

JUL 17 2001

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FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
JUL 17 2001

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

2001 JUL 17 P 3:07

In the Matter of)
Sam Brownback for US Senate and) MURs 4568, 4633, 4634 and 4736
Alan Groesbeck, as treasurer)

SENSITIVE

GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

I. ACTIONS RECOMMENDED: Close the file as to Sam Brownback for US Senate
and Alan Groesbeck, as treasurer ("the Committee"), and approve the appropriate letter.

II. DISCUSSION:

On May 17, 2001, the Federal Election Commission found probable cause to believe that
John and Ruth Stauffer ("the Stauffers") violated 2 U.S.C. § 441a(a)(1) by making excessive
contributions to the Sam Brownback for US Senate Committee.

On that same
day, the Commission found probable cause to believe that the Committee violated 2 U.S.C.
§ 441a(f), but took no further action. The Respondents were notified of the Commission's
actions on May 21, 2001.

On July 5, 2001, the Committee notified this Office that it was disgorging \$19,000 in
excessive contributions made by John and Ruth Stauffer to the U.S. Treasury. Attachment 1. A
check in that amount, made out to the U.S. Treasury, was enclosed with this correspondence.
Pursuant to the conciliation agreement, Mr. and Mrs. Stauffer had requested that the Committee
refund \$19,000 in contributions the couple made during the 1996 election cycle. This written

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1 request also informed the Committee that the Stauffers waived any and all claims to the refund
2 and directed that the money be disgorged to the U.S. Treasury. See Attachment 1 (Letter dated
3 July 3, 2001).

4 As the Respondents have now disgorged the \$19,000 in excessive contributions made by
5 the Stauffers to the Committee, this Office recommends that file be closed as to Sam Brownback
6 for US Senate and Alan Groesbeck, as treasurer.

7 **III. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8 1. Close the file as to Sam Brownback for US Senate and Alan Groesbeck, as treasurer.
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10 2. Approve the appropriate letter.

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15 July 14, 2001
16 Date

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23 Lois G. Lerner
24 Acting General Counsel

20 Attachment:

- 21
22 1. Letters, dated July 3, 2001 and July 5, 2001
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24 Staff assigned: Marianne Abely

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