

0607658

WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES

A PARTNERSHIP INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS

1615 L STREET, N W
WASHINGTON, D C 20036

(202) 682-7000
FAX (202) 857-0939
(202) 857-0940
TELEX ITT 440045

767 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N Y 10153
(212) 310-8000
FAX (212) 310-8007
CABLE WEGOMA
TELEX ITT 424281
ITT 423144

MCNS PLAZA
901 MAIN STREET
SUITE 4100
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202
(214) 748-7700
FAX (214) 748-7777

BRUCE H TURNBULL
DIRECT LINE (202) 682 7070

RECEIVED
F.E.C.
SECRET
921127-5 PM 2:15

700 LOUISIANA
SUITE 1600
HOUSTON TEXAS 77002
(713) 546-5000
FAX (713) 224 9511
TELEX ITT 4820144

701 BRICKELL AVENUE
MIAMI FLORIDA 33131
(305) 577 3100
FAX (305) 374-7189

50 STRATTON STREET
LONDON W1X 5FL
4471 495 3131
FAX 4471 629 7900

March 3, 1992

Lawrence M. Noble, Esq.
General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

AOR 1992-10

Dear Mr. Noble:

On behalf of our client, The Committee for a Democratic Consensus ("Committee") and pursuant to 11 C.F.R. § 112, this is a request for an advisory opinion concerning the applicability of the Federal Election Campaign Act to a possible disbursement of funds by the Committee. The Committee is a multi-candidate political committee registered with the Federal Election Commission (#C00195305).

Specifically, the Committee wishes the Commission's opinion with regard to whether it may make disbursement to the Center for Participation in Democracy, a Section 501(c)(3) nonprofit voter registration organization located in California. It is the Committee's understanding that the funds would be used to pay legal expenses for the CPD and for a member of the CPD's board of directors. These legal expenses have been incurred in connection with the investigation of Senator Alan Cranston's role regarding charitable donations made to the CPD by Charles Keating, Mr. Keating's relationship to the CPD, and CPD's activities in general.

The CPD Board Member who has incurred legal expenses is Kim Cranston, who is Senator Cranston's son. Although Senator Cranston has helped raise funds for the CPD, he does not serve on the Board of Directors or have any official role with the organization.

92MAR-3 PM 3:08

1 OF 1 PAGES

Lawrence M. Noble, Esq.
March 3, 1992
Page 2

With regard to the Committee, Senator Cranston is the Honorary Chairman but does not serve on the Board of Directors or otherwise control the organization. Various individuals associated with Senator Cranston have, however, served on the Board of Directors of the Committee, including Senator Cranston's chief of staff.

It is our belief that this proposed disbursement would not violate the Federal Election Campaign Act or Commission regulations thereunder, because, first, to our knowledge, it is legal for the CPD to receive funds from a multi-candidate political committee, and, second, the disbursement would not be for the purpose of influencing any Federal election. Further, the Committee's funds are not funds received by a candidate subject to 2 U.S.C. § 439a, and, in any event, this disbursement would not be for the personal use of any candidate for Federal office.

We would be happy to provide any additional information you may need in order to respond to this request or to discuss the situation with you.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Bruce H. Turnbull

Bruce H. Turnbull