

Dear Mr. Kidwell:

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Accordingly, upon my recommendation the Commission has decided to close the file in this matter.

Should additional information come to your attention which you believe establishes a violation of the Act, please contact me. The file reference number for this matter is MUR 643.

Sincerely,

William C. Oldaker
General Counsel

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
JULY 4, 1978
71730
501-863-3517

William C. Oldaker, General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
1325 K Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.
20463

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804270

~~SECRET~~

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On page three I listed Thaddeus and Nancy (Rivera) "Cooperative Informants" and requested that any communication with them be kept in confidence. I also listed Roy C. Wood and his wife Elizabeth as "anti-cooperative informants" (along with Nancy Ann on page four), and requested that they be protected.

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If there are any substantial discrepancies, please inform me...and start an investigation of postal violation.

Thanking you,

ROY C. RIVERA

104, University
2600 Northwestern Avenue
Colorado, Arkansas
71730



18 JUN 7 1964 9:21

John C. Tolson, General Counsel
Federal Aviation Commission
1725, Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.

20463

04007154

JCC3941

803991

Re: Jene Kidwell
2616 Northwest Avenue
El Dorado, Arkansas
71730

June 21, 1978
501-863-3517

William C. Oldaker/General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
1325 K Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.
20463

Dear Mr. Oldaker:

After some delay I received your letter of June 1 regarding mine of May 26 (?? the copies within my files are dated May 15). I did not realize at that time that you were not empowered to act unless complaints are notarized. I am not sure that I would have registered such a formal complaint at that time because too much of my information was based upon rumor alone. I only wanted to bring them to your attention and to suggest some consideration.

However. The persistence of those and other rumors and some more concrete data since then forces me, as a citizen, to register a more formal complaint. I do request, however, that my complaint as well as any information which I provide be kept in the strictest confidence. There are too many "accidents" here in the "City of Pride and Progress" which do not gain their deserved coverage in the local media. I have heard, for instance, that an automobile was shot to pieces in the parking lot of a local company, apparently because of some kind of dispute involving narcotics, and that about \$3000 worth of damage was done to a \$4300 car — or something like that. This item was not covered by the local media and so I am forced to say that it is "only a rumor" and that I cannot provide "documentation." But at least that and some other "rumors" should illustrate my concerns for confidence. El Dorado is supposed to have more millionaires (mainly, I suppose, because of oil), than Little Rock and seems, indeed, to be run like something of a "company" town. Again, this is something of a "general feeling based upon rumor." but I honestly believe that any investigation will uncover a number of "irregularities."

I am trying to be as honest with you as possible and I swear that I am not, to the best of my knowledge, trying to give you any misleading information.... and that if something is "only a rumor" I will try to refer to it as such. So, I am making a formal complaint regarding political corruption and electoral fraud in El Dorado, Union County, and south Arkansas. I am swearing that I am being as truthful and honest as possible — and I am relying upon your own word of confidence. I am also requesting that you cooperate and collaborate with Secretary of State Clinton Bryant's office — even though he does not appear to have investigatory powers — rather than with the Arkansas Attorney General's office — if you do choose to conduct an investigation. There is something fishy — I can't put my finger on it — about that Attorney General's office. To the contrary, I have found — by intuition, perhaps — that those associated with Clinton Bryant are concerned, frank, honest, intelligent, and well-meaning. I do not think that this is merely "subjective" opinion.

Since Clinton Bryant, as you know, was the loser to George Anthony in this fourth Congressional mid-term election in Arkansas, it might be said that I am filing this complaint on his behalf. But, I am underlining this action as a private individual — apart from the fact that I was a stranger and wonderfully bit "loser" in my own bid for mayor here in El Dorado — and I swear that neither Clinton Bryant nor any of his friends, associates, or relatives have any knowledge of this complaint and of its nature. I have met Mr. Bryant and some of his friends, associates, and relatives — but none of them more than twice to my knowledge, my telephone conversations being even more limited. I have not received, moreover, a single penny from him or any of his relatives.

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I am not, therefore, acting so much in the behalf of Winston Bryant as in firm antipathy to Congressman-Elect Beryl Anthony and virtually everything that he and his friends stand for. I do believe, in utmost sincerity (even if it is a "general feeling based upon rumor"), that he is a fundamentally corrupt and corrupting individual and that — should you decide to scrutinize his campaign receipts and expenditures — you will likely find something. Something pretty darn big. I do think that a few questions should be asked.

As for specifics, you do have your regulations regarding the proper reporting of campaign receipts and expenditures...and cash contribution limitations and so on. It is a tradition here, in El Dorado and Union County at least, to give political candidates (especially us small-frys) \$100 bills. I know: I got one myself from ENSCO's Melvyn Bell and I did report that contribution as required ...whether or not he intended for me to do so. I have seen other \$100 bills being handed out and I do not know whether or not they were properly reported. But that's only peanuts. I think that if you look into the cozy relationship of Mr. Anthony with the oil companies you will find something most worthy, to put it mildly, of your fullest attentions.

I do have my own worries about filing a formal complaint. Worries about getting caught on some minor technical violation myself regarding my own campaign funds. But, I spent less than a thousand dollars on my campaign and all of that — with the exception of that \$100 bill from ENSCO's Melvyn Bell — came from my immediate relatives: \$500 from my mother, \$250 from a brother in El Paso, and \$50 from a brother here in El Dorado. I spent \$400 on the filing fee and most of the rest on radio advertisements. So, you should not get distracted if I happened to make a "slip-up" regarding "chicken-feed" expenditures. My friend Anthony spent — officially — something like \$50,000. He bought an election — whereas I did not go around "beating the bushes" for campaign funds because I did have my own "name recognition" (whether good or bad), and I wanted to see how the votes would go before I asked people for more support.

Furthermore, if you look into that traditional practice of politicians here in south Arkansas, sticking money into the pockets of black ministers in order to buy the black vote — and parts of whiskey into other pockets — you will also find something interesting there. I do not have any specific documentation regarding these matters, of course, but those rumors do persist.

Documentation. I don't know how much I can provide, but I can say that the local media here did seem to bend over backwards with last-minute endorsements of Beryl Anthony. Now, it is the right of those organs — such as KTC-TV — to endorse candidates as they see fit. But it is wonderfully strange that the only endorsement which KTC-TV gave out was one by station manager James Tupe on the eve of the June 13 run-off election...in favor, naturally, of Beryl Anthony. And it is even more remarkable that the news-times here saw fit to give a full-page spread to Sheila Anthony (the Congressman-Elect's wife) on June 11 — two days before the run-off election. I reasoned, since I had had to pay about .125 for a much smaller advertisement, that at .3.12 per column inch — that such a "news" story of such an extent of 6 columns and about 22 inches must have been worth about .550. Of course, I can't complain in these matters too much since I did get quite a bit of coverage myself in my own candidacy — but I've got the distinct feeling that I did say a few newsworthy things....whereas Sheila Anthony was talking about her "hobby" of gardening and how much it'd been interrupted by all the campaigning. And the attorney who wrote the article...well, I've been on him ^{recently} since I said one bad thing about Beryl Anthony on April 4 and 5. It would, indeed, be interesting to know if the newspaper record gave a similar amount of favorable coverage to Winston Bryant and thereby complied with your own regulation, 100.4 (b), regarding a "general pattern of campaign-related news accounts which give reasonably equal coverage to all opposing candidates in the circulation or listening area." What now about it?

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As I've implied, I'm not too good on specific documentation. But I can provide you with the names of some who are...names which I'll have to divide up into "cooperative" and "uncooperative" witnesses. The "cooperative" ones will fill your ears full without any problem; the "uncooperative" ones might require some badge-flashing, verbal terrorism, and similar forms of arm-twisting.

COOPERATIVE INFORMANTS:

The Reverend Thadis (or Thaddeus) Payne, 1120 Burrside, El Dorado -- 862-8418. He's probably got the goods on Anthony sticking money into the pockets of the black ministers — since he's the head of the Union County NAACP — and he seems to also know something about those Anthony Forest Products sawmills passing down the "Vote for Anthony" words (in violation of your section 100.7 and some of its clauses) to hourly employees. (You'll also find that the Union County Sheriff's office and some other organizations did similar deeds.) But I make an especial request here that you keep in strictest confidence any of your communications with the Reverend Payne and any of his friends and associates. He and his people have suffered enough in this "City of Pride and Progress" — being blacklisted for years as far as gainful employment is concerned simply because they tried to exercise their elementary human rights...and to tie up Federal funds until our recent Affirmative Action Program was instituted. Reverend Payne can probably provide you with much information concerning the racial discriminatory practice of Beryl Anthony during his stint as the Prosecuting Attorney for this region and with much other data regarding political corruption down here. I wish to go on record as saying that the Reverend Payne is just about the most considerate, thoughtful, wonderful human being that I have ever known — even though this political machine in El Dorado regards him as somewhat "crazy" — and that he's yet to be protected...at all costs. He and his people, I repeat, have suffered enough in El Dorado.

Tommy Miller. As head of the Union County Labor Council, he is reflective of the deep resentment which organized labor harbors regarding Beryl Anthony... something to do with an extended service strike at Urbana, Arkansas, an attempt to arrest union organizers, and the importation of immigrant labor. I cannot document these charges, of course, since I have only heard "rumors" — but the antipathy regarding Mr. Anthony is obvious and it is difficult to find any union man other than Porter... Miller who has good words for Beryl Anthony (in contrast, I spoke to Tommy Miller about some "unfair labor practices" at El Dorado during a union organization drive — when I was considering asking Melvyn Bell for some support — and he said that they apparently had a rather poor lawyer and just "slipped-up.") So, Tommy Miller's judgments seem to be both fair and well-balanced. Tommy Miller lives at 305 North Ruth here in El Dorado and his number is 863-5326. He is a CI man (CA) — whereas Porter Miller is, I think, something more of an AF-1 critter. I do not know what hard hips Tommy Miller has had as a labor union organizer in this "right to work" state — but I am sure that he has had some and, therefore, I request that you protect him to the best of your abilities. He seems to be an honest and decent man and I would hate to be responsible for bringing him any trouble.

SUPER-RELIGIOUS INFORMANT:

This one's a strange one. Roy E. Wood and his wife — 314 South Ruth, El Dorado; 862-5375 — are near and dear friends and they are two of the most intelligent people who I have met here in El Dorado. But. There are some problems. They are super-religious and are aspiring church workers (they ain't made the grade yet). Or, to use my expression, they sometimes turn a corner and meet themselves coming from the opposite direction. But Roy and Elizabeth Wood have been closely associated with the school system here; he ran for school board seats a couple of times, and they can probably provide — with only a little persuasion — some information about Mr. Anthony's forces passing "the word" down to school officials and teachers. Just...do be nice to them. They're good people. Just shake 'em up a little.

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Nancy Ann. Librarian at the local Barton Library (863-5447); she lives at 413 Wilson Place and her home phone is 862-3385. She is a nice and pleasant and intelligent young lady (I understand that she was in the Air Force at one time) — but she tends to be rather nervous. And that's a good thing in this case. She happens to have been one of the closest personal friends with another charming young lady by the name of Marnie Jolsby...Beryl Anthony's former Press Secretary. Now, as I gather, Marnie had some real problems fitting in with that Anthony crowd and is presently in Shreveport or Oregon or wherever waiting for Anthony to "assemble his staff" ...a staff which probably won't include her (not because she's incompetent or anything — she was a damn good news reporter for KFB before she went to work for Beryl Anthony — but because she just didn't fit in with that socialite crowd...so rumor has it.) Well, Ms. Nancy Ann is probably the best source for discovering Marnie Jolsby's whereabouts and can provide you with some other information as well (she seems to enjoy the gossip trade). A little badge-flashing and some pointed questions will possibly unearth many riches there. As I said, she's kind of nervous. But be nice to her...a local dingbat of a banker's wife has been giving her a little trouble regarding books in the library and her pro-FAA positions. Oh. The dingbat is Mrs. H. C. (Miz Rachael) McInney and is a leftover from those anti-fluoridation and other Old South days. To her anybody to the left of Attila the Hun is on the "far left."

UNCOOPERATIVE INFORMANTS:

Carl E. Connerton, Jr. 509 East Block. His girlfriend Pam Shaw works at a local answering service (862-2922), and he can sometimes be reached there. I deeply regret having to list this former Congressional and County Judge candidate as a likely "uncooperative" informant since, as a former radio newscaster of marked talent, he has not just a taste for gathering the dirt — but a phenomenal competence. He probably now enough about Beryl Anthony to send our current Congressman-Elect up the river for good. While Carl Connerton has had a historical antipathy to Beryl Anthony, he experienced a last-minute "conversion" and even publicly endorsed Anthony in the June 10 News-Times. I do not know the cause of that "conversion" — but, knowing Connerton quite well (I have spent far more time and effort helping him out in his campaign than anybody else we have, I can surmise that that "conversion" could have been brought about by: (1) the failure of Winston Bryant to return some of Connerton's telephone calls, (2) the refusal of Winston Bryant to debate Beryl Anthony in the latter days, (3) something else equally silly, (4) a modicum amount of support — running to a few hundred dollars — for his own County judge campaign which he obtained from some Anthony boosters; or, (5), a possible romantic involvement (this one I don't want to believe since I do have so much respect for Pam Shaw with one Anthony Trump). There could have been some kind of political and meaningful "promise" of a job involved. Whatever. Connerton, adequately described by the Little Rock newspapers as "the Colorado wild man" and as "a well-known eccentric," does have his peculiar charm. Actually, on a personal level, he is probably one of the most obnoxious human beings which I have ever encountered, having, as he does, a unique talent for disapproving and hurting those who come too close to him. As a radio newscaster and political candidate he has done a lot of good for a lot of people and is a great guy to admire...from a distance. But, I do believe, it is quite possible that on the morrow he will change his attitude about Anthony and will not only be willing to sing — but can and will do so quite well.

Marnie Jolsby. I do not now know anything about her whereabouts. She has been of more or less "professional" loyalty to Anthony and, having been a newswoman — with all the aggressiveness and iron-mindedness which that implies — will be hard to crack. Yet, she probably got a lot of information and it might be well worth your while to ask her a few questions. You'll have to use quite a bit of badge-flashing and smear techniques here.

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James J. (Joe) Calloway. Attorney and former Deputy Prosecuting Attorney under Beryl Anthony when Anthony was Prosecuting Attorney down here. His El Dorado office is at 522 North Jackson (8627949); his residence is in Smackover on Lewis Hill Road (?) (725-2306). Now, I really like Joe Calloway and regard him as a very close personal friend even if he does have his sympathies for Beryl Anthony and even if he did suggest that I "get my head together" by smoking about a pound and a half of good marijuana. He is a very talented creative writer with a whole 'nother set of nicknames for the political figures down here (Anthony, for instance, is Nollo, the rich boy) and he is a very pleasant person in general...but he does have this strangely superficial loyalty to Anthony. I've got this strange feeling that he really doesn't like Anthony all that much — but that Anthony did something for him once upon a time (such as covering for him when he was supposedly selling pot to high school kids in Smackover or something?) which forces him into the center of a curious triangle between Anthony, Connerton, and me. Being a very close friend of Connerton's — having given him quite a bit of free legal assistance — he has probably collected quite a bit of dirt. I would hate to see, however, any harm come to Joe Calloway since I understand that he has already had a number of problems. He would be the kind of informant to approach only if a formal investigation were to be fashioning a pretty solid case. Then he'd probably talk.

Ralph ("Shorty") Callaway. A cousin or some other distant relative of Joe Calloway, Shorty Callaway ran for County Judge a couple of years ago on a shoestring budget and collected a surprising number of votes — simply because he is such a nice and well-liked guy. He is the sort of fellow who can walk into a room and charm everybody. But, being fundamentally honest, he has still been around and knows a lot of information about political corruption down here. I am listing him as "uncooperative" solely because he will probably be reluctant to talk...simply because of his sense of discretion: he is the kind of guy who doesn't like to deal in "dirt." But he's a nice guy to talk to anyways. He has a residence on the south Jackson road near El Dorado (862-1449).

The media people. Probably the most honest people going here are those associated with the radio station KATV-TV which is owned by the Lowery oil interests, a rather small oil company. The Lowerys are good to talk to (both Papa and junior) — as are the Times' station manager, Roger Manning, and Georgette Kennedy. (Rememberably, as I said, once worked here.) Almost as good are some of the TVL-EI people — Bob Compton and Bert (or is it Chris) Reynolds. Mary McElroy is a nice gal — but she is so pro-Anthonys (and wrapped up in that socialite bay, as to consider Winston Bryant a crook, now. There's something a little fishy about TVL-TV: the station manager James Tighe is also a Justice of the Peace and seems kind of nice on the surface — while being so-so in other respects. The other folks — Jim Butler, Skip Kendall, Alan Pettit, and John Martin — seem to be rather nice even if they are most wonderfully pro-Anthonys (?). But the New-Times folks — Dennis Byrd, Curtis Butterfield, and Bill Valley — are something else. They were nice and friendly with me until I started jumping on Anthony and talking about political corruption. Then I started to see a level of "cuteness" and evasiveness. Since then which I have not seen since I tried to organize a labor union at Columbia University ...in opposition to a radio-industrial company union. Those New-Times folks are now, as I understand, passing around all sorts of rumors about me being a crazy and a COMMIE. In whatever. nice went, let it be said, is the only writer who quoted me correctly (on April 5) and the others since then have not only persistently mis-quoted me — but refused to rectify the situation. So, I've got my decided doubts about the New-Times..

Local government officials. The City Hall folks seem to hang together pretty well — but there seems to be some confusion at the County courthouse. So far, Mayor Adcox has supported my opponent Lester Taylor in the Mayor's race — but the Anthony people were behind Larry Combs, the guy who won the run-off with a last-minute switch-around in the vote totals. It wouldn't hurt to ask

a few questions about that race. I did have a vested interest there — albeit somewhat limited — and I wouldn't exactly mind seeing things being straightened out there. Like, Did I really get only something like 3% of the vote?

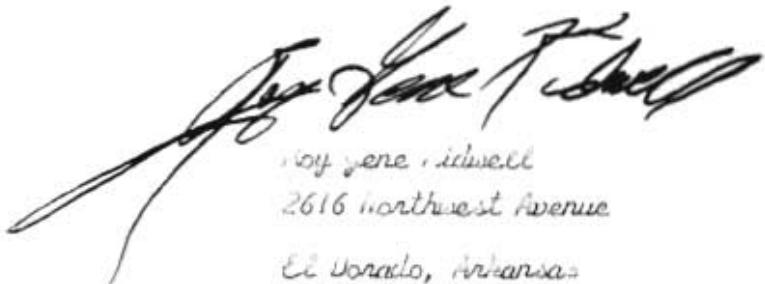
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As for the folks in the County Courthouse, there's probably something of a "falling out among thieves" in progress there — and that'll perchance/some good opportunities for information-gathering. There seems to be a number of different factions involved — as this Union County political machine tries to reorganize itself — and this presents a unique opportunity.

Well, In any event. I have done my best to tell my story in the most frank and honest fashion — and to tell as much of it as I could. Even if it might not be so "clear and concise" as you might have desired. I swear that my each and every statement is as truthful and as accurate as I could have made it and that none of my comments, observations, or rumors cited have been made with an intention of misleading the Federal Election Commission. I honestly think that you should look into this situation down here — and I have tried, to the best of my ability, to give you as much of a foothold as possible. Again, I swear, I have not — in deliberation — given you any false or otherwise misleading information...not to the best of my knowledge.

I look forward to the building of a better America — and I feel that honesty regarding our electoral process is a good place to start. Let's put our crooks behind bars, and try to give our citizens — all of them — a fair shake. Even if that does involve something akin to a rather drastic "change."

incredibly,



Jerry Lee Fitchell
2616 Northwest Avenue
El Dorado, Arkansas

71730

June 21, 1978

501-263-3517

State of Arkansas
Union County
Barberfield & Towne
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El Dorado, Arkansas
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THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF MUR # 643

