

Monday, January 03, 2000

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FEDERAL ELECTION  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF GENERAL  
COUNSEL  
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From:  
Martin R. Meyer  
7263 Red Coat Drive  
Hamilton, Ohio 45011  
To:  
Rosemary C. Smith  
Acting Assistant General Counsel  
999 E Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20463

Dear Sir:

It is my considered opinion that the Federal Election Commission should make absolutely no effort to control, restrict, monitor, tax, or regulate use of the Internet in any way, shape or form.

Use of the Internet as a user or advertiser is a paid voluntary activity and is unlike the mass media where viewers are disinclined to avert advertising presented to them. The "Take-it or leave-it attitude" on the Internet is a true choice where as it is not completely true when applied to the media.

My final point is that assuming that the FEC is really interested in assuring fair and unbiased elections of public officials in this country, you should be encouraging would-be public officials to use the Internet to the greatest extent possible. This is because the cost of doing so is so much lower than any other means of getting their message(s) out to the people (assuming that providing a free and open exchange of ideas is what the FEC is promoting).

Regards,

  
Martin R. Meyer