FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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FEC APPROVES SENATOR BAKER'S ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL MATCHING FUNDS

WASHINGTON -- The Federal Election Commission today determined that Senator Howard Baker is the first 1980 Presidential candidate to be eligible to receive Federal Matching Funds. Senator Baker has qualified for $114,568.51 based on his establishment of eligibility in the following states: California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, So. Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

On October 22, 1979, Senator Baker's campaign filed their threshold submission containing documentation that the committee had raised the requisite $100,000 -- $5,000 in 20 states, in contributions of $250 or less from individual contributors. Senator Baker also submitted a letter agreeing to certain recordkeeping requirements, a post-primary election audit, and to adhere to expenditure limits in each state.

Today's action by the FEC followed a thorough review of Senator Baker's submission. The Commission deferred action on the certification of eligibility to the U.S. Treasury until December, since, by law, payments cannot be made until after January 1, 1980.

In related matters, the FEC recently sent regulations to Congress relating to Federal financing of Presidential Nominating Conventions.

The national committees of both major and minor parties are entitled to $2 million (plus cost-of-living adjustments) in public funds to defray expenses incurred in arranging and conducting the presidential nominating conventions. The new regulations would stipulate how those funds could be spent, as well as define what additional facilities and services could be provided by the convention cities and the host committees in those cities.

The Commission has also transmitted amendments to the primary matching fund regulations to Congress. The new wording would clarify provisions relating to spending limits. Essentially, the Commission has stated that presidential primary candidates seeking public funds will be subject to expenditure limits from the time their candidacy begins. Therefore, candidates seeking eligibility will have to certify that they <u>have</u> not and <u>will</u> not exceed the statutory spending limits.

In addition, the Commission's regulations provide that candidates seeking eligibility who have "knowingly, willfully, and substantially" exceeded state spending

-morelimits will be denied eligibility. Similarly, payments to those candidates who have already met the eligibility requirements will be suspended if it is found that they have knowingly, willfully and substantially exceeded the expenditure limitiations, or have failed to comply with disclosure requirements in the law. Once payments are suspended for exceeding the spending limits, candidates will not be entitled to receive any additional funds.

The convention regulations and the amendments to the presidential primary matching fund regulations will become effective if Congress does not disapprove them within 30 legislative days.