



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

November 23, 1977

AO 1977-60

Honorable Leo C. Zeferetti
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Zeferetti:

This refers to your letter of November 2, 1977, requesting an advisory opinion concerning application of the Federal Election campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), to the sending of Christmas greeting cards with costs "charged against campaign expenses."

You proposed to send Christmas greeting cards and regard the costs as a campaign expenditure of your principal campaign committee. Records at the Commission indicate that you have filed as a candidate for 1978 and have agreed that all contributions and expenditures of your campaign will be made through your principal campaign committee.

The Commission has stated in past advisory opinions that candidates or their principal campaign committees have discretion under the Act in deciding which expenditures will best advance their candidacy. It is the opinion of the Commission that under the Act your campaign committee may pay the costs of sending Christmas greeting cards. The expenses are required to be reported in the relevant report filed by your committee. See 2 U.S.C. 434(b) and 11 CFR 104.2(b).

The Commission notes that the greeting cards would not have to include the statement of authorization on or notice of filed reports, which are required pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 441d and 435(b), unless the cards expressly advocate your election or solicit contributions on behalf of your principal campaign committee.

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

Sincerely yours,

(signed)

Thomas E. Harris

Chairman for the

Federal Election Commission