

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

90 MAR 15 AM 10:52

Margaret R. Mueller
8848 Music Street
Novelty OH 44072
March 12, 1990

90 MAR 15 PM 3:35

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mr. Bradley Litchfield
Office General Counsel
Federal Elections Committee
999 E. St N.W.
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Litchfield,

I am running for Congress for the third time in the 11th district of Ohio. I am a Republican. My request is, may I continue printing my newsletter 'SPEAKOUT' during the campaign?

I started this newsletter in March 1989 to provide a forum for the everyday citizen whom I had met on the road, so to speak, during my 1988 campaign. I felt these people had no voice about their concerns with governmental problems. My paper says that

"SPEAKOUT' provides a forum for people to speak out on community and government problems with their own solutions to the problems. This is a non-partisan newsletter with straight forward, informative and sometimes amusing articles. My monthly editorials are my own views, but designed to encourage differing responses."

I have always from the beginning had a title Coalition to End the Permanent Congress" which I will no longer use.

I want to keep the paper going because it is just catching on after a year. I have invested a lot of time and money in it, and we know what the statistics say about challengers beating incumbents. In other words, I would like to publish it in or out of Congress.

I give you my word I will send you every edition. I will keep it non partisan and probably emphasize local and state issues so the paper does not get clouded with federal issues which might be related to my running.

Yours truly,

enclosures



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON DC 20463

March 20, 1990

Margaret R. Mueller
8848 Music Street
Novelty, OH 44072

Dear Ms. Mueller:

This refers to your letter dated March 12, 1990, concerning application of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), and Commission regulations to the issuance of your newsletter during your campaign for Federal office.

Since March, 1989, you have been putting out a monthly newsletter entitled "SPEAKOUT!" You state that this is a nonpartisan newsletter providing a forum for people to speak out on community and governmental problems. You write monthly editorials that are designed to encourage differing responses. You also state that you "have always from the beginning had a title 'Coalition to End the Permanent Congress' which [you] will no longer use." A review of the newsletter issues sent by you indicates that the title has been used to headline certain articles and that the Coalition exists as an organization in Kansas City.

You state that you are again running for election to the House of Representatives in 1990. You wish to know if you may continue to issue the newsletter during your campaign.

The Act authorizes the Commission to issue an advisory opinion in response to a "complete written request" from any person with respect to a specific transaction or activity by the requesting person. 2 U.S.C. §437f(a)(1). Commission regulations explain that such a request "shall include a complete description of all facts relevant to the specific transaction or activity with respect to which the request is made." 11 CFR 112.1(c).

In view of the cited requirements, you will need to provide information as to a number of relevant factors referred to in the questions set forth below:

- (1) State what has been the source of funds for the publication of the newsletter and the source of funds in the future, e.g., donations from corporations and other businesses, advertising revenue, payments by you.
- (2) Identify the owners of the Music Street Publishing

Company and state their interests in the company.

- (3) The March, 1990, issue contains an article by you announcing your candidacy and reciting your platform and an article by your husband advocating your candidacy. State whether you propose to include any further articles that relate to your campaign or the Federal campaigns of others or that are for the purpose of influencing the election of anyone to Federal office.
- (4) State whether any corporations will be paying for advertising space in the newsletter.
- (5) Describe the Coalition to End the Permanent Congress and its relationship with the newsletter and you.
 - (a) State whether it supports any candidates or political committees (including party committees).
 - (b) State whether it will continue to conduct any activities through the newsletter.

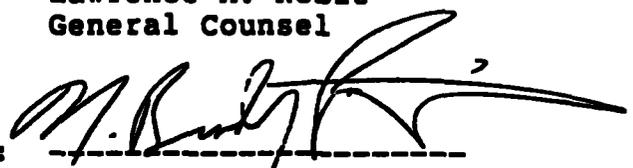
Please also provide a copy of the February, 1990, issue of the newsletter.

For your information and review, I am enclosing copies of Advisory Opinions 1985-39, 1977-42, and the Commission's response to Advisory Opinion Request 1976-29. You should also refer to 2 U.S.C. §431(9)(B)(i) and 11 CFR 100.7(b)(2) and 100.8(b)(2).

Upon receiving your responses to the above questions and document request, this office and the Commission will give further consideration to your inquiry as an advisory opinion request. If you have any questions concerning the advisory opinion process, the enclosed opinions, or this letter, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Noble
General Counsel

BY: 

N. Bradley Litchfield
Associate General Counsel

Enclosures

CC 5772
McDonald

COMMUNICATIONS

90MAR 27 AM 10:01

Margaret R. Mueller
8848 Music St
Novelty OH 44072
March 24 1990

90MAR 27 AM 11:48

COMMUNICATIONS

ADR 1990-5
20 DAY ADR

Mr. N. Bradley Litchfield
Associate General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
Washington D.C. 20463

Dear Mr. Litchfield,

In response to your letter of March 20 1990 I have the following answers to your questions.

- 1) The source of funds for the publication of my newsletter 'SPEAKOUT' has been my own pocketbook and ads which have been very difficult to get because I do not have an effective ad salesperson.
- 2) The owner of the Music St Publishing Co. is I. My daughter Lydia is Secretary but she has no financial interest in 'SPEAKOUT'
- 3) Although I had 10,000 issues of the March 1990 issue of 'SPEAKOUT' printed I threw them all out and did not send one out because I was concerned that you the FEC would say I was being partisan. I took out my announcement and my husband's comments about what a wonderful Congressperson I would be. The issue sent out is included.
- 4) In the past I have had small businesses put ads in the newsletter-no big corporations but small video stores, computer stores etc. I can stop that
- 5) The Coalition to End the Permanent Congress was started in May 1989 by Lionel Kunst and Doug Hughes of Kansas after 99% of challengers lost in 1988 Congressional races. Our platform is 1) limit the terms to 12 years 2) outlaw PACs and 3) cut the trunk. The group is almost evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans. The founders are Democrats. I am a Republican. I am one of the 11 Board members. We are not incorporated or a 501c3. We are loosely organized and hope to figure all this out when we are in Washington April 22. On April 23 we are meeting with the media at the Russell Building of the Senate (per enclosure) to state our views.
 - a) The Coalition has no money to support any candidate, but we would favor anyone who would End the Permanent Congress. We are bi-partisan.
 - b) The Coalition is not conducting activities through the newsletter. I am. I am trying to educate the public about

the power of the incumbency and the fact that the constituents are not represented in light of the influence PACs have over our legislators.

If my newsletter is ok to print during my campaign, I would like to continue the column "Coalition to End the Permanent Congress".

Yours truly,

Margaret P. Mueller