



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20463

August 26, 1976

AO 1976-32

Honorable Edwin B. Forsythe  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Forsythe:

This is in response to your letters of March 25 and June 7, 1976, as supplemented by a telephone conversation with Mr. Dan Cryor of your office, requesting an advisory opinion regarding the application of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act") to a printout of mailing labels from a computerized mailing list containing names and addresses of your constituents.

Your letters state that you have a constituent mailing list which was developed over several years beginning with your service in the New Jersey Senate, and that the list has expanded since your election to the United States House of Representatives. The list was compiled "through several methods including direct requests from constituents, distribution of reply cards to groups and individuals, and promotions in my newsletters." The list was physically maintained on addressograph plates belonging to you until late January, when the list was converted to a computerized format using funds from your House-approved computer allowance.

In a telephone conversation on August 20, 1976, between a member of the Commission's staff and Mr. Dan Cryor of your staff, the Commission learned that you intend to request the computer firm which maintains the list for your use in connection with your office duties to printout mailing labels from the computerized list. You intend to use those labels to mail a fundraising solicitation, and will pay for the cost of printing those labels from campaign funds. Your question therefore appears to be whether the payment out of campaign funds for the printing of the labels by the computer firm would be proper under the Act, and how the transaction should be reported.

Under the Act, you may pay for the print-out of the labels from campaign funds, and you should report that payment as an expenditure on your next report of receipts and expenditures.

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