

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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FEC '84 BUDGET REQUEST MADE TO SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON --Despite a "bare-bones, no-frills budget", the Federal Election Commission expects to carry out its responsibilities, FEC Vice-Chairman Lee Ann Elliott declared today at a hearing of the Senate Rules Committee. She said the Commission would be able to operate within its \$10,343,139 FY 1984 budget request because of economies which it has instituted, including new and improved procedures for handling review and computer entry of reports, regulations revisions which would help cut audit time and streamline internal procedures, and more efficient use of personnel.

Commissioner Elliott, who was joined in testifying by FEC Chairman Danny Lee McDonald and Commissioner John Warren McGarry, said ten presidential candidates, two party conventions and three general election campaigns are expected to ask for public funding in the 1984 presidential year.

In comparing the 1984 budget to the 1980 presidential campaign, she said the Commission plans to operate with the equivalent of 245 full-time employees whereas the staff was 271 full-time employees in 1980.

The FEC said its FY '84 request, when adjusted for inflation based on 1974 dollars, equates to \$5,172,500, the third smallest amount appropriated in the Commission's eight-year history. During 1980, the last presidential year, the FEC's appropriation was \$6,077,000 when adjusted for inflation.

"If we were to request an amount in dollars adjusted for inflation equivalent to what was received in 1980, we would now be asking for \$12,154,000," Commissioner Elliott said.

"The Federal Election Commission has made substantial, and I believe successful, efforts to establish procedures which make full use of the dollars appropriated to us," Commissioner Elliott continued, "and we are constantly alert for additional improvements."

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