

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION: COMPLAINT AGAINST ABC, NBC, CBS,
NEW YORK TIMES, LOS ANGELES TIMES, WASHINGTON POST, AND DOES
1-100, FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE VIOLATIONS

SEP 27 3 56 PM '99

September 22, 1999

Federal Election Commission
Campaign Finance Complaints Division
999 E. Street, N. W.
Washington, DC 20463

RE: Formal complaint of
Campaign Finance Violations
by these corporations: ABC,
CBS, NBC, The New York
Times, The Los Angeles
Times, The Washington Post,
and Does 1-100

Dear Federal Election Commissioners:

In gross and flagrant violation of Federal Election Laws regulating campaign financing, the corporations to be named below, have been acting as illegal "political committees" and have been illegally providing select candidates with tens of thousands of dollars, and in some cases hundreds of thousands and even millions of dollars of "free" advertising, the express purpose of which is to directly influence and manipulate the upcoming primaries and Federal and National Elections. These activities, although masquerading as "news" and "commentary," are in direct violation of Federal Campaign Finance Laws which prohibit contributions from corporations; laws which explicitly state that a "contribution" can constitute "anything of value given to influence a Federal election" and that the "value of the donated item" in these instances, free advertising masquerading as "news," counts as a financial contribution.

Although the below named corporations may falsely claim they are providing "news," this is patently false, as what is presented are advertisements for the views, actions, or campaign fund raising activities of only select candidates whereas the views or activities of those not favored by these corporations are ignored or savaged. For example, advertising the arrival of Mr. Gore or Mr. Bush at a certain city for the purposes of fund raising or a barbecue (while ignoring the same activity by other candidates), is not news or commentary, but an advertisement that is worth tens of thousands of dollars.

That these advertisements, although masquerading as "news" or "political commentary," serve the explicit purpose of effecting the results of Federal elections, is illustrated by the following quote from former Clinton aide, George Stephanopoulos (1999, p. 67) regarding Mr. Clinton's appearance on the CBS "news" magazine, 60-minutes when he was first running for the Presidency. "Don Hewitt" a producer at 60 minutes "called a break and emerged from the control room. He told the Clintons how he'd made John Kennedy president by producing the debates in 1960 and said he could do the same for them. Like a director coaxing his leading couple, he crouched down in front of the couch and whispered" to them what they should say. Obviously the intentions of CBS "sixty minutes" was to provide free promotional advertising, manipulate public opinion, and effect the outcome of the National election; and these criminal illegal acts are pandemic throughout the print and broadcast media.

Not only are these free advertisements designed to influence National elections, but legislation favorable or unfavorable to these corporations. For example, many of these corporations, ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox, and others, have received, in return for these promotional advertisements and illegal contributions, the passage of legislation or favorable rulings that have saved them, for example, hundreds of millions of dollars in Broadcast licensing fees, and/or the passage of legislation which has allowed various media-corporations to form newspaper and broadcasting (near-) monopolies in various cities and regions of the country. These companies are promoting their own financial and political interests through advertisements which are disguised as "news" but which are in truth illegal campaign contributions--made by multi-conglomerates which use the "news" aspect of the media as a facade to promote their varied and widespread financial and political interests.

Likewise, the failure to report on the activities and views of other candidates is also an indication that these corporations are not reporting "news" but are attempting to influence Federal and National elections, and legislation that may result from these elections. For example, Dr. R. Joseph, Republican candidate for President, has stated that if elected he will seek to revoke legislation and related rulings providing media-corporations with potential monopolies in any city, and that he will attempt to revoke the Broadcast licenses of these corporations due to their racist practices in television programming, and their violation and suppression of the free speech, equal opportunity, and the civil rights of Black, Hispanic, Asian, Arab and other Americans who are not of the White race--as is evident from their hiring practices and television programming. Dr. Joseph also advocates a "violence tax" to be levied on the media for all violent programming. Obviously it is not in the interests of these corporations to report, i.e. advertise the views of a candidate who does not support their financial interests or racist practices, and this omission serves the purpose of effecting the National election--which is one of the reasons they have ignored the candidacy of Dr. Joseph. Although these corporations may argue that the views of Dr. Joseph are not newsworthy, it is noteworthy that on 9/9/99 the C.I.A. and N.I.C. issued a report basically identical in content to a letter written and distributed to 150 newspaper by Dr. R. Joseph on 9/3/99. Moreover, Dr. Joseph, in a letter mailed to 100 newspapers on 9/11/99, warned of coming environmental and climatic catastrophes including floods never experienced before by humanity, and on 9/16,17/99, North Carolina and other areas experienced flooding that officials described as never having been experienced before. A reasonable person might consider the above to be newsworthy.

This formal complaint, however, should not be construed as a complaint regarding their failure to report the views or the amazingly accurate predictions of Dr. Joseph. Rather I have used the above example, including the quote by Mr. Stephanopoulos, to illustrate that the policies and supposed "news

reporting" practices of these organizations are in fact free promotional advertisements and thus illegal campaign contributions which are designed to influence the national elections and any ensuing legislation that can effect these organizations financially. For example, these media outlets not only heavily advertise the candidacy of Mr. McCain but it has been reported widely within the media that Mr. McCain is the "favorite candidate of the media." These organizations have such utter contempt for the law that they flout their violations of it.

Moreover, "negative" advertising in which the views of a candidate are presented in a negative light, should also be labeled, not as news, but as "issue" advertising that is designed to effect the national election and thus the electability of those candidates who are not favored by these organizations.

I ask that the Federal Election Commission take immediate action and obtain an injunction against these organizations, as these corporations are providing millions of dollars in illegal contributions to the Republican and Democratic Parties, and hundreds of thousands and millions of dollars in illegal contributions to Mr. Bush, Mr. Gore, Mr. Bradley, and Mr. McCain. Moreover, these corporations have just recently begun an advertising campaign to promote Mr. Buchanan (while ignoring Mrs. Dole and Gary Bauer who trounced this man in Iowa), and the possible candidacies of Mr. Trump and Mr. Beatty--not so as to elect these individuals but to effect and manipulate the Federal election.

This is not an issue of "freedom of speech" or "freedom of the press" but rather the freedom of giant corporations to provide free promotional advertising and thus illegal campaign contributions to the candidates of their choice, and to engage in negative "issue" advertising so as to manipulate and effect the National election, and to influence the legislative process. Their failure to report the news regardless of the candidate or the party who is making that news is just additional proof that these corporations are not interested in reporting the news but are using the media in order to make illegal campaign contributions, which is a violation of the law.

In conclusion, these corporations are flagrantly violating Federal law, they are the absolute worst and the most dangerous, racist, hypocritical, and anti-democratic of all special interest groups, and they must be stopped. I urge the Federal Election Commission to immediately act and to enforce the law.

The following is a short list of the many major offenders of the Federal campaign finance laws: NBC inc. CBS Westinghouse, ABC inc., Gannett co. Inc. The Washington Post Co. Chronicle Publishing Co., New York Post Inc., The New York Times Co., The Wall Street Journal Dow Jones & Co., Knight-Ridder, The Los Angeles Times co., and Does 1-100.

Rhawn Joseph

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SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME

THIS 22nd DAY OF September 1999

Lori M. Webb
NOTARY PUBLIC

