FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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ILLINOIS CAMPAIGNS FAIL TO FILE
PRE-PRIMARY REPORTS

WASHINGTON -- Two Congressional campaigns have failed to meet the March 4 deadline for filing 12-day pre-primary reports of receipts and expenditures.

Provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act require that committees supporting candidates seeking U.S. House seats in the March 16 primary election in Illinois file reports of all financial activity 12 days prior to the election.

As of 5 p.m. March 11, reports from the following committees had not been filed:

IL/01...Citizens for Harold Washington.....Harold Washington (D)

IL/19...Friends of Lane Evans for U.S. Congress Committee...Lane Allen Evans (D)

The reports were to include financial activity occurring from January 1 through February 24. If sent certified or registered mail, the reports should have been postmarked by March 1. Otherwise, the due date was close of business March 4.

Some individuals and their committees have no obligation to file reports under federal election law, even though their names may appear on state primary ballots. If an individual and his or her campaign committee raise or spend less than $5,000, the individual is not considered a "candidate" and neither the individual nor the committee has to register.

The Commission notified the committees of all candidates participating in the primary election of their potential filing requirements on February 8. Those committees which did not file on the due date were notified that their reports had not been received and that their names would be published for failure to file if they did not respond within 4 business days.

The Commission publishes only the names of those committees which have been designated by candidates as their principal campaign committees. Under Amendments to the Federal Election Campaign Act, effective January 8, 1980, candidates no longer are required to file personal reports of receipts and expenditures. All such information is reported by authorized committees of the candidates.

Other political committees supporting House and Senate candidates in elections (those which are not authorized units of a candidate's campaign) also are required to file pre-primary and pre-runoff reports unless they report monthly. Those committee names are not published by the FEC.

Further Commission action against non-filers and late filers will be decided on a case-by-case basis, depending on the amount of financial activity involved, the percent of vote received and/or the lateness of the report. The election law gives the Commission broad authority to initiate enforcement actions, including civil court enforcement and the imposition of civil penalties ($5,000 for "any violation" and $10,000 for any "knowing and willfull" violation) for infractions of the law, including failure to file required disclosure reports.

The next report due for Illinois candidates will be the first quarter report -- on April 15. The report will cover activity from February 25 through March 31, 1982.

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