



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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

3 0 AUG 1976

Mr. Lawrence J. Hogan, Esq.
Hogan and Hogan
Riddell Building, Suite 308
1730 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Re: MUR 084 (76)

Dear Mr. Hogan:

On August 26, 1976, the Commission voted to terminate its inquiry into alleged violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, (the Act) in MUR 084. The Commission determined that there was no reason to believe that a violation of the Act has occurred. Accordingly, the Commission intends to close its file in this matter.

Copies of the certification of the Commission's Action and General Counsel's Report are enclosed for your information. If you have any questions, please contact Gloria R. Sutlon (telephone no. 202/382-4041), the attorney assigned to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

N. Bradley Litchfield

per
John G. Murphy, Jr.
General Counsel

Enclosure

cc: Honorable L. F. Sikes



65alton: amb: 8/27/76

77040013190



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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

30 AUG 1976

Mr. H.A. Brosnaham, Jr.
Chairman, Bob Sikes Appreciation Day
Route 3, Box 700
Pensacola, Florida 32503

Re: MUR 084 (76)

Dear Mr. Brosnaham:

On August 26, 1976, the Commission voted to terminate its inquiry into alleged violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the Act) in the above case. The Commission determined that there was no reason to believe that a violation of the Act had occurred. Accordingly, the Commission intends to close its file in this matter.

Copies of the certification of the Commission's action and General Counsel's Report are enclosed for your information. If you have any questions, please contact Gloria R. Sulton (telephone no. 202/382-4041), the attorney assigned to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
John G. Murphy, Jr.

General Counsel

Enclosure

77040013191



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
OFFICIAL FILE COPY
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

6 Sulton: a.m.k. 8/27/76



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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

30 AUG 1976

Mr. John J. Benton, Jr.
809 Foster Avenue
Panama City, Florida 32401

Re: MUR 084 (76)

Dear Mr. Benton:

On August 26, 1976, the Commission voted to terminate its inquiry into the allegations of your complaint in the above case. The Commission determined that there was no reason to believe that a violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, had occurred. Accordingly, the Commission intends to close its file in this matter.

Copies of the certification of the Commission's Action and General Counsel's Report are enclosed for you information. If you have any questions, please contact Gloria R. Sulton (telephone no. 202/382-4041), the attorney assigned to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

W. Bradley Litchfield
John G. Murphy, Jr.
General Counsel

Enclosures



RECEIVED
OFFICIAL FILE
BUREAU OF GENERAL COUNSEL

C. Sulton: a.m.k.: 8/27/76

77040013192

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)

Robert L. F. Sikes)
Friends of Bob Sikes)

MUR 084 (76)

CERTIFICATION

I, Marjorie W. Emmons, Secretary to the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on August 26, 1976, the Commission determined by a vote of 5-0 that there was no reason to believe that a violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, had been committed in the above-captioned matter. Voting that there was no reason to believe were Commissioners Aikens, Harris, Staebler, Thomson and Tiernan. Commissioner Springer was absent.

Accordingly, the file in this matter has now been closed.

Marjorie W. Emmons
Marjorie W. Emmons
Secretary to the Commission

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
OFFICIAL FILE COPY
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

77040013193

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
) MUR 084 (76)
)
Robert L.F. Sikes/)
Friends of Bob Sikes)

GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

I. Allegations

John J. Benton filed a complaint on February 12, 1976, alleging that:

1. A group called Friends of Bob Sikes sponsored an Appreciation Day event but failed to report contributions and expenditures on behalf of Representative Sikes or register as a political committee.
2. Contribution limits may have been exceeded.
3. Congressman Sikes has failed to report any receipts from the event.

II. Evidence

The complainant submitted a notarized letter and some newspaper accounts of the Appreciation Day event held on October 25, 1975 in Pensacola, Florida. The information provided indicates that a number of Sikes' constituents organized and planned the event to show their appreciation of his 35 years of service to his district. The event was provoked by the attacks of Common Cause against

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Congressman Sikes charging conflict of interest.

The event included a parade proceeding through several towns in his district, free chicken dinners to an estimated 10,000 persons with an estimated value of \$2.00 each, and free entertainment.

A review of the public records do not reflect reports having been filed by the Friends of Bob Sikes, nor any registration by such a group.

There is no information to identify who provided or paid for the expenses associated with the event. A few persons are identified as organizers of the event including a chairman, publicity chairman and parade chairman.

The reports filed by Congressman Sikes and his principal campaign committee, Bob Sikes Political Campaign Committee, do not disclose any receipts during the last six months of 1975. Two expenditures were made in December 1975 by the committee which appear unrelated to the Appreciation Day Event.

The initial response dated June 24, 1976, submitted by Congressman Sikes, through counsel, consists of a letter stating that the organization which sponsored the Appreciation Day event was not a political committee, and had no political or other connection with Mr. Sikes. Counsel also states that the affair was not organized to make contributions or expenditures to influence Congressman Sikes' re-election, and that no funds were received from this event. He also indicates that Congressman

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Sikes was not a candidate for Federal office in 1975.

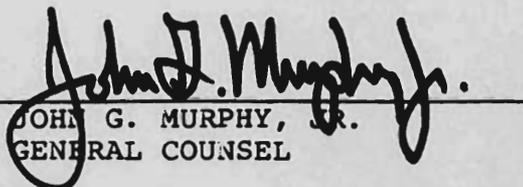
On August 12, 1976, the Commission sent letters to Congressman Sikes' counsel and the named Chairman of the event, H. A. Broshaham, Jr., requesting statements under oath in response to the complaint. Notarized responses from Congressman Sikes and Mr. Brosnaham were received on August 23, 1976. (See attached.) These statements essentially confirm counsel's earlier letter of June 24, 1976.

III. Analysis

Based upon the notarized statements received, there is no reason to believe that the Appreciation Day event was sponsored to influence the nomination or election of Congressman Sikes; that Congressman Sikes or his authorized committees or agents promoted the event except by his appearance at it; or that any contributions were made to or received by Congressman Sikes, his agents or authorized committees from the event. Therefore, there is no basis for imposing a registration or disclosure obligation on the Friends of Bob Sikes or Congressman Sikes as a result of this event.

IV. Recommendation

Close file. Send attached letters.


JOHN G. MURPHY, JR.
GENERAL COUNSEL

DATE:

August 24, 1976

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MUR 084
CC # 429

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION

HOGAN & HOGAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

76 AUG 23 P 2:32

August 23, 1976

SUITE 307, JOHN HANSON BLDG.
7810 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
FORESTVILLE, MARYLAND 20028
TEL. (301) 420-4600

SUITE 308, RIDDELL BLDG.
1730 K STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006
TEL. (202) 785-1441
TELEX 89402

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE

LAWRENCE J. HOGAN (D. C.)
ILONA MODLY HOGAN (MD. AND D. C.)

OF COUNSEL

BERT B. RAND
HANS A. NATHAN

BY HAND

Honorable John G. Murphy, Jr.
General Counsel
The Federal Election Commission
1325 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20463

Re: MUR 084 (76)

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Pursuant to your letter of August 12, I am enclosing a sworn statement from Congressman Sikes and H. A. Brosnaham, Jr., one of the organizers of the "Friends of Bob Sikes" group.

This would seem a rather simple matter to decide and I do hope the Commission will be able to reach a decision within a few days.

I am sure you are aware that the longer this matter continues in abeyance, the longer Congressman Sikes' primary opponent is able to say that Congressman Sikes is the target of a campaign violation probe. It was Congressman Sikes' primary opponent who filed the complaint and who promoted and continues to promote inaccurate press accounts of the activity of the Commission.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence J. Hogan

Lawrence J. Hogan

cc Hon. Vernon W. Thomson
LJH/j

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RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION

A F F I D A V I T

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, ss:

ROBERT L. F. SIKES, being duly sworn, hereby deposes and states:

1. My name is ROBERT L. F. SIKES. I live at Crestview, Florida.

2. I am a Member of Congress, representing the First Congressional District of Florida. With the exception of military service during World War II, I have served as a Member of Congress since January 1941.

3. In October of 1975 a group of local men calling themselves the "Friends of Bob Sikes" organized and sponsored a testimonial dinner for me.

4. I had no advance knowledge that such a dinner was being planned or that such a group was being formed other than when one of the group called me about mid-September of 1975 and asked me what date would be convenient for me to attend a dinner. At that time it was explained to me that the dinner was being held to honor me for my long-time service to the District.

5. To the best of my knowledge, none of my political committees, either active or inactive, or my staff in Washington or Florida, had any advance knowledge that such a dinner was being planned or that such a group was being formed.

6. Neither I, nor, to my knowledge, any of my committees or staff in Washington or Florida were involved in any way with the group (other than so stated in number 4 herein) which called itself the "Friends of Bob Sikes", or with any of their activities.

7. Neither I, nor, to my knowledge, any of my committees or staff in Washington or Florida ever received or transferred funds or anything else of value to the group known as the "Friends of Bob Sikes" or to any individual connected with that group.

8. The "Friends of Bob Sikes" and those who organized it and solicited and expended funds on its behalf were not associated with me or my political committees.

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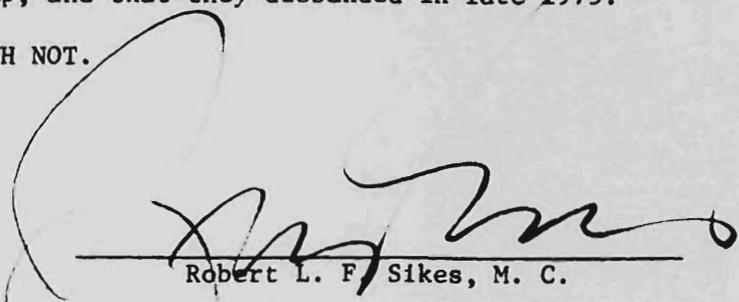
9. The month or months in which the "Friends of Bob Sikes" group was organized and the month in which the testimonial dinner was held were not in an election year. I was not a candidate for election to federal office or any other office; in fact, at the time the dinner was held, I was truly undecided whether to seek reelection. If I had any inclination, it was against seeking reelection.

10. At the testimonial dinner itself I did not seek nor did I obtain contributions in any form for any purpose from those attending.

11. To the best of my knowledge, the testimonial dinner was a social and community function and nothing more. I made a speech to those attending, as is customary at such functions. I did so only on popular request and not for any political purpose, but out of courtesy and respect to the people present.

12. It is my understanding that the "Friends of Bob Sikes" group collected a small amount of money in excess of what was required to pay for the dinner, and that this money was donated to the American Cancer Society in October or November, 1975. I understand that this was the last act of the "Friends of Bob Sikes" group, and that they disbanded in late 1975.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.


Robert L. F. Sikes, M. C.

SWORN and subscribed to before me this 23^d day of August, 1976.


Notary Public

Jeanne Timmons
Notary Public, Dist. of Columbia
My Commission Expires April 30, 1979

AFFIDAVIT

1. My name is H. A. Brosnaham, Jr. I live at Route 3, Box 700, Pensacola, Florida 32503. I am a retired Postal Service employee.

2. In the fall of 1975, a civic committee of local businessmen and others calling ourselves the "Friends of Bob Sikes" undertook at our own initiative and personal expense to plan a testimonial dinner for Bob Sikes who had faithfully served our area for over thirty years.

3. The "Friends of Bob Sikes" was not an ongoing or formal group; we had no officers or charter but were a loosely knit group of individual men, women and local businesses who got together at various times to plan and stage one dinner. In every sense, this was a one-shot activity organization that did not exist before the fall of 1975 and disbanded immediately after the testimonial dinner.

4. The testimonial dinner was paid for exclusively by our group with our own funds. These funds were used only to purchase a minimal amount of food needed for the dinner and its execution. We never intended to seek nor did we ever seek any reimbursement from anyone for our personal expenditures we made to help pay for the dinner.

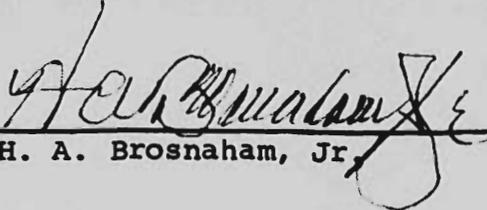
5. No one in our group solicited, collected, transferred or distributed funds or anything else of value to, for or on behalf of Bob Sikes or any of his official or unofficial committees, representatives, agents or employees in Florida or anywhere else.

6. To the best of my knowledge neither Bob Sikes nor any of his staff knew that our group was being formed. At no time after our formation did Bob Sikes or any of his staff participate in any way with our group in planning or executing the dinner. Also to the best of my knowledge there was not in existence any political committee or election committee interested in the reelection of Mr. Sikes.

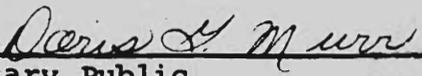
7. The "Friends of Bob Sikes" group and the testimonial dinner that was held were not planned nor were they conducted to in any way influence a political election.

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8. There was about \$400.00 left over from the expense of the dinner. This was contributed to the Cancer Society.


H. A. Brosnahan, Jr.

Sworn and subscribed to before me on this the 16th day of August, 1976.


Notary Public

NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF FLORIDA AT LARGE
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JUNE 24, 1979

77040013201

NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF FLORIDA
Dennis L. Murr
My Commission Expires June 24, 1979

77040010301

HOGAN & HOGAN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

SUITE 307, JOHN HANSON BLDG.

7610 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

FORESTVILLE, MARYLAND 20028

Honorable John G. Murphy, Jr.
General Counsel
The Federal Election Commission
1325 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20463

BY HAND

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SENDER: Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
Add your address in the "RETURN TO" space
reverse.

1. The following service is requested (check one).

Show to whom and date delivered..... 15¢

Show to whom, date, & address of delivery.. 35¢

RESTRICTED DELIVERY.
Show to whom and date delivered..... 65¢

RESTRICTED DELIVERY.
Show to whom, date, and address of delivery 85¢

2. ARTICLE ADDRESSED TO:
Lawrence Hogan, Esq.

3. ARTICLE DESCRIPTION:

REGISTERED NO.	CERTIFIED NO.	INSURED NO.
	<i>438146</i>	

(Always obtain signature of addressee or agent)

I have received the article described above.

SIGNATURE Addressee Authorized agent

J. Lambert

4. DATE OF DELIVERY POSTMARK

5. ADDRESS (Complete only if requested)

6. UNABLE TO DELIVER BECAUSE: CLERK'S INITIALS

RETURN RECEIVED, REGISTERED, INSURED AND CERTIFIED MAIL.



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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

1 2 AUG 1976

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Lawrence J. Hogan, Esq.
Hogan and Hogan
Riddell Building, Suite 308
1730 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Re: MUR 084 (76)

Dear Mr. Hogan:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 24, 1976, regarding the above matter. Before presenting a further report to the Commission for consideration, I would appreciate your submitting a sworn statement from Congressman Sikes or other persons having personal knowledge of the allegations in the complaint.

Please submit your statements within seven days after receipt of this letter. The Commission does not intend to take further action until the conclusion of the seven day response period.

Sincerely yours,

Signed: John G. Murphy, Jr.

John G. Murphy, Jr.
General Counsel

cc: Honorable Robert L. F. Sikes



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
OFFICIAL FILE COPY
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

77040013201

P.C.

PS Form 3821, Rev. 1978
RETURN RECEIPT, REGISTERED, INSURED AND CERTIFIED MAIL

● SENDER: Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
Add your address in the "RETURN TO" space on reverse.

1. The following service is requested (check one).
 Show to whom and date delivered..... 15¢
 Show to whom, date, & address of delivery.. 35¢
 RESTRICTED DELIVERY.
 Show to whom and date delivered..... 65¢
 RESTRICTED DELIVERY.
 Show to whom, date, and address of delivery 85¢

2. ARTICLE ADDRESSED TO:
H. A. Brosnahan, Jr.

3. ARTICLE DESCRIPTION:
 REGISTERED NO. | CERTIFIED NO. | INSURED NO.
 | *438147* | |

(Always obtain signature of addressee or agent)

I have received the article described above.
 SIGNATURE Addressee Authorized agent
Mary A Brosnahan

4. DATE OF DELIVERY *8-14-76* | POSTMARK

5. ADDRESS (Complete only if requested)

6. UNABLE TO DELIVER BECAUSE: | CLERK'S INITIALS

77040015205



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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

12 AUG 1976

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. H. A. Brosnahan, Jr.
Chairman, Bob Sikes Appreciation Day
Route 3, Box 700
Pensacola, Florida 32503

Re: MUR 084 (76)

Dear Mr. Brosnahan:

This letter is to advise you that the Federal Election Commission has received a complaint alleging certain violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the Act) by the Friends of Bob Sikes in connection with the Bob Sikes Appreciation Day event on October 25, 1975. This information indicates that you were the chairman of this event and an organizer of the Friends of Bob Sikes. A copy of the complaint is enclosed. The Commission has made no determination that the matters alleged set forth a violation of the Act.

The Commission is presently conducting a preliminary inquiry to determine what action, if any, it should take. In this regard, I invite you to submit any factual or legal material which you believe is relevant to the Commission's analysis of this matter. Specifically, the Commission wishes to determine if your organization made contributions or expenditures to influence the nomination or election of Congressman Sikes, and if so, to determine what registration or reporting obligations, if any, you may have under the Act. See 2 U.S.C. Sections 431(e), (f), (d); 433; 434. Where appropriate, statements submitted should be under oath by individuals who have personal knowledge of the events in question.

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Commission is under a duty to examine this matter expeditiously, therefore, your response should be submitted within ten days after receipt of this letter. You will be sent copies or summaries of all correspondence received by the Commission from the complainant. If you have any questions, please contact Gloria R. Sulton (telephone no. 202/382-4041), the attorney assigned to this case.

Sincerely yours,

Signed: John G. Murphy, Jr.

John G. Murphy, Jr.
General Counsel

77040013207

Enclosures: Copy of Act
Proposed Regulations on Compliance Procedure
Copy of Complaint

RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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

MEMORANDUM TO: The Commissioners
 THRU: Orlando B. Potter *OBP.*
 FROM: John G. Murphy, Jr. *Jm*
 Re: Letters, MUR 084 (76)

Please find attached separate letters to Lawrence J. Hogan, Congressman Sikes' Counsel and to a group which organized a Sikes Appreciation Day. The letters request further information with regard to an ongoing inquiry in MUR 084 (76). We expect to submit a General Counsel's Report on this matter shortly.

Unless an objection is noted the letters will be sent at the close of business Tuesday, August 10, 1976.

ATTACHMENTS



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
 GENERAL COUNSEL
 AUGUST 10 1976

77040013203



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. H. A. Brosnham, Jr.
Chairman, Bob Sikes Appreciation Day
Route 3, Box 700
Pensacola, Florida 32503

Re: MUR 084 (76)

Dear Mr. Brosnham:

This letter is to advise you that the Federal Election Commission has received a complaint alleging certain violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the Act) by the Friends of Bob Sikes in connection with the Bob Sikes Appreciation Day event on October 25, 1975. This information indicates that you were the chairman of this event and an organizer of the Friends of Bob Sikes. A copy of the complaint is enclosed. The Commission has made no determination that the matters alleged set forth a violation of the Act.

The Commission is presently conducting a preliminary inquiry to determine what action, if any, it should take. In this regard, I invite you to submit any factual or legal material which you believe is relevant to the Commission's analysis of this matter. Specifically, the Commission wishes to determine if your organization made contributions or expenditures to influence the nomination or election of Congressman Sikes, and if so, to determine what registration or reporting obligations, if any, you may have under the Act. See 2 U.S.C. Sections 431(e), (f), (d); 433; 434. Where appropriate, statements submitted should be under oath by individuals who have personal knowledge of the events in question.

77040013207



The Commission is under a duty to examine this matter expeditiously, therefore, your response should be submitted within ten days after receipt of this letter. You will be sent copies or summaries of all correspondence received by the Commission from the complainant. If you have any questions, please contact Gloria R. Sulton (telephone no. 202/382-4041), the attorney assigned to this case.

Sincerely yours,

John G. Murphy, Jr.
General Counsel

77040013210

Enclosures: Copy of Act
Proposed Regulations on Compliance Procedure
Copy of Complaint

OFFICE OF ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS
FILE NO. 7
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Lawrence J. Hogan, Esq.
Hogan and Hogan
Riddell Building, Suite 308
1730 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Re: MUR 084 (76)

Dear Mr. Hogan:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 24, 1976, regarding the above matter. Before presenting a further report to the Commission for consideration, I would appreciate your submitting a sworn statement from Congressman Sikes or other persons having personal knowledge of the allegations in the complaint.

Please submit your statements within seven days after receipt of this letter. The Commission does not intend to take further action until the conclusion of the seven days response period.

Sincerely yours,

John G. Murphy, Jr.
General Counsel

cc: Honorable Robert L. F. Sikes



77040013211

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
OFFICIAL COPY
OFFICE OF FEDERAL COUNSEL

MUR 084

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION

cc # 263

HOGAN & HOGAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

75 JUN 25 All: 19

SUITE 307, JOHN HANSON BLDG.
7810 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
FORESTVILLE, MARYLAND 20028
TEL. (301) 420-4600

SUITE 308, RIDDELL BLDG.
1730 K STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006
TEL. (202) 785-1441
TELEX 89492

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE

LAWRENCE J. HOGAN (D. C.)
ILONA MODLY HOGAN (MD. AND D. C.)

OF COUNSEL

BERT B. RAND
HANS A. NATHAN

June 24, 1976

John G. Murphy, Jr.
General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
1325 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20463

FEC COMPLIANCE
CONTROL 76-758

Dear John:

My client, Congressman Robert L. F. Sikes, has asked me to respond to your letter of June 4, 1976.

While we appreciate your affording us an opportunity to comment, I fail to see how any of the cited sections of Title 2 USC could possibly have been violated.

A perusal of these sections as well as your advisory opinions and rules confirms that conclusion.

The organization referred to was not a political committee. A group of civic leaders, who were disturbed over the unwarranted public criticism of Congressman Sikes, decided to hold a tribute to him in appreciation for his years of outstanding service to the district. The group organizing the event had no political or other connection with Mr. Sikes, and it was not organized to raise money or make contributions or expenditures to influence the nomination or election of a federal official. It was purely a civic committee organized to honor Mr. Sikes for his past services.

Congressman Sikes was not a candidate for federal office in the calendar year in which the event took place. He had not filed for candidacy under Florida law and had not announced his intention to do so. In fact, to date he has not done so.

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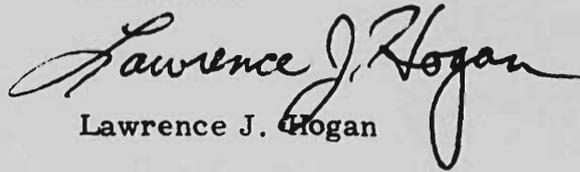
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
OFFICIAL FILE COPY
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

John G. Murphy, Jr.
June 24, 1976
Page Two

Neither Mr. Sikes nor any political committee authorized by him received any funds or anything else of value from the committee sponsoring the tribute.

The charges by Mr. Benton have no validity whatsoever and do not warrant further comment.

Sincerely,


Lawrence J. Hogan

77040015213

HOGAN & HOGAN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

SUITE 307, JOHN HANSON BLDG.

7610 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

FORESTVILLE, MARYLAND 20028

70 JUN 25 A10:32



John G. Murphy, Jr.
General Counsel
Federal Election Committee
1325 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20463

77407133

Honorable Robert L. F. Sikes
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Re: HR 954 (13)

Dear Mr. Sikes:

This acknowledges receipt of your request of June 11, 1976, for an extension of time to reply to our letter of June 4, 1976. Pursuant to Mr. Sulton's conversation with Miss Butler of your office, this confirms the extension of time to reply to June 28, 1976.

Sincerely yours,

13/
William Oldaker
Assistant General Counsel

77040013215
W.S.
GSulton:mpc:6/22/76

BOB SIKES
FIRST DISTRICT
FLORIDA

MISS ALMA D. BUTLER
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANTS
MR. JOHN ALLEN
MR. WARREN JENNIFAN

COA 234
MUR 084

CC-110

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

STAFF SECRETARIES
MISS BETTS SPRAGHER
MRS. JEANNE TIMMONS
MRS. BETTY JEAN SWEET
MRS. HAZEL ALEXANDER
MRS. JESSICA WRIGHT
MRS. MARY AELFELD
MRS. DELANE MCHONE

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
JUN 15 10:47

June 14, 1976

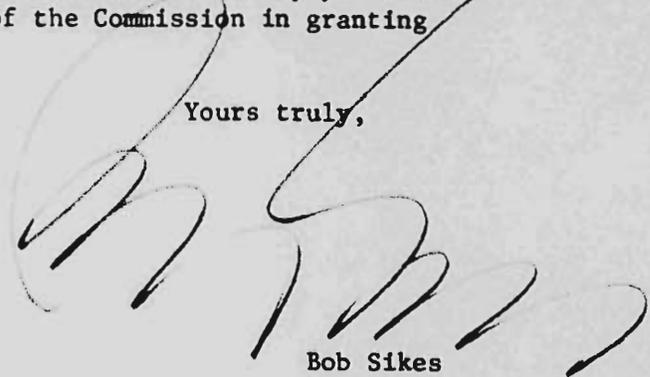
Mr. William Oldaker
Assistant General Counsel for Complaints
Federal Election Commission
1325 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

FES CORRESPONDENCE
CONTROL # 76-543

Dear Mr. Oldaker:

Pursuant to Miss Butler's telephone conversation with you today, I wish to acknowledge receipt of the letter from the Federal Election Commission under date of June 4 and to request an extension of time in which to reply. I will appreciate the cooperation of the Commission in granting this extension.

Yours truly,



Bob Sikes

S/bs

77040013215

THIS IS A COPY

P.C.

PS Form 3811, Nov. 1974

SEND Complete items 1, 2, and 5.
your address in the "RETURN TO" space on
reverse.

1. The following service is requested (check one).
- Show to whom and date delivered..... 15¢
 - Show to whom, date, & address of delivery... 35¢
 - RESTRICTED DELIVERY.
Show to whom and date delivered..... 65¢
 - RESTRICTED DELIVERY.
Show to whom, date, and address of delivery 85¢

2. ARTICLE ADDRESSED TO:
Robert L. F. Sifers

3. ARTICLE DESCRIPTION:

REGISTERED NO.	CERTIFIED NO.	INSURED NO.:
	<i>438208</i>	

(Always obtain signature of addressee or agent)

I have received the article described above.
SIGNATURE Addressee Authorized agent

Delane M. Hone

4. DATE OF DELIVERY *JUN 9 1976*

POSTMARK


5. ADDRESS (Complete only if requested)

FEDERAL RESERVE COMMISSION
 OFFICIAL FILE COPY
 DEPT. OF GENERAL COUNSEL

CLERK'S INITIALS

4 JUN 1976

Mr. John J. Denton, Jr.
809 Foster Avenue
Panama City, FL 32401

Re: MUR 984 (76)

Dear Mr. Denton:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your complaint dated February 12, 1976, alleging violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the Act) by Representative Robert L.F. Sikes and the sponsors of the Sikes Appreciation Day. We have numbered your complaint as MUR 984 (76); please refer to this number in any future correspondence.

The Commission has opened a preliminary inquiry into your allegations to determine if there is reason to believe a violation of the Act has occurred. A copy of your complaint has been forwarded to Mr. Sikes and he has been given the opportunity to submit any relevant materials within ten days. If you have any other evidence regarding this matter, please submit it within five days of receipt of this letter. Please note that 2 U.S.C. §437g(a)(3) states that any "notification or investigation [of alleged violations of the Act] . . . shall not be made public by the Commission or by any person without the written consent of the person . . . with respect to whom such investigation is made."

The attorney assigned to this case is Gloris H. Sulton (Telephone No. 202/387-8041). Please feel free to contact her if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Signed: John G. Murphy, Jr.

John G. Murphy, Jr.
General Counsel

77040013220

DATE AND TIME OF TRANSMITTAL: MAY 26 1976

NO. 084

REC'D: 2-12-76

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, D. C.

Complainant's Name: John J. Benton, Jr.

Respondent's Name: Rep. Robert L. F. Sikes/Sponsors of Appreciation Day

Relevant Statute: 2 U.S.C. §§434(b), (e) and 441a (limitations on contributions)

Internal Reports Checked: 1975 and 1976 reports of Rep. Sikes

Federal Agencies Checked: None

SUMMARY OF ALLEGATION

Complainant alleges that unreported contributions and expenditures were made on behalf of Rep. Sikes in conjunction with a Sikes Appreciation Day held in Pensacola, Fla. on October 25, 1975.

PRELIMINARY LEGAL ANALYSIS

Complainant has submitted newspaper articles describing the event which raise an issue as to whether the sponsors made independent expenditures reportable under 434(e). Crucial to this determination is whether Sikes was a candidate at the time and whether the sponsors advocated the election or defeat of Sikes. A further question arises as to whether Sikes requested or authorized the expenditures on his behalf or through agents and, if so, whether the costs of the affair should be reported by Sikes as an in-kind contribution.

RECOMMENDATION

Inquire further. Send attached letters.

Date of Next Commission Review: _____



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Honorable Robert L. F. Sikes
2269 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: MUR 084 (76)

Dear Mr. Sikes:

This letter is to inform you that the Federal Election Commission has received a complaint which mentions your name in connection with possible violations of 2 U.S.C. §§433, 434(e), 441a by a group calling itself the "Friends of Bob Sikes Committee." The complaint has been numbered MUR 084(76) and a copy is enclosed. The Commission has made no determination that the matters alleged set forth a violation of the Federal Election Campaign law of 1971, as amended (the Act).

The Commission is presently conducting a preliminary inquiry into this matter to determine if there is reason to believe that a violation of the Act has occurred. Toward this end, we invite you to submit any factual or legal matters which you believe are relevant to the Commission's analysis of this complaint. The Commission must consider such matters expeditiously; accordingly, please submit your response within ten days after receipt of this letter. We would request that you address specifically the allegations of possible violations of 2 U.S.C. §§434(b) and (e).

Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. §437g(a)(3), this matter shall remain confidential unless you state to the Commission in writing that you wish the investigation to be made public. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. The attorney assigned to this case is Gloria R. Sulton (telephone no. 382-4041).

Sincerely yours,

John G. Murphy, Jr.
General Counsel

Enclosure: Complaint



OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

77040011222



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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

Mr. John J. Benton, Jr.
809 Foster Avenue
Panama City, FL 32401

Re: MUR 084 (76)

Dear Mr. Benton:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your complaint dated February 12, 1976, alleging violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the Act) by Representative Robert L.F. Sikes and the sponsors of the Sikes Appreciation Day. We have numbered your complaint as MUR 084 (76); please refer to this number in any future correspondence.

The Commission has opened a preliminary inquiry into your allegations to determine if there is reason to believe a violation of the Act has occurred. A copy of your complaint has been forwarded to Mr. Sikes and he has been given the opportunity to submit any relevant materials within ten days. If you have any other evidence regarding this matter, please submit it within five days of receipt of this letter. Please note that 2 U.S.C. §437g(a)(3) states that any "notification or investigation [of alleged violations of the Act] . . . shall not be made public by the Commission or by any person without the written consent of the person . . . with respect to whom such investigation is made."

The attorney assigned to this case is Gloria R. Sulton (Telephone No. 202/382-4041). Please feel free to contact her if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

John G. Murphy, Jr.
General Counsel



OFFICIAL COPY
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

77040713223

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION (H.D.)

76 12 A10:06
809 Foster Avenue
Panama City, Fl. 32401

Thomas B. Curtis, chairman
Federal Election Commission
1325 K Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20463

Dear Sir:

77040013221

I believe there has been a violation of federal election laws. Rep. Robert L. F. Sikes and/or certain of his supporters have failed to make required reports of contributions and expenditures. There definitely has been a violation of section 434(e) requiring disclosure of expenditures. There may have been a violation of section 433 which calls for the registration of political committees, and section 608(b) which limits contributions by persons and committees.

On October 25, 1975 there was a political rally held in Pensacola, Florida. At that rally "10,000-plus" people were served "\$2.00 value" chicken dinners as reported in attached copies of Pensacola News-Journal articles. The sum expended is substantially above the \$100 disclosure requirement level. A thorough

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

search of Federal Election Commission files produced no report of contributions or expenditures by individuals identified in the press reports as associated with the rally (H. A. Brosnahan, Jr., chairman; M. J. Menge, publicity chairman; James M. Sheffer, motorcade chairman). The search produced no report from any committee outlining the expenses of the rally or the source of funds. The Bob Sikes Political Campaign Committee's January 31, 1976 report makes no mention of expenditures associated with the rally.

Disclosure of expenditures of \$100 or more are required by law. Disclosure is required of candidates, political committees, and also persons acting independently. Section 434(e) says:

Every person...who makes contributions or expenditures, other than by contribution to a political committee or candidate, in an aggregate amount in excess of \$100 within a calendar year shall file with the Commission...

There is some question in my mind as to how independent the "Friends of Bob Sikes" committee were of the candidate. In the October 24, 1975 Pensacola Journal M. J. Menge, publicity chairman for the event is quoted as saying, "A group of people from not only Escambia County, but Santa Rosa and Okaloosa and Bay counties, spontaneously reacted to the criticism he was getting." This "spontaneous" combustion of support looks like arson to me. The

77040013223

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

extent to which there was or was not collusion with the candidate may indicate violations of other sections of the federal election campaign laws.

Another quote from M. J. Menge (Pensacola News, October 23, 1975) would have us believe , "That the primary purpose (of the rally) is (was) to express to Bob Sikes the appreciation of the citizens of Northwest Florida for what he has done for this area as Congressman." This may have been one of the purposes. It is also evident that this political rally was generated in response to charges of conflicts of interests and abuse of power. The candidate is reported (Pensacola News-Journal, October 26, 1975) to have offered this opinion at the rally, "The record shows that the more people take pot shots at your congressman, the more votes you give him in the election that follows."

There may have been violations of several sections of the federal election campaign laws. I urge the Federal Election Commission (or its successor) to investigate.

Correspondence will reach me if directed to the above address or, through March 15, I may be reached at:

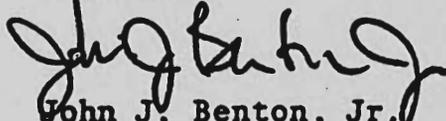
77040013226

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

5170 Fulton St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20016
home telephone (202) 966-6579
office phone (202) 523-0801

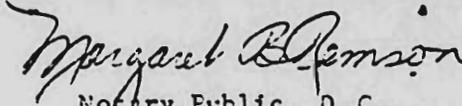
Please consider this a formal complaint pursuant
with 2 U.S.C. 437g(a).

Sincerely,


John J. Benton, Jr.

Washington, D. C. SS

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
12th day of February, 1976


Margaret B. Remson
Notary Public, D. C.

My Commission Expires Nov. 30, 1978

77040013227



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OFFICIAL FILE COPY
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Sikes Day Planners Expect Human Wave

By MIKE HENDERSON

News Staff Writer

Bob Sikes Appreciation Day activities, expected to draw about 10,000 Panhandle Florida residents to the Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds Saturday, begin with motorcades from far away — Panama City and Bonifay joining ones here, officials said today.

"They are going to converge in Pensacola around the area of Lee Square at approximately 1:15 a.m., when we hope a large number of people from Escambia County will join the motorcade," said M.J. Menge, publicity chairman for the event.

"The primary purpose is to express to Bob Sikes the appreciation of the citizens of Northwest Florida for what he has done for this area as Congressman," Menge said.

Shortly after the motorcade's arrival at the fairgrounds about noon, "there will be free chicken dinners served to everybody who comes, whether they are in the motorcade or not," said H.A. Brosnahan Jr., chairman of the event's steering committee.

"There will be music and entertainment — country and western and gospel — practically all

Continued on 2A

CERTIFICATE OF RESERVATION

CELEBRATING

NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S #1 VETERAN



\$2.00 Value
Chicken Dinner and
Country and Gospel Entertainment



ROBERT L.F. SIKES

PENSACOLA FLA.
FAIRGROUNDS

25TH

OCTOBER 1975
ALL DAY

Robert L.F. Sikes

TWO HUNDRED AMERICAN YEARS

The Pensacola News

A Gannett Newspaper

Pensacola, Florida, Thursday Afternoon, October 23, 1975

2 Sections

Sikes Day Planners Gear for Big Turnout

Continued From 1A

day, starting around 11 to 11:30 a.m. and continuing through the afternoon," he said.

"There will be no speaking except by Bob Sikes," Brsonaham said. "The dignitaries who will attend will be recognized."

Broshaham said auto dealer Vince Whibbs will emcee the event and Pensacola Mayor Barney Burkes will present Sikes.

"We have ample facilities to provide shelter in case the weather should not be good," Brosnaham said.

"We are preparing to serve 10,000 free chicken dinners and we will have rolls and cakes and cold drinks, all of which will be free," he said. "There will be no charge for entertainment or anything else and no solicitation of funds for anything."

Motorcade Chairman James M. Sheffer said "Let's make this the biggest day of appreciation ever seen in Northwest Florida. We need to send a message to Common Cause that they can't destroy an uncommon man."

Common Cause, the citizens lobby, had demanded Sikes' resignation as chairman of the House subcommittee on military appropriations because of alleged conflicts of interests in his business dealings, but Sikes, denying the allegations, has steadfastly refused to resign.

Motorcades will originate in Chipley, Bonifay, DeFuniak Springs, Crestview, Milton, Panama City, Fort Walton Beach, and the Valparaiso-Niceville area. Sheffer said a prize will be given for the best-decorated vehicle in the motorcade and he urged decoration of cars with bunting and signs.

The mass motorcade, after joining forces with Escambia County residents in the Lee Square area, is to parade down Palafox Street and proceed to the fairgrounds.

Earlier in the day, at 10 a.m. Sikes is to ride in the parade celebrating the Great Gulfcoast Festival, a Friday through Sunday arts and crafts festival that also includes entertainment by performing artist.

77040013221

PENSACOLA JOURNAL 10/24/75

Motorcade, Talk To Honor Sikes

By BILL GORDON
Journal Staff Writer

Supporters of veteran U.S. Congressman Bob Sikes have planned a gala celebration Saturday honoring the First Congressional District representative for 35 years service to his constituents.

Bob Sikes Appreciation Day is expected to draw loyal supporters from as far as Chipley and Bonifay in a parade by gaily decorated automobiles that meets in Panama City and Chipley, picking up supporters all along the route, until they reach Lee Square in Pensacola where the entire gathering, expected to number 10,000 by that time, will move down Palafox Street and on to the Fairgrounds, say the organizers.

"The primary purpose is to express to Bob Sikes the appreciation of the citizens of Northwest Florida for what he has done for this area as congressman," said M.J. Menge, publicity chairman for the event.

"A group of people from not only Escambia County, but Santa Rosa and Okaloosa and Bay counties, spontaneously reacted to the criticism he was getting. I think they saw a need to show an expression of appreciation for what he had done for this district. They think a congressman should represent the views of his district and he has been a real stalwart for defense and a real stalwart for conservatism in the U.S. Congress," said Menge.

The parade is scheduled to arrive at the First Baptist Church at approximately 11:15 a.m., according to Jim Scheffer, motorcade chairman.

The parade begins in Chipley at 7:30 a.m.

Along the way the parade will stop and pick up supporters in Bonifay, Defuniak Springs, Crestview and Milton.

The Highway 98 contingent begins in Panama City at 9 a.m., reaches Fort Walton at 10:30 and proceeds to Pensacola.

Staging areas are: Chipley, Agricul-

tural Center, West U.S. 90; Bonifay, Holmes Shirt Company; Defuniak Springs, Casey's IGA; Crestview, County Courthouse; Milton, Six Flags Shopping Plaza.

Panama City staging area is the Gulf Coast Community College; Fort Walton, City Hall parking lot; Valparaiso-Niceville, Bayou Plaza Shopping Center; Pensacola, First Baptist Church parking lot.

Shortly after the motorcade's arrival at the fairgrounds, about noon, free chicken dinners will be served to all attending, whether they are in the motorcade or not, said H. A. Brosnham Jr., chairman of the event's steering committee.

Music and entertainment will be provided at the Fair Grounds by country and western bands and gospel singers, beginning at approximately 11 a.m. and continuing throughout the day.

But there will be no speeches, except by the congressman, promises Brosnham. Dignitaries in attendance will be recognized, but will remain silent.

Automobile dealer Vince Whibbs will emcee the event and Pensacola Mayor Barney Burks will introduce Sikes.

Should the weather not cooperate, shelters will be available, say sponsors of the event who call themselves the Friends of Bob Sikes.

"We are preparing to serve 10,000 free chicken dinners and we will have rolls and cakes and cold drinks, all of which will be free," he said. There will be no charge for the food or entertainment and no funds will be solicited for any reason, says Brosnham.

The motorcade will parade down Palafox Street from Lee Square and then proceed to the fairgrounds.

Prior to arrival of the parade from the eastern counties, Sikes is to ride in a parade celebrating the Great Gulfcoast Festival, a Friday through Sunday arts and crafts festival that also includes entertainment by performing artists.

77040013230

PENSACOLA JOURNAL
10/25/75
**Panhandle
Tips Hat
To Sikes**

A miles-long motorcade and an old-fashioned chicken-eating, gospel-singing festival marks the Panhandle's tribute to its U.S. representative today at the Bob Sikes Appreciation Day at the Pensacola Fairgrounds.

The parade to the fairgrounds begins in Chipley at 7:30 a.m. and at Panama City at 9 a.m. Along the way the contingent of dignitaries and well-wishers will pick up support at Bonifay, DeFuniak Springs, Crestview and Milton.

The Panama City Highway 98 group begins at 9 a.m. reaches Fort Walton at 10:30 and proceeds to Pensacola. Panama City's meeting area is the Gulf Coast Community College; Fort Walton, City Hall parking lot; Valparaiso-Niceville, Bayou Plaza Shopping Center.

Staging areas for the Highway 90 group are: Chipley, Agricultural Center, West U.S. 90; Bonifay, Holmes Shirt Company; DeFuniak Springs, Casey's IGA; Crestview, County Courthouse; Milton, Six Flags Shopping Center.

The parade is scheduled to arrive at the Pensacola First Baptist Church parking lot at approximately 11:15 a.m., according to Jim Sheffer, motorcade chairman. It will proceed down Palafox Street and then to the Fairgrounds.

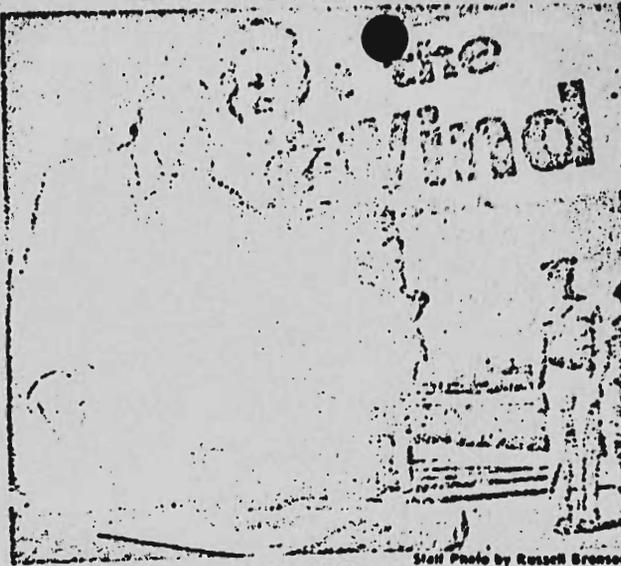
Shortly after the parade's arrival at the Fairgrounds, about noon, free chicken dinners will be served to all attending, whether they are in the motorcade or not, said H. A. Brosnaham Jr., chairman of the event's steering committee.

Music and entertainment will be provided at the Fair Grounds by country and western bands and gospel singers beginning at approximately 11 a.m. and continuing throughout the day.

Encee for the event is automobile dealer Vince Whibbs. Mayor Barney Burks will present Sikes to the well-wishers.

"We are preparing to serve 10,000 free chicken dinners and we will have rolls and cakes and cold drinks, all of which will be free," said Brosnaham.

77040013231



Staff Photo by Russell Bronson

REP BOB SIKES SIGNS GULFWINDS PETITION
.. his wife, Inez, accompanied him during Saturday ceremonies

Panhandle Cheers Congressman Bob

By CAROLYN COX
News-Journal Staff Writer

It was a day of politicking, hand-shaking, knee-slapping, toe-tapping, baby-kissing, but most of all, well-wishing for the star of the show, U.S. Rep. Robert L.F. Sikes.

It all began at 7 a. m. in Chipley with a small caravan of Sikes supporters that grew and grew as it snaked its way through Florida's Panhandle to its destination, the Pensacola Interstate Fair grounds.

There was horn-blowing, waving, whistling and cheering as the miles-long motorcade wheeled into the parking lot at the fair grounds where Sikes was waiting to shake hands with his constituents.

And the 10,000-plus crowd loved it as they posed for pictures with their congressman of 35 years.

Sikes appeared to love it, too — that boyish grin never left his face. When he rose to speak after nearly an hour of accolades from program emcee Vince Whibbs and Pensacola Mayor Barney Burks, Sikes was clearly in command.

He pointed, then crooked his finger at his wife, Inez, bidding her to join him on the stage of the fairground's amphitheater. Later, he called on Florida Comptroller Gerald Lewis and Ashton Bromsaham, one of the organizers of the Sikes Appreciation Day program, to join him.

"I want to see you up here," he said to each of them. The statement was simple, but authoritative.

"I know I am privileged to be with the finest people in the land — the people I work for," Sikes began. "I never can thank you as much as I want to or do as much or work for you as hard as I want to."

Sikes spoke of changes that have occurred in the First Congressional District

See PANHANDLE, 12A

7704001323?

OFFICIAL RECORDS
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Panhandle Cheers Congressman Bob Sikes

From 1A

ring his 30-year term. "We've seen many changes and we've seen many problems and we've got them now. But they're nothing we can't face," Sikes said.

He began to talk about uncertainties the future when he looked skyward and spoke off saying, "If you'll look behind you, a parachuter and I'm not going to compete with him!"

And, sure enough, a parachutist was making a graceful descent to the center of the fairgrounds. He was suspended by a red, white and blue parachute.

When the commotion died down, Sikes went on to say that his supporters had "good timing for this great meeting."

"Balloons... Balloons are bursting all around us. Those who sought to destroy our congressman are having their fabrications shot down one after another."

"Amazingly enough, all of it started in New York City, the worst, misrun city in this nation, which wants to be bailed out with \$20 million of your taxpayer's money, and they're not going to get it!"

This statement brought thunderous applause from the audience.

Although Sikes' references to attacks made against him by what he calls the liberal eastern press were brief, he said, "The record shows that the more people take pot shots at your congressman, the more votes you give him in the election that follows."

He went on to point out to you that these things that really count are the kind of things that we have to live in and lasting progress to build a better tomorrow."

Sikes concluded his brief address with the announcement that a measure has passed in the House assuring \$55 million to

Northwest Florida's military bases for building, as well as \$700 million budgeted for the 1976 fiscal year.

"I can tell you we have a bill in the House that is about to pass in the Senate that will bring \$55 million in bright and shiny new Uncle Sam military dollars for our military bases."

He said Northwest Florida gets three-fourths of all military appropriations budgeted for the state.

"I figure it's about even," he joked.

He urged the supporters who turned out to honor him to never give up the fight against the "detractors and distractors."

"People like you deserve the very best. This America of ours is a dream and a reality... a dream and a reality. There's nothing like it in the whole world."

Earlier in the day, Sikes signed one of 20,000 signature petitions wanted by a group of Panhandle leaders who want to take the petitions to Washington, D.C. at a hearing of Amtrak to persuade Amtrak officials to renew Gulf Winds railroad passenger service from Jacksonville to New Orleans.

At least 25 elected officials from Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Bay and Walton counties turned out for the fete

Saturday.

"Well, hi there, Smokey (Peaden, state representative)," said Okaloosa Sheriff Ray Wilson as he strolled onto the grounds.

"Hi, Sheriff," Peaden replied. "You know, you're the third sheriff I've seen here today. Are y'all trying to tell me something?"

(Peaden has been mentioned as a possible contender for sheriff of Escambia County, but the representative has made no official announcement of his political intentions).

And Escambia County Commissioner Grady Albritton placed several signs on

the grounds proclaiming himself "the full-time commissioner."

Albritton received a dig, though, when Country and Western and Gospel Singer Ron Taylor dedicated a song about a man in prison to him — "Mama Tried."

Other musicians, including the Young American Dream from Chipley, a group of youngsters in colonial costumes promoting the American Bicentennial through song, performed throughout the afternoon.

The Hadji Shrine clowns cavorted through the crowd, twisting long, skinny balloons into animal shapes for children.

And although Col Sanders was there, his chicken was and it was free to all who wanted some.

It may well have been one of Bob Sikes' greatest moments. He accepted the gesture humbly and assured his supporters he would continue to work hard for them.

And that support was most notably expressed when a group of Tennesseans on hand for the event, said they wanted Northwest Floridians to share their sentiment with them.

"Sikes for President of the United States!" they yelled.

Sikes didn't say a word, he just smiled.

Common Cause and 45 Representatives Petition the House to Investigate Sikes for Conflict of Interest

By RICHARD D. CYONS
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 7—The House of Representatives was petitioned today to investigate complaints that one of its members has a conflict of interest between his legislative activities and his outside business ventures.

Representative Robert L. F. Sikes, the Florida Democrat who is chairman of a subcommittee overseeing billions of dollars worth of military contracts, is the target of the complaint which contends that he has benefited in financial transactions involving the Army, Navy and Air Force.

The sworn complaint that Mr. Sikes had broken both the rules of the House and the Code of Ethics of Government



Robert L. F. Sikes

shares of stock in Fairchild Industries, voted for passage of a defense appropriations bill that funded a contract worth in excess of \$73 million with Fairchild. His failure to abstain from voting on legislation in which he had a direct pecuniary interest was a violation of House Rule VIII (8).

"In 1961-62, Representative Sikes sponsored legislation enacted by Congress which removed restrictions on the commercial development of land in Florida on which he and sever-

al business associates sold a 99-year lease. From 1962 through at least 1972 the company in which he had stock received income from that land in using his position as a member of Congress in this way, and receiving a benefit for himself. Representative Sikes has violated House Rule XLIII (3) and Section 5 of the Code of Ethics for Government service.

"The section of the ethics code cited prohibits persons in Government service from benefiting from special favors, while the House rules cited deal with a requirement that members iden-

tify their business interests, and forbid voting on legislation in which a member might have a pecuniary interest.

Last October, the Navy recommended two retired admirals for their role in setting up the bank. The Fairchild Industries transaction involved the construction of airframes for 30A-10 warplanes. The Florida land transaction centered on property once used by the Army.

After summarizing the complaints, Mr. Gardner said, "We recommend to the ethics com-

mittee that the House censure (Mr. Sikes) and remove him from his assignment to the House Committee on Appropriations."

He noted, however, that during its nine years of existence "the committee has a perfect record of never having carried out a formal investigation of any member of the House."

The action taken by Common Cause involves a mechanism originated by the House in 1967 through which a complaint by an outside party may

be transmitted by a representative to the House itself.

"To our knowledge, this is the first time that this procedure has ever been used," Mr. Gardner said.

Representative Andrew Maguire, Democrat of New Jersey, drafted the letter of transmittal and was instrumental in lining up 44 co-sponsors, including three Republicans.

Mr. Maguire said "some gentle approaches" were made to the Democratic leadership to join the others and that the

very lack of action led to the letter of transmittal.

"The reputations of the House in the public esteem is at stake here," Mr. Maguire said, adding "evasion of such complaints simply cannot be tolerated."

The New Jersey Democrat said he would personally deliver a copy of the complaints to the ethics committee tomorrow. Attempts to reach the committee chairman, Representative John J. Flynt, Democrat of Georgia, were unsuccessful.

service at least four times was filed with the chamber by Common Cause, a public-affairs lobby, with the assistance of 45 members of the House.

John W. Gardner, the chairman of Common Cause, said the action was taken after the group had tried unsuccessfully for almost a year to evoke from the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, usually called the ethics committee, some response to the charges.

"The committee is the worst kind of sham, giving the appearance of serving as policeman while extending a marvelous protective shield over members of Congress," Mr. Gardner said.

At a news conference, Mr. Gardner said he had repeatedly sought the attention of the House Democratic leadership in looking into Mr. Sikes's business affairs. None of the 45 Representatives who agreed to transmit the complaint are members of the leadership.

For almost a decade, Mr. Sikes's business activities have been under investigation by newspapers in Florida, as well as CBS News and The New York Times.

The dealings involve his interest in a Florida land development company, a bank founded on navy property, stock in a major defense contractor, and stock in an insurance company selling policies to servicemen. His involvement in the latter venture was not brought into question today.

In the past, Mr. Sikes, a 17-term conservative, has denied that any conflict of interest exists between his business interests and his Congressional affairs as chairman of the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Military Construction. When the House reorganized last year, a move within the Democratic caucus to oust him as subcommittee chairman was defeated by a vote of 148 to 49.

Repeated, but unavailing, attempts were made to obtain comment from both Mr. Sikes and staff aides in his office.

The complaint submitted by Common Cause charges that:

"In 1974, Representative Sikes, then the owner of 1,000

MUR 084 (76)

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION

(no.)

76 12 A10: 06
809 Foster Avenue
Panama City, Fl. 32401

Thomas B. Curtis, chairman
Federal Election Commission
1325 K Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20463

Dear Sir:

I believe there has been a violation of federal election laws. Rep. Robert L. F. Sikes and/or certain of his supporters have failed to make required reports of contributions and expenditures. There definitely has been a violation of section 434(e) requiring disclosure of expenditures. There may have been a violation of section 433 which calls for the registration of political committees, and section 608(b) which limits contributions by persons and committees.

On October 25, 1975 there was a political rally held in Pensacola, Florida. At that rally "10,000-plus" people were served "\$2.00 value" chicken dinners as reported in attached copies of Pensacola News-Journal articles. The sum expended is substantially above the \$100 disclosure requirement level. A thorough

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COMMISSION

search of Federal Election Commission files produced no report of contributions or expenditures by individuals identified in the press reports as associated with the rally (H. A. Brosnaham, Jr., chairman; M. J. Menge, publicity chairman; James M. Sheffer, motorcade chairman). The search produced no report from any committee outlining the expenses of the rally or the source of funds. The Bob Sikes Political Campaign Committee's January 31, 1976 report makes no mention of expenditures associated with the rally.

Disclosure of expenditures of \$100 or more are required by law. Disclosure is required of candidates, political committees, and also persons acting independently. Section 434(e) says:

Every person...who makes contributions or expenditures, other than by contribution to a political committee or candidate, in an aggregate amount in excess of \$100 within a calendar year shall file with the Commission...

There is some question in my mind as to how independent the "Friends of Bob Sikes" committee were of the candidate. In the October 24, 1975 Pensacola Journal M. J. Menge, publicity chairman for the event is quoted as saying, "A group of people from not only Escambia County, but Santa Rosa and Okaloosa and Bay counties, spontaneously reacted to the criticism he was getting." This "spontaneous" combustion of support looks like arson to me. The

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extent to which there was or was not collusion with the candidate may indicate violations of other sections of the federal election campaign laws.

Another quote from M. J. Menge (Pensacola News, October 23, 1975) would have us believe , "That the primary purpose (of the rally) is (was) to express to Bob Sikes the appreciation of the citizens of Northwest Florida for what he has done for this area as Congressman." This may have been one of the purposes. It is also evident that this political rally was generated in response to charges of conflicts of interests and abuse of power. The candidate is reported (Pensacola News-Journal, October 26, 1975) to have offered this opinion at the rally, "The record shows that the more people take pot shots at your congressman, the more votes you give him in the election that follows."

There may have been violations of several sections of the federal election campaign laws. I urge the Federal Election Commission (or its successor) to investigate.

Correspondence will reach me if directed to the above address or, through March 15, I may be reached at:

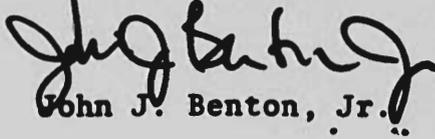
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CONFIDENTIAL FILE
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

5170 Fulton St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20016
home telephone (202) 966-6579
office phone (202) 523-0801

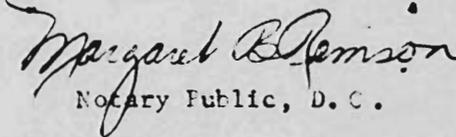
Please consider this a formal complaint pursuant
with 2 U.S.C. 437g(a).

Sincerely,


John J. Benton, Jr.

Washington, D. C. SS

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
12th day of February, 1976


Margaret Remson
Notary Public, D. C.

My Commission Expires Nov. 30, 1978

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FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OFFICIAL FILE
DIVISION OF FEDERAL RESERVE

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Sikes Day Planners Expect Human Wave

By MIKE HENDERSON
News Staff Writer

Bob Sikes Appreciation Day activities, expected to draw about 10,000 Panhandle Florida residents to the Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds Saturday, begin with motorcades from far away as Panama City and Bonifay joining forces here, officials said today.

"They are going to converge in Pensacola around the area of Lee Square at approximately 11:15 a.m., when we hope a large number of people from Escambia County will join the motorcade," said M.J. Menge, publicity chairman for the event.

"The primary purpose is to express to Bob Sikes the appreciation of the citizens of Northwest Florida for what he has done for this area as Congressman," Menge said.

Shortly after the motorcade's arrival at the fairgrounds about noon, "there will be free chicken dinners served to everybody who comes, whether they are in the motorcade or not," said H.A. Brosnahan Jr., chairman of the event's steering committee.

"There will be music and entertainment — country and western and gospel — practically all

Continued on 2A

CERTIFICATE OF RESERVATION

CELEBRATING

NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S #1 VETERAN



\$2.00 Value
Chicken Dinner and
Country and Gospel Entertainment



ROBERT L.F. SIKES

PENSACOLA, FLA.
FAIRGROUNDS

25TH

OCTOBER 1975
ALL DAY

Robert L.F. Sikes

TWO HUNDRED AMERICAN YEARS

The Pensacola News

A Gannett Newspaper

85th Year, No. 255

28 Pages

Pensacola, Florida, Thursday Afternoon, October 23, 1975

2 Sections

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
 OFFICIAL FILE COPY
 OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Sikes Day Planners Gear for Big Turnout

Continued From 1A

day, starting around 11 to 11:30 a.m. and continuing through the afternoon," he said.

"There will be no speaking except by Bob Sikes," Brsonaham said. "The dignitaries who will attend will be recognized."

Broshaham said auto dealer Vince Whibbs will emcee the event and Pensacola Mayor Barenny Burkes will present Sikes.

"We have ample facilities to provide shelter in case the weather should not be good," Brosnaham said.

"We are preparing to serve 10,000 free chicken dinners and we will have rolls and cakes and cold drinks, all of which will be free," he said. "There will be no charge for entertainment or anything else and no solicitation of funds for anything."

Motorcade Chairman James M. Sheffer said "Let's make this the biggest day of appreciation ever seen in Northwest Florida. We need to send a message to Common Cause that they can't destroy an uncommon man."

Common Cause, the citizens lobby, had demanded Sikes' resignation as chairman of the House subcommittee on military appropriations because of alleged conflicts of interests in his business dealings, but Sikes, denying the allegations, has steadfastly refused to resign.

Motorcades will originate in Chipley, Bonifay, DeFuniak Springs, Crestview, Milton, Panama City, Fort Walton Beach, and the Valparaiso-Niceville area. Sheffer said a prize will be given for the best-decorated vehicle in the motorcade and he urged decoration of cars with bunting and signs.

The mass motorcade, after joining forces with Escambia County residents in the Lee Square area, is to parade down Palafox Street and proceed to the fairgrounds.

Earlier in the day, at 10 a.m. Sikes is to ride in the parade celebrating the Great Gulfcoast Festival, a Friday through Sunday arts and crafts festival that also includes entertainment by performing artist.

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PENSACOLA JOURNAL 10/24/75

Motorcade, Talk To Honor Sikes

By BILL GORDON
Journal Staff Writer

Supporters of veteran U.S. Congressman Bob Sikes have planned a gala celebration Saturday honoring the First Congressional District representative for 35 years service to his constituents.

Bob Sikes Appreciation Day is expected to draw loyal supporters from as far as Chipley and Bonifay in a parade by gaily decorated automobiles that meets in Panama City and Chipley, picking up supporters all along the route, until they reach Lee Square in Pensacola where the entire gathering, expected to number 10,000 by that time, will move down Palafox Street and on to the Fairgrounds, say the organizers.

"The primary purpose is to express to Bob Sikes the appreciation of the citizens of Northwest Florida for what he has done for this area as congressman," said M.J. Menge, publicity chairman for the event.

"A group of people from not only Escambia County, but Santa Rosa and Okaloosa and Bay counties, spontaneously reacted to the criticism he was getting. I think they saw a need to show an expression of appreciation for what he had done for this district. They think a congressman should represent the views of his district and he has been a real stalwart for defense and a real stalwart for conservatism in the U.S. Congress," said Menge.

The parade is scheduled to arrive at the First Baptist Church at approximately 11:15 a.m., according to Jim Scheffer, motorcade chairman.

The parade begins in Chipley at 7:30 a.m.

Along the way the parade will stop and pick up supporters in Bonifay, DeFuniak Springs, Crestview and Milton.

The Highway 96 contingent begins in Panama City at 9 a.m., reaches Fort Walton at 10:30 and proceeds to Pensacola.

Staging areas are: Chipley, Agricul-

tural Center, West U.S. 90; Bonifay, Holmes Shirt Company; DeFuniak Springs, Casey's IGA; Crestview, County Courthouse; Milton, Six Flags Shopping Plaza.

Panama City staging area is the Gulf Coast Community College; Fort Walton, City Hall parking lot; Valparaiso-Niceville, Bayou Plaza Shopping Center; Pensacola, First Baptist Church parking lot.

Shortly after the motorcade's arrival at the fairgrounds, about noon, free chicken dinners will be served to all attending, whether they are in the motorcade or not, said H. A. Brosnahan Jr., chairman of the event's steering committee.

Music and entertainment will be provided at the Fair Grounds by country and western bands and gospel singers, beginning at approximately 11 a.m. and continuing throughout the day.

But there will be no speeches, except by the congressman, promises Brosnahan. Dignitaries in attendance will be recognized, but will remain silent.

Automobile dealer Vince Whibbs will emcee the event and Pensacola Mayor Barney Burks will introduce Sikes.

Should the weather not cooperate, shelters will be available, say sponsors of the event who call themselves the Friends of Bob Sikes.

"We are preparing to serve 10,000 free chicken dinners and we will have rolls and cakes and cold drinks, all of which will be free," he said. There will be no charge for the food or entertainment and no funds will be solicited for any reason, says Brosnahan.

The motorcade will parade down Palafox Street from Lee Square and then proceed to the fairgrounds.

Prior to arrival of the parade from the eastern counties, Sikes is to ride in a parade celebrating the Great Gulfcoast Festival, a Friday through Sunday arts and crafts festival that also includes entertainment by performing artists.

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Panhandle

10/25/75

Tips Hat

To Sikes

A miles-long motorcade and an old-fashioned chicken-eating, gospel-singing festival marks the Panhandle's tribute to its U.S. representative today at the Bob Sikes Appreciation Day at the Pensacola Fairgrounds.

The parade to the fairgrounds begins in Chipley at 7:30 a.m. and at Panama City at 9 a.m. Along the way the contingent of dignitaries and well-wishers will pick up support at Bonifay, DeFuniak Springs, Crestview and Milton.

The Panama City Highway 98 group begins at 9 a.m. reaches Fort Walton at 10:30 and proceeds to Pensacola. Panama City's meeting area is the Gulf Coast Community College; Fort Walton, City Hall parking lot; Valparaiso-Niceville, Bayou Plaza Shopping Center.

Staging areas for the Highway 90 group are: Chipley, Agricultural Center, West U.S. 90; Bonifay, Holmes Shirt Company; DeFuniak Springs, Casey's IGA; Crestview, County Courthouse; Milton, Six Flags Shopping Center.

The parade is scheduled to arrive at the Pensacola First Baptist Church parking lot at approximately 11:15 a.m., according to Jim Sheffer, motorcade chairman. It will proceed down Palafox Street and then to the Fairgrounds.

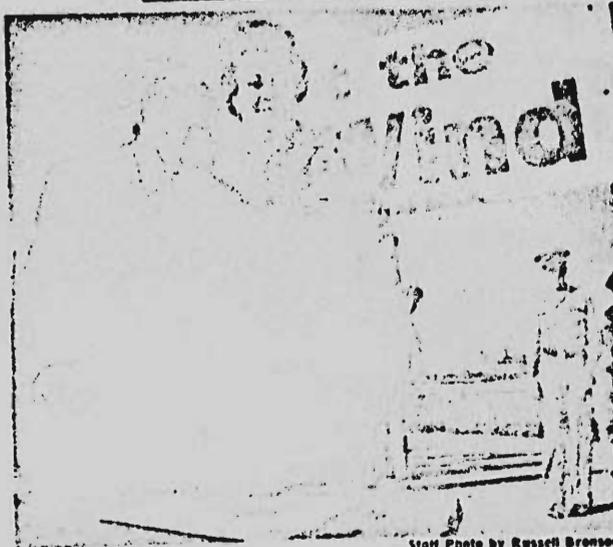
Shortly after the parade's arrival at the Fairgrounds, about noon, free chicken dinners will be served to all attending, whether they are in the motorcade or not, said H. A. Brosnaham Jr., chairman of the event's steering committee.

Music and entertainment will be provided at the Fair Grounds by country and western bands and gospel singers beginning at approximately 11 a.m. and continuing throughout the day.

Encee for the event is automobile dealer Vince Whibbs. Mayor Barney Burks will present Sikes to the well-wishers.

"We are preparing to serve 10,000 free chicken dinners and we will have rolls and cakes and cold drinks, all of which will be free," said Brosnaham.

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Staff Photo by Russell Brown

REP BOB SIKES SIGNS GULFWINDS PETITION
... His wife, Inez, accompanied him during Saturday ceremonies

Panhandle Cheers Congressman Bob

By CAROLYN COX
News-Journal Staff Writer

It was a day of politicking, hand-shaking, knee-slapping, toe-tapping, baby-kissing, but most of all, well-wishing for the star of the show, U.S. Rep. Robert L.F. Sikes.

It all began at 7 a.m. in Chipley with a small caravan of Sikes supporters that grew and grew as it snaked its way through Florida's Panhandle to its destination, the Pensacola Interstate Fair grounds.

There was horn-blowing, waving, whistling and cheering as the miles-long motorcade wheeled into the parking lot at the fair grounds where Sikes was waiting to shake hands with his constituents.

And the 10,000-plus crowd loved it as they posed for pictures with their congressman of 35 years.

Sikes appeared to love it, too — that boyish grin never left his face. When he rose to speak after nearly an hour of accolades from program emcee Vince Whibbs and Pensacola Mayor Barney Burks, Sikes was clearly in command.

He pointed, then crooked his finger at his wife, Inez, bidding her to join him on the stage of the fairground's amphitheater. Later, he called on Florida Comptroller Gerald Lewis and Ashton Brosnahan, one of the organizers of the Sikes Appreciation Day program, to join him.

"I want to see you up here," he said to each of them. The statement was simple, but authoritative.

"I know I am privileged to be with the finest people in the land — the people I work for," Sikes began. "I never can thank you as much as I want to or do as much or work for you as hard as I want to."

Sikes spoke of changes that have occurred in the First Congressional District

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Panhandle Cheers Congressman Bob Sikes

From 1A

during his 17-year term.

"We've seen many changes and we've seen many problems and we've got them now. But they're nothing we can't face," Sikes said.

He began to talk about uncertainties in the future when he looked skyward and broke off saying, "If you'll look behind you, the paratrooper and I'm not going to try to compete with him!"

And, sure enough, a parachutist was making a graceful descent to the center of the fairgrounds. He was suspended by a red, white and blue parachute.

When the commotion died down, Sikes went on to say that his supporters used "good timing for this great meeting.

"Balloons . . . Balloons are bursting all around us. Those who sought to destroy your congressman are having their fabrications shot down one after another.

"Amazingly enough, all of it started in New York City, the worst, misrun city in this nation, which wants to be bailed out with \$40 million of your taxpayer's money . . . and they're not going to get it!"

That statement brought thunderous applause from the audience.

Although Sikes' references to attacks made against him by what he calls the "liberal eastern press" were brief, he said, "The record shows that the more people take pot shots at your congressman, the more votes you give him in the election that follows.

"I want to point out to you that these things of the past, they are a thing of the past. The things that really count are the kind of land we have to live in and lasting progress to build a better tomorrow."

Sikes concluded his brief address with the announcement that a measure has passed in the House assuring \$55 million to

Northwest Florida's military bases for building, as well as \$700 million budgeted for the 1976 fiscal year.

"I can tell you we have a bill in the House that is about to pass in the Senate that will bring \$55 million in bright and shiny new Uncle Sam military dollars for our military bases."

He said Northwest Florida gets three-fourths of all military appropriations budgeted for the state.

"I figure it's about even," he joked.

He urged the supporters who turned out to honor him to never give up the fight against the "detractors and distractors."

"People like you deserve the very best. This America of ours is a dream and a reality . . . a dream and a reality. There's nothing like it in the whole world."

Earlier in the day, Sikes signed one of 20,000 signature-petitions wanted by a group of Panhandle leaders who want to take the petitions to Washington, D.C. at a hearing of Amtrak to persuade Amtrak officials to renew Gulf Winds railroad passenger service from Jacksonville to New Orleans.

At least 25 elected officials from Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Bay and Walton counties turned out for the fête

Saturday.

"Well, hi there, Smokey (Peaden, state representative)," said Okaloosa Sheriff Ray Wilson as he strolled onto the grounds.

"Hi, Sheriff," Peaden replied. "You know, you're the third sheriff I've seen here today. Are y'all trying to tell me something?"

(Peaden has been mentioned as a possible contender for sheriff of Escambia County, but the representative has made no official announcement of his political intentions).

And Escambia County Commissioner Grady Albritton placed several signs on

the grounds proclaiming himself "the full-time commissioner."

Albritton received a dig, though, when Country and Western and Gospel Singer Ron Taylor dedicated a song about a man in prison to him — "Mama Tried."

Other musicians, including the Young American Dream from Chipley, a group of youngsters in colonial costumes promoting the American Bicentennial through song, performed throughout the afternoon.

The Hadji Shrine clowns cavorted through the crowd, twisting long, skinny balloons into animal shapes for children.

And although Col Sanders was there, his chicken was and it was free to a who wanted some.

It may well have been one of Bob Sikes' greatest moments. He accepted the gesture humbly and assured his supporters he would continue to work hard for them.

And that support was most notably expressed when a group of Tennesseans on hand for the event, said they wanted Northwest Floridians to share their representative with them.

"Sikes for President of the United States!" they yelled.

Sikes didn't say a word, he just smiled.

THE PENSACOLA NEWS-JOURNAL
 OCTOBER 26, 1975
 PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

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