

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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RELEASE:

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FEC TO TAKE UP "NON-CANDIDATE" STATUS

WASHINGTON - DECEMBER 14 - The Federal Election Commission this week will begin steps to decide whether political activities relating to "non-candidates" are subject to federal contribution and expenditure limits.

The Commission will publish two "Requests for Advisory Opinions" (AOR's), requested by a committee conducting a "Citizens Against Kennedy" project (U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy), and another group considering a "Draft Humphrey" effort (U.S. Senator Hubert H. Humphrey). Letters from both men are on file with the FEC stating that they are not candidates.

No Commission decisions on the requests will be made until after a 10-day period for public comment following Federal Register publication on Tuesday. The two requests for an FEC opinion are as follows:

-----AOR #117 - "Citizens Against Kennedy" - The political committee, "Young America's Campaign Committee" asks whether "it is bound by any limitation on the receipt of contributions and the making of expenditures with respect to the Committee's project." They describe the "Citizens Against Kennedy" effort as a mailing project, including an October, 1975, "fund-raising appeal to approximately 61,000 addresses throughout the country."

-----AOR #114 - "Draft Humphrey" - U.S. Rep. Paul M. Simon (D, Ill-24) told the FEC that "Some of us are considering promoting the candidacy of United States Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, forming a Draft Humphrey for President Committee." Simon said Humphrey is not a "candidate" as defined by the election laws, and asked the Commission to rule whether the \$1,000 independent expenditure limit "on behalf of a clearly identified candidate" would apply to such a "Draft Humphrey" committee.

Other recently published AOR's include the following:

-----AOR #110 - Government Contractors: Does the federal law prohibition against campaign contributions by government contractors apply to state or local elections? or to construction contractors bidding on federal aid projects? (AOR #110, requested by U.S. Rep. David Treen (R, La.-3).

-----AOR #111 - Personal Funds: May a Congressman use personal funds in 1975 to buy 1976 campaign items, or to make donations to state election candidates, and then in 1976 be reimbursed from an account with surplus funds from his 1974 election or from his 1976 re-election campaign account? (AOR #111, requested by U.S. Rep. Otto Passman (D, La.-5).

-----AOR #112 - Bank Sponsored Forums: May a bank pay for travel expenses of Members of Congress, and other costs, in connection with bank-sponsored "Congressional Forums" held for its branch managers? (AOR #112, requested by Security Pacific National Bank, Washington, D.C.).

-----AOR #113 - Personal Services as Contributions: May an individual volunteer time and services to a political committee during normal working hours, with the committee reimbursing his employer for such time, without it being considered an "in-kind contribution"? (AOR #113, requested by the President Ford Committee).

-----AOR #115 - Waiver of Reporting: Does a waiver of reporting by a county political party committee, given by the Clerk of the House under the 1971 Act, still apply? (AOR #115, requested by the DuPage County (Ill.) Republican Central Committee).

-----AOR #116 - County Party Committees: Must a county political party committee register and file federal campaign finance reports if it makes contributions to a state party committee which supports federal candidates? (AOR #116, requested by the Oklahoma Republican State Committee).

-----AOR #118 - Corporate PAC: The FEC is asked to rule on the separate segregated political fund of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, New York, N.Y.