




FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

FROM: Commission Secretary's Office

DATE: November 19, 2013 

SUBJECT: Comments on Draft AO 2013-17
(Tea Party Leadership Fund)

Attached is a timely submitted comment received from C M Baker. This matter is on the November 21, 2013 Open Meeting Agenda.

Attachment



Request for exemption of disclosure information for aor2013-17

Cyd Oman

to:

ao

11/19/2013 11:55 AM

Hide Details

From: Cyd Oman <

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To: ao@fec.gov,

I am informed that I have the right to submit a comment on considerations before the FEC. I wish to do so regarding a request for exemption of disclosure requirements made by the Tea Party Leadership Fund. I am using a reference number and email address given to me by an information officer at the FEC.

I have experience with Tea Party presentations on the Health Care Bill. It was directed at Senior Citizens and made by elderly people who seemed authentic in their concerns even though they had a poor understanding of the bill and of our Federal Constitution. There were critical questions and issues they were not able to field very well because they had not performed sufficient research and study.

But we were all there voluntarily and opinions are allowed expression in this country.

I noticed however that there was another man in the group, a younger man, not a senior citizen, who was a part of the Tea Party group. After a while he participated in the discussion. Frankly my perception of him was that he was a "handler", someone who was behind the group providing the organization, equipment and ultimately the agenda for the presentation.

After the formal presentation he came over to me and set beside me and started to talk. I cannot recollect his exact words but I had the immediate impression of being threatened-specifically that he was implying that I was some sort of communist because of some of the things I had said about the Health Care Act (like if you could read and understand the Bible you could read and understand the Health Care Act) or remarks that the original Constitution was not so perfect (because it had allowed slavery and forbidden women to vote.)

Let me point out that the chief presenter, an elderly man, seemed to think that everyone in the group already had determined that the Health Care Act had to be repealed. Why he thought this I don't know. He apparently thought he was there to build support for repeal and not to talk about the Act itself, which was what the meeting was billed as doing. In our residential building political meetings are not allowed.

My material point is that this local group of Tea Party adherents were not functioning as a separate autonomous group. They had a "leader" who was working behind the scenes but very much in control. The presentation on the Health Care Act was really a managed attempt to build support to repeal it and to build that support using invalid statements and doleful predictions and worse of all incorrect interpretations of the Constitution - actions that created fear in many senior citizens already worried about "death panels out to kill grannies".

When I read of the request of the Tea Party Leadership Group for an exemption of disclosure I just had to do something.

There is far too much intrusion into our government and especially our election process already from the huge amounts of money that wealthy special self centered interests can bring to bear on opinions and

beliefs of ordinary citizens. Seniors are convenient targets because aging brings more anxiety about certain essential life needs and that anxiety motivates them to vote more. Seniors congregate together naturally in senior residences and centers and churches. They are rich hunting grounds. Make sure you require the names of the hunters. Don't enable poaching.

I am always asked to give my name address and occupation for every little ten or twenty dollar contribution I make to candidates and issues I believe are good for my country. So should everyone who is contributing 10 to 20 times more than me.

It's called equality and we need to keep it alive.

Don't grant disclosure exemption to this group. Keep letting the light in.

C M Baker, Independent Senior Citizen