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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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OFFICE-HOLDER EXPENSES, HONORARIUMS
SUBJECT OF REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS

WASHINGTON - JUNE 27- The Federal Election Commission today asked for public comment on questions sought by Members of Congress about provisions of the campaign financing act dealing with office-holder expenses and honorariums.

The FEC released the "Requests for Advisory Opinions" on these subjects. Following publication of the requests in the Federal Register next week, and a ten-day period for public comment thereafter, the FEC will issue Advisory Opinions on the specific transactions or activities involved.

THE QUESTIONS RELEASED TODAY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

ADVISORY OPINION REQUEST #7: OFFICE-HOLDER EXPENSES

---CONSTITUENT SERVICE FUNDS

(1) Whether a committee set up to administer a Congressman's "Constituent Services Fund" is a "political committee" within the definitions of the campaign financing act, and whether a fund-raising event for the benefit of such a "Constituent Services Fund" is subject to the disclosure requirements of the campaign financing act. (requested by U.S.Rep.David W. Evans, (D-Ind.-6)

(2) Whether a corporation can contribute to a Congressman's "Public Service Committee" which is "used solely to defray the cost of newsletters, reports and questionnaires sent to constituents." (requested by U.S.Rep.John P. Murtha, (D.Pa.-12)

---POLLS: Whether campaign spending limits apply to "issue-oriented" polls and surveys conducted among a Member of Congress's constituents. (requested by U.S. Sen.E.J.(Jake) Garn, (R-Utah).

ADVISORY OPINION REQUEST #8: HONORARIUMS

---DONATION TO CHARITIES: Whether the \$15,000 honorarium limit applies where a Member of Congress requests that all or part of an offered honorarium be donated to charity. (requested by U.S.Rep. Dan Rostenkowski (D,Ill-8), and by U.S.Rep.John J.Rhodes(R,Ariz-1);

---TRAVEL EXPENSES: Whether a Member of Congress, who has already reached the \$15,000 calendar year honorarium limit, may thereafter "still be able to have travel and subsistence expenses paid for by the sponsor," and whether a sponsor that is "prohibited from making campaign contributions" could pay such travel and subsistence expenses. (requested jointly by U.S.Sen. Mike Mansfield(D-Mont. and U.S. Sen.Hugh Scott (R-Pa.)