

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COMMENTS SOUGHT ON USE OF CANDIDATE'S NAME

WASHINGTON -- A "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" concerning the use of candidates' names by unauthorized committees was published in the Federal Register on December 15, 1993 by the Federal Election Commission.

The Commission is seeking comments on a proposed amendment to its regulations regarding an unauthorized committee's use of a candidate's name in the title of a special fundraising project or other communication on behalf of the unauthorized committee. The amendment would permit such use, if the title clearly indicates opposition to, rather than support for, a named candidate.

The FEC promulgated new rules on special fundraising projects and other uses of candidate names by unauthorized committees last year. These rules, which became effective November 4, 1992, prohibit the use of a candidate's name in the title of any fundraising project or other communication by any committee that has not been authorized by the named candidate. The Commission received a petition for rulemaking from Citizens Against David Duke ("CADD"), a proposed project of the American Ideas Foundation, on February 5, 1993. CADD requested the Commission reconsider and repeal the new rules, both in general and with particular emphasis on those titles that indicate opposition to, rather than support for, a named candidate. The Commission agreed to reopen the rule since the focus of the earlier rulemaking was on titles that indicate support for a named candidate, and the potential for fraud and abuse is significantly reduced in the case of those titles that indicate opposition.

Written comments must be received on or before January 31, 1994 and should be addressed to Ms. Susan E. Propper, Assistant General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, 999 E Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20463.

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