

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Press Office
999 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463
Phone: 202-219-4155 Toll Free 800-424-9530



For Immediate Release
May 13, 1997

Contact: Ian Stirton
Ron Harris
Sharon Snyder
Kelly Huff

FEC SUBMITS 1996 ANNUAL REPORT

WASHINGTON -- The Federal Election Commission has submitted its 22nd Annual Report to the President and the Congress, chronicling and documenting activities during calendar year 1996. FEC Chairman John W. McGarry noted in his letter accompanying the report that it documents "the rapidly increasing demands on the Commission's limited resources brought about by record numbers of federal candidates and campaign finance activities."

He added, "The current law of reporting requirements and contribution prohibitions and limitations, and the resulting audit and enforcement mechanisms required to administer these provisions, are complex. The Commission remains in urgent need of additional resources to meet those statutory responsibilities."

Included in the Annual Report is a section examining some of the legal issues the Commission confronted during 1996, such as independent expenditures by party committees, corporate/labor communications, personal use of campaign funds, express advocacy, and timeliness of enforcement actions.

In addition to legal issues, the Report details legislative recommendations from the FEC, which, if enacted by Congress, would assist the Commission in administering the law. Each recommendation -- for examples, random audits, injunctive authority, and ensuring independent authority of the FEC in litigation -- is followed by an explanation of the necessity and the expected benefits.

Also featured in the Report are numerous charts and statistical tables depicting campaign finance and Commission operations in 1996, summaries of audits, advisory opinions, activities of the National Clearinghouse on Election Administration, and an overview of Presidential Public Funding for 1996, as well as a monthly chronology of events in 1996.

Copies of the FEC's Annual Report 1996 for media are available upon request from the FEC Press Office.

###

98 "03" 060 "3097