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089

March 29, 1976

Mr. W. E. Bonnett
2366 Captain Cook Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Mr. Bonnett:

I have received your letter of March 6, 1976, in which you complain of the misuse of your name by the Alaska Reagan for President Committee. I have reviewed your allegations and must conclude that the information you provide is, at least for the moment, insufficient to support a charge that a violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act, as amended, has occurred.

The only provision of that Act which could be relevant to the situation you describe is 18 U.S.C. §617, which in its entirety reads as follows:

Whoever, being a candidate for Federal office or an employee or agent of such a candidate--

- (1) fraudulently misrepresents himself or any committee or organization under his control as speaking or writing or otherwise acting of or on behalf of any other candidate or political party or employee or agent thereof on a matter which is damaging to such other candidate or political party or employee or agent thereof; or
- (2) willfully and knowingly participates in or conspires to participate in any plan, scheme, or design to violate paragraph (1);

shall, for each such offense, be fined not more than \$25,000 or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

Inasmuch as you would not appear to fit within the language regarding "any other candidate or political

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party or employee or agent thereof," it would appear that the provisions of this Section are not germane. Accordingly, I have recommended to the Commission that the file on this matter be closed.

Should additional information come to your attention which you believe to be within the jurisdiction of the Commission, please contact me again. The attorney assigned to this matter was Andrew Athy (Telephone No. 202-382-4055).

Sincerely yours,

Signed: John G. Murphy, Jr.
John G. Murphy, Jr.
General Counsel

2nd page of this letter
revised by Joan Aikens
at 4/1/76 Meeting.

JGMurphy:jl:mpc:4/2/76

MUR 089

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
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DATE AND TIME OF TRANSMITTAL: 3/31/76 10:00 AM

NO. MUR 089 (76)

REC'D: 3/16/76

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, D. C.

Complainant's Name: W. E. Bonnett

Respondent's Name: Reagan for President Committee

Relevant Statute: 18 U.S.C. §617

Internal Reports Checked: _____

Federal Agencies Checked: _____

SUMMARY OF ALLEGATION

The Reagan for President Committee mailed solicitation letter
falsely claiming that the complainant was a candidate for selection
as a delegate supporting Reagan.

PRELIMINARY LEGAL ANALYSIS

Information is insufficient for determining whether a §617
violation occurred.

RECOMMENDATION

Close file. Send attached letter.

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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

COMMISSIONER Joan D. Aikens

MUR NO. 089 (96)

1. Re Counsel's Recommendation:

APPROVE

HOLD

ABSTAIN

2. Re Correspondence Proposed:

APPROVE

HOLD

ABSTAIN

DATE: 3/31/76

J. D. Aikens
Signature

ABSTENTION STATEMENT: _____

(Forms to be returned to Patty Clark)



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

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March 29, 1976

Mr. W. E. Bonnett
2366 Captain Cook Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Mr. Bonnett:

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
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Sincerely yours,

Signed John G. Murphy, Jr.

John G. Murphy, Jr.
General Counsel

2nd page of this letter
revised by Joan Aikens
at 4/1/76 Meeting.

JGMurphy:jl:mpc:4/2/76

MUR 039

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

MOR 089 (76)

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION

76 MAR 16 A 9: 53

Federal Election Commission
1325 K St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20463

March 6, 1976

Dear Sirs,

I wish to alert you to an abusive and unethical procedure used by the Reagan for President Committee in Alaska.

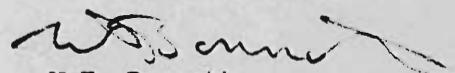
This committee has mailed a letter soliciting support in the upcoming precinct caucus for potential convention delegates who are specifically supportive of Ronald Reagan. My name is given as one of these delegates.

I have never been approached by their committee in any regard. I have never approached them, or in any way caused myself to be identified as a Reagan supporter. My feelings and support lie elsewhere.

This incident is deeply embarrassing to me as well as being clearly outside of proper campaign practices.

Please advise me as to my course of action in pursuit of reparation.

Sincerely,


W.E. Bonnett

cc: Fair Campaign Practices Commission
telegram this date
President Ford Committee

W.E. Bonnett
2366 Captain Cook Dr.
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 277-0640 (h)
(907) 277-8669 (w)

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
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