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Dear General Council,

AOR 1992-04

I am considering running for one of California's seats in the U.S. Senate in 1992. If I run, it will be as an Independent Candidate

In California, running as an Independent requires at least 10,000 signatures from registered voters (or a fee of \$1502.00) to file, and a total of 131,132 signatures from registered voters to have my name placed on the state ballots.

Further, the 10,000 signatures must be collected between April 24th and July 23rd and the remainder of 131,132 signatures must be collected between June 8th and August 7th.

Should I choose to run it will be a daunting task, to say the least. Also, I should mention I am currently receiving unemployment compensation as I was laid off from my job on November 12th 1991.

I am writing, at the suggestion of Dorothy Hutchins, to request an advisory letter on the following:

1) Faced with the awesome task of mounting an independent candidacy, and having to gather 131,132 signatures without benefit of any established party organization, I would unquestionably have to devote myself to this quest on a full time basis. Therefore, my question is, would I be able to defray a reasonable amount of my monthly living expenses with campaign contributions? I am married and my wife is currently employed. My usual contribution to our monthly expenses is \$975.00 which covers rent, health insurance, some utilities, and \$100.00 personal money.

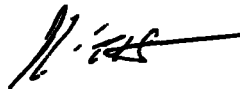
Additionally, what would be the General Council's judgement on defraying my wife's monthly living expenses so that she would be free to assist my campaign on a full time basis? Or could she be employed by my campaign without a conflict of interest arising? Her usual contribution to our living expenses is \$850.00 per month.

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2) Would there be any legal ramifications if I were to continue receiving Unemployment Insurance, should the state of California allow me to do so, during such a campaign? For the record, I spoke with the California Employment Development Department about this question and they had no existing policy. I was advised that I would have to inform them on my bi-weekly information sheet if I become unavailable for work due to my campaign, and that at such time they would review my eligibility and "most likely SUSPEND my benefits" until such time as I become available for regular, full time work.

I understand that you are required to respond within 60 days, but I would appreciate your advisory letter as soon as possible due to the time limitations and difficulty of my situation, should I choose to run.

Respectfully,



John Michael Cortese