

NEWS FROM...

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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FEC REQUESTS PUBLIC COMMENT

WASHINGTON - May 26 - The Federal Election Commission today asked for public comment on a proposed regulation concerning the extent to which a corporation is required to make its political solicitation plan available to labor organizations once the corporation has started using it.

The FEC notice, published in today's Federal Register, opens a 30-day public comment period and requests written comments "in the form of suggested language" for a proposed regulation.

Under FEC regulations, promulgated April 13, 1977, any corporation which solicits voluntary contributions from its executive and administrative personnel and stockholders to its "political action committee" must make the same solicitation method available to a union representing the corporation's employees which wishes to solicit union members. The union must submit a written request to use the plan and reimburse the corporation for its expenses.

Methods of political solicitation outlined in FEC regulations include payroll deduction or "check-off" plans, computer mailing services, and use of corporate meeting rooms to explain voluntary giving.

Today's notice asks for comment on the following issues concerning corporate/union political solicitation:

- 1) What is the extent of a corporation's obligation to make its solicitation method available when a labor organization requests it during the same calendar year that the corporation is using it?
- 2) What is the corporation's obligation when the labor organization requests the solicitation method the calendar year after the corporation began using it?
- 3) What is the corporation's obligation when it uses a solicitation plan only during select months of the year and the labor organization requests it during those same months? What if the labor organization requests the method after the expiration of these months, but during the same calendar year?
- 4) What is the corporation's obligation to fulfill a request for a solicitation method from several unions representing its employees, some of which requested the method during the same year the corporation used it, and some which did not?
- 5) If a corporation solicits its upper level executive and administrative personnel and stockholders in one of its subsidiary corporations which is not represented by a union, what is its obligation to make its solicitation methods available to a labor union representing another subsidiary of the same corporation?