



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

February 2, 1979

ADVISORY OPINION 1978-86

William M. Landau, Treasurer
Church for President Committee, Inc.
230 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Landau:

This responds to your letter of November 2, 1978, requesting an advisory opinion concerning application of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), to the qualification of the Church for President Committee, Inc., as a multicandidate committee.

Your letter states that the Church for President Committee was formed in 1975 to raise money for Senator Frank Church's campaign for the Presidency of the United States. On October 30, 1972, the Committee filed an amended FEC Form 1 requesting that it become a "more than one candidate committee." Since the Church for President Committee has been in existence for more than six months and has had more than 50 contributors, you ask specifically, whether or not the Committee may, as soon as it has made contributions to at least five candidates for Federal office contribute up to \$5,000 per candidate, per election?

2 U.S.C. 441a(a)(2)(A) provides that a multicandidate political committee may not contribute in excess of \$5,000 per election to any candidate and his authorized political committees. In turn, "multicandidate political committee" means a political committee which has been registered under §433 for a period of not less than 6 months, which has received contributions from more than 50 persons, and (except for any State political party organization) has made contributions to 5 or more candidates for Federal office. §441a(a)(4).

Your letter suggests and the Committee agrees that the Church for President Committee has already met two of the three prerequisites necessary to qualify as a multicandidate committee, that is, it is a political committee registered under §433 for not less than 6 months and is the recipient of contributions from more than fifty persons. Hence, the Commission is of the opinion that the Church for President Committee will become a qualified multicandidate committee as defined in §441a(a)(4) as soon as it has made contributions to 5 or more candidates for Federal office. Once it qualifies as a multicandidate committee, the Committee may contribute up to \$5,000 per election to any candidate and his authorized political committees.

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)

Joan D. Aikens
Chairman for the
Federal Election Commission