

9 JUL 1976

AO 1976-5

The Honorable John M. Slack  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Slack:

This is in response to your request of March 8, 1976, for an opinion regarding application of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, to contributions from your principal campaign committee to Federal and State candidates.

You first ask for confirmation of your understanding that your principal campaign committee cannot contribute to any other Federal candidate or committee. Before enactment of the Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1976, your understanding was correct. However, 2 U.S.C. §432(e)(1), as amended, now states, in relevant part, that ". . . no political committee which supports more than one candidate may be designated as a principal campaign committee. Any occasional, isolated, or incidental support of a candidate shall not be construed as support of such candidate for purposes of the preceding sentence." Thus, otherwise lawful contributions from your principal campaign committees to other Federal candidates which contributions represent only "occasional, isolated, or incidental support" are permissible.

You further ask for confirmation that your principal campaign committee is not precluded from contributing to State or local candidates and committees. Your understanding on this point also is correct. Your principal campaign committee may contribute in any amount to non-Federal candidates and committees, and must, of course, report these disbursements. You personally may also contribute to State and local candidates and committees subject to any applicable State law. You may also make personal contributions to Federal candidates, in amounts up to \$1,000 per candidate per election, and in the aggregate no more than \$25,000 in a calendar year. 2 U.S.C. §441b(a).\*

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\* The Commission notes that under §102.11(d) of its Proposed Regulations recently published for public comment (41 Fed. Reg. 21578, May 26, 1976) one Federal candidate's contribution to another Federal candidate is limited to \$1,000 per candidate per election, 2 U.S.C. §441a(a)(1), and a contribution from the donor candidate's personal funds is combined with any contribution from that candidate's campaign committee for purposes of the limit.

This response constitutes an advisory opinion concerning the application of a general rule of law stated in the Act to the specific factual situation set forth in your request. See 2 U.S.C. §437f.

Sincerely yours,

(signed)  
Vernon W. Thomson  
Chairman for the  
Federal Election Commission