



Ouida MacGregor <omacgregor@comcast.net> on 04/04/2004 04:23:15 PM

To: politicalcommitteeestatus@fec.gov  
cc:

Subject: Turn down RNC rule change request

Ouida MacGregor  
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Phone: 505-820-0843; email: omacgregor@comcast.net  
April 4, 2004

Federal Election Commission  
Attention: Ms. Mai T. Dinh  
Acting Assistant General Counsel

Dear Ms. Dinh and Commissioners;

I have been struggling for days to digest the frightening implications of the Republican National Committee's request for a rule change in the midst of this year's election cycle. The request is clearly aimed at silencing legitimate criticism to the Bush administration's record on the economy, its war on terrorism, the environment, and social programs.

Not only is the rule change request unconstitutional, its overreaching aim would have a host of (hopefully) unintended effects. Non-partisan groups such as The League of Women Voters and others would be unable to register voters. Considering the low voter turnout now, that violates all common sense (unless of course the intent is to prevent people from voting). Report cards on legislative votes would be curtailed, depriving people of the knowledge of how their representatives voted. Reminders to registered voters of their duty to vote would be limited. The carefully constructed legislative and IRS regulations for 501-C organizations would be thrown up in the air if you approve these rule changes (non-profit organization rules limiting political activities are not within the jurisdiction of the Federal Election Commission). I find nothing in the RNC rule change request that benefits a democratic nation.

If there is a need for further campaign finance regulations—and there probably is—it must come from deliberative Congressional legislation weighing all campaigning aspects—including the inordinate advantage any sitting president has to raise funds before opposition candidates are nominated.

Tragically, today, only the richest can gain direct access to our national legislators. Citizens of lesser means must band together to be heard. Citizen concerns are a valid point of contention; contention and protest are as essential to democracy as rain and sunlight are to plant growth.

As a history buff when I reflect on the accumulative effect of the Patriot Act, the illegal purge of 50,000 Florida voters in 2000, the invasion of other nations based on fictional "intelligence", the unholy

alliance between this administration and media giants, and a growing pathology of secrecy I see the parallels with the growth of the Nazi party. Please, Commissioners, do not be complicit in the further loss of freedom of speech.

Sincerely yours,

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