

Thornberry

For U.S. Congress

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

MAY 10 2 29 PM '96

May 6, 1996

Federal Election Commission
Office of General Counsel
999 E. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

Dear Sirs:

By this letter, the Thornberry for Congress Committee asks for a ruling on the following question:

Congressman Thornberry and wife Sally will be traveling to the Republican National Convention in San Diego California in August, 1996. Congressman Thornberry has two minor children, ages 6 and 4 and requests permission for these minors to accompany their parents on this trip and for the campaign to pay for such travel expenses for the children.

Additionally, Congressman Thornberry and wife Sally will be traveling to the 13th District for the general election on or around November 5, 1996 and requests permission for these minors to accompany their parents on this trip and for the campaign to pay for such travel expenses for the children.

There are certain campaign associated events where it is helpful to have the entire family present. The national convention and election night would seem to be two such examples.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Susan Wenger
Treasurer
Thornberry for Congress Committee

P.O. Box 9392
Amarillo, TX 79105
(806) 371-8183

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P.O. Box 9054
Wichita Falls, TX 76307
(817) 696-8106

Thornberry

For U.S. Congress

June 6, 1996

*Supplement to
AOR 1996-34*

Mr. Bradley Litchfield
Associate General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL
JUN 17 1 22 PM '96

Dear Mr. Litchfield:

This letter is a supplement to my letter dated May 6, 1996 which asked for a ruling on the question of campaign travel expenses for the Thornberry family. Enclosed please find a copy of this letter for your reference.

Congressman Thornberry has been nominated to be a delegate for the national convention. However, his status as delegate will not be decided until after the June 20-22 Texas State Republican Convention.

Insofar as specific congressional activities at the national convention which both Congressman Thornberry and his wife, Sally Thornberry should attend; the dates and times have not been made available to date. However, the Thornberry's will be attending events sponsored by the Republican National Committee. It is our understanding that some of these events will be geared toward families. Additionally, events are planned with major donors from our state and will require their attendance as well as National Republican Congressional Committee activities.

The entire Thornberry family plans to make a final tour of major cities in the 13th District on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday before the election.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Susan Wenger
Treasurer
Thornberry for Congress Committee

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

June 21, 1996

Susan Wenger, Treasurer
Thornberry for Congress Committee
P.O. Box 9392
Amarillo, TX 79105

Dear Ms. Wenger:

I have received your letter dated June 6, 1996, which provides some additional information and explanation in response to our telephone conversation of May 14, 1996, regarding the use of campaign funds by the Thornberry for Congress Committee to pay for certain travel expenses of the Thornberry family. These expenses pertain to attending the August 1996 national nominating convention of the Republican Party and making a tour of major cities within the 13th Congressional District (Texas) in the four day period immediately prior to the November 1996 general election.

Within the last ten days the Commission has issued Advisory Opinion 1996-19 to Representative James T. Walsh regarding the use of his campaign funds to attend the cited convention as a delegate accompanied by his wife and two teen-age children. A copy is enclosed for your information and review. If Representative Thornberry's factual situation is the same or nearly the same, his committee may rely on this opinion for its own spending of campaign funds. See 2 U.S.C. §437f and 11 CFR 112.5. If his situation has significant factual differences (as appears to be the case), he or his committee may wish to request its own advisory opinion. In that event there is additional information that would be needed. See the two letters submitted by Mr. Walsh in Advisory Opinion Request 1996-19 which illustrate the further details that should be provided by you or Mr. Thornberry. Copies enclosed.

You have also asked about the use of campaign funds to pay for the travel expenses of the entire Thornberry family on "a final tour of major cities in the 13th District on" November 1, 2 and 3, 1996. If you desire an advisory opinion with respect to this trip, you will need to provide a more complete description of the anticipated campaign activities of each person in the family on each day. For example, you should explain how many

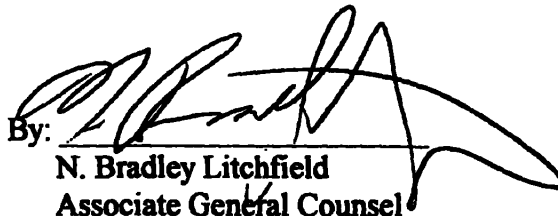
campaign events or appearances are expected to occur each day, the type of event (including best estimate of number of attendees for each and type of facility where each will be held), and the estimated number of hours that will be spent by each family member to participate in each campaign event and to travel between them. You should also estimate the number of hours each day that will be available for personal or family time without any scheduled campaign events or campaign travel. Also, please state the date when the family will return to Washington at the end of this tour. If the return date is after November 4, describe the nature of the family's activity during the period from November 4 until the date of return.

As you may know, 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). The request must concern a specific transaction or activity that "the requesting person plans to undertake or is presently undertaking and intends to undertake in the future." 11 CFR 112.1(b). The regulations also explain that an advisory opinion 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). The regulations further provide that this office shall determine if a request is incomplete or otherwise not qualified as an advisory opinion request. 11 CFR 112.1(d). In addition, both the Act and Commission regulations state that no Commission employee may give any opinion of an advisory nature, except through the advisory opinion process. 2 U.S.C. §437f(b), 11 CFR 112.4(f).

If you wish to request an advisory opinion from the Commission on either or both of the questions posed, you will need to provide further information and clarification as described above. If you have any questions about the advisory opinion process or this letter, please contact Mr. Litchfield.

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Noble
General Counsel

By: 
N. Bradley Litchfield
Associate General Counsel

Enclosures
AO/AOR 1996-19

Thornberry

For U.S. Congress

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

July 30, 1996

JUL 31 9 48 AM '96

Mr. Bradley Litchfield
Federal Election Commission
Office of General Counsel
999 E. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

AOR 1996-34

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT
AUG 1 11 15 AM '96

Dear Sirs:

The Thornberry for Congress Committee would like to respond to the questions addressed in a letter dated June 21, 1996 from Mr. Bradley Litchfield.

By way of review, the Committee is requesting an advisory opinion on two issues:

1. Travel and expenses to Republican National Convention for wife, Sally and children, Will and Mary Kemp.
2. Travel for wife, Sally and children, Will and Mary Kemp for campaign activities on November, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Regarding the first question addressed in the above referenced letter, Congressman Thornberry submits the following answers:

1. My wife is an integral part of the campaign. She has participated in most campaign events and has been the featured speaker at several fundraising events to benefit the campaign account. She is very sophisticated in the nuances of politics and has, in fact, worked for Congressmen and Cabinet Members in the past. My wife will attend all events with me or on my behalf including receptions and fundraising events.
2. My children are very young, 7 and 4 years old. They will attend many events with us. We campaign as a family. My wife and family appear in my brochures and in my television advertising. A strong issue in my campaign is putting family first. Many of my constituents who attend the convention will bring their children. Running for Congress involves all members of my family and I believe my children are an integral part of my campaign effort. They are not old enough to be attending events on their own but they will attend with my wife and me.
3. I do plan to take part in press events in my district during the convention, including satellite feeds. Sally and the children will likely take part in at least one of these events.
4. I was not elected as a delegate or alternate to the convention.

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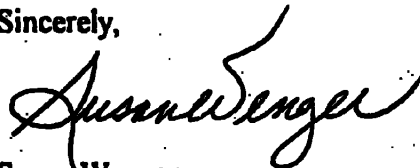
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Federal Election Commission
July 30, 1996

On the issue of an End-of-Campaign trip, the following itinerary is planned at this time:

- November 1** - Travel from Washington National Airport to Amarillo, Texas for wife, Sally Thornberry and children, Will and Mary Kemp. This is a five hour trip and arrival will be late evening on November 1.
- November 2** - Travel to southern part of the district. Visit Lubbock, Hale and Lamb counties for rallies and phone bank activities. Round trip travel time is approximately 6 hours.
- November 3** - Church in Amarillo. Volunteer reception in Amarillo. Evening reception in Pampa.
- November 4** - Entire family to board van for trip across district west to east. The 13th District is 38 counties and 450 miles across. Stops to campaign in Clarendon, Memphis, Childress, Vernon, Bowie, Nocona and Denton. Return to Wichita Falls for the evening.
- November 5** - Election Day
- Morning - Volunteer coffee and working polls in Wichita Falls.
- Noon - Return to Amarillo; drive time is 4 hours. Work polls.
- Evening - Election night party.
- November 6** - Return flight to Washington.

Sincerely,



Susan Wenger
Treasurer, Thornberry for Congress Committee