

**WES
RIDDLE** for **U.S. CONGRESS**

With and Freedom! Time for a Conservative Republican!

2004 MAR 1
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COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL
COUNSEL

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COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL
COUNSEL

March 19, 2004

A ID: 3b

Dear Jeff S. Jordan:

Re: MUR 5423. I am writing on behalf of Tony Van Slyke, my Treasurer, as well as the entire Wes Riddle for Congress Campaign ("Committee"). The complaint you forwarded could in no wise indicate a violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, by this campaign. To begin with, no violation is specified. The complainant doesn't live in the Congressional District (31) where the supposed unspecified violation occurred. The respondent named in the complaint isn't me, my treasurer or my campaign--the respondent is the Executive Director of the Republican Liberty Caucus (RLC) of Texas, Don Zimmerman. If you are investigating a violation of "the Act," I should think you would have to allege to the respondent a point of violation. I can't imagine what violation there could be--certainly not by this campaign, nor by the respondent for that matter.

In Paragraph III of the sworn complaint, the complainant says he received a tip from "a friend showing [him] the direct mail piece." The physical piece of mail in and of itself is not a violation, and that's why I call the violation unspecified. Insinuations of "soft money" are conjecture, hearsay, smoke, whatever. The complainant's "friend" has his name and address clearly visible on the piece of "evidence" you attached--and it is none other than Bill Fairbrother, the Chairman of the Williamson County Republican Party! So much for impartiality inside Williamson County. The FEC is being used for local political party dirty tricks, pure and simple. The Williamson County Republican Party is Rep. John Carter's personal political machine, since Carter was a district judge there for over 20 years before being elected to Congress in 2002.

You should be apprised that Rep. Carter's Chief of Staff, Travis Lucas, called Don Zimmerman after the postcard went out and threatened him--both to ruin RLC and to ruin his (Don's) personal and political reputation. A postcard soon followed to constituents inside Travis County maligning Don Zimmerman, in part for RLC's having endorsed Rep. Carter's opponent (me!). The postcard also urged voters not to elect Don Zimmerman to be their precinct chairman.

The complaint you forwarded is interesting, petty and ultimately bogus. It is interesting that anyone, even an opposing camp, would presume to complain about someone else's endorsements. It is particularly petty, given that my endorsements from several groups were far fewer in number than, say, those listed on Rep. Carter's campaign literature. Certainly I never thought to "complain" to the NRA, much less the FEC about the NRA, even though I've been a member of that organization for years. Moreover, a number of Carter's so-called endorsements were carry-overs from Carter's 2002 campaign and not intended for use in 2004. I understand that is not what is at issue here, and I have no desire to go lodging a bunch of complaints. It is important for you to know the political context of our race, however, and to know when the FEC is being used for a blatant political payback purpose--not against me necessarily, but against Don Zimmerman and the RLC.

The complaint is ultimately bogus, because my campaign had nothing to do with the endorsement postcard mailed by the Republican Liberty Caucus of Texas. We didn't ask for it, write it or pay for it. Me and my campaign committee have never received money from the RLC or from the RLC-PAC either. I didn't even know the endorsement postcard had been sent until I received a copy in the mail. I suppose I received a copy because I'm a member of the RLC. Obviously I was delighted that it was sent, and what is written was and is entirely true in my estimation. I was indeed "the most pro-Liberty Republican for Congress in District 31." The truth apparently hurt someone, who got busier writing a complaint than standing up for anything or debating substantive issues. I am relatively sure the First Amendment still protects third parties, individuals and organizations, in this country. I'm also relatively sure that FEC regulations governing campaign committees do not extend to free people taking it upon themselves to endorse candidates, in writing, whom they support. If I'm wrong, I'm sorry for my country, but in the words of Bob Dylan, "It ain't me, Babe."

It is my desire, as well as in my interest, to have this matter resolved quickly and finally. Please do not hesitate to call me, in order to discuss the complaint further if need be. My phone numbers are O: (254) 933-9100, M: (254) 541-2582, H: (254) 933-8089; or you can e-mail me at wridge1@hot.rr.com. Thank you.

Faith and Freedom!



Wesley A. Riddle, LTC (Ret.)