



Ernest Goitein

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April 8, 2004

Ms. Mai T. Dinh, Acting Assistant General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

Subject: Proposed Rules Regarding Political Committee Status

Dear Ms. Mai T. Dinh:

It seems incredible that any US Administration or political party would try to muzzle criticism of the President or members of Congress. That is precisely what these proposed rules would do. These rules are a clear violation of the First Amendment. I wonder who would try to destroy our rights to free speech and our ability to be critical of public officials?

Non-profit organizations or other public interest organizations' ability to communicate with the public about policy issues that may be critical of members of Congress, the President or other members of the administration must not be crippled or restricted in any way. On the contrary, in a democratic society it is essential that the government and the public learn about malfeasance, improper behavior, or poor policies.

This proposed rule is such an outrage. Please register my opposition to any restriction to this proposed rule. Officials are already protected by existing liable laws. The only reason anyone would propose such rules, is with the intent of protecting an administration that is planning to commit unlawful actions or implement questionable policies without public debate.

Please keep me informed of the outcome of the hearings at the FEC.

By copies to Senator Feinstein and Senator Boxer, I ask that these rules do not slip under their radar screen, and that they be vigorously opposed.

Cordially,

Cc Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Congresswoman Anna Eshoo

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION