

NEWS FROM...

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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RELEASE ON RECEIPT

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FEC SCHEDULES HEARING FOR WALLACE TO CHALLENGE REPAYMENT FINDINGS

WASHINGTON - March 23 - The Federal Election Commission said today it has granted a request by 1976 Presidential candidate George C. Wallace to appear at a Commission hearing to appeal a Commission request for repayment of federal matching funds to the U. S. Treasury.

The hearing, which will be in public session, is scheduled to be held at the FEC, on Monday, April 3, 1978 at 2:15 p.m.

The Commission, in January, in the course of its audit of the 1976 Wallace Presidential Campaign, asked Wallace to repay the sum of \$47,795.55 to the U.S. Treasury. This represented the difference between the sum of \$96,669.60 that the Commission had determined were "unqualified campaign expenses" to be returned to the U.S. Treasury and additional matching fund payments totaling \$48,874.05 which the Commission had authorized to be paid to the Wallace campaign but which had been held in abeyance pending completion of the audit.

In a letter dated March 7, 1978, National Finance Director of the Wallace campaign, Alton Dauphin, asked for the April 3 hearing, saying that Wallace "will appear to question the Commission's determination that repayment of \$47,795.55 is required and to offer additional evidence that the expenses in question are in fact 'qualified' under the Act."

The Commission's regulations provide that if a candidate disputes a determination of a required repayment, it "shall conduct a hearing. . . at which the candidate may make a showing of where the Commission erred in its determination requiring repayment. Based on the hearing the Commission shall reaffirm or modify its initial determination which shall constitute final and conclusive determination and shall so notify the candidate." (FEC Regulations Section 134.2(b))

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